

1st International Meeting of Peace Messenger Cities Verdun, France, September 7 - 8, 1988

At the invitation of Verdun, the First General Assembly of Peace Messenger Cities was held in September 1988. On that occasion, the Peace Messenger Cities discussed also the establishment of a Peace Messenger Cities organization with the intention of furthering their activities in world peace and stability. As a result of these discussions, five Peace Messenger City representatives formed a committee for the drafting of the organization's statutes (Florence, Hammam-Lif, Madrid, Tbilisi, and Verdun); they gathered in Hammam-Lif, Tunisia in November of the same year and drafted temporary statutes for the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities.

Address of the host, Mayor of Verdun:

May I remind you that Mr. Perez de Cuellar, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, has handed over the Peace Messenger Diploma to 62 cities; however, we too, as the World Union of Martyr Cities, Cities for Peace, have received diploma.

Likewise, the majority of our Martyr Cities, Cities for Peace, have the diploma twice over, on an individual and collective basis.

In continuation of this great honour, we organised for September 7th and 8th 1988 in Verdun the first international meeting of Peace Messenger Cities, with the presence of Mr. Perez de Cuellar. The 62 cities, from all over the world, were represented. What a remarkable demonstration! It has allowed us to get to know each other in the widest terms and to exchange links of friendship, which we would never have been able to develop outside the path, which leads to PEACE.

- TOGETHER, we have decided to create a specific organisation of Peace Messenger Cities. The Articles of Association are being drafted.

- TOGETHER, we will meet again, I hope, next year, in Tbilisi, for the constituent meeting of this Association.

- TOGETHER, we have decided to support the candidacy of Mr. Perez de Cuellar for the Nobel Peace Prize.

- TOGETHER, we also designated VERDUN for the Presidency of this Association, for which I give thanks.

- TOGETHER, in short, we are to meet, to create ever-closer links between us than those existing between Mayors and Corporations.

- TOGETHER, we must now ask our citizens to carry out exchanges between them, at cultural, sporting, tourist and, why not, the economic levels.

- TOGETHER, we still have a great deal of work in order to bring Peace alive.

Dr. Jacques Barat-Dupont, Mayor of Verdun



Mayors and representatives of the Peace Messenger Cities are receiving Peace Medals at Palais Episcopal.



Memorial ceremony at Douaumont Memorial in Verdun. Front center: UN Secretary General de Cuellar, front right: Mayor of Verdun Dupont.