

*New York – May 3, 2005. Introductory remarks made by David Clark at the Christie's "Back to the Garden" art auction, and VIP gathering during the United Nations Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.*

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"We are honored and privileged - to be working with Mayor Akiba - who has garnered the support of over 950 Mayors around the world – to help abolish nuclear weapons by the year 2020 – through - his 20/20 Vision campaign.

So - what is the BACK TO THE GARDEN Arts initiative.

Tonight's event is the official launch of an unprecedented arts campaign. As far as the name – BACK TO THE GARDEN - it came from the chorus of Joni Mitchell's song - Woodstock.

I love the lyric - because I find it HOPEFUL, ROMANTIC and INSPIRATIONAL. I also like it - because metaphorically it takes you back to a time before nuclear weapons existed – The Garden of Eden - if you will, and - the largest NO NUKES concerts in the world – took place at Madison Square GARDEN 25 years ago.

Some of you may know that Mayor Akiba will speak about his campaign in the General Assembly of the UN tomorrow – and – I am pleased that Yoko Ono - has agreed to speak as well.

The reaction to our arts initiative has been astounding thus far – as - you can see from the artists represented here tonight.

I'm excited about the BACK TO THE GARDEN initiative - and - fully support Mayor Akiba's 20/20 Vision Campaign.

I've found that it's one thing to highlight a problem - quite another to pose an answer. The solution - posed by Mayor Akiba - in my opinion – IS RIGHT.

And - to quote Abraham Lincoln –

RIGHT - MAKES MIGHT.

Thank you." – David Clark