

XIth General Assembly of International Association of Peace Messenger Cities

Pori, Finland, August 26 – 30, 1998

“All Human Rights For All”

Executive board meeting was held in Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia from April 25 – 26, 1998.

PORI RESOLUTION

The XIth General Assembly of the International Association of Peace Messenger Cities has been held in Pori on August 26 - 30, 1998. The theme is “All human rights for all”, which the delegates thoroughly debated. In the Assembly there were addresses by the Minister of Education and Science of Finland and also the Foreign Minister. The Association solemnized the 50 years’ anniversary of the Declaration of human Rights. It pledged strong support to the activity of UN for human rights in every country.

27 cities in all have sent representatives from different parts of the world to the general Assembly. The support of cities and all local organizations to the work for human rights of the UN is extremely valuable, since the cities are closest to all citizens. They witness the realization of human rights in everyday life.

Further, the General Assembly believes human rights and questions of peace should be incorporated in education programmes in all countries. Children from the earliest age should be taught by the family to cherish peace and respect human rights. The establishment of twin schools between different countries and exchange of experience between them will promote the cause.

The General Assembly strongly condemns exploitation of child labour under all circumstances. The Assembly also views with abhorrence and expresses the strongest condemnations forcing children to serve as soldiers in conflicts. Special attention must be paid to guarantee the human rights of children.

The General Assembly reiterated its long-standing position calling for the total abolition of all nuclear weapons. The testing of nuclear weapons by India and Pakistan, in defiance of international demand for nuclear free world, raises fears of an accelerated race to develop nuclear weapons in still other countries.

The General Assembly condemns sub-critical testing of nuclear weapons as contravening the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Further, the delegates deplored the nuclear powers failure to fulfil their legal obligations to engage in nuclear disarmament under the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The general Assembly welcomed the initiative of foreign ministers of eight non-nuclear powers toward a Nuclear Weapon Free World.

The delegates unanimously opposed the use of sanctions against nations except for weapons and weapon producing material.