

NO MORE HIROSHIMAS



**A Second Generation
Youth CND Pamphlet
30p**

Enormous Atomic Cloud (Hiroshima; about one hour after the bombing on 6 August 1945)

● A Message from a survivor
of the Hiroshima nuclear attack,
to the young people of
Great Britain.

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MY WATCH stopped at 8.15. It was August the 6th, 1945. As I got slowly to my feet after the blast, the yellow dust that had enveloped everything gradually dispersed to reveal literally a hell on earth – half-burned people, their skin peeled, hanging in strips, the flesh raw, groaning in agony. Unable to move, they crouched there. Some were trying to escape.

By the end of that year the death toll had reached 140,000 in Hiroshima, about a third of the population, and 70,000 in Nagasaki, about a quarter of the population. 90% died within 2 weeks after the bomb, and most of the rest within 8 weeks. By the end of that year some seemed to have recovered, but then the merciless effects of radiation peculiar to nuclear weapons had appeared. Wounds that apparently had healed, swelled and formed keloids. Leukemia suddenly appeared between 1950 and 1953, and with no known effective treatment many died within a few weeks. As leukemia abated, cancer symptoms of lungs, thyroid, and breast emerged, and cataracts formed, “delayed effects” that continue even now, 35 years after the bomb.

While no positive data are yet established on the genetic effects of radiation, the *Hibakusha** live in apprehension for the future of their children and grandchildren.

The enormity of the destructive power of the atomic bombs is understood by some few people, and while the death count is fairly accurately known, the lingering damage of these 35 years and the continuing after-effects are scarcely known – or that there are some 370,000 registered victims still living. Only these *Hibakusha* realize fully that these murder weapons must never be used to settle disputes between states; they could annihilate all humankind; war without victors, only victims. The movement against atomic weapons that arose in Japan, centering in Hiroshima and Nagasaki means just this. I am both a *Hibakusha* and a physicist, with personal and scientific understanding of nuclear weapons, and with the other survivors of the bombs we have devoted ourselves to this movement.

From 1950 we have shared this task with workers, religionists, women, students, and others, defying in the early days severe official opposition, with Japan under virtual occupation by the U.S., and an enforced silence.

When the U.S. conducted its hydrogen bomb test at Bikini Atoll on March 1, 1954, and the crew of the 100-ton fishing boat, the Fifth Lucky Dragon, were showered with highly radioactive fall-out, they suffered serious radiation effects, and Aikichi Kuboyama, the chief radio officer died. Their fish were dangerously useless. From April through June, highly radioactive rain fell over Japan. The anti A and H bomb movement arose from this experience, and 30 million

signatures demanding the abolition of nuclear weapons were collected within a year, and the first World Conference against A & H Bombs was held in Hiroshima in August 1955, now an annual event. This year, nearly 20,000 people took part from all over Japan, and many more than 100 delegates from other countries, with Britain well represented.

In spite of all our efforts of these 25 years, the development of more sophisticated and more deadly nuclear weapons continues: ICBMs to cross the Pacific or the Atlantic, SLBMs launched from submarines, Cruise missiles and Neutron bombs, and every devilish device. Stock-piled nuclear weapons exceed 1 million times the destructive power of the Hiroshima bomb, enough to wipe out the whole human race many times over. The likelihood of nuclear war is greater than ever; that humanity may survive to the 21st century is down to a 50% probability.

How else can one feel but pessimistic? Is our movement against nuclear weapons so ineffectual? Nevertheless the movement against nuclear weapons has gained new international momentum; the United National Special Session on Disarmament of 1978; the 2nd SSD in 1982; better national and international solidarity. At least, some optimism can be felt.

Humanity must survive; but to ensure this, nuclear weapons must be eradicated, and quickly. As Einstein said, averting universal destruction must be given priority over all other goals.

In the House of Lords in November, 1945, just a few months after the first Atomic bomb, Bertrand Russell foresaw the tremendous destructive power of the H-bomb and the threat to civilization. When the Bikini Atoll H-bomb tests were conducted, he warned of the dangerous development of nuclear weapons, and called on the people to take action to abolish them. Then followed the Russell-Einstein Declaration, which led to the first Pugwash Conference, seeking ways to eradicate nuclear weapons. The British mass movement that marched for nuclear disarmament with 2,000 citizens from London to Aldermaston in April 1958 was probably the earliest national movement against nuclear weapons outside of Japan.

