

30 June 2010



Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office

London SW1A 2AH

*From the Secretary of State*

Lord Hannay of Chiswick  
United Nations Association of the UK  
3 Whitehall Court  
London  
SW1A 2EL

*Dear David,*

Thank you for your letter of 18 June welcoming the outcome of the recent Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and for your kind remarks on the UK's role.

For the first time we have a clear action plan across all three pillars of the Treaty which will help us move forward over the coming years. I fully agree with you on the need to maintain momentum: we have already begun the process of consulting with allies and partners to capitalise on the achievements of the Review Conference and to translate these commitments into concrete action in the years ahead.

The agreement to hold a regional conference on a Middle East WMD Free Zone in 2012 was an important step. The UK will continue to play its role in building the confidence essential for success.

The review of our nuclear declaratory policy, which I announced on 26 May, is likely to include re-examining the role and significance of nuclear weapons in the UK's security doctrine. It is also likely to examine whether there is scope to update the assurances we give to countries that do not possess nuclear weapons and which have committed under the NPT not to develop nuclear weapons.

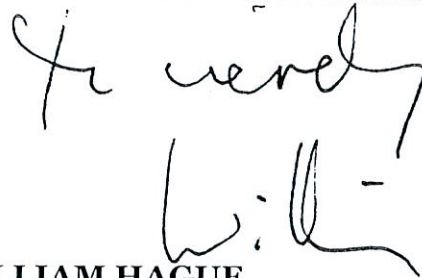
The Government is clear that we will maintain Continuous At Sea Deterrence. This is a fundamental element of our nuclear deterrent, providing an assured second strike capability in all circumstances. It will not, therefore, be considered in the review.

At the 2009 Strasbourg/Kehl summit, Allies agreed that NATO's deterrence posture should continue to be based on an appropriate mix of nuclear and conventional capabilities. This will be our premise as we work towards the NATO summit in Lisbon in November. Any decision on the future of NATO's sub strategic nuclear weapons must be a decision for the Alliance as a whole.

I share your concern about the continuing delay over the start of negotiations on a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT) at the Conference on Disarmament. We support the proposals for the UN Secretary General to convene a high-level meeting in September 2010 in support of the work of the Conference on Disarmament and will continue to work with partners to find a way forward.

The UK stopped producing fissile material for weapons purposes in 1995. We welcome the similar moratoria declared by other states and continue to push for the remaining producers to take similar steps.

The global expansion of peaceful nuclear energy must take place in a safe and secure manner, without increasing the risk of nuclear proliferation, and we will be looking very carefully at how to take forward the relevant action points agreed at the NPT Review Conference. In particular, we fully agree that work to secure concrete progress on defining and adopting schemes for multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle should continue, within the forum of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Hague". The signature is written in a cursive, fluid style.

**WILLIAM HAGUE**