

WORLD FIGURES SIGN DISARMAMENT APPEAL

SGI President Ikeda joined many Nobel peace laureates and world figures in signing an appeal for nuclear disarmament sponsored by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. Published by the NAPF in the April 24 *New York Times*, the appeal coincided with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty 2000 Review Conference held at the U.N. Headquarters.

“Ten years have now passed since the end of the Cold War, and yet nuclear weapons continue to cloud humanity’s future,” the appeal reads. “The only way to assure that nuclear weapons will not be used again is to abolish them.”

The signatories then outline five steps that they feel the leaders of nations need to take: 1) Commence good faith negotiations to achieve a Nuclear Weapons Convention requiring the phased elimination of all nuclear weapons, with provisions for effective verification and enforcement; 2) De-alert all nuclear weapons, and de-couple all nuclear warheads from their delivery vehicles; 3) Declare policies of No First Use of nuclear weapons against other nuclear weapons states and policies of No Use against non-nuclear weapons states; 4) Ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and reaffirm commitments to the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty; and 5) Reallocate resources from the tens of billions of dollars currently being spent for maintaining nuclear arsenals to improving human health, education and welfare throughout the world.

To view the entire “End the Nuclear Weapons Threat to Humanity!” appeal and a list of the signatories, visit the NAPF’s Web site, www.wagingpeace.org.