

Japan Prime Minister Kishida said in statement to media, “Step by step toward a world without nuclear weapons”

On the afternoon of May 21, the summit meeting of the G7 (Group of Seven industrialized nations), which had been held in the A-bombed city of Hiroshima, concluded after finalization of its three-day schedule. Japan Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, who served as chair of the summit, held a press conference at Peace Memorial Park, in the city’s centrally located Naka Ward, in which he said, “When the world’s eight billion people all become ‘citizens’ of the A-bombed city of Hiroshima, nuclear weapons will disappear from the earth. Let us take a realistic approach, step by step, toward that goal.”

On the summit’s final day, leaders from eight nations attending an expanded meeting of the summit, including the nuclear nation of India, joined UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in visiting Peace Memorial Park. They toured the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and offered flowers at the Cenotaph for the A-bomb Victims. Prior to those activities, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol paid a visit, alongside Mr. Kishida, to the Monument in Memory of the Korean Victims of the A-bomb, located inside the park, in what was a first for a sitting president of South Korea. There, the two leaders together memorialized the Korean A-bomb victims. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy took part in discussions held at the Grand Prince Hotel Hiroshima, located in the area of Motoujina-machi in Hiroshima’s Minami Ward.

The G7 Hiroshima Summit began on May 19. On the first day, leaders from the G7 nations, including the nuclear-armed United States, United Kingdom, and France, as well as the European Union (EU) visited Peace Memorial Park and formulated the G7 Leaders’ Hiroshima Vision, the first summit statement to place a focus on nuclear disarmament. The statement highlighted the importance of continuing the record of non-use of nuclear weapons ever since the atomic bombings of Hiro-

shima and Nagasaki and the trend of decline in global nuclear arsenals. The G7 Hiroshima Leaders’ Communique, released on the night of May 20, established a world without nuclear weapons as an ultimate goal and committed to achieve that goal with undiminished security for all through a realistic and pragmatic approach. In addition, the communique included such items as increased aid and support to Ukraine, which is still under attack by Russia.

