

Declaration of Universal Peace

History

At the end of the Second World War, a small group of former members of the Resistance Movement who wished to ensure that « *this would never happen again* » founded *The Bilingual World* in Paris, in 1951, to enable peoples to understand each other by speaking at least two languages from early childhood.

Then, to allow them to meet, *The Bilingual World* organised exchanges for teachers from small towns twinned for this purpose. To begin with, these were French, English, American and Canadian, in memory of the brotherhood of arms. Then came Franco-German twinings to facilitate reconciliation¹.

These were followed, right in the middle of the Cold War and right in the midst of MacCarthyism, by East-West twinings, including the famous twinning between Dijon and Stalingrad², which the Council of Europe recognised much later - but better late than never - as having played a large part in official Détente.

Finally North-South twinings - *The rendezvous of giving and receiving* (Léopold Sedar Senghor) - broke new ground in the field of decentralised co-operation.

At the call of *The Bilingual World*, the twin towns came together to form the *United Towns Organisation - UTO* (Aix-les-Bains, 27 April 1957), open to towns all over the world without any discrimination whatsoever, based on a **Charter** guaranteeing freedom of movement and genuine dialogue. At the third UTO World Congress, in Aosta (Italy), in 1960, Abbé Pierre and Pastor Andriamanjato, Mayor of Antananarivo, blessed the UTO flag.

Together, the towns - now twinned and united - decided to devote the last Sunday of April every year to a *United Towns Day, World Festival of Towns and Villages*, on the occasion of which a *Declaration of Universal Peace* was read.

During the decades that followed, this Declaration went round the world. It is still as topical as ever : see for yourselves ! Today, the threat of war, rekindled by the heirs of those who participated in the Liberation of France and of the world, with the courage and the sacrifices that we all know so well, the unspeakable acts of widely dispersed terrorism and the revival, by an irresponsible State, of the idea of atomic warfare, in a disorientated world, lead the rare survivors of the pioneers and former members of the Resistance, of *The Bilingual World* and the Twinned Towns of 1951, to launch a new appeal to all the peoples of this marvellous Planet Earth :

. *If all the peoples of the world were to shake each other's hand*, this was a pious hope at the end of the last century,

. *If all the twinned towns of the world were to declare peace on each other*, this was already more tangible in the second half of the twentieth century,

¹ Bernard STASI, President of United Towns France, Mediator of the French Republic, estimated that their number today is 2000.

² whose negotiations started in 1956. The meeting of Canon Félix KIR, Mayor and Member of Parliament of Dijon, Doyen of the National Assembly, with Nikita Khrushchev, caused an outcry at NATO and the Vatican. This was the beginning of a "witch hunt", whose repercussions can still be felt today (2003).

. *If all the peoples of the world were to declare peace to each other*, today, individually, directly, without any intermediary, THIS IS POSSIBLE, thanks to the extraordinary tool of communication that is INTERNET, by organising a chain of refusal of all armed conflict, except if this is the only recourse against totalitarian oppression, as was the case in the Resistance.

Instructions

Send the present text and other related letters and articles that you will find on our web site : www.lemondebilingue.asso.fr/home-eng.html to all your friends and relatives accessible through email or just provide them with the above url if they also have an access to Internet and ask them to follow suit.

If this chain of peace is not broken, your message will assume a universal dimension :

This is possible, because the action we are proposing is not based on politics for its own sake, but on the policy of Man and the Universal,

This is possible, because the chain and the geometric progression system makes it possible to reach a fantastic number of people,

This is possible, because the idea of peace is the one that is mobilising most people at the present time and can influence a large part of world opinion.

We are sending you this «*Declaration of Universal Peace*» in French and/or in English only, in line with our possibilities and given the urgency, but if you speak any other national or regional languages, please use them !

This campaign is addressed to all, both young and old, but particularly to young people, not only because Internet does not hold any secrets for them, but because it is essential, today, for young people to feel involved in a joint cultural adventure of major importance, that of peace.

Besançon, 31 January 2003

Giulio DOLCHI

Former Partisan (1939-1945).
Former Mayor of Aosta (Italy)
President of the Historical
Institute of the Resistance, Co-
Founder of The Bilingual World
and of the United Towns
Organisation (UTO).

Denise POULAIN


Assistant to the Director of the
Paris Institute of Geography (de
Martonne).
Co-Founder of The Bilingual
World.
Member of the Resistance from
its earliest days.

Jean-Marie BRESSAND

Member of the Resistance (1939-
1945).
Founder of The Bilingual World
and of the United Towns
Organisation (UTO).

P.S. Should you wish to send a «*Declaration of Peace*» to some of the world's major practitioners, here is the email address for George W. Bush : president@whitehouse.gov
Unfortunately, we do not own the email addresses for Saddam Hussein, Ariel Sharon or Yasser Arafat.

