

Opening Plenary

2007 World Conference against A & H Bombs-Nagasaki

(August 7)



Greetings from Nagasaki Mayor:

Taue Tomihisa
Mayor of Nagasaki City

Dear participants in the 2007 World Conference against A & H Bombs - Nagasaki,

It is an honor for me to address this Conference just started here in Nagasaki, with the main theme For a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World. On behalf of the citizens of Nagasaki, I would like to extend my heartfelt welcome to all of you who have come here all the way from across Japan and across the world.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate my deep gratitude for the words of condolences and the encouragement extended to us from all over the country on the tragic death of our former mayor, Ito Ichō, who was gunned down.

As you are all aware, the world situation over nuclear weapons issues remains very grave. Two years ago, the 2005 Review Conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was unable to produce any substantial results because of the serious divide between the nuclear weapons states and non-nuclear weapons states. While no progress is being made by the nuclear weapons states on disarmament, the nuclear testing by North Korea has created tension in North East

Asia. Coupled with Iran's nuclear weapons program, it is not an overstatement to say that these situations are threatening the collapse of the non-proliferation regime.

Turning our attention to this country, we are witnessing situations where we have to doubt whether Japan still holds the very basic concepts the country with the experience of the nuclear attacks should maintain in working toward the abolition of nuclear weapons, represented by an official's remark that can be understood as legitimatising the use of atomic bombs. I believe this is happening with the background of the fact that the memory of the A-bomb destruction and suffering from it are fading among people after 62 years.

I believe that learning the dreadful realities of the destruction and suffering the atomic bombs, the nuclear weapons have brought upon human beings is the starting point in passing on the message of Hibakusha to next generations and working for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Why is that so many Hibakusha have continuously told us their experiences for all these 62 years despite their physical and mental pain? Because they fear that the calamity no one but they themselves went through is not the story of the past but something that could happen again today or when they are gone to inflict the same agony on their children and grandchildren. That is why they have relayed the torch of witness from one to

the next even it meant to feel and fight the pain.

Let us try to feel what it would be like to do that and once again share the earnest desire of Hibakusha so that we shall not leave a single nuclear weapon to exist in our time nor in our children's and their children's times.

We the citizens of Nagasaki are taking over our late mayor Ito's will to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons and are determined to tenaciously work toward the goal by making the best use of our tragic experience, and to that end we would like to redouble our effort in mobilizing public opinion by working together with NGOs and local municipalities in Japan and internationally.

It is my earnest hope that this Conference will serve as a place where you will deepen your knowledge of the nuclear destruction and where you will take another step forward toward creating a world free of nuclear weapons.

I would like to end my brief remarks by wishing a very successful outcome of the 2007 World Conference and the very best wishes for your future work. Please be assured that you are most welcome here and you have our support and solidarity. Thank you.

Organizers' Report:

Anzai Ikuro, Member of the Committee of Chairpersons, Organizing Committee

Dear participants in the 2007 World Conference against A and H Bombs,

The Sixty-second summer has come since the U.S. dropped a plutonium bomb on Nagasaki, creating the second hell on earth after that of Hiroshima. Let us share the joy of finding ourselves gathered in thousands from around the country in this World Conference under the banner of "the prevention of nuclear war, elimination of nuclear weapons and relief for and solidarity with Hibakusha". Allow me to warmly welcome you and present you my deep respects on behalf of the organizers.

I come from Kyoto, the city that had been the first target of the atomic bombing until two weeks before the bomb was dropped on Nagasaki. The planned hypocenter was located one kilometer west of the Kyoto railway station, at the center of Kyoto Basin surrounded by mountains on three sides. On that spot today stands the Umenokoji Museum that exhibits locomotive trains. According to my own estimates, if a uranium bomb fell there, about 500,000 people would have been killed. The American military feared that an atomic bombing of this old imperial capital would outrage the Japanese people and thus push them morally to the Soviet side, which would in

turn affect the planned U.S. postwar dominance of Japan, and so they eventually discarded Kyoto from the list of potential targets. After many twists and turns, on August 2, 1945, the "Operation Centerboard" was decided with Hiroshima, Kokura and Nagasaki as the first, second and third targets respectively. The first indiscriminate bombing with a uranium bomb took place in Hiroshima as scheduled, at 8:30 a.m. on August 6. As only one uranium bomb had been built, its use against Hiroshima also represented an experiment. Mrs. Tsuchida Yasu, a Hibakusha, wrote a rather unique haiku about that day using 10 Chinese characters: "On the day of the nuclear attack, people going to work under a clear sky in the morning calm". As a matter of fact, the atomic bomb dropped on a fine day without any cloud in the sky assaulted mercilessly the people on their way to work on a windless calm morning. It killed 140,000 people by the end of that year and over 70,000 others later on. 3 days after Hiroshima, a "Box Car" bomber took off from the Tinian Atoll and reached Kokura, the second target. The plane circled three times over the city, ready to release the bomb, but the pilot was unable to see the target because of the clouds and the smoke produced by a firebombing. It therefore flew on to Nagasaki, the third target. On August 9, at 11:02 a.m., the pilot recognized Nagasaki by seeing through a gap in the cloud the Urakami Cathedral and dropped the plutonium bomb, already tested three weeks earlier in the Alamogordo Desert in New Mexico. The bomb was 1.4 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb. It had taken the lives of about 70,000 people by the year-end and several tens of thousands more in the following years. Just like the Hiroshima bomb, it brought about tremendous pain and suffering to the surviving victims that they could only describe by the expression "living is as hellish as dying". This and the Bikini H bomb Test Incident that occurred 9 years later give us Japanese a historic responsibility to assume for the sake of humanity, to continue calling in a loud voice for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

We witnessed a number of important changes during the year behind us. The Bush Administration that frantically waged the war in Iraq was abandoned by the American people. The Abe government that supported the U.S. war as Bush's faithful servant suffered a crushing defeat in the recent national elections. In the meantime, North Korea proceeded with its nuclear testing and became the 9th nuclear possessing country after the U.S., Russia, Britain, France, China, Israel, India and Pakistan. This incident also pointed to the fundamental defect existing in the nuclear non-proliferation regime controlled by the nuclear powers. The U.S., while remaining the most powerful nuclear nation in the world, is

denouncing nuclear development by other countries such as North Korea and Iran. Such an attitude is totally unreasonable and reminds us of the analogy a German president made with an “anti-alcohol campaign of alcoholics”. The possession of nuclear weapons by any country whatsoever is unacceptable, but it is equally unacceptable to give exceptional treatment to the nuclear weapons of big countries.

This is why people around the world have been demanding the nuclear weapons states fulfill their obligations for the elimination of nuclear weapons as stipulated by Article 6 of the NPT. They are angry at the U.S., because, although it unequivocally undertook to get rid of its nuclear arsenals at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, it refuses to implement that undertaking. Here in Japan, at the news of the North Korean nuclear test, those in the ruling party and the government took a “we have warned you” attitude and suggested studying the possibility for “Japan’s nuclear armament” or for revising the Three Non-Nuclear Principles. This is something that should not be overlooked, especially because this reaction came from the Abe government that fixed the transformation of Japan into a war-making country through a constitutional change as one of its major political goals.

On July 3, former defense minister Kyuma from here in this very constituency was forced to resign after he had stated, “the atomic bombing could not be helped”. The candidate he recommended and supported, the well-known coach of a high school football team was also defeated in the recent House of Councilors election. On that very day when Kyuma resigned, the U.S. special envoy Robert Joseph in charge of nuclear non-proliferation expressed the view that “dropping the atomic bombs saved the lives of millions of Japanese”, thus contributing to the revisionism of history. Mr. Joseph Gerson, a long-standing friend of the Japanese peace movement wrote the following passage in his book “Empire and the Bomb” (translated into Japanese by Japan Gensuikyo and published by Shin’nihon Shuppansha), to point out that a vociferous chorus for justifying the atomic bombing was a mere deception or propaganda: the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Leahy, Army Chief of Staff General Marshall, Commander of US forces in Europe General Eisenhower, Commander of the US Army Air Forces General “Hap” Arnold, Commander of the Pacific Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Army Air Force General Curtis LeMay, who organized the murderous fire bombing of nearly every Japanese city, and other senior military leaders either proposed or pressed for alternatives to the atomic bombing. And as Admiral Leahy put it, “The use of this barbarous weapon at Hiroshima and

Nagasaki was of no material assistance to our war against Japan.”

