

## **International Meeting: Plenary Session II**

### ***Peaceful & Just World and Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution*** **(August 3)**

#### **Panel Presentation:**

#### **Sukla Sen** **Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace** **India**

Dear Friends and Comrades,

It's a matter of some satisfaction and pride to be again this year amongst you and stand before you, the leading anti-nuke peace activists from all over the globe, as the representative of the CNDP, India, carrying the message of solidarity, to reaffirm our commitment to further reinforce the global struggle for a peaceful and just world free of nuclear weapons – anywhere and everywhere. I, on my personal behalf and on behalf of the organization I'm proud to represent, convey my sincerest thanks to the Gensuikyo for making it possible.

Yet at another level, it is also quite a bit frustrating that even after more than six decades after the horrific bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, more than half a century after this Conference first commenced, we are assembling here every year not to celebrate the success of our collective struggle, to recall the terrible memories of the days left behind laden with spine-chilling threats of nuclear catastrophe in the cosy comfort provided by the elimination of such terrible menace; but to carry on our unfinished struggle, trudge undeterred along the difficult path ahead, towards the goal still unachieved.

That makes it incumbent on our part to make use of this unique opportunity to reexamine our methods followed hitherto and further intensify our explorations for the most effective means of struggle.

If we take a quick stock of the developments since we met the last time, we'd find that the tensions built around North Korea's nuclear weapons programme, despite an explosion – perhaps a failed one, carried out last October to reinforce its claim to being a nuclear power with concomitant destabilising effects in the region, have considerably diffused. The tensions around Iran's avowedly nuclear power programme have somewhat plateaued after peaking further to unnerving heights. The occupation of Iraq

continues with the occupying forces led by the US being continually delivered bloody nose by the insurgent forces, even if at a great cost to local populace, thereby causing a serious setback to the American neocon plan for unilateral and unfettered global domination by foregrounding its awesome military might to compensate for the inadequacy of its otherwise huge economic prowess and political/diplomatic clout. The emergence of Venezuela, under the presidentship of the redoubtable Hugo Chavez, and leftwing radical forces coming to power in a number of Latin American countries have considerably strengthened the global forces fighting against the big bully, the US, on the global plain. The setback signified by the victory of Nicolas Sarkozy in the just concluded French presidential election would hopefully be partly mitigated by the transfer of baton from Blair to Brown in the neighbouring Britain, the traditional most steadfast ally of the US.

The US plan to install Ballistic Missile Defence systems on the soil of Europe, in countries neighbouring the Russian Federation, threatens to trigger a new Cold War with the Russian economy enjoying the benefits of buoyant oil price, paradoxically at least partly caused by the US war on Iraq and aggressive posturing against Iran.

And last but not the least, India – the country I come from, has steadfastly emerged as a very significant destabilising force in the arena of global nuclear danger. In 1996, it had played a major role in virtually torpedoing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). This was somewhat logical, though not inevitable, continuation of its earlier rejection of the NPT and the (avowedly peaceful) nuclear explosion in 1974. In a sharp further negative turn, it carried out five nuclear explosions in May 1998 to openly claim the status of a nuclear weapon state. As a consequence, much smaller but traditional rival - neighbouring Pakistan, followed suit in about a fortnight turning South Asia into a sort of live nuclear volcano ready to erupt any moment. This turn of events was all the more shocking and unfortunate as it amounted to complete negation of India's traditional claim to being a pioneering pacifist force. This, however, in the process energised the

Indian peace movement, pretty weak to begin with, and the CNDP was brought into being. Nevertheless the events of May 1998 almost inexorably changed the terms of mainstream discourse. The political class became obscenely obsessed with the idea of “nuclear sovereignty” with the rightwing Hindu nationalist forces leading the pack. So it is no wonder that even with a change of regime, India continues marching along the same deplorable path to emerge as a mini hegemon in the region - bent upon expanding its nuclear, and non-nuclear, arsenal towards that goal. And in relentless pursuit of this objective, it is persistently developing closer and closer relationships with the US and Israel – the two most aggressive forces in the presentday global order, without however completely giving up on the other alternative options deemed conducive to the fulfillment of its big power ambitions. The ongoing Indo-US nuclear ‘deal’ is the most visible manifestation of this disturbing development. And it is therefore eminently crucial to scuttle this yet-to-be-concluded ‘deal’. The deal, if actualised, would further cement the growing strategic ties between India and the US and also set a very negative example before the nuclear threshold states prodding them to cross the rubicon. And I must also repeat that despite accentuated domestic opposition to the ‘deal’ from the proponents of “nuclear sovereignty”, the approval of the ‘deal’ by the Nuclear Suppliers Group remains the weakest link in the chain, as I had made out the last year as well. We have to take due note of this aspect.

The road ahead towards global nuclear disarmament would understandably consist of multiple tracks. We must continue to draw strength from the very first resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly under the terrific impact of the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We must also resurrect the 13 practical steps enunciated in the 2000 NPT Review Conference. We have to as well most determinedly persist with the demand for a Nuclear Weapons Convention under the aegis of the UNGA.

The last call, if raised with sufficient strength, would most likely touch a sympathetic cord in India as well. It is this demand that had been voiced by late Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, at the UNGA in June 1988. Consequently it would to an extent force the otherwise reluctant hands of the incumbent Indian regime.

Apart from this, the call for creating a nuclear weapons free South Asia, as an ad interim move towards the final goal, would attract the support of the smaller nations in the region and thereby exert pressures on the big brother India and little big brother Pakistan.

With these strategies in mind, we have to keep on sensitising the masses about the perils of

nuclear danger, mobilise their latent desires for a just and peaceful world and steer the resultant forces towards the goal of a nuclear weapon free world. Thank you.

**Tomas Magnusson**  
**President, International Peace Bureau**

### **How to Reach Nuclear Abolition within Three Years: The DC Method**

#### INTRODUCTION

How is it possible that the modern world, which has reached outstanding scientific levels, with the most perfect athletes, such impressive architecture, so many wonderful artists of all kinds - remains trapped in anachronistic, obsolete, old-fashioned ways of dealing with conflicts between people and nations?

And how can this wonderful world accept that nations are preparing to repeat the mistakes of former times, by continuing to expand their deadly arsenals, and build up their nuclear capacity and other means of weapons of mass destruction, as well as wasting resources on conventional weaponry, instead of tackling global problems, and resolving conflicts, through peaceful means!

That is the challenging issue I would like to bring to discussion at the World Conference against A and H Bombs 2007.

#### ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE BUREAU

We have all different backgrounds. I come from the International Peace Bureau, established over one hundred years ago to be the permanent Bureau to organize international peace conferences. Nowadays there are many organisers of peace conferences, like the Organising Committee behind the 2007 World Conference here in Japan.

So the International Peace Bureau has grown into the role of being a global network of peace organisations, today representing 282 member organisations in 70 countries, as well as individual members. It is from that platform I speak at today's meeting.

#### MOBILISING THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Nuclear arms are the top priority for our discussion today: But let's remember: there are many inter-locking problems facing the planet – climate change, mass poverty, inequality, conflicts over resources, unilateralism instead of international cooperation between nations, domestic wars in many places.

Different people will make different priorities, and different situations will require different solutions. But the point is that these crises are interconnected. If we are to create a large scale

public mobilization for nuclear disarmament, we must relate that issue to environmental, development and human rights concerns.

What we as peace activists can bring to all the other important issues is the knowledge of the military spending, of all the resources that are kept from solving urgent needs, but instead spent on military purposes. The military spending, the military waste are at the unbelievable level of 1.204 billion dollar annual. Whoever dealing with environment, development or human right issues know what can be achieved with just one hour of that incredible amount of money!

## TERRORISM

Furthermore, we need to deal with the problem of terrorism - terrorism from suicide bombers, terrorism from political and religious fanatics – which have given birth to so many new much more violent reactions by governments waging new wars in many parts of the world.

Terrorism cannot be defeated by war, because war is an obsolete and ineffective way of dealing with human conflicts. 'War on terrorism' is a contradiction. War is no solution to fear, war is no solution to revenge. Security, instead, must be cooperative and common!

And when using the term terrorism, we must always have in mind that the worst form of terrorism, is to possess, stockpile and test nuclear weapons. Not to mention the planning and the threat of use of nuclear weapons against nations and people – that is terrorism in its worst interpretation.

## TIME TO ACT

Our task as a peace movement, to change the historical wrong path, into a promising new way of tomorrow is huge. But I believe that this is a historical momentum that is better than maybe any time before in the last 60 years to achieve the ultimate goal of nuclear abolition and a peaceful world. I am optimistic – we have an opportunity!

The opportunity depends on how result-oriented our work for nuclear abolition can be. Three things are needed, basically, to reach result: and this is a general demand for any popular movement:

- you need facts
- you need public opinion support
- you need method and strategy for how to reach your result

## FACTS

First - about the facts – about the threat and danger of nuclear weapons! The facts and information has been there all the time since the 6th of August 1945, the 9th of August 1945. We have heard the witnesses from people in the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, brought to the world

at so many occasions. We have all the facts we need.

But there are some new elements in the presentation of the facts that can be helpful for our ambition to reach our goal of nuclear abolition within a time frame of the coming three years.

The most important to mention is the report of the Weapon of Mass Destruction Commission, the so called "Blix commission", named after the chairman, the former Swedish Minister Hans Blix.

The Blix commission gives 60 recommendations on how to change the situation from threat of weapons to a peaceful world. This is a whole agenda of actions, which brings together all fruitful suggestions through the year, test ban, stop on fissile material, security guarantees – all negotiable suggestions are there, including the suggestion to hold a World Summit on weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons.

Our historical momentum includes also the article in *Wall Street Journal* of some older statesmen, including Kissinger, Nunn, Schultz and Perry, where those persons called for a nuclear free future. These persons are neither radicals, nor utopists, not peace activists, in fact they are part of the system that brought the danger of nuclear weapons to the present peak – and still, they have after many years arrived to the conclusion that nuclear weapons are threats to humanity.

Let us also remember, always, that the World Court has said that generally nuclear weapons are illegal under international law.

## PUBLIC OPINION SUPPORT

With the facts and information behind us, lets talk about the public opinion.

My view of the public opinion is that it is very reliable when it comes to issues of nuclear weapon and peace – but we, as activists, are not always successful enough in mobilising the public opinion. I have been in the peace movement for 40 years, in fact this year is my 40th anniversary year, and I have been to numerous peace conferences, and seen people come and go, and I have seen peace organisations be born and die. But all the time since I came to know of Gensuikyo and all its partners here in Japan I have been impressed by the way of continuous work, year after year, never resting, never giving up.

A famous Swedish writer and film director, Tage Danielsson, himself a peace activist, wrote a poem about precisely what is required in the world to reach political goals, like the goal of nuclear abolition.

He said in the poem that a public outcry is like a storm, and no one needs to fear a storm, because the storm will blow over, it can cause trouble, some damages, but it will blow over. What really is dangerous for those men and women in power (mostly they are men), those who defend the policy

of nuclear weapons is the wind that blows all the time – the trade wind, then monsoon, the southwest – “the wind of freedom is the continuous anger”. That is why the organising of World Conferences against A and H Bombs every year is so important. It is a manifestation of a continuous anger.

And we need to bring our message to the superpowers, to the nuclear weapon states, to the UN and every possible tribune where those issues can be discussed – and we need to show that this is not a storm that ends after a few days or weeks or months. We need to come as a trade wind, a monsoon, a southwest and demand nuclear abolition – and the general public opinion will be with us.

