

ELIMINATING WAR AS A TOOL FOR SOLVING INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES AMONG ALL NATIONS

This is a message from Edward Jackfert, Past National Commander Of Bataan & Corregidor, Inc., who was a prisoner of war of the Japanese military for 3 years and 4 months during World War II. He witnessed the death of over 80,000 Japanese Nationals and the destruction of 17 square miles of Tokyo during an air raid on March 9-10, 1945, the Kawasaki area soon thereafter, and much of the city of Yokohama on May 29, 1945. Later on July 25, 1945, he witnessed the death of 22 prisoners of war comrades at the Tokyo Area Prisoner Of War Camp #2.

He related the following message to 30 history students from Franciscan University, Steubenville, Ohio on September 21, 2013, challenging the students to support an educational project being sponsored by the Brooke County Municipal Library, Wellsburg, West Virginia titled **ELIMINATING WAR AS A TOOL FOR SOLVING INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES AMONG ALL NATIONS**.



Primarily, it is an educational and research project utilizing the material at the library to make the public aware of the consequences of war, which are nothing except **DEATH AND DESTRUCTION**. This can be accomplished by developing and disseminating programs, international in scope, utilizing collected materials and visual aids to emphasize this need.

This should make aware internationally, that the futility of utilizing

disputes between nations needs to be emphasized so that hostilities would be out-moded in solving international issues. However, we should continue to recognize and honour those individuals that have been sacrificed while defending their nations in past wars.

The objective of this project is based on documents, photos, artifacts, visual aids and personal testimonies of participants in past wars which are available at the Brooke County Municipal Library, 945 Main Street, Wellsburg,, West Virginia and other places throughout the universe. Such a program can only lead to the conclusion that war is nothing but DEATH AND DESTRUCTION, and should be eliminated as a means of settling differences between nations of this world. This conclusion is supported by a statement by none other than General Douglas MacArthur as follows: 'I have known war as few men now living know it. It is very destructive on both friend and foe and is useless as a means of settling international disputes'.

This is further outlined in International Human Rights Laws which state that the 'right to life, the prohibition of torture and inhumane punishment or mistreatment, slavery and servitude, and the principal of legality and non-retroactivity of the law must be respected in all circumstances'. It also stipulates that states must guarantee rights of self-determination, property, due process, fair working conditions, access to health care, an education.

There will always be disputes among nations which, at times, will inflame the public and threaten conflicts, but the main thing is to educate the people of the world to be mindful that there are better ways of settling disputes than by war. The failure of collective security of the League Of Nations led to the realization that a universal system of security be effective if nations agreed to some limitation of their national sovereignty with their right to belligerence.

We need only to follow the purposes of the United Nations as outlined in Article 1 of its charter which states: 'To maintain international peace and security, and to that end to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace, and for the suppression or other breaches of peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace. So far, the United Nations has been ineffective in following the true meaning of its purpose. The United Nations needs to find some method of enforcing its rules and regulations of the body and eliminate self-serving political ideals which hamper its effectiveness.

There has been a true effort by Germany to follow the purpose of the

United Nations charter by creating **REMEMBRANCE, RESPONSIBILITY, AND REMEMBRANCE FOUNDATION** in August 2000. The foundation testifies to the political and responsibility of the state, industry, and society of the injustice of National Socialism, and above all, the history of slave and forced labour, in that it supports documentation of the diverse stories of its survivors. It will encourage projects that will commit the young generation to focus on th issues in a lasting way. It will also encourage the practice of democracy, shared responsibility for community respect for human rights, and will contribute toward development of an understanding of history that touches human rights, an will contribute toward development of an understanding of history that touches human values. Its intention is to build relationship and mutually beneficial cooperation between the people in Germany and other nations.

