

PUGWASH CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION  
FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING  
Pugwash, Nova Scotia, Canada  
August 16 - 21, 1970

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Message of Greeting  
from  
Cyrus Eaton

Welcome back to Pugwash! Just ten years ago your predecessor group met here, then also under the inspired leadership of Dr. J. R. Kidd. I am honored that you have chosen to return, this time to consider the crucial subject of continuing education for international understanding. Pugwash, above all, stands for tolerance and friendship among people and nations of different races, creeds and languages, political and economic systems.

Never in history has it been more important to eradicate prejudice and hostility and to foster understanding of opposing viewpoints. Now that science has been diverted from its true course to create the lethal weapons that can eliminate all humanity in one hour, adult education holds out one of our chief hopes.

In this age of conflict and unrest, domestic and international, in many parts of the world, the young in many instances are displaying a deeper appreciation of our mammoth problems than their elders. There are several segments of the adult population that call for special attention from the educators.

High on the list are the hard-core warriors, far too numerous in the ranks of the elder statesmen, the professional militarists and the pseudo-security spies. Stodgy senior executives of corporations, crusty old labor leaders, opinionated editors and bigoted preachers are equally in need of mental refurbishing. For quite different reasons, particular attention should be directed to women, notably mothers, since they are always the first educators of new generations.

I constantly marvel at the many modern methods of communication that were either in their infancy or yet to be invented when I was born in 1883. Although I still go along with Gutenberg and personally prefer the printed word, I must concede the far stronger mass influence of television and radio, which can now carry to the far corners of the globe in a matter of minutes. These should be more the tools of the educators, and less the toys of shallow commercial amusement.

The results of your deliberations in Pugwash will be followed with sympathetic interest by serious-minded citizens around the world. I wish you the most successful of conferences, and await your conclusions with the keenest of anticipation.

August 17, 1970