



Press Release Secretary-General

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SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE TO HIROSHIMA PEACE DAY CEREMONY

Following is the text of Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali's message to the Hiroshima peace day ceremony on Sunday, 6 August to be delivered by Under-Secretary-General Joseph Verner Reed, Special Representative for Public Affairs:

This is an anniversary to remind us of what we can do and just how far it is possible for us to go. We saw that on 6 August 1945. But in the sunlight of the awakened day, new realizations emerged, new resolves were fashioned. And this is also a commemoration of the will not necessarily to do what is within our means to do. It is a commemoration of the conciliation of capacity and conscience, of power with prudence. It is a commemoration of our awareness of the terrifying levels to which conflict, once begun, can escalate. It is a commemoration of the resolve, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations barely six weeks earlier, to reaffirm faith in the dignity and worth of the human person.

You have dedicated this ceremony to peace. And, without doubt, the introspection the horror of Hiroshima compelled has made our world a safer place. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has been validated in perpetuity. The progress being made towards a comprehensive test-ban treaty must be enhanced and built upon. The vast potential for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy must be addressed and given realization unhindered by its diversion for essentially combative ends. And it is clear that non-nuclear weapon States must be provided international security assurances that are legally binding.

In Hiroshima hope has succeeded hate, determination despair. For a half century you have lived with an awareness at first hand of what the phrases the world uses can really mean. Please share that awareness, that sense of the possibilities that we can and we must realize. The world owes you no less, nor you the world.

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