Unfortunately, in the U.S., a little surprisingly in Europe and also in many Asian countries, the belief that the dropping of the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was justified is widespread. We therefore must take it as the prime responsibility for those of us who are still involved in the movement against A and H Bombs to make known the entire truth about the consequences of the atomic bombing and, while critically facing the wrongdoings of the Japanese armed forces, to convince the world that the use of nuclear weapons can by no means be justified. We must also build, on the basis of a deep insight into the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons, a firm belief that “Humans cannot coexist with these weapons” and to carry out our great historic political task, that is to get rid of nuclear weapons from the earth.

The International Meeting held prior to the World Conference with the participation of 250 people from over 20 countries adopted unanimously on August 5 a “Declaration” that provide the keynote to the World Conference. Let me now outline this declaration as part of the Organizers’ Report. Please look at the handout entitled “Declaration of the International Meeting”.

The Declaration begins with a call on the world to work hand in hand to build a “nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world”. Then it indicates that the abolition of nuclear weapons has now become a common demand of a wide range of people around the world and an overwhelming number of national governments are calling for its realization. Nearly 27,000 nuclear weapons are stockpiled or deployed throughout the world and a large number of nuclear warheads are placed on hair-trigger alert. As shown by the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the use of nuclear weapons constitutes a crime against humanity. Humans cannot coexist with nuclear weapons and the “elimination of nuclear weapons is a vital task with consequences for the survival of the human race”.

Then the Declaration refers to the international situation. At present, the U.S. government that has forcibly implemented the preemptive strike policy on the pretext of the threats of terrorism and nuclear proliferation is increasingly isolated, being exposed to criticisms from inside and outside the country. Despite this, it continues the combats in Iraq, creating innumerable victims there. In addition, it is openly pursuing a perilous strategy that admits the use of nuclear weapons if necessary and has embarked on the development of new nuclear warheads. The Declaration, pointing to the fact that the U.S. government is posing a serious threat to peace by deploying

“Missile Defense” networks and realigning and strengthening the military bases network at the global level, criticizes the policy of ensuring peace and security by nuclear weapons as a mere deception and affirms that such a policy has already failed in all its aspects. Then, stating that we cannot for any reason accept any country going nuclear, the Declaration explains that the very reason that prompted new countries to go nuclear is the policy of big countries that stick to nuclear weapons, as pointed out by senior officials who used to be in the mainstay of diplomacy or armed forces of nuclear powers. The nuclear superpowers are the ones that must take the lead in nuclear disarmament. The fundamental solution to nuclear proliferation is possible only through a “total ban on nuclear weapons”.

The Declaration further states that the implementation of the “unequivocal undertaking” to eliminate nuclear weapons, accepted by the nuclear weapons states at the 2000 NPT Review Conference is needed now more than ever before. Towards the 2010 NPT Review Conference, it calls on civil society to join forces beyond all differences of opinion, culture and political status to work together with the governments committed to nuclear disarmament. It urges all governments in the world to commit themselves to actions for the swift abolition of nuclear weapons, and to take a decision at the U.N. General Assembly to start consultations for a convention totally banning nuclear weapons. It demands that, in the meantime, nuclear weapons states renounce the policy to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons, de-activate their nuclear warheads, provide non-nuclear states with security assurances, cancel plans to develop new warheads or to replace old systems with new ones, and stop the deployment of “Missile Defense” networks. The Declaration calls for the peaceful resolution of North Korea’s nuclear development and the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and demands that all parties concerned implement the agreements reached so far in good faith, including turning the Middle East into a nuclear weapon-free zone as agreed on at the 1995 NPT Review Conference.

The Declaration reminds us that world military spending exceeds 1.2 trillion dollars and that this is making it difficult to achieve the U.N. Millennium Development goals, and that we must eradicate poverty, destitution and other global problems. A drastic cut in armaments is an important obligation for all governments, and for the nuclear superpowers in particular, who account for more than half of the world military expenditures.

Japan, as the only country to have suffered the calamity of nuclear war and to have renounced war by its Constitution, is expected to take the initiative in the arena of international politics for abolishing nuclear weapons, while, at the same

time, strictly implementing the three Non-Nuclear Principles to “not possess, not produce and not allow the bringing-in of nuclear weapons.” The Declaration expresses a deep concern about the ongoing developments, including a deepening dependency on the “nuclear umbrella”, arguments favorable to Japan’s possession of nuclear weapons, the acceptance of the past atomic bombings, the attempted justification of past aggression, the reorganization and the consolidation of the US bases in Japan, and moves to further advancing on the path to the revision of the Constitution. It then draws attention to the growing opposition of the Japanese people to these developments and expresses solidarity with the campaign for the Declaration of a Nuclear Weapon-Free Japan, the movement to preserve Article 9 and establishing a nuclear weapon-free and peaceful Japan.

The Declaration proposes to spread wider the message of the Hibakusha: “Never again Hiroshima or Nagasaki” so that it will be heard throughout the world and to strengthen cooperation between the popular movements, civil society and committed governments to bring about a change in international politics. It calls for increasing actions, using the 62nd session of the U.N. General Assembly, the 2nd NPT PrepCom meeting next spring, and the G8 Summit Conference in July 2008 in Hokkaido, and many other opportunities. It also proposes to promote diverse campaigns, including the signature campaign for the “Swift Abolition of Nuclear Weapons”, photo and other exhibitions around the world on A-bomb and other nuclear damage, learning, inheriting and carrying forward the stories of Hibakusha, and peace marches and to develop solidarity with other movements against war, for peace, and for a just society.

The Declaration ends with a firm belief that a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world is possible and invites people to rise to action now, together with the young generation who shall bear our future.

Dear friends, the recent House of Councilors election showed that if the sovereign have the will, they are capable of changing politics. The change that has occurred so far in politics has not been profound enough to open a steady prospect for the establishment of a non-nuclear government. Nevertheless, as seen in the debate over the Law on Special Measures for Iraq, there are some signs of other changes in the situation in which the Japanese government has been made a fool of by the U.S. In this particular political context, following the “successive defeats of the government in a series of lawsuits for A-bomb disease recognition, defeats made possible by the joint efforts of the Hibakusha, scientists, lawyers and supporting citizens, Prime Minister Abe and Health Minister Yanagisawa have found

themselves obliged to speak about “revising the qualification criteria for A-bomb disease.” We must however remain vigilant and watch the evolution so that there will be no more trickery. Needless to say, each one of us has “little power” but is not “powerless”. We can join our forces and have a superpower to move the society and transform the world if we want to. This is what we have just witnessed, the panic that happens to a government or a ruling party that has neglected the sovereign and abandoned by them.

On behalf of the organizers of the 2007 World Conference against A and H Bombs, let me conclude my report by hoping earnestly that you, participants in this Conference are going to advance step by step holding higher the banner of the “ prevention of nuclear war, elimination of nuclear weapons and relief for and solidarity with the Hibakusha”. Thank you.

Mohd Arshad Mansoor Hussain
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Malaysia to the United Nations in Vienna

Mr. Chairman, Excellencies,
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to take this opportunity in thanking the Organising Committee of the 2007 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs for inviting me to address this conference at an important juncture of the history of humankind. Prior to arriving here, I have participated at the international meeting in Hiroshima. It is indeed an honour for me to be here in this lovely city of Nagasaki and participate as well as deliver my remarks at this conference.

I am deeply honoured and privileged to be able to share with all present here today Malaysia’s views and vision on how we have approached the issue of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In this regard, I would like to express Malaysia’s fullest support for the message embodied in the theme of this conference, “A Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World”, which Malaysia believes to be an achievable ideal.

