

SGI President Meets Peace Activist Dr. Krieger Courtesy of SGI NEWSLETTER

The SGI's stance against nuclear weaponry is gaining praise 40 years after second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda first called for world disarmament. To commemorate the 40th anniversary of Toda's Declaration for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, the Santa Barbara, Calif.-based Nuclear Age Peace Foundation bestowed upon the SGI organization and SGI President Ikeda a certificate of commendation Sept. 14.

Nuclear Age Peace Foundation President David Krieger (see interview, p. 5) presented the accolade to President Ikeda, along with the international peace organization's Peace Ambassador award, at the close of the World Youth Peace Music Festival in Yokohama, Japan. (Yokohama is where President Toda made his anti-nuclear declaration.)

The Certificate of Commendation, read by Dr. Krieger, stated: "The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation extends its deep appreciation to Soka Gakkai International and President Daisaku Ikeda for continuing and diligent efforts to realize Josei Toda's vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and a transformation of the human spirit to bring about a just and lasting peace. We look forward to joining our efforts in working to achieve these noble goals."

Accepting the awards, the SGI leader said he would continue fighting undauntedly as an ambassador of peace. President Krieger asserted that he, too, would continue to strive for peace as a comrade of Mr. Ikeda's. He further said that he would never forget the dazzling smiles of the SGI members in the music festival.

President Krieger recently gave a talk on the 40th anniversary of Toda's declaration for 800 youth division members at the 4th U.S.-Japan Youth Peace General Meeting in Santa Monica, Calif. (see Aug. 29 *World Tribune*). After that talk, he praised Toda and the first Soka Gakkai president, Tsunesaburo Makiguchi, for "speaking out against militarism and militant nationalism — for not being willing to just 'go along' with such militarism...."

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