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## **For making a success of 2007 World Conference against A &H Bombs**

*A Call of the Association for a Non-Nuclear Government*  
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This summer marks the 62nd year since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The 2007 World Conference against A & H Bombs will be held in these two cities August 3-9 to promote the effort to achieve a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons. At a time when the US Bush administration's policy of hegemony is increasingly irrelevant and isolated, we will take this year's World Conference as an important opportunity to heighten public opinion and increase the movement calling for the start of international talks and negotiations aimed at abolishing nuclear weapons. It will be the first national forum since we launched the movement to urge the Japanese government to declare Japan nuclear-free with the commitment to get nuclear weapons abolished and to strictly observe the Three Non-Nuclear Principles: not to possess, produce or allow nuclear weapons to be brought into Japan. The Association for a Non-Nuclear Government, which is striving to increase people's common action for the establishment of a government that rejects nuclear weapons, sincerely calls for the widest possible people to assemble in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Friends,

This past year has seen noteworthy changes taking place concerning the effort to get the world free of nuclear weapons and strengthen peace. The foremost example is the fact that the Bush administration has been compelled to modify its heavily militarist policy since it suffered a setback in the 2006 midterm elections held at a time when the US failure in the Iraq War was becoming more obvious than ever. Early this year, former secretaries of state Henry A. Kissinger and George P. Shultz, former defense secretary William Perry and former senator Sam Nunn published a statement entitled, "A world free of nuclear weapons." It shows the extent to which criticism of the dangerous US nuclear policy has increased. In its report, the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission chaired by Hans Blix called for a ban on nuclear weapons, drawing broad support from the international community, including the United Nations. Six countries are engaged in talks aimed at having North Korea give up its nuclear programs.

However, the US Bush administration's policy of relying on nuclear forces in its global strategy remains unchanged, although the United States is at a serious impasse. It is brazen enough to refuse to implement the "unequivocal undertaking to eliminate

nuclear arsenals” at the first meeting of the Preparatory Committee for the 2010 NPT Review Conference. What’s more, the United States has declared that it will expand its nuclear deterrence policy to include the possible use of nuclear weapons in its preemptive attack strategy. Given the fact that 27,000 nuclear weapons are deployed or stockpiled throughout the world, the US nuclear policy is very dangerous. The task now is for us to put an end at the earliest time to the era in which humanity is forced to live under threat of a nuclear catastrophe.

In Japan, the only atomic-bombed country, the government is called upon more urgently than ever to press the United States and other nuclear powers to give up their nuclear arsenals. But the Japanese government led by Prime Minister Abe Shinzo, while advocating an ‘assertive diplomacy,’ continues to accept the US nuclear umbrella as protection and is reluctant to urge nuclear powers to implement the “unequivocal undertaking” to eliminate their nuclear arsenals. On the contrary, some cabinet members and ruling party officials have even stated that Japan should be armed with nuclear weapons, that Japan’s “Three Non-Nuclear Principles” should be reviewed, or that the US “atomic bombings could not be helped.” Prime Minister is also blatant in stating that Article 9 of the Constitution should be revised during his tenure in office, the aim being to establish a system enabling Japan to join with the United States in fighting wars.

In the concerted lawsuits filed by Hibakusha (A-bomb survivors) demanding that their diseases be recognized as linked to their exposure to radiation from the atomic bombings, the district courts of Hiroshima, Nagoya, Sendai, and Tokyo have in the past year ruled that the government’s certification administration is illegal. The Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry has been ordered to revoke its rejection of Hibakusha’s applications for certification. But the government has refused to accept these rulings and appealed to higher courts. More than 60 years after the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, cold-blooded Hibakusha policy still persists in the atomic-bombed country of Japan. We must not allow the government to continue with this policy. We will press the government to withdraw its unjustifiable appeals and rectify the irrelevant standards for certifying Hibakusha’s diseases as caused by the atomic bomb.

Friends,

This year marks the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Constitution of Japan. It was established after reflecting on Japan’s past war and the damage caused by radiation from atomic bombs. Let us not forget that Japan’s post-war era began with the Japanese people making resolution to live in peace without nuclear weapons. Let us expand the movement to achieve “a world and Japan free of nuclear weapons” and increase public awareness of the urgency of defending “Article 9 of the Constitution which is increasing its brightness.” If Japan properly acts as the only atomic-bombed country and takes the political initiative to totally outlaw nuclear weapons, it will not only promote the peace and security of Japan but also drastically improve the situations of the world as well as Asia. Let us join forces to make a success of the 2007 World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs and redouble our efforts to establish a peaceful and equitable world order free of nuclear weapons and war.

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