#### THE DC-METHOD

Facts, public opinion – what about our method? We, who have gathered at this International Conference, have all our different agendas and priorities. The movement for nuclear disarmament, for nuclear abolition, the general peace movement is a mixture of people and programs. Diversity is our way of working. Diversity is our strength.

So the method I propose for achieving our goal within the three-year time limit must be based on diversity. Diversity means we will all continue the peace work that we find most fruitful, and most adjusted to our own abilities, whether it is to organise and motivate our neighbours or collages, or whether it is to be part of International meetings of Worlds Conference in Hiroshima. Or something else.

But to reach our goal within a time limit of three years, we need also to find a common approach – a peak for our work, a concentration on something we can have in common. That is why I suggest the adoption of a “DC-method” where “D” stands for “Diversity” and “C” stands for “Concentration”.

I would like to suggest for the years to come that we all together concentrate on one of the 60 recommendations from the “Weapon of Mass Destruction Commission”, the one calling for a World Summit on Disarmament, Non-proliferation and Terrorist Use of Weapons of Mass Destruction, and especially nuclear weapons, recommendation nr 59.

#### A METHOD THAT HAVE PROVED SUCCESSFUL

The Weapon of Mass Destruction Commission, the so-called Blix Commission, gives those recommendations to the governments, to the UN, but we all know the weakness of the UN system, it is controlled and dominated by the nuclear states, and especially the United States, not willing to voluntarily change their nuclear policy.

So the “concentration” part of the DC-method means that we have to organise ourselves Civil Society Summits on Nuclear Weapons during the coming two or three years all over the world– with the purpose to lead up to a UN and governmental Summit.

This is the same method and strategy that the Ban the Landmine Convention came around, as an initiative driven by the civil society, until the way was paved, and the door was opened – and finally could get incorporated in the institutional system.

The Ban the Landmine Campaign was a success of our peace movement, and we need to do that inspiring work again in order to get rid of Nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction.

We have all the facts we need. We have the support of public opinion. We need a method, the DC-method, “Diversity and Concentration”, to achieve our goal.

#### **Corazon Valdez Fabros Nuclear-Free Philippines Coalition/ Pacific Concerns Resource Center & Nuclear-Free & Independent Pacific Movement**

It is always an inspiration to come back to Hiroshima. And as we are gathered here, in the shadows of what remains of the tragedy and crime that happened 62 years ago, one cannot escape the constant reminder of what for we are here during these special moments. I also want to say that being here gives us that spirit of renewal and hope that will continue to visit us through the testimonies of every Hibakusha who stands before us to remind us of that tragic day. And more than anything it gives us that needed push and sense of urgency to remain strongly committed to the very important task of building an effective movement for nuclear abolition so there shall be No More Hiroshima, No More Nagasaki.

On behalf of the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Movement, allow me to extend my greetings in the traditional way of the peoples of the Pacific by honoring the peoples of this land, and those who have died in the tragedy. And I also want to remember friends, comrades, mentors as well who once graced this important gathering during their lifetime: I would like to remember Nelson Anjain, Ayako Ishii, Boone Schirmer, Dorothy Purley, Sr. Christine Tan, Janet Bloomfield, Andrew Hughes, Kawai-san and many others whose names I will not be able to mention. I wish for us to invoke their blessings and their guidance for wisdom, compassion, courage and fortitude. I bring solidarity from the NFIP movement where many in the Pacific region are faced with the challenges of colonization, nuclear testing, militarization, globalization, global

warming, etc. We join you in a very specially way through the representative of the Fiji Nuclear veterans, Paul Ahpoy who is here with us.

I have been tasked to speak about the challenges to movements for peace and nuclear abolition in the Philippines and in the Asia and Pacific region. And I will attempt to do that by relating to you current situation and personal experiences.

First about the Philippines. An average of four people were killed every week in the year 2006 in the Philippines. This and other details were presented at a hearing on Extra-Judicial Killings before the United States Congress (East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee of the US Senate Foreign Relations Committee) last March. A nine-member ecumenical delegation from the Philippines presented the new report on alleged politically motivated murders, had made it very clear that "(i)n 2006 alone, there were 207 extra-judicial killings in the Philippines, which translates to an average of four persons being killed per week."

"Since January 2001 [when Mrs. Arroyo took over the presidency], the number of persons killed through political assassinations has reached 833,"<sup>1</sup> according to Karapatan. This is roughly two people killed every week. Two Filipinos took the witness stand before the East Asian and Pacific Affairs Subcommittee chaired by US Senator Barbara Boxer (D-Cal). The subcommittee will find ways to end the violence in the Philippines, they said.

The subcommittee hearing has been considered by some sectors as a testament of the US Congress' serious effort to curb violence. A subcommittee can recommend the withholding of US foreign aid to the Philippines since Congress, as holder of the purse, has the power to provide or withhold appropriation on any US government program under the "check-and-balance" principle.

An 86-page Philippine report, "Let the Stones Cry Out: An Ecumenical Report on Human Rights in the Philippines and a Call to Action," details the political killings in the Philippines, was unveiled by the National Council of Churches in the Philippines (NCCP) at the US Congress hearing. The report also studies the pattern and proportions with which these assaults on life were perpetrated.

The report links the unbridled political killings to the Arroyo government's counter-insurgency program. "The manner with which the victims were executed or abducted was done professionally and systematically, establishing a connection between the national security strategy and the incidents of violations," the NCCP says in the report.

The document likewise mentions the poor record of the Philippine government in complying

not only with the procedures required of a member of the United Nations but also of its failure to adhere to its declared commitments to the UN Human Rights Council.

The report released by the National Council of Churches in the Philippines is the latest to pin the responsibility for the killings on the Philippine military and security forces.

The Filipino delegation also presented the findings at the International Ecumenical Conference on Human Rights in the Philippines held in Washington on March 12-14, organized by US, Canadian and ecumenical church leaders specifically to address the human rights situation in the Philippines.

On the same note, the U.S. State Department, in its Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2006, said that during the year, a number of unexplained killings in the Philippines were committed "apparently by elements of the security forces."

Last February 21, Prof. Philip Alston, Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Human Rights Council on extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions, asked the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) to "acknowledge" its involvement in the extra-judicial killings and conduct a "genuine" investigation. The UN Special Rapporteur spent ten days in the Philippines to investigate the extra-judicial killings and related human rights violations and met with President Arroyo and other government officials, human rights groups and victims' families.

There is a general erosion of the various accountability mechanisms in the Philippines today. And there is urgent need to restore various accountability mechanisms that the Philippines Constitution and Congress have put in place over the years, too many of which have been systematically drained of their force in recent years.<sup>2</sup>

The judicial system is also problematic. The vital flaw which undermines the utility of much of the judicial system is the problem of virtual impunity that prevails. This, in turn, is built upon the rampant problem of witness vulnerability. The present message is that if you want to preserve your life expectancy, don't act as a witness in a criminal prosecution for killing. Witnesses are systematically intimidated and harassed. In a relatively poor society, in which there is heavy dependence on community and very limited real geographical mobility, witnesses are uniquely vulnerable when the forces accused of killings are all too often those, or are linked to those, who are charged with ensuring their security. The Witness Protection Program is impressive — on paper. In practice, however, it is deeply flawed and would seem only to be truly effective in a very limited number of cases. The result is that 8 out of 10

strong cases, or 80% fail to move from the initial investigation to the actual prosecution stage.<sup>3</sup>

The legitimate political space for what are known as “leftist,” progressive groups guaranteed under the 1987 Philippine Constitution have now become narrower through the political machinations of the current dispensation.

At the national level, there has been a definitive abandonment of past governments’ strategy of reconciliation. It involves the creation of an opening — the party-list system — for leftist groups to enter the democratic political system, while at the same time acknowledging that some of those groups remain very sympathetic to the armed struggle being waged by illegal groups (the IRA in the Irish case, or the NPA in the Philippines case). The goal is to provide an incentive for such groups to enter mainstream politics and to see that path as their best option.

Neither the party-list system nor the repeal of the Anti-Subversion Act has been reversed by Congress. But, the executive branch, openly and enthusiastically aided by the military, has worked resolutely to circumvent the spirit of these legislative decisions by trying to impede the work of the party-list groups and to put in question their right to operate freely. The idea is not to destroy the New Peoples Army but to eliminate organizations that support many of its goals and do not actively disown its means. While non-violent in conception, there are cases in which it has, certainly at the local level, spilled over into decisions to extrajudicially execute those who cannot be reached by legal process.<sup>4</sup>

The increasing number of extrajudicial executions is attributable in part, to a shift in counterinsurgency strategy that occurred in some areas, reflecting the considerable regional variation in the strategies employed, especially with respect to the civilian population. In some areas, an appeal to hearts-and-minds is combined with an attempt to vilify left-leaning organizations and to intimidate leaders of such organizations. In some instances, such intimidation escalates into extrajudicial execution which is a grave and serious problem.

We also have today an increasing number of desaparecidos (victims of enforced disappearance perpetrated by the military and para-military units).<sup>5</sup>

The Philippines remains an example to all of us in terms of the peaceful ending of martial law by the People’s Revolution, and the adoption of a Constitution reflecting a powerful commitment to ensure respect for human rights. The various measures ordered by the current President in response to various pressures both in the Philippines and abroad maybe considered as important first steps. Yet we still have to see its decisiveness and sincerity in the light of the

overwhelming impunity. There is a huge amount of work that remains to be done.

The most recent threat to the security and freedom of the people who struggle for freedom, justice, peace, and democratic pursuits is the passage and implementation the passage of the Anti-Terror Bill—now incongruously rebaptized the “Human Security Act of 2007”—which marks the end of Gloria Macapagal Arroyo’s penance for withdrawing the Philippine military contingent from Iraq following the kidnapping of Angelo de la Cruz in July 2004. Caught between tremendous pressure from de la Cruz’ compatriots to save a man who had come to symbolize the Filipino diaspora, and stern warnings from Washington not to “give in” to Cruz’s abductors, Arroyo chose to conciliate the electorate. Atonement was also the reason for Arroyo’s giving the US a free hand in dealing with Muslim movements in Mindanao, letting it call the shots in a counter-insurgency campaign where the Philippine military effectively functions as a subordinate force, much like the pre-war Constabulary commanded by American officers.<sup>6</sup>

Atoning for the Angelo de la Cruz affair was at the front and center of the administration’s appalling decision to violate the country’s judicial processes and hand over Lance Corporal Daniel Smith, a man convicted of rape by a Philippine court, to the US Embassy.

Contrary to the claims of lawmakers who chose to cave in to pressure from the administration and US Embassy, the legislation severely weakens civil liberties. Warrantless arrest and detention for an initial period of three days is now legal, and this can be extended so long as “written approval” can be obtained from a judge or official of the government’s Human Rights Commission. One can be sure that there will be no shortage of compliant judges or commissioners that will oblige the military and the police.

The act creates an Anti-Terrorism Council made up of the heads or senior officials of the key state security agencies, vests it with sweeping powers with inadequate judicial oversight, and allows it to operate with an extraordinarily broad definition of terrorism that includes insurrection, coup d’etat, murder, piracy, kidnapping, arson, unlawful possession of firearms, when such actions are seen as “sowing and creating a condition of widespread and extraordinary fear and panic among the populace, in order to coerce the government to give in to an unlawful demand.”

One need not exert too much imagination to see how the terrorist brush can be made to cover people engaging in legitimate acts of resistance to abuse of authority or outright illegal exercise of power—for instance, individuals who organize people power actions involving massive civil disobedience or soldiers who declare they will

withdraw support from authority that is assumed or exercised illegitimately, such as elective office that is gained through fraudulent elections.

