

THE JAPAN COUNCIL AGAINST ATOMIC AND HYDROGEN BOMBS

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February 1, 1958

Dear Prof. Leo Szilard,

We are glad to send you enclosed our Appeal and the outline program for the 4th World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs and for Disarmament to be held in Aug. 1958. Taking this opportunity, we should like to thank a number of our friends who have sent us their constructive proposals and advices replying our Dec. 22 letter. We are very much encouraged to know that so many important organizations and friends of peace have supported the idea of the said World Conference.

These opinions and proposals have been so far taken into the proposals we are now making and all of them will together form a basis for discussion in the International Preparatory Committee which we hope will come to sit from June 1. We intend that the points covered by the enclosed "Outline Program" be confined to those of procedures and to the matters of immediate necessity so that discussions of the agenda and other major points of the Conference be completely left to the International Preparatory Committee and Secretariat.

We feel it our obligation to spend a few words here about the selection of the seat for the Conference. In answer to the questionnaire contained in our Dec. 22 letter, which we circulated, a lot of advices has been received as to this question. Reading these we found that there was a real divergence of opinions, some proposing India, some Egypt, some Austria, some Britain or Switzerland and some Japan. There has been, therefore, a difficulty in what way to coordinate those diverse views.

In the discussion of this matter we considered two practical elements of finance and of time. As the envisaged Conference is not a regular session of a solid international body, it would be considered dangerous to start work without a guarantee that at least nearly half of the Conference expenditure be burdened by the country where the Conference will be held.

Secondly it would be too late now to start negotiation with some of the proposed countries and then to fix a country for the seat. It would take too much time as thus far there has not been application of any national peace organizations to receive the Conference in their own country.

Our National Board of Directors, meeting on Feb. 11, after examining various aspects of the matter, has come to express its readiness to have the Conference held in Tokyo, Japan, and instructed me to propose our capital as the seat of the Conference. The reasons for this selection is mainly those technical requirements, which the Japanese movement is considered to be able to fulfill as they proved in the past.

We believe that the difficulties which might be involved in fixing the place in Tokyo can be overcome by our effort and by cooperation of all the friends of peace. We also believe that Japan has not lost value as the seat for the envisaged Conference as a nation who first suffered from the miseries of atomic bombs and those delegates who will take part in the Conference will be supplied with an opportunity to visit Hiroshima and Nagasaki to meet the survivors of the disasters.

The next point to which we feel it necessary to refer here is the question of scientists' meeting. Considering the wonderful contribution of the Pugwash Conference where 20 distinguished scientists of the world met last year, we have been supporting an idea that scientists' international meeting be held in the course of 1958 to give scientific ground for anti-atom movement and to manifest their attitude toward the current question of peace or war. We should like to express our readiness that the Japanese movement can cooperate to their initiative to convene such a meeting in Japan. On this question your kind advice will be very much appreciated.

We sincerely hope that you will approve our idea on the above suggested points.

It is our earnest desire that the annexed "Outline Program" will be favoured by you and your organization and that the preparation for the Conference will be launched in your country immediately.

Sincerely expecting to hear from you soon, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

K. Yasui

Kaoru Yasui
Director-General

APPEAL for the Fourth World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs and for Disarmament

February 11, 1958

The recent technical development, symbolically shown by the Soviet and U.S. earth circling satellites, has made us keenly feel that in no area on the earth people can be safe should a nuclear war be started. This danger is realistic since the attempts to prepare for such a war are too clear in the development of recent international situation. The nuclear armament race is being stepped up, accompanied by continuous nuclear test explosions, scattering about deadly radioactive particles which foretell a horrible future for our descendants. Nuclear weapons and missiles are going to be introduced into a number of new countries, promising the inhabitants not security but ravages only. On the other hand we see with regret that the disarmament commission of the UNO is suspended.

However, mankind can no longer stand the domination of the policy that serves solely for annihilation. Strong voices of opposition to nuclear tests and all kinds of nuclear war preparation are raised from a growing number of peoples covering all continents, and from leading personalities in various fields as well as from ordinary men and women of conscience and many organizations embracing huge memberships. Some governments, too, are according their voice to the people calling for the end of the nuclear armament race and some others are becoming skeptical about taking part in it.

It is imperative now that this growing tendency demanding the end of the nuclear armament race

be consolidated and that there be a drastic change of the guiding principles of world politics. We, the Japanese people, who were the first victims of atomic bombs feel it our duty to contribute with all in our power to this cause.

It is to realize this objective that we of the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs appeal to you to cooperate to convene the Fourth World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs and for Disarmament in August this year when the memorable dates of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki tragedies will come around.

