

DANISH PEACE ACADEMY

REPORT FOR 2009-2010

by John Scales Avery

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The Danish Peace Academy website

For many years the Danish Peace Academy (www.fredsakademiet.dk) has maintained a website which today has about 16000 documents and illustrations related to peace and approximately 4000 different visitors each day from all over the world. The website is the main activity of the Danish Peace Academy. The website has a day by day timeline of peace-related events, articles and books that can be downloaded, a peace encyclopedia, an extremely large bibliography, as well as songs, poems and histories. Holger Terp created the website almost single-handedly, and he performs all of the daily work without payment.

Holger Terp's radio project

Holger Terp continues to collaborate with radio host John Marko, and together they have produced several recent broadcasts about peace in music (Fred i Musik). You can listen to these broadcasts by going to the link: <http://www.fredsakademiet.dk/ht.htm>.

“Skjalden sang fredssangen og slaget stoppede...” by Holger Terp

This is a beautifully illustrated 391-page book in Danish by Holger Terp, and it is undoubtedly the most authoritative and comprehensive book ever written about the history of peace songs in Denmark. Holger describes it as

“a work in progress”. It can be downloaded from <http://www.fredsakademiet.dk/ht.htm>, and hard copies are available from www.lulu.com/john189.

Conference on an Arctic Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone August 10-11, 2009

In collaboration with the Danish Institute of International Studies (DIIS) and several NGO's we helped to organize a Conference on an Arctic Nuclear-Weapon Zone. The conference took place over two days, partly at DIIS and partly at the University of Copenhagen. The conference was supported in part by the Hermod Lannung Foundation. Speakers pointed out that with climate change making commercial exploitation of the Arctic possible, there is a danger of militarization of the region in support of territorial claims. However, the fragile ecology of the Arctic needs to be protected, as do its indigenous peoples. In particular, nuclear weapons must be barred from the region.

The full proceedings of the conference can be downloaded from <http://www.fredsakademiet.dk/tid/2000/2009/august/nw fz.pdf> or obtained as a hard copy from www.lulu.com/john189. DIIS has produced a 134-page Report on the conference, 300 copies of which will be distributed at the 2010 NPT Review Conference in New York in May.

On March 23, 2010, leaders of the opposition parties in the Danish Parliament held a meeting at Christiansborg Palace to discuss whether advocacy of an Arctic NWFZ could be adopted as a common policy for the opposition. The proposal received support from all those present. The meeting was organized by Jens-Christian Navarro Poulsen (DRV Chairman for Frederiksberg), who was following a suggestion made by Ruth Gunnarsen, Board Member of the Danish Peace Academy.

On April 27, 2010, John Avery from the Danish Peace Academy presented a lecture entitled *An Arctic Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone; A Nordic NWFZ as a First Step* at the Nordic Forum for Security Policy 2010 in St. Petersburg, Russia.



Figure 1: *On September 9, 2010, a special honorary award was given to Holger Terp by the Danish Livia Foundation for his lifelong work documenting how generations of courageous people have worked for peace through speeches, writing, songs, protests and joint action. The photo shows Else Hammerich of the Foundation giving Holger a symbolic olive tree.*

Symposium on Energy, Climate Change and Global Food Security

On Friday, December 4, 2009, just before the start of the United Nations Climate Summit in Copenhagen, the Danish Peace Academy helped to organize a symposium focusing on the severe food security problems that the world is likely to experience partway through the 21st century because of rising energy prices, growing populations and climate change.

The threat of a global food crisis is one of the most worrying problems associated with climate change. At present a child dies from starvation every six seconds - five million children die from hunger every year. Over a billion people in today's world are chronically undernourished. There is a threat that unless prompt and well-informed action is taken by the international community, the tragic loss of life that is already being experienced will increase to unimaginable proportions.

As glaciers melt in the Himalayas, threatening the summer water supplies of India and China; as ocean levels rise, drowning the fertile rice-growing river deltas of Asia; as aridity begins to decrease the harvests of Africa, North America and Europe; as populations grow; as aquifers are overdrawn; as cropland is lost to desertification and urban growth; and as energy prices increase, the billion people who now are undernourished but still survive, might not survive. They might become the victims of a famine whose proportions could exceed anything that the world has previously experienced. The symposium discussed the steps that are necessary to avert such a tragedy.

