

**Congress Wrap-Up**  
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Congress wrap-up.

What should we wrap up from this congress? What memories would you like to unwrap when you get home?

I will remember the speech from the opening session by Ron McCoy, a speech that summarises both our movement and Ron's wisdom, developed during ten years of service to IPPNW. I will remember the presentation yesterday of Aiming for Prevention, giving a terrifying picture of the suffering, and the cost, caused by the epidemic of injuries from small arms, and giving hope when we hear of the preventive work our organisation. I will remember the pictures from the 1000 kilometres Baltic Bike Tour, but with a sting of regret that I did not participate.

I will remember how Dr Kgosi Letlape from the World Medical Association reminded us of the social obligations, and the possibilities, that come with the calling of being a physician. He said that doctors today are acting more and more in their self-interest and less and less care about society. I must agree, but I see hope, I see change. When I interview young people who apply for medical school, many or most of them show a strong interest for work internationally, for instance with Medecins sans Frontiers, or with IPPNW. At the IPPNW congress in Helsinki in 1984 there were three students, this time there are about 130! They did not come here for their self-interest, they came because they want to work for a better world. What I will remember mostly from this congress are the faces and the voices of students and young doctors. When I see and hear you, I feel hope. And gratitude. Thank you all, thank you for coming here, bringing enthusiasm and dedication.

We have good reasons to be optimistic about our organisation. We have also good reasons to be optimistic for the world. During the last 60 years great progress has been made, and almost every positive change has been brought about by ordinary people working together without violence. The Soviet empire did not fall because President Ronald Reagan spented hundred of billions of dollars on weapons, it fell because of the solidarity of workers in Poland, because of the singing revolution in Estonia and Latvia, because people in Leipzig said: We do not accept your rule, we do not cooperate with you. The liberation of the colonies, the fall of the dictators in the Philippines and in Latin America was achieved not with violent revolutions but because of the solidarity of people who said: We do not cooperate with you. Non-violence and non-cooperation with oppressors, the Gandhi way, has been an overwhelming force, stronger than the weapons.

The victory of the people in the work for freedom and democracy is the greatest change in the political world during these sixty years since World War II. And with this change comes the birth of the Global Community. We all here, in this organisation, feel that we belong to the world. And we have a responsibility for the world. And so do more and more and the young people of today.

There are two strong forces, two superpowers, in the world of today. Militarism, particularly US militarism on one hand, the world civil society, the world community of ordinary people on the other. The purpose of the US military forces is to defend what the US government sees as US interest anywhere in the world. The world civil society feels a

responsibility for the world and for its future. One of the most important parts of that community is the US civil society.

We lost the fight to prevent the US attack on Iraq, mostly because of the fear of nuclear weapons. Fear is one of the strongest means of the leaders to subdue the people, and fear of nuclear weapons is very effective. Maybe that is why nuclear arms are still here, to induce fear. If the mushroom cloud over Manhattan had not risen behind Condoleezza Rice when she spoke of the need to attack Iraq, the US public may not have accepted the war. Nuclear weapons are a cause of war. But I do not think the US public will be tricked the next time, when the US government declares the necessity to attack Iran. But we may need stronger non-violent means of non-cooperation with the government than just demonstrations. And we need more effective ways of communication.

I am not quite certain, but I believe that the world civil society will prove stronger than US militarism. I believe this also because I have a strong faith in US democracy.

I have tried to gift-wrap a few memories and a great hope for us. And I will end with a quote that is a gift from Arundati Roy to us all:

"Not only is a better world possible, she is already on her way. I may not live to greet her, but in quiet moments I can hear her breathing"

Goodbye. Keep well, do good work, and keep in touch!

Gunnar Westberg  
With thanks for your confidence.