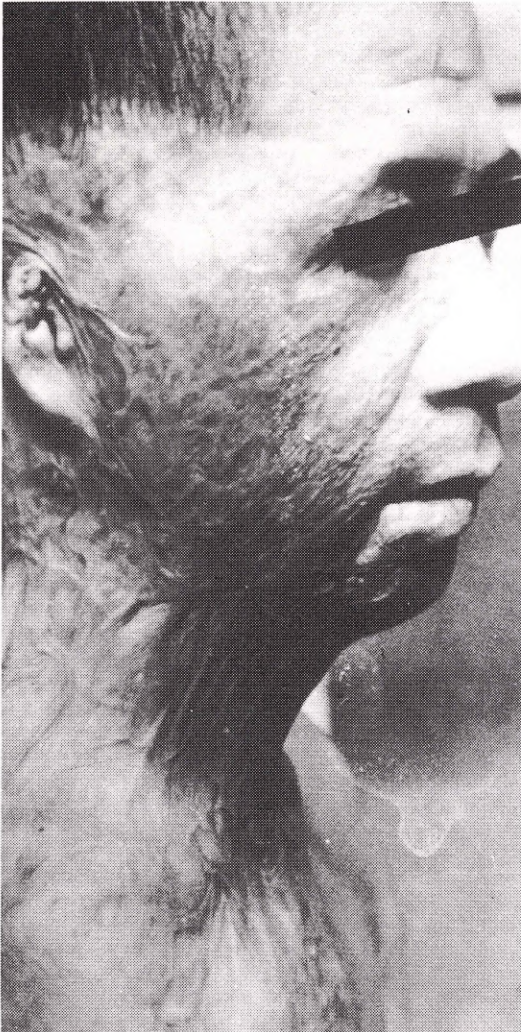
I dedicate these words from the remote city of Hiroshima, with the earnest hope that the young people of Great Britain will carry on this noble tradition, and devote themselves to the defeat of nuclear weapons for the future of humanity.

Prof. Kiyoshi Sakuma, Hiroshima University

Note: The *Hibakusha* are survivors of the nuclear attacks.

'Brighter than a thousand suns'

The three main destructive effects of nuclear weapons are **HEAT**, **BLAST** and **RADIATION**.



HEAT: The heat flash of a nuclear bomb is so intense that it can cause severe burns like this miles away from the explosion. The scars form weeks or months after exposure.

'The sound of an enormous door slamming in the depths of hell'



Hiroshima had the power of 10,000 tons of TNT. It flattened most of the city. Today's bombs are up to 100 times more powerful. The total

destructive power of the world's stocks of nuclear weapons is equal to about 1 ¼ million Hiroshima bombs.

Shelters would be useless against nuclear attack.



'Once damaged, genes transmit deformity for ever'

RADIATION: Radioactive dust from the explosion gets into the body and causes a variety of horrific cancers and cancer-related diseases. A radioactive speck of dust the size of a full stop can kill. Lingerin in the atmosphere for many years radioactive dust – 'fallout' – can cause death, illness and genetic deformities threatening the future of all mankind.



The mothers of these foetuses were exposed to radiation at Hiroshima; they survived but their babies were born dead and horribly deformed.



RADIATION: This 21 year old soldier was photographed two hours before his death on September 3rd, 1945. He is dying of radiation sickness. He was exposed to radiation on August 6th. 12 days later he noticed that his hair was falling out, ten days later his gums began to bleed and purple spots of internal blood clotting began to cover his body. Three days later he developed fever and his tonsils began to swell to bursting point. Internal bleeding continued until he entered delirium for 48 hours before death.

Nuclear weapons can't defend us. They are not for defence, they are for mass murder.

Realising this and realising that the nuclear weapons bases in Britain make us a number one target, thousands of people are joining the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and demanding that all nuclear weapons should be scrapped – not at some unspecified point in the future but *now*, before it is too late.

If you are interested in helping CND or youth CND, contact us at 11 Goodwin Street, Finsbury Park, London N4. We'll tell you where your nearest local campaigning group is and what you can do to help.

