Today a balance must be reached, and this will take place through the medium of an enlightened statesmanship and through a political activity which will be based increasingly upon the good of the whole of humanity, and not upon benefiting any one nation in particular.

The Tibetan Master Djwhal Khul in *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy* by Alice A. Bailey

All countries of the world are coming together in New York to negotiate what is seen as the most important initiative ever regarding conventional arms regulation within the United Nations. A robust arms trade treaty can make a difference for millions of people confronted with insecurity, deprivation and fear.

**UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty, New York, 2-27 July 2012**

Dear Friends

The Ageless Wisdom tells us that as humanity leaves the strictly physical and highly emotional and inflammable stages of consciousness behind, so humanity learns to think—and then, and only then, will war cease.

Are we inching our way to this enlightened possibility?

A historic conference, “the UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty” recently took place at the United Nations in New York City from 2-27 July. The intention, as the UN website devoted to this Conference indicates, was to negotiate what had been
seen as the most important initiative ever, regarding conventional arms regulation within the Member States of the United Nations.

Virtually all international trade in goods is regulated; however, to date, no globally agreed standards exist for the international arms trade. Mr. Ban told Member States at the opening of the Conference: “nuclear issues capture headlines, but conventional arms are killing people every day.”

As a result of a six-year campaign by a coalition of non-governmental organizations, multiple United Nations agencies and their partners and the urging of several Nation States, the United Nations came together during the month of July to alter this state of affairs.

The facts prompting this Conference are appalling: the global arms trade last year cost the people of the world over $1.7 trillion; in Africa alone, between 1990 and 2005, 23 African countries lost an estimated $284 billion as a result of armed conflicts, fuelled by transfers of ammunition and arms—95 per cent of which came from outside Africa. And, globally, as Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon told Conference participants, 60 years of United Nations peacekeeping operations have cost less than six weeks of current military spending!

The toll these weapons take is deplorable. Some 750,000 people are killed by illicit weapons each year; one person every minute dies from armed violence around the world and at the end of 2010, an estimated 27.5 million people were internally displaced as a result of conflict, while millions more have sought refuge abroad.

“Every day, we at the United Nations see the human toll of an absence of regulations or lax controls on the arms trade,” Mr. Ban-Ki-Moon intoned. “We see it in the suffering of civilian populations trapped by armed conflict or pervasive crime. We see it in the killing and wounding of civilians—including children, the most vulnerable of all. We see it in the massive displacement of people within and across borders. We see it through grave violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law.”

Having been forced into the role of a child soldier at the tender age of 13, Ishmael Beah from Sierra Leone implored Conference participants to adopt a global Arms Trade Treaty:

“When I was forced to join the Sierra Leone Army, they gave me a gun, and, after basic training, ammunition. Instead of training at a shooting range, they
would line up prisoners for us to practice on. They gave us AK-47s, the most widely available weapon and the easiest to use....The treaty is not a panacea to end all violence, genocide and human rights abuses, but it is a colossal step in the right direction. It is also an important missing piece to end the rampant use of children in war...For the first time, it will set an international standard that governments and civil society can use to hold accountable those who sell weapons irresponsibly. It will also prevent the flow of weapons into lawless areas plagued by conflict by closing the many loopholes immoral businessmen now use to navigate with impunity.”

As Mr. Beah also pointed out, “Sierra Leone had no capacity to manufacture the arms and ammunition used in its conflict. Weapons were brought in by unscrupulous arms dealers concerned with lining their own pockets who simply did not care where those weapons would wind up.”

Further underscoring the insanity of world arms transfers, it is estimated, for example, that armed conflict in Africa squanders about $18 billion a year, the same amount of money that the continent received in foreign aid from multilateral donors in 2010.

Can we imagine the application of such funds to vital services such as education, roads and health care?

Under conference rules, a single country could block final approval of the treaty. Unfortunately, to the great dismay, frustration and anger of countless participants and observers, and in spite of the heroic attempts of many, the treaty was not adopted at the designated deadline of 27 July.

It must be reported that poignantly, but understandably, while most U.N. member states favored a strong treaty, activists said they were at times drowned out in negotiations by objections and disruptions from a minority of states. In the final hours, as reported in *New York Times*, for their own respective reasons, the United States, as well as Russia and China—all large weapons exporters, said that more time was needed!

