

WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE

contact: Karl Bissinger

339 LAFAYETTE STREET, NEW YORK 10012 (212) 228 0450

press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 4, 1974

REPRESENTATIVES OF JAPAN COUNCIL AGAINST A & H BOMBS VISIT CITY;
OFFICIAL UN RECEPTION HIGHLIGHT OF VISIT

(New York City, December 4, 1974...) A group of Japanese sufferers from the Atom bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August of 1945 will be in New York today through Friday, December 6th to appeal to the United Nations for a total ban on nuclear weapons.

During their visit here, the representatives who are members of Gensuiko (the Japan Council Against A & H Bombs) hope to enlist New Yorkers in the cause for nuclear disarmament. To that end, a series of public events are planned:

11 A.M. - Wednesday, December 4th - United Nations

The delegation will meet with the Hon. Rolf Bjornstedt, chairman of the United Nations Disarmament Council. The reception will be held in Conference Room 16 in the General Secretariat Building, and at that time, "The Nagasaki Appeal" will be presented for consideration by the General Assembly. The appeal calls for a total ban on nuclear weapons. Accompanying the delegation will be officials of the American Peace Movement. (PRESS AND MEDIA INVITED TO RECEPTION)

11 A.M. - Thursday, December 5th - City Hall

City Council President Paul O'Dwyer will host a reception for the delegation at 11 A.M. on Thursday in his office at City Hall. (PRESS AND MEDIA INVITED)

2:30 P.M. - Thursday, December 5th - PRESS CONFERENCE AT UN

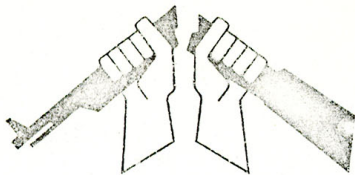
The delegation will hold a press conference at 2:30 P.M. in the United Nations Secretariat Building on December 5th to discuss their visit here, present the Nagasaki Appeal, and answer questions.

11 A.M. - Friday, December 6th - RECONCILIATION CEREMONY

Thirty-three years after Pearl Harbor, a group of American and Japanese veterans of World War II will hold a ceremony of Reconciliation at 11 A.M. on Friday, across the street from the United Nations (at the Ploughshares Memorial). Among those participating will be Philip Berrigan.

INFORMATION SHEETS ATTACHED

Affiliated with: War Resisters International and International Confederation for Disarmament and Peace



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December 3, 1974

BACKGROUND ON GENSUIKYO (The JAPAN COUNCIL AGAINST ATOMIC AND HYDROGEN BOMBS)

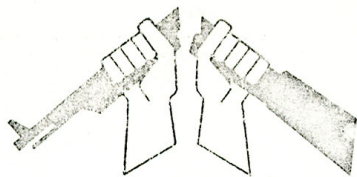
In 1954, nine years after the first use of nuclear weapons in war, the people of Japan who had provided the target for that use, formed the Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs. Each year since 1954, Gensuikyo has held massive rallies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki and, along with similar groups in Japan, has become a major force in Japanese politics.

The exact center of the A-bomb explosion in Hiroshima has become virtually a national shrine, a focus of Japanese concern for peace. And, while the world often forgets Nagasaki, the Japanese do not. They chose Nagasaki as the point in 1973 to launch the "Nagasaki Appeal" for an international agreement for the complete prohibition of nuclear weapons by any power. For the Japanese Hiroshima marked the beginning of nuclear war, and Nagasaki must mark its end.

Over the years that have passed since August 6 and 9, 1945, many Americans have been guests of the Japanese people at the Hiroshima and Nagasaki rallies and a particularly close bond has been formed between the peace movements of these two nations.

The American peace organizations, which condemn the testing, use, or possession of nuclear weapons by any nation, has been pleased to host the current visit of Gensuikyo members to the United States. It is necessary for Americans, currently concerned about the dangers of atomic reactors in our midst, to realize that the Gensuikyo delegation includes five A-bomb sufferers - people who, long after the explosion itself, have some sickness related to the nuclear blasts that occurred in a time so distant in memory and yet so near to us, in a world where the United States, the Soviet Union, The Peoples Republic of China, France, and England all divert food from starving children to feed their sterile and deadly nuclear machines of war.

List of Delegation Members, with affiliations, next page.



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Members of the Delegation from GENSUIKYO
The Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs

Dr. Hon. Prof. KIYOSHI SAKUMA, Leader of the Delegation
Nuclear physicist, Hiroshima A-bomb sufferer

Mr. HACHIRO KOSASA, Deputy Leader
Nagasaki A-bomb sufferer

Mr. YOSHIKIYO YOSHIDA, Secretary General
Secretary General of Gensuikyo

Venerable BHIKKHU GYOTSU N. SATO, Liaison Officer
Member Board of Elders, Japan Buddha Sangha

Ms. FUMI KUBO, National Board of Gensuikyo
Chairperson of Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee

Dr. KEIZO FUJII, Dean of the Sapporo Hospital, *Hokkaido*

Mr. MITSUO KOJIMA, Hiroshima A-bomb sufferer, *(ex U. of Japanese Navy)*
Executive Committee, Tokyo Water Supply Workers Union

Mr. MASARU TANABE, National Board of Gensuikyo, A-bomb sufferer, *ex-teacher*
Director General of Hiroshima A-Bomb Sufferers Organization

Rev. MICHINOBU TANAKA
Chairman, Kyushu Parish, United Church of Christ in Japan, *(ex-volunteer in Japanese army)*

Mr. HIROAKI YOSHIKAWA, lawyer *from Okinawa*
Chairman of Human Rights Lawyers' Guild

Mr. SHOZO TSUJITAMA
Chief of Staffs, International Section, Gensuikyo; *Prof. - (expts ag. Imperialism)*

Mr. YOICHI HARA
Student, International Christian University, *Zen Buddhist (1 million studs.)*

Miss FUMI YAMASHITA, woman activist

Ms. Kubo - Free Democratic Women's Organization

*You are cordially invited
to attend a reception for
a delegation from*

G E N S U I K Y O

*The Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs,
one of the major forces in Japanese politics.*

Thursday, December 5, 1974, at 8 P.M.

The Church Center for the United Nations

777 United Nations Plaza
(44th Street and First Avenue)

in the Boss Room

*There will be refreshments and an opportunity to
hear from members of the Gensuikyo delegation who
are in this country to meet with United Nations
officials regarding the Nagasaki Appeal for a
total ban on nuclear weapons.*

*R.S.V.P. to Karl Missinger
330 Lafayette Street
New York 10012
223-0450*