

August 6th A day of mourning and of hope

THE THOUSAND CRANES

A Japanese legend holds that anyone who folds a thousand paper cranes will have a wish fulfilled.

Sadako Sasaki, a tiny girl in Hiroshima on the day the Bomb was dropped, was dying of radiation sickness ten years later. Sadako started to fold a thousand cranes, to wish for lasting peace in the world. Though the task grew more and more difficult for her weakening fingers, she made 664 paper cranes. Dying, she held a crane and said;

"I will write PEACE on your wings and you will fly over the world."

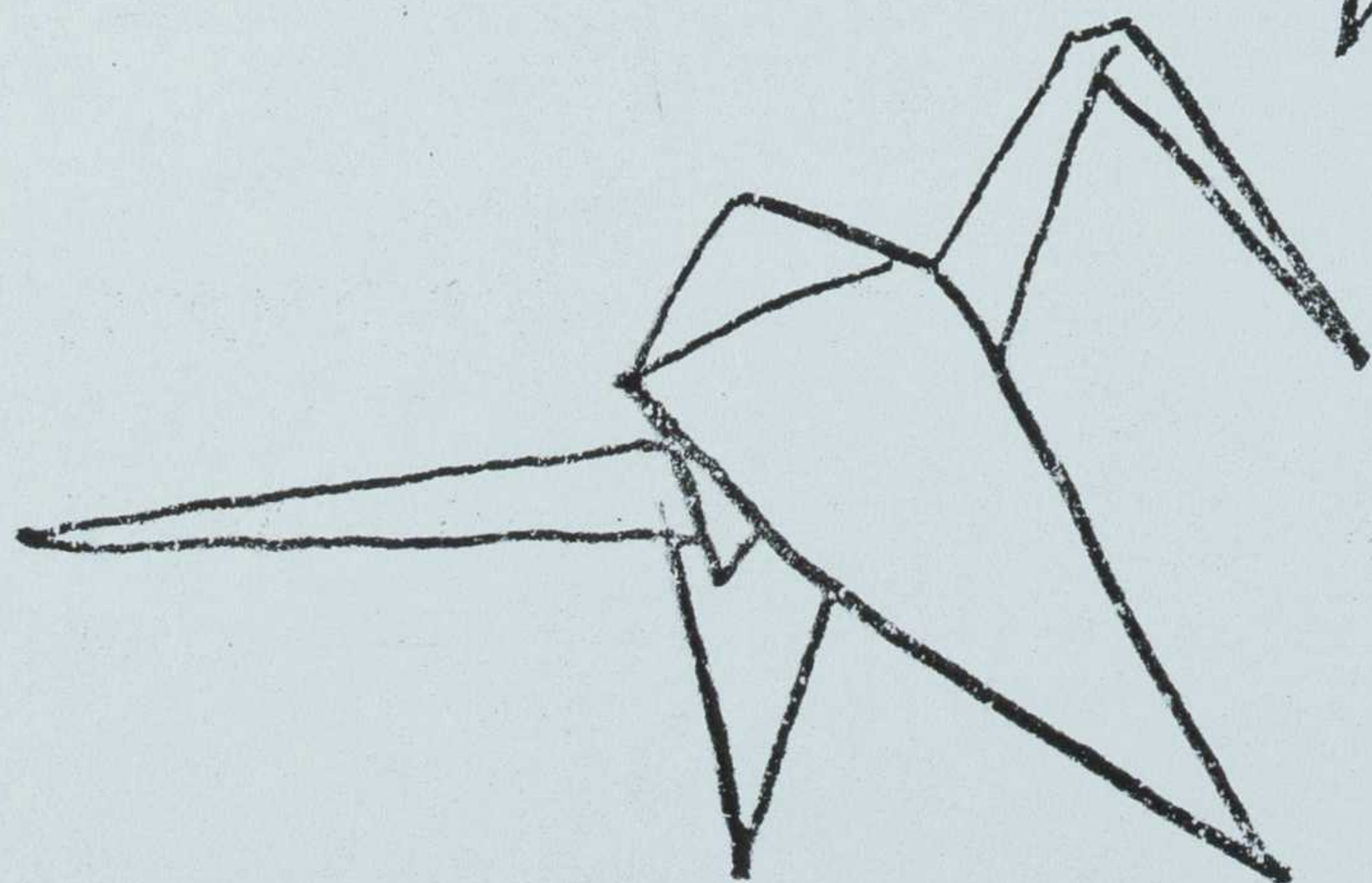
When Sadako's story was known, millions of people all over Japan folded paper cranes and sent them to the statue of a young girl which stands in Hiroshima's Peace Park. At the foot of the statue, in the midst of the colorful cranes which are still being sent there, are carved the words,

THIS IS OUR CRY, THIS IS OUR PRAYER: TO
ESTABLISH PEACE IN THE WORLD

Three decades later people are still dying from the effects of that bomb, and we now have thousands, much more powerful and deadly, ready to use.

The cranes are symbols of our wish and hope and work for peace.

Will you join us?



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