



February 26, 2010

Dear IPB members

IPB Nobel Centenary 2010 – an invitation

In recent communications we have mentioned the importance of this significant year in IPB's history. Back in 1910, the IPB was the umbrella group for the national 'peace societies' that existed in Europe and beyond. The Prize was awarded to the Bureau as a way of making a tribute – and an encouragement – to the organised peace movement of the day. Those pioneers of the movement (several of whom received the Nobel Peace Prize in their own right) were concerned about the alarming build-up of weapons and the risk of an armed conflagration. Four years before the 'Great War', they were quite right! Similarly, just a decade before the establishment of the League of Nations, they pressed for the creation of just such a body, which of course paved the way for the UN we have today.

Since those days, IPB and its members have been involved in many of the great peace campaigns and causes of the century.

So this is a special moment for IPB, a time to look back at 100 years of peace history, and also to look forward to the challenges of the coming years. We are preparing various events to commemorate this centenary (notably in Oslo and Geneva) – and we will inform you in more detail in the weeks to come.

But this letter has a different purpose – it is **an invitation to you to plan some programme work in your own country or sector to commemorate the jubilee of this Nobel Peace Prize, one that (in a general sense) we all share**. In 1910, there were a few dozen member organisations. We now have 320 in 70 countries (as well as over 150 individuals) – and the list is still growing. That represents a large community of activists and supporters, people who endorse IPB's general goal (*www – a World Without war*) and who are engaged in peace work of many types in their own areas.

What we hope is that in all the world's continents activities will be organised that will help to make IPB's name known and will inform the public of the work of the peace movement.

The activities could take many forms:

- conferences
- lectures
- street actions
- artistic / media events
- fundraising activities

- publications
- receptions /dinner/ parties
- even a fireworks night!

- and in the process, linking up with historians, writers, artists, teachers, politicians...and most importantly, young people, who we hope will be inspired to work for peace in their own lives.

NOTE: IPB Secretariat can offer suggestions for the activities you can organise, including possible speakers etc, but unfortunately we are not in a position to offer financial sponsorship of these activities from the head office.

This is an excellent opportunity to gain media coverage for your own organisation as well as IPB. Sometimes the fascinating historical aspects can be of interest to the press.

So, please let us know what you prepare – we can of course help by publicising such actions via our website , newsletter etc.

Looking forward to your response

With warm wishes

Tomas Magnusson
President

Colin Archer
Secretary-General

SEPT 23-26, IPB NOBEL PEACE PRIZE CENTENARY JUBILEE + ASSEMBLY – OSLO
Conference : **“A Climate for Peace”**. Locations: Nobel Centre, Nobel Institute, Literature House.
Themes include Disarmament for Development, nuclear abolition, peace history, peace education, civilian peace services. Special youth programme Sept 21-22.
Details to follow, note the dates!
Contact address in Oslo: hedda@norgesfredsrad.no