

DANISH PEACE ACADEMY

REPORT FOR 2007

May 29, 2008

Symposium on “Current Dangers of Nuclear Weapons”

Together with several other Danish NGO's, we organized a symposium on “Current Dangers of Nuclear Weapons”. The symposium took place in Landstings salen, a large hall in Christiansborg Palace, Copenhagen, on 27 September 2007. Besides the Danish Peace Academy, the other organizers were the Danish Pugwash Group, the Mandela Centre, SGI Denmark, Dansk Læger Mod Kærnevåben and International Network of Scientists and Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility. About 150 people attended the symposium, including representatives from 30 embassies, the Danish Institute for International Studies, the Danish Foreign Ministry and the Danish Parliament.

The symposium discussed a number of serious dangers posed by nuclear weapons despite the end of the Cold War. These included weakening of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the spread of nuclear weapons associated with nuclear power generation, dangers from inadequately guarded plutonium and highly-enriched uranium, the danger of accidental nuclear war, the danger that nuclear weapons will intentionally be used in a war, and the danger of nuclear terrorism.

Speakers included the former Danish Foreign Minister and former leader of the Social Democrat Party, MF Mogens Lykketoft, Dr. David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Vladamir Ulasevich, Chargé d’Affaires of the Russian Embassy in Denmark, and Dr. Maj Britt Theorin, former Disarmament Ambassador for Sweden and former Member of the Swedish and European Parliaments.

Meeting to discuss terrorism

In collaboration with the Danish Quakers, the Danish Peace Academy sponsored a meeting to discuss both state terrorism, and the motives that drive individual terrorism. The meeting took place on the 14th of November at the World Culture Center, Nørre Allé 71, 2200 Copenhagen N. The meeting concluded that terrorism by nation states (e.g. bombing of civilian populations) is a far greater threat than individual terrorism. It was also concluded that individual terrorism can be combatted by removing the motives for it. Another conclusion was that fear of terrorism is being used by states to manipulate public opinion.

Visit to Copenhagen's City Hall by the Mayor of Hiroshima

Together with the other NGO's mentioned above, we helped to organize a visit to Copenhagen and to Stockholm by Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba, Mayor of Hiroshima and President of Mayors for Peace. On November 16, 2007, Klaus Bondam, Copenhagen's Mayor for Technology and Environment gave a reception for Dr. Akiba at Copenhagen's City Hall. Mayor Bondam said that he was happy that Copenhagen had joined Mayors for Peace. Many other Danish cities also joined as a result of an energetic NGO campaign in which individual mayors were contacted by telephone.

Peace education at Copenhagen's Open Gymnasium

As part of Mayor Akiba's visit, a Peace Education Day was organized at Copenhagen's Open Gymnasium. On November 17, 2007, between 8.00 and 10.00, representatives of the Danish Peace Academy and the other NGO's mentioned above taught classes on topics related to peace. At 10.00, the whole gymnasium assembled to hear a speech by Dr. Akiba on the need to abolish nuclear weapons and afterwards a panel discussion. Mayor Akiba's speech received enthusiastic cheers from the 500 students of the gymnasium.

Peace education conference at the University of Copenhagen

The following day, November 18, 2007, a Peace Education Conference was arranged at the University of Copenhagen's Alexander Hall. The Danish Peace Academy helped to arrange this conference, at which Mayor Akiba also spoke. Other speakers included, Drs. Peter Kemp, John Avery, Tom Børsen, Michael Aktor and Bill Williams. About 80 people attended the conference, some of them coming from England, Sweden and Germany.

Gandhi project

The Danish Peace Academy has now published the following books on Mahatma Gandhi's ideas and their relationship to today's problems:

1. **Friends of Gandhi**, edited by E.S. Reddy and Holger Terp, (288 pages, in English), available on line at our website and also published as a hardcover book. This is a collection of letters between Gandhi and several of his Danish friends. The letters give unique insights into Gandhi's thoughts on many issues.
2. **Mine Forsøg Med Sandheden**, by M.K. Gandhi, edited by Holger Terp, (177 pages, in Danish), available on line at our website and also published as a paperback book. This is a republication of the first volume of Gandhi's autobiography, edited and illustrated by Holger Terp.
3. **Mine Forsøg Med Sandheden, Bind II**, by M.K. Gandhi, edited by Holger Terp (185 pages, in Danish), available on line and also published as a paperback. This is the first publication in Danish of the second volume of Gandhi's autobiography. Holger found a handwritten manuscript at the Royal Library in Copenhagen and typed the whole book, sometimes supplying translations of parts that were missing from the handwritten translation. Holger also supplied illustrations and scholarly references. Available on line and as a paperback book.
4. **Det Unge Indien**, articles by M.K. Gandhi, edited and illustrated by Holger Terp, (124 pages, in Danish). Available on line and as a paperback book.

All these books can be obtained by writing to the Danish Peace Academy.

NGO action prior to the NATO Summit in Bucharest

On March 18 2008, representatives of the Danish Peace Academy and other NGO's met with MF Pernille Frahm, a member of the Danish Parliament, to discuss the NATO Summit in Bucharest, which was scheduled to take place on April 3-5. Among the issues discussed were respects in which NATO nuclear policy violates the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as well as violating international law. The need to make NATO's actions conform with the United Nations Charter was also discussed. Background documents were sent to many other members of the Danish Parliament.