

no more hiroshimas!



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We Call for a “Global Action Campaign for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World” Toward 2010

Japan Council against A and H Bombs (Gensuikyo) has called for a “Global Action Campaign for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World” toward the 2010 NPT Review Conference. At the same time, it has made a renewed determination to turn Japan into a country that stands on the Three Non-nuclear Principles and Article 9 of the Constitution. The 80th National Board Meeting of Japan Gensuikyo, held on February 9 - 10, 2008, put forward the 2008 Action Plan consisting of two pillars.

Abolition of nuclear weapons remains an urgent and vital task for the survival of humankind. All nations, especially the nuclear weapon states, have a responsibility to implement immediately the “unequivocal undertaking to eliminate nuclear weapons”, on which nuclear weapon states themselves agreed in May 2000.

In this context, we decided to call upon all anti-nuclear and peace movements, NGOs, local municipalities, governments of the world and global citizens to reach a universal consensus on complete prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons toward the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which is the next important opportunity to press for the implementation of the undertaking. For this purpose, we will propose a “Global Action Campaign for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World”. Based on the tradition and lessons of the anti-A and H-bomb movement, this campaign aims at developing grass-roots anti-nuclear opinion, with the abolition of nuclear weapons as the common task and signature campaign and A-bomb exhibitions as the common forms of actions.

As the second pillar of our action, we decided to continue to urge the Japanese government to play a leading role for the abolition of nuclear weapons in good faith as the government of the A-bombed country. At the same time, we will develop grass-roots movements and cooperation with a broad range of people, in order to make a Japan that will sincerely practice the Three Non-Nuclear Principles and Article 9 of the Constitution, oppose the use of military force and nuclear threats, and make efforts to achieve world peace.



People on Coming-of-Age Day support “Swift Abolition” of nuclear weapons. (January 14, Nagasaki)

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For a Nuclear Weapon-Free, Peaceful and Just World: Let Us Start Mobilization Campaign Toward the 2008 World Conference against A & H Bombs

The 61st General Meeting of the Organizing Committee of the World Conference against A & H bombs took place on February 14 and it was decided to hold the 2008 World Conference against A & H Bombs from August 2 to 9, 2008, in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The committee also issued the call for participation in and support for the World Conference. (www10.plala.or.jp/antiatom/en/index.html)

Focusing on the 2010 Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference, the determination to start a movement toward a nuclear weapons-free world has been growing among world NGOs, international and local governments, and campaigns are already starting.

In the lead up to the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the 2008 World Conference is required to generate vitality and launch initiatives to mobilize world public opinion and actually move international politics forward in the direction of nuclear weapons abolition.

Therefore, Japan Gensuikyo shall make an all-out effort to make the 2008 Conference a place where the following three tasks should be fulfilled: (1) National and local governments and other public bodies and NGOs, grass-roots movements and individuals work together and deepen exchanges beyond differences of thought and belief; (2) Participants send out to the world the reality of the A-bombing and Hibakusha's desire for peace, agree on the course and joint activities to achieve a "nuclear weapon-free world"; and (3) People of all generations join in solidarity and play their respective roles in the conference, where young participants can foster hope for their future.

International Youth Rally "Let Us Get Rid of Nuclear Weapons 2008"

The International Youth Rally "Let Us Get Rid of Nuclear Weapons 2008" will be held in Hiroshima and Nagasaki for the 4th time in conjunction with the World Conference. With the theme of "Inheriting from Hibakusha and Transmitting to World," young participants will learn the reality of the A-bombs through listening to the Hibakusha's testimonies and discussing how to expand movements against nuclear weapons among youth toward 2010, bringing together the experiences in different parts of the world.

Provisional Schedule of the 2008 World Conference against A & H Bombs

- August 1 (Fri): Information meeting for overseas delegates (evening)
- August 2 (Sat) - 4 (Mon): International Meeting, 2008 World Conference (Hiroshima)
- August 4 (Mon) - 6 (Wed): 2008 World Conference against A & H Bombs (Hiroshima)
- August 7 (Thu) - 9 (Sat): 2008 World Conference against A & H Bombs (Nagasaki)



Provisional Dates of the International Youth Rally "Let Us Get Rid of Nuclear Weapons 2008"

- August 4 (Mon):
International Youth Rally in Hiroshima
- August 8 (Fri):
International Youth Rally in Nagasaki

Let Us Make This Year's Bikini Day A Starting Point of Our Campaign Toward 2010

We announce holding the 2008 March 1 Bikini Day events on March 1 and 2. They consist of the 54th March 1 Bikini Day Rally and International Forum sponsored on March 1 and workshops and the Plenary of the Japan Gensuikyo National Conference on March 2. The theme of these events is "Let's renew our determination to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons; Let's adopt the wishes of the Hibakusha and the victims of the Bikini H-bomb test; and Let's start a nationwide effort to make a success of the 2008 World Conference against A & H Bombs".

Bikini Day is an occasion to recall the victims of the 1954 hydrogen bomb test and to make a fresh determination to work for peace and against nuclear weapons, in commemoration of the birth of the movement against A & H Bombs. On that day 54 years ago, the US Bravo H-bomb test, detonated at the Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands, contaminated a huge area ranging from the Western Pacific to the Indian Ocean by radiation and brought about enormous sacrifice and damage. Japan's anti-A & H-bomb movement was born from nationwide protest against the devastation.

This year's Bikini Day has a special task, which is to start of a two-year campaign toward the 2010 NPT Review Conference. Taking advantage of rapidly growing public opinion, which urges the implementation of the "unequivocal undertaking to abolish nuclear weapons," agreed to by the Nuclear Weapons States in the 2000 NPT Review Conference, we have to work for making this happen in 2010 as an actual move leading to the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Relating to the ongoing attempts to revise Article 9 of the Constitution and reinforce US bases stationed in Japan, arguments are being made, such as: "How should Japan contribute to the international community?"; "What should be Japan's future course in today's world?"; and "What about the security of Asia and Japan?" In this context, the International Forum, with the theme of "A path toward a nuclear-free and peaceful Asia and Japan", will hold a discussion focusing on how to create a nuclear-free and peaceful Japan and Asia, in opposition to the dangerous moves promoted by US, based on its strategy: "Those who control Asia will dominate the whole world." Leading peace activists of the US, China, South Korea and Japan will discuss and strengthen solidarity and cooperation among each other.

The Bikini Day Events will have a leading activist from the US, now getting worldwide attention for its presidential election, a South Korean advocate for establishing a Northeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone, a representative from China, a country that is key to creating a peaceful and nuclear weapon-free Asia. A representative of Rongelap Atoll, most affected by the Bravo test in the Marshall Islands, will also take part in the events and speak about ongoing efforts to build Rongelap Peace Museum, which is aimed at passing knowledge of the nuclear damage on to younger generations.

The International Youth Rally: "Let Us Get Rid of Nuclear Weapons 2008 in Shizuoka" will be held as well. In order to develop solidarity among young people in Japan to make a success of the Youth Rally in August, young people coming from across Japan will hold discussion on the theme of "Nuclear Weapons, Peace and Poverty -- Let's join hands with a broad range of young people". Students of Egypt and South Korea will join the rally.

Schedule of the Bikini Day Events:

March 1:

Peace March to the grave of Kuboyama Aikichi
(Fisherman victimized in the Bikini tragedy)
54th March 1 Bikini Day 2008 Rally (Yaizu)
International Forum, Japan Gensuikyo National
Conference (Yaizu)
Related event: International Youth Rally 2008
in Shizuoka

March 2:

Workshops and Plenary, Japan Gensuikyo
National Conference (Shizuoka)



Youth Forum in 2007 Bikini Day Gensuikyo Conference

Special Feature: Collective Lawsuits of A-Bomb Sufferers

Abused Human Rights of the A-bomb Victims -- A Drastic Change in the Government's Administrative Stance is Inevitable

Hiroshi Taka, Japan Gensuikyo

The collective lawsuits of the Hibakusha, A-bomb sufferers, now being fought at 15 regional courts and 6 high courts, are coming to a crucial stage.

The decision has been given already at 6 regional courts in Osaka, Hiroshima, Nagoya, Sendai, Tokyo and Kumamoto. Including the Osaka and Hiroshima courts, where all the plaintiffs won their cases, all the rulings at the 6 courts have judged in favor of all or almost all plaintiffs, and have all criticized the current practice of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, which is no more than mechanically applying its self-made dosimetry* table to each case. (*Estimate of radiation dose to the various organs of each survivor)

In summer last year, facing the successive defeats at the courts and the mounting public support for the plaintiffs, coupled with the serious setback of the ruling Liberal Democrats and Komeito at the elections of the House of Councilors towards the end of July 2007, Abe Shinzo, the then prime minister, promised that his government would review the A-bomb disease related administration. The political parties, both in and out of government, launched their own taskforces, project teams or sub-committees to review the problem in time for the compilation of next fiscal year's budget (2008), and put forward proposals that would lead to an expanded framework for the A-bomb disease recognition.

The Health Ministry, whose initial move was to adamantly cling to the old criteria with minor adjustments, became unable to sustain its position, and put forward a new document entitled, "A New Image of the Screening" in January this year to change the policy of screening. The "New Image" says that because the Hibakusha are aging and because the effects of radiation emerge differently from person to person, it will "revise the screening based on the cause-probability assessment and proceed with recognition more speedily and positively".

This is a big step forward. But does this really solve the problem? What is the response of the Hibakusha and the anti-nuclear movement that supports them?

Government Refuses to Recognize Most Diseases as Caused by the Bombs

The current Hibakusha-Aid Law was enacted in 1994 based on the demand from the Hibakusha for the purpose of "providing comprehensive support for the aging Hibakusha in their health, medical care and welfare under the state responsibility".

The law, inheriting the preceding two A-bomb related laws, defines as Hibakusha four categories of people: (1) those directly hit by the bombing; (2) those who entered the ruined city after the bombing; (3) those who engaged

in the relief of the victims and were contaminated; and (4) those with prenatal exposure, and promises to provide various kinds of assistance to them in accordance with their problems arising from the damage.

Nevertheless, the reality of the administrative practice, even in light of still inadequate law provisions, is far from "comprehensive support". The extremely small number of cases approved by the ministry as A-bomb diseases is a typical example. At present, the total number of the surviving Hibakusha is some 250,000, of whom many still suffer from deep wounds both in mind and body, and are often attacked by complicated health troubles, including cancers, whose rate of occurrence still runs high. Yet the number of the cases that are recognized by the ministry as A-bomb diseases and given allowances is limited to only about 2,000, representing 0.8% of the total number of Hibakusha.

Akira Kai, a Hiroshima Hibakusha who won at the Nagoya District Court last year, was a trainee of the Navy's Submarine School when the bomb was dropped over Hiroshima. He was some 20km from the city. Ordered by a superior officer, he went into the city on August 6. He proceeded near the center of the burnt and ruined city. Sleepless, he engaged in relief work for two days. After that, he continued working for the relief of the injured.

