

July 16, 2012

Dear John Hallam,

Please add the Canadian Unitarians For Social Justice to the list of groups signing this document. And thank you for taking this initiative.

In Faith,

Rev. Frances Deverell  
President,  
Canadian Unitarians For Social Justice  
Ottawa, Canada  
president@cusj.org

## **RE: REDUCTIONS IN US NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

**President Barack Obama**

cc

Leon Panetta, Secretary of Defence

Hilary Clinton, Secretary of State

Ellen Tauscher

Gary Samore

Dear President Obama,

Dear Congressional strategic weapons subcommittees, Dear Policymakers,

The undersigned groups write to you in response to recent reports to the effect that you may be considering significant further decreases in US strategic nuclear forces.

**We strongly support such reductions, and would wish to affirm in the strongest possible terms, that:**

\* Deterring aggression against the United States (and any other States) in the 21st Century can rely more and more on non-nuclear means thus reducing or eliminating any need to rely on nuclear weapons;

\* the global elimination of nuclear weapons, under strict and effective international control, is an obligation and commitment of all nuclear weapons possessing states;

\* Leadership of the United States in drastically reducing nuclear stockpiles will stimulate and enable reciprocal reductions and negotiations for bilateral, pluri-lateral and multilateral nuclear disarmament; \*As an imperative for both human survival and the security of States, nuclear disarmament must take a priority in the achievement of national security. Indeed, the speedy achievement of a nuclear weapons free world should be considered as amongst the highest security goals of US and other nations.

\*That those who argue that the US must indefinitely maintain large nuclear forces for a variety of security tasks that can be better met by other means place the security of the United States and the whole world in jeopardy.

Your attention is drawn to the work on nuclear winter done most recently (since 2006) by Toon and Robock, and others, showing that the use of even a small portion of global nuclear arsenals could cause global famines that could last for up to a decade, and that a US-Russia nuclear exchange would bring about temperatures not experienced since the last ice age.

We commend the United States for joining the other States Parties to the NPT in 2010 to highlight that any use of nuclear weapons would create catastrophic humanitarian consequences, and we draw Your attention drawn to the declaration by 16 governments at the May2012 NPT Prepcom on catastrophic humanitarian effects of nuclear weapons use, and to both the international law implications of that issue and to its real implications for the continuance of civilisation and human survival.

Your attention is also drawn to recent reports and arguments by a number of US military experts including former US Commander James Cartwright for Global Zero showing that deep reductions in US forces are both practical and helpful to US security and global stability.

We strongly urge you to implement deep reductions as a step towards the complete global elimination of nuclear arsenals worldwide with the knowledge that such steps are strongly supported by public opinion, other States, international organizations, common sense, and international law.

Signed

John Hallam, People for Nuclear Disarmament Nuclear Flashpoints Project/Human Survival Project

Alyn Ware, Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace, Member, World Future Project

Dr John Hinchcliffe, President, New Zealand Peace Foundation, Auckland, New Zealand,

Barbara Birkett, Past President, Physicians for Global Survival, ICAN-Oakville, Toronto Hiroshima Day Coalition,

Sukla Sen, EKTA, (Committee for Communal Amity) Mumbai, India,

Dr Ranjith Jayasekhara, Sri-Lankan Doctors for Peace and Development, Kandy, Sri Lanka,

Kate Hudson, Chair, Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) UK,

Kati Juva, Physicians for Social Responsibility Finland, Helsinki, Finland,

Professor Bent Natvig, Chair, Norwegian Pugwash Committee, Oslo,

Jana Jedlickova, World Without Wars and Violence, Czech Republic,

Jean-Marie Matagne, President, Action Des Citoyens pour le Desarmement Nucleaire (ACDN), Saintes, France,

Dominique Lalanne, Chair, Armes Nucleaires STOP, France,

Kathleen Sullivan, Director, Hibakusha Stories, New York, USA,

Marylia Kelley, Tri-Valley CARES, Livermore, CA, USA,

David Krieger, Director, Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, Santa Barbara,

Calif, USA,

Steven Starr, Senior Scientist, Physicians for Social Responsibility,  
Columbia, Missouri USA,

Bruce Gagnon, Global Network Against Nuclear Power and Weapons in  
Space, USA,

Alfred L. Marder, President, International Association of Peace Messenger  
Cities, New Haven, Ct, USA,

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