The Anti-Terror Act, make no mistake, is but one more step in a process that criminalizes legitimate dissent, erodes traditional legal protections, and strengthens the authoritarian aspects of the state. We only have to see how in the US, the passage of the Patriot Act went hand in hand with the legalization of torture, the practice of indefinite detention with no legal recourse for those detained, systematic violation of the provisions of the Geneva Convention regarding prisoners of war, and "extraordinary rendition," that is, turning over to the authority of another state persons suspected of terrorist crimes.

The section on extraordinary rendition reveals the provenance of this bill. In Orwellian fashion, Sec. 57 carries the title "Ban on Extraordinary Rendition" then proceeds to legitimize it by specifying that extraordinary rendition of a suspect to another country (read: the United States) may be allowed "if his or her testimony is needed for terrorist related police investigations or judicial trials in the said country" and respect for the person's rights is officially assured (something that US authorities would undoubtedly be quick to give!) Our law-abiding superpower ally has gotten into trouble in Europe for literally snatching suspected terrorists from the street and flying them to the United States. Not surprisingly, it has been pressing for more effective legal mechanisms to substitute for this controversial practice, and Philippine Congress, by passing the Anti-Terror Act, has just provided it with an example that it can cite as a precedent for other countries.

But if the pressure to pass this act came from Washington, it was not with reluctance that the Arroyo administration complied. With its lack of respect for legal processes and democratic institutions like the ballot and its insatiable desire to accumulate power in the hands of the presidency at the expense of countervailing powers like the judiciary, translating the repressive bill into law was something that Malacanang did willingly, if not with pleasure. Satisfying Washington jibed perfectly with the administration's own project of creating a president-centered national security state where legitimate dissent is steadily but inexorably criminalized and the military is increasingly invested with absolute power in the realm of internal security. President Arroyo may be a penitent but she is a joyful penitent.

We are witnessing the deepening of a national tragedy. At a time that our leaders should be exerting all their efforts to protect activists, journalists, workers, and farmers by decisively reining in the state security agencies, the president and a compliant Congress are presenting the soldiers and the police with one more powerful

instrument of repression.

Under the Human Security Act, people who are engaged in legitimate dissent, campaigns for peace, freedom and justice are becoming targets of the military as they can be suspected to be engaged in terrorist activities.

There is much talk these days in Philippine and U.S. military circles about winning the war on terror in southern Philippines, ending a long struggle against the Abu Sayyaf Islamic terrorist group.<sup>7</sup>

Years of fighting the guerrillas failed to produce peace. So the Philippine military, with the help of U.S. advisers, began addressing civilian needs - roads, schools, water systems and medical care. By alleviating some of the desperate poverty on Jolo, the military defused some of the anger and frustration that fuels violent movements.

The Abu Sayyaf is one of several groups that over the past 30 years have fought to create a Muslim homeland in the southern Philippines, a predominately Christian country. The government has negotiated peace deals or ceasefires with the two dominant militant forces.

Unlike other separatist groups, the Abu Sayyaf has become best known for a series of deadly bombings and brutal kidnappings and murders. Since 2002, American special forces have provided training, analysis and intelligence to the Philippine military in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf. The US Special Forces aims to build confidence in the people that the military is a good thing and to drive a wedge between the terrorists and the people. The Philippine military focused its combat effort on smaller patrols conducting intelligence-driven operations that target terrorist leader and adopted guerrilla tactics to fight in the dense jungles of Jolo.

But the Abu Sayyaf leaders will fight to the death and this mixture of the missionary approach and the iron fist is not enough to eradicate a problem that had been there for decades. Mindanao has most of the poorest regions in the Philippines. It has suffered neglect by the central government and long-standing grievances have powered successive rebellions. For all this to be untangled after so many decades of neglect will require a lot of work, and a fundamental and sustained change in Mindanao's economic, social and political structures. More importantly, Manila must shift from a policy of neglect to a serious commitment to better the lives of all people in Mindanao.

In terms of the Pacific, the United States has a tradition of strong ties with the 14 countries of the South Pacific, from historical and cultural links with Australia, New Zealand and the islands that go back over two centuries; their trusteeship relations and now Compacts of Free Association with the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and Palau;

to the diplomatic relations established with South Pacific nations as they became independent between 1962 and 1980.

Glyn Davies, Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, spoke before the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, and the Global Environment House Committee on Foreign Affairs in Washington, DC, on March 15, 2007: He spoke of the necessity to the vast, strategic region and its mostly small, sometimes struggling states firmly on the US side. That a growing political, environmental and economic challenges, compounded by longer-term transnational threats, menace some of the fragile island societies have made them decide to expand their engagement and reverse any perception that the U.S. has withdrawn from the Pacific.

He also made assurance that while there is no immediate prospect of greatly increased budget resources, he assured it the trend be reversed and are working hard to increase U.S. engagement in the Pacific. Their goal is to increase their efforts to promote prosperity, good governance, and the rule of law in the region. Toward that end, they have labelled 2007 "The Year of the Pacific" and developing a "whole of government" approach with the Department of Defense, Coast Guard, Department of the Interior, USTR, Peace Corps and other agencies to expand our presence and activities in the region.

The State Department has taken the lead in this effort. They are stepping up their diplomatic presence in the region by creating and increasing their physical presence at their Embassy in Suva with responsibility for the Pacific region. One position is a regional environmental, science, and health officer who is working on issues like climate change, fisheries, and HIV/AIDS. The other is a regional public diplomacy officer to share information about American policies and values throughout the South Pacific and build "people-to-people" contacts through exchanges such as the International Visitor Leadership Program, U.S. Speaker program, and other initiatives.

Later in the year, President Bush will be in Sydney APEC Summit in September as another milestone for the Year of the Pacific. Bush's trip will focus further attention on the Pacific and raise the profile of the U.S. role in the region. The United States will be more and more into the Pacific region not only for the opportunities for trade, cheap labor, arms sales as well as for the vast and rich resources that it has in its oceans and mountains.

The bedrock of US relations in the region remains, of course, our treaty alliance with Australia who remains the steadfast and loyal partner in the region and in the world today. They coordinate their analyses of the situation in

the Pacific and ensure that our policies remain close and generally do not conflict. They cooperate closely on their responses to the coup in Fiji and to civil unrest in the Solomons and Tonga, as well as on longer-term discussions on how to stabilize democracy and promote prosperity in the region. Australia devotes massive resources to the South Pacific, in terms both of assistance funding and peacekeeping troops. Countries of the Pacific remain important to the United States and the Pacific remains crucial to global security.

Let me end with a note that when there are challenges, there are as well opportunities for us. Opportunities for more media and information and organizing both in the local and global level. Let us continue our struggle with courage and more commitment.

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**Notes:**

1. Karapatan 2006 Report. Karapatan is an Alliance for the Advancement of Human Rights in the Philippines.
2. Prof. Philip Alston, Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Human Rights Council on extra-judicial killings
3. Prof. Philip Alston, Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Human Rights Council on extra-judicial killings
4. Prof. Philip Alston, Special Rapporteur of the United Nations Human Rights Council on extra-judicial killings
5. From the statement of Edith Burgos (Mother of Jonas Burgos, desparecido)
6. Walden Bello, Dangerous Deed: Philippine Parliament Passes Anti-Terror Act, Inq7.net
7. Southern Philippine Island Plays Out Drama in War on Terror by Douglas Bakshian

**Hannelore Toelke  
German Peace Council  
Germany**

The famous German writer Bertold Brecht described a poor man and a rich man looking at each other, and the poor man said that without the poor there would be no rich. These words describe the current world situation very well.

Dear Friends, I am very glad to be here in order to bring the very best wishes of German peace activists to the World Conference against Atomic & Hydrogen Bombs and to give you a report about the protests against the G8 Summit in Germany last June.

Worldwide poverty and social polarization are increasing. While the number of starving people increased from 840 million to 854 million, a small group of trillionaires doubled their wealth from \$16 trillion to \$33 trillion. At the same time,



poverty and social uncertainty in the industrialized countries are also increasing. Poverty and social uncertainty are causes of conflicts. They are promoting nationalism, racism, fundamentalism, violence, terrorism, and war. But instead of developing farsighted policies for the prevention of war, we are increasingly militarizing international politics. The G8 countries are waging war, and they are involved in numerous armed conflicts. The U.S. led wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are escalating. The U.S. has a global network of more than 400 military bases. The European G8 countries, Germany, Great Britain, France, and Italy, also have military bases, and they are building so-called battle groups, which are designed for rapid military interventions, especially in Africa.

In 1975, the first G6 Summit was held in Rambouillet, France. This summit was the idea of former French President Giscard d'Estaing and of German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. The reasons for this meeting were the collapse of the Bretton Woods monetary systems and the first oil shock in the early 1970s. The G8 club is an exclusive and elitist society. Becoming a member is only possible for those who are invited by current club members. They gather behind high fences and walls watched by a large contingent of police, which is deployed against people who are coming with empty hands.

From 5-8 June, the G8 Summit took place in Heiligendamm, a very exclusive resort on the Baltic Sea, near the city of Rostock. Around Heiligendamm took place the biggest police operation in Germany since World War II. Sixteen thousand police officers from all over Germany were deployed around Heiligendamm. Together with this police deployment took place a massive restriction of the right of assembly and demonstration. Matters of foreign affairs and security have a higher priority than the constitutional rights of freedom of assembly and expression, a priority enforced by the police. The activists had to assert these rights of freedom of assembly and expression in the German Supreme Court and on the streets.

But the history of G8 Summits is also a history of successes for our movement. A global movement was built to protest against the neo-liberal policies of the G8, the WTO, and the World Bank. This global movement is more and more self-confidently saying another world is possible. For more than two years, a broad coalition of NGOs, trade unions, churches, and grassroots groups in Germany prepared to protest against the G8 Summit, and I learned that similar preparation is going on in Japan to protest the 2008 G8 Summit in Hokkaido. In Germany, it was the broadest coalition of movement we have ever seen. The coalition was also supported by

organisations and activists from around the world. Additionally, German activists were asked by the African organizers of the World Social Forum in Nairobi to take the spirit of the World Social Forum from Kenya to Germany.

Peace activities started on 1 June with a campaign from the heath land to the beach in Kyritzer Heide near Berlin. A former bombing range called Bombodrom is located there. This bombing range was used by the Soviet army for forty years. In 1990, in connection with the 4+2 Agreement, it was closed. The 4+2 Agreement was made in 1989 by the U.S., the U.K., France, the Soviet Union, and the two German states (the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic). In 1990, Germany was reunified.

Since 1992, the Bundeswehr, the German military, was trying to take over the Bombodrom bombing range. The aim is to establish an air-ground bombing range for German, EU, and NATO forces to conduct combined operations. The Bombodrom provides opportunities to excite any general for testing unguided bombs from low-flying aircraft and smart bombs from high altitudes, for preparing for multinational operations and coordinating between air forces and ground troops, and even for the use of American nuclear weapons. The plan is part of military preparations for war. Local residents have been actively opposing the plans of the German military. Not here, and nowhere else either is the slogan of the non-violent campaign for civil use of the heath land. On 1 June, peace activists erected a temporary encampment at the Bombodrome, and after that they started a protest hike from the Bombodrom to Rostock, where on a demonstration of 80,000 activists from all over the world took place on 2 June. During the afternoon of the following day, a European peace meeting with speakers from all over Europe took place.

