Issues on Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and Japan's Attitude towards Them (Résumé)

Kazuhisa Mori

Foreign perception of the Japan's attitude towards extension of the Treaty was a little surprise for us.

The task of 1995 NPT Conference

Conviction of Japan's general public which has never changed these 50 years

Keen interest paid by nuclear industry circle, as well as the government and the people

The absolute precondition for promotion of peaceful use of nuclear energy is denial of nuclear weapons.

Rigid applications of the two Three Principles on Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy and on the Non-Nuclear Armament

The important role of NPT, and expectations for the future and limitations thereof

Detachment of the character of the treaty from the status quo of the world (A couple of problematic Articles of the NPT)

Ideal approach -- International sanction against the non-adherent countries

Amendment of the treaty almost impossible even if in a hurry

What shall we do then?

Watching eye of the people on the peaceful use of nuclear energy including plutonium recycle

MESSAGE

To The U.N.Secretary-General On Nuclear Disarmament

JAPAN ATOMIC INDUSTRIAL FORUM, INC.

Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy for the Future of Mankind

With the coming of the Second Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament, it is appropriate that we should look back to the years when Japan started the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The task that Japan set before itself was for peaceful purposes only and we would like to lay stress on the great significance of this policy for world peace and prosperity.

Japan is the only country to have been exposed to the horrors of nuclear weapons. For nearly a decade after the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, there was no mood even to conduct nuclear researches. But in 1953 the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for atomic energy to be used for peaceful purposes, and this prompted Japan to hold thorough nationwide discussions on this question of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. It was decided that nuclear energy should be developed strictly and only for peaceful purposes, and the denunciation of its use for military purposes, such as atomic bombs, was made a basic principle. The people received this guaranty by the enactment of the Atomic Energy Basic Law, with the Atomic Energy Commission appointed to administer it. This fundamental policy is reflected in Japan's consistent observance of the three basic principles subsequently established for peaceful nuclear energy development that it be independent, democratic and open to the public.

Those people in Japan who are engaged in the nuclear industry know deep in their heart the horror of the atomic bombing, and insist that no nuclear weapons should derive from their efforts to implement the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The people's earnest prayer for "No More Hiroshimas and No More Nagasakis" must find fulfilment not only for the Japanese, but for all humanity as well.

We who are concerned with nuclear industry and are promoting nuclear energy for peace are totally against nuclear weapons, the development of which constitutes an escalating race at this time. War cannot be prevented by building up nuclear arms, but only by a great upsurge of the people's determination to ensure peace. We believe that nuclear energy with its promise of an unlimited future should be used exclusively for peace, contributing greatly to the well-being of mankind through further expansion of its peaceful use, already playing a significant role in present energy supplies.

If humanity is to have an assured future, and nothing allowed to betray the purposes of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and cause the collapse of the present NPT regime, the nuclear weapons states are called on to take immediate steps leading to nuclear disarmament.

The people are calling on the leaders to see the wisdom of a Comprehensive Program of Nuclear Disarmament, and adopt a program for the elimination of all nuclear weapons. We hereby propose that nuclear weapons states should reach a consensus to make a symbolic expression of their willingness to move toward the elimination of nuclear weapons, for example by dismantling some of their nuclear weapons under international surveillance, and that the nuclear fuel materials therefrom be offered as a stockpile for nuclear power development in emerging countries.

The United Nations has the responsibility not only to call insistently on the nuclear weapons states to move toward nuclear disarmament, but also to arouse all the peoples of the world to insist on nuclear disarmament so that the people's will may be reflected in the Second U.N. Special Session on Disarmament and followed by the process of nuclear disarmament thereafter. We trust that the Secretary-General of the United Nations will appeal unremittingly for nuclear energy to be used not for purposes of destruction, but for peaceful purposes only. We hope that this Second U.N. Special Session on Disarmament will discuss, adopt, and implement practicable measures for nuclear disarmament.

Due consideration to the above is requested on behalf of the 780 organizations actively engaged in promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy in Japan, including industrial groups, research and development organizations, and local autonomies.

Respectfully yours,

H. Arisawa

Hiromi Arisawa

Chairman

Japan Atomic Industrial Forum, Inc.

His Excellency Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar Secretary-General of the United Nations

This Message was submitted to the Secretary-General of United Nations at the second special session devoted to disarmament by Dr. Hiromi Arisawa, Chairman of the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum Inc., on behalf of the 780 organizations engaged in the nuclear industry of Japan.

