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# Appeal to All Governments of the World

Moscow Conference

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## APPEAL TO ALL GOVERNMENTS OF THE WORLD

(from the Moscow Conference)

We make this appeal to you from the World Conference: Religious Workers for Saving the Sacred Gift of Life from Nuclear Catastrophe, held in Moscow from May 10 to 14, 1982, in which believers of all faiths--Buddhists, Christians, Hindus, Muslims, Jews, Shintoists, Sikhs and Zoroastrians--from 90 countries of all the six continents of the world, gathered in their common quest to save mankind from the peril of a nuclear holocaust. Having discussed our serious concern over the growing threat of a nuclear war with its unimaginable power for total destruction, we have come to the firm belief that life should not be allowed to perish in a nuclear holocaust.

We know that many of you have been pursuing policies of peace and justice that reflect your commitment to disarmament and your striving to usher in a new era of hope and a better future for all people on this planet. We know that all of you participated in the SSD-I/Special UN Session on Disarmament I/ where it was declared that increase in weapons, especially nuclear weapons, weakens international security. Yet it is shocking that the arms race has been escalating at an unprecedented scale, bringing mankind nearer to the brink of total annihilation.

We religious people strongly feel that you have the potential strength and support of the people of conscience in your country to influence the course of its history by demanding a freeze on new nuclear weapons. In this regard, we fully appreciate the determination of those nations who have decided not to go nuclear. We also welcome the initiative taken by the two leading powers for mutual talks at Geneva and hope for positive decisions to eliminate the danger of the proliferation of nuclear weapons. We appreciate the helpful trend in the efforts to lessen tensions such as the unilateral Soviet decision to stop the deployment of new nuclear medium-range missiles in the European part of the USSR and to reduce the number of presently deployed missiles. We also welcome the expressed readiness of the United States to conduct formal negotiations on the reduction of strategic nuclear arms beginning as early as next month. We see hope in recent expressions on both sides of a willingness to meet each other and to negotiate effective steps towards reduction of nuclear weapons. We welcome these moves. We would, however, appeal still to the Soviet Union, to the United States and to other nuclear powers to hasten the pace of implementing programs of disarmament. We cannot rest until all nuclear weapons are banished and destroyed.

The threat to the survival of mankind has not yet diminished. Military budgets are constantly growing with an enormous consumption of human and material resources that could be used to save life and bring happiness on earth. We are deeply concerned

about dangerous new doctrines of a limited nuclear war and the production of specially anti-human weapons like the neutron bomb, designed to put these dangerous doctrines into practice. We know that a nuclear war cannot be limited, given the present level of nuclear arsenal. We earnestly appeal to all nuclear and non-nuclear weapon states to rescue the stumbling race of men from a nuclear holocaust. The SSD-II, therefore, gives a grand opportunity to save the "sacred gift of life from nuclear catastrophe." We believe that the development of weaponry is a manifestation of fear and distrust. We, therefore, urge the signatory nations of the Helsinki Act to strive to observe the highest international standards of conduct available to us at the present time.

We call upon all nuclear weapon states:

- a) to enforce a moratorium of all hostile rhetoric;
- b) to abandon the policy of confrontation--military, economic or political--and pursue a policy of relaxation of international tensions of fair cooperation in cultural, scientific, technological and economic fields of activity and of seeking solutions to problems through peaceful means alone;
- c) to declare a freeze of the manufacturing, development, testing and deployment of new or "improved" nuclear weapons;
- d) to destroy immediately a substantial part of the existing nuclear arsenal, as a first step to the total elimination of nuclear weapons;
- e) to conclude and ratify a convention to ban the use of all nuclear weapons;
- f) to implement the decisions of the SSD-I to strengthen the international security and to halt and reverse the arms race;
- g) to resume with more determination the Vienna talks for reduction of conventional armaments;
- h) to conclude a comprehensive test ban treaty;
- i) to convene a conference of the reduction of nuclear weapons in Europe;
- j) to divert their resources and technology from war to the urgent tasks of development;
- k) to ban nuclear testing immediately in the Pacific.

We also call upon all non-nuclear weapon states:

- a) to make a firm decision not to go nuclear;
- b) to exert their influence to work out an alternative system of security for all nations to usher in a new world without arms;
- c) to secure the Indian Ocean and other areas as nuclear weapons' free zones.

We are religious people, though there are among us many statesmen and decision-makers of many nations. There is no issue--ideological or other--that could justify a nuclear war. The issue of a nuclear war and nuclear weapons is not merely political. It is supremely a moral issue. And it is on that moral basis that we made this appeal to you. We appeal to all the nations together, to make sure that no nation would, under any circumstances, for any reason, at any time or place, resort to the use of nuclear weapons.