

# Memories of Pugwash Members on Ulrich Albrecht

**4 January 2017**

Dear friends and colleagues!

With sadness, we have to report that \*Prof. Ulrich Albrecht\*, Pugwash Council Member until 2000, has died at the age of 75 on December 26, 2016.

Ulrich Albrecht was born in 1941 in Leipzig, lost his father in Stalingrad, studied mechanical and aeronautical engineering (Dipl. Ing.) later on and wrote his dissertation on "Trade with Weapons". After posts at the Federation of German Scientists and the IISS, he turned to social sciences and became as a political scientist a professor of peace and conflict research at the Otto-Suhr-Institut, Free University of Berlin.

During 1982-83 he also served as Vice-President of the FU Berlin. Here, he studied the arms trade, arms industry, military research, arms dynamics, conversion and peace policy from a social, economical and political perspective, but also within the "socialist sphere". He wrote and published books about the "Soviet Armament, Arms Industry and Scientists in the East". He was particularly interested in the fate of German scientists, who had been active in armaments program before and during World War II and their post-World War II contributions to military programs in other countries, including the Soviet Union.

Since 1970 he was active in Pugwash, build-up and directed the Berghof Center for Conflict Research in Berlin, which combined in-house research with funding of external projects. In 1982-83 he was consultant for a United Nations Group of Governmental Experts chaired by Rolf Björnerstedt from Sweden, authoring the study "The military use of R&D". Before and during this time he was closely affiliated with SIPRI.

He was an outspoken anti-militaristic public voice, strong initiator of the peace movements from the 1960ies on and a strong supporter of the policy of "détente". In the early 1980s he was actively involved in the debate over new nuclear weapons in Europe, with strong contacts to individuals and peace groups in the former GDR. In 1990 he became, as a West-German, the head of the planning staff of the MFA in East-Berlin. He held special contacts to South-Korea for which he tried to adopt lessons for unification. He was an important and influential founder of peace research in Germany with many research projects in the academic world.

He educated many PhD. Students and wrote numerous publications. Due to a critical disease he was unable to continue much of his academic work after 2006 and lived in a retirement home.

The German Pugwash community as well as peace research owe him much tribute.

Götz Neuneck  
Pugwash Germany

**5 January 2017**

Our deep condolences for his family and for the our Pugwash family for such sad news. May god bless his soul.

Almotaz Abadi

Dear Goetz,

Ulrich Albrecht's passing away leaves a void in the Pugwash movement and in the world of peace and disarmament research. I salute his contribution to Pugwash and honor his memory.

Jayantha Dhanapala  
President of Pugwash

Dear Pugwashites

I was very saddened to hear of Ulrich's death. We can ill afford to lose such people in this year of Trumpism and Brexit. Please pass on condolences to his family and close friends. I too would like to acknowledge all the great work he did for arms control, disarmament and German Peace Research. With love and Peace from New Zealand.

Kevin

Professor Kevin P Clements  
Chair and Director, The National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Otago.  
Dunedin, New Zealand

**9 January 2017**

Dear colleagues,

I knew Ulrich Albrecht since the beginning of the 1970s, when he was part of the rapidly growing German peace research community encouraged by Gustav Heinemann, then President of the Federal Republic. Ulrich had a sharp analytical mind, always productive and always encouraging others to do more and better. He was a kind man at that. His gentle manners were such that it was hard not to follow his lead when asked. His commitment to Pugwash was strong: he attended Pugwash conferences also after he was hit by disease and bound to the wheelchair. I am glad Gøtz highlighted some of the milestones of his rich life. I had a deep respect for Ulrich, and the memory of him will always be with me.

Sverre Lodgaard