Declaration of Universal Peace



**Let every citizen
of every town
be prepared
to engage
in dialogue
without reservation
or bias
with the citizens
of all other towns
of the world
so that
in them
they will recognise
their equals;
let all together
learn
to love one another,
to help one another
and to join
in the immense task
of reducing
the economical
and educational
imbalance
among the peoples
of this planet;**

**Let man convert
the billions of
euros
spent each year
on war
and the preparation for war
into funds
for the protection
and full development
of human life.
Then past suffering
will not have been
in vain;
then our devastated cities
will no longer
need to be rebuilt
from one generation
to the next
and our children
will at last
be able to enjoy
mankind's heritage
and let it bear
full fruit
in Peace.**

**Jean-Marie Bressand
Jean-Maurice Chevallier**

Letter to George W. Bush

(dated and sent on January 30th, 2003)

Dear George W.

At 84 years of age (on 31 January 2003) and as a veteran of the 2nd World War (39/45), I hope that you will allow me this familiarity.

I have just learned from the radio that on Wednesday, 5 February 2003, you will address the peoples of the whole world, who are presently going through days of anguish and who will be hanging on to your every word on this historic Wednesday, to hear you give them the proof of the treachery of the Master of Baghdad.

I recently wrote a small humorous and mischievous article on the subject - which I hope will not shock you, knowing your sense of humour – in order to raise the question of this alternative of peace or war.

Whatever the terrible secrets you have to tell us, I nevertheless hope that, in the final analysis, peace will triumph.

I have drawn the following lesson from my struggles in the Resistance against Nazism, or against the OAS and those which followed, for decades, in favour of the free co-operation between peoples of all countries, without any discrimination whatsoever :

No cause, however just it may be, can justify the deliberate sacrifice of innocent persons, unless war is the only recourse against totalitarian oppression, as was the case in the Resistance.

I send you all best wishes and remain,

Yours sincerely,

Jean-Marie BRESSAND
Honorary Journalist
Former Member of the Resistance against
Nazism (1939-1945 War)
Founder of The Bilingual World and of the
United Towns Organisation (1951)
A citizen of the "Old Continent"

P.S. Your services know me well and will have no difficulty in identifying me. I believe, however, that the testimony of General Charles De Gaulle of 23 November 1944 (Mention in Dispatches) could be useful, as all my actions since then were motivated by the great ideals of the Resistance.

P.J. - Article for the press
 - Testimony of General Charles De Gaulle

Press Article

George W. BUSH, a hero or a public danger ?

He seemingly acts like a feather-brained cowboy. What is dramatic is that he is at the head of the biggest empire in the world.

Yet, he is surrounded by a tremendous number of intelligent people and he is perhaps not as simple as they say.

Should we consider that the Anglo-Americans are in possession of information that they dare not divulge for fear of causing panic, such as the terrifying virus cultures which give haemorrhagic fevers able to kill millions of people and whose manufacture is within the reach of the first Bin Laden who comes along ?

In this case, George W. BUSH would be the saviour of mankind and would definitely deserve the next Nobel Peace Prize...

Testimony of General Charles de Gaulle

P/MJW.

<p>RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE</p> <p>Guerre 1939-1945</p> <p>CITATION</p> <p>DECISION N° 174</p> <p>Sur la proposition du Ministre de la Guerre, Le Président du Gouvernement Provisoire de la République Française; Chef des Armées, cite :</p> <p><u>A L'ORDRE DE L'ARMÉE</u></p> <p><u>BRESSAND</u> Jean, Marie, - Aspirant de la Direction du Service Techni- que des services spéciaux.</p> <p>" Exemple magnifique de ce que doit être un combattant fran- " çais. Dès le lendemain de l'armistice de Juin 1940, a préparé " dans le silence, la libération du Pays en fournissant avec intel- " ligence et à propos des renseignements sur l'ennemi, tous de la " plus haute importance pour le commandement. Pris par l'ennemi, a " préféré subir la torture que de dénoncer ses camarades de com- " bats. Malgré ses souffrances a réussi à s'évader et à rejoindre " en Afrique du Nord les Forces Françaises Combattantes ; à peine " remis est encore volontaire pour une nouvelle mission spéciale."</p> <p>.....</p> <p>Ces citations comportent l'attribution de la Croix de Guer- re avec palme. Elles ne seront pas publiées au Journal Officiel de la République Française.</p> <p>POUR AMPLIATION L'Administrateur de 1^e Classe BAULET PARIS, le 23 Novembre 1944. Chef de la Section "Décorations".</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Signé: DE GAULLE.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>De Gaulle</i></p>