Peace activists earmarked 5 June as an action day against war, torture, and militarization. The destination was Warnemünde, a lovely coastal resort with historic homes as well as a mile-long sea promenade with restaurants, a casino, and a yacht harbour.

Warnemünde is also a location of the military and armaments industry. Very close to the yacht harbour is a naval port. In the opinion of the German navy, the Warnemünde naval port is the jewel of German naval ports. The military wishes to invest 36 million euro to enlarge the naval port by 2011. The naval port will take on additional responsibilities. Five corvettes with a purchase price of 240 million euro each will be deployed there from 2008. Two speedboats and a tender with a crew of 150 soldiers sailed from Warnemünde in September 2006 to the coast of

Lebanon. These three ships are part of the German UNIFIL Contingent.

EADS is also located in Warnemünde. This company develops and markets civil and military aircraft, as well as missiles, space rockets, satellites, and related systems; therefore, peace activists decided to pay EADS a visit. EADS, European Aeronautic Defense and Space Company, is a large European aerospace corporation formed in 2000 by the merger of Aérospatiale-Matra of France, Construcciones Aeronáuticas SA (CASA) of Spain, and DaimlerChrysler Aerospace AG (DASA) of Germany. The company's best customer is the German army. Last year, the German military bought weapons worth 2.4 billion euro, and EADS is expecting sales at the similar level this year. The EADS demonstration was attended by more than two-thousand peace activists. Activists from G8 countries, such as Italy and Japan, were bringing regards from their local peace movements, stressing that the G8 does not speak in the name of the people of their countries.

In the afternoon, peace activists gathered at the Rostock-Laage Airport where George W. Bush was expected to arrive at 18:55, in order to give him a suitable welcome. Rostock-Laage is not only an airport. It is primarily an airbase of the German Air Force. The Rostock Laage Airport was built between 1979 and 1981 as an airbase for the NVA (the East German Army). In 1990, the Bundeswehr (the West German Army) took over the airbase. Since then, MIGs as well as Phantom fighters were based there. Now Euro fighters, one of the most expensive European armament projects, are based there. In 1992, the airport was opened to civil usage and quickly became an important airport for cheap holiday flights and cargo flights, for example those of DHL, for the whole region. Rostock-Laage Airport shows how militarization in Germany is carried out. Peculiar to NATO is the use of airports for both civil and military purposes. This kind of dual usage takes place at airports in Leipzig, Cologne, and Rostock. By the way, demonstrations were forbidden during the G8 Summit at the entrance of Rostock-Laage's military airbase.

The journey to Rostock-Laage's civilian airport, where a demonstration took place, was an adventure in itself. Many activists were stopped and interrogated by the police. An entire busload of activists was prevented from attending because of this police tactic. In the end, more than a thousand activists reached the point of the demonstration. When the demonstration at Rostock-Laage Airport started, it was surrounded by police forces. In front of the airport gates, armoured carriers were brought up. Two big police vehicles blocked the view to the airport entrance and reduced the visibility of the

demonstration as well. The demand of the organizers for free access to the airport entrance was never realized. The organizers' lawyers saw this as a blatant example of many more incidents in which the police failed to keep agreements with the organizers. At 18:55, Air Force One touched down at Rostock-Laage. George W. Bush was welcomed by a hail of catcalls that showed once again that he is not welcomed anywhere. A short while later, helicopters lifted off, ferrying Bush to Heiligendamm. The demonstration ended, and the activists started on their difficult way back to their camps.

While the demonstration in Rostock-Laage was going on, in the city of Rostock, the G8 Counter-Summit opened. In numerous panels and in more than 120 workshops, alternatives to the policies of the G8 were discussed. The International Network against Military Bases also participated in the G8 Counter-Summit with a workshop in the Rostock harbour on the Finnish ship Estelle. The landing area was crowded with nearly fifty activists when the workshop started.

After the G8 Summit, the activists returned home. In preparations for the G8 protests, local groups came together and coalitions were formed. These local groups and coalitions are still working and planning activities, such as a demonstration to be held on 15 September against the German participation in the Afghanistan War. In September, the German parliament will decide whether or not to extend German participation in the Afghanistan War. Peace activists are going to organize a demonstration against this extension.

In preparations for the G8 protests, new networks of activists around the world came together and existing networks were strengthened. In these meetings, not only were protests organized, but there were discourses on alternatives for a just and peaceful world.

The next G8 Summit will take place in Hokkaido, Japan in 2008. Activists from Japan came to Germany for an exchange of experiences with the German and the European movements, and they started their consultations on the Hokkaido Toyako Summit. In this sense, the G8 Summit is not only a get-together of the G8 club. It is also a gathering of the people for protesting against the unjust policies of the G8 and for working out alternatives. The G8 are more and more afraid of this.

### **Lina Cahuasqui Terres des Hommes - Italia Ecuador**

The spread of neo-liberal economic models in Latin America based on the fragmentation of workers' organizations, the privatization of public

resources, the reduction of the State, and the denial of people's genuine participation in decision-making<sup>1</sup> has created in response social mobilization and the struggle against neo-liberalism. Today, more than ever, capitalism is trying to maintain its position through political, economic, and military projects, such as free trade agreements, the Plan Puebla Panama, the Plan Colombia, UNITAS, New Horizons<sup>2</sup>, and MEDRETES.<sup>3</sup> Capital seeks to protect its interests in the region, causing poverty, unemployment, migration, and environmental destruction. Faced with this situation, Latin American social movements have initiated processes of articulation and of resistance that have brought to power popular and progressive governments in Venezuela, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Ecuador. Latin Americans have said enough is enough to neo-liberalism, giving priority to economic and political integration.

In November 1999, a former Ecuadorian Government signed an agreement with the U.S. establishing a U.S. military base in Manta to undertake counter-drug operations for a period of at least ten years. Manta is linked to the policy of the hemispheric security of the United States, controlled by the Southern Command of the U.S. military, whose missions are to lead military operations and to foster cooperation on security affairs. The Area of Responsibilities or Theater of Operations of the Southern Command covers thirty nations in Latin America and the Caribbean (excepting Mexico and Cuba, which are under the Northern Command) and embrace a global population of 4.24 billion.<sup>4</sup> The former Ecuadorian Government allowed the United States to use the city of Manta as a military base, conceding other naval bases and renouncing all rights to claim compensation for damage, loss, or destruction of governmental assets and for injuries or deaths caused by activities related to the agreement.

From Manta, intelligence reports are supplied to counter-drug organizations (provision of intelligence). Ground radar detects suspicious traffickers (initial detection). Airplanes equipped with radar like the E3 and the P3 lock on the target and follow its course (monitoring). Cessna Citations and F-16s visually identify targets, and authorized agents immediately intercept and detain them. The drugs are seized (handoff), while authorized offices and officials of various countries carry out interceptions of trafficking (apprehending).<sup>5</sup>

But in Manta, other kinds of activities are underway in a manner that seriously undermines democracy, human rights, and national sovereignty, such as the sinking of ships carrying migrants leaving the Ecuadorian coast for the United States. Ships are sunk on the grounds that they are

carrying illegal drugs. In the case of the ship Jorge IV, it went missing in June 2002 with eighteen fishermen on board, following the entry into port of a U.S. missile frigate.

Moreover, Manta personnel were given diplomatic immunity and other privileges in permitted activities that go beyond the war on drugs. Despite the claim that the Manta base would be used for police actions, the actual U.S. objective was the establishment of U.S. control over oil and other natural resources in the region. U.S. plans for development threaten to destroy this important ecosystem. The Amazon region supplies 40 percent of the world's oxygen, possesses the highest biodiversity on the planet, and is a major source of fresh water. Another U.S. political objective is to fight Colombian guerrillas. Manta is strategically located within a twenty-minute flight from critical points of the armed conflict in Colombia. Manta also contributes to U.S. military control over the South Pacific, the Panama Canal, and Central America.

Setting up the military base led to increases in prostitution in nocturnal amusement centers with the social problems of the sexual exploitation of young girls and youths and unwanted pregnancy. The base also displaced farmers removed in the consolidation of the Jaramijó Naval Base. The livelihoods of fishermen have been adversely affected with rising living costs due to an increase in imports, the spread of fast food, and the reduction of public space on the beach.

Since 1999, human rights organizations have been denouncing the illegality of the agreement through many actions, including lobbying, awareness raising, investigating, and denouncing of human rights violations. Farmers, fishermen, students, women, and young people affected by the military base have been resisting its operations. In 2005, the Coalition of No Bases Ecuador was formed in opposition to the renewal of the Manta Agreement. Local residents established alliances with international activists looking for a place for convening an International Conference on the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases. Ecuador offered a proposal and was selected as the venue of the international event.

From 5-9 March 2007, the International Conference was held paying particular attention to the impact of the war and military presence on women on International Women's Day. The conference brought together more than four-hundred activists from forty countries around the world during a week in Quito and Manta. Strategic objectives, a plan of action, a structure for the international network, and mechanisms of coordination and communication were discussed. Also, an interim International Coordinating Committee was formed to serve for a transitional period of six to twelve months to motivate local

and regional struggles, to facilitate communication in different languages, to work as a bridge between work groups and the network, and to be connected with other networks, encouraging them to adopt a position on military bases and their presence in the world.<sup>6</sup>

The International Conference for the Abolition of Foreign Military Bases raised the international visibility of Manta, and the present Ecuadorian President Rafael Correa promised that there would be no renewal of the Manta Base Agreement after it expires in 2009. The United States approached the Peruvian government, hoping to relocate the base to Peru, but the U.S. plan was rejected by Peruvian civil society.

Unfortunately, in recent years and months, relations between Ecuador and Colombia have been deteriorating because the Colombian government put into practice Plan Colombia, a program for fighting Colombian guerrillas. In 2001, Columbia initiated an aggressive plan of aerial fumigation for fighting coca growing, using chemicals that are similar to the Agent Orange used in Vietnam. This chemical and biological attack has genetically harmed the health of people, plants, and animals in Columbia as well as that of indigenous communities on the Ecuadorian side of the border. Colombia is a strategic and unconditional ally of the U.S., and Columbia has expressed its interest in constructing an anti-drug war base on Columbian soil to replace Manta. The expansion of U.S. and international militarism confirms the importance of events like these against nuclear weapons and foreign military bases for initiating global campaigns for rejecting nuclear weapons and military bases wherever they exist. It is our responsibility and our last chance for saving humanity from its self-destruction.

Another America is possible! Another Asia is possible!

Another world without nuclear weapons and military bases is possible!

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**Notes:**

1. Garcia Linera Alvaro, "Como salir del neoliberalismo: Estado, movimientos sociales y socialismo," Revista Memoria 214, Diciembre 2006, México.
2. Nuevos Horizontes (New Horizons) is a military exercise led by the U.S. Pentagon in critical areas that require direct attention.
3. Medical Readiness Training Exercises (MEDRETES) recruit and train medical professionals. Its agents provide various kinds of medical services.
4. Calderon Juan Carlos, "Naufragio," Marzo del 2007 (en proceso de publicación).
5. Roncken Theo, "La lucha contra las drogas y la proyección militar de Estados Unidos: Centros

Operativos de Avanzada en América Latina y el Caribe," Enero 2004.

6. Report No Bases Conference May 2007 <[www.no-bases.org](http://www.no-bases.org)>.

**Asai Motofumi  
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Japan**

**Deepening danger of U.S.-Japan alliance and Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution**

At last year's conference, I referred to 3 points of the significance of Japan's Constitution in terms of international relations and history. One is that the Constitution is the fulfillment of the obligation stipulated in the Potsdam Declaration. Specifically, it is a commitment Japan made to the international community for abolishing militarism and totalitarianism that had given birth to militarism, and for rebuilding the nation committed to human rights and democracy.