Five billion dollars was funded for the Foundation through a joint initiative of industry, state, and society. At the same time the Foundation seeks cooperation with other Foundations and organizations which will keep alive the memory of the victims of National Socialism for future generations—particularly through projects of its survivors. It also, through international networks of citizen’s initiatives and through support of the civic society, provides important guarantees of democracy, human rights, and understanding between peoples, thereby creating a civil society that stands for concrete cooperation and understanding between peoples.

History cannot be erased. Commemoration and truth telling through history, education, and related process should be the goal of citizenry of all nations.

Japan initiated a start in this direction by looking forward to a peaceful means in solving international issues by amending its Constitution by adding Article 9 which provides as follows: ‘Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of its nation and the threat or use of its forces as a means of settling international disputes. Having gone through an era of hostilities and atrocities, the Japanese government and its citizenry should be a leader in this field.

An expansion of the Brooke County Municipal Library with its large selection of visual aids, artifacts, photos, and document should be the goal to encompass potential educational projects in cooperation with the United Nations, the German Remembrance And Responsibility Foundation, and following the wording of Japan’s Article 9 in its Constitution.



PEACE

This project is following the remarks of some of America's greatest heroes as follows:

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT: 'More than end to war, we want an end to the beginning of all war—yes, and end to brutal, inhuman and thoroughly impractical method of settling differences between governments'.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER: 'I hate war as only a soldier who has lived it can, only one who has seen brutality, its futility, and stupidity'.

LIMUS PAULING (Nobel Peace Prize Winner): 'We must have research for peace—it would embrace the outstanding problems of morality. The time has come for man's intellect, his scientific methods, to win over the immorality and irrationality of war and militarism. Now we are forced to eliminate forever the vestige of rehistoric barbarism, this curse to the human race'.

GENERAL DOUGLAS MacARTHUR: 'I have known war as few men now living know it. Its very destruction on both friend and foe has rendered it useless as a means of settling international disputes'.

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY: 'Unconditional war can no longer lead to an unconditional victory. It can no longer serve to settle disputes. It can no longer be of concern to great powers alone. For a nuclear disaster, spread by winds and waters and fears, could well engulf the great and small, the rich and the poor, the committed and uncommitted alike. Human kind must put an end to war or will put an end to mankind.'

GENERAL OMAR BRADLEY: 'Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants. We know more about war than we know about peace, more about killing than we know about living. We have mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon On The Mount. These thoughts and words of these heroes encompass the very theme of this educational project while we seek assistance and endorsement of the project to manifest a greater and safe world to live in.'

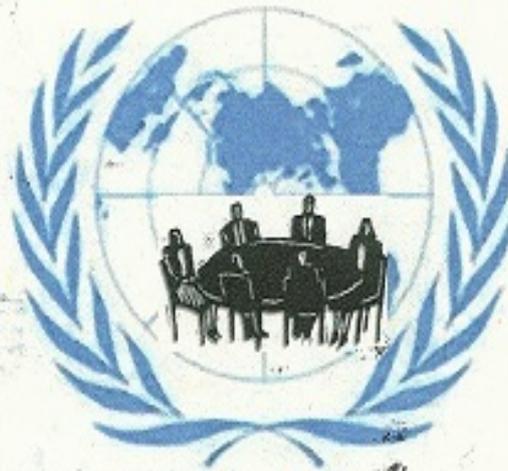
THE PHOTOS AND STATISTICS BELOW SUPPORT THE NEED OF WORLD ACTION ON THE FUTILITY OF WAR IN SETTLING INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES

THE FUTILITY OF WAR IN SETTLING INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES

**WORLD WAR I—1,721,937 MILITARY DEATHS
6,521,248 CIVILIAN DEATHS
COST 588 BILLION DOLLARS**



**WORLD WAR II—24,456,700 MILITARY DEATHS
32,228,100 CIVILIAN DEATHS
COST 4.8 TRILLION DOLLARS**



There is a great need for a stronger, nonpartisan, nonpolitical United Nations to mediate and resolve international disputes.



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