

February 3, 1995, JAPAN

For Further Conversation and Spirit of Tolerance Not to repeat That Tragedy

--A Statement on the Cancellation of the A-Bomb Exhibit
of the U.S. National Air & Space Museum

We are deeply sorry to hear the January 20's decision of U.S. National Air & Space Museum to cancel practically the WWII Exhibit which had been expected to open in this May.

In April of 1993, Director Mr. Martin Harwitt reasonably asked Hiroshima and Nagasaki cities to lend the materials of A-bombings to exhibit at the museum "To convey young people the historical facts of A-bombings and the war, to let them understand the disaster and human sufferings" just in the 50th year after the war.

However, the negative reaction to this exhibit in the U.S. for about these two years and its final cancellation made us consider that some of U.S. politicians and veterans have given up their efforts to watch the truth of history sincerely and to pull out lessons from. It was also a big surprise for us that such decision was made in America which honors her tradition of democracy and freedom.

At the same time, however, we heard the voices of U.S. citizens, scholars and politicians urging "Never to repeat those tragedies."

On December 2, UN General Conference adopted the decision unanimously to declare the year of 1995 to be "an international year to grieve the WWII victims." This year is also declared to be "the Year of Tolerance." Tolerance is defined as an ability "to look up to others and respect their dignity", and "a solid basement of all civil society and peace."

We should not only to recognize the gap between views on history and war, but to draw some lessons and reflections out of the various discussions and from communication on this issue.

First, we are requested to analyze and totalize the experiences of the A-bombing and the war, from the point of view of the whole history of mankind, beyond borders.

Secondly, we should continue our efforts to tell widely and deeply the Hiroshima-Nagasaki experiences appealing for the abolition of the nuclear weapons, in order to get rid of the threat and disaster of a nuclear war.

Thirdly, there are still some Japanese politicians and people who do not have even the basic self-reflection and self-consciousness concerning the war responsibility on behalf of the war of aggression Japan waged against Asian and other countries in the Pacific. This has become the vital reason for the strong distrust and antipathy from the world toward Japan.

To get sympathy from the world to the appeal from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japanese people and the government should hold the ideals of peace expressed in the Japanese Constitution and promote their efforts for non-military international cooperation with strict self-consciousness of their own war and afterwar responsibilities. Only this might be the evicence of their "pledge never to engage in wars, a pledge for "a world free from nuclear arms".

Fortunately we could find cooperation from many American scholars, citizens and peace workers through this discussion. We would like to profit by further opportunities of holding A-bomb exhibits and of communication with the people of America and of the world. That would help people understand "The Mind of Hiroshima and Nagasaki", to arrive at an agreement to realize "nuclear-weapon-free-world" during this century.

Finally, we heartily hope that the coming UN Nagasaki Disarmament Conference in June, the Peace Ceremony and the World Conference Against A and H-Bombs in August and the other commemorations would become historical frames toward sincere dialogue beyond the national boundaries, self-reflection and tolerance, and lead to the realization of a total ban of nuclear arms.

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The following Epitaph is curved on A Memorial to All Foreign War Victims in Nagasaki which was erected in the Epicenter Park in Nagasaki on December 8, 1981 by the A-bomb survivors, citizens of Nagasaki and many other people within and outside of Japan. We, A-bomb survivors and citizens in Nagasaki have a meeting on every 15th of August and 8th of December to renew our pledge never to take arms again.

A Memorial to All Foreign War Victims in Nagasaki
May It Be a Token of Man's Prayer for the Abolition of
Nuclear Weapons and a Pledge Never to Take Arms Again

EPITAPH

During "the fifteen years war" -- the war between Japan and China, the beginning of which was the Liu-tiao-gou Incident, September 18, 1931, and including the Pacific War which began at Pearl Harbor -- 3,100,000 Japanese, and millions of people in the world were killed.

In Nagasaki at the end of the war, more than 70,000 Japanese citizens and several thousand foreign people -- Koreans, Chinese laborers, students, merchants, and POWs of the Allied Forces from the United Kingdom, USA, Australia, the Netherlands and Indonesia -- were victimized by the attacks from the US air force, submarines and the atomic bomb.

On the nearby hill where the Urakami Prison existed, 32 Chinese, 13 Koreans, and some Japanese prisoners were also killed by the atomic bomb. Several hundred POWs from the Allied Forces had been killed earlier by diseases and accidents in the POW camps in Koyagi and Saivai-machi.

In memory of all these foreign war victims in Nagasaki, including Father Kolbe, who was a victim at the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, we erect this memorial paid for by private donations collected widely both within and outside Japan, and offer our prayer for the abolition of all nuclear weapons and our pledge never to repeat those tragedies again.

On the 40th anniversary of the beginning of the Pacific War.

Committee for the Erection of a Memorial
to All Foreign War Victims in Nagasaki.