



Peace Depot Newsletter

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We Graded the Japanese Government's Efforts Towards Nuclear Abolition in a Report Card

In May 2000, The NPT Review Conference adopted, by consensus, the Final Document that includes the "unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals." Particularly important among the agreements in the Final Document are the 13+2 steps; the thirteen practical steps for the implementation of article VI (nuclear disarmament obligation), plus two steps that are deeply connected to Japan's security policy regarding the article VII. These steps place not only nuclear-weapon States but also nuclear-dependent States under obligation to end their dependence.

We have set several tasks proper to Japan for each 13+2 steps. Such tasks include: (1) to formulate an Action Plan to eliminate its dependence on "nuclear umbrella"; (2) to issue a political declaration to work toward the establishment of a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Northeast Asia; (3) to demand the US and Russia for their irreversibility in nuclear disarmament, as well as to legislate the Three Non-Nuclear Principles of its own; and (4) to make efforts for the early entry-into-force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), as well as to oppose the subcritical tests.

Based on available information on Japan's efforts to implement these tasks, the Evaluation Committee of ten members (see a separate paper) evaluated the Japanese government's efforts on each of the 13+2 steps, during the period from May 2000 to February 2002. Grades from A to E were given regarding each steps.

Four Evaluation Meetings were organized in mid-March 2002 throughout Japan, namely in Tokyo, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Wakayama. A draft Report Card was tabled on those meetings, and participants discussed over the draft. The Committee finalized the Report Card 2002 by taking such discussions into account. The final Report Card was submitted to the Foreign Minister. It will be widely distributed to parliamentarians. The dialogue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue over the Report Card.

Being a country devastated by atomic bombs, Japan has unique moral imperative in pursuing nuclear weapons abolition. Raising public awareness is important; however, we need additional wisdom and action to change the actual government policy. The report card will contribute to evaluation of our own campaign efforts as well.

The Report Card 2002 is on the page 3-4. Also, please refer to its annex, "the Explanation of the Reason of Evaluation" at <www.peacedepot.org>.

The Report Card will be issued every year until 2005, when the next NPT Review Conference will be held.

COMMENTS ARE WELCOME TO:
Japan's Report Card Evaluation Committee on
Nuclear Disarmament
c/o Peace Depot: npt@peacedepot.org

NPT Report Card

Low marks for disarmament record

International Herald Tribune/The Asahi Shimbun,
March 28, 2002

Japan's record on nuclear disarmament is dismal, a group of 10 experts concluded Wednesday in a report card to the Foreign Ministry.

Their assessment covered 15 areas, including "13 practical steps" such as early ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) for nuclear disarmament that was agreed on at the United Nations review conference of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) in May 2000.

The report card graded the government's effort from May 2000 to February 2002. The overall evaluation was D-minus.

"To put more pressure on the government, we will hand the report card to lawmakers as well as diplomats all over the world who will attend the preparatory committee of the NPT review conference being held in New York in April," said Hiromichi Umebayashi, chair of the evaluation committee and the director general of Peace Depot, a Yokohama-based nongovernmental organization.

The evaluation committee includes former Hiroshima Mayor Takashi Hiraoka and Osaka University professor Mitsuru Kurosawa. (end)

Report Card for Nuclear Disarmament --- NGO Evaluates the Government

The Asahi Shimbun, July 8, 2001

On July 7, a NGO announced that it had developed a report card to evaluate the Japanese government's nuclear disarmament efforts according to the five grades that will be given to each of the 13 steps agreed upon in the 2000 Review Conference of the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

The name of the NGO in charge of this task is the Peace Depot, located in Yokohama City, represented by Dr. Hiromichi Umebayashi. The 13 steps included, for example, nuclear weapon States' "unequivocal undertaking" to abolish nuclear weapons, early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), and preservation and strengthening of the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti Ballistic Missile Systems (ABM Treaty).

For each of these steps, more detailed action tasks were specified for the Japanese government to take, such as "to develop an implementation plan to completely end the dependence on nuclear weapons" and "to criticize the US missile defense initiative." The evaluation will be judged by the five-grades system, and undertaken around February every year to review the preceding year's achievements.

A committee consisting of 5-6 people from universities and think-tanks will be the main responsible body for this evaluation project. This project will be continued until 2005, when the next NPT Review Conference is scheduled. (end)

PNNJ Japan Launched

A Parliamentarian Network for Nuclear Disarmament Will Start on July 24th: Twelve

Convenors from across Political Parties Stress Importance to Send Messages to Overseas.

