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Lord Hannay, former UK Ambassador to the UN and Chair of the UN Association of the UK, to deliver a speech at the Scottish Parliament on the future of the UK's nuclear-weapon system

On Monday, 29 January 2007, the Edinburgh branch of the United Nations Association of the UK (UNA-UK) will be hosting a one-day workshop at the Scottish Parliament to debate the proposed renewal of 'Trident', the UK's nuclear-weapon system. Among the questions to be debated will be whether the renewal would breach the UK's obligations under international law and further weaken the United Nations' regime for stopping the spread of nuclear weapons.

The event will feature keynote presentations from a range of experts, including Lord Hannay of Chiswick, UNA-UK Chair and former Ambassador to the UN in New York.

In his speech, Lord Hannay will say:

"...[It] is against the yardstick of the commitment to move towards nuclear disarmament that we need, if we are looking at the matter within the framework of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, to measure the government's proposals for Trident. The government has offered one step, the reduction in warheads from a ceiling of 200 to one of 160, and one possible step to be decided later, the reduction in the fleet from four to three submarines. The first certainly is one step in the right direction, the second less surely so. Some would argue that this is not enough; others believe the decision is being taken prematurely; and others that we should not replace Trident at all. That is the debate we are now having, at the end of which Parliament will take a decision."

Registration starts at 1.30pm and the workshop will end at 6pm, with a reception for participants to follow. There is no entrance fee but it is essential that you sign up in advance by e-mailing michael.collie@scottish.parliament.uk