

Peace's New Century

Speech at the opening ceremonies of the exhibition

Gendai Gallery, Japanese Cultural Centre, Toronto May 10, 2007

by Dr. Adele Buckley, Chair of the Board of Directors, Canadian Pugwash Group

Honoured Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We are gathered to celebrate the work of two collaborating artists, who, through their families have direct contact with the catastrophic nuclear bombing in Hiroshima, now nearly 62 years ago. Someone here today may have a direct family connection to the bombing in Hiroshima. Though I have visited there twice, my true connection is through the Pugwash movement, just now approaching its 50th anniversary. Internationally, Pugwash has helped the world draw away from disastrous conflict, and in 1995 the Pugwash Conferences and their founder, Sir Joseph Rotblat, were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, in recognition of their work seeking the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

As Kofi Annan said in the later days of his term of Secretary General of the UN, we are “sleepwalking” toward nuclear proliferation. I wish I could tell you otherwise, but the fact is that we still have the nuclear menace – the stockpile contains about 27,000 weapons. Why is this? Some nations use nuclear weapons as an instrument of national policy, and a way to exert influence in the global sphere. This is very dangerous, and we, the ordinary citizens, are held hostage.

The doctrine of nuclear deterrence is outdated. We ask where is the enemy that must be deterred? The Cold War is over. Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) makes no sense as a strategy to prevent a nuclear terrorist attack. We face this situation:

- Pre-emptive nuclear attack - this U.S. policy allows first use. Further, non-nuclear weapons states can be the targets of an attack or a threat to attack
- There is the ever present possibility of accidental nuclear war; many weapons are on high alert (*yes, right now!*) and can be launched in minutes
- Indefinite retention and maintenance of nuclear weapons – U.S., Britain, France and China are all engaged in some form of renewing older weapons and designing new ones. Russia is pressing forward with state of the art nuclear missile delivery systems. This tide of renewal means we will have nuclear weapons well into the 21st century.
- Ballistic Missile Defence means nuclear warheads and so does weaponization of space. Space weaponization violates the rights of all humanity to use space for peaceful purposes.
- NATO nuclear policies are essentially the same as the policies of their most powerful member, the United States. 3 nuclear weapons states in NATO have made 16 non-nuclear weapons states into their associates in nuclear planning – *sidebar: Canadian Pugwash is asking the government of Canada to press NATO to begin to denuclearize, and we ask Canada to influence other NATO members*

- The very important Non-Proliferation Treaty, was signed and ratified by 187 nations. They agreed that the Nuclear Weapons States must negotiate nuclear disarmament, and conclude such negotiations. No meaningful reductions are taking place. Instead the Non Proliferation Treaty meeting, preparation for review in 2010, taking place in Vienna right now, is nearly stalled.
- In NPT Treaty review conference in 2000, Canada and all the nations agreed to the total elimination of nuclear weapons via a program of 13 Practical Steps. No progress there; instead, the nuclear weapons states deliberately dismiss this commitment.

As part of the nuclear escalation that we now endure, it is no surprise that the 5 nuclear weapons states have now increased to 9, with 2 more waiting in the wings. It is regrettable, but perhaps understandable, that North Korea has decided that the only way to gain a foothold in negotiations with the U.S. is to become a nuclear weapons state. It is believable that the U.S. is pressing Japan to ignore Article IX of its constitution (.not to manufacture or possess nuclear weapons) and have U.S. nuclear weapons deployed on its soil.

BUT, especially in this year, hope for change is arising. It is not overdramatizing to say that this is a battle of good against evil. There are many voices that say we must get out of the nuclear deterrence trap.

In late 2006, the U.N. General Assembly voted to abolish nuclear weapons. This year we have seen prominent US cold war “hawks” - McNamara, Schulz, Kissinger, Perry and Nunn - make a major proposal - “A World Free of Nuclear Weapons”, and have seen a resounding agreement by Mikhael Gorbachev, all in the Wall Street Journal (January, 2007) . Senator Romeo Dallaire has eloquently supported his resolution in the Senate (April 17, 2007), “That the Senate Call on the Government of Canada to take a leading role in the reinvigoration of the urgent matter of nuclear disarmament.....”. The subsequent debate supported him, and when the vote was called, the resolution was passed unanimously. Several international peace organizations, have initiated major campaigns this year to call for abolition of nuclear weapons. Journalists worldwide are reporting alarming new developments of nuclear proliferation, thus exposing it to public scrutiny.

To encourage cities to work for elimination of nuclear weapons, the Mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1982, originated Mayors for Peace – its influence is growing ever stronger. I am pleased to report that Mayor Akiba of Hiroshima has accepted the invitation to speak at the 50th anniversary meetings, to take place in Pugwash N.S. in July this year.

Citizens of the world yearn for abolition of nuclear weapons. Scientists in Pugwash have taken it as their ethical responsibility to speak out when society is on the wrong path. Artists too feel that same heavy responsibility. Today, we have the privilege of viewing the work of two artists who are telling us to leave the last century behind. This work is a victory on the battleground of good against evil. When you view the collaborative work of Masaru Tanaka and Betsie Miller-Kusz, let it speak to your deeper spiritual nature. The artists are communicating to the world – not only by words but by visual artistic expression. If we allow it, we can refresh our

souls with a deep consciousness of peace. We want to experience the positive energy that the artists are transmitting to us. Such a response of the spirit lifts us up in our own work for peace.

As we view the exhibit and its message of peace, I ask you to reflect on the words of the Russell Einstein Manifesto that inspired the beginning of Pugwash movement. “Remember your humanity and forget the rest”.

[NOTE: This speech has been translated into Japanese, for further circulation in both Canada and Japan]