

FOR

news release

FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION
BOX 271, NYACK, NEW YORK 10960 914/358/4601 FAX: 914/358/4924

For immediate release
Contact: Richard Deats
Date: September 30, 1994

NATIONAL PEACE ORGANIZATION EXPRESSES OUTRAGE AT FURTHER 'ENOLA GAY' REVISIONS

The Fellowship of Reconciliation is outraged by yesterday's announcement that the National Air and Space Museum has adopted further changes to its planned exhibit on the atomic bombing of Japan.

"The Smithsonian had already made extensive changes to its original script, in response to pressure from military and veteran's groups. These changes had already compromised the integrity of the exhibit, by presenting the atomic bombing as a justified response to Japanese aggression," said Jo Becker, Executive Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Becker was a member of a delegation of national peace leaders that met with Smithsonian officials on September 20 to discuss the exhibit.

"These additional changes only reinforce that view, and gloss over the devastation brought on Hiroshima and Nagasaki as a result of the bombing. Two hundred thousand people died immediately from the bombing, and tens of thousands more died in the decades following from radiation-induced maladies. The idea that even the dial of a wristwatch indicating the time of the bombing is too "emotionally charged" to include in the exhibit is outrageous."

"The American Legion has insisted that the exhibition emphasize estimates of casualties that would have resulted from a US invasion of Japan. However, the notion that the bombing made an invasion unnecessary is directly contradicted by US intelligence studies that show that US leaders were aware of Japan's intent to surrender well before the bombing. In light of this knowledge, adding references to the possibility of up to 5 million US and Japanese casualties is completely irresponsible."

- more -