It has always been Malaysia’s understanding that the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) comprises three mutually reinforcing pillars, namely nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful uses of nuclear energy. In this regard, I wish to reaffirm that States Parties to the NPT are obliged to ensure the effective implementation of all three pillars in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner, and in this regard remain committed to pursuing all efforts towards achieving those goals.

Given its status as a non-nuclear weapon State Party to the NPT, Malaysia believes that several developments in recent years have given rise to the

concern that whilst much emphasis and effort has been expended towards achieving the goals of the non-proliferation pillar of the Treaty, it appears as if the objectives of the disarmament pillar of the Treaty have not been pursued with a corresponding urgency, particularly by the nuclear weapon states. In this connection, I wish to recall that at the 2000 NPT Review Conference, nuclear weapon States Parties had unequivocally undertaken to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament, in accordance with the provisions of Article VI of the Treaty. On a related note, I wish to echo the regret expressed at that Conference in reference to the fact that until now, negotiations have yet to commence on a non-discriminatory, multilateral and internationally and effectively verifiable Fissile Material Cut-off Treaty. Nevertheless, Malaysia is encouraged by the new movement, which has developed at the Conference of Disarmament in Geneva in its recent sessions. I hope that the CD will be able to overcome the deadlock that has beleaguered its work and that States would take the opportunity of such movement so as to ensure that significant work can take place after a long drought.

Malaysia remains convinced that the possession of nuclear weapons by some States continues to fuel the desire in other States to acquire or possess such weapons themselves. Malaysia is also deeply concerned that certain nuclear weapon States are considering making further qualitative improvements to their nuclear arsenals as well as strengthening nuclear-based defense doctrines and strategies. These developments further undermine disarmament commitments and weaken existing restraints against proliferation of nuclear weapons. In our view, the reduction of existing nuclear weapons and lowering their alert status represent the steps that need to be taken on the path leading to total nuclear disarmament. As such, these actions should not be construed as constituting nuclear disarmament at all but only a step in that direction.

Malaysia remains concerned on the disarmament front, in light of recent developments which could be interpreted as eroding the gains made towards achieving the universalisation of the NPT.

For instance, the public announcement by France in January 2006 that it would consider ‘first-use’ of nuclear weapons against terrorists seems to be a drastic policy shift on its part. In this regard, Malaysia would venture to point out that firstly, the international community should not countenance nor even contemplate the use of nuclear weapons under any circumstance.

Secondly, when considering the use of nuclear weapons against terrorists is in fact a problem in itself, as we have yet to agree even on the criteria

on how to determine who is or is not a terrorist? On that note, Malaysia has long argued that for any definition of terrorism to be universally acceptable, such definitions must include a treatment of the root causes which may give rise to terrorism itself. In essence, the issue of terrorism cannot be discussed separate from the issue of root causes which explains the propensity for some parties to carry out terror-attacks in the first place.

Further, the announcement in June 2006 by Britain that it was actively considering upgrading its nuclear-capable Trident submarine fleet, which we feel raises the stakes in terms of a perceived shift towards re-nuclearization as opposed to denuclearization, framed in the context of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. Malaysia views the proposed intention to upgrade the Trident systems as a regressive step in terms of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapons free world and would urge those countries considering such moves to continue seeking other, non-nuclear solutions to resolve security issues.

Malaysia also views that the proposed civil nuclear cooperation between the US and India is in fact, a step that could undermine and ultimately, lead to the weakening of the NPT disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Even though both countries have stressed that the deal was to enable cooperation for the development of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, we would all do well to recall that under the provisions of the Treaty, States Parties are barred from transferring nuclear and nuclear-related goods, equipment and technology to non-states parties to the Treaty. At this juncture, Malaysia would repeat the call to States which have not acceded to the Treaty to do so in good faith. We believe that this would be the first crucial step in achieving the universalisation of the NPT, which in turn would pave the way for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon free, peaceful and just world.

Malaysia stresses that disarmament and non-proliferation are in fact, two sides of the same coin and as such, progress in one area needs to be matched by equally quantifiable progress in the other. Malaysia feels that since the tragedy of 9/11, too much emphasis has been placed upon the non-proliferation aspect, without a corresponding emphasis on disarmament measures.

It is Malaysia's hope that the nuclear weapon States will be able to translate their own expressions of serious concern over the proliferation of nuclear weapons to effectively address the issue, by demonstrating the necessary political will needed to make headways and progress in disarmament. The status quo whereby more effort and attention is focused on non-proliferation, whilst the progress or lack thereof, in disarmament is obscure, cannot be

sustained. Both issues need to be addressed simultaneously and in parallel as a loss of balance in implementing the disarmament and non-proliferation objectives of the Treaty will only engender suspicion, which could lead down a dangerous path of uncertainty.

In this connection, Malaysia reiterates the importance for the nuclear weapon States to reaffirm their commitment to achieving total nuclear disarmament through a phased, irreversible, verifiable and transparent programme of qualitative and quantitative reduction of their nuclear arsenals within a specified framework of time. Malaysia calls for the full implementation of the 13 practical steps, as agreed to at the 2000 Review Conference as a means for realizing the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons.

I wish to reiterate Malaysia's desire for the total realization of the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and its continued support for the Six-Party Talks as a way to find a long term solution to the Korean nuclear issue through diplomacy and dialogue. In this regard, Malaysia welcomes the Six-Party Joint Statement on Korean Peninsula Nuclear Issue, as well as the agreement on the Initial Actions for its Implementation, reached in Beijing on 13 February 2007. Malaysia also welcomes the agreement reached between the DPRK and the IAEA during the latter's visit to DPRK in June this year and the eventual shut down and sealing for the purpose of eventual abandonment the Yongbyon nuclear facility, including the reprocessing facility. Malaysia hopes that DPRK will fulfill its commitment to abandoning all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes and returning, at an early date, to the NPT and to the IAEA's safeguards.

Malaysia has been consistently supportive of the strengthening of existing, and establishment of new nuclear weapon free zones, towards attaining the objective of global nuclear disarmament. Of particular importance is the call for the establishment of a nuclear weapons-free zone in the Middle East, which Malaysia considers to be a matter of utmost urgency, in view of the increasing volatility in that region.

I would like to reiterate that Malaysia strongly believes that international peace and security could not be achieved through the doctrine of deterrence or strategic superiority since the prolonged existence of nuclear weapons increases the sense of insecurity among states. Failure to completely eliminate nuclear weapons would not only aggravate international tension but also increase the danger of proliferation of nuclear weapons. So long as the world is divided between the "haves" and the "haves not", the world continues to run the risk of being annihilated through the use of nuclear weapons. Therefore, the absolute

guarantee against the use of such weapons is to completely eliminate and abolish them from the surface of the earth. Let us all jointly work together as representatives of Governments and of the civil society to realize our noble cause of a world free from nuclear weapons.

In conclusion, let me urge the civil society to continue playing a prominent role, as they did in respect of the Convention on Landmines. The NGOs must continue to galvanize public pressure around the world, especially in countries with nuclear weapons, to demand for the total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction. The voice of the NGOs is a powerful one and must continue to be heard. The lessons of August 6 and August 9, 1945 must never be forgotten! Thank you for your attention.

Walid Haggag
First Secretary, Embassy of the Arab
Republic of Egypt in Japan

Ladies & Gentlemen, Distinguished Guests,

It is both an honor and a privilege to be here in Hiroshima among you all and to participate today in the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs representing the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt. I also find it incumbent upon me, as we gather here in this great city, to pay homage and extend my tribute, on behalf of the Government and people of Egypt, to those valiant citizens of Nagasaki who have lost their lives or who continue to suffer to this present day as a result of the atomic bombings that took place 62 years ago.

This Conference, along with the many events that will be held on its margins, are perhaps the most poignant reminder that the peoples of the world, and the Governments that stand united with them, will continue to press forward until we achieve our common goal of ridding the world of these ultimate weapons of mass destruction. And as you proceed on this most noble of causes, you will find that Egypt stands besides you, never ceasing to assume its responsibilities, and always advocating the cause of nuclear disarmament at all times and in all fora.