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Appeal from Hiroshima

August 6, 1993

We, the members of the Council for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty(NPT) in Hiroshima, seek the endorsement of our supporters throughout the country of our common view as follows.

We submitted the following appeal to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa (at that time) on June 30, 1993, prior to the start of the Tokyo Summit in July.

Message by Concerned People in Hiroshima Addressed to Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa

June 30, 1993

Dear Mr. Prime Minister:

The further extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is coming up for discussion in the 1995 review conference to be held soon. At this juncture, we residents of the atom-bombed city of Hiroshima would like to take the opportunity to reflect on the meaning that the treaty has for them.

The upcoming Tokyo Summit is expected to issue a political declaration suggesting an indefinite extension of the treaty beyond 1995.

For all our appreciation for the NPT having served certain purposes of nuclear non-proliferation, we can never allow it --speaking from our position as citizens of the atom-bombed city of Hiroshima -- to be extended indefinitely. That is because an indefinite extension of the NPT also recognizes that five countries (the U.S., Russia, the U.K., France and China) would be able to have nuclear weapons indefinitely. Mayor Hiraoka of Hiroshima City made this point when he addressed a special United Nations NGO session on disarmament last April. He said, "I would like to emphasize that if the nuclear weapons states regard the NPT extension as a step toward the elimination of nuclear weapons, they should naturally express their readiness to eliminate nuclear weapons by concurrently pledging an immediate total ban on nuclear testing and declaring their intention not to use nuclear weapons".

Japan still have 347,000 atomic bomb survivors who must live out their lives threatened by the presence of nuclear weapons. Was not the phrase "No more Hiroshimas" meant to be a lesson learned from the many sacrifices of the citizens of Hiroshima, and their pledge to all people around the world.

Article 6 of the NPT provides that all member states shall faithfully negotiate for the general and complete reduction of nuclear armaments. That notwithstanding, nuclear-weapons states have never been faithful to their commitments to nuclear disarmament ever since the treaty came into force. The presence of nuclear weapons leads to the environmental disruption and it is a serious threat to the existence of all human beings on earth.

The preface to the Constitution of Japan says, "We recognize that all peoples of the world have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want". The Japanese government, acting as chairman for the upcoming Tokyo Summit, is advised not to

recognize an indefinite extension of the NPT as such, but to play a leading role in moving toward the elimination of nuclear weapons, in keeping with the spirit of the Japanese constitution. That is exactly the mission which Japan is called on to fulfill as the only victim of atomic bombing in the history of the world. It also represents the worldwide desire for peace that all mankind holds in common.

Nuclear weapons, or at least ideas permissive to the presence of nuclear weapons, must not be carried over to the 21st century. That is what we strongly appeal for from Hiroshima shortly before the city marks the 50th anniversary of its bombing.

Sincerely yours,

After the Tokyo Summit, in the United States and in some countries in Europe, comments were made to the effect that it was because of resistance from the Japanese government that the political declaration issued by the summit leaders did not clearly state support for an indefinite extension of the NPT, and that behind this lies the potential for Japan's nuclear armament.

The reason the citizens of Hiroshima are in opposition to an indefinite extension of the NPT is completely different.

It goes without saying that the current NPT, which allows specific countries to possess nuclear weapons, is an imperfect treaty and should be improved. The purpose and form of those improvements, however, should be that no country of the world should possess nuclear weapons, which are an absolute evil, not that some may -- certainly not Japan. We want all nations now possessing nuclear weapons to commit themselves to early fulfillment of Article 6 of the NPT -- conclusion of a treaty banning nuclear weapons -- and, ultimately, as soon as possible, the creation of a world without the need for the NPT itself.

That is the view of the citizens of Hiroshima.

On that bases, we appeal to our supporters around the country, with the hope that similar movements will be carried out internationally, for the following:

I. Endorsement of appeals to the Japanese government, the United Nations, and the nuclear-armed nations (the appeals to be sent to the supporters in advance).

II. Initiation of action by each supporter in accordance with the goals of the Council for the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

It is our earnest wish the NPT review conference in 1995 - the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki -- will yield encouraging results.

Naomi Shohno, President, Hiroshima-Nagasaki Peace Foundation Teruaki Fukuhara.

President, Japanese Affiliate of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War Akira Endo.

President, Hiroshima Jogakuin College Twelve other persons belonging to the "Council for Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty."