



UN Association of the UK
3 Whitehall Court
London SW1A 2EL

Rt Hon. David Miliband MP
Secretary of State
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
King Charles Street
London SW1A 2AH

T: +44 (0) 20 7766 3450
F: +44 (0) 20 7930 5893
E: daws@una.org.uk
W: www.una.org.uk

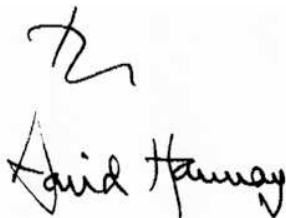
8 April 2010

Dear David,

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chair of the United Nations Association of the UK (UNA-UK) to register our very warm welcome for the recently concluded US-Russia agreement on a substantial reduction in those two countries' strategic nuclear weapons, which Presidents Obama and Medvedev are to sign in Prague later these week, and for the US Administration's Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) which was published on 6 April. Both these developments seem to us to be necessary first steps on the long and complex road towards achieving a world free of nuclear weapons.

My purpose in writing is to urge the British government to find an appropriate way of matching these steps on the occasion of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington later this month and also during the run-up to the review in May of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). It should surely be possible and desirable for the British government too to make clear that it would never contemplate the use of our nuclear deterrent against non-nuclear-weapon states in good standing with their obligations under the NPT; and that we also will not be developing a further generation of nuclear weapons. In addition, we would hope that the government would work with determination at the UN to strengthen the 1995 Security Council Resolution on Negative Security Assurances to the non-nuclear-weapon states. The United States' recent NPR would seem to open the door to movement on that issue which could have a positive impact on the upcoming NPT Review Conference as it did in 1995.

UNA-UK very much hopes that there can be cross-party support for these objectives, both before and after the election, and that our own election timetable will not prevent Britain from playing an effective role at a moment of great importance and great hope for the twin causes of multilateral nuclear disarmament and strengthened disciplines against nuclear proliferation.



Lord Hannay of Chiswick
Chair, UNA-UK