

Danish Peace Academy, Report for 2006

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Activities during 2006

1. **Our website:** The main activity of the Danish Peace Academy is the website, www.fredsakademiet.dk, created and maintained singlehandedly by Holger Terp. It contains over 10,000 documents relating to peace, including books, articles, bibliographies, films, songs, proposed curricula for peace education, histories of the peace movement, a peace timeline, and a peace encyclopedia. The website has between 3,000 and 5,000 visitors each day from all parts of the world. One of Holger's outstanding achievements is his unique history of the woman's protest at the nuclear missile base near Greenham Common, England, the *Greenham Common Song Book*.
2. **Publication of *Friends of Gandhi*:** Every year the Danish Peace Academy publishes a book related to peace. All of our members receive a free copy of the book. (To find out how to become a member of the Danish Peace Academy, see below.) Our book for 2006 was "Friends of Gandhi", edited by E.S. Reddy and Holger Terp. The book tells the story of the friendship between Mahatma Gandhi and three Danish women, Esther Færing, Anne Marie Petersen and Ellen Hørup (the daughter of the founder of the newspaper "Politiken"). It contains many previously unpublished letters written to Gandhi and by him, and it throws much light onto his personality, his philosophy and his work. One of the editors, E.S. Reddy, is a former Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and former Director of the UN Center Against Apartheid. After retirement in 1985, Reddy devoted himself to research and writing about Gandhi, and he has published many books

in this field. Wishing to find out more about Gandhi's relationship with the Scandinavian countries, Reddy wrote to our Editor, Holger Terp and asked for help. Holger uncovered a wealth of material in Danish and Swedish libraries and archives, and this material helps to make the book a unique and important historical document. Copies can be obtained by joining the Danish Peace Academy or by writing to the publisher, M/s Gyan Publishing House <http://www.gyanbooks.com> , books@gyanbooks.com.

3. **Chernobyl Symposium:** In collaboration with SGI International, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, and the Danish Pugwash Group, the Peace Academy helped to arrange a symposium to mark the 20th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. The symposium was held on the 26th of April, 2006, at SGI's Center for Culture and Education, A.F. Kriegersvej 3, in Copenhagen. About sixty people attended the symposium. Our first speaker, Ali Alfoneh from Iran, spoke about the present problems relating to Iran's nuclear program, and appealed for avoidance of war with Iran. Next, Dr. Caecilie Buhmann discussed the medical effects of the Chernobyl disaster. Our final speaker was Bent Erik Sørensen, Professor of Physics at Roskilde University, who discussed the serious problems connected with nuclear power generation, and renewable energy alternatives.
4. **Hiroshima Day at Askov:** The anniversary of the tragic nuclear destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki was marked by memorial day held at Askov College in Jutland. Speakers included His Excellency Gotaro Ogawa, the Japanese Ambassador, Dr. Cecilie Buhmann from International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, and Dr. Maj Britt Theorin, former Disarmament Ambassador of Sweden, and former Member of the Swedish and European Parliaments. A more detailed account of the memorial day, and Dr. Theorin's speech, can be found on the timeline at August 6, 2006. The memorial day was a collaboration between the Danish Peace Academy, SGI-Denmark, the Danish Pugwash Group and DLMK, the Danish branch of IPPNW.
5. **Lecture on Ethics in Science Teaching:** In collaboration with several other NGO's, the Danish Peace Academy helped to arrange a lecture on "Ethics in Teaching Chemistry in the XXIst Century". The

lecture was given by Prof. Valery Petrosyan, Department of Chemistry, M.V. Lomonosov University, Moscow. The lecture was held at a hall of the Danish Engineering Society on 9 November, 2006. Among other topics discussed in Prof. Petrosyan's lecture was a list of widely used industrial chemicals that can cause dangerous toxicity in our food and water. About 80 people attended the lecture.

Activities in the planning stage

1. **Symposium on "Current Dangers of Nuclear Weapons"**: In collaboration with a number of other NGO's, the Danish Peace Academy is helping to arrange a symposium on "Current Dangers of Nuclear Weapons". The symposium is planned to take place on 27 September in Landtingsalen, one of the large halls of Christiansborg Palace, Copenhagen, the building in which the Danish Parliament meets. Speakers will include MF Mogens Lykketoft, former leader of the Social Democrat Party, Dr. David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, His Excellency Dmitry Borisovich Ryurikov, Russian Ambassador to Denmark, and Dr. Jayantha Dhanapala, former United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament. If you wish to participate in the symposium, please write to John Avery at john@ccs.ki.ku.dk or Snebærhaven 42, DK-2620 Albertslund.
2. **Lecture and panel discussion on Peace Education**: In collaboration with the Danish Pugwash Group, SGI-International, The Mandela Center, IPPNW, The Danish University of Education and the Danish National Commission for UNESCO, the Peace Academy is planning a conference on Peace Education featuring a lecture by Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima, a lecture by a representative of UNESCO and lectures by other experts in Peace Education. Because of the uncertainties of Dr. Akiba's travel plans, the date of the conference is not yet fixed, but we think that it will take place in September, 2007.

You can become a member of the Danish Peace Academy!

Holger Terp works extremely hard, getting up early and working without any pause until late at night. He has singlehandedly created a unique website

that holds the light of peace burning during these dark times, when the world seems to be dominated by the brutal arrogance of power and militarism. Still, Holger cannot do it entirely alone. The Danish Peace Academy exists to give him a little backup and to pay a few essential bills. You can become a member by writing to mail@fredsakademiet.dk A year's membership costs 200 Danish kroner=\$36.30 for individuals, 300 Danish kroner=\$54.45 for families, and 500 Danish kroner=\$90.74 for organizations. Each year, all of our members receive a free copy of a book related to peace, plus our gratitude and plus the satisfaction of having done something really effective to promote the cause of peace!