

English Corner: Suggested Article of Discussion

1. Article 10-6: Peace in the Atomic Age by Albert Einstein

I am grateful (感激) to you for the opportunity to express my conviction (确信) on this most important political question. The idea of achieving security (安全) through national armament (武装) is, at the present state of military technique, a disastrous (灾难性) illusion (幻想). On the part of the United States this illusion has been particularly fostered (抱有希望) by the fact that this country succeeded first in producing an atomic bomb. The belief seemed to prevail (占优势) that in the end it was possible to achieve decisive military superiority (决定性的军事优越).

In this way, any potential opponent would be intimidated (被恐吓). Security, so ardently (急切的) desired by all of us, who have been following during these last five years, has been, in short, security through superior military power (军事优势), whatever the cost (不计代价).

The armament race (武装竞争) between the USA and USSR, originally supposed to be a preventive measure (预防手段), assumes hysterical (狂热) character. On both sides, the means to mass destruction (大量摧毁) are perfected with feverish (狂热) haste—behind the respective walls of secrecy. The H-bomb appears on the public horizon as a probably attainable goal.

If successful, radioactive poisoning of the atmosphere and hence annihilation (毁灭) of any life on earth has been brought within the range of technical possibilities. The ghostlike (幽灵似的) character of this development lies in its apparently compulsory trend (被迫倾向). Every step appears as the unavoidable (不可避免) consequence of the preceding one (先前的一步). In the end, it beckons (走近) more and more clearly general annihilation (全部毁灭).

Is there any way out of this impasse (僵局) created by man himself? All of us, and particularly those who are responsible for the attitude of the US and the USSR,

should realize that we may have vanquished (征服) an external enemy, but have been incapable of getting rid of (不能除去) the mentality (思维) created by the war.

It is impossible to achieve peace as long as every single action is taken with a possible future conflict in view. The leading point of view of all political action should therefore be: What can we do to bring about a peaceful co-existence (和平共存) and even loyal cooperation (忠诚的合作) of the nations?

The first problem is to do away with mutual fear and distrust. Solemn (郑重) renunciation (放弃) of violence (暴力) is undoubtedly necessary.

Such renunciation, however, can only be effective if at the same time a supra-national judicial and executive body (超越国家的执行团体) is set up to decide questions of immediate concern to the security of nations. Even a declaration (宣言) of the nations to collaborate (合作) loyally in the realization of such a ‘restricted world government’ would considerably reduce the imminent danger of war.

In the last analysis, every kind of peaceful cooperation among men is primarily based on mutual trust (互信) and only secondly on institutions such as courts of justice and police. This holds for nations as well as for individuals. And the basis of trust is loyal give and take.

2. Discussion:

1. Why does the famous scientist Einstein think that annihilation of life on earth is possible?
2. Now we have got the United Nations in place as Dr. Einstein suggested? The world situation has not been improved much.
3. When can we people on earth live peacefully together?

3. Proverbs:

1. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited (自大) (Romans 12:16)
2. Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everybody. (Romans 12:17)