However, all is not lost and this failure may provide a new and momentous opportunity—one in which spiritually minded people can engage and help affect a better outcome.
The next procedural step is to continue to work on the treaty and then present it to the full 193-nation General Assembly, where it can pass with a two-thirds majority vote. Optimistically, the Conference chairman, Ambassador Roberto García Moritán of Argentina said that he was confident of achieving a treaty later in the year.

Can each of us reading this newsletter dedicate ourselves to subjectively and spiritually work in meditative thought to ensure that in fact this will happen?

The destiny held out for humanity is that it eventually will be “the exponent of the mind of God,” expressing active intelligence, motivated by love and implemented by will. As “light streams forth into the minds of men” the divine plan will be more widely sensed and the will-to-good will be more widely desired and invoked.

Can we dedicate ourselves to this purposeful and compassionate work? We will be aided in our efforts this month by the energies pulsating throughout the manifested universe from the sign of Leo, including those cosmic and solar energies related to this sign.

The Ageless Wisdom tells us that the purpose of this solar system is the unfoldment of consciousness and the whole story and function of Leo and its influences can be summed up in the word “sensitivity.”

The esoteric wisdom explains: In the evolutionary process there is, “first the form, gradually prepared, adjusted, aligned and oriented during many eons of time; behind this active form, as it steadily improves and becomes more responsive to environment and contact, stands the slowly awakening consciousness. This is the thinking, intuiting, loving soul, which tightens its hold over its response apparatus, avails itself upon every possible occasion of every advance made by the form, and employs every influence for the perfecting of the work.” (Esoteric Astrology, pp. 291-292)

In the first volume of Discipleship in the New Age the Tibetan Master, Djwhal Khul, teaches that thoughts are things; they are creative, creating and created entities. The Agni Yoga Wisdom affirms that each era has its own call, and it is the power of thought, which will be the evocative principle in the New World.

By means of vibratory resonance then, focused meditative thinking can support and strengthen those enlightened statesmen and women who seek the good of the whole of humanity.
Will you help anchor and distribute the potent and Lighted energies of the Leo Solar Festival as we focus on “The Spiritual Work of the United Nations and the Liberation of Humanity?”

The meditation meeting will take place at Noon on Wednesday, August 1st, in the UN Meditation Room on the exact day of the Leo Solar Festival, which this month, in the U.S. Eastern time zone (DST) occurs at 5:56 a.m. We will work silently, in unison, using the meditation outline, “The Spiritual Work of the United Nations and the Liberation of Humanity,” from 12-12:30 p.m. and then reassemble outside the meditation room from 12:30-1:15 p.m. for discussion.

We thank those of you who are regularly using this meditation outline based on the “six-fold progression of divine Love.” Your contributions are helping to awaken and strengthen the spiritual consciousness on the planet and they are much appreciated. For those of you who may yet need a copy, please let us know; you are encouraged to use it, not only on the day of the meditation meeting, but, weekly every Friday.

For those whose geographic location necessitates that you join in subjectively, please know that your meditative, Lighted thoughts, in collaboration with those of other like-minded servers of humanity, are deepening, beautifying and electrifying the planetary stream of Light, Love and the Will-to-Good. Together, we are helping to create the electrified, radiatory substance from which new and transformative ideas can emerge—ideas, which will bring solution for humanity’s seemingly intractable problems.

A UN pass is not required to attend this meeting. Enter the UN through the Visitor's entrance on 1st Avenue at 46th St. After you pass through security and enter the building, the meditation room is located to the right of the information desk and next to the Chagall stained glass window.

Further information about this meditation initiative and the remaining 2012 meditation meeting dates are posted on this web page, which also includes a link to the online flyer on Solar Festival Meditations, in English, Portuguese and Spanish.

You are invited to ponder the quote of the month, posted on the first of every month. As usual, it is accompanied by a photograph of the cosmic landscape in which our planet Earth “lives and moves and has its being.”
Thank you for working with the new uploaded videos in the Aquarian Age Community YouTube channel, which includes an updated version of the video on the Great Invocation in the Six Official Languages of the United Nations:
http://www.youtube.com/user/AquarianAgeCommunity

The video under the heading of “Reconciliation and the Healing of the Nations” continues to be available at this YouTube address:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uw8OwJJl0HA (4:31).

Your continued support and help in working with and circulating these videos is welcome and deeply appreciated.

In loving and shared planetary service,

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