The second point is that the Constitution is a product build upon the experience and the lesson of the atomic bombings; it is a constitution of the "nuclear age." In other words, war as another or extended means of politics is no longer legitimate because the possibility of war turning into a nuclear war is quite high in the age of nuclear weapons. Indeed, Article 9 provides us with a prospect for peace achievable "without resorting to force" in the nuclear age.

Thirdly, the Constitution of Japan is a guiding principle for the international community in the 21st century when global, universal realization of human dignity is required as the task of the whole of humankind. The Constitution of Japan provides the prospect of peace without force, rejecting the concept of peace by means of force, which is incompatible with human dignity. I would like to recognize these 3 points of the international and historic meanings of the Japanese Constitution once again at the outset of my remarks.

In the 1990s, however, after the end of the Cold War between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, the United States started to demand more of Japan for military cooperation, which has been escalated into the overt demand for the Constitutional change of Article 9 since the start of the Bush Administration. Why is this the case?

As NATO began its search for a new raison d'être after being emancipated from the logic of the Soviet threat, the Asia-Pacific region's military tension became alarmingly high over the issue of the so-called North Korea nuclear issues in 1993 and 1994. Also, in 1996, the military tension ran high over the Taiwan Strait when China conducted military exercises in its attempt to warn against

Taiwan's moves to independence. These situations revealed Japan's military incapacity in swiftly responding to such situations (or to U.S. demands) and taking military action together with the United States. The U.S. government took this seriously, and started to put pressure on Japan (with the Nye Initiative) to do its part for a stronger U.S.-Japan military alliance in which Japan would take a much more active role in supporting U.S. forces, both under the Clinton and Bush Administrations.

Especially President Bush and Prime Minister Koizumi, who both assumed power in 2001, promoted the transformation and the enhancement of the alliance at full power. Responding to the Bush Administration's defiant war in Afghanistan (since 2001) and illegal Iraq war (since 2003) in the name of the "war on terrorism," the Koizumi government came up with its horribly patchy "Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law" and "Law concerning Special Measures on Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance in Iraq", respectively.

There is more. Japan has taken steadily measures to provide its full and total cooperation in the U.S. plan for war with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) or with China. The series of enactment of wartime laws are for that purpose. Under these laws, plans "to protect the people" are made on the assumption that Japan becomes a war zone with North Korean or Chinese attacks, including nuclear attacks or destruction of nuclear power plants. Despite Article 9, Japan has already become a nation that is ready to fight a war. I have warned, at every opportunity, against the danger and unconstitutionality of these contingency laws and the so-called "plan to protect civilians." Regrettably, most of the public has not shown much concern about the issue. I could not help but be deeply skeptical about the Japanese people's anti-nuclear sentiment.

The United States, however, is not satisfied because its final goal is to upgrade the alliance with Japan to fully function just like the U.S.-U.K. military alliance. For that goal, Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution must be removed at any cost. The forces for the constitutional change, who are knowledgeable about the true intent of the United States, are on the offensive for constitutional revision precisely aimed at removing Article 9. Now that the National Referendum Law was enacted, (under which citizens would vote for or against a proposed constitutional revision submitted with the support of the two-thirds majority of the both Houses of the Diet), we the Japanese citizens, as sovereign, will have to demonstrate our will in response to a proposal for constitutional change in 3 years at the earliest.

If a majority of the voters support a proposal

for constitutional revision, it would mean that our international commitment with the acceptance of the Potsdam Declaration to abolish militarism and totalitarianism and to rebuild the nation with full embrace of human rights and democracy will be unfulfilled at the hands of the Liberal Democratic Party and other conservative forces who have completely neglected the Constitution.

And a change in Article 9 would mean a serious challenge against the historical understanding that war must not be fought in the nuclear age, the recognition embodied in Article 9. The demise of the Japanese Constitution, especially Article 9 which serves as the guideline of the international community in the 21st century, would mean a green light for the rampancy of "peace by means of force" led by the U.S. (and Japan) and a grave obstacle against the efforts for a new world order based on human dignity.

Now, it should be clear that whether we allow the reckless U.S.-Japan alliance and whether we allow the constitutional revision are not only the interest of the Japanese people but also of all of those in the world who are striving for the abolition of nuclear weapons and aspiring for a world without war. Therefore, I strongly hope that this international meeting will resolve to not allow the transformation and strengthening of the U.S.-Japan alliance and reaffirm the irreplaceable value of the Japanese Constitution with Article 9.

Let me now make a few comments on the new development over nuclear issues in Japan.

In October 2006, soon after the North Korea's nuclear testing, the ruling LDP Policy Research Commission Chair Nakagawa Shoichi said he understood the need for Japan's nuclear armament, which was followed by Foreign Minister Aso Taro's remark that he "would not give in to the kind of argument that freedom of speech (on the need of nuclear armament) should be suppressed." Their remarks received no reproach from Prime Minister Abe. Again, when, on June 30 this year (2007), Defense Minister Kyuma stated his intention against holding the U.S. responsible for the atomic bombing of Nagasaki because it was "inevitable", Abe initially did nothing to hold him accountable because, he said, the Defense Minister's remark was "intended to explain the position of the United States." What we must not overlook is that Kyuma revealed his cognizance of a possible use of nuclear weapons if and when that is considered necessary under a certain international situation. At last he resigned as the defense minister, considering the effect on the House of Councillors election. But he did not admit the seriousness of his own statement.

These remarks by top officials of the government and ruling parties should not go unchallenged as they are not mere slips of the tongue or on the spur of the moment. Such

remarks would have been unthinkable 2 or 3 decades ago. In other words, changes in the situation in the past 20 or 30 years made them think that they can be forgiven for making these remarks. These changes, as I have said, are the efforts for a stronger U.S.-Japan military alliance on the pretext of the Korean or Chinese threats since the 1990s until today, and the political offensives by the government and ruling parties (and the Democratic Party of Japan), which set out the concrete agenda of constitutional changes, having met with no strong public resistance.

Simply put, the situation where no substantial public opposition to the Public Protection Plan in the event of nuclear attack or nuclear accident is heard might have led the government and the ruling parties to conclude that the public "allergy" to nuclear weapons is now not so serious. We cannot deny the fact that some people get "realistic" when the Korean threat is widely propagated, saying, "Japan might need to arm itself with nuclear weapons" or "the U.S. nuclear umbrella is imperative."

What lessons can we draw from this stark reality? I would like to focus on two points. One is an international task and the other is primarily the task of the Japanese people.

First, we need to have a correct understanding that the U.S. policy of clinging to nuclear weapons is the major obstacle in the way to abolition of

nuclear weapons and the major incitement to nuclear proliferation. We should fully commit ourselves to urging the United States to change that policy. Given that the strongest foothold for the rationalization of the policy is the American people's belief in the atomic myth that "the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was a right thing to do," we need to firmly orient ourselves in influencing the U.S. public awareness on the issue.

The second point is the need of renewing our understanding of why we have placed the call for "No more Hiroshimas, No more Nagasakis, and No more war" at the origin and the center of our movements against nuclear weapons. I believe we must take a serious and critical review of having allowed the Nakagawa and Kyuma remarks and thus tapering of our awareness of the danger of nuclear weapons and nuclear war. We must reinvigorate our call for "No More Hiroshimas/Nagasakis, No more War" with new spirit. Specifically, it means to make Japan a country that strictly observes the Three Non-Nuclear Principles and drastically change the country's way of being in order to put an end to the military alliance with the United States accompanied with the U.S. "nuclear umbrella". We need to aim at a fundamental change in politics in order to be steadfast in our faith for "No more Hiroshimas, No more Nagasakis and No more war."



## Statements:

### **Takada Kimiko President New Japan Women's Association**

The New Japan Women's Association (Shinfujin) is a women's organization, which will celebrate its 45th birthday this October. For these forty-five years, from deep regret over Japan's war of aggression that inflicted tremendous sacrifices on Asian nations, and as women of the country that suffered the first atomic bombing in human history, Japanese women have been devoted to abolishing nuclear weapons and to preserving the Japanese Constitution. This is why Shinfujin gives equal weight to the two signature campaigns; one for the Swift Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, and the other for the Preservation of Article 9 in opposition to the Adverse Revision of the Constitution. Toward its national convention this coming November, Shinfujin has started a peace action "10-10-1," calling on its 200,000 members to collect 10 signatures for both appeals and to recruit one subscriber to Shinfujin Shimbun, the organization's weekly paper, as a means of increasing the number of women committed to peace.

Shinfujin members across the country are carrying out diverse activities for the "10-10-1" peace action. Many of them have registered themselves as peace messengers trying to achieve the goal of "10-10-1," and 1,000 have accomplished the goal so far. Coupled with the effort already done before the "10-10-1" was launched, we have collected 430,000 signatures in support of the appeal for the Swift Abolition in these two years, and 990,000 signatures for the appeal for defending the Constitution in the past three years.

Our recent activities are characterized by active participation of both senior members and the younger generations.

In Tokorozawa City, Saitama Prefecture, 43 Shinfujin members conducted simultaneous signature drives in front of four high schools, collecting 449 signatures just in one day. Shinfujin has nearly 2,000 circles organized by young mothers, and many of these circle members invite Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) and those with firsthand knowledge of war to listen to their experiences, or read together the written stories on war published in Shinfujin Shimbun. To see younger members listening to the tragic stories in tears is very moving.

A parent-child rhythmic exercise circle organized by a Shinfujin local group called Shirasagi-han, the Ichikawa Branch of the Chiba Chapter, had a meeting last July with a person

whose parent was exposed to the atomic bomb. The story touched the heart of the circle members, as one of them said, "I first thought the Hibakusha reacted too sensitively to the ex-Defense Minister's remarks that the dropping of the atomic bombing could not be helped. Now that I have come to know a person who has been enduring the pain from the damage caused by the atomic bomb for more than sixty years, it is clear to me that such remarks are unforgivable for a human being." After the meeting, they started collecting signatures for the first time in their lives, from their family members, neighbors and even those they met at a park. They also participated in the Peace March with their children or carrying their babies in buggies. This is just one example of many actions taken by our younger members nationwide.

I am happy to inform you that for the campaign for a Declaration of a Nuclear Weapon-Free Japan, we have successfully broadened support among more than 180 women, including such prominent figures as Kuroyanagi Tetsuko and Yoshinaga Sayuri, as well as leading members of the National Federation of Regional Women's Organizations.

Last May, I attended the 8th Asian Solidarity Conference for the Issue of the Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, held in Seoul, Korea, with 200 people from 12 countries participating in it. It reminded me once again that it was the voice of one woman called Kim, who courageously spoke out as a former "comfort women," that made this issue known to the international community. Encouraged by the words of another Korean woman who was a Hibakusha, that she was telling the truth about the past believing that this was the way to prevent the same mistake from being repeated in the future, Kim came out to tell her story in 1992. Her courageous act inspired other survivors to follow her. The United Nations acknowledged that the sexual slavery was a violation of human rights and has recommended the Japanese government accept responsibility and officially apologize to the victims. Without Kim's testimony, the issue of Japanese military "comfort women" could have been wiped out of history. The Conference taught me that each person's act on his/her conscience is the driving force that moves history, and that the Hibakusha set a precedent in this regard.

