

## Nagasaki Peace Declaration

People of Japan and people of the world, please listen to the message of Nagasaki. That day, an atomic bomb exploded over this Urakami district, mercilessly demolishing the reinforced concrete buildings of Shiroyama and Yamazato Primary Schools located directly below. Of 152 teachers, mobilized students and other people at Shiroyama and Primary School, 133 were killed. At Yamazato Primary School, 28 of 32 teachers died. Among the combined total of 3,100 pupils at the two schools, more than 2,700 perished in their homes. The small number of children began a new life of fear in the face of atomic bomb disease.

Today is the sorrowful anniversary of the atomic bombing. We have gathered at the hypocenter to convey the cries of the victims and the great aspiration for peace.

1. Let us remember the war and the atomic bombings convey our knowledge with voices raised high

The Japanese people must reflect upon Japan's history of aggression and assault in Asia and, on the basis of this rigorous reflection, consider measures for compensation. Without this reflection, Japan cannot expect to gain the trust of the international community.

Almost half a century has elapsed since the end of World War 2, and the experiences of the war and the atomic bomb are threatening to fade from memory. It is imperative that we inform younger generations about the misery of war, the horror of the atomic bomb and the vital importance of peace.

I ask young people to study the process of Japan's involvement in World War 2, to look carefully at current world affairs, and to think about what you can do for world peace. I ask you to help the underprivileged children of the world and to work bravely for people suffering from starvation and poverty.

2. The conclusion of a treaty to ban nuclear weapons in Nagasaki's foremost wish

The United States and Russia agreed last year to massive reduction in strategic nuclear weapons. However, the agreement still allows the existence of between 3,000 and 3,500 weapons in each country after reductions up to the year 2003, which is more than enough to annihilate the human race. Despite the resumption of negotiations for a comprehensive test ban treaty this January, meanwhile, the threat of nuclear weapons continues as shown by the nuclear test conducted by the People's Republic of China and the suspicions raised about the development of nuclear weapons in Asia and the Middle East.

As this situation continues, a conference for the review of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty(NPT) will be held next April. This treaty is established on the basis of the theory of nuclear deterrence, that is, the belief that nuclear war can be averted by preventing the emergence of new nuclear states while allowing the present nuclear states to continue possessing these weapons. We are opposed to the unconditional and indefinite extension of the NPT without any expression of commitment to the abolition of nuclear weapons by the nuclear states. We demand that the nuclear states lose no time in abandoning the theory of nuclear deterrence, signing a "comprehensive test ban treaty" and then striving to conclude a "treaty to ban nuclear weapons" that will ensure the complete abolition of nuclear weapons.

3. Let us state clearly that the use of nuclear weapons is a breach of international law

The people of Nagasaki and Hiroshima were the first on Earth to experience nuclear destruction. We know that nuclear weapons are an absolute evil, a force capable of annihilating the human race. It goes without saying that the use of these inhuman weapons of indiscriminate and mass slaughter is a breach international law. The Japanese government should stand on this viewpoint of its citizens and clearly declare that nuclear weapons are a breach of international law.

Japan's accumulation of large amounts of plutonium has invited suspicions that it is planning to develop nuclear weapons. We have called repeatedly for the enactment of the three-fold non-nuclear principle as law. The Japanese government must immediately enact the principle as law and thereby prove that it has no intention to possess nuclear weapons. At the same time, it must lead the world in condemning nuclear weapons as an absolute evil.

4. A law must be enacted immediately for the relief of the atomic bomb survivors and similar relief should be extended to foreign survivors

Although passed twice in the House of Councilors and supported by about 70% of regional assemblies around Japan, the atomic bomb survivors' relief law has still not been enacted. The atomic bomb survivors received no relief during the ten-year period after the end of World War 2 when they needed treatment and assistance most.

And now each time the enactment of the law is delayed, a large number of survivors pass away with their hopes unfulfilled. They can wait no longer. I ask the Japanese government to enact the atomic bomb survivor's relief spirit of national compensation and as evidence of its determination to prevent any other country from using nuclear weapons and its resolve never to wage another war.

Similar relief should be extended to the people from Korea, China and other countries who were brought to Japan by force and who returned home after being exposed to the atomic bombings in Nagasaki and Hiroshima.

5. What must we do for world peace?

Look at the world today and you will see the numerous problems demanding solutions, such as the regional conflicts arising from ethnic and religious confrontations, the destruction of the global environment, and the starvation and refugees associated therewith.

To address these problems, the Japanese government must reassess its official development aid and contribute actively to the improvement of living standards in the developing countries. In our daily lives, we must conserve the environment and raise awareness concerning the human rights and needs of impoverished people around the world, and we must extend a helping hand. The citizens of Nagasaki, who have personally experienced the horror of war, strongly declare on the basis of the concept of peace embraced in the Japanese constitution that the use of military force to solve conflicts is a grave mistake.

6. Nagasaki looks with determination to the coming 50th anniversary of the atomic bombings

The citizens of Nagasaki must strive together to convey Nagasaki's aspiration for peace to the world as the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombings approaches.

Nagasaki City will strive with Nagasaki Prefecture to host the United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues and thus take an important stride toward the realization of its most earnest wish: the abolition of nuclear weapons. Nagasaki will also be the site of the Asia-Pacific Young People's Peace Conference, which will deepen solidarity and exchange among young people in the region.

We hope that the United Nations, which celebrates the 50th anniversary of its foundation next year, will continue to transcend the small circle of leading countries and play a prominent role in the establishment of true world peace and regional stability. Nagasaki will support the mission of the United Nations through its involvement in activities such as the World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity.

On this the 49th anniversary of the Nagasaki atomic bombing, I offer prayers for the repose of the souls of the atomic bomb victims and for the good health of the survivors and bereaved families, and I declare the determination of the citizens of Nagasaki to join hands and strive for the abolition of nuclear weapons and for the realization of world peace.

Hitoshi Motoshima  
Mayor of Nagasaki  
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