

Civilization for Peace

Far East Six Nations' Joint Buddhist Initiative **for Peace and Reconciliation of Korean peninsula and East Asia**

Newsletter № 1

Quiet symbolic beginning of the Initiative in Europe in February 2004

Venerable Junsei Terasawa was joined in London by Rev. Sergiy Korostelov and Mr. Ruslan Sotnikov, who fled from Kiev on 4 February 2004. The team, accompanied by the legendary sacred relics of the Buddha from Toshodai-ji Temple of Japan, acted as representatives of the 1st phrase of the trans-Eurasian peace journey, which plans to visit Russia, Central Asia, Mongolia, China, DPRK, South Korea and Japan for the coming 3 months. The journey will bring the message of this Joint Buddhist Peace Initiative to various Buddhist communities in those countries on their way for further cooperation and joint actions.

The team visited **London**, **Brussels** and **Geneva**, where later two other new members, Mr. Timour Makhamatov and Mr. Islam Bursagov from Russia, joined.

1. Activities in London, 4-8 February 2004:



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5 February:

Visit to the London Peace Pagoda in the Battersea Park on the Thames River side.

The London Peace Pagoda is a historical monument initiated by Ven. Junsei Terasawa jointly with the Greater London Council and was inaugurated in 1985. The inauguration ceremony of the London Peace Pagoda was epoch-making greatest inter-religious peace gathering during the highest peak of the peace movement of Europe, on the eve of the end of the Cold war.

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Peace prayer at the Karl Marx grave in the High Gate cemetery in North London, since he represent the ideological roots of the history of the Cold war and its legacy. Peace prayer was offered in the hope that there may be the Peace and Reconciliation beyond the ideological divide of the world.





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Courtesy visit to the Buddhist Temple of Nichiren School at North Finchley. *Ven. Shoryo Tarabini-shonin*, chief monk of the Temple, kindly welcomed the delegation. He presented to Ven. Junsei Terasawa precious old wooden statue of Nichiren and talisman with the prayer of Namu-Myo-Ho-Ren-Ge-Kyo as his spiritual prayer and support to the Peace Mission.

6 February (full moon day): ↓

Delegation visited to the House of Parliament and met *Lord Judd*, whose prominent leadership in the



Parliamentary Assembly of the Counsel of Europe is well known. He kindly agreed to be the patron of this Peace Initiative. Later *Mr. Chris Hunter* joined the meeting in the House of Lords. All the participants of the meeting worked for peacemaking and conflict prevention for many years in the former Soviet Union, especially on the Chechen conflict, one of the deadliest tragedy of post Cold war era. Mr. Chris Hunter, MBE, Director of the Center for Peacemaking and Community Development, also endorsed the Peace Initiative. This meeting took place on the very day of the tragic Moscow metro bombing.

2. Activities in Brussels, 9 February 2004:

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In the morning, 3-members' Peace Initiative delegation **called on the office of IFIAS (Institute for International Assistance and Solidarity)** and was received by its President *Mr. Gerd Gruene*, long standing friend of Ven. Terasawa in the peace movement since 1970s.

Mr. Gerd Gruene of IFIAS also kindly agreed to be one of international NGO endorsers for this Initiative.





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Later afternoon, delegation together with Mr. Gerd Gruene, **visited the European Commission** and was received by *Mrs. Maria Castillo, Administrator, Korean Desk.*

The discussion and exchange of ideas and experience were very much conductive and useful. The delegation listened the EU experience of the engagement in the situation of the Korean peninsula and received inspiring encouragements to the Initiative.

3. Activities in Geneva, 10-17 February 2004:

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Team stayed at **Mandat International** Welcome Center for international NGO delegations.

10 February:

Mr. Timour Makhamatov and Mr. Islam Bursagov arrived to Geneva.



↑ *11 February:*

5-members' delegation conducted **peace prayer ceremony by the Japanese Buddhist Peace Bell** beside the entrance of the Palais des Nations.

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← In the garden of Palais des Nations. ↓



↑ In front of the Palais des Nations.

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At the broken chair, symbol of the world movement against land mines.



← The delegation visited the office of the International Peace Bureau and was welcomed by its Secretary-General, *Mr. Colin Archer*. IPB is also one of the international NGO endorsers of the Initiative. Rev. Junsei Terasawa is a consultant of IPB and has jointly organized many peace initiatives and peace actions since 1970s, latest of which are International Inter-Religious Peace Mission during the siege of the Church of Nativity at Bethlehem, Pakistan-India Prayer March for Peace - 2002 and pre-Iraq war Peace Mission to Baghdad.

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Afternoon, the **delegation was received by HRH Prince El-Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan**, who is the Honorary Patron of the Peace Initiative. His son, Prince Rashid, was also present. For many years, HRH Prince El-Hassan has been kind supporter, endorser and inspiring guide for many peace initiatives undertaken by Ven. Junsei Terasawa.



12 February: ↑

After daily morning peace prayer at the Japanese Peace Bell, delegation **attended the plenary session of the Conference on Disarmament at the Palais des Nations**, in which there was an opportunity to hear the speeches of *Ambassador Hu Xiaodi of the Peoples Republic of China*, *Mr. Jang Chun Sik of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea* and the new *Ambassador of the USA*.

During the brake of the CD session, the delegation had precious opportunity to have the **continued negotiation with Mr. Jang Chun Sik of DPRK** on the proposal and planned actions of the Six Nations' Joint Buddhist Initiative for Peace and Reconciliation of Korean peninsula and Far East Asia. Rev. Terasawa informed Mr. Jang of the plan of the trans-Eurasian peace journey of the Initiative and requested him to deliver the proposals to Pyongyang. Both agreed to keep communicating each other until the delegation arrives in Beijing for the final arrangements of the Peace Mission's entry to the DPRK some time early April, 2004.

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Afternoon, delegation made a **courtesy call on the Permanent Mission of Republic of Korea**, and met three representatives, headed by *Minister Park Hee-kwon*. Rev. Terasawa explained the objectives and plan of the Joint Buddhist Initiative, to which Minister Park Hee-kwon expressed his kind respect. The discussion also touched upon the latest situation of the second round Six Parties Talks planning to start from 25 February, 2004.





13 February:

Afternoon delegation visited the Office of the Pax Romana ICMICA (International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs) and met its Secretary General Mr. Seonghoon Lee (*Anselmo*), who expressed keen interest in the Initiative and had offered many useful advises. In the meeting there were agreement of further cooperation.

16 February:

← Afternoon, 3 p.m., meeting in the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the UN with Mr. Alexander Petrachkov, Senior Counsellor, who said the Russian Federation highly appreciates this Peace Initiative, which may contribute to bring positive change for peace in the region.



→ 5 p.m., meeting in the Permanent Mission of the Peoples Republic of China to the UN with Mr. Shan and Mr. Hu, Deputy Ambassador on Disarmament, who said that China recognize the importance of the role of the peoples' peace diplomacy and welcomes such a Joint Buddhist Peace Initiative and assured Chinese Buddhist's full support.

17 February:

10:00 a.m., Mr. Timour Makhamatov and Mr. Islam Bursagov departed Geneva for Kiev.



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10:30 a.m., meeting in the Permanent Mission of Mongolia to the UN with H.E. Khasbazaryn Bekhbat, Ambassador of Mongolia, who said that his government will fully support this Peace Initiative and will render any practical help for the success of the Mission.

12:00 a.m., meeting in the Permanent Mission of Japan to the UN with Mr. Yasunari Morino, First Secretary, Delegation of Japan to the Conference on Disarmament, to whom Ven. Junsei Terasawa informed of the general proposal of the Joint Buddhist Peace Project of building the Peace Pagoda at the Mt. Diamond in Korea.

3 p.m., rest of the delegation left Geneva for Warszawa, Poland.

Conclusion: Though nothing has been arranged beforehand, the delegation made the remarkably symbolic beginning of the Peace Mission in Europe. It is important to emphasize that all the representatives of the six Permanent Missions, that Initiative's delegation had met in Geneva, unanimously acknowledged the value of the peoples' peace diplomacy such as this Joint Buddhist Peace Initiative for Korean Peninsular and expressed their warm welcome for the delegation's visit to their respective countries.