When the Government of Egypt ratified the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) in 1981, it issued a statement that included the following paragraph:

“Egypt wishes to express its strong dissatisfaction at the nuclear-weapon States, in particular the two super-powers, because of their failure to take effective measures relating to the cessation of the nuclear arms race and to nuclear disarmament. Consequently, Egypt avails itself of this opportunity to appeal to the nuclear-weapon States Parties to the Treaty to fulfill their obligations whereby the nuclear arms race will be stopped

and nuclear disarmament achieved.”

This statement was issued over a quarter of a century ago, and yet the appeal we launched at the time is no less valid today than it was back then we acceded to this important international instrument. Indeed our message is all the more valid today in light of the abysmal failure of the nuclear-weapon States to fulfill their legally binding obligations under the Treaty and reduce their nuclear stockpiles with a view towards their total elimination.

The NPT was undoubtedly never designed to allow the nuclear-weapon States to maintain their nuclear arsenals in perpetuity. Any effort to advocate otherwise is not only factually incorrect but also morally unacceptable. Indeed the Treaty acknowledged from the outset the transitional status of the capabilities of the nuclear-weapon States, and its very premise is based on the concept of individual and collective renunciation of nuclear weapons which will never be effective if applied partially or selectively.

Egypt continues to forcefully believe that the 13 practical steps adopted collectively in the 2000 NPT Review Conference constitute a detailed and effective work plan to move forward towards nuclear disarmament, and we will thus continue to urge the nuclear-weapon States to comply fully with their obligations under Article VI of the Treaty. It remains our fervent belief that progress in implementing the 13 steps should be the foremost criterion in reviewing progress in the implementation of the Treaty and assessing compliance with its provisions by the nuclear-weapon States.

At the same time, we must never tire from advocating the goal of ensuring the universality of the NPT, through pressing those States that remain outside the scope of the Treaty to sign and ratify it without any further delay. Securing the universalization of the treaty is in fact an essential prerequisite for maintaining the credibility of the NPT and promoting the goals of nuclear non-proliferation. Again, the NPT was never intended to remain non-universal, neither during its original 25 year term nor after its indefinite extension in 1995. Indeed the 1995 Decision on “Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament” had stressed that “universal adherence to the Treaty is an urgent priority” and that “every effort should be made by all States Parties to achieve this objective”.

The recently launched 2010 NPT review cycle affords us all an important opportunity to renew our collective commitment towards implementing the Treaty in all of its pillars and all of its provisions.

This review process is in fact especially significant in lieu of the failure of the 2005 Review Conference to reach any substantive agreement.

We must seize the chance to honestly assess the Treaty's implementation, review its effectiveness and address its existing shortcomings. And we must never tire from holding the nuclear-weapon States to account until they fulfill their legal commitments and abide by the provisions of the Treaty.

Egypt for its part will continue to advocate this goal and will spare no effort until it is fully and irreversibly achieved. We will continue to work with our many other partners in the international community to maximize our efforts, in particular with our partners in the New Agenda Coalition (NAC), namely Brazil, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, South Africa and Sweden. We will also continue our sustained efforts within the United Nations General Assembly, including through the regular introduction of our resolutions on this matter and in particular the one entitled "Towards a nuclear weapon free world" which has been receiving ever increasing levels of support every year. And we will always remain appreciative and supportive of the efforts of the thousands of organizations and millions of citizens who champion the cause of nuclear disarmament and who are aptly represented by all of you here today.

It is also important to state that while it will continue to champion the cause of global nuclear disarmament, Egypt also firmly believes that the establishment of internationally recognized nuclear-weapon-free-zones ultimately enhances global and regional peace and security and contributes towards realizing the objective of universal nuclear disarmament. This is particularly true in a region of tension such as the Middle East, where nuclear weapons cast their sinister shadow and further complicate an already complex situation. Concerned by the serious implications and strategic threats posed by these weapons in our region, Egypt has been advocating, since 1974, the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free-zone in the Middle East. We have been promoting this goal ever since in the UN General Assembly and the General Conference of the IAEA. And we have continued to reiterate the centrality of the resolution on the Middle East adopted during the 1995 NPT Review Conference and which ultimately allowed for the indefinite extension of the Treaty. Despite our sustained diplomatic efforts, and notwithstanding the fact that all the other countries of the region have acceded to the NPT, Israel remains the only country in the Middle East that remains outside the scope of the Treaty, maintains its nuclear arsenal, and refuses to place its nuclear facilities under full-scope IAEA safeguards. I thus ask you all, as you call on the nuclear-weapon States to disarm, to also join your voice with ours and also call upon Israel to do the same and to open the way towards the

establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free-zone in the Middle East.

Our commitment to stand with you, as we are doing today, will not end with the conclusion of this World Conference. On the contrary, our presence and participation in this event will only galvanize our determination to continue to press forward until we achieve our common goal. And as we do so, we shall always commemorate the memory of the victims who have fallen here in Hiroshima and in Nagasaki 62 years ago. I am thus exceptionally honored that the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs has decided to send a delegation to Egypt in October to organize a photographic exhibition on the damage caused by the atomic bombings and to promote public awareness of and support for the cause of nuclear disarmament. These kinds of activities, along with our efforts at the governmental level, will undoubtedly bring us all closer to achieving our common aspirations for a nuclear-free world.

Greetings by Guest:

Tanaka Terumi, Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo)

On behalf of Nihon Hidankyo, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the warm support you have given us as we carry on various struggle for the abolition of nuclear weapons and for winning reparation of damage caused by the atomic bombings.

I was one of those people who were in here Nagasaki at the time of the bombing when I was 13 years old. At 11:02 that day, I was at about 1 kilometer north from where we are now, this gymnasium, which is 3.2 kilometers from ground zero. Luckily, I was far enough to survive the bombing and therefore I am speaking before you today. The initial target of the Nagasaki bombing was, however, actually about 500 meters south of here, above where the next trolley stop is. But, that day, the bombardiers could not identify the target because the area was covered by clouds, and so they dropped the bomb above the Urakami Cathedral. If the bomb had exploded above the initial target, I wouldn't be here today. I survived but the bomb claimed the lives of 5 of my close relatives. We had just moved to what was going to be the ground-zero area from this part of the city. One of them, my aunt died after surviving 3 days. We burnt her body in the devastated field where dead bodies lay in heaps. Words will never be enough to reconstruct the dreadful situations in the hardest hit area. I ask you to fully use your imaginations to try to see what it was like.

For the sake of time, among many things I

would like to say, I will focus my talk on the issue of the A-bomb disease recognition system, which is at the crucial stage in our struggle for its improvement.

As you know, even 62 years after the bombing, a number of Hibakusha continue to suffer from its after effects. The government is very careful about never saying these are the bomb's after effects. It says they are unrelated to the bombing. This is something truly unbearable to the victims. This is why we decided to take collective actions for the legal recognition of the correlation between the illnesses and the bombing and, therefore, the government's acceptance of the fact. Now, 266 plaintiffs have failed lawsuits at 15 different district courts, and 5 cases have been appealed to a higher court by the government after losing them at the district level. The 5 of them district court cases and another Kumamoto district court case just recently ruled on but which the government hasn't appealed yet all represent initial victories for the Hibakusha plaintiffs. The recent ruling of the Kumamoto case, issued on 30 July, is outstanding of all the 6 district court rulings for it identifies various aspects of nuclear damage that had been unanswered before.

However, the government still has some time left to appeal the Kumamoto case. Since the handing down of the ruling, we have gone in front of the Health Ministry in Tokyo every single day to call on it not to appeal the ruling. Similar calls are being made in other parts of the country. I ask that this conference issue a statement calling on the government not to appeal the Kumamoto case. I also ask you to call on the government to withdraw the appeals of the other 5 cases.

The initial reaction of the Hibakusha plaintiffs to the remark of the former Defense Minister, which has just been discussed, was astonishment and sadness. But that soon turned into anger, and we successfully forced him out of office in 3 days. Hibakusha's resentment and actions were certainly not the only force for that. It was the outcry of the people as a whole that ousted him. His resigned but there is no doubt that that it is one of the reasons the Liberal Democrats suffered a major defeat in the recent election for the Upper House of the Diet.