On the evening of August 6, he suffered acute diarrhea, followed by bleeding from the gums, then by depilation. He was further attacked by many slumps and disorders. From 1949 onwards, he had to have 13 operations for his cervical lymphoma. Then he contracted a malignant thyroid lymphoma.

Despite all these he was denied the Hibakusha certificate because he was unable to find witnesses. It was not until 1995, 50 years after the bombing, that he finally obtained the Hibakusha certificate on the evidential documents he had collected. But his application for the recognition of his thyroid lymphoma as A-bomb disease was rejected by the government, after he waited for five years. The reason for the rejection has never been given, as is the norm for the government.

Dosimetry System Disregards the Effects of Residual Radioactivity

The trials of the lawsuits have brought to the surface the inhumane attitude prevailing in the Hibakusha related administration, as well as the anachronistic cognizance of the effect of the A-bombs.

One is a criterion for the evaluation of the affected radiation dose called "DS86" (Dosimetry System adopted in 1986), which the ministry applies to determine whether or not to recognize the person as having been afflicted with A-bomb disease. In fact, the ministry has rejected

almost every application one after another by mechanically applying this system to each case.

Scientists and medical doctors who testified in court that the dosimetry system in question was based on unworkable data taken from nuclear tests and not from actual studies of the sufferers, focusing only on the initially released radiation. True that in 2001, the ministry introduced a new criterion called "Cause-Probability Evaluation". But underlying this seemingly new system was the same DS86, with the result being even smaller number of recognitions.

Actually the ministry has constantly refused to take into consideration the effects of the residual radioactivity. It has ignored the nuclear fission products (deadly ashes) from the A-bomb explosion or unexploded uranium (in Hiroshima) and plutonium (in Nagasaki), or even the induced radioactivity from initial radiation from the explosion, on the grounds that the induced radiation can be produced only within the reach of the initial radiation.

As a result, the applications of the 2nd and 3rd category Hibakusha, i.e., those who later went into the ruined city and were affected by the radiation and those who engaged in relief activities outside the city and were contaminated from the patients, were all turned down, even though many of them were suffering from cancers and leukemia. Even a large number of the Hibakusha directly exposed to the explosion also automatically had their applications denied on the same grounds, except for the very small number of people who suffered in very close proximity to the epicenter.

Inherited Abuse of the Hibakusha from the Occupation Forces

With the development of the exchanges of statements and testimonies at the courts, the basic perceptions of the Japanese Government on the damage wrought by the A-bomb has seen broad daylight. One of them is seen in a statement of a government expert submitted to the Yokohama District Court in February 2007, which says, "Most of the plaintiffs were hardly exposed to the A-bomb radiation in Hiroshima or Nagasaki", or "It is utterly ridiculous to claim such diseases that can be widely seen among ordinary people as having been caused by the radiation". These experts even claim that because the effect of the residual radiation was negligible, heavy diarrhea that attacked many sufferers was due to the "extreme state of malnutrition" or "dysentery", and their depilation was due to the inconvenience in taking baths and lack of shampoo.

In September 1945, Lieutenant General Thomas F. Farrell, the deputy leader of the Manhattan Project, declared at a press conference in Tokyo said that the contaminated area by radiation from the A-bomb was within the range of area completely destroyed by the bomb, and therefore, "Everyone ... who was fated to die from the atomic bomb has already died." This statement, made in the midst of the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki experiencing agony from acute symptoms, actually closed off all rescue efforts from outside. The statement of the government-sponsored experts in 2007 revealed that despite over 62 years having passed since

the bombings, the basic stance of the government remains unchanged from the position taken by the occupation forces.

The Position of the Government vis-à-vis Nuclear Weapons Questioned

Will the "New Image of the Screening" announced by the government relieve the ailing Hibakusha from A-bomb diseases? The statement of Terumi Tanaka, Secretary General of the Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations (Nihon Hidankyo) says that he appreciates it in that the current screening would be "fully changed".

He expresses a strong dissatisfaction, however, with the fact the "New Image" still tries to draw a division line among the Hibakusha, instead of making all Hibakusha the subject of the rescue effort. It, in fact, sets a limit of "about 3.5km from the epicenter" for those directly hit by the bomb, and "entering the city and approaching near ground zero within some 100 hours (after the explosion)" for those who later entered the city, whose diseases can be recognized as A-bomb diseases. The diseases recognized as affected are also limited to cancer, leukemia, hyperparathyroidism, cataracts and myocardial infarction originating from the exposure.

The symptoms of A-bomb diseases differ from person to person, and in the screening process, it is essential to make a comprehensive review of the condition of A-bomb exposure, acute symptoms, clinical history of each patient, and the actual condition of the illness based on which the application is made. This has been repeatedly pointed out by the court rulings of the past 13 cases in favor of the plaintiff Hibakusha, including those filed before the collective lawsuits.

Some estimates show that if the "New Image" is applied, about ten times as many Hibakusha as now will be recognized as A-bomb disease patients. However, the reason for most Hibakusha having brought their cases to the court is not only because they wanted government recognition of their A-bomb diseases and resulting allowances. The vital reason for them is that they want their government to face the serious damage caused by the A-bombing as a consequence from the war, which the Japanese government itself launched, and shift the stance of its administration towards the total abolition of nuclear weapons and peace.

The government is making gestures toward a compromise in the A-bomb disease-related administration. But its policy to place Japan's security in nuclear weapons under the US "nuclear umbrella" stays unchanged. US warships, under the policy of "neither confirming nor denying" the presence of nuclear weapons on board, call at Japanese ports frequently, as if mocking Japan's "Three Non-Nuclear Principles" of not possessing, not manufacturing and not allowing the bringing-in of nuclear weapons. Still the Japanese Government defends them, and even assists them.

Now, the support of the people for the Hibakusha in their desire for a nuclear weapon-free world is as important as their demand for the recognition of the A-bomb diseases.

Our Demand on the Japanese Government in Reviewing the A-Bomb Disease Recognition System

September 20, 2007

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

1. To withdraw all appeals filed by the government and bring all cases to settlement

In reviewing the A-bomb disease recognition system, the government should accept in a sincere manner the decisions of the courts ruling that the "Guideline for Screening the A-bomb Disease" based on the "Probability of Causation Table" underestimates the A-bomb damage. We urge the government to immediately withdraw its appeals on the 6 rulings and bring to settlement all the pending cases without delay.

2. To abolish the "Guideline for Screening"

The current criterion for A-bomb disease recognition is based on the "Guideline for Screening the A-bomb Disease" (the "Guideline"), which was prepared by the Working Group on the Medical Issues of the A-bomb Victims (the "Working Group") of the Health Ministry's Examination Committee for Certification of Sickness and Disability on May 25, 2001. We demand that this "Guideline", now proven bankrupt by all the court rulings, be abolished immediately.

3. To establish a recognition system based on the new criterion for recognition.

We demand that the current A-bomb disease recognition system be revised into a new system based on such new criterion as in the following:

(1) As a new "criterion for recognition", we propose that the injuries or diseases on which causation from radiation can generally be affirmed should be designated as "diseases to be recognized as caused by A-bombs", and if the applicant is in a state of requiring medical treatment, the Minister of Health and Welfare should grant recognition without screening the Hibakusha at the "Working Group."

(2) "Diseases to be recognized as caused by A-bombs" should be designated by government ordinance.

(3) The illness that should be included in the "diseases to be recognized as A-bomb illness" set by the ordinance are as follows:

a. Solid cancers of all parts, including those tumors of the central nerve system, leukemia, lymphoma malignum, multiple myeloma and other malignant tumors of blood-forming organs;

b. Blood diseases such as leukopenia of unknown cause, intractable anemia, chronic myelodysplastic syndrome;

c. Chronic liver damages (chronic hepatitis and cirrhosis hepatic), including B and C virus hepatic diseases;

d. Cataracts accompanying posterior subcapsular opacity;

e. Angina pectoris where myocardial infarction or coronary arteriosclerosis is recognized;

f. Fibroid lung;

g. Hypothyroidism or hyperparathyroidism (hypercalcemia);

h. Severe aftereffects from burns or external injuries;

i. Microcephaly of those with prenatal exposure to radiation.

(4) "Diseases to be recognized" should be added with more diseases with the development of medical knowledge.

(5) In case a Hibakusha contracts a disease which is not recognized by the ordinance, but the causation from radiation of it cannot be denied, and currently requires medical treatment, the Minister of Health should recognize the condition as an A-bomb disease after the screening by the above Working Group. In certifying these cases, screening should be made with due consideration of the criterion set out by the court rulings, based on the spirit of the Hibakusha Aid Law aimed at giving relief to the Hibakusha.

4. To reform the Working Group on the Medical Issues of the A-Bomb Victims

The Working Group on the Medical Issues of the A-bomb Victims of the Examination Committee for Certification of Sickness and Disability should consist of the members with enough knowledge of radiation effects to the human body and experience of treating A-bomb disease patients. Half of the committee members should be appointed with a recommendation from the A-bomb victims' organizations.



Hibakusha submitting petitions to the Health Ministry

Statement on Behalf of Nihon Hidankyo Before the Commission Regarding the A-Bomb Disease Recognition System

September 28, 2007

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

1. Introduction

First of all, thank you for giving us the opportunity to be heard at the first session of the Commission Regarding the A-bomb Disease Recognition System.

My name is TANAKA Terumi, Secretary-General of Nihon Hidankyo. Nihon Hidankyo is the only national organization of A-bomb survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, consisting of Hibakusha organizations in 47 prefectures.

I experienced the Nagasaki A-bombing at the age of 13. I escaped death, as I lived 3.2 km from the hypocenter. Five members of two families of my relatives, including my grandfather and aunts, however, lived close to the hypocenter and lost their lives. Three days after the bombing, I found the remains of my aunt, which I cremated with my own hands. It was a sad and heavy experience for me, just a 13 year-old boy.

The reason why this commission was established is that on August 5, 2007, the day before the 62nd commemoration of the A-bombing, former Prime Minister Abe met the representatives of Hibakusha in Hiroshima and promised to revise the policy on A-bomb disease recognition by consulting professionals on this issue.

The government was receiving lots of criticism about former minister of defense, Mr. Kyuma, who said that it could not be helped that an atomic bomb was dropped. In addition, it has not changed its policy of appealing the cases over the A-bomb disease recognition to higher courts, despite its consecutive defeats at the district court level. Such half measure policies of the government aroused criticism from not only Hibakusha but political parties, including those in the government, mass media and a broad range of people. As a result, the government finally was forced to listen to these criticisms, leading to Mr. Abe's decision.

2. Collective Lawsuits Calls for Drastic Revision of the A-Bomb Disease Recognition System

Hidankyo has been working hard to mobilize the Hibakusha throughout Japan to join the collective lawsuits, aiming to drastically revise the A-bomb disease recognition system.

The first lawsuit was filed 3 and a half years ago, and as of September 21, 2007, 283 plaintiffs from 22 prefectures have been fighting in 15 district courts and 6 high courts. The cases now pending at the 6 high courts are the ones appealed by the Japanese government after its defeats in Osaka, Hiroshima, Nagoya, Sendai, Tokyo and Kumamoto District Courts.

Why did we resort to legal battles to urge the Japanese

government to correct the current recognition administration? It was because the government criteria for recognition is so distant from the reality of the Hibakusha's experiences and conditions, and we could no longer accept the way the Japanese government continued to ignore the Hibakusha suffering from A-bomb diseases. Although in July 2000 Ms. MATSUYA Hideko won her case at the Supreme Court after 12 years of fighting to achieve A-bomb disease recognition, the government continued to reject Hibakushas' applications by setting out a new and more strict "Guideline for Screening", distorting the mandate of the Supreme Court decision.

The fact that for more than 20 years the number of Hibakusha recognized as having A-bomb diseases remained at just over 2,000 has made us believe that the Japanese government tries to limit the number only to meet the budget allocated for the Hibakusha measure. This led us to believe that the Japanese government, based on its energy and security policy of depending on nuclear power and the "nuclear umbrella", tries to underestimate the effects of radiation to belittle the actual A-bomb damage, and thus does not make A-bomb disease recognition commensurate with the real condition of Hibakusha.

As I noted already, the decisions handed down by the 6 district courts all pointed out that the "Guideline for Screening" was wrong. The Japanese government, however, appealed these cases to high courts. Hibakusha are aging and the plaintiffs are suffering from serious diseases. Already 36 plaintiffs have died during the 3 and half years since the lawsuits were initiated. We have no time. We cannot wait for the time when science will have fully explained all aspects of the damage caused by the A-bombs.

Therefore, we have no other means than to demand a solution of the problem through a political decision without any further delay.

The political decision that needs to be taken by the government is a choice between the two: Whether to abandon the Hibakusha if the relations between the disease of each Hibakusha and radiation cannot be explained just because the mechanism of radiation causing harm on the human body has not been fully made clear, or, on the other hand, to rescue all the Hibakusha even though is not fully explained.

Fortunately, all political parties have supported our requests. The Liberal Democratic Party has set up a sub-committee on this issue as well as the Komeito Party. A project team of the ruling parties has been created to examine the issue. On September 26, they held a

hearing on our requests.

We are only one step away from getting on track leading to a political solution, if you, the experts on the issue can give a green light. I hope you will take these things into consideration in examining the issues before this commission.

3. Nihon Hidankyo's Demand on How the New Recognition System Should Be

Our demands to the government are as follows:

- (1) To retract the appeals to High Courts and settle all the lawsuits;
- (2) To abolish the "Guideline for Screening" currently used in the A-bomb disease recognition;
- (3) To set up a recognition system based on a new "criterion for recognition";
- (4) To reform the medical Working Group.

Regarding (3), as a new "criterion for recognition", we propose that the injuries or diseases on which causation from radiation can generally be affirmed should be designated by ordinance as the "diseases to be recognized as caused by A-bombs", and if the applicant is actually in a state of requiring medical treatment, the Minister of Health and Welfare should grant recognition without screening to the Hibakusha. We set out nine types of injuries and diseases as the diseases to be recognized as caused by A-bombs". In addition, we present our specific demands regarding how the screening should be conducted, when the disease of the applicant is on the list set by law but its radiation causality cannot be denied.

4 .The whole picture of the damage from radiation as the reason of our demands

Regarding the grounds for these demands, as one of the Hibakusha who actually witnessed the unimaginable devastation caused by the atomic bombs, I would like to describe the overall picture of the damage from the A-bombing and the effects of radiation as a particular aspect of the atomic bombs.

The Atomic Bomb Victims Demand that Hidankyo established in 1985 depicts the actual situation of radiation exposure as follows:

"...heaps of burnt bodies inflamed and swollen; bodies with eyeballs protruding and burst bellies; burnt-out streetcars with their passengers; people trapped and incinerated under collapsed buildings; lines of ghost-like figures with skin hanging down in strips. It was a sight so horrible as never to be imagined in this world. We could save neither children nor parents, nor even give water to the people in the throes of death. We can never forget the bitterness and frustration of being able to do nothing to help them.

People who survived the bombing, and those who entered the city to search for relatives or help victims were also struck down by radiation and died after losing their hair and bleeding.

Even survivors continue to bear the burdens with those atomic bombs." (English text cited from the Website of Nihon Hidankyo)

Among all these hellish damages from the

A-bombings, the present Hibakusha Aid Law compensates only for those induced by radiation. Besides, it only takes into account the effects of initial radiation and minimal residual radioactivity, which are very different from what the Hibakusha actually experienced.

As a matter of fact, we Hibakusha know first-hand that many people around us who entered the two cities from outside to undertake relief and recovery operations or who walked around near the hypocenter to rescue the victims after being exposed to the bomb radiation at distant places also fell ill, suffered from acute symptoms or eventually died. Other people, who engaged in relief work at first-aid stations located far from the two A-bombed cities, also lost their health. The Ministry of Health, Labor, and Welfare continued to disregard the A-bomb illness of these people.

But just as the case of one of the plaintiffs, the decision on whom to reject the recognition was reversed at the Hiroshima District Court, the deaths of many female students who entered the city from as far as Miyoshi City to give relief to the victims 13 days after the bombing cannot be fully explained without considering the serious effects of residual radioactivity.

At the Courts, the government insists that the acute symptoms like hair loss and diarrhea that distal Hibakusha and entrant Hibakusha suffered were caused by stress, malnutrition or unsanitary environment and are irrelevant to the A-bomb radiation. We wonder, however, if these symptoms or diseases occurred after the Great Tokyo Air Raids. I have never heard of any story like that.

This suggests that the radiation produced and irradiated on human beings by the atomic bombs is not at all simple radioactive rays as the Health Ministry believes. In this regards, even specialists could commit a major error in apprehending the effects of radiation if they fail to consider the devastating aftermaths of the A-bomb explosion and the entire picture of the damage on the side of those humans who suffered the bombs, in other words, on the basis of the real condition of what happened under the mushroom clouds.

The shock wave of the atomic bomb destroyed buildings instantly, and the building materials were reduced to dust to soar in the air. However, before the collapse, building materials had become radioactive by induced radioactivity caused by neutrons, and the Hibakusha inhaled too much of the induced-radioactive dust. At the close proximity of the hypocenter, human bodies themselves must have become radioactive by induced radiation. Observing the symptoms appearing in Hibakusha, we used to say at that time that the Pika (flash and explosion of atomic bomb) contained poisonous gas, without any knowledge about radiation. In addition to the induced radiation, radioactive fallout in the form of black rain and black soot showered over the burned-out cities. Uranium and plutonium, left unfissioned and which once drifted upward in the fireball eventually fell over an extended area in the form of micro-particles.

"The Guideline for Screening" takes into accounts only the residual radioactivity of the area where the black rain fell. But it proves to be a significant

underestimation, considering the above facts. Furthermore, the radioactivity the Guideline adopted was just estimated from the residual radioactivity with a long half-life, barely left to be examined more than one month after the bombing and after heavy rain and a typhoon washed away the surface soil. By then, the radioactive fallout was accumulated on the surface soil and emitted radiation not only from there but also from human body surfaces, for the fallout was lifted in the air as fine powders or micro-particles and attached to clothes or body surfaces. It also exposed the Hibakusha to radiation from within the body, after they inhaled or took such radioactive dust and substance into the body from the nose or mouth.

We can never accept the Guideline because its criteria for recognition were established based on the “probability of causation,” a statistical value representing the attribution of A-bomb radiation to the development of a particular disease, derived from epidemiological studies based only on the initial radiation, and such criteria are mechanically applied to the screening process. The wrongness of the Guideline has already been pointed out by the decision of the six district courts.

These are the reasons why we demand the repeal of the present Guideline, which disregards the residual radioactivity and internal exposure from it. We cannot but conclude that the Guideline was created with an intention to underestimate the A-bomb damage.

5. How to estimate the effects of the residual radioactivity

Now, is it possible to estimate the effects of the residual radioactivity quantitatively (or numerically)? You can say it's almost impossible. The U.S. government, which dropped the atomic bombs, and also the Japanese government have not conducted any systematic studies. In fact, the U.S. denied the effects of residual radiation and even prohibited investigating it, which was revealed recently from official U.S. documents.

An officer of the Ministry of Health once said, “The effects of residual radiation are inestimable, therefore, we cannot give official recognition as A-bomb diseases to the illnesses allegedly caused by residual radiation”. How can we accept this? If you can't make a quantitative estimation, qualitative evaluation (or estimation from overall circumstances) will be necessary.

At the six district courts where the decisions have been made so far, the judges ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, recognizing the complicated impacts of residual radiation by listening to the plaintiffs' claims and the testimonies of many scientists both sides offered, and by watching visual images that showed the actual conditions

of the A-bomb damage.

In the course of recognition, if the change in the health condition before and after the exposure, the change of the conditions to date, and the present clinical conditions of the applicants are considered comprehensively, many cases of application that the Health Ministry has rejected will be recognized as A-bomb diseases.

The U.S. government enacted a compensation law for veterans who stayed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki after September 1945, and compensated them for 21 types of cancer.

For more simplified new recognition criteria based on today's level of radiology, Hidankyo urges the government to set by ordinance a list of injuries or illness as “diseases to be recognized as caused by A-bombs”, and request the Minister of Health to recognize the Hibakusha's illness without screening, if the applicant is suffering from those diseases and is in a condition to require medical treatment.

6. Conclusion

As the basic premise of the discussion on what kind of recognition criterion is necessary and how the recognition process should be, we ask the government to take the position that the State is responsible for giving relief to the victims, since the atomic illness is a damage caused by the A-bombs used in the war. Hibakusha are demanding State compensation for the A-bomb damages. We have conducted campaigns to have the government establish a Hibakusha aid law based on the principle of State compensation. In the past, such a bill opposition parties submitted was once passed in the Upper House, but was finally rejected by the government and the Liberal Democratic Party. Within the existing legal framework, an “A-bomb disease recognition system” is the only one through which the State admits the damage as caused by the atomic bombs.

Therefore, the Hibakusha who have many kinds of diseases or suffer serious illness want the government to recognize that their illness stems from the A-bombs.

Allow me to repeat our request: Upon revising and improving the recognition system, I would very much like you to learn the actual conditions of the A-bomb damage, and strongly hope that the members of the committee visit the A-bomb museums once again. Also, as Health Minister Masuzoe promised, responding to the recommendation of the LDP subcommittee, I would like to ask you to approve, by the end of 2007, the proposed revision that we seek and which is supported by all political parties. This concludes my requests on behalf of Nihon Hidankyo. Thank you.

Statement of the Hibakusha Before the Commission Regarding the A-Bomb Disease Recognition System

September 28, 2007

KAI Akira, Hibakusha

Plaintiff, Aichi Hibakusha Lawsuit for the Recognition of A-Bomb Disease

My name is KAI Akira, one of the Hibakusha plaintiffs of the lawsuit filed at the Aichi District Court. Since I had a surgery to remove thyroid lymphoma, you may have difficulty in hearing me. So, please excuse me if I am not articulate enough.

1. On August 6 of 1945, I was at Onoura, Hiroshima. I was 18 and a trainee of the Navy's Submarine School. At 8:15 in the morning that day, we saw an enormous flash of light and heard the sound of the blast even as far as 20 kilometers from Hiroshima city.

Soon after, we were told that the city had been bombarded and were ordered to go into the city to join the rescue effort. We got on a truck to the Koi Railway Station, then walked along the city tram rail track and arrived at the city center by the afternoon of that day. For the next 2 days, until the late afternoon of August 7, we did such works as the removal of rubble, guarding of a bank and the disposal of a number of dead bodies. No one was alive in the central part of the city, where we toiled on in the midst of scorching ground heat that had been generated by the fire. I saw rows after rows of charred corpses and many severely injured people; their flesh and skin peeled off and dangling from their bodies and there were injured people with eyes popped out. Words can never reconstruct the scene but it still brings me to tears every time I recall it.

We returned to Onoura on the night of August 7 and from the next day until the 14th we did more rescue work at Onoura Primary School. We treated victims who had been carried from Hiroshima on trucks. We changed the bandages for those who were unable to move because of the burns and injuries, took off the maggots breeding out of the wounds, and took care of human waste. We also recovered many corpses, which had been drifted to the Onoura Port from Hiroshima, and burned them in the paddy field. They were many, and I am not talking about just one hundred or two hundreds of bodies.

2. It was from about this time when I started to feel sick. I began having diarrhea on the night of 6th, the day I went into the city. To quench thirst, I did drink the filthy water of the river where corpses were floating, but had not eaten a thing. I suffered watery diarrhea that struck me several times per hour and then found blood in it late in the evening. That did not stop the next day and continued even after I was discharged from the navy.

While in Onoura, I bled from the gums and lost what was left of my very short-shaven hair.

I was not the only one who was feeling ill. We soon learned that we all were suffering from the same problem

through our frequent encounters at the toilet. Of some 50 classmates, 25 students, including myself, who had gone to Hiroshima, and some others who had not were suffering from diarrhea. I also found that some civilians who had come to Onoura to join the rescue effort were having the same symptoms. When we reported to the senior officer that we were having a group infection of diarrhea, he said he too was suffering from it.

This was followed by fatigue, which I initially thought was from the extreme hard work. We did continue to work our head off since we had our orders. But the fatigue never went away even after my discharge from the military, and indeed continued for the rest of my life.

3. After my return to my hometown in Fukui Prefecture, I started to contract various kinds of illnesses.

I had 13 operations on lymphoma of the neck from 1949. I was always feeling sick from sluggishness, fever and buzzing in the ear, and finally I contracted malignant lymphoma of the thyroid.

I've suffered from a constant state of sickness, and was frustrated for not being able to stay for long in hard-earned jobs. I cannot imagine how much trouble and anxiety were caused to my family.

In my Submarine School days, I was so well that I did not even get a cold. Stout as I was, I had a waist of 100 cm and weighed 100 kilograms. I had physical strength from having built myself with Judo and other sports and gone through tough military trainings. Those 2 days of work in Hiroshima on August 6th and 7th turned this healthy, strong young man to a feeble sick person, unable to do normal, regular work. If this is not because of the atomic bomb, I want somebody to tell me what it is.

4. As you see, I am a so-called entrant Hibakusha, who entered the ruined city after the atomic bomb exploded.

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare insists that the entrant Hibakusha like me were not exposed to a considerable amount of radiation at all, and even if we were, the amount was negligible and could not have caused any major damage. Are they saying that we have been lying about the ill-condition of us entrant Hibakusha?

The Ministry people also insist that the diarrhea was caused by bad hygienic conditions of the time and we lost our hair due to the psychological stress. These remarks trample on our feelings more than anything.

After my discharge, I went back to my hometown in Fukui, which was also destroyed by air raids. Under the bad sanitary conditions, air-raid victims were exposed to various kinds of stress. However, there were no cases of

widespread diarrhea or depilation like Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

5. I had long wanted to get an official recognition that my sickness was related to the A-bomb.

But I was told to find two witnesses who could testify that I was A-bombed, in order to get a Hibakusha certificate. Many times I asked the Ministry of Health for help to inquire of my classmates of the naval submarine school, but they did not deal with me at all, saying that there was no such submarine school of the Navy. Luckily I was able to find two witnesses through a newspaper article I obtained by chance. It was only after fifty years that I finally obtained a Hibakusha certificate.

Then I promptly applied for the A-bomb disease recognition. Even though I waited for as long as five years, my application was rejected. This is the reason why I went to court as the first plaintiff Hibakusha in the collective lawsuits against the Japanese government.

And in January 2007, Nagoya District Court handed down the decision ordering the government to recognize me as an A-bomb disease patient. But the government appealed the case, so I still have to continue fighting against them.

6. As then Prime Minister Abe ordered a review of the standard for official recognition for A-bomb disease, the Ministry of Health established a commission regarding A-bomb recognition disease recognition.

Being here on the first day of the commission meeting fills me, who was not recognized either Hibakusha or A-bomb disease patient for many years, with emotion, and I also have great expectations.

In launching this commission, I ask you to face and fully understand what actually happened to the Hibakusha. I really want you to know that even the Hibakusha like me, who were not in Hiroshima at the time of explosion but entered the city after the bombing, were affected by the A-bomb and have had great suffering physically and mentally.

In spite of the statement of the government to the contrary, the rulings on the six collective lawsuits affirmed that the claims of the government were wrong.

The effects of the A-bomb on the Hibakusha have been far more serious than the government has insisted. I hope that the A-bomb disease acknowledgment system will be revised so that Hibakusha who contract the diseases that can be attributable to the effects of the A-bombing will be recognized swiftly as A-bomb disease patients.

The Japanese government has disappointed me many times over the A-bombing, but I appeal to it one thing: Please do not leave Hibakusha to die bearing a grudge against the government. I sincerely request that you commit yourselves to revising the A-bomb diseases acknowledgment system to reflect the real situation of the Hibakusha.

Thank you for giving this valuable opportunity today.



Hibakusha in protest action encircling the Health Ministry's building (December 2007)

Written Opinion of the Legal Counsel to the Commission Regarding the A-bomb Disease Recognition System

September 28, 2007

MIYAHARA Tetsuo, Lawyer

Secretary General, National Liaison of Legal Counsel of the A-bomb Disease Recognition Lawsuits

1. How the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry have disregarded the realities of the A-bomb destruction

The screening process of the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry for the official recognition of illnesses of victims of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki has been dismissive of the realities of the damage they incurred by the bombing. That tendency has worsened since the start of the new screening process put in place with the adoption of the Guideline for Screening of A-bomb Disease (hereafter referred to as Guideline) on May 25, 2001. In short, the Working Group on the Medical Issues of A-Bomb Victims (referred to as Medical Working Group hereafter), in charge of the screening has been adamant in refusing to face the lasting killing and tormenting effects of the weapons to this day, not to mention their instant and immediate destructive power.

The argument that the government and the Health Ministry have presented in the courtrooms is no different from that of the Medical Working Group in terms of the constant sophistic dismissal of the human suffering.

But the Ministry's screening process and the evidence it provided in the lawsuits have been sharply criticized in one ruling after another, details of which are explored in the following paper.

2. The legal opinion on the government's screening is solid and well-established

2-1. Present situation of the collective A-bomb lawsuits

The first round of the lawsuits against the Ministry of Health and Welfare for its failure to recognize survivors' diseases as A-bomb induced were collectively filed 4 years ago, between April and September 2003, under the initiative of the national organization of A-bomb victims (Japan Confederation of A and H Bomb Suffers Organizations, or Nihon Hidankyo). Today, 283 Hibakusha plaintiffs are involved in the court struggle in 21 cases (15 cases being heard at the district court level and 6 at higher courts in 17 different prefectures). 36 of the plaintiffs have since passed away. The plaintiffs include those Hibakusha who entered the cities of Hiroshima or Nagasaki soon after the bombing, or Entrant Hibakusha*, and who were exposed to the bomb at far distances, or Distal Hibakusha**.

Note: The definition here is not strictly the same as the legal definition:

*Entrant Hibakusha: Hibakusha who were at far distances from the hypocenter at the time of the bombing: for instance, military personnel who had been stationed in the suburbs and entered Hiroshima/Nagasaki at the behest of military for rescue efforts, or family members/relatives of the victims who

entered the cities in search of their family members.

** Distal Hibakusha: Hibakusha who were at far distances from the hypocenter at the time of the bombing: for instance, those who were exposed to the bomb at 2 kilometers from ground zero.

2-2. The development since the Supreme Court ruling on the Nagasaki Matsuya lawsuit

The biggest drive for initiating the collective lawsuits was the favorable ruling the Supreme Court rendered on the case of a Nagasaki Hibakusha, Ms. MATSUYA Hideko, in July 2000.

Matsuya was at 2.45 kilometers from ground zero when the bomb exploded. That is, she was a distal Hibakusha who fell in the category of Hibakusha whose illnesses the Health Ministry still does not recognize as having been caused by A-bomb radiation. And the diseases that Matsuya had applied for the official recognition, which were turned down, were "paralysis on the right side of the body and head injury."

That the injuries Matsuya had applied for recognition were not malignant tumors and that she was at 2.45 kilometers from ground zero were the conditions that immediately disqualified her for the state recognition. Despite the fact that the Supreme Court then ruled in favor of Matsuya's case, the present Guideline was worked out in defiance of the ruling and is being put into practice.

In November of the same year (2000), the Osaka High Court followed the Supreme Court ruling on the Matsuya case and handed down a similarly favorable ruling on another Hibakusha case of Mr. KONISHI Takeo (a resident of Kyoto who had suffered from leukopenia). Another similar ruling was handed down on the case of Mr. AZUMA Kazuo (who had suffered from hepatitis C as a result of a viral infection) by the Tokyo High Court in March 2005. In both cases, the Health Ministry gave up on appealing to the highest court.

It has been 13 consecutive losses for the government in the Hibakusha cases: 3 times on the Nagasaki Matsuya lawsuit; 2 times on the Kyoto Konishi lawsuit; 2 times on the Tokyo Azuma lawsuit; and one each on the ongoing collective lawsuits in the districts of Kinki (Osaka), Hiroshima, Nagoya, Sendai, Tokyo and Kumamoto.

The legal opinions on these cases are firmly established.