Prime Minister Abe, however, said that no evidence had been found to prove that the military coerced women into sex slavery. In June, 44 pro-Yasukuni lawmakers, 13 of whom are Democratic Party members, carried an advertisement on the *Washington Post* to glorify Japan's war of aggression. Fueled evidently by these moves, the U.S. Congress adopted a resolution stating that the Japanese prime minister should formally apologize to the women victims

known as “comfort women.” I was impressed by the grass-rooted actions carried out by the U.S. citizens who lobbied each congress member to support the resolution.

In the recent House of Councilors Election, the Japanese people rendered a severe judgment to the Abe government for its attempt to revise the Constitution and to impose patriotism on them. To achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons and to preserve our Constitution as it is, are the way to restore dignity of the survivors of the Japanese military’s sex slavery and the Hibakusha. Having confidence and prospects in our grassroots struggle, I am resolved to do my utmost in the effort to achieve these goals, working in solidarity with all of you gathered here.

**Iraklis Tsavdaridis**  
**Executive Secretary**  
**World Peace Council**

Dear friends, fellow fighters for peace and justice!

The World Peace Council would like to convey to all delegates and participants of this important conference, the warmest peace greetings and best wishes for a successful and fruitful outcome. We underline our respect and solidarity for the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, who suffered the unjust and murderous US bombing in 1945. History cannot be rewritten; nothing can justify what hundreds of thousands of human beings went through in these two cities, therefore we reject vehemently statements which hail or justify the genocidal bombing of the two cities. We have to learn history in order to learn from history!

Humanity is facing today more and more the global threats to peace and security, caused by the aggressive policy of the USA and its allies. In addition to the two wars already being waged in Iraq and Afghanistan, there has been Israel's attack on Lebanon last year, which despite the temporary pause has worsened the situation in the Middle East. The concentration of military forces in the region, the threats against certain countries and the plan to attack Iran, the increased military presence of the imperialists in Africa, the attempts to destabilize the Chavez government in Venezuela and the new exacerbation of the situation in the Balkans over Kosovo, with the creation of a protectorate, give rise to volatile hot spots and possibly to fresh interventions.

The European Union is forming battle groups and planning to set up new naval groups for rapid intervention. It is preparing to send fresh troops to replace NATO in Kosovo. The newly elected French President asked for a new aircraft carrier and the Italian government has agreed with the expansion of the US military base in Vincenzo. Germany is becoming stronger militarily. Japan

is rearming and taking part in military operations, a greater military role of Australia is being noted, which will surely worsen the overall problems of the region.

The WPC notes with great concern the new increase of military expenditure worldwide which represent \$ 1.2 Trillion USD in 2006 and demands an immediate end to this absurd escalation. Only 10% of this expenditure would be enough to reach the Millennium Development Goals of the UN of the year 2000.

New warheads, including developments of nuclear weapons are built and deployed as well as new launchers and missiles. New satellites and satellite clusters are being deployed in space, for missions of surveillance and “security” control. The multiplication of ground and space bases and facilities, are increasing the imperialist domination and are signs for the new threats and military aggressions.

New military bases are in plan to be established in Bulgaria, Romania and bases supporting the US “Missile Defense Shield” in Poland and the Czech Republic.

The WPC reaffirms its clear and principled position in favour of the complete abolition of all nuclear weapons in the world. At the same time we cannot close our eyes on who is the main and real threat against peace and security, who used first nuclear weapons and who dropped the commitment not to make use of the first strike. We cannot equal the responsibility of the aggressors and the victims. We are not in favour of nuclear tests and we condemn them, but at the same time we condemn the “double moral and standards” of the US administration, which considers some of the states which hold nuclear weapons as allies and others as terrorists.

Dangerous doctrines appeared: terrorism is now the “invisible enemy” that can be present everywhere. In the recent period authoritarianism, policing and the offensive against democratic rights and liberties have become harsher with bloody attacks by the police and other repressive forces. In the USA, the EU and in other countries laws are being passed which in the name of dealing with terrorism do away with democratic rights and freedoms. The CIA activity has been officially disclosed, with its illegal abductions and arrests of hundreds of innocent citizens being made with the agreement of European governments, along with the use of European airports for their transport. A monstrous monitoring system has been set up, ranging from cameras spying on all of people's activities all the way to the establishment of databases including DNA files.

By formulating the idea of the “axis of evil”, USA can interfere in every country that they consider it has relations with terrorists or confront



the US interests.

These developments have led the whole postwar system of international relations, which was based in the principles of UN and in the rules and practice of international law, which was based on this system, in deep crisis. *What applies now is the law of the jungle. The right of the mighty.* The UN is either used to legalize this “new world order”, or is set aside when the imperialist interests do not find any frame of compromise. The WPC defends the UN founding Charter and struggles for a different world order of peace and justice, free from imperialist domination and wars.

The WPC adds its voice and actions with the anti-war movement in the whole world, demanding the end of the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan and the complete withdrawal of all foreign occupation forces so that the peoples will decide alone about their fortunes.

In this regards the WPC is expressing its appreciation and satisfaction with the massive peoples’ mobilizations against ongoing wars and occupations, plans for new US or NATO Military Bases around the world and threats for new attacks against sovereign nations and countries. We express our full support to the massive people’s movement in Japan, which rejects the change of Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution and we endorse the respective campaign of the Peace Movement in Japan.

We call upon all delegates from overseas to mark these dates of 6th and 9th August with mass actions in their countries in commemoration of the victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and for the abolition of Nuclear Weapons on the whole planet. Furthermore we stress our demand for negotiations on the convention for the elimination of Nuclear Weapons, as it was agreed in the 2000 NPT Conference and in the UN General Assembly.

We reaffirm our commitment to the fight for global peace and will dedicate our coming Assembly of the World Peace Council (where more than 100 organizations worldwide will participate), next April in Venezuela, to the struggle of the peoples against war, occupation, injustice, neo-colonialism and imperialist domination, for a world free of nuclear weapons and threats.

No more Hiroshima-Nagasaki!

**Lee Jun Kyu**  
**Civil Network for a Peaceful Korea**  
**Republic of Korea**

My name is Lee Jun Kyu. I am a member of the South Korean peace organization, Civil Network for a Peaceful Korea.

I would like to take this opportunity to make a

proposal. It is about the South Korean citizens who are now held hostage by the Taliban in Afghanistan. Last month, 23 South Koreans, who were working as volunteers in the country, were abducted by the Taliban. There are now only 21; two of the hostages have been executed by the Taliban while negotiations were going on. I propose that citizen groups call on the Taliban not to kill the civilian hostages, and release them. I propose writing to the White House and U.S. media, and issuing a statement calling on the U.S. government to be responsible and address this issue.

First of all, I should make it clear that the Taliban’s attempt to realize its demands by taking civilian hostages, for whatever reason, will never have the support of international community. Furthermore, if the reports that the Taliban chose to kill those whose health conditions deteriorated first are true, such an inhumane act must never be accepted.

It is not too strong to say, however, that the key to resolve this hostage crisis is in the hands of the United States. The Taliban is demanding the release of their captured fighters in return for the release of the Korean hostages. But the U.S. holding to its policy and will not compromise with terrorists. There are valid reasons for such a principle, I have to admit, and I also have to admit with shame that the South Korean government’s ability to negotiate with the Taliban unilaterally is very limited, which the government itself acknowledges.

However I have to point out that the U.S. is in some ways responsible for this incident. The root cause for this kidnapping is the fact that it is the United States that has precipitated Afghanistan into a vicious cycle of violence, nearly a civil war. Not only that but the US has requested that South Korea, one of its allies, participate in the invasion of Afghanistan. South Korea has cooperated with the US militarily, but still the US only reiterates its standard policy in response to terror in the face of a dire situation where citizens of its ally are facing the threat of death. I have to wonder what the word “alliance” means to the U.S.

I believe you are well aware of the nature of the Taliban. It is a political-military force that the US supported to prevent the Soviet Union invading forces from conquering Afghanistan. If the Taliban are “terrorists” or “monsters” as the U.S. insists they are, the United States itself is Doctor Frankenstein, the monster’s creator.

It is the U.S. invasion of the country that has caused the Taliban, in its fight against the U.S. and its allies, to adopt the tactic of indiscriminate abduction of foreigners. For the U.S. to remain a spectator now is to disgrace itself. This inaction is tantamount to demonstrating irresponsibility and the emptiness of the U.S.’s stated embrace of

“alliance, peace, human rights, and humanity.”

I ask you to please call on the Taliban: “Do not kill the civilians. Release the hostages immediately!” Please write to the White House and U.S. media. Please issue a statement calling on the U.S. government to be responsible and address the hostage issue with positive action.

Before concluding, I would like to stress one final point. The fundamental solution to the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq is a withdrawal of U.S. troops and its allied forces from these countries. The only way to bring peace to the two countries is international cooperation. This is the idea embodied in the Japanese Peace Constitution and is a provision clearly stipulated in the Constitution of the Republic of Korea. The hostages are civilian volunteers who have nothing to do with the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan. They must be safely returned home. We ask for your cooperation and solidarity to resolve this issue.

**Lalit Surjan**  
**Vice President**  
**All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation**

#### **WHY THE NAILS GROW?**

At the end of the tunnel you see a flicker of light, only to realise that another tunnel lies ahead. Thus goes the caption of a cartoon that I saw in a magazine recently. As we pass from one anniversary to another of that deadly day sixty-two years ago, we are also engulfed by a sense of *Dejà vu* that many more tunnels are still to be crossed before we could finally reach our cherished goal. The each passing year throws before us new situations, new problems and new challenges that we must face. One year it is aggression on Iraq by the almighty US, the next year it might be the threat of nuclear bomb in possession of North Korea, or the matter Indo-US nuclear deal or the potentially explosive situation in Iran. Even when we talk of using nuclear power for peaceful purposes, we know that it comes with its own set of problems, which can't be ignored. We have only recently witnessed such a problem in the case of a minor accident in a power plant in Japan. In short, the entire nuclear issue is getting more and more complex as the time flies past.

Yet, the peace movements all over the world continue to work relentlessly for finding solutions to these grim realities. We have never let despondency take over our souls as we continue to walk on our chosen path. Deep in our hearts we know that the collective wisdom of the peace-loving majority of the world populace shall prevail ushering in the era of enduring peace very soon. We, as volunteers for peace have high

regards for the common sense of ordinary men and women. Hence, the belief that the human race was able to progress from the ancient times to this far only because it had always preferred peace to violence and civility to raw instincts. If there have been aberration on way, and without doubt there are examples galore, it has fought them with all the might at its command. As a student of literature, I find enough material in the works of our great masters to support this view.

I wish to tell you here about a major Hindi writer of the twentieth century. In one of his more widely read essays he ponders over “Why The Nails Grow”. He mulls-“It seems to me that though the nails served the man as weapons in the pre-historic days, he now wants to discard them. He no longer wants to keep the remains of the barbaric ages. Yet, I doubt if cutting nails is enough. The cruelty of the man has not diminished. The nail-bearing man of the yore has today come to depend upon the atom bomb. After all, the massacre of Hiroshima has happened only recently. But if he coolly thinks, he would know that the tendency to grow nails is the manifestation of animal instinct, and the tendency to cut them is the symbol of humanity. Therefore it would be most desirable to teach our young people that be it nails on a person, or weapons in possession of a society, it is imperative to check their growth for the sake of humanity.” The name of this celebrated writer is Hazari Prasad Dvivedi. He was a disciple of the great Ravindra Nath Tagore. This year we are observing his birth centenary.