The day before yesterday in Hiroshima, Prime Minister Abe met with representatives of Hibakusha and apologized for the former Defense Minister's remark. He also told the Health Minister who was present at the meeting to re-examine the present A-bomb disease recognition system, the ways in which Hibakusha's illnesses are screened for official certification as having been caused by the bombing. In the coming weeks and months, we will be seeing major developments of the movements for improving the recognition system. Yesterday, I joined a Hibakusha

delegation and met with the Health Minister to hear how he intended to do the re-examination. The Minister said he would ask a counsel of experts for an advisory opinion to be concluded within a year. In doing so, he said, he would have them fully listen to the voices of Hibakusha. But we shall not be fooled. This is the old trick the government has always used in institutionalizing their will: it appoints experts, most of whom bear the fingerprint of the government, and has them come up with opinions it wanted in the first place. We say the government should sincerely accept the district court rulings, withdraw the appeals and listen to what we have to say before consulting experts.

The primary goal of the collective lawsuits is to make sure that those Hibakusha's illnesses are officially recognized as having been caused by the bombing and that relief measures to them will be provided. But there is another aspect to this legal struggle. That is to once again reveal the real and true destructive aspects of the nuclear attacks that have been hidden from the eyes of the public through court hearings and rulings. We have indeed been successful in shedding light on a number of unanswered questions. The foremost of those revealed facts is the effects of residual radiation, which the government adamantly refuses to recognize. It is absolutely recalcitrant in denying the possibility of A-bomb illness contraction by those who entered the cities after the bombings or who were at far distances from ground zero. In the courtroom, the government says the Hibakusha plaintiffs "are not Hibakusha."

Things have proven otherwise. The highly harmful nature of residual radiation, the harmful effects of the internal exposure to radiation to human health have been revealed through the court proceedings. So this is also a struggle for further making known the hidden damage the nuclear weapons have caused, raising public awareness on the issue and changing the government's nuclear policy, which tolerates the possession and the use of nuclear weapons and risks national security by putting the country under the aegis of the US nuclear umbrella.

In that respect, this is not only the Hibakusha's but also your struggle as well. I ask you to fight with us until the lawsuits will see the day of final and definitive victory.

Let us work together for a nuclear-weapon free, peaceful and just world.

Hibakusha Reports on A-Bomb Collective Lawsuits:

Nakayama Takamitsu Secretary, Plaintiff's Group of Kumamoto A-bomb Lawsuit

My name is Nakayama Takamitsu. I serve as secretary of the Kumamoto Hibakusha lawsuits against the government for official recognition of our A-bomb diseases, which is part of the collective effort being made by many Hibakusha across the country.

I am happy to report to you we in Kumamoto have won our cases in the district court. I would like to express our deepest gratitude to all of you in Japan and in other countries for extending strong support to our struggle.

Three days ago in Hiroshima, Prime Minister Abe Shinzo said he would review the way in which the government had screened Hibakusha for A-bomb disease recognition. He didn't say, however, he would accept these recent court rulings that rejected the government's traditional ways of recognizing Hibakusha's diseases as A-bomb induced. I strongly call on the Ministry of Health not to appeal the Kumamoto case and other Hibakusha cases to a higher court.

The atomic bombings are one of the gravest violations of humanitarian law and human rights. They killed 100,000 people within the days of the bombings, Hiroshima and Nagasaki combined, and 210,000 people altogether by the end of the year 1945. Since then, they have caused the tormenting death of some additional 100,000 survivors with the aftereffects of residual radiation. And the 250,000 survivors live our lives with constant fear for our health, of our children's health and of many more things. Some of us are unable to disclose our Hibakusha identity even to this day. What drove me to join my fellow Hibakusha in their collective efforts for legal remedy was an incredible incident that took place 3 years ago in my hometown. An elemental school teacher, who is said to have been involved in the anti-nuclear movement, used a picture of burned Hibakusha to test the guts of his students, to see if they would chicken out. The teacher obviously didn't understand the anguish of Hibakusha.

The Hibakusha lawsuits are a major witness campaign aimed at revealing the realities of the A-bomb destruction through a court of law on how the radiation has destroyed the bodies and the minds of Hibakusha for all these 62 years. We need to make sure that every single account of the 266 Hibakusha plaintiffs will go beyond the court rooms and reach as many people as possible so that the devastating effects of the nuclear attacks

will be known and understood.

We live in a country where a former Defense Minister accepts the use of nuclear weapons by saying "the atomic bombing was inevitable", where the country's military forces are being further integrated into the US nuclear strategy, and where attempts at constitutional change are being made to legitimize Japan's war fighting in other regions of the world. In May this year, I joined the Japanese delegation to the East Asian Peace Conference against War and Nuclear Proliferation held in Seoul. There, I was surprised to learn that 80% of South Koreans were concerned about the North Korea's nuclear testing and that as much as 90% feared Japan's possible nuclear armament and invasion of Korea. But I was encouraged when Mr. Kim, an organizer of the conference, expressed his willingness to launch a Seoul Association of Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution in his strong solidarity with our movements in Japan to defend Article 9. I demand that the government of the only A-bomb country, make a Declaration of a Nuclear Weapon-Free Japan, take a leadership role in the efforts for the abolition of nuclear weapons and commit itself to never wage war again. I wish to conclude my remarks by sharing my determination to strive to the best of my ability to achieve that end. Thank you.

Moriuchi Minoru Head of the Plaintiffs' Group of Nagasaki A-Bomb Lawsuit

My name is Moriuchi. I am head of the Hibakusha plaintiffs in Nagasaki who filed lawsuits against the government 4 years ago in pursuit of the official recognition of our illnesses as having been caused by the atomic bombing. This is part of the concerted efforts of many Hibakushas across the country. As we just heard, the results of the legal struggle have all been victories for Hibakusha in each of the 6 cases at the district court level. But the truth is that winning the cases doesn't necessarily relieve us because the defendant, the Ministry of Health and Labor, has been absolutely adamant about not accepting the court rulings and needlessly taken every single case to a higher court. This is causing us even greater pain. We simply do not have time. Many of us literally survive another day in fear of death that could come any time.

The Nagasaki cases were finally concluded on the 31st of last month after 4 years of hearings. It was truly a very long journey to take for the sick and feeble Hibakusha. Now we are to wait for court rulings, which we are confident, will confirm our cases. But our struggle in fact starts now. We ask for your continued support and guidance in

this struggle we are determined to carry through until we achieve the true and final victory.

Greetings from Peace Movements from around the World:

Chu Chong-Hwan
Social Foundation: Minhwaryon
Republic of Korea

The struggle for the abolition of nuclear weapons is both a struggle for justice and for the prevention of the destruction of humanity, a struggle in which all the people of the world must take part. It is an obligation shared by the international community. It is a matter of course for Japan, a county which experienced nuclear destruction, to join the call for the abolition of nuclear weapons. My name is Chu Chong-Hwan. I am professor emeritus at Chungang University in Korea. I came to the atomic-bombed city of Nagasaki from South Korea with a desire to contribute to this struggle for justice.

The statement that the dropping of the atomic bombs could not be avoided that was made by former Defense Minister Kyuma has provoked discussion. I would like to point out two aspects that made his statement so problematic. One is that he has no sense of responsibility at all for the past militarists who rallied behind the Emperor, mobilizing the public for a war of aggression. If the Emperor had accepted the Potsdam Declaration and had made an unconditional surrender much earlier, the tragic events of Hiroshima and Nagasaki would not have occurred. The second is that he fails to recognize U.S. hegemonic policy in which it dropped the bombs for the purpose of showing its superiority over the Soviet Union in the post-war world. The hegemony of the United States is a most serious problem.

As for the issue of North Korean nuclear development, I believe that the United States bears the greatest responsibility. In regards to the North Korean nuclear issue, the United States made a tentative settlement in the 1994 Geneva Accord; however, U.S. President Bush abandoned the settlement and drove North Korea into nuclear testing. With these acts, the situation returned to the pre-settlement reality. Without recognizing the destabilizing role of the United States, we cannot talk about the North Korean nuclear development issue.