Asahi Shimbun, July 18, 2002

Supra-partisan members of the National Diet have formed a "Parliamentarian Network for Nuclear Disarmament, Japan," and will have its Inaugural General Assembly on July 24, 2002. They express a sense of urgency that there are increasing dangers of terrorists' resort to weapons of mass destruction while states would use or threaten to use nuclear weapons in retaliation. They also stress importance to send foreign policies of their own initiatives out of a country devastated by nuclear weapons.

A citizens' think-tank for peace "the Peace Depot," which is based in Yokohama, Japan and chaired by Hiromichi Umebayashi, has been calling on parliamentarians for the establishment of such network because it believes that the way of thoughts of Parliamentarians are critical for nuclear disarmament.

Twelve convenor parliamentarians in all, from LDP (Liberal Democratic Party), DPJ (Democratic Party of Japan), Komei-to (Clean Party), CPJ (Communist Party of Japan), SDP (Social Democratic Party, Japan), and Greens Japan are calling on all the Diet members to join the Network.

An "unequivocal undertaking" to accomplish the total elimination of nuclear arsenals was agreed at the 2000 NPT Review Conference. Based upon such development, an International NGO "the Middle Powers Initiative" called for establishing a parliamentarians' network to support that end last year. It is reported that there are already 136 member parliamentarians from 26 countries around the world. The Japanese network is meant to work as a branch of the international network.

In 1981, amid the Cold War, a supra-partisan organization "the Association of the Parliamentarians to Promote International Peace" was established in Japan. It aimed at "stopping arms race and attaining disarmament," and participated in the UN Special Sessions of Disarmament and peace ceremonies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It enjoyed 230 Diet members' participation in mid-80s and ex-prime ministers became its president. However, it grew inactive after the end of the Cold War.

One of the convenors, Mr. Taro KONO, LDP comments, "To me, the nuclear disarmament policy of Japan is unsatisfactory. We need fora where parliamentarians can speak out internationally from their own initiatives." Mr. Katsuya OKADA, DPJ says, "The nuclear policy of the United States is drastically turning around in a dangerous direction. We want to send strong messages from Japan, an atomic-bombed country." (end)

International Herald Tribune/The Asahi Shimbun,
July 25, 2002

Taro Kono, LDP lawmaker, secretary-general of PNNJ Japan:
"Lawmakers should take the lead on the issue of nuclear disarmament, rather than leave it to the Foreign Ministry, which tends to obey without question the United States—a nation currently considering a pre-emptive nuclear strike against Iraq."
Tetsuo Kaneko, an SDP lawmaker from Hiroshima:

"Despite Japan's sacred slogan, 'No more Hiroshima and Nagasaki,' Japanese lawmakers are ignorant of the current nuclear disarmament process discussed in international conferences. By sharing information and working with companions in other countries, Japanese lawmakers will be able to take a more effective role in international nuclear disarmament."

Evaluating Implementation of the NPT 13+2 Steps: JAPAN'S REPORT CARD ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT 2002

March 27, 2002

- This is an assessment, from Japanese citizens' perspectives, of the Japanese government's efforts from May 20, 2000 to February 16, 2002 for the implementation of the 13+2 steps, that is, the thirteen practical steps to implement article VI, plus two steps which are deeply connected to Japan among the steps on article VII, contained in the Final Document of 2000 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) that was adopted by consensus in May 2000.
- We have set forth several TASKs for each step, which are necessary under the present circumstances and are also possible for Japan to carry out. The TASKs will be different from year to year according to the changing situation. Among them, we have identified the "important tasks" which should be given particular focus. We judge "importance" based on the perspectives of achieving early elimination of nuclear weapons, the relevant international political situation, and the Japanese political situation. We have given grades from A to E, based on a consideration of the Japanese government's efforts on each TASK we have set.
- The attached Annex of the "Explanation of the Reason of Evaluation" explains the details of the task setting and the grounds for the evaluation.
- The issuance of the Report Card will be continued every year until 2005, when the next NPT Review Conference will be held.

The evaluation was made by the Evaluation Committee, consisting of the following ten members.

