

**Remarks  
Executive Board Meeting  
International Association of Peace Messenger Cities  
May 6, 2006  
Volgograd, Russia**

**Mayor Ishchenko, Members of the Executive Committee, Invited Guests,**

**We wish to thank Mayor Ishchenko , the staff of the International Department, and, the people of historic Volgograd for their generous hospitality. We come with deep feeling to this city, a city that lives in the memory and history of humankind for the indescribable sacrifice and heroism of the untold thousands who sacrificed their lives in a struggle that broke the back of that scourge of humanity, fascist aggression and made possible the ultimate victory of the Grand Alliance. As a veteran of that war, I know how we followed, with great anxiety, the daily progress of that struggle. We knew the sacrifice of the Russian people would allow some of us to live.**

**Today the world faces a deep crisis. As representatives of Peace Messenger Cities, we must recognize the dangers of the moment. We must not pretend that the policies of national governments do not affect the ability to provide for the general welfare and happiness of the people who live in cities, well over 50 per cent of the entire world's population and growing daily. 100 million people roam the earth searching for food, clothing, shelter and employment. The Merchants of Death and their political salesmen, under the fear-driven war against terrorism, devour over one trillion US dollars ANNUALLY depriving cities the means to provide for their citizens.**

**We are proposing to the General Assembly of the United Nations to convene a Special Session on Disarmament and the dedication of the next decade as the International Decade for Disarmament. We will initiate a global campaign, a global demand for serious negotiations to curb this madness that will lead to a global catastrophe. In 1961 General McCloy of the United States and Ambassador Vladimir Zorin negotiated a disarmament treaty that can serve as model these many years later.,**

**What is this crisis the world faces? War, an illegal, aggressive war by the United States, in Iraq. And now the threats against Iran. On what basis? The issue of nuclear weapons, the very issue faced us to organize our Association, the very issue that is embedded in our statutes mandating us to work for the global abolition of nuclear weapons.**

**The world knows that the aggression against Iraq was based upon lies, exaggerations and manipulated facts. The fears of the people of nuclear disaster were exploited to secure support for the invasion. Now three years later, after thousands of deaths and untold destruction, the people of the United States and the**

**world are in opposition to the war and are demanding an end to occupation and the return home of the soldiers.**

**Now the headlines concern themselves with Iran. Nuclear weapons are again the issue and once again the threats. We must examine the facts carefully. Our Association participated in the activities leading up to the Final Review of the Nuclear Weapons Non-Proliferation Treaty. We are fully aware that this Treaty signed in 1970, was a Machiavellian Treaty. Non-nuclear weapons states pledged they would not produce nuclear weapons and at the same time, obligated the nuclear weapons states, United States, Russia, Great Britain, China and France to negotiate the abolition of their nuclear weapons arsenal. Article 4 allows the building of nuclear power plants for peaceful energy purposes. This was the Treaty that everyone signed but Israel, India and Pakistan. Iran signed the Treaty. The United States signed the Treaty. Since 1970, there have been NO negotiations to abolish nuclear weapons. Instead there has been constant research and development of more powerful and sophisticated nuclear weapons.**

**Our position is clear. We are for the abolition of all nuclear weapons. At the same time, we must point out the sheer hypocrisy that the US is not adhering to the Treaty while Iran is.. At the same time, the US and India, who never signed the Non Proliferation Treaty, have negotiated an agreement that allows the United States to provide technology and equipment for India's civilian nuclear power industry without any safeguards that these will only be used to enhance India's nuclear weapons arsenal.**

**We, as an Association, have worked with Mayors for Peace and grassroots organization to create a public outcry against holding the people of the world hostage to nuclear weapons. We know the lessons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and have participated in the ceremonies vowing never again. Our Association has been there several times. This is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Chernobal. We know what radiation can do to cities and people.**

**We have a great responsibility. We are close to our people. We must encourage activities within our cities to demand the abolition of all nuclear weapons. We cannot be silent and hope the issue will go away. We must condemn the threats for pre-emptive strikes and the use of nuclear weapons. We must insist on negotiations and adherence to the obligations of all parties to the Non Proliferation Treaty.**

**This is City business. The security and welfare of our people are our business. Our voices can move national governments. We speak for the people.**

**Thank you.**