If progress is made in the Six-Party Talks, the following positive results may be expected to occur quickly: the ceasefire agreement on the Korean Peninsula will be transformed into a peace agreement; a security regime in Northeast Asia

will be internationally secured; and an Asian economic community for mutual benefit will be created. In particular, the Six-Party Talks notably demand that North Korea abandon its nuclear weapons and instead contribute to the creation of a nuclear-free and non-aligned neutral zone in the peninsula. Moreover, the Six-Party Talks require that Japan also be a nuclear-free and non-aligned neutral nation by departing from the U.S. nuclear umbrella and pushing ahead with its own disarmament by actually following its peace Constitution. The establishment of an international monitoring network to these ends is definitely required.

To promote the Six-Party Talks, Japan urgently needs to legalize its three Non-Nuclear Principles, which are currently unobserved, while pursuing the removal of all nuclear weapons from the world as an ultimate goal. As for the Korean Peninsula, Koreans must rapidly move towards a declaration of denuclearization of both the North and South, establishing as an international monitoring network created through dialogue in the Six-Party Talks. If South Korea, North Korea, and Japan give up their military alliances responding to a situation to emerge after a successful Six-Party Talks, Japan should enact its Three Non-Nuclear Principles. And if Northeast Asia can become an internationally recognized nuclear-free non-alignment neutral region. To this end, these three nations should contribute to the building of an international security mechanism. This is what the Korean people should urgently do and what the peace-longing people of Japan should do. Thank you for considering these issues.

Niu Qiang
**Chinese People's Association for Peace and
Disarmament**

I am pleased to visit this beautiful city of Nagasaki together with my colleagues on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and Japan. What makes me even happier is that I am privileged to have the opportunity to meet and exchange opinions here with Japanese friends. This year's conference theme, "a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Just and Peaceful World" is a beautiful ideal, and it is very meaningful that we discuss issues over the theme.

We are taking part in this conference on behalf of the Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament. The association consists of 24 organizations of workers, women, youth, professionals, and religionists. I would like to convey their heartfelt greetings to you. I would also express my deepest condolence to the citizens of Nagasaki for the tragic death of the former

Mayor Ito.

Since the invention and production of the weapons of mass destruction called atomic bombs, human society has constantly faced grave danger and disaster, as well as anxiety and horror. Sixty-two years ago, the atomic bombs destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, claiming hundreds of thousands of lives. Since then, nuclear weapons loom over human society like ominous dark clouds, threatening our survival and devouring precious and limited resources. This is why we struggle for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. The struggle is vital for human survival. The reason we have to continue the struggle is simple: There is a possibility of nuclear annihilation at any time if we do not unite and achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons. We must prevail in this struggle. It is a fight we cannot afford to lose. We must unite and fight a relentless fight as if there is no way of retreat.

In our efforts for a nuclear weapon-free, peaceful and just world, firm solidarity, mutual understanding and support among peoples are especially important. One Chinese woman made the wise comment that no one else but the people are the driving force and true heroes of making world history. Therefore, the people of the world can become the driving force and true heroes of making a nuclear weapon-free world and a great history of humankind.

Exchange, cooperation and unity between the Japanese people who have suffered the calamity of the atomic bombings and the Chinese people who experienced the long-years of aggression and invasions are essential in this fight. China and Japan are neighbors separated only by a strip of water. We have a long history of exchanges and friendship, and our relationship is intimate today. Building a lasting and stable good-neighborhood and friendship will not only meet the interests of the two peoples but also contribute to the peace and stability of Asia and the whole world.

China-Japan friendship means friendship between the two peoples. Let's do our best to contribute, however small, to the cause of friendship between the two countries.

I can see a number of young Japanese men and women from the stage. I have something I would like to share with you. Young people of the two countries are the future of the China-Japan friendship. As a Chinese saying goes, youth is the Sun at 8 or 9 o'clock in the morning, bursting with vitality. The future of the world depends on you. I want you to develop cooperative relations by learning from each other and building up mutual trust through exchanges. You must learn history and work for lasting friendship with the spirit of finding a guide into tomorrow by taking lessons from the past. In parallel with such efforts, let's

work for a world without nuclear weapons in peace and harmony.

David Webb **Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament** **UK**

It is a great honour for me to be here today at such an important gathering and a privilege to speak on behalf of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) in the UK.

There are so many powerful stories concerning the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki – I cannot match them in any way. As a scientist I can use mathematical formulae to calculate the effects of a nuclear weapon. These formulae were developed mainly by measuring and analysing the effects of the two bombs dropped by the United States in 1945. But there can never be a measurement of the human pain, suffering, and humiliation felt by the victims of the bombs and their families through the generations. Nor can we measure the sorrow, disbelief and fear felt by everyone who hears their stories. We may not be able to measure these things but we do feel them strongly and the magnificent museums and monuments and the strength and courage of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki teach us such valuable lessons and they are wonderful examples to us all.

It is now the duty of all of us here today to spread the stories of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the message of peace of the Hibakusha. We must, we will, tell others, especially those governments that possess or want to develop nuclear weapons. They must be reminded as strongly as possible and in every way possible of the inhumanity, the futility and madness and the waste of pursuing nuclear weapons.

In March this year, the British Parliament debated the future of the UK nuclear weapons system. Unfortunately, the government eventually won the vote to renew the nuclear Trident submarine system. However, it suffered its biggest rebellion on domestic policy since coming to power in 1997. It was also forced to make important concessions. Parliament will now have to hold further debates on each part of the system. This means that there will be new opportunities for us to reverse the decision. CND will work hard to build on the significant opposition already present within the British parliament. A recent opinion poll showed that 64% of the British public want the government to support a Convention to ban all nuclear weapons. Next February CND will host a major international conference on nuclear disarmament in London to help coordinate work on such a convention.

It is still not clear whether the new British

Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, will behave very differently from Tony Blair. Unfortunately he has already given permission for the US to use their base at Menwith Hill for their National Missile Defence Programme. However, his Party once had a policy of unilateral nuclear disarmament and some of those in the current government were originally members of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. If we can generate a powerful message from our conference we may be able to recapture their hearts and minds and help them see that nuclear disarmament is not only popular but entirely possible and the only positive way to create a peaceful and secure world. We could then generate an anti-nuclear chain reaction to spread around the world.

We are inspired by the dedication and passion for peace shown by the people and mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. CND will continue to campaign for the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction and continue to demonstrate, protest, lobby and educate to achieve that end. We recognise the importance of working together, of trust and cooperation, tolerance and understanding. We want No more Hiroshimas, no more Nagasakis, no more nuclear weapons anywhere on Earth.

Lina Cahuasqui
Terre des Hommes-Italia
Ecuador

I am honored to be in this World Conference, where I hear other voices and learn of movements struggling for peace, and for the abolition of military bases, nuclear weapons, and foreign military presence in our countries.

Please receive warm greetings and an embrace of solidarity from Latin America, from the south of the continent, where movements of indigenous people, farmers, students, women and young people have begun to wage peaceful resistance against economic and military plans. These movements are resurging to their position as political protagonists through the democratic process in Bolivia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Brazil, Chile and Argentina. Latin America has begun to reflect on itself, and is now seeking ways to stand against the interests of powerful nations, particularly the United States, opposing their plans to expand their influence and achieve their goals by the use of force.

Today, as we commemorate this anniversary of the atomic bombing, of the horror to humanity and the most brutal expression of imperialism, that killed thousands of people and almost wiped out the two cities from our planet, we have once again confirmed that preventive wars, threats beyond the borders, deployment of forces and the installation

of military bases do not guarantee security, much less peace or social justice. Washington refuses to learn the lessons from asymmetry wars, and such an attitude will lead it to lose legitimacy inside its own territory.

It is more urgent than ever to pressure our governments to give up the arms race and demonstrate sensibility and ethical commitment, particularly common sense. We cannot accept the repetition of the catastrophes of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which now would put the survival of humanity and the earth in jeopardy.

