

17th Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs

Ronneby, Sweden 3-8 September, 1967

H. Yukawa, S. Tomonaga and S. Sakata  
(Japan)

Message to the 17th Pugwash Conference from the Continuing  
Committee of the Kyoto Conference of Scientists

On the occasion of the 17th Pugwash Conference on Science and World Affairs, we, the members of the Continuing Committee of the Kyoto Conference of Scientists, eagerly hope for the success of the Conference and extend our warmest greetings to all the participants therein. At the same time, we want to convey our opinions on some of the urgent problems in view of the recent status of the world affairs.

1. We are deeply concerned about the present situation that military operations in Vietnam have been showing a phase of long duration and, in particular, the bombarding of North Vietnam still continues to be made. We consider that such a situation implies a decisive retrogression from the spirit to abolish war, and therefore we urge that the military operations should be stopped as soon as possible. We believe that the problems of Vietnam should be settled quickly according to the will of the Vietnamese people themselves, and that no country is privileged to behave itself as the "military police of the world", nor to force its own will and its world policy on Vietnamese people. We must warn that the "chronic" duration of military operations, including those lately conducted in Near and Middle East, would itself produce crises, which might induce war leaders interfering in disputes in other countries to venture still more dangerous wars, and would weaken the conscience of people to regard war as a crime.

2. We regret that the interest of the national leaders of every country in disarmament, including that of nuclear weapons, appears to be gradually lost, while the development of nuclear weapon systems is proceeding even more energetically than before. Furthermore, we consider that the disarmament problems may not be solved without the participation of China, now that she is developing nuclear weapons. We hope that the Pugwash Conference will make an important contribution to the solution of these problems.

3. In addition to the danger of direct military operations, we also want to point out the dangerous aspect which is seen in the increasing influence of military forces on various fields of science. The combination of science and military force will not only hinder the progress of science itself, but will also lead to a danger to make science work not for the welfare of mankind, but for its annihilation. We wish to remark further that the strong coupling between science and military force, as seen in some countries, is endangering the basis upon which the genuine international co-operation in science has been assured.

4. We think it the most proper way for the scientists gathering in the Pugwash Conference to make as free and as frank discussion as possible, regarding the research for the objective truths and for the world peace as their sole maxim, not as spokesmen of their own

governments, nor as being restricted by the policies of their governments. We expect that this principle will be followed throughout and a fruitful debate will be made toward peace, in an atmosphere in which everybody will be mutually respected with equal qualification, whether he may belong to a large country or a small country.

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