

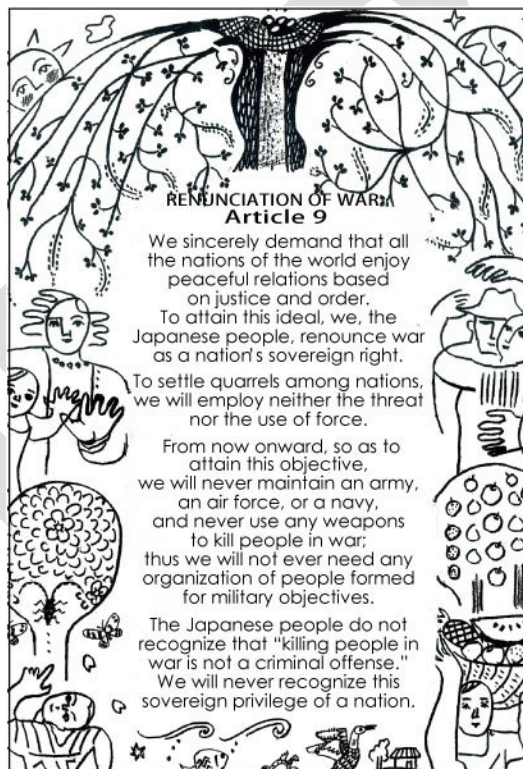
## REIJIRO SHITO OF FOR JAPAN (JFOR) VISITS US

by Stan Morris

Last Thursday (27 April) I met with Reijiro Shito, a member of FOR Japan (JFOR) for over 50 years. This was by invitation of Ethan Vesely-Flad, who had arranged for Mr. Shito's travel from Japan and wasn't able to greet him when he arrived at FOR USA's headquarters in New York. Mr. Shito, now 82 years old and merely a student when "the bombs" were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945, wanted to take part in the NPT peace actions that took place in NYC on April 30-May 2, 2010. I don't often have an chance to visit with JFOR members, so I took this as an opportunity to learn more about Reijiro Shito and JFOR, and a perfect time to update our data files.

Mr. Shito had much to say about JFOR and its long history, so we talked for almost an hour. He presented me with a book that he and Tadakazu Fukase had written in 2005 as a JFOR publication, *Peace Constitution in Crisis*, and handed me an artistic, commemorative copy of *RENUNCIATION OF WAR—Article 9* of the Japanese Constitution, both of which I will make available at IFOR's Peace Library in The Netherlands. Mr. Shito told me that *Article 9* is very important to the Japanese people and that many believe "Article 9 was actually inspired by God."

I've made some notes of my talk with Reijiro Shito, so please contact me (see below) if you're further interested in this story.



### About the *RENUNCIATION OF WAR—Article 9* art poster

In October 2006 the IFOR Council in Tokyo decided to start a "Peace Constitution Working Group." As a part of the activities we translated Article 9 into several foreign languages to explain that it renounces war and forbids the use of weapons in solving any conflict. Special care was given so that children around the world could easily understand the meaning of the Article 9. This message was printed into a colorful postcard for distribution. So far only English and French versions have been made for the NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) May 2010 Review Conference in New York. We would like to introduce it to you.

"We hope these cards will become well known in the final year of the UN Decade for a culture of peace and nonviolence," writes Atsuko Ohtaka. (The card is free of charge, postage included. Please contact Atsuko Ohtaka for copies and more information at: [z.ohtaka656tm@kbh.biglobe.ne.jp](mailto:z.ohtaka656tm@kbh.biglobe.ne.jp) )

### **About the JFOR publication *Peace Constitution in Crisis* <sup>1</sup>**

Two great powers have very quickly declared their support for the Iraq war: in Britain it was led by Prime Minister Tony Blair, and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan. Many members of Parliament, including the opposition, are busy trying to revise the Constitution of Japan. "The Peace Constitution in Crisis" is based on lectures by members JFOR Tadakazu Fukase and Reijiro Shito who strive diligently to preserve the peace constitution.

In Japanese and English printed (52 pages), examines the book:

- The opposition of the Waldenses ried maintenance
- The Constitution and the reality of the militarization
- The impact on nonviolent conflict resolution and the role of world public opinion as its own superpower
- Examples of nonviolent conflict resolution, including Balkan Peace Teams of IFOR, various non-violent movements in Japan, the nonviolent resistance against the Iraq war.
- The preservation of the pacifist path of the Japanese Constitution.

Order today! Email to JFOR: [iitakakyoko@jcom.home.ne.jp](mailto:iitakakyoko@jcom.home.ne.jp)

1. "IFOR in Action," *Summer 2005 Movement Edition*, Vom Englischen ins Deutsche, von Anka Schneider, Internationaler Versöhnungsbund e.V. (FOR Germany) [http://www.versoehnungsbund.de/archiv/2005/jia\\_de\\_0510.pdf](http://www.versoehnungsbund.de/archiv/2005/jia_de_0510.pdf) ; German to English text translation produced by Stan Morris.



*Stan Morris is Communications Officer for the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR). Learn more about Stan and international volunteerism at <http://www.stansblogs.blogspot.com/> .*

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