Every year since 1983, Daisaku Ikeda, president of the Soka Gakkai International Buddhist association, has issued a peace proposal to the United Nations and leaders of countries around the world. In 2007, Ikeda’s proposal marked the 50th anniversary of the condemnation of nuclear weapons by the Soka Gakkai’s second president, Josei Toda.

In his 2007 peace proposal, Ikeda proposed an International Decade of UN Action for the abolition of nuclear weapons in partnership with civil society.

Ikeda continues to meet with world leaders to discuss nuclear abolition and the creation of a culture of peace. His published dialogues include those with Mikhail Gorbachev, Linus Pauling and Joseph Rotblat.

The SGI has developed grassroots activities to carry on Toda’s spirit, including anti-nuclear exhibitions and collecting and publishing the memories of those who survived war.

In September 1957, Josei Toda, then president of the Soka Gakkai Buddhist association in Japan, made a passionate speech to thousands of its young members in which he condemned the use of nuclear weapons in the strongest possible language. He believed that, on a deep level, the struggle is not about weapons but about the destructive aspect of human nature that seeks to destroy others and underlies the very existence of nuclear weapons.

Toda said: “It is my wish to go further, to attack the problem at its root. I want to expose and rip out the claws that lie hidden in the very depths of such weapons.”

Toda believed that since human beings created the atomic bomb, human beings must ensure its abolition. He wanted to communicate to his listeners that a religious sense of purpose cannot be fulfilled in isolation but must be part of a larger social and human mission.

Through this declaration, Toda entrusted young people with the task of inspiring this conviction in others, urging them to conduct dialogue based on a belief in the preciousness of human life and the human capacity for wisdom, courage and compassion. He wanted his audience to arouse and call forth those qualities in others and communicate to them the imperative of taking action toward nuclear abolition.

---

“Peace is a competition between despair and hope, between disempowerment and committed persistence.”

—Daisaku Ikeda

“Competition Between Despair and Hope”

“Nuclear Arms: Threat to Our World” was organized by the SGI with the UN Department of Public Information and the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It opened at the UN Headquarters in 1982 and was viewed by 1.2 million people in 25 cities in 16 countries.

“Nuclear Arms: Threat to Humanity,” launched in 1996, is an updated version of “Threat to Our World.” It was viewed by a half million people in eight Latin American countries.

“Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century” tells the story of the tireless campaigner for peace and nuclear abolition. Since 1998 the exhibit has toured seven cities in the United States and five cities in Japan. It was shown at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris in 2003 and has been visited by more than one million people.

“Linus Pauling and the Twentieth Century” tells the story of the tireless campaigner for peace and nuclear abolition. Since 1998 the exhibit has toured seven cities in the United States and five cities in Japan. It was shown at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris in 2003 and has been visited by more than one million people.

---

“Competition Between Despair and Hope”

“Competition Between Despair and Hope”

---

“Competition Between Despair and Hope”

---

“Competition Between Despair and Hope”

---

“Competition Between Despair and Hope”

---

“Competition Between Despair and Hope”

---

"We, the citizens of the world, have an inviolable right to live. Anyone who tries to jeopardize this right is a devil incarnate, a fiend, a monster.”

—Josei Toda