The lecturers were: 1) Janet Larsen, who is Director of Research at Lester Brown's Earth Policy Institute; 2) Professor Mario Giampietro from the University of Barcelona, who is famous for his studies of the large energy inputs to modern agriculture; 3) Professor Emeritus Klaus Illum of Ålborg University, who has for many years written eloquently about energy-related problems; 4) Professor Jrgen Scheffran of the University of Hamburg, who is an expert on the social consequences of a severe food crisis; and 5) Senior Scientist Steven Starr of the University of Missouri, who spoke about the severe impact on global agriculture of even a limited nuclear war.

The speakers concluded that the threat of severe future food shortages can

only be avoided by prompt and well-informed policy changes. These include

- stabilization of populations
- stabilization of climate
- stabilization of aquifers
- conservation of soils
- protection of cropland
- restriction of the use of grain for motor fuels
- investment in agriculture and agricultural research
- establishment of a global food bank

Janet Larsen pointed out that individuals can help in three areas of life: 1) In the home - energy-saving light bulbs, insulation; 2) Transportation - bicycles, public transport; 3) Personal diet - less meat. Individuals can also become more politically active and demand that their politicians address the problems.

For a detailed discussion of these issues, Janet Larsen recommended Lester Brown's recent book, "Plan B, 4.0", which may be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Earth Policy Institute. John Avery's book "Crisis 21; Civilization's Crisis in the 21st Century" deals with many of the problems discussed at the symposium, and it may be downloaded free of charge from <http://diku.dk/avery/csbk.pdf>, or obtained as a paperback from www.lulu.com/john189. Prof. Mario Giampietro's books dealing with energy and agriculture are available from Barnes and Noble, and many of his papers can be found on the Internet. Details relating to Steven Starr's lecture can be found on www.nucleardarkness.org.

Proceedings of the symposium can be downloaded from <http://diku.dk/hjemmesider/ansatte/avery/foodb.pdf>.

United Nations Day Student Peace Prizes

In collaboration with several other Danish NGO's and with financial support from the Hermod Lannung Foundation, we are participating in a project which offers prizes to students at Danish gymnasiums for projects related to global problems and their solutions and to the United Nations. These can be essays, dramatic sketches, videos, websites, posters, etc., and they are judged



Figure 2: *The United Nations Day Student Peace Prize competition at Inger Jespersen's Gymnasium, Copenhagen, October 26, 2010.*

on UN Day, before a large audiences of students.

The background for this project is as follows: In 2007, we helped to arrange a visit to Copenhagen by Dr. Tadatoshi Akiba, the Mayor of Hiroshima. In connection with his visit, we helped to host a Peace Education Conference at the University of Copenhagen.

In connection with Dr. Akiba's visit, we also arranged a day of peace education at Copenhagen's Open Gymnasium. About 15 people from various branches of Denmark's peace movement arrived at the gymnasium at 7.00 a.m., and between 8.00 and 10.00 they talked to 15 groups of about 25-50 students about topics related to peace. At 10.30, all 500 students assembled in a large hall, where Dr. Akiba gave an address on abolition of nuclear weapons. A chorus from the gymnasium sang, and finally there was a panel discussion. The students were extremely enthusiastic about the whole program.

The success of our 2007 effort made us want to do something similar in 2008, and perhaps to broaden the scope. Therefore we wrote to the Danish Minister of Education, Bertel Haarder, and proposed that October 24, United Nations Day, should be a theme day in all Danish schools and gymnasiums - a day devoted to the discussion of global problems and their solutions. We received a very kind reply. The Minister said that he thought our idea was a good one, but that he did not have the power to dictate the curricula to schools. We needed to contact the individual schools, gymnasiums and municipalities.

In the autumn of 2009 we arranged a United Nations Day program on October 24 at Sankt Ann Gymnasium with the cooperation of Nørre Gymnasium. We offered prizes to drama students at the two gymnasiums for the best peace-related dramatic sketch, a condition being that the sketches should be performed and judged before a large audience. Our judges were the actress Mia Lyhne, Johan Olsen, the lead singer of "Magtens Korridorer" and the dramatist Steen Haakon Hansen. The students' sketches and the judges speeches about the meaning of peace were very strong and moving. Everyone was very enthusiastic about the day. The judges have said that they would be willing to work with us again on peace-related cultural events.