It is such thought that keeps us walking. We want to abandon all sorts of weapons and make this earth a safer and better place to live in. We want to leave for our children a world that is free of weapons and wars, a world free of hatred and mistrust, a world free of tyrants and despots, a world free of self-appointed guardians and saviours. We dream of a world where the sun and the moon, the breeze and the waves, the snow and the grass all sing in harmony and peace reigns supreme. Let us re-dedicate ourselves this day to work tirelessly for making this dream come true.

**Beatrice Lemoine**  
**French Peace Movement**  
**France**

Dear friends of peace,

We refuse to live in a world of hatred and fear - nuclear weapons do not protect humans. They represent a deficit of humanity: their existence, development and use mean humans only think about their own destruction.

However humans are capable of many other things: creation, love, sharing...

The French Peace Movement does not deny the destructive side of humans but it bets on their creative side and will do everything to develop it - through education, memory work, information....

"If the world does not change, we commit suicide" - Mohammed El Baradei declared in February 2004 at Vienna PrepCom. This sentence is of importance in 2007.

This year, the declaration of the Japanese Defence Minister indicating that the United States could not but drop these bombs testifies to the beginning of the loss of memory and increasing temptation for many countries to consider nuclear weapons as a non-offensive defense weapons. The French peace movement is outraged by this declaration and opposes any proliferation of military nuclear power.

The French peace movement fights the idea that anyone, for a reason which he or she considers legitimate, can cause a nuclear holocaust and the idea of spending billions of dollars in excessive military build-up when billions of us live under indecent conditions.

Furthermore, France does not respect the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which she ratified. The recent testing of the M51 missile, missile of attack intended to be installed on 4 submarines with a largely increased range - up to 10,000 km -- is the mark of a strategy of attack by France.

Last June 19th, some peaceful French people prevented the second test of this missile by carrying out a citizens' inspection, kept secret until the last moment. Finally, the test took place on June 21st.

Even if the United States and the Russian Federation have approximately 95% of the nuclear forces, France should not go in this direction. In a French Poll on April 15, 2007, covering 15,000 people, a broad consensus of the population voted as follows:

1st question: the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) signed by 186 States including France envisages in its Article 6 the elimination of nuclear weapons. Consequently, do you believe that France should take the initiative for the implementation of effective of nuclear disarmament? YES: 97% NO: 3%

2nd question: NGOs and the United Nations estimate that peace requires the reduction in the expenditure on armaments and the reorientation of these funds towards human needs to build a more just and more cooperative world. Do you support this proposal? YES: 98% NO: 2%

3rd question: France devotes every year, in violation of the NPT, several billion euros to the development of its arsenal including nuclear weapons. Are you in favour of the reorientation of these funds towards the satisfaction of the human needs (health, research, culture, education,

environment...)? YES: 97 % NO: 3%

4th question: Do you accept that the leaders of France might consider using an atomic bomb in your own name? YES: 8% NO: 98%

Finally, as you know, France has a new President of the Republic. The presidential campaign was marked by -a strong demand of citizens, a fact which is auspicious for democracy. But to conceive peace as a culture between peoples, peace as an essential vehicle of societal changes, we have a long way to go in working on consciences, commitments and acts. During this election campaign the French Peace Movement took up the challenge of enabling citizens to be informed in order to make real choices.

In this way we wrote thirty urgent demands for building a Peace Culture which were submitted to the candidates. Some of them - in favour of nuclear disarmament - have taken time to answer us in a detailed and thoughtful way, announcing precise commitments. Others - in favour of nuclear deterrence - gave courtesy answers. Lastly, others like Mr. Nicolas Sarkozy did not answer.

Although the outcome was not as good as we had expected in terms of media coverage, our approach has had the advantage of introducing nuclear weapons little by little into the debate. Thank you.

**Ole Kopreitan**  
**Secretary General**  
**No to Nuclear Weapons**  
**Norway**

Dear friends,

As a delegate to the World conference against A&H Bombs every year since 1990, I am very happy to see many of the faces of the peace veterans from these 18 years, but I am even more happy to see many new faces of coming peace-activists. And I will thank the organizers for accepting all the young delegates from Norway.

As we all know, we are now facing a very critical situation for the case of nuclear disarmament. After the very optimistic perspectives after the NPT Conference in New York, May 2000, we have since September 11th, 2001 got an almost total deadlock in the nuclear disarmament work.

The situation has even grown worse by the unwise undertakings of USA and the attempt from new countries to acquire nuclear capacity. As you know, some countries have been "successful" in their strive, others not yet. In addition we have the dangerous threat from terrorist groups, if they should be "successful" in their strong work in order to get hold of nuclear material or even a simple nuclear device.

This is the dramatic background we have to

face, when we now start our discussions at this World Conference against A&H Bombs. Totally the anti-nuclear and peace movement has a strong position in the heart of the people of all countries in the world. Almost every human being of the globe knows the name of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and this is arguments enough to take a strong position for abolishing nuclear weapons. In addition, we do have the enormous work of millions of peace-workers which every day try to form a basement against armament and war. It is our great challenge to form a strategy which makes the peace forces superior to the forces of war and armament.

Let me take an example from my own country, Norway. We have by hard working in almost 30 years from the peace activists in No to Nuclear Weapons in cooperation with other peace organizations, trade unions and others managed to convince almost 90% of the country's inhabitants to support the abolition of nuclear weapons. The other 10% are confused people who "don't know". Despite this overwhelming majority against nuclear weapons, the Norwegian government has through the years up to this day supported NATO's nuclear strategy, which even promote first strike nuclear strategy.

In a country, which is announced as one of the most advanced democracies in the world, we can observe a great democratic deficit, and that the government is willing to suppress the majority of the people on behalf of the loyalty to a military alliance called NATO. I think this is not special for Norway and that we can make the same conclusion for almost every country in the world. Based on this analysis, I would form the statement that the main objective for the peace-movements all over the world, are to give a strong hand to revitalize the democratic process in that way, that the politicians in charges take their responsibility in earnest, and act according to their democratic obligations.

In Norway we are now at this critical and interesting stage of convincing our politicians that they should listen more to their voters than to the claims of a military alliance. The main strategy in this work is to mobilize the broader part of the population with signature campaigns and other enlightening activities. According to this, we are now eagerly running a signature campaign for a convention against nuclear weapons within 2020, which is initiated by Hiroshima Mayor Akiba. In the spring of 2007 Mayor Akiba made a successful information campaign to different parts of Norway. In this campaign Mayor Akiba strongly promoted the worldwide mayor campaign for nuclear disarmament until 2020. For the time being more than 50% of the mayors of Norway support this campaign and we are working hard in order to get a stronger support.

To be fair and honest I would give some credit to the Norwegian government. In spite of their traditional "great respect" for the government of the United States of America, they have operated a lot of positive nuclear disarmament efforts both in NATO and especially in the UN. In 2006 UN Secretary General Kofi Annan asked Norway together with 6 other "like-minded" countries to form a support group for the NPT process, but unfortunately this group has yet been able to do very little to promote the NPT process. The Norwegian government has given some substantial contributions in the field of cut-off, which is an important part concerning nuclear disarmament.

At least the Norwegian government has made a considerable contribution by helping the Russian government cleaning up the Murmansk district for heavy nuclear pollution, which still is a very dangerous threat, specially for the local population both in Russia and Norway.

I will end my speech by stressing the point that we all have to broaden the scope of our information and campaigning activity, with a special priority on young people wherever they could be found.

No more Hiroshima! No more Nagasaki!  
No more mass-murdering of innocent people!

### **International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) -Norway Delegation**

Dear everyone,

First of all we would like to thank the organizing committee for giving us the unique opportunity to come here. We are a part of the Norwegian affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, this delegation consisting of students only. None of us have attended such a conference before, so we are here to watch, learn, be inspired and hopefully make a contribution.

We are grateful that you believe in us, the young and upcoming generation. A lot of important decisions concerning nuclear weapons will be discussed and concluded the decades ahead, and therefore it's important that young people are included and encouraged to take part in the global action to prevent nuclear war.

Back in Norway, it is sometimes hard to get students and young people involved in this issue. Everyone is against the use of nuclear weapons, they would say. Still, there is not many people actively opposing the nuclear weapons platform of NATO, which our country is part of.

Opinion polls from Norway show that in 2001 close to 9 out of 10 Norwegians want to abolish nuclear weapons. The numbers are the same throughout most of Europe. Why then, do we accept that our governments maintain a military

strategy and policy that allow the use of these weapons?

Following the golden oil-age and the flourishing concern for carbon dioxide emissions, there is a growing interest in Norway for thorium and nuclear power. Thorium is used to make uranium 233. Some see this as the great solutions to the energy problem. And Norway has the worlds 3rd largest reserves of thorium in the world, and this make thorium a possible great source of income as well.

There is still a long way to go before we have the technology and the required knowledge to build Rubbia thorium-reactors – some say at least 20-30 years. And it is said that one of the great advantages with these reactors are that they are not suited for production for nuclear weapons. But is this naive positivism in the Norwegian people a forewarning of something else? Are we turning into a more nuclear friendly nation? And does this increasing request for nuclear power lower the threshold for development and use of nuclear weapons? This is an intricate question, and our organisation has not yet made a decisive stand to whether we want to oppose the development of the new generation of nuclear power, or support it.

In contrast to the great challenge of climate change our world is facing, a complete abolition of nuclear weapons do not demand any changes in the way we live our lives.

The old anti-nuclear veterans have made a strong foundation for us to continue building on. It's our responsibility to convey this tradition, and being here in Japan and at this conference is a great inspiration to us. We hope to go back home with fresh experiences and new knowledge to convince future physicians and other Norwegians that the only rational alternative is a world without nuclear weapons.

We would like to draw your attention towards a global campaign initiated by IPPNW this year - ICAN. This is an international campaign for a convention to abolish nuclear weapons. Working together with other organisations and governments this campaign will not stop until a nuclear weapons convention is negotiated. In fact, a model convention was presented, by Costa Rica, at the NPT Review Conference in May this year. We believe that the only way to revitalise the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which has shown no real development over the last decade, is to introduce a convention to abolish nuclear weapons. This is maybe the only way to stop the big nuclear powers from developing new nuclear weapons and force them into complete disarmament.

Thanks to the peace and anti-nuclear weapons movements, and many of you sitting here today, nuclear stockpiles have gone from 68000 weapons in 1986 to some 27000 weapons today. Also, nuclear testing in the environment and

underground has almost stopped, and a treaty exists to halt nuclear testing forever.

Biological weapons were banned already in 1975. Chemical weapons in 1997 and landmines in 1999. It is now way overdue to ban the worse weapons of mass destruction – nuclear weapons.

**Langston Tingling-Clemmons,  
Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Committee  
USA**

**No More War!!!**

Greetings, ladies, gentlemen, youth, children and distinguished guests. I would like to first and foremost thank you for giving me the opportunity to address you all today. Hello, my name is Langston Tingling-Clemmons; I am 19 years old and am the youngest of 8 siblings. I am currently a rising sophomore at Bucknell University studying history, Spanish, and medicine. I have done much in my meager nineteen years on this earth; but this is by far my greatest honor, unparalleled to any other in my life.

I come to this marvelous conference because my conscience leaves me no other option. I join with you in this meeting because I am in deepest agreement with the aims and work of the organization, which has brought us together as men and women of peace who are concerned with not only commemorating the lives of those who died some sixty years ago and those who continue to suffer from the effects of nuclear arms and industry. However nuclear weapons are only a tool of war; in addition nuclear non-proliferation is only a mere goal; but it is the propagation of war and poverty that has moved me to break the betrayal of silence and to speak from the burnings of my own soul.