Events like this one are more important than ever before, because they provide an opportunity to join forces, strengthen our voices and increase our capacity to influence others, so that we can make global efforts to pursue strategies for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Our movements come from the heart of the world. Only egoism and insanity can turn on nuclear weapons in an apocalyptic way.

In the cosmic view of the indigenous people of the Andes, now is the time of Pachakutik, which is the era of the regression; the time of the construction of new power, from bottom up and from inside to outside. In this era we hope for a new relation of power; a New World free of nuclear weapons and military bases is possible and necessary.

Joseph Gerson
American Friends Service Committee
USA

It is a privilege to rejoin the World Conference, a forum to deepen understandings of what nuclear weapons have done and the dangers that the U.S. or other nations will initiate genocidal nuclear war. Here we are revitalized by the Japanese peace movement, and we can deepen collaborations.

The nuclear powers still possess nearly 30,000 genocidal and omnicidal nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons proliferation poses a growing threat, reinforced by the nuclear powers' insistence that they can maintain arsenals of annihilation and ignore Article VI of the NPT. Proliferation is also driven by U.S. nuclear threats, including Bush's and nearly all the presidential candidates' insistence that "all options must be on the table" with Iran. North Korea and possibly Iran have concluded that they need deterrent nuclear forces. And, Prime Minister Abe's and Foreign Minister Aso's visions of a nuclear armed Japan must be taken seriously.

The A-bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were fundamentally evil, and U.S. leaders knew it. Worse, today's strategic weapons average 20 times the killing power of the Hiroshima A-bomb and can murder more people than Hitler did at

Auschwitz.

As you know, the Bush-Cheney nuclear agenda includes: The first-strike nuclear policy. Building and deploying “missile defenses” -- shields to reinforce U.S. first-strike nuclear swords. Developing more “usable” nuclear weapons. Massive expansion of the nuclear weapons production infrastructure. Unilateral enforcement of non-proliferation, while undermining the NPT. Discriminatory nuclear weapons proliferation: rewarding India, turning a blind eye to Israel, and threatening North Korea, Iran, and Iraq, And refusing to ratify the CTBT or negotiate a verifiable Fissile Material Cut Off Treaty or successor to START .

The problem is not limited to Bush. When asked if by saying that “all options should be on the table”, the leading Democratic presidential contender, Hillary Clinton, meant that the U.S. should threaten Iran with genocide, she answered: “I meant what I said.” Last week, she said that the nuclear option should never be taken off the table. U.S. political discourse is becoming still more brutal.

To maintain the U.S. empire Richard Armitage and Joseph Nye have drafted a new bipartisan blueprint for U.S. dominance of Asia. The U.S. elite fears “China’s growing comprehensive national power” is “aimed at shaping the strategic environment around its borders” and that China will become the center of a new regional system and isolate the U.S. from Asia’s wealth and power.

To contain China, Japan, Australia, South Korea, and Singapore are seen as a new Pacific wall. Armitage and Nye report that Washington’s “greatest strategic asset in the region” is “the close U.S.-Japan alliance” which remains “at the core of the United States’ Asia strategy.” The alliance is to be cemented by reaffirming the U.S. commitment to “defend Japan” with nuclear weapons, and Japan is to deepen its nuclear collaboration with the U.S. They encourage the trashing of Article 9 and increased Japanese military spending.

Fortunately, people’s commitments to creating a better world remain powerful. The debate in the U.S. over Iran is no longer if the U.S. should withdraw from Iraq, but when and how. And, on October 27, massive regional demonstrations will demand “All U.S. Troops Out Now!”

So far, we have blocked funding for development of new nuclear weapons and expansion of the nuclear weapons production complex, and Washington’s isolation has forced the Bush Administration to concede that the “ultimate” goal of the NPT is nuclear weapons abolition.

U.S. peace groups have organized Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorations and activists are pressing them to fully implement all of the NPT.

Here the Declaration for a Nuclear Free Japan can contain politicians working to take Japan back to the bad old days, this time with nuclear weapons. You are defending Article 9, and the Call for the Swift Abolition of Nuclear Weapons is a vehicle for us all.

Years ago, Albert Camus wrote “All I ask is that, in the midst of a murderous world, we agree to reflect on murder and to make a choice.” Having made our choices about murder, we must rededicate our life’s energies to fulfilling that choice.

No More Hiroshimas. No More Nagasakis!
No More Hibakusha! No More War!

Peace Marchers, Grass-Roots Movements, Youth Activities in Japan:

Nationwide Peace March:

Asada Kenji, Through marcher

Friends from the floor, friends who joined the Peace March, thank you for your good work. I also arrived here safe and sound. On May 6th, I departed the Rebun Island of Hokkaido and vigorously marched all the way through Aoyama, Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Chiba, to Ueno in Tokyo. Last year, I walked from Okinawa. Most impressive was that people in their 80s and 90s were marching, and young people were joining the march. In addition, we collected signatures to support the Declaration for a Nuclear-Free Japan from many municipal heads. Let us work to spread our movement to gain support from more autonomies and to the world.

Takeda Akihiko, Through marcher

My name is Takeda, and I took part in the Tokyo-Hiroshima course as a through marcher. I’d like to thank you for helping me reach Hiroshima and Nagasaki safely.

There are three things by which I was very touched. Firstly, I met a person who has been marching every year since the 1st March in 1958. It was like a dream to march with such an honorable person. Secondly, the marchers’ ages ranged from 1 to 95 years old. I was impressed to see a 95 year old lady filled with energy to wish for peace. In comparison, I am still a child at 67 years of age. Yesterday, I marched to Nagasaki with friends of the “Korean Peace Tour.” I’m glad that I could join the first step of the “Japan-Korea Solidarity Peace March.”

On the other hand, along the way, I felt the intense anger of people against the remark by former defense minister Kyuma, justifying the A-bombings, who said they “couldn’t be helped.” I was repeatedly told by many people along the

way that "that was bad." The peace march adopted a letter of protest and sent it the day after the remark was made. I believe it was the strong anger of the people that made him resign in three days.

I am determined to continue my best to achieve a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons and war at the earliest possible date. Friends from all over Japan, thank you for your support.

Tokuze Hiroki
Leader of Youth Department, Tokyo Local Headquarters, Representative of JMIU

I work with the motto that "with peace, a labor movement is possible." We are JMIU (All Japan Metal and Information Machinery Works Union), a national labor union organized by fellow workers in the metal and information machinery related industries. Next to us are our senior fellows of the National Confederation of Copy and Print Industry Unions, who have carried their union flag at the Peace March for 19 years, mobilizing 6,500 members in total.

My name is Tokuze Hiroki, and I am Leader of Youth Department of JMIU's Tokyo Local Headquarters. My workplace produces hearing aids. It is the first time for me to attend this World Conference. My wife and two children are here also.

This year marks the 13th year for JMIU to carry the union flag in the Peace March from Tokyo to Hiroshima, and we mobilized 450 workers from 180 workplaces to successfully carry our flag in relay style without a gap. Here in Nagasaki, we have 50 representatives joining the conference. We have just arrived here in the Peace March and are standing here now. For the future of youth and children, and for Japan and a world free of nuclear weapons and war, we stay committed.

Campaign for a Declaration of a Nuclear-Free Japan:

Ono Hisashi
Ichinoseki Gensuikyo, Iwate Prefecture

I am Ono Hisashi of Ichinoseki Gensuikyo, Iwate Prefecture. I am a member of the Ichinoseki City Assembly. Ichinoseki Gensuikyo has sent its delegates to the World Conference against A and H Bombs these 50 and some consecutive years. In this year's conference ten delegates, including from the neighboring town of Hiraizumi, are taking part. It costs us about 1.8 million yen. We began fundraising in mid-June when the Peace March passed the city. About 900,000 yen was funded by local citizens, including management level employees of the City Hall, priests of Buddhist temples, medical doctors and bosses of small- and medium-sized enterprises

who our staff called on for cooperation.

