

Xth General Assembly of International Association of Peace Messenger Cities, Abidjan, Ivory Coast, September 3 - 5, 1997

"Immigration, Peace And Solidarity"

Executive Board meeting was held in Kruševac, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, from March 8 - 9, 1997. Delegates discussed regulations for the admission of the new member cities of the Association and appreciated the NGO status designated to the Association by the UN.

ABIDJAN APPEAL

The delegates of the 10th General Assembly of the International Association of the Peace Messenger Cities meeting in Abidjan from 3rd to 5th September, 1997 to deliberate on theme of "Immigration, peace and Solidarity". This General Assembly was distinguished by the presence of His Excellency Henri Konan Bedie, President of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire at the opening session, who delivered an encouraging speech on the preservation of peace by decision makers and world leaders.

The General Assembly has once again confirmed that the world continues to experience the same trouble: fratricidal wars, armed conflict which lead to migrant populations and difficulties in international trade.

It is also observed that hunger, sickness, poverty and illiteracy continue to affect several regions and cities in numerous countries.

The Peace Messenger Cities observed that contrary to the Rio Declaration the industrialized nations have not lived up to their obligations to provide 0.7% of their Gross National Product to a fund for the developing countries. The gap between the industrialized and developing countries continues to widen. The issues of immigration, peace and solidarity are intimately interwoven. The Peace Messenger Cities reaffirm that peace can only be obtained by:

- consultation, dialogue, exchange between people, by consensus;
- incessant efforts to control the production and sale of conventional arms;
- by the abolition of nuclear weapons and anti-personal mines;

- by the transfer of monies from military budgets to social programs and development.

The International Association of Peace Messenger Cities firmly support the forthcoming conference on the abolition of anti-personal mines scheduled for December in Ottawa, Canada. The Peace Messenger Cities call upon all mayors and leaders of municipalities throughout the world to speak out on the absolute necessity for maintaining an atmosphere of peace within their boundaries and internationally which can only be achieved in an environment that provides the necessities and full satisfaction of life.

The International Association of Peace Messenger Cities reaffirms its determination to pursue all avenues for peace wherever it may be needed.



Abidjan Conference, 1997.