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## Violence in Today's World

EVERY DAY I PICK UP the newspaper or turn on the TV, and feel sick to hear stories of violence in many parts of the world. I see pictures of starving children being driven out of their homes or wounded by invasion or civil war. I see devastation of natural beauty by ruthless bombing. Then I ask myself, what kind of world are we creating for our youth?

It reminds me of the days when I was a young teacher, not much older than some of you readers, I believed that World War One (1914-1918) was the “war to end all wars”.

The League of Nations had been set up to achieve that goal. I remember the shock I felt when, in 1939, another war, World War Two, was declared. I watched with tears as young men were loaded on to trucks and sent to the war front, many never to return.

Hope returned after that war ended in 1945 and the United Nations was set up. This time, after seeing the devastation caused by atomic bombs dropped on Japanese, we believed that no country would ever again dare to start a war. Yet two strong nations, the USA and Russia (the Soviet Union) immediately began a race to build up weapons to protect their own political systems. In 1947, President Truman of the USA proposed that America “police” every border of Russia. Truman said, “There is

no country too remote to serve as the scene of a contest which may widen until it becomes a world war.” Obviously, some countries had not learned their lesson from the war that had just ended. The Americans, in fact, had not experienced bombing, so they did not know the terrors of war.

Chinese people and others in Europe and Asia all experienced the horrors of that war, and I am sure they all want peace. War seems to be caused by ambitious politicians, while ordinary people just want to bring up their families and enjoy what this beautiful world has to offer. It is sad to see how the innocent civilians in Lebanon and other cities have suffered ruthless bombing of their homes and their country’s infrastructure, leaving them without water, electricity and other necessities that we in Hong Kong enjoy.

Hong Kong is one of the safest places in the world. Let us keep it peaceful, and let us try to assist the unhappy people of war-torn countries.