The campaign for a "Declaration of Nuclear-Free Japan" has been one of our major tasks. In its June session this year, the Ichinoseki City Assembly unanimously pioneered the adoption of a resolution requesting the national government to declare a nuclear-free Japan. The bill was cosponsored by all members of the assembly. We also re-adopted the "Declaration of a Nuclear-Free, Peace City" last year because of the merger of the city and neighboring towns and villages. The bill was also sponsored jointly by all members. The secretariat of the assembly said that it was very rare that all members cosponsored a bill. It is because an elderly member who had experienced the war 62 years before said problems of peace and opposing nuclear weapons should be dealt with by all. So we met and talked with all parties and groups in the assembly, and all members signed the draft resolution.

In Iwate Prefecture, two municipalities have not yet adopted nuclear-free peace city declarations. The campaign for a "Declaration of a Nuclear-Free Japan" has just started. We will strengthen activities of getting all assemblies to issue opinion letters to the government in their September sessions, calling on municipality heads and assembly chairs, as well as citizens to support the campaign.

Dear friends, let's do our best!

6th and 9th Day Action:

Hama Yoko
Kumamoto Prefectural Gensuikyo

Dear friends, my name is Hama Yoko, member of the delegation of Kumamoto Prefectural Gensuikyo. I work at Kuwamizu Hospital, an affiliate of the Japanese Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions (Min-Iren).

We have continued the monthly "6th and 9th day action," including a signature campaign calling for the swift abolition of nuclear weapons. Our target is to collect 100,000 signatures. We have a plan to specially hold the action on the 2nd, 4th, 6th and 9th days this August. On the 2nd, 282 signatures were collected by 15 activists. On the 4th, 310 by 17, and yesterday, on the 6th, 28 people took part in the action and collected 636 signatures. Today, on August 9, those co-workers for peace who do not attend this World Conference will do the 9th day action. Already between 1,000 to 2,000 have been sent to the prefectural Gensuikyo. We are determined to achieve the goal by organizing the "6th and 9th day action" in all places of the prefecture.

The Kumamoto District Court on July 30 ruled that 19 out of 21 plaintiff Hibakusha shall be recognized as suffering from illnesses caused by the atomic bombings, ordering the government to retract its rejection of the recognition that those

plaintiffs had applied for.

We have supported the plaintiffs since the beginning of the legal battle, sitting in on court hearings, attending rallies of Hibakusha, and collecting signatures. In particular, we carried on a research "Project '04," together with plaintiffs, lawyers, and medical doctors. In this project, we found out about experiences of the atomic bombing, and living conditions and medical histories of Hibakusha after the war, and compared them with those who did not suffer from the atomic bombing. A total of 848 persons of MIN-IREN (Japanese Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions), trade unions and other citizens organizations, voluntarily took part in this one-year-long research project. 280 Hibakusha and 530 non-Hibakusha responded to our inquiries. The result was introduced to the court as evidence, which I think might have affected the decision this time.

In an atmosphere of having hesitation in declaring that they were atomic bombed, Hibakusha sought the government's recognition as suffering from A-bomb diseases. But their applications were turned down unceremoniously. Although this caused them emotional distress, they roused themselves to filing the lawsuit against the government. After a great struggle they won the suit in the first trial, but the government appealed the ruling. I can't imagine the Hibakusha's outrage and sense of humiliation.

Demanding the government withdraw appeals that have been made so far and not make any further appeals, Hibakusha have been continuing sit-in struggles in the scorching sun in front of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Health, and petitioning Diet members. They are also fighting against serious diseases. I often wonder how they can fight. They say, "Underestimation of the reality of the atomic bombing would lead to repetition of using the atomic bomb. Let us be the last victims of the horror of nuclear weapons. No, no, no more." Not only for themselves, but for the future generations of the human race, Hibakusha are trying their utmost, I believe. That is why we must support their court struggle as our own task.

Do not appeal to the high court!

Relief for all Hibakusha!

No more Hibakusha anywhere in the world!

Abolish nuclear weapons!

As the people of the only atomic-bombed country, let us strive for these goals.

**Activities against Home-Porting of U.S.
Nuclear-Powered Aircraft Carrier:
Tsuruta Mitsuaki, Yokosuka Gensuikyo,
Kanagawa Prefecture**

My name is Tsuruta Mitsuaki representing Yokosuka Gensuikyo. There are 327 people

participating in this conference from Kanagawa Prefecture.

The U.S. and Japanese governments are planning to deploy the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier George Washington to the U.S. Yokosuka Naval Base.

The plan is at the core of the Bush Administration's preemptive attack strategy as well as of the ongoing U.S. military realignment in Japan. The Japanese government has passed the U.S. Forces Realignment Law in order to promote the reorganization of the U.S. forces stationed across the nation. When Yokosuka was turned into a homeport of a U.S. aircraft carrier in 1973, the government, facing strong opposition, stated in the Diet that the port would be returned to Japan within three years; however, U.S. forces have been using Yokosuka as a homeport for thirty-four years and now plan to bring a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier into the port.

Public anger increased in the base city of Yokosuka. Opinion polls show that 70 percent of citizens expressed concerns over a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier and 65 percent were opposed to its deployment. From December, we have carried out activities calling on the city to enact an ordinance to conduct a referendum on the deployment of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier to Yokosuka. We collected 41,551 signatures in support of our call, amounting to one in every nine residents. The Yokosuka City Assembly, however, dismissed our demand, arousing stronger public anger. In the April election of city assembly members, the top five vote recipients were all opposed to the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier deployment. The election results clearly showed the attitude of residents. I would like to mention two points in regards to the election.

The first is the danger of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. Yokosuka is in the Tokyo Metropolitan area, the home of thirty million people and the center of Japan's political and economic activities. It is also at the entrance of Tokyo Bay, used by about a thousand ships every day. If a nuclear accident occurs here, it will affect the whole metropolitan area. A specialist points out that radioactive fallout will fall within a 165 kilometer area around Yokosuka for ten years, causing the death of 1.7 million people from late-onset cancers. The area covers all of the Kanto area and Nagano Prefecture. We can never accept such a risk, even though our government claims it is necessary for Japanese security. Our struggle is to defend the lives of the thirty million people living in the metropolitan area, to defend their peace and security. We are distributing our flyers: what will happen if a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier causes an accident in Yokosuka. Please take a look at it.

The other point is the ongoing dredging work

in Yokosuka Port, deepening the sea by two meters in preparation for the deployment of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. It is producing ten million tons of silt that needs to be dumped. The silt is toxic, contaminated with heavy metals, including arsenic, lead, mercury, hexavalent chrome, tin, and sulfide. Dumping such contaminants into the Pacific Ocean over a period of nine months, the dredging work will pollute the ocean and the environment. A total of 649 residents living in Tokyo and five neighboring prefectures have filed a lawsuit calling for a halt to this dredging operation.

Our grassroots power must be used to block the deployment of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in Yokosuka and the relocation of the U.S. Army Command to Camp Zama. Let us work together.

Tanaka Taeko, New Japan Women's Association, Chiba Chapter

My name is Taeko Tanaka. I am from Chiba Prefecture, located on the shore of Tokyo Bay facing Yokosuka. We hold the 6th and the 9th Day actions and other peace activities, carrying a

yellow banner reading, "We oppose the home-porting of a U.S. nuclear-powered aircraft carrier in Yokosuka—Tokyo Bay must be nuclear-free." We carried out a series of four study meetings. The cities of Kisarazu, Kimitsu, Sodegaura, and Futtsu are jointly organizing a rally on 9 September. Let us work together to block the plan to home-port a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier.

Hirata Chikai, Tokyo Peace Committee

My name is Hirata Chikai from Tokyo. The silt produced from the dredging work in Yokosuka in preparation for the deployment of a U.S. nuclear-powered aircraft carrier will be dumped 100 kilometers from Miyake Island in Tokyo Bay. It is the best area for fishing, where the Kurile and the Kuroshio currents merge. Fishermen go there from as far away as the Shikoku region to fish. But it will be contaminated with heavy-metals if the dumping is permitted. This issue impacts the entire Pacific coast. Let us struggle together to prevent this environmental destruction.