There is a specter of war and poverty among us. Throughout the world millions of people suffer from starvation, live derelict, without roofs, live as victims of poverty, and are displaced by arms of destruction and despair. On this very day at this very hour bombs drop in Iraq and in Darfur. On this very day over two million Iraqi and American men and women alike have been displaced by the United States-led occupation of Iraq. There is at the outset a very obvious and almost facile connection between the United States War and the goal of this conference. As America invests billions of dollars into Iraq it is clear that the necessary funds and expertise for the rehabilitation of its and the world's poor, so long as adventures like Iraq continued to dispose of young men and women, skills, and money, these atrocities to humanity shall forever continue. I am progressively compelled to see all war as an enemy of the poor and peace and intend to advocate

against it.

Wars of the rich have disproportionately sent the poor to fight and die; this was as true 60 years ago as it is today. These wars bring thousands of men together to kill one another, which shows the worst in man. Contrarily it is the love for justice and peace that brings us here today. And as long as the injustices of society are not addressed by institutionalized change, wars will forever plague us. There cannot be nuclear weapons if war does not exist, and we cannot have peace without economic, racial, and social justice.

I would also like to apologize for the actions of my country 62 years ago, but retrospectively we would not have been given this opportunity to come together if it were not for my country's misguidance. I leave here saying that I do hope that we have learned from the mistakes of the past and that we struggle to ensure that these mistakes will not be repeated.

No More Nagasakis! No More Hiroshimas!  
No More Poverty!

No Justice? No Peace! Thank you.

**Malachy Kilbride**  
**Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Committee**  
**USA**

Good morning, I am Malachy Kilbride a grassroots activist-organizer living in the Washington DC metropolitan area (USA). I would like to thank all those who have worked very hard to put this conference together and all those who have been so kind and hospitable to those of us who have traveled far to be here for this conference. Thank you! Arigato!

Friends, I would like to extend greetings from the people in the United States of America who believe in and work for peace and justice in this world. Needless to say, I am not speaking for anyone in the Bush Administration and the vast numbers of those on Capitol Hill in Washington DC who toil away in the service of the wealthy and corporate interests, who chose war over peace, and their own acquisition of personal greed and power above true economic justice for the majority of people in this world who truly want to live in peace.

Once again we remember the victims of the atomic bombs dropped on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is now 62 years now and we still cry out for sanity, reason, and justice to those who purport to lead us. But still so many of the so-called elected lead us down a path that is certain to bring us to nuclear annihilation. Driving us down this path are lies about the necessity for an arms build-up, nuclear or otherwise.

Even to this day, the lies of the wealthy and powerful seem to triumph over the desire for peace

and the cries for justice in the face of mounting war-profiteering and economic structural agreements oppressing and victimizing masses of people all over this world.

Since the last World Conference against A & H Bombs, President Bush, who relishes his role as "War Time President" and Commander-in-Chief has continued to issue presidential executive orders and signing statements that define his role, for all practical purposes, as a dictator in the event of some kind of national emergency, or terrorist event, or some other kind of disaster that he will define as the reason for declaring a state of emergency or martial law. He is after all "The Decider" as he himself has told us.

Last October after the Republican Party-controlled House of Representatives and Senate voted, President Bush signed into law the Military Commissions Act that has, for all practical purposes, killed Habeas Corpus. I was happy to participate in a demonstration outside of The White House as Bush signed this infamous legislation into law. We delivered a flag-draped coffin to The White House gates that contained the corpse of Habeas Corpus. We were subsequently charged with "Interfering with Agency Functions". The charge was later dropped. A small victory for our side!

In any event, in the US, people are terrorized by the lies of a war-mongering class into sacrificing our civil liberties and accepting a so-called "War on Terrorism" that is now broadly seen as a tragic and deliberate failure. It is a failure built by consummate liars who are in fact real terrorists who march up and down the halls of power in Washington DC and Wall Street in New York City. If there is any doubt that these people are terrorists just ask the people of Iraq and Afghanistan. Without question the only ones who have profited from the war, invasion, and occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq are the likes of Boeing, Lockheed, Halliburton, Exxon, Bearing Point, The Carlyle Group, and their ilk to name just a few. These are the same type of wealthy corporate interests who profit from a nuclear arms industry and will also profit from a nuclear attack on Iran.

All this has happened including the recent funding of well over \$90 billion (USD) for the Iraq occupation last March 29 under the Democratic party-controlled US Congress and previously even more funding with the John Warner Defense Authorization Act of 2006. That legislation gave billions more to the Afghan and Iraq occupation and also strengthened Bush's power.

So, where is the hope? My friends, the hope is here in this room and with all those who struggle with us. The hope is with the next generation, the youth, who we must nourish and inspire to continue our struggle for justice and peace. Our best resources and assets are each other. So let us

strengthen our bonds for we have work to do!

Friends, I would like you to know that there is indeed a vibrant antiwar and peace movement in the US. The peace movement in America is composed of strong locally-based grassroots groups as opposed to centrally-controlled national organizations. For good or ill this is how our struggle for justice and peace is constituted in the US. But it does exist and it is filled with committed people working for justice and peace. This grassroots movement for peace is effective but presently not successful. Our unfinished work for peace and justice is largely hidden by the corporate-controlled news media. They will not shed light on our good and effective work. However, our effectiveness is now being proven by the fact that the US Congress is now debating withdrawal timelines and the cutting off of funding for the Iraq occupation. They are even starting to hear the cries for the impeachment of Dick Cheney and George Bush. Don't let Rupert Murdoch or General Electric fool you!

So now we are compelled by our commemoration here and elsewhere to recommit ourselves to action that will redirect us from the dangers of nuclear power and the production of nuclear weapons. We must do our part to resist the production of nuclear weapons, the planning for the use of these weapons, and to continue our dissent opposing nuclear power as a source of energy.

We must never allow another Hiroshima or Nagasaki to occur. We must never allow another Chernobyl to happen again. We must struggle to make sure the criminal cabal of the Bush-Cheney Administration does not use conventional and especially nuclear weapons against Iran or any other country. We must dedicate ourselves entirely for the sake of peace and accept the sacrifices we will make along the way.

During the war the US waged on Vietnam the peacemaker Daniel Berrigan said, "We have assumed the name of peacemaker, but we have been, by and large, unwilling to pay any significant price. And because we want peace with half a heart and half a life and will, the war, of course, continues, because the waging of war, by its nature, is total – but the waging of peace, by our own cowardice, is partial. So a whole national life bent toward war prevail over the mere desire for peace..."

Friends, with a full heart I say; NO MORE CHERNOBYLS, NO MORE HIROSHIMAS, NO MORE NAGASAKIS, NO NEW HIBAKASHAS! Thank you all.

## **Yoshizawa Hiroaki, Representing Director Okinawa Prefectural Council against A & H Bombs**

### **Report from Okinawa : Struggle for the Removal of U.S. Bases and against the Construction of New Bases**

Dear chairs and friends, I would like to report on the present situation of U.S. military bases in Okinawa and on the local resident's struggle to prevent the construction of new bases.

1. Victory in the House of Councilors election: Shouts of triumph filled the office of Itokazu Keiko, a candidate for the House of Councilors, just after 8:00 in the evening of 29 July. Itokazu, who has maintained her position for unity of progressive forces, received 376,460 votes (60.2%) and defeated her rival candidate, who was supported by the Liberal Democratic Party and the Komei Party, by a wide margin of 127,324 votes. This victory demonstrates that the majority of Okinawans are opposed to the adverse revision of the Constitution of Japan, the construction of new military bases, and the rewriting of history textbooks, while calling for better living standards and welfare. It was a heavy blow to the Abe administration.

2. Never allow the rewriting of school textbooks and the falsification of history: The Ministry of Education under the Abe cabinet ordered publishing companies to rewrite their descriptions of the Battle of Okinawa in history textbooks for high school students. In the course of the authorization process for textbooks, the Ministry ordered the deletion of accounts of how the Japanese Imperial Army forced Okinawans directly and indirectly to commit mass suicide during the battle and to write instead that the Japanese Imperial Army was not involved in mass suicide or collective suicide. This aroused the anger of all Okinawans. Assemblies of thirty-four cities, towns, and villages adopted resolutions of protest. The Okinawa Prefectural Assembly unanimously adopted two resolutions of protest.

The rewriting of school textbooks and the falsification of history are being done to justify the crimes Japan committed in the war of aggression against China and against other nations in Asia and in the Pacific. I am determined to prevent the revision of Article 9 of the Constitution, the aim of which is to make it possible for the Japanese Self-Defense Forces to attack the people of Asia and of the rest of the world in line with U.S. policies, or, more precisely, in subordination to U.S. policies. I recall the passage of the speech of 8 May 1985 by German President Richard von Weizsaecker that those who close their eyes to the past also close their eyes to the future.

3. Prosecution of the ground crew of the helicopter that crashed at Okinawa International University and SOFA: We still clearly remember that a U.S. Marines CH-53D Helicopter crashed on the campus of Okinawa International University on 13 August 2004. The Okinawa Prefectural Police Headquarters on 1 August sent information to prosecutors on four unidentified U.S. Marine Corps mechanics on suspicion of violating aviation law. It is unlikely that the Naha District Public Prosecutor's Office will press charges against the four because they have not been identified and they have already been court-martialed and punished. This incident again shows how Japan's sovereignty and the dignity of the Japanese people are trampled on under the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the Status of Forces Agreement.

4. Realignment of U.S. armed forces and the construction of new bases: On 1 May 2006, Japan and the United States reached an agreement which would make drastic changes in Japan's defense and security. The final report on this realignment of U.S. forces in Japan has been made public. The 1996 agreement of the Special Action Committee on Okinawa (SACO) on constructing a new base in the sea off the Henoko District became a mere of scrap of paper. This was achieved by a ten-year struggle of local residents remembering the hardships of the grandparents of Henoko District. But now the government, in spite of the failure of the 1996 plan, aims to construct a new base with V-letter runways and a large port on the coast of Henoko, in accordance with the agreement on the realignment of U.S. forces in Japan. On the Okinawan struggle against this plan, Teruo Onishi will make a report in detail, but

I want to emphasize the following point. It is a fact that the Maritime Self-Defense Force took part in preliminary on-site surveys for constructing a new base using minesweeper tenders. This is not a proper mission for the SDF. Okinawans were angered by Defense Minister Kyuma remark that the operation in Henoko was similar to the SDF participating in the Snow Festival in Sapporo. In February 2006, a plan was announced to construct helipads in the U.S. Marine Corps Northern Training Area. People of the Takae District of Higashi Village, which would be surrounded by the planned helipads, together with supporters from other places in Okinawa and mainland Japan, are now carrying out around-the-clock sit-ins to watch the base. Concerned lawyers also went there and held a study meeting to prepare against any unjust suppression of the demonstration.

Dear friends, these struggles by the Okinawans are part of the global struggle against military bases, against wars of aggression, and against nuclear weapons. In the middle of these struggles, Defense Minister Kyuma Fumio said that the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki were inevitable and that there is a nuclear option in war. His remark prompted strong public criticism, including criticism by Hibakusha. He was forced to resign as defense minister. Learning of his statement, I could not contain my anger, and I sent a letter of protest to the editor of a local paper, the Okinawa Times. I made copies of the letter for your information.

Dear co-chairs, dear friends from overseas, dear friends from all over the country, let us unite and make every effort to eliminate nuclear weapons. Thank you for listening.