(In alphabetical order)

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| HIRAOKA Takashi | Former Mayor of Hiroshima City |
| KUROSAWA Mitsuru | Osaka University |
| MAEDA Tetsuo | Tokyo International University |
| MORITAKI Haruko | Hiroshima Alliance for Nuclear Weapons Abolition |
| NIKI Michiko | YWCA of Japan |
| TAKEMURA Yasuko | Former Member of the House of Councilors |
| TANAKA Terumi | Nihon Hidankyo |
| TSUCHIYAMA Hideo | Former President, Nagasaki University |
| TSURU Yasuko | Tokyo Gakugei University |
| UMEBAYASHI Hiromichi | Peace Depot (Chair of the Committee) |

Japan's Report Card Evaluation Committee on Nuclear Disarmament

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JAPAN'S REPORT CARD ON NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT
–Evaluating Implementation of the NPT 13+2 Steps–

| | NPT 13+2 Steps | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 |
|----|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 | Early Entry into Force of the CTBT | D | | | |
| 2 | Moratorium on Nuclear Weapons Tests | D | | | |
| 3 | A Program of Work at the CD to Conclude the FMCT Within Five Years | B | | | |
| 4 | A Program of Work to Establish a Subsidiary Body to Deal with Nuclear Disarmament in the CD | C | | | |
| 5 | The Principle of Irreversibility | E | | | |
| 6 | An Unequivocal Undertaking by the Nuclear-Weapon States to Accomplish the Total Elimination of their Nuclear Arsenals. | E | | | |
| 7 | The Preservation and Strengthening of the ABM Treaty and the Promotion of the START Process | E | | | |
| 8 | The Completion and Implementation of the Trilateral Initiative between the US, Russia and the IAEA | D | | | |
| 9 | "International Stability" and the "Principle of Undiminished Security for All" | D | | | |
| | a. Unilateral Cuts in Nuclear Arsenals | D | | | |
| | b. Increasing Transparency | D | | | |
| | c. Reductions in Non-Strategic Nuclear Weapons | D | | | |
| | d. Reducing Operational Status | D | | | |
| | e. A Diminishing Role for Nuclear Weapons in Security Policies | E | | | |
| | f. The Engagement of All Nuclear-Weapon States in a Process Leading to the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons | D | | | |
| 10 | The Placement of Excess Fissile Material under International Control and its Use for Peaceful Purposes | D | | | |
| 11 | General and Complete Disarmament as the Ultimate Objective | E | | | |
| 12 | Regular Reports on the Implementation of the Obligation of Nuclear Disarmament Recalling the ICJ's Advisory Opinion | D | | | |
| 13 | The Further Development of Verification Capabilities | D | | | |
| +1 | Legally Binding Negative Security Assurances | D | | | |
| +2 | Establishment of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones | D | | | |

Comments:

- It is remarkable that Japan's so-called "nuclear disarmament policy" is directed to "nuclear non-proliferation" rather than to "nuclear disarmament."
- The question of whether Japan is growing out of its nuclear-dependent policy is the key to measuring whether its efforts are bearing fruits. As far as Japan continues to be dependent on nuclear weapons, its behavior would be viewed with suspicion, and it seems highly likely that Japan will not be able to achieve what it should achieve even when there are the golden opportunities where Japan could make use of its influence.
- Political initiatives that reflect the will of the people should be issued, regardless of whether it is done by parties inside or outside of power. We cannot go beyond dependence on the US if we leave the issue in the bureaucrats' hands.
- We were struck by the fact that there were few discussions in the National Diet that could be referred to in the evaluation.
- The number of staff in charge of disarmament in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who work under the political

leadership should be increased. We should seriously consider the establishment of a Disarmament Agency.

- Grades D and E should be regarded as failing grades. The overall grade becomes "D- (D Minus)", which is also a failing grade.

Explanation for Grading:

- A:** Japan has tackled its core task of eliminating dependence on nuclear weapons, or has made a significant contribution for global nuclear disarmament.
- B:** Japan has been enthusiastic in tackling the important tasks (underlined in the "Explanation of the Reason of Evaluation").
- C:** Japan has carried out some of the tasks.
- D:** Japan carried out none or very few of the tasks. Fortunately, this did not constitute a direct factor setting back the global situation.
- E:** Japan carried out none of the important tasks. Or even if Japan carried out some of them, it failed to make the most of its precious opportunity as a country devastated by nuclear weapons.