

A GLOBAL AMBASSADOR OF PEACE

For the past 40 years, one theme has characterized every step taken by SGI President Ikeda: peace based on the inherent dignity of life.

President Ikeda's own youth was virtually torn apart by global war. At a very young age, he realized the futility and tragedy of war. More important, he recognized that it must first end in the hearts and minds of humanity.

His efforts have been based on a new concept of peace not merely as the absence of war but as a profound and universal condition possible only when based on humanism.

He has proven himself to be a global ambassador of peace, meeting with world leaders in the fields of politics, philosophy, education and culture. He has constantly sought the common ground that will enable them to respond to the common person's yearning for permanent peace and the construction of a society based on the dignity of all life.

On Sept. 8, 1957, second Soka Gakkai President Josei Toda declared his opposition to the use of atomic and hydrogen bombs, emphasizing that the devilish nature inherent in human life that led to the creation of nuclear arms is an enemy of peace. Since then, his declaration has become the prime point of the Soka Gakkai's peace movement.

Carrying out his mentor's will, President Ikeda has made numerous proposals concerning the issues of peace and disarmament; he has also voiced strong support for the United Nations and come out in favor of the idea that its peacekeeping functions be strengthened. By his strenuous efforts and activities over the years, he has demonstrated his constant desire for peace.