

Larry Armstrong

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Mr. Kazuhisa Mori
Executive Managing Director
Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc.
1-13-1 Shimbashi, Minato-Ku
Tokyo 105, Japan

Dear Mr. Mori,

May 4, 1994

First, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to share my ideas at the April 14th Session; Together with the People of Hiroshima. I was very surprised when you mentioned my name; I hope my words about my relationship with Hibakusha translated well. This is why I asked you and Ms. Kikuyama if there is an audiocassette of that session. I would like to type my speech and include it in my " Press Kit"; which is enclosed for you.

My Vitae tells my 24 year connection with Hibakusha and the other stories and pictures shows how I try to teach people, both young and old. My Vitae has been updated to tell of my participation at the JAIF conference. I have used the words from your *Hiroshima Declaration* in my Vitae. They are powerful words and my continuing friendship and understanding of Hibakusha will keep alive the **Spirit of Hiroshima**.

Mr. Akihiro Takahashi and Michiko Yamaoka are my friends and now more than ever; I want to write stories about their stories of survival. Enclosed are poems that I wrote for them. I have many different ideas that will help me share their stories to people of the world. Hopefully, Chicago Television Newscaster and Documentary Filmmaker Bill Kurtis; will produce a film that will tell that story.

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(2)

I would also like to include a *Suggested Reading List* of books about Hiroshima, Hibakusha, Atomic Weapons, etc... Every year I purchase more books to add to my own library. The United States needs to make more books available about Hiroshima and Nagasaki-related histories. Of course, Naomi Shohno's *The Legacy of Hiroshima* would be on that list.

Mr. Mori; in the last four years I have returned to Hiroshima 3 times. I have written to President Clinton, Vice-President Gore, Ambassador Mondale and many U.S. Senators. The IPPNW in Boston is aware of my activities. I have tried to make many Television stations, universities and U.S. companies aware of my activities.

I want to start a foundation; I would like to name it ***Hiroshima Survivors Awareness Foundation***. A sub-title for the foundation could be ***Nuclear Survivors Foundation***. My goal is to bring hibakusha to the United States and other countries. I want to make their stories, videos and books easily available.

This is not something that I only want to accomplish for the 50th Commemoration. I want to give scholarships to students to travel to Hiroshima, Nagasaki and other sites where nuclear-related problems have happened.

There are very few books available in the United States that tell the true Hibakusha story. Since you are a survivor yourself; you can understand the desire to tell your story firsthand. When the hibakusha have all passed away; we want to read or watch their stories.

To accomplish all these things requires support from many people. In the last 4 years, I have spent over \$ 25,000 of my own savings to tell these stories but now I need to ask for financial support. Would the JAIF be interested in helping me to establish a foundation? I would like to have an office in Chicago and one in Japan so that I could properly and continually update and make new resources available. To educate the world is my goal.

(3)

I am hoping that Mr. Kurtis will film a documentary about Hiroshima Hibakusha. Either before or after this documentary is shown in the United States; I want to bring these survivors to promote the showing of this film. I am hoping that Mr. Kurtis will donate some amount of money to my foundation so that I can bring these people to America. If Mr. Kurtis had not received a letter from me explaining my idea to film a documentary; then I do not believe Mr. Kurtis, a winner of many awards for his sensitive films; would be able to film a documentary with people who are willing to work with him.

My continuing friendship with these people is a great source of pride for me. After meeting Dr. Shohnno in 1993 and receiving an invitation to attend the JAIF; I just had to say yes. At the farewell party, your interest in my opinions made me feel very welcome and I look forward to a long relationship and friendship with the JAIF.

I hope to return to Japan in the next few months. If Mr. Kurtis chooses not to film a documentary, I will try to find someone else who will. Of course, I will return for the 50th Anniversary in Hiroshima. Someday, I hope to visit Nagasaki and establish a relationship with Nagasaki hibakusha. Takashi Nagai's book, *The Bells of Nagasaki* is also one of the best books written by a hibakusha.

Enclosed are some of my poems for Akihiro Takahashi, Michiko Yamaoka, Sadako Sasaki, and a Goodwill and Peace poem for my hopes for a peaceful world. An 8x10 inch picture of you, Mr. Mukaibo and myself is enclosed. There are also pictures with Akihiro Takahashi, Sadako Kurihara, and Michiko Yamaoka with two other Hiroshima Maidens (Gembaku Otome).

I look forward to the opportunity of meeting with you and Mr. Mukaibo in the near future. Thank you again, for making my participation in the JAIF conference, so meaningful.

(4)

Warmest Regards

Larry Armstrong

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