In 2010, with the help of the Hermod Lannung Foundation, we offered student



Figure 3: *A computergraphic/painted image by Elias Lewinsky of Aurehøj Gymnasium symbolizing the work of the United Nations. It won first prize in the creative category.*

peace prizes to the students in 9 Danish gymnasiums. The reports from most of these can be found on the Peace Academy's timeline at <http://www.fredsakademiet.dk/tid/2000/2010/oktober/okt1025.htm>.

In 2011, the Hermod Lannung Foundation has given us sufficient funds to offer United Nations Day Student Peace Prizes at 11 Danish gymnasiums. We hope that the 2011 projects will be as exciting as they have been in previous years. We also hope that we will be able to continue and perhaps expand the project in the future.

Visit of the Peace Boat

The Peace Boat (<http://www.peaceboat.org/english/index.html>) was in Copenhagen's harbor on June 1, 2010, with 10 survivors of the tragic nuclear bomb-

ings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki (hibakushas). The Danish Peace Academy helped to bring out to a wide audience in Denmark the hibakushas' account of what it is like to experience a nuclear attack. Because of their advanced ages, this was one of our last opportunities to hear their story.

The history of the Peace Boat is very interesting in itself. It started shortly after World War II because a university student in Japan was very dissatisfied with the way that the history of the war was being taught - minimizing the Japanese role in starting the war and minimizing Japanese war crimes. He therefore decided to charter a small boat and to sail to China, Korea and other countries that had experienced the war in order to collect first-hand stories from ordinary people about what the war was like for them. Many of his fellow students became involved with this effort, and gradually the Peace Boat's voyages developed into what they are today.

We helped to organize several events for the Peace Boat both in Copenhagen. Copenhagen's Mayor of Culture, Pia Allerslev, welcomed the hibakushas at the Copenhagen City Hall, and she made a speech expressing solidarity of our city with the message of then hibakushas advocating nuclear abolition.

Danish Peace History, by Holger Terp

A book in English on **Danish Peace History** by Holger Terp can be found on the link <http://www.fredsakademiet.dk/ht.htm>. After corrections have been made, the Danish Peace Academy plans to make hard copies of the book available.

Crisis 21, by John Avery

John Avery's 346-page book **CRISIS 21: Civilization's Crisis in the 21st Century** can be freely downloaded from the following link:

<http://www.fredsakademiet.dk/library/crises.pdf> , while printed copies can be obtained from www.lulu.com/john189. The aim of this book is to explore the links between the various problems facing civilization today. Among the most acute of these problems are 1) Threats to the environment; 2) Growing population, vanishing resources; 3) The global food crisis; 4) Intolerable economic inequality; 5) The threat of nuclear war; 6) The Military-Industrial



Figure 4: *Copenhagen's Mayor of Culture, Pia Allerslev, (left) welcomes a hibakusha and a translator from the Peace Boat*

Complex; and 7) Limits to growth. Besides exploring the links between these problems, the book offers holistic solutions.

Publication of Judith Winther's Books

Two books in Danish by Judith Winther, **Civil Samfundets Udvikling og Historie** (The Development and History of Civil Society) and **Politik fra Neden** (Politics from Below), edited and illustrated by Holger Terp, have been published on the Danish Peace Academy's website. They can be found on the following link: <http://www.fredsakademiet.dk/library/index.htm>, and can be freely downloaded. Hard copies of these two books are available on www.lulu.com/john189.

Opening of Holger Terp's exhibition at the Main Library, Hvidovre

On the 7th of April, 2011, an exhibition of rare books and phonograph records was opened by Holger Terp at the Main Library in Hvidovre. To mark the



Figure 5: *Ten survivors hibakushas from the Peace Boat address students at Christianshavns Gymnasium, Copenhagen. All of them are survivors of the nuclear destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. They told of their terrible experiences and warned that such a tragedy must never be repeated.*

opening of the exhibition, the folk-singer Fin Alfred Larsen gave a concert of Danish peace songs. Troels Schmidt from TVGaderummet made a television program of the concert by Fin Alfred as well as an interview with Holger.

Become a member of the Peace Academy

Although Holger Terp does all the daily work of maintaining the Danish Peace Academy's website without pay, there are still some expenses in connection with maintaining it. To meet these expenses we are very much in need of help. If you would like to contribute, or to become a member of the Danish Peace Academy, please contact our treasurer, Finn Ekman, Lynbyvej 141, 1.tv, DK-2100 Copenhagen , Denmark, f.ekman@pc.dk.