

SGI President and Former Prime Minister of India Discuss Gandhi

SGI President Ikeda met with India's former prime minister Inder Kumar Gujral at the Tokyo Makiguchi Memorial Hall in Hachioji, Oct. 28. Mr. Gujral, a disciple of Mahatma Gandhi, observed that without Gandhi, India would be a completely different place today. Gandhi changed the way that Indian people think, he said, crediting his mentor's advocacy of nonviolence to Shakyamuni Buddha's teachings. Mr. Gujral remembered that initially people viewed Gandhi's nonviolent movement with derision, believing that it could never achieve the end to British rule, and President Ikeda concurred that all great movements face criticism at the outset. On the issue of nuclear arms, Mr. Gujral declared that their total abolition is the only way to ensure the peace and security of humankind. He proposed convening a world conference toward ridding the world of this threat. The SGI leader shared that his mentor, second Soka Gakkai president Josei Toda, was an advocate of abolition, and that Toda first issued an appeal for the creation of a nuclear-free world in 1957.

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