

For Immediate release from the Canadian Pugwash Group

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Attention: International politics

### **The Russell-Einstein Manifesto on Abolishing War: 50 Years Later**

Fifty years ago, on July 9, a group of the most brilliant scientists in the world issued a prescient global warning that the survival of humankind requires the abolition of warfare

Toronto/ Canadian Pugwash Group/ July 9, 2005 - The Canadian Pugwash Group calls upon all governments of the world to do as Russell and Einstein urged: *remember your humanity*. July 9, 2005 marks the 50th year anniversary of the Russell-Einstein Manifesto. Half a century ago, Lord Bertrand Russell, Albert Einstein and nine eminent scientists warned the world about the absolute need for the abolition of warfare.

Background on the Russell-Einstein Manifesto

World War 3 was quite real in 1955, the height of the Cold War. Spurred by Einstein's meeting with Roosevelt in 1939, the American Manhattan Project had moved at speed to produce the world's first atomic bomb ahead of Germany and Russia. Following tests in New Mexico and the resulting atomic bombing of Hiroshima, the cold war saw East and West race for nuclear supremacy. Both possessed hundreds of times as many bombs as required for deterrence and had created strategic alliances, with the Warsaw Pact and NATO. A worried scientific community pointed to the mounting dangers of nuclear weaponry.

In this tense environment philosopher Bertrand Russell proposed to his friend Albert Einstein that the most eminent scientists on both sides of the cold war jointly call for the abolition of war. Subsequently, in London England on July 9 1955, Russell announced their manifesto, asking for and receiving endorsement of the following declaration in part:

*"In view of the fact that in any future world war nuclear weapons will certainly be employed, and that such weapons threaten the continued existence of mankind, we urge the governments of the world to realize, and to acknowledge publicly, that their purpose cannot be furthered by a world war, and we urge them, consequently, to find peaceful means for the settlement of all matters of dispute between them.*

*...shall we, instead, choose death, because we cannot forget our quarrels? We appeal, as a human beings to human beings: remember your humanity, and forget the rest. If you cannot, nothing lies before you but universal death"*

Signatories, thought leaders of their time

Bertrand Russell

Albert Einstein

Professor Max Born, Professor of Theoretical Physics at Göttingen;

Nobel Prize in Physics

Professor P.W. Bridgman. Professor of Physics, Harvard University, Foreign Member of the Royal Society;; Nobel Prize in Physics

Professor L. Infeld, Professor of Theoretical Physics, University of Warsaw;

Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences

Professor J.F. Joliot-Curie, Professor of Physics at the College de France;

Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Professor H.J. Muller, Professor of Zoology, University of Indiana;  
Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine  
Professor L. Pauling, Professor of Chemistry, California Institute of Technology;  
Nobel Prize in Chemistry  
Professor C.F. Powell, Professor of Physics, Bristol University;  
Nobel Prize in Physics  
Professor J. Rotblat, Professor of Physics in the University of London, at St. Bartholomew's  
Hospital Medical College  
Professor Hideki Yukawa, Professor of Theoretical Physics, Kyoto University; Nobel Prize in  
Physics

The direct outcome of the Manifesto was a meeting of 22 scientists from 10 countries in 1957 in Pugwash, Nova Scotia, and the setting up of the Pugwash movement. Pugwash, and its founder Sir Joseph Rotblat were awarded the 1995 Nobel Peace Prize with the citation "for their efforts to diminish the part played by nuclear arms in international politics and in the longer run to eliminate such arms".

Resurging again, nuclear weapons are taking an ever more prominent place in national defence strategies but the danger to us all is largely unrecognized:

- O There are vast arsenals of nuclear weapons globally
- o Of the 8,000 active or operational U.S. warheads, 2,000 are on hair-trigger alert
- o Fissile materials in Russia are poorly protected. Terrorists can access both the knowhow and the materials to make a nuclear bomb
- o Because of the insistence of the US and nuclear weapons states on retaining, renewing and enlarging nuclear arsenals, there is a coming cascade of nuclear proliferation .

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#### Reference material

Russell-Einstein Manifesto in full <http://www.pugwash.org/about/manifesto.htm>  
The Origins of the Russell-Einstein Manifesto, May 2005, issued by the Council of the Pugwash  
Conferences on Science and World Affairs; available also on [www.pugwash.org](http://www.pugwash.org)  
First atomic bomb <http://www.eyewitnesstohistory.com/atomicbomb.htm>  
Warsaw Pact and NATO [http://www.isn.ethz.ch/php/about/project\\_description.htm](http://www.isn.ethz.ch/php/about/project_description.htm)  
The Cold War <http://www.ibiblio.org/expo/soviet.exhibit/coldwar.html>

Canadian Pugwash Group [www.pugwashgroup.ca/](http://www.pugwashgroup.ca/) (new article on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary)  
Influential Canadian scientists, scholars and thought leaders, the national affiliate of Pugwash  
International <http://www.pugwash.org/> Pugwash seeks the advancement of world security and  
stability, facilitating 8-10 conferences annually of scholars and public figures gathering as  
concerned private citizens.