2-3. The diseases Hidankyo demands to be officially recognized as caused by the atomic bombing

In its "Demand to the Japanese Government in Reviewing the A-bomb Disease Recognition System"

recently (on September 20, 2007) presented to the government on the occasion of the decision to review the A-bomb disease screening process, Hidankyo identified 9 particular diseases to be recognized as A-bomb induced. They are the ones that are derived from elaborate studies on diseases that had been applied for recognition by the Hibakusha plaintiffs and subsequently confirmed by the courts as to qualify for such recognition. They are the conclusion of the comprehensive study conducted on the judicial confirmation and the findings that such institutions as the Radiation Effects Research Foundation have publicized.

3. The Health Ministry's argument is debunked on all counts and rejected by a court of law

The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare has put forward a variety of arguments to justify its screening Guideline. Every single one of them, however, has been proven false and rejected by a court of law. I would like to elaborate on this point in line with the court rulings since this is what has mainly led to the decision to review the Guideline and what corroborates Hidankyo's demands.

3-1. Legal notion on the "high probability of causation"

On what is required for the official recognition of A-bomb diseases, the Health Ministry has publicly stated and presented in its litigation arguments that "there must be a precise judgment, in screening A-bomb diseases, derived from highly specialized findings of nuclear physics, radiology, epidemiology, pathology, clinical medicine and other related science since the Supreme Court finding states that there needs to be a high probability of causation between a disease and A-bomb radiation, which is a requirement for the official recognition of such disease." This argument, however, is patently wrong in its interpretation of the said court ruling.

Let me first quote in full the court's finding on the high probability of causation in the Nagasaki Matsuya Lawsuit, which is what the Ministry referred to:

"To prove the causation (between the contested diseases and A-bomb radiation) is not to corroborate it with every single aspect of science without leaving any question but to prove a high probability of causation that could affirm the relation between specific events and specific results through comprehensive examination of all evidence based on empirical rules. And such conclusion would need to be credible enough to be accepted in terms of common sense, and that will suffice as a conclusion (emphasis added).

The Ministry is distorting the intention of the ruling when it misrepresents the phrase of "to prove a high probability of causation" out of context. The court did not ask for scientifically rigorous findings in proving the cause of A-bomb disease. The court said that such causation should be determined through accumulation of such implicit evidence as acute symptoms the victim suffered after the exposure and the consequent deterioration of his/her physical condition and with the

use of empirically derived common sense.

3-2. The practical application of the idea of "high probability" of causation in the Matsuya case

Ms. MATSUYA Hideko was exposed to the bomb at 2.45 kilometers from ground zero. A rigorous application of the Ministry's guideline or the DS86 would scarcely recognize Matsuya's exposure to any doses of radiation, and therefore the causation between her diseases and the radiation would be flatly denied. In spite of that, the Supreme Court affirmed the causation as follows:

"The DS86, too, is an estimated value with still unanswered questions and that it is under ongoing review process is recognized in this court of law. Therefore, it is considered that a machinelike application of the DS86 and the threshold theory cannot fully explain distal Hibakusha loss of hair; a fact clearly found by studies, including ones conducted by the Health Ministry. For instance, depilation, a typical acute radiation symptom, was found among people who were in areas where such symptom was not supposed to happen according to the mechanical application of the DS86 and the threshold theory. The court is compelled to question the Ministry's definite affirmation that a majority of such cases were caused by reasons other than radiation, such as malnutrition or psychogenic factors."

In addition to that the court ruled as follows:

"With that in mind and in light of the situation under which Ms. Matsuya was exposed to the bomb, her consequent physical condition and the realities of other Nagasaki distal Hibakusha, and especially the actual deterioration of her brain injury, which cannot be explained by the physical stroke alone, and her actual loss of hair, though the initial cause of her brain injury was caused by the blow of a roof tile, which had been blown off by the bomb blast, the injury did deteriorate seriously because of her significant exposure to the radiation and is in fact in need of medical care for its severity as a result of the degradation of her natural healing ability caused by her exposure to radiation. That is, it is possible to conclude that the injury is attributable to the radiation, and it cannot be declared that such conclusion is not empirically allowed." The court ruled that scientifically rigorous proof is not necessary but the use of common sense is enough to satisfy the causation criterion.

This interpretation of the "high probability" has since been adopted in all of the following Hibakusha legal cases, resulting in victories for a number of Hibakusha plaintiffs.

3-3. Why the Ministry's "scientific" argument is wrong

The Health Ministry explains that high-level knowledge on medicine and radiology is required in determining the radiation factor because the diseases applied for recognition are cancer, cataracts and other illnesses that could also be contracted under normal circumstances merely by the aging process.

With regard to scientific findings, OKUBO Toshiteru, Chairman of the RERF underlined the unexplained

effects of A-bomb radiation in an interview he did with Chugoku Shimbun (dated August 6, 2006). In the article entitled "Radiation effects, still half-way from full understanding", Okubo said, "What we have come to understand today about the late effects of radiation may be as little as about 5 % of the whole picture", and "if there is a time when a final conclusion could be drawn, that would be when the follow-up study on the target Hibakusha population, of which about 40% are still alive, is completed."

As we can see from his opinion, to require Hibakusha to show sophisticated scientific evidence when the science is still far from perfection is to ask the impossible. As I will point out later, this idea is also incompatible with the purpose of the present Hibakusha Aid Law, whose intent is to "provide comprehensive support measures, from medical insurance, medicine and welfare, to the aging Hibakusha."

The Tokyo District Court pointed out about this problem in its ruling by stating, "since there is a limitation in scientific findings, the rigorous requirement of scientific evidence on the part of Hibakusha is incompatible with the law whose purpose is relief for the Hibakusha."

3-4. DS86: The matters in dispute

The Ministry argues that the controversial points of the DS86 posed by the ruling in the Matsuya case are an already settled issue. This too is clearly wrong.

I would like to quote rulings of the Tokyo and Hiroshima District Courts in the Hibakusha cases.

The Tokyo District Court found that, "the theoretical calculation of the DS86 is a hypothesis derived from simulations conducted based on certain assumptions. As such, the general reasonableness of the method does not immediately justify the conclusion derived from its implementation. *Validity of the method should be determined by the level of compatibility of the calculated results with the realities of A-bomb damage or by how well the results reasonably explain Hibakusha's actual illnesses.* From such a point of view, some of the questions against the DS86 posed by the plaintiffs are understandable, so that *this court cannot accept the defendant's argument for the absolute righteousness of the DS86.*"

The Hiroshima District Court ruled as follows:

"Despite the DS86 extreme low estimates on radiation doses, the existence of a numerous number of people who showed what are understood to be acute radiation symptoms (is widely recognized in official documents). Therefore, it should be concluded that the initial radiation dose (direct exposure to the bombing) derived from the DS86 is not the only factor that affected the Hibakusha's health." It went on to state that, "*the estimated radiation dose derived in accordance with the Guideline for Screening should be understood only as the tentative, minimum guide.*"

A similar finding is seen in the ruling in the Kumamoto case rendered on July 30, 2007.

3-5. Broad scope of effects of radioactive fallout

With regard to the level of radioactive fallout, the Health Ministry argues that the levels of radioactive fallout are extremely insignificant in areas other than Koi and Takasu in Hiroshima and Nishiyama in Nagasaki, where the measurement found comparatively significant amounts of radiation due to the heavy rainfall after the bombing.

This point of argument is also refuted in the Tokyo District Court ruling. It states:

"The estimated levels of external initial radiation doses are what mainly compose the DS86 report, and the report spares only one chapter on the residual radiation" and that even that chapter admits that "in both Hiroshima and Nagasaki...not enough measurements were done with regard to the level of induced radiation and radioactive fallout. It was only on September 17, 1945, after the passing of a major typhoon, when a somewhat thorough study was conducted on this subject."

3-6. Internal exposure to radiation

The Ministry argues that the effects of internal exposure to radiation are insignificant enough to be dismissed.

On this point, the Tokyo District Court ruled:

"With regard to the effect of internal exposure, effects of alpha rays, other than those of gamma and neutron, and their serious effects in comparison to external exposure as a result of its extreme proximity to human body cannot be theoretically denied."

The Osaka District Court ruled that the finding on the mechanism that radioactive nuclides, when taken into a body through breathing, eating, drinking or other means, continuously expose certain parts of the body to radiation through such processes as condensation is corroborated by scientific evidence.

3-7. Meaning of Hibakusha's acute radiation symptoms

The Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry insists on its estimated radiation doses, according to which acute symptoms appear with the radiation dose of 1 gray, depilation with 3 grays and diarrhea with 5 grays. Based on those numeric values, the Ministry denies the effect of A-bomb radiation on such acute symptoms widely seen among Hibakusha as depilation, diarrhea, purple spots (ecchymosis), and bleeding from the gums. Such distorted understanding of the reality has caused great anger among Hibakusha.

This line of argument, however, is not even slightly different from the one that the former Health and Welfare Ministry put forward in the Matsuya case, which was manifestly refuted in the ruling as described, and has been dismissed in all of the following Hibakusha lawsuits.

The Tokyo District Court ruling explains fully well the fallacy of such a rationale.

"*In light of a number of studies on Hibakusha, it should be said that it is substantially reasonable to affirm the existence of acute radiation symptoms caused by radiation both among distal and entrant Hibakusha groups.* This

conclusion is not in agreement with the estimation of the DS86. In light of the questions posed against the dosimetry system, it is rather highly-likely that disagreement is caused by the problems of the system itself. *To say the least, the denial of the radiation factor in the acute radiation symptoms found among the victims based on the DS86 must be a formidably difficult practice. In determining the radiation cause, one needs to keep in mind the actual cases of radiation-related acute symptoms among distal and entrant Hibakusha, and therefore there actually exists a significant number of victims exposed to A-bomb radiation among the Hibakusha groups.*"

3-8. Rationale for probability of causation is denied

As I have described, the rationale for the probability of causation theory based on the DS86 and others has been strongly questioned by a number of judges. Since the probability of causation is the theoretical grounds on which the ongoing governmental review is being conducted, questioning it would mean to point out the very problems of the review's guideline itself.

The Tokyo District Court ruled:

"...the probability of causation is essentially what indicates a tendency of a group as a whole and *is not a concept that demonstrates the existence or non-existence of radiation factor in individual cases.*"

The Hiroshima ruling stated:

"Since the probability of causation has limitations and flaws, including that it does not fully take into account the aspect of external exposure to residual radiation and internal exposure, *it should be used simply as a temporary guide...*there must be a case-by-case examination of the plaintiffs' illnesses in determining the radiation factor.

