



Committee on International Justice and Peace

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July 1, 2010

The Honorable Brad Sherman
Chairman
Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation
and Trade
Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ed Royce
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation
and Trade
Committee on Foreign Affairs
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Sherman and Ranking Member Royce:

With the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Review Conference having concluded in New York, now is the time to strengthen efforts to reduce nuclear armaments and secure nuclear materials. The Global Security Priorities Resolution (H.Res. 278) calls for just that and links long-term savings derived from reducing our nuclear arsenal to increased support for nuclear nonproliferation efforts and child survival programs. Reintroduced by Congressmen James McGovern and Dan Lungren earlier in this Congress, H.Res. 278 sends a powerful message of hope to a world longing for greater security and peace based on justice. On behalf of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I urge you to support efforts to move H.Res. 278 out of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and work for its passage in the weeks ahead.

The Catholic Church rejects the use of nuclear weapons because their use cannot insure noncombatant immunity and their destructive potential and lingering radiation cannot be proportionate in any meaningful sense. Pope Benedict XVI has said, "In a nuclear war there would be no victors, only victims" (January 1, 2006). For these moral reasons, the bishops have long supported the dismantling of nuclear weapons systems, the effective securing of nuclear materials from terrorists, and a reduction in the overall number of nuclear armaments. Our goal is to prevent proliferation of these horrific weapons, and ultimately to eliminate them.

The Global Security Priorities Resolution (H.Res. 278) embraces and works toward this goal as it calls for the U.S. and Russia to verifiably reduce "deployed nuclear weapons to equal levels of 1,000 and a total nuclear inventory of not more than 3,000, by the year 2015." By adopting such cuts in the U.S. nuclear arsenal and securing nuclear material, our nation can demonstrate leadership and strengthen its credibility by moving toward meeting its obligations under the Nonproliferation Treaty and encourage other nations to do the same. Other nuclear powers will become less dependent on their own nuclear deterrents, and non-nuclear nations will be less tempted to ignore their nonproliferation obligations.

H.Res. 278 calls for some of the savings from reductions in the nuclear arsenal to be used to improve nuclear non-proliferation programs, but other savings would be used to "enhance child survival in the world's most needy countries" and to improve "child nutrition and educational opportunities." Our Conference recognizes that poverty and injustices often "provide fertile ground in which terrorism can thrive." Through funding such vital programs we can strengthen our nation's commitment to reduce global poverty and the desperate situations of injustice and

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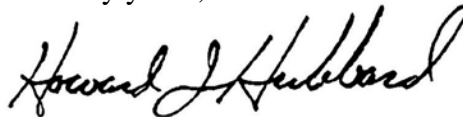
deprivation that terrorists can exploit. These programs will also advance the Administration's support for an international campaign to halve global hunger and poverty by 2015.

Pope Benedict XVI has linked disarmament and development. In his January 2010 World Day of Peace message, he noted that the cost of maintaining and developing nuclear arsenals is enormous and could be better "spent on the development of peoples, especially those who are the poorest." The Holy Father hoped that at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Review Conference that "concrete decisions will be made towards progressive disarmament, with a view to freeing our planet from nuclear arms."

Archbishop Edwin O'Brien, former Archbishop of the Military Services and now Archbishop of Baltimore, said at the 2009 Deterrence Symposium organized by the U.S. Strategic Command in Omaha: "Abolishing nuclear weapons is not a narrowly partisan or nationalistic issue; it is an issue of fundamental moral values that should unite people across national and ideological boundaries."

Our Conference of Bishops urges you to work for passage of the bipartisan Global Security Priorities Resolution, H.Res. 278. This legislation will help our nation to contribute to greater security, justice and peace in our world through reducing nuclear armaments, securing nuclear material, especially from terrorists, and improving child survival and nutrition among desperately poor societies.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Howard J. Hubbard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "H".

Most Reverend Howard J. Hubbard
Bishop of Albany
Chairman, Committee on International Justice and Peace