

STATEMENT

of

The Kyoto Conference of Scientists

(Translated from the Japanese Original)

May 9, 1963

c092-011-007



STATEMENT

We, Japanese scientists in various fields, met together at Takehara near Hiroshima, where mankind had suffered the first disastrous effects of the atomic bomb, to hold the second of the conferences now known as "the Kyoto Conferences of Scientists." After three days of earnest discussions centering around the reports on "the World Situation after the Cuban Crisis," "Japan in Asia," and "Social Responsibility of Scientists," we reaffirmed the significance of the statement of the first conference which was held just a year ago, and including the points listed in that statement, went deeper into discussions of the following points:

(1) In the previous statement of the Kyoto Conferences of Scientists, we pointed out the precarious nature of the policy of relying for the suppression of war on weapons of mass murder, and declared ourselves against such a policy. During the days of the Cuban Crisis, however, we experienced those frightful moments in which we felt as if we were standing on the brink of an abyss. The policy of deterrence has now taken a form of nuclear strategy in which nuclear submarines, a sort of movable nuclear missile bases, are playing a major role, and which, coupled with the global network of military bases, is all the more aggravating international tension. Under these circumstances, it would not be too much to say that peoples of all the countries of the world are held as "hostages" by a few policy-makers.

(2) We are often thrown into despair at the dark prospect of a second "Cuba" which may happen anytime, anywhere on the earth. But we must remember that history is not a destiny but something that is created by man. This can be brought home more clearly, if we compare the two phases of world history: the world of today and that in the beginning of this century. In the early twentieth century, the endeavors for social reforms, nationalist movements, and the activities of scientists, artists, and religious leaders, were all isolated from one another, and there was no sense of solidarity that bound those who were engaged in such movements. Such a situation was one of the important factors that made war possible. At the present time, however, world-wide peace movements working in the spirit of friendship and solidarity, together with the efforts on the part of scientists, artists, and religious leaders, have grown to be influential on world politics.

(3) In the previous statement we pointed out the significance of Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution which declares the renunciation of war. We want to emphasize here again the increasingly great and realistic meaning it has come to acquire as a guiding principle in creating peace.

(4) The United Nations made a great contribution to the settlement of the Cuban Crisis. As we expect much of the future role of the United Nations, we want to make a few comments as to how the United Nations should be.

The United Nations Charter, in Articles 51 and 52, approves the right of self-defence and regional arrangements or agencies for the maintenance of international peace and security. In reality, however, hostile military blocs have been established in both in East and West, taking advantage of these Articles. Therefore these Articles seem to have made the threat of cold war and of nuclear weapons an established and recognized institution.

The year after next happens to be the 20th anniversary of the United Nations, and it is a very good opportunity for the Charter to be revised. Remembering the fact that the Charter was drawn up before the appearance of nuclear weapons, we believe the time has come to reexamine the Charter in order to remove such contradictions as mentioned above, and to enable the United Nations to work more promptly and effectively for peace in this nuclear age.

We also maintain that in admitting the People's Republic of China into the United Nations, the true cause of the United Nations will be followed.

(5) The United States of America and the People's Republic of China have been antagonistic to each other for over ten years. This has been the root cause of tension in Asia and a great obstacle to world peace. Japan's observance of the principle of nuclear non-armament and her refusal to introduce any nuclear weapons into her territory will not only diminish the danger of her involvement in war but will also prevent the perpetuation of nuclear strategy in Asia. By doing so Japan will be able to contribute a great deal to the peace and security of the world.

(6) It is encouraging to know that much has been discussed since the first Kyoto Conference of Scientists on such problems as the relations between disarmament and the Japanese economy. The sense of social responsibility has grown among scientists mainly with the advancement of atomic physics. Now, facing up to the task of creating the peaceful world, we deem it a pressing need for all scientists—social, cultural, as well as natural scientists—to unite their efforts for the fulfilment of their social responsibility, irrespective of the differences in ideology and in methodology.

Another important task for us in the years to come is to explore the possibilities of increasing cooperation between us and scientists in Asian countries, especially the scientists of the People's Republic of China, with which Japan has had a long history of cultural exchange.

(7) Science has come to possess a huge influence upon society. In view of possible abuse of sciences, we cannot but feel a grave responsibility toward society. We are, however, encouraged by the fact that there are in the world growing social and moral forces, which will prevent sciences from being

abused. We scientists should not be the breeders of evil but advance with people in all walks of life in order to make use of scientific achievements only for human welfare and for the peace of the world.

Takehara, May 9, 1963

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