The Kumamoto ruling rendered on July 30 (2007), the latest one on the Hibakusha cases, stated:

"...*the probability of causation (contributing risk) used in the screening process is merely one of the many factors* to be examined in finding a high probability that radiation has caused the diseases, which were applied for official recognition. *A higher probability may provide a stronger case in assuming and affirming the "high probability of causation", but that does not deny a possible high probability that a lower dose may have caused the illnesses.*"

3-9. The fundamental reasoning is shared by all the court rulings

In appealing the Tokyo and Sendai cases to the high court, the Ministry criticized the 6 district court rulings by saying that "they are different from each other." (The Ministry's press release.) This is not correct. Each of the rulings is unique in some parts but their fundamental reasoning is in complete accordance with each other.

a) The rulings recognize not only cancers but also other wide range non-cancerous diseases as A-bomb induced. As to the diseases for which there is no established probability, the rulings recognize them as A-bomb related in light of the limitation in medical and epidemiological understanding at the time of the making

of the guideline and because the probability is merely one of the determining factors.

b) With regard to the limitation of the DS86, all of the rulings are in agreement on one point: the only values the dosimetry system could relatively calculate with some accuracy are initial radiation doses (direct exposure to the bombing). In other words, the rulings are in favor of factoring in the internal and external exposure to residual radiation as a scientifically reasonable argument.

c) The rulings are in agreement on the actual radiation effects on entrant and distal Hibakusha in light of their internal/external exposure to residual radiation.

d) The rulings recognize the importance of the acute radiation symptoms found in entrant and distal Hibakusha groups in determining the fact of radiation exposure and the level of exposure.

e) The rulings point out that the regional areas that suffered the radioactive fallout are greater than officially recognized, which include areas other than Koi and Takasu districts in the case of Hiroshima.

f) The court rulings also agree on the point that due to the limitation of having derived from epidemiology, statistics and medicine and the analysis method of the time and due to excluding the factor of external/internal exposure to residual radiation, the probability of causation "is no more than one of the many factors to be considered" and "is only a temporary guide in a certain period in the past for judging a tendency how radiation causes illnesses." They also agree on refusing the mechanical application of the DS86 for its inaccuracy.

4. The Health Ministry's complete dismissal of the judicial rulings and the development in the legislature

The Health Ministry has no intention to heed public opinion and the strong judgments in favor of the Hibakusha cases. This recalcitrant attitude has made some politicians judge that the Ministry has lost rational decision-making capability, or is "in a state of cerebral shutdown", therefore unable to take action toward a political solution of the problem. Diet members across the political spectrum have come to recognize possible negligence of legislative duty if they continued to leave the gap between the judicial and the administrative branches unaddressed.

It was against such a backdrop that the former prime minister ABE Shinzo, on August 5, 2007, the day before the Hiroshima Day, publicly stated that he would consider reviewing the present criteria for A-bomb disease recognition at a meeting with Hibakusha. In addition to a number of Hibakusha, those present were the then Health Minister, the Mayor of Hiroshima and Diet members from various parties. Abe also said that he would firmly address the issue of Hibakusha suffering and ensure a study for possible state measures in light of the aging of Hibakusha.

In response to the statement, the Ad-hoc Committee on Measures for Hibakusha was set within the Health and Labor Committee of the Liberal Democratic Party's Political Research Council. On August 30, the committee made the following recommendations: To do

away with the screening Guideline; Recognition of diseases as A-bomb induced if the patients who were in a certain area showed typical radiation symptoms unless definitely proved otherwise; and Establishment of a neutral body, in replacement of the Health Ministry's Working Group, which would include representatives of Hibakusha and intellectuals with knowledge on residual radiation and other related issues. Now, the ruling parties' project team, which includes the Komei party, that succeeded the ad-hoc committee, is working for a conclusion to be issued as early as early December this year (2007).

5. The reality of the screening process of the Medical Working Group and its unfair practice

5-1. Unfairness and lack of criticism

The Health Ministry has made somewhat negative comments on the promised reviewing of the Working Group. Half of the purpose of the review would become meaningless if the review is not done.

What needs to be clarified first of all is that the controversial Guideline for Screening that clearly is a violation of the Supreme Court ruling, came into being with the approval of this medical working group. And the group has not even slightly addressed the problem in spite of the 6 court rulings. It has been engaging in business as usual with no change to the screening process, continuing to dismiss and reject Hibakusha's applications.

This is a clear indication of group members' inability to sincerely accept or understand the new findings on radiation effects, which have been demonstrated in the court.

In the AZUMA case, both the Tokyo District Court and the High Court (whose ruling is final since the Health Ministry did not appeal) affirmed the radiation cause in Azuma's hepatitis C. In spite of that, the Working Group approved the screening criteria that denied the radiation factor in the disease. And the basis of the denial was the Toda Report, compiled by a researchers' group led by TODA Gotaro. Toda testified and presented written opinions in the hearings of the Azuma case, but neither the testimony nor the opinion was supported by the courts. Such is the nature of the very report, and the Working Group adopted it in consensus without any kind of dissent to it.

5-2. Reality of the screening process

The Medical Working Group's screening is a formal process done based on the probability of causation alone. The average time the group spends on screening an application is about 4 minutes. How each Hibakusha was exposed to the bomb is different from the others and the distance from ground zero, i.e. the direct exposure to the bomb's initial radiation, is not the only determining factor for human physical damage. Also, despite the fact that the A-bomb radiation has done harm to the human body in various ways, not a few radiation-induced diseases are excluded from the Guideline list. It is against all of these facts and realities that the group members mechanically screen applicants solely based on

the estimated radiation dose and the illness list in total disregard of the very application documents with actual information on the applicant's symptoms at the time of the bombing and the consequent and present suffering. Such routine work is what has been strongly rebuked in a number of court rulings.

To our astonishment, it has been revealed through the court hearings that until a certain period of time the Health Ministry's office in charge of the Working Group created a paper with their own assessment with A to D rating on each applicant and circulated it to the members in the Group.

5-3. The necessity of doing away with the current Medical Working Group

Therefore, as the LDP's ad-hoc committee recommended, we believe the necessity of establishing a neutral screening body, which includes representatives of Hibakusha and intellectuals with reasonable knowledge on residual radiation and other related issues in place of the present Medical Working Group is indisputable.

6. Conclusion: The purpose and aim of the Hibakusha Aid Law must be respected and the recognition system must be reviewed in accordance with the court rulings

Let me quote the preamble of the 1994 Hibakusha Aid Law.

"The atomic bombs, weapons with unparalleled destructive power and nature, dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, caused life-long injuries and after effects and a life of anxiety to the survivors, not to mention the instant death to a numerous number of people.

For the maintenance and improvement of health and welfare of victims who suffer from effects of A-bomb radiation, various measures on medical allowance, special medical care and others have been provided with the enactment of the medical act and special measures act for the A-bomb victims.

On the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing, with a renewed commitment to the ultimate abolition of nuclear weapons and prayer for eternal peace to ensure prevention of another scourge of atomic bombing, and in light of the fact that the health damage caused by the A-bomb radiation is distinct from other war-related damage, *we provide the aging Hibakusha, under state responsibility, with comprehensive relief measures on medical insurance, medicine and social welfare.*"

That the screening should be conducted based on the purpose of the Hibakusha Aid Law has been clearly affirmed in the Nagasaki Matsuya case and the number of following court rulings as elaborated above.

I call on the members of the review committee to use the purpose and aim of the Aid Law and their benchmark set by the court rulings as a guide in examining new criteria for the recognition of A-bomb disease instead of abusing the impersonal absolutism of science or grounding your recommendation on the incorrect interpretation of the court rulings.

For a Peaceful and Just World Set Free of Nuclear Weapons: Looking to 2010, Let Us Further Anti-Nuclear Peace Opinion and Grass-Roots Actions

Introduction:

Now that the 8th year of the 21st century has begun, we are witnessing a rapid increase in the number of people and movements calling for an end to the threat posed to the survival of humanity, to peace, safety and people's livelihoods by unlawful wars, the nuclear threat, destruction of the environment, unbridled financial rules and a growing income disparity.

Governments that joined the attack on Iraq have lost the people's support. At the Bali Conference on Climate Change, the reluctant attitude of the USA and Japan faced criticism and deepened their isolation.

The efforts to achieve the abolition of nuclear weapons have shown broader outreach and strong development. At the United Nations General Assembly in 2007, the USA voted obstructively on all resolutions for disarmament, ranging from nuclear weapons to small arms. This attitude found the U.S. miserably isolated. Furthermore, calls for a "nuclear weapon-free world" have been raised even from many individuals who once engaged as pivots in the nuclear policies of the USA and UK.

It is clear that the world of the 21st century is no longer one in which the "order of power" and making nuclear threats carry weight. The only solution to the issue of nuclear weapons, including that of nuclear proliferation, is a total ban on nuclear weapons, which has become the opinion of the overwhelming majority of the world's people.

Looking to the 2010 NPT Review Conference, toward which the implementation of the "unequivocal undertaking" of abolishing nuclear weapons is urged, NGOs of the world as well as national and local governments have made a strong determination to create a great surge of public opinion with a view to realizing a nuclear weapon-free and peaceful world. Playing a major role in the anti-nuclear movement of the people of Japan, the only country that suffered nuclear ravages, Gensuikyo has contributed to the advance of the abolition of nuclear weapons for half a century even under the danger of nuclear catastrophe and backward moves against this cause. However, further display of its strength is expected of us. Let us make a fresh determination to radically develop public opinion and movements for the abolition of nuclear weapons, centering on the activity of raising public awareness in Japan and internationally of the damage of the atomic bombing.

I. Harm of Unilateralism and Strong Current in Favor of Abolition of Nuclear Weapons

With "terrorism" and the "proliferation of weapons of mass destruction" as excuses, the Bush administration has imposed the "order of power" on the world with nuclear threats and military might. This policy has reached an impasse all over the world.

Even nearly 5 years after the military attacks on Iraq were launched in total disregard of international law and the opposition of the world, peace and stability have not been brought there; on the contrary, enormous sacrifice and confusion have continued to increase. The forces that unleashed this criminal war were faced with strong criticism from the peoples of the world. Those in Spain and Italy were driven out of power in 2004 and 2005 respectively. In the US midterm election in 2006, those who served as cheerleaders of the war lost their majority in the Congress. This trend keeps advancing: Last year, UK Prime Minister Blair was forced to resign and the Australian Howard conservative government suffered a severe defeat in the general election in November.

The Bush administration has called for a worldwide encircling of Iran on the pretext of "nuclear suspicion" while making military threats, including nuclear ones. On this question, too, military response on the pretext of nuclear "proliferation" has failed as the US intelligence agencies reached a conclusion last December that Iran had already abandoned a nuclear weapons development program in 2003.

On the other hand, the US has justified its nuclear arms with the danger of terrorism and nuclear proliferation as excuses, and has forced the development of a new generation of nuclear weapons and the missile defense system. This attitude has invited criticism from around the world and increased voices for the abolition of nuclear weapons, inducing tension with other nuclear weapon states and motivating non-nuclear weapon states to acquire nuclear weapons.

