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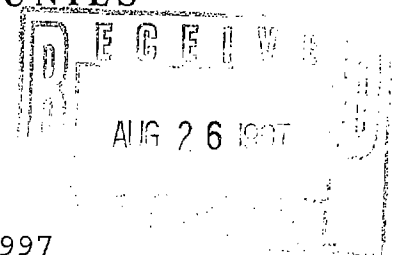
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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
CABINET DU SECRETAIRE GENERAL



REFERENCE:

25 August 1997

Dear Mr. Mayor,

On behalf of the Secretary-General, who is currently out of the country, I am writing to thank you for your letter of 6 August 1997 and The City of Hiroshima Peace Declaration. The international community is in constant need of reminder of the "Spirit of Hiroshima", so aptly conveyed in your message.

The United Nations, as you know, is dedicated to stemming the spread of weapons of mass destruction and the Secretary-General has made this one of his priorities. In this connection, he has established a new Department for Disarmament and Arms Regulations to ensure that the Secretariat is able to respond effectively to priorities of Member States in the disarmament area.

Once again, thank you for your inspiring message.

Yours sincerely,

*Shashi Tharoor*

Shashi Tharoor  
Executive Assistant  
to the Secretary-General

Mr. Takashi Hiraoka  
Mayor of Hiroshima City  
Hiroshima, Japan

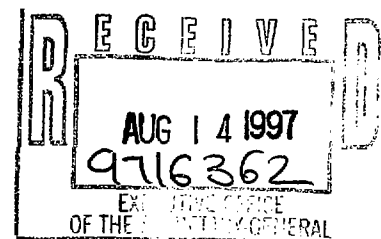


THE CITY OF

HIROSHIMA

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Takashi Hiraoka, Mayor



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August 6, 1997

Dear Sir/Madam:

Today as Hiroshima marked its 52nd anniversary of the atomic bombing of our city, we solemnly held the Peace Memorial Ceremony in front of the Memorial Cenotaph in Peace Memorial Park, Japan with thousands of people from Japan and overseas.

I am sending you a copy of the Peace Declaration that I read aloud at the Ceremony on behalf of the citizens of Hiroshima.

This Peace Declaration expresses our desire for the abolition of nuclear weapons and the realization of lasting world peace. The situation of the world is still changing suddenly. I would appreciate it if you would read through the Declaration to renew your understanding of the "Spirit of Hiroshima" and convey it to as many people as possible.

In closing, I would like to express my deep respect to you and the people like you who are contributing to the realization of world peace, and ask you at the same time to support and assist Hiroshima's globalization.

Very truly yours,

Takashi Hiraoka

Mayor of Hiroshima City



# The City of Hiroshima

## PEACE DECLARATION

August 6, 1997

It was 52 years ago today that a single atomic bomb exploded over Hiroshima. The skies flashed brighter than a thousand suns and a huge mushroom cloud rose above the city. Untold numbers perished in the sea of flames that followed, and the survivors still suffer from radiation's debilitating aftereffects.

This event engendered profound distrust of the scientific civilization that has made such dramatic progress over the last hundred years. Science and technology have spawned many conveniences and made our lives more comfortable, yet they have also been employed to create the weapons of mass destruction used over Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Not only do nuclear weapons imperil humanity's future, the civilization that created them gravely impacts the whole of the global ecosystem.

We in Hiroshima are outraged that nuclear weapons have yet to be abolished and banished from the face of the earth, and we are very uneasy about the future of civilization.

In signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the international community agreed to put a halt to all nuclear explosions, but much remains to be done before the CTBT can go into force. This was the situation when the United States conducted a subcritical test which it contends is not banned by the CTBT language. On the one hand, the U.S. promises to reduce its stockpiles of nuclear weapons, and on the other hand it obstinately maintains its nuclear testing program. This attitude is utterly devoid of the wisdom needed if all peoples are to co-exist. We implore the global community to recognize that nuclear weapons stand at the very apex of all of the violence that war represents.

The Fourth World Conference of Mayors for Peace through Inter-city Solidarity currently meeting in Hiroshima seeks a nuclear-free world and is deliberating calling upon all governments and international institutions to conclude a pact banning the use of nuclear weapons and to expand nuclear-weapons-free zones. Hiroshima specifically calls upon the government of Japan to devise security arrangements that do not rely upon a nuclear umbrella.

Japan and other countries differ in language, religion, and customs, and there are also some differences of historical perspective, particularly with our neighbors. All the more do we hope that candid dialogue among all the peoples of the world will result in a shared vision of a brighter tomorrow.

With the world in tumultuous transition, we intend to take every opportunity at home and abroad to convey not only the terrible violence, destruction, and death the atomic bomb wrought but also the inspiring beauty of human life striving toward the future despite experiencing abject despair. The culture of peace generated in the process of Hiroshima's rebirth is a beacon of hope for all humanity, just as the Atomic Bomb Dome, now designated a World Heritage site, stands as a symbol of hope for all who reject nuclear weapons.

Along with paying our utmost respects to the souls of those who died, we pledge ourselves anew on this Peace Memorial Day to pressing for compassionate assistance policies grounded in reality for the aging *hibakusha* wherever they may live.

"Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed." This thought from the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Constitution must be indelibly etched in our hearts, and I hereby declare it Hiroshima's resolve.

Delivered by Takashi Hiraoka  
Mayor of Hiroshima