



24. 7. 2003

## REPORT BY THE MAYOR

### PART A - MATTERS REQUIRING A COUNCIL DECISION

#### 1. MEMORANDUM OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP WITH CITY OF HIROSHIMA

<b>Officer responsible</b> Community Relations Manager	<b>Author</b> Barbara August, International Relations Co-ordinator, DDI: 941-8251
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The purpose of this report is to seek Council approval for the Mayor to sign, on behalf of the city, a Peace and Friendship Agreement with the City of Hiroshima.

At its May 2002 meeting the Strategy and Finance Committee received a deputation from the Peace Foundation and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom requesting that Christchurch be declared a Peace City and proposing a number of initiatives that the Council might wish to initiate to give meaning and commitment to such a declaration. One of the suggestions was to endeavour to sign a Peace and Friendship agreement between the Cities of Christchurch and both Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Christchurch became a Peace City in July 2002.

The Mayor is to visit the Cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August, to attend the memorial services for persons killed in the atomic bombings of the Cities on 6 and 9 August, respectively. The City of Hiroshima is very keen to sign an agreement with Christchurch.

At the Council's June 2003 meeting it was agreed that, where possible, all future Memoranda of Understanding between the Christchurch City Council and overseas cities, provinces or other entities be formally approved by the Council, prior to being signed.

The proposed Peace and Friendship agreement between the Cities of Hiroshima and Christchurch states as its objectives to:

- Seek international peace and friendship.
- Support each other in developing a culture of peace.
- While remembering the past, actively facilitate the transformation of conflict through peaceful means.
- Work together for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

There is no financial commitment associated with the signing of this agreement.

**Recommendation:** That the Council approve the signing of a Peace and Friendship agreement between the Cities of Christchurch and Hiroshima.

**CONSIDERED THIS 24TH DAY OF JULY 2003**

**MAYOR**