A resolution calling on Nuclear Weapon States to decrease the operational readiness of nuclear weapons systems was submitted for the first time to the UNGA last December. It got support from 139 countries, including Germany and Italy where US nuclear weapons are deployed. Only the US, UK and France opposed it. Of resolutions concerning nuclear disarmament which were put to a vote together, those of the New Agenda Coalition and the Non-Aligned Movement calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons, the implementation of the 13 steps agreed upon in the 2000 NPT Review Conference, and the early commencement of negotiations leading to the elimination of nuclear weapons, got more

support than last year, while those which only the US opposed numbered 7, such as those calling for an early entry into force of the CTBT and the convening of the 4th UN Special Session on Disarmament (SSDIV).

Even in the US, where the presidential election campaign is going on, momentum in favor of the abolition of nuclear weapons is increasing. In January 2007, even former National Advisor Henry Kissinger and other 3 US former officials called on nuclear weapon states to make a "nuclear weapon-free world" a common goal and to take action to this end, which got support from senior members of other governments, including the then Foreign Minister Beckett of the UK. Their second "call", published on January 15, 2008, announced that it had gained support from a number of senior members of successive administrations since the Kennedy era in the 1960s such as presidential advisors, and Secretaries of State and Defense.

Taking advantage of the enhancing effect that support for the abolition of nuclear weapons has engendered, anti-nuclear movements of the world have strengthened initiatives to develop movements and build up public opinion toward the 2010 NPT Review Conference. This includes the effort of US movements to urge the candidates of the presidential election to pledge to work for the abolition of nuclear weapons, the development of signature campaigns and the holding of the "Global Summit for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World" (by CND on Feb. 16 and 17, 2008).

All our energy should be devoted to building up overwhelming public opinion in favor of the abolition of nuclear weapons enough to thoroughly isolate pro-nuclear weapon advocacy to ensure that the next NPT Review Conference opens up a path to the elimination of nuclear weapons, without allowing such a rupture as we witnessed in 2005.

II For a Japan Free of the " Nuclear Umbrella" based on the Three Non-Nuclear Principles and Article 9

The Liberal Democratic Party and the Komei Party suffered a severe setback in the House of Councillors election last July, and the resignation of the Abe cabinet followed in September. Against the backdrop of these events was the people's strong criticism for the LDP-Komei politics, which was not limited to their political corruption and misgovernment. This criticism was cast on their rush to follow the US hegemonism, reinforcing the Japan-US military alliance, attempting to revise the Constitution and widening the people's economic disparity under the thumb of monopoly giants, which showed the failure of their old political framework.

The loss of a majority by the ruling parties in the House of Councilors made them unable to carry everything through with the strength of numbers, producing new results: The Iraq Special Measures Law was scrapped and the New Anti-Terrorism Special Measures bill was killed as well. Increasing criticism of the people has made the Fukuda Government unable to take the same attitude as the Koizumi and Abe governments had taken, as shown in self-restraint of visiting Yasukuni Shrine and of revising the Constitution.

The government is now driven to review the standards of its official recognition system for A-bomb disease patients.

In a broad perspective, these changes show that we are in a new situation in which movements and the height of public opinion make it possible to create a historic turn in the course of Japan in the fields of peace and the abolition of nuclear weapons as well as the people's livelihood.

The Fukuda Cabinet, however, has followed LDP-Komei politics, as seen in basic policies of "nuclear umbrella", the reinforcement of US bases and the integration of the Self-Defense Forces into the US forces, continuing to take actions contrary to the international responsibility of a country that suffered the atomic bombing and has Article 9 in its Constitution.

In the disarmament discussion in the UNGA last autumn, the Japanese government took the same attitude as last year: It neither urged nuclear weapons states to implement the "unequivocal undertaking" to abolish nuclear weapons nor oppose the preemptive use of nuclear weapons and nuclear attacks and threats to non-nuclear weapons states; it dared to throw cold water on Malaysia's resolution advocating negotiations for the abolition of nuclear weapons, saying that it was premature.

Besides, the Japanese government has continued to send the SDF to Iraq where the US forces have illegally continued to control and kill the people. Regarding a "retaliatory" war against Afghanistan, the LDP-Komei parties railroaded the New Anti-Terrorism Special Measures bill, once killed in the Upper House, with the strength of their majority in spite of the people's strong opposition. On the other hand, there is also a dangerous move that the Democratic Party has presented to the Diet a permanent SDF overseas dispatch bill out of its desire to snuggle up to the USA.

In this context, in order to turn round Japan's course in the direction of freedom from nuclear weapons and peace, persistent efforts are vitally important. In particular, nationwide movements affiliated with Gensuikyo have to develop cooperation broadly and strengthen grass-root activities. In April 2007, Gensuikyo, together with the Association for a Non-Nuclear Government, called for, and with a wide range of prominent figures of various circles, launched a campaign to urge the Japanese government to make a "Declaration of a Nuclear Weapon-Free Japan". It has so far received endorsements from 335 heads of local governments and 248 speakers of municipal assemblies as well as supportive resolutions adopted by 130 local governments. A persistent fight is being carried on in various parts of Japan: A local people's movement to stop the plan of turning Yokosuka into the homeport of a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier, opposition to the reinforcement of US bases in Iwakuni, Zama and Okinawa; and efforts to urge local governments with ports to adopt the 33-year-long nuclear-free "Kobe Formula".

With the possibility of a general election, which will determine the future of Japan, and with the G8 summit planned in July, the attitude of the Japanese government will be questioned over war and peace, the abolition of

nuclear weapons, the people's livelihood and the course of Japan. While playing its international role of arousing public opinion in favor of the abolition of nuclear weapons, Gensuikyo has to make vigorous efforts from the grass-roots to build up a national consensus to establish a Japan that is free of the US "nuclear umbrella" and takes the lead in the abolition of nuclear weapons.

III 2008 Action Plan

Abolition of nuclear weapons is still an urgent and vital task for the survival of humankind. All nations, especially the nuclear weapon states, have responsibilities to implement immediately the "unequivocal undertaking to eliminate nuclear weapons," which nuclear weapon states themselves agreed on in May 2000. Japan Gensuikyo will call upon all anti-nuclear and peace movements, NGOs, local municipalities, governments of the world and global citizens to make a universal consensus on complete prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons toward the 2010 NPT Review Conference, which is the next important opportunity to press for the implementation of the "undertaking". For this purpose, Gensuikyo will propose and start consultations to launch an international joint campaign to achieve a "Nuclear Weapon-Free World".

Gensuikyo will urge the Japanese government to play a leading role for the abolition of nuclear weapons in good faith as the government of the only A-bombed country. At the same time, Gensuikyo will develop grass-roots movements and cooperation with a broad range of people, in order to make a Japan which will sincerely practice the Three Non-Nuclear Principles and respect Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, oppose the use of military force and nuclear threats, and make efforts to achieve world peace.

1. To develop public opinion and actions for a total ban on and elimination of nuclear weapons

1) "Global Action Campaign for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World": In order to make the 2010 NPT Review Conference agree on the course to achieve elimination of nuclear weapons, we propose a "Global Action Campaign for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World". Based on the tradition and lessons of the anti-A and H-bomb movement, this international joint action aims at developing grass-roots anti-nuclear opinion, with the "abolition of nuclear weapons" as the common task and a "signature campaign" and "A-bomb exhibitions" as the common form of actions. In this campaign, Japan Gensuikyo, as the movement of the world's only A-bombed nation, will work to build international cooperation, and especially to achieve consensus on nuclear weapons abolition among Japanese people of all generations.

While continuing to develop the "Swift Abolition" signature campaign all over the country, we take the opportunity of the 2008 World Conference to propose and launch a new signature campaign for submission to the next NPT Review Conference as the common action that can be conducted by everyone, everywhere and at any time.

We will call on national governments, local

authorities and NGOs to hold A-bomb exhibitions and seek joint sponsorship in diverse forms. Centering on August 6 and 9, and U.N. Disarmament Week, proposals should be made to local governments, public institutions, Hibakusha and citizens organizations to hold or co-organize A-bomb exhibitions and meetings to listen to the Hibakusha, thereby to raise public opinion for the abolition of nuclear arms and to inherit Hibakusha's experiences.

In order to develop this campaign as an international joint undertaking, Gensuikyo's proposal should be made known widely and consultations on the proposal should be promoted. In view of the date of the NPT Review Conference in May 2010, we will seek to hold actions in New York and world-wide grass-roots joint actions with the abolition of nuclear weapons as the common goal.

Toward the 2008 World Conference, we call for creative ways for campaigning, such as composing songs and designing posters to publicize the campaign. Planning should start immediately on the production and utilization of A-bomb photo-panel sets and other display exhibitions and audio-visual materials.

2) We will prepare for the "Global Summit for a Nuclear Weapons-Free World" organized by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (UK) (16 to 17 February, London), the second Preparatory Committee Meeting of the NPT Review Conference (April, Geneva), G8 Toyako Summit (July), and U.N. General Assembly (October), by sending delegations, issuing proposal statements and raising public opinions for our goal.

On the occasion of the G8 Toyako Summit, we will urge the Japanese Government to propose the abolition of nuclear weapons and seek to reach an agreement for this and implement it. The G8 Summit, where the heads of the nations with great power and influence on the global economy and politics will gather, has so far only sought "nuclear non-proliferation" instead of taking an initiative for nuclear disarmament and abolition. As the host country for the coming G8 Summit and the only nation that has experienced the A-bombs in the world, it is the duty of the Japanese Government to make a breakthrough in these existing challenges, and toward 2010 commit itself to achieving a nuclear weapon-free world.

In cooperation with other NGOs of the world, we will also request the Summit conference itself and participating governments to fulfill similar tasks. Working together with Hokkaido Gensuikyo and other organizations, we plan to hold an A-bomb exhibition and meeting to hear Hibakusha testimonies (June 20-21, Sapporo, Hokkaido).

3) Giving great importance to the monthly "6th and 9th Day Actions" as nationwide united actions to be carried out by all local Gensuikyos, we will expand the scope of the Actions, which will include "Swift Abolition" signature collection, fundraising campaign for the relief of the Hibakusha, A-bomb photo exhibition and various other forms.

2. Refusing dangerous reinforcement of the Japan-U.S. Alliance, we demand the Japanese Government to abide

by Article 9 and the Three Non-Nuclear Principles, moving out from under the “Nuclear Umbrella”

1) We urge the Japanese Government to declare its will to abolish nuclear weapons and observe the Three Non-Nuclear Principles as a “Declaration of a Nuclear Weapon-Free Japan” and notify all countries of the declaration. We should build and strengthen a consensus of a nuclear weapon-free Japan and spread it across Japan by calling upon the local governments committed to nuclear-free zone declaration or refusal of nuclear weapons brought into the community, all heads and chairpersons of local municipalities, local assemblies and citizens. In view of adopting the resolution in the Diet, a request should be made to Diet members to support the declaration, working together with a wide range of people in communities and constituencies.

Along with the nuclear-free municipality movement and activities to support the Hibakusha in communities, building local people’s opinion for a “Declaration of a Nuclear Weapon-Free Japan” is a task bearing on the reason for existence of local Gensuikyos in this A-bombed country, and their activities should be given full play.

By disseminating opinion posters, placing opinion ads in newspapers, mobilizing to send postcards with demands to the government, linking these with Peace Marches, etc., we will promote this “Declaration” campaign across Japan in diverse forms.

2) There is a rapidly growing move to integrate Japan into the U.S. nuclear attack system, using North Korea’s nuclear program as a pretext. While making the danger of this move known to wider public, our movement should be expanded to involve local governments and residents in the campaigns to oppose the homeporting of a U.S. nuclear-powered aircraft carrier at Yokosuka, deployment and port calls of Aegis cruisers and nuclear-capable warships, deployment of interceptor missiles and X-band radar system, tied up with the plan to strengthen the U.S. offence system.

3) We will oppose the extension of the dispatch of Japan’s ASDF that are involved in U.S. mass murder in Iraq and Afghanistan, dispatch of the MSDF destroyer to the Indian Ocean and the permanent law to dispatch the Self-Defense Forces abroad at any time and demand the government obey the Constitution.

4) We will spread the pioneer spirit of the Japanese Constitution that renounces war and declares that Japan does not have any armed forces in the “Nuclear Era” and develop a movement, which stands on the wide range of campaigns built on the movement against A & H Bombs. We will approve and participate in the “Global Article 9 Conference” and its affiliated events held in Makuhari in Chiba prefecture (4-5, May) and hold the “A-bomb and Article 9” forum.

3. Collective Lawsuits for A-Bomb Disease Recognition/Relief for and Solidarity with the Hibakusha

1) The collective lawsuits for A-bomb disease recognition, now contended at 15 district courts and 6 high courts, are in progress with important achievements. With the broad public opinion in support of the Hibakusha lawsuits, the government was obliged to state that it would make a “comprehensive revision” of the

current examination system for official recognition of A-bomb diseases of the Hibakusha, and grant “recognition swiftly and positively”. These lawsuits will also aim to correct the wrong administration that has tried to underestimate and belittle the A-bomb damage, and to achieve relief measures commensurate to the reality of the A-bombing and current situation of the Hibakusha, which would go beyond the plaintiffs of the lawsuits. These measures should not delineate and divide the Hibakusha and arbitrarily narrow the scope of relief.

Confident in the past achievements in this field, Japan Gensuikyo will continue to support the struggle of the Hibakusha, demanding relief measures duly in line with the actual situation of the Hibakusha. We urge the government to withdraw its appeals to the high courts, and aiming to achieve a total victory on all pending suits, we join the observation of court proceedings, work on public education, signature-collection and fundraising, and support Hibakusha’s nation-wide actions and petitioning to the government.

In the nationwide 1-million people’s “emergency signature drive”, Gensuikyo should achieve its goal of 500,000 signatures by March 10. Adoption of resolutions by local assemblies demanding the national government to drastically revise the recognition policy should be promoted.

We will inform many Hibakusha, who had previously given up applying for relief measures in the face of the government’s cold policy, of the progress and achievements of the current struggle, and assist them to file applications from across the country to the Health Ministry. For this, Gensuikyo organizations must, at both national and local levels, reinforce their coordination and joint work with Hibakusha organizations, medical institutions and other related bodies.

2) Informing the public of the reality of the atomic bombing and raising opinions for the abolition of nuclear weapons is one of the most fundamental activities of Japan Gensuikyo. Looking to the 2010 NPT Review Conference, Gensuikyo will cooperate with the Hibakusha groups, local authorities, schools, social education facilities and a broad range of other organizations, to plan and carry out A-bomb exhibitions, visits to the Hibakusha, meetings to listen to A-bomb experiences and see A-bomb films in all cities and towns across Japan. To this end, the Hibakusha Relief and Solidarity Department of Gensuikyo should play a central role to facilitate coordination among the Hibakusha, experts and professional organizations in different fields, to produce and distribute educational materials and to promote these activities.

3) Young people’s efforts to succeed Hibakusha’s experiences and send them out to the world should be encouraged nationwide as the movement of the youth of the A-bombed nation bearing international responsibility. Making the World Conference, “International Youth Rally” and Bikini Day events important junctures, we should encourage their visits to the Hibakusha, study meetings and forums, and give them more opportunities to have exchanges among them of their activities at the national and international levels.

4) As the Hibakusha grow older, the task of

establishing elaborate systems to support their life in local communities becomes increasingly important. Closer coordination and regular consultation should be held between local Gensuikyos and corresponding Hibakusha organizations, in order to promote carefully-crafted activities for the Hibakusha and to support Hibakusha organizations, with the help of local authorities, municipal councilors and medical institutions.

The annual "Two million-yen Donation for the Hibakusha" should be promoted regularly by all levels of Gensuikyo and its affiliates, with broader use of special donation boxes and campaign stickers at workplaces, offices and in local communities. How to evaluate such fundraising efforts at prefectural Gensuikyos should be improved to more accurately reflect actual activities carried out, such as supporting the collective A-bomb lawsuits and organizing health check-ups of the Hibakusha. At the same time, Japan Gensuikyo has a national responsibility to support Nihon Hidankyo (Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations) and the Hibakusha movement in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. So the annual donation for them should be given special emphasis.

5) Solidarity with radiation victims outside Japan should be strengthened. We oppose the military use of nuclear materials, including depleted uranium. We also oppose the Japanese government's dangerous administration on nuclear energy, such as reprocessing at Rokkasho, the MOX fuel project and disposal and reclamation of nuclear waste. The damage inflicted by Chuetsu-Oki Earthquake on Kashiwazaki-Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant once again demonstrated this danger. In opposition to building new nuclear power plants and in solidarity with the local people in protest against such plans, we demand all-out inspections on the existing plants with results made public, and drastic revision of the current nuclear energy administration. We call for development of alternative energy sources and phased withdrawal from nuclear energy.

4. For the Success of 2008 March 1 Bikini Day, Nationwide Peace March and 2008 World Conference against A & H Bombs

1) We must achieve a success of the 2008 March 1 Bikini Day events, which will mark the start of the two-year special campaign toward the 2010 NPT Review Conference. The pamphlet "Now is the Time for Action - For the 2008 Bikini Day" should be distributed widely and used effectively to encourage grass-roots learning and discussions, including at local Gensuikyo seminars.

Taking advantage of the dates falling on Saturday and Sunday, more people should be encouraged to take part in each of the events -- March 1 Bikini Day Rally (Sat.), Japan Gensuikyo National Conference (Sun.) and International Youth Rally in Shizuoka (Sat.) -- with greater mobilization befitting the start of the two-year special campaign.

2) The Nationwide Peace March, marking the 50th anniversary this year, should achieve a great success as a literally nationwide undertaking of the people, keeping alive the original spirit of the march. Participation, endorsement and messages should be solicited from public entities such as local authorities and educational

boards, and also from a broad range of organizations desiring abolition of nuclear weapons, temples, churches and religious and cultural groups. To promote this, a special leaflet to explain about the peace march and to call for participation will be published. To commemorate the 50th anniversary, the Peace March should pass through literally all municipalities, and Gensuikyo will exert special effort for this.

As part of the anniversary events, Gensuikyo will send a delegation of marchers to join the Peace March in the U.K., which started in 1958, the same year as in Japan. (End of March, from Greenham Common to Aldermaston, U.K.)

International peace marchers are welcome to join the Peace March in Japan. An anniversary event will be planned in August to commemorate the 50th anniversary.

3) Achieving the success of the 2008 World Conference against A & H Bombs is the most important task of 2008 for us, in launching the movement from the A-bombed cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and in mobilizing and developing the nationwide movement and campaign, leading to the 2010 NPT Review Conference.

Japan Gensuikyo shall make all-out efforts to make the 2008 Conference one where these three tasks are fulfilled: (1) National and local governments and other public bodies and NGOs, grass-roots movements and individuals work together and deepen exchanges beyond the differences of thought and belief; (2) Participants send out to the world the reality of the A-bombing and Hibakusha's desires for peace, and agree on the steps and joint activities to achieve a "nuclear weapons-free world"; and (3) People of all generations join in solidarity and play their respective roles in the conference, where young participants can foster a hope in their future.

In the lead up to the 2010 NPT Review Conference, the 2008 World Conference is required to generate vitality and initiatives to mobilize world public opinion and actually move international politics forward to the direction of nuclear weapons abolition. In achieving success, efforts should be made with an accelerated schedule to prepare the World Conference, i.e., planning of the conference program; mobilizing greater participation by urging a broader range of people and organizations to join the conference; promoting learning and discussion on the topics based on a special booklet on the World Conference; collecting signatures for the petition and raising funds to support the conference; and early electing and designating of conference delegates from the grass-roots.

5. Strengthening and Developing Gensuikyo's Organizational and Financial Activities and Dissemination of Campaign Goods

1) Japan Gensuikyo's organization itself and its meetings should be the place where representatives of prefectural Gensuikyos, affiliated national organizations and individual officials are all present and candidly express their opinions. We should promote cooperation and joint efforts with different organizations, researchers, experts and intellectuals, for the abolition of nuclear weapons and support of the Hibakusha. Serving as resource persons or panelists in Gensuikyo seminars and other events, or providing professional knowledge with

Gensuikyo Tsushin (Gensuikyo's monthly newsletter), our website and pamphlets, these people's input and contribution will be invaluable. Gensuikyo Tsushin should play a role as an artery of the organization, facilitating grass-roots and national campaigns and activities. The subscribers of Gensuikyo Tsushin should be increased across the country, looking to the year 2010.

2) Toward 2010, the emphasis on our organizational work should be to activate local and grass-root Gensuikyos thereby to strengthen prefectural Gensuikyos. Starting from this year's March 1 Bikini Day events, greater efforts should be made to establish district/local Gensuikyos at every city, town and village, by revitalizing the monthly 6th and 9th Day Action, Nationwide Peace March and sending delegates to the World Conference against A & H Bombs. Learning from good experiences in different localities, including that of Nanae Gensuikyo of Hokkaido, we must recruit more individual members,

as well as organizational members, and build Gensuikyos where creativity, goodwill and vitality of each and every member will be respected and given full play. Organizational and individual members should rally to prefectural Gensuikyos to strengthen their financial bases and achieve broader participation of young people in day-to-day activities.

We must consolidate Gensuikyo's financial basis by emphasizing this task in each of the undertakings as sending delegates to the World Conference, distribution of educational materials among public and sales of Chihiro Calendars, learning from a number of excellent achievements.

3) We plan to hold a national conference of prefectural Gensuikyo general secretaries or a conference for organizational building of Gensuikyo at an appropriate period in the last quarter of this year.

