

Whereas

Japan, is the only nation in the world thus far to have experienced the excruciating human agony and the devastating material destruction of a nuclear attack

And whereas

Japan is therefore better able than any other nation in the world to alert the world community to the importance of a commitment to peace and a denial of the legitimacy of militarism

And whereas

Any form of military activity in the future carries with it an increasing likelihood of descent into nuclearism

and whereas

there is an ever increasing proliferation of nuclear weapons and knowledge relating to their construction, thereby rendering conflicts of the future evermore dangerous, brutal and devastating

and whereas

the next use of nuclear weapons is likely, unlike Hiroshima and Nagasaki, to lead to multiple exchanges, thereby threatening the very survival of civilization and humanity itself

and whereas

the path to the avoidance of war needs some important national initiatives if world wide peace is ever to become a reality

and whereas

it is essential to the strengthening of international law that such important national initiatives be taken

and whereas

a repeal of Article 9 would, far from strengthening international law, considerably weaken this discipline which is a sine qua non for the preservation of peace on earth

and whereas

for these reasons Japan is under a special and primary obligation to lead the world towards the renunciation of war especially in this age of proliferating nuclear weaponry

and whereas

Japan already has an exemplary provision embodied in her Constitution in Article 9

and whereas

the proposed step to abolish Article 9, far from being a step forward to a world of peace or at least a preservation of the status quo, is in fact a significant step backward to a world of war rather than a world of peace

and whereas

such a step would be the absolute reverse of the steps which Japan, as the world's only nuclear victim, is in conscience bound to take

and whereas

the use of a comparatively small-scale weapon in Hiroshima and Nagasaki was a forewarning to the world of the magnitude of destruction and suffering that would result from weapons in today's arsenals which are of several magnitudes of the destructive power of the weapons used in Hiroshima and Nagasaki

and whereas

there is a growing urgency to take such steps in view of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and nuclear knowledge, the increasing presence of terrorists groups on the international scene and the proliferation of regional conflicts

This Conference resolves to urge the Government and people of Japan

- to retain Article 9 of its Constitution
- to be a torch bearer on the path to peace as its nuclear experience uniquely positions it and obliges it to do
- to provide an example to the world of how a people's desire for peace can encourage national action worldwide which strengthens international law and peace throughout the world