

May 17, 2014

His Excellency Thorbjørn Jagland
The Norwegian Nobel Committee

Dear Chairman Jagland and Norwegian Nobel Committee Members,

We the undersigned members of the Japanese Diet would like to congratulate the people of Norway on the 200th anniversary of the adoption of your constitution.

Our own constitution is a much younger one, and under its Article 9, which renounces war and prohibits the maintenance of war potential, we have led a remarkable 68-year journey as a pacifist nation. We are deeply honored that this same Article 9, as realized by the people of Japan over the past seven decades, has been officially nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

This nomination was made by the people and for the people and as such, we speak from a position of political neutrality. We do, however, humbly urge you to select this nominee for the ultimate honor.

May there be peace on Earth,

(In alphabetical order)

Member, House of Representatives of Japan

ABE Tomoko	AKAMATSU Hirotaka	AKAMINE Seiken
ARAI Satoshi	KAN Naoto	KANEKO Yasushi
KISHIMOTO Shuhei	KONDO Shoichi	KORI Kazuko
MOMOSE Tomoyuki	NAGASHIMA Tadayoshi	NAKAGAWA Masaharu
SHII Kazuo	SHIIKI Tamotsu	SHINA Takeshi
SHINOHARA Takashi	SUZUKI Katsumasa	SUZUKI Takako
TAMAKI Yuichiro	TERUYA Kantoku	TSUJIMOTO Kiyomi
UBUKATA Yukio	YOKOMICHI Takahiro	YOSHIKAWA Hajime

Member, House of Councillors of Japan

AIHARA Kumiko	ARITA Yoshifu	EDA Satsuki
ESAKI Takashi	FUJIMOTO Yuji	FUJISUE Kenzo
FUJITA Yukihiisa	FUKUSHIMA Mizuho	HAKU Shinkun
INOUE Satoshi	ISHIBASHI Michihiro	ITOKAZU Keiko
KAMI Tomoko	KAMIMOTO Mieko	KAWADA Ryuhei
KAZAMA Naoki	KIRA Yoshiko	KOIKE Akira
KONISHI Hiroyuki	MASHIKO Teruhiko	MATAICHI Seiji
MIZUOKA Shunichi	MORIMOTO Shinji	NAMBA Shoji
NATANIYA Masayoshi	OGAWA Toshio	ONO Motohiro
OSHIMA Kusuo	SAITO Yoshitaka	SHUHAMA Ryo
TASHIRO Kaoru	TATSUMI Kotaro	TERATA Sukeshiro
TOKUNAGA Eri	YAMASHITA Yoshiki	YOSHIDA Tadatomo

THE CONSTITUTION OF JAPAN

CHAPTER II

RENUNCIATION OF WAR

Article 9. Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.

In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.

THE CONSTITUTION OF JAPAN

Promulgated on November 3, 1946

Came into effect on May 3, 1947

We, the Japanese people, acting through our duly elected representatives in the National Diet, determined that we shall secure for ourselves and our posterity the fruits of peaceful cooperation with all nations and the blessings of liberty throughout this land, and resolved that never again shall we be visited with the horrors of war through the action of government, do proclaim that sovereign power resides with the people and do firmly establish this Constitution. Government is a sacred trust of the people, the authority for which is derived from the people, the powers of which are exercised by the representatives of the people, and the benefits of which are enjoyed by the people. This is a universal principle of mankind upon which this Constitution is founded. We reject and revoke all constitutions, laws, ordinances, and rescripts in conflict herewith.

We, the Japanese people, desire peace for all time and are deeply conscious of the high ideals controlling human relationship, and we have determined to preserve our security and existence, trusting in the justice and faith of the peace-loving peoples of the world. We desire to occupy an honored place in an international society striving for the preservation of peace, and the banishment of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance for all time from the earth. We recognize that all peoples of the world have the right to live in peace, free from fear and want.

We believe that no nation is responsible to itself alone, but that laws of political morality are universal; and that obedience to such laws is incumbent upon all nations who would sustain their own sovereignty and justify their sovereign relationship with other nations.

We, the Japanese people, pledge our national honor to accomplish these high ideals and purposes with all our resources.

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Q & A about the Atomic Bombing and Peace



Q. What is the meaning of the inscription on stone chamber at the Cenotaph for A-bomb Victims?

The Cenotaph for A-bomb Victims (officially called the Memorial Monument for Hiroshima, City of Peace), modeled after an ancient Japanese clay burial figure of a house, was built to protect the souls of the victims from the rain. The inscription on the chamber, “Let all the souls here rest in peace; for we shall not repeat the evil.” is a prayer for all the victims, regardless of their ethnicity or nationality, who experienced the horror of the atomic bombing, and whose deaths have become a cornerstone of peace for humanity. To honor these victims, all people must pledge to work for a peaceful world free of nuclear weapons.

To convey this meaning, the City of Hiroshima installed explanation plaques in Japanese and English at the cenotaph in 1983. Before the 2008 G8 Speakers’ Meeting in Hiroshima, new explanation panels in Japanese, English, French, German, Russian, Italian, Chinese (simplified), and Korean were placed. Here is the English explanation:

“This monument embodies the hope that Hiroshima, devastated on 6 August 1945 by the world’s first atomic bombing, will stand forever as a city of peace. The stone chamber in the center contains the Register of Deceased A-bomb Victims. The inscription on the front panel offers a prayer for the peaceful repose of the victims and a pledge on behalf of all humanity never to repeat the evil of war. It expresses the spirit of Hiroshima – enduring grief, transcending hatred, pursuing harmony and prosperity for all, and yearning for genuine, lasting world peace.”

From: Noam Chomsky

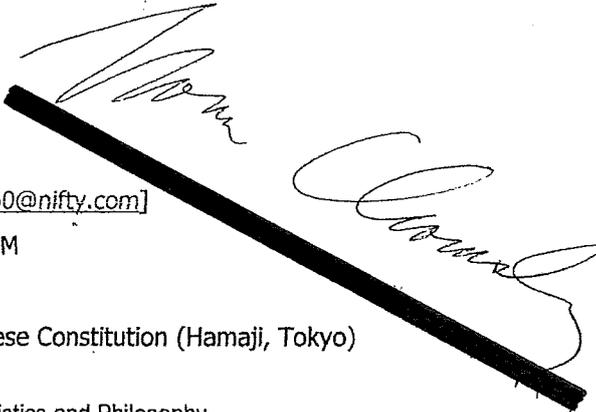
Sent: Saturday, January 18, 2014 2:21 PM

To: Michio Hamaji

Subject: RE: Nobel Peace Prize for Japanese Constitution

I will try to spread the information. It's a wonderful idea.

Noam Chomsky

A handwritten signature of Noam Chomsky in black ink, written over a thick black diagonal line. The signature is cursive and appears to read 'Noam Chomsky'.

From: Michio Hamaji [<mailto:TBE03660@nifty.com>]

Sent: Friday, January 17, 2014 9:09 PM

To: Noam Chomsky

Subject: Nobel Peace Prize for Japanese Constitution (Hamaji, Tokyo)

Dear Prof. Noam Chomsky, MIT Linguistics and Philosophy

Allow this sudden mail from Tokyo.

I, a Japanese businessman/docent having spent years in Arab/Iran, strongly believe that it is not possible to change the culture with hard power.

I, a supporter of Abe in general terms, am concerned about his 'toward-right' policy.

May I have your attention to our civic movement of 'Nobel Peace Prize to Japan' who had maintained for 68 years the Article 9 of Constitution, prohibiting war? As the Prize was given to EU in 2012, I am urged to promote this campaign for Japan, peace lovers.

Michio HAMAJI, Mr. 81-3-3454-1644 070-6488-5415

Global Human Resources Japan, Senior Advisor

「Impression of Japan」 (1968、Oxford Press) A. Toynbee

P. 82

VII. The present debate in Japan about article 9 of the Japanese constitution

The writing of this article into Japan's post-war constitution was a historic event not only in Japan's history but in the whole World's history too. A 'great power' had voluntarily renounced its traditional right to go to war. This had never happened before, and it had happened now in response to a racial change in character of war. Article Nine symbolizes for all peoples their common recognition that this radical change has taken place, and it also gives a lead to other peoples, besides the Japanese, for taking the action that this change in the character of war demands. Thus the debate that is now taking place in Japanese about the future of Article Nine is not just a domestic concern of Japan herself.

If Article Nine is maintained— that is to say, maintained in spirit and practice, and not merely on paper—it will continue to give an example which other sovereign states may perhaps follow sooner or later.

On the other hand, if Article Nine is nullified in effect, even though it is unabrogated on paper, the ray of hope that it has cast on mankind's uncertain future will have been extinguished.

平和創造会議

Peace Creation Conference

- ・総理を議長とし全大臣が出席

平和創造担当大臣

- ・平和創造に関する諸政策の総合調整を担当
- ・「平和創造局」を新設

内閣

平和の保障

- ・外交安保政策を
平和の観点から
チェック

平和政策

- ・核不拡散・軍縮
- ・ODA
- ・平和教育

国際連合

- ・PKO
- ・人間の安全保障

2020東京 オリンピック

- ・国際平和会議
- ・文化交流

等

出典：小西洋之事務所作成
平成25年11月25日 参議院決算委員会 民主党・新緑風会 小西洋之