

**8th General Assembly of International Association of Peace Messenger Cities,  
Lisbon, Portugal, July 26 - 29, 1995**

**"Culture of Peace in the City"**

The Lisbon Conference marked the 50th Anniversary of UNO. One of the central points discussed in the plenary debates was the decision of IAPMC to join the international campaign for total ban of production and use of landmines, which marked the international activities of the Peace Messenger Cities in the following years.

The VIII Meeting of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities was held in Lisbon, from 26 to 29 July 1995, with the participation of 23 Cities, Representatives of the United Nations, Mr Mario Zamorano, and UNESCO, Mr David Adams.

The Meeting was particularly significant, coming just before the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations.

The Meeting was opened by Mr Jorge Sampaio, Mayor of Lisbon, who underlined that

"these times require new ideas, particular efforts and new styles to overcome the crisis. This is due to the fact that we have not completely understood this new world as a consequence of the end of the cold war."

On the basis of a report presented by Mr Andre Hediger, General Secretary of the Association, the Meeting underlined the action conducted by the member Cities, in order to materialize decisions taken in Geneva about Human Rights. With satisfaction, a great number of initiatives have been noticed, witnessing the vitality of local communities for the construction of a world of brotherhood, contributing in this manner to eliminate any form of violence from human coexistence.

The delegates discussed the questions dealing with the culture of peace, on the basis of the reports presented by the representatives of the United Nations and UNESCO, keeping in mind the programme elaborated during the first consultative meeting of the United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture. Among others, it has been said:

The creation of a culture of peace passes through a change of attitudes, beliefs and behaviour, in the situations of daily life, and until high level negotiations between the countries; those changes and such that, in case of conflicts, one adopts an attitude of non-violence which, instinctively, one tries to negotiate and to keep, excluding aggression... Peace is not only the absence of war and conflict; it is a dynamical concept which is to be approached in a positive way, which is the presence of justice and social harmony, and the possibility for the Human beings to realize fully their potentiality and their rights for survival in dignity."

These are the principal responsibilities of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities to express the best part of our various cultures, of our different worlds, and of our common humanity, in order to work for the modelling and feeling that mankind put into the realization of their destiny.

In that context, the Meeting approved 3 significant resolutions. The first one concerns nuclear tests. This resolution has been elaborated with thanks to the collaboration of the Japanese Cities, and in particular due to the fact that Hiroshima and Nagasaki will

celebrate, on next 6th and 9th August, the 50th Celebration of the activating of the 2 atomic bombs on occupied cities.

The delegates maintain their opposition to nuclear weapons, and also repeated solemnly their opposition towards nuclear tests, by any nation in the world; they insisted on the fact that these tests violate the spirit of the treaty on the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and ask firmly the French Government to renounce the scheduled nuclear tests in the Pacific Ocean. The second resolution concerns the serious situation of war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, which was described by the Serbian and Slovenian delegations. This delegation requested we exert all efforts to halt this war; that the belligerent parties accept peace, for the national supreme interest, in order to stop the martyrdom of innocent people, in conformity with the spirit of the United Nations Chart.

The 3rd resolution was marked by a touching intervention of Dr Pierre Rickman's, voluntary physician of the "International Handicap Association", about the disastrous effects of landmines, which produce thousands of victims. This resolution demands their total banning.

To manage a civilization of peace means to accept the social pact between nations, to refuse cultural, ethnic, social and political compartmentalisation. The world-wide application of the system reveals the urgency of asserting democracy, not only as a form of government, but as a form of fundamental value, in the family, the school, the place of work and the society at a planetary level.

The International Association of Peace Messenger Cities has taken note of the efforts made by the local authorities in the frame of the "G4+11", for the participation of local municipalities in the world-wide Assembly of Cities and Local Authorities, to be held on Conference Habitat II, organized by the United Nations in 1996.

The Meeting renewed its leading organs. The Presidency will be assumed by Geneva, the Vice-Presidencies by New Haven and Yokohama, and the General Secretariat by Brighton.



Jorge Sampaio, Mayor of Lisbon, at the opening of the Lisbon Conference.