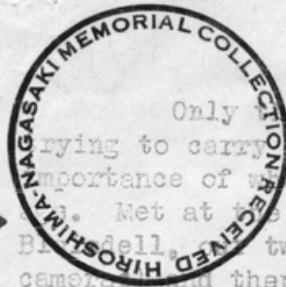


REPORT OF PEACE PILGRIMAGE

San Francisco, California
March 21, 1962



Only those of you who have been in Hawaii in the past years, trying to carry out a peace concern, can have any idea of the tremendous importance of what happened there when we arrived with the Peace Pilgrimage. Met at the airport by Victor Givan, officially representing Mayor Blaisdell, two delegates were presented with leis (although not for the cameras) and then whisked through all formalities and out to where more than a hundred well-wishers piled us up to the ears with fragrant leis until it was all I could do to keep from crying with gratitude and relief. Can any of you imagine such a reception for messengers from Hiroshima in that bastion of bitterness over Pearl Harbor? Press reports were uniformly excellent--the Japanese papers long and radiant. The House of Representatives passed a Resolution extending aloha to the delegates and inviting them to the House where they each gave a short message. And Mayor Blaisdell took them to lunch at the Oahu Country Club and presented them (again not for the cameras) with a Hawaiian calabash on which a silver shield is mounted (no doubt they are massed produced, but it is inscribed with an official message of Aloha from Mayor Blaisdell), and gave each one a small key to the city. (I wonder if it would unlock the City and County Jail?)

The reception there was the result and, I am sure, the reward of the many who have worked long and earnestly on making the "Sister City relationship between Honolulu and Hiroshima a meaningful thing" and who did a magnificent job of advance arranging and publicity. In addition, they had collected more than 5000 signatures on a petition to each of the four nuclear nations (a separate, but identical-except-for-the-heading) appeal, printed effectively on sheets of four different colors and directed to each of the nations. These additions we are proud to carry with us, and Seattle has now decided to prepare their own supporting appeal, get as many signatures as possible, and then airmail the lot to us at some future stop, possibly just before we go to the United Nations, where its official presentation can give additional publicity. Can any of the rest of you think in terms of sending appeals from your own areas--perhaps having them ready to pass around at meetings where the delegates speak?

I am sorry I haven't been able to give you all better ideas of what materials we are carrying and how you can best prepare for us. We are learning as we go and I believe our effectiveness is increasing. Before leaving Tokyo we decided, almost at the eleventh hour, that it was necessary--in view of President Kennedy's speech on the resumption of testing--to make an effort to carry our appeal to Khrushchev as well as to the other three nuclear powers and, accordingly, we made a preliminary application for a visa at the Soviet Embassy. And, in Honolulu, we further realized that the official recognition and support of these delegates by their own government when we get to New York would be by far the most effective way of getting them to the heads of delegations, both in the UN and at Geneva. Accordingly, we started with the Consul General of Japan in Hawaii and met with a most encouraging response and his assurance that he would strongly recommend that Mr. Okazaki be requested to make the necessary arrangements.

I believe this thing has tremendous possibilities for grasping the heart and the imagination of the US and the world and I urge all of you to give it all the efforts you have. People who have seen the film here are planning to write to friends and to newspapers in areas where we will be and urge attendance. This is not just for the ingrown peace groups! The outreach is far beyond and we have a constructive, dynamic plan to propose as well as a deeply moving testament to the impossibility of contemplating war as a solution. Please give it your widest efforts, drawing into this effort all of the possible communications media, the big names who might support it and spread the concern--the topflight TV and radio, etc. (We have negative films from our documentary which are available for use on local TV with the impact of having a bedside interview with a A-bomb survivor.) Here in Seattle, a newsreel was made to send back to Japan. We must get newsreel coverage in the States! We must get Big Names to appeal to the American people to see and hear this story. We must get a sound track narration to go with the documentary and then make as many copies as possible to circulate as widely as possible as soon as possible. I ask the help of all of you for this. I don't hesitate to ask, because I know that this offers a possible way for all of us who have been working so long and with increasing discouragement to break through to give the "nation of sheep" a bell wether of inspiration to lead them back from the brink, and a positive program to start working on that can give us all hope. These two young kids are our chance--perhaps our only chance!

S.F. → As for the young people themselves--I would like to ask you to arrange places for us to stay, so far as possible, where we can be together. They are very young, very insecure, and have been and will be going through an ordeal that is not only physically but emotionally exhausting. They run into problems constantly that we couldn't possibly anticipate and unless I am available, they just don't have the courage to ask for help. (Not even to ask for the nearest rest-room, although Miyoko San's "trouble" as she puts it, involves a frequent need to find relief. One of the effects of radiation may be "increased elimination of uric acid and phosphate.") I must protect them and even I sometimes have to be intuitive about when they are overtired, troubled, etc.

Also, it would be kind if you could arrange for them to have Japanese newspapers daily in your area--if such are available--and to give them a supply of the extra-large postcards with views of your area which they will ask each group where they speak to mail for them, after writing a message and report of the meeting to be sent back to the survivors at home. And please keep all clippings for us, both before, during, and after--for us and to send back to the Pilgrimage Committee and to my own family. This thing is so big I have no time to write.

Thanks for continuing support.

Sincerely,

Barbara Reynolds