



A Time to Speak Out

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On April 5, 2009 in Prague, US President Barack Obama committed the United States to “seek the peace and security of a world without nuclear weapons.” On September 24, 2009, UN Security Council Resolution 1887 committed UN Member States “to create the conditions for a world without nuclear weapons”. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon has stated that achieving a world without nuclear weapons will be a “global good of the highest order.”

Opponents of this goal in the US repeatedly cite the US commitment of extended nuclear deterrence as a principal reason to reaffirm the value of the weapons, modernize them, and prevent deep, irreversible cuts to arsenals.

These detractors claim that if the US moves down the path towards the global elimination of nuclear weapons, its friends and allies that currently rely on extended nuclear deterrence will seek to develop their own nuclear weapons.

On the reverse side of this document are quotes indicating the way in which the doctrine of extended nuclear deterrence is being utilized to prevent progress towards nuclear disarmament.

It is very important at this time to speak out clearly and forcefully to rebut these assertions. We the undersigned urge you to forcefully reaffirm the global commitment to a safer, saner, more secure world free of nuