

## **Support the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference**

April 29, 2005: The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT), which entered into force in March 1970, seeks to inhibit the spread of nuclear weapons. Parties to the treaty are classified in two categories: nuclear-weapon states (NWS)—the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom—and non-nuclear-weapon states (NNWS). Under the treaty, the five NWS commit to pursue general and complete disarmament, while the NNWS agree to forgo developing or acquiring nuclear weapons. The NPT has the widest adherence of any arms control agreement. Only India, Israel, and Pakistan remain outside the treaty. North Korea announced in 2003 that it was withdrawing from the treaty.

From May 2-27, 2005, representatives from the governments that have ratified the NPT will gather in New York for a conference to review implementation and compliance with their mutual obligations and commitments under the treaty.

Recent actions by the United States lead to concern about the direction our country's nuclear weapons policy is taking. Three years ago, President Bush announced that the U.S. was withdrawing from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. The administration has refused to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. It continues to propose funding for new weapons systems such as the proposed Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator.

These decisions and policies may create problems for the review conference and the NPT. It may prove difficult for the U.S. to encourage other nations to refrain from developing nuclear arms when we are retreating from our own commitments.

Individuals concerned about the role of the United States in relation to the NPT Review Conference and the efforts to control nuclear weapons should contact President Bush and our Senators. A sample letter and PC(USA) policy follow.

To contact President Bush:

- ; Call the White House Comment Line at 202-456-1111
- ; Send an email to [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)
- ; Fax 202-456-2461

To contact Senators:

- ; Call the Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and ask to be connected to the appropriate office
- ; Use the Presbyterian Legislative Action Center at <http://capwiz.com/pcusa/home/> to send an email
- ; Visit <http://www.senate.gov> to locate specific Senator's web pages with additional contact options

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A SAMPLE LETTER

Dear:

I urge you to see that the United States goes to the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty Review Conference as a good-faith participant in working for arms control. The Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty has been a cornerstone of the international effort to limit the spread of nuclear weapons and to seek their elimination. When the U.S. ratified the treaty, we committed ourselves to pursue general and complete disarmament.

Recently, however, we have withdrawn from the Anti-Ballistic Treaty with Russia and failed to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. We continue to explore the possibility of developing new weapons systems.

In doing so, we fail to honor the agreements we made in the Nonproliferation Treaty. We make it more difficult to encourage other nations, such as Iran and North Korea, to turn away from developing nuclear arms.

May this Review Conference be a time when we renew our commitment to working for a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons.

Sincerely,  
Your Name  
Your Address

#### PCUSA POLICY BASE

Since 1946, when the General Assembly of the PCUSA supported measures ". . . looking toward drastic cuts in national armaments through international agreement," assemblies, acting out of faith in Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace, have understood that working for God's intended order and life abundant involves seeking international disarmament and arms control measures. In this effort, the General Assembly has opposed specific weapons programs and various measures that they believed stood in the way of disarmament and peace. At the same time, the General Assembly has advocated positive steps to control, reduce, and eliminate nuclear weapons. The 1967 UPCUSA Assembly encouraged a non-proliferation treaty among nuclear powers along with a comprehensive test ban. The 215th General Assembly (2003) called on all nations to fulfill their obligations under the NPT.

#### MORE INFORMATION

For more information on PC(USA) policy and nuclear weapons, visit:  
<http://pcusa.org/peacemaking/actnow/actnow.htm#disarm>

For more information on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference, visit:

2005 Campaign to Strengthen the NPT - <http://npt2005.org/>

United Nations NPT 2005 Review Conference - <http://www.un.org/events/npt2005/>

Reaching Critical Will -

<http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/legal/npt/nptindex1.html>

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WAND email

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is a cornerstone of global efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. The U.S. has signed the Treaty, and it is being reviewed in May. You have one chance to urge Congress to call for strengthening the NPT this year.

To take action, go to: <http://capwiz.com/wand/utr/1/NZBDEPZRQO/IYQPEPZSHI/>

BACKGROUND This May, representatives from over 150 governments will gather in New York to review implementation and compliance with their commitments under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). This treaty codifies one of the most important international security bargains of our time: states without nuclear weapons pledge not to acquire them, while nuclear-armed states commit to eventually give them up. Through this bargain, the NPT has made the United States and the world safer by restraining many countries that would otherwise have developed nuclear weapons.

The 2005 NPT review conference is a vital opportunity for the United States and the international community to recommit to the treaty's goals for both nonproliferation and disarmament.

Help Strengthen the NPT. Urge Congress to make it the policy of the United States to seriously engage in multilateral efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons in the upcoming review conference of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Urge House Members to cosponsor H.Con.Res. 133. The resolution, drafted by six veteran Representatives -- Republicans and Democrats -- expresses support for the NPT and for the review conference in May.

To take action, go to: <http://capwiz.com/wand/utr/1/NZBDEPZRQO/FUQIEPZSHJ/>

A similar resolution is expected to be introduced in the Senate soon, so please urge your Senators to support these principles as well.

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