Dear friends, this will be a World Conference open to all peace makers. This will be a Conference in which all kinds of peace movements will take part on the basis of entire equality. This Conference will also be an opportunity for world scientists, religious leaders and writers to meet and exchange their opinions on various specific questions in their respective fields and find a common ground for their further efforts to stop the nuclear armament race.

Dear friends of the world, let us prepare such a World Conference by our joint efforts!

Let us cooperate beyond minor differences, for we all belong to one human family!

Let this Conference be a real success contributing a great deal to the cause of the attainment of real peace on which depends the future of our civilization!

The Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs

OUTLINE PROGRAM for the Fourth World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs and for Disarmament

- 1) **Place:** Tokyo, Japan
- 2) **Term of session:** In middle of August, 1958
- 3) **Principal Character:**

Though delegates are expected from groups of various trends and standings, the Conference as a whole should maintain its politically independent position and domination of the Conference keynote by any one trend should be avoided by all means.

- 4) **Scope of discussion:**

In order to check the nuclear armament race now being stepped up, the World Conference should supply diverse trends of peace movements and people's movements of the world working for peace and specifically for the realization of disarmament and the ban on nuclear weapons, with an occasion to meet, find common ground for cooperation through

friendly discussions and draw up common program of actions where agreements are possible.

All the questions related to the danger of atomic war and of radioactivity will fall within the scope of the Conference, for example, nuclear tests, introduction of nuclear weapons into foreign territories, the questions of nuclear bases, of military blocs, of air-patrol loaded with H bombs, of disarmament negotiation, of non-nuclear zone, of non-aggression pact or of summit conference.

All these and other questions will be discussed from the angle of world peace and elimination of the danger of war from the world.

Gatherings of professional and classified groups of people, such as religionists, women, youth and students, journalists, trade unionists and especially scientists be either included in the Conference or given support as relevant events.

5) International Preparatory Committee and Secretariat:

An international Preparatory Committee to sponsor the Conference meet on June 1, 1958 in Tokyo to discuss:

- (a) the keynote, agenda and other principal program of the Conference;
- (b) how to coordinate international activities;
- (c) budget.

After the meeting of the Preparatory Committee is finished, some members of the Committee are expected to stay on to form a secretariat of the Conference, which will be in a position to make concrete what the Preparatory Committee decides and to dispose of day-to-day business necessary for the Conference.

On principle one adequate representative from each of the participating countries be invited to the International Preparatory Committee.

6) Sponsors:

Those world eminent personalities who are concerned with the question of nuclear war be invited to be sponsors (or supporters) of the Conference. Their opinions on the Conference program should be given full consideration by the International Preparatory Committee and the Conference even when they cannot be present in person at the Conference.

7) National Preparatory Activities

It is desirable that a broad national preparatory committees be formed in each country by those organizations or influential individuals as national centers for preparatory activities for the Conference. The national centers will be responsible for:

- (a) coordinating diverse moves for the Conference on the national scale;
- (b) recruiting delegates, forming, financing and sending out a delegation;
- (c) keeping in touch with the International Secretariat; and
- (d) draw up their own proposals to be put to the International Preparatory Committee and to the Conference itself.

It may be suggested preferable that a national meeting be scheduled, where possible, before delegation is sent out, for the purpose of rallying the public opinion on the question of nuclear weapons and disarmament.

It is also recommended that those organizations in each nation which support the World Confer-

ence issue appeal to kindred organizations of other countries calling them to take part in the Conference.

8) Invitations:

As time is limited, invitations to the Conference be despatched before International Preparatory Committee meets by the Japan Council against A and H Bombs to major organizations. As for individuals the Japan Council will also address to those influential persons to come to the Conference on principle with advices of major national organizations of the country concerned.

9) Conference finance:

The Conference will be financed by contribution from organizations and individuals who support the Conference. The budget will be discussed in and practised by the International Preparatory Committee and Secretariat.

10) Coordination of activities in different countries:

This is a task to be done by the International Preparatory Committee and Secretariat. However, since there are a lot of things to be done before June 1, the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs is ready to do what it can to coordinate the preparatory activities of different countries till the work be taken over by the responsible international organ.

11) Japanese National Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs and for Disarmament:

Under sponsorship of the Japan Council the Japanese National Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs and for Disarmament will be held in Tokyo just preceding the World Conference. All the delegates to the World Conference are kindly invited to take part as observers in this National Conference.

12) Date of arrival in Tokyo:

The Japan Council hopes that all delegates arrive in Tokyo by Aug. 5 in time for the Japanese National Conference, to which they are all invited.

13) Travelling and staying expenses

On principle travelling and staying expenses be burdened by visiting delegates or national preparatory committees sending delegations. *However, the International Secretariat will consider financial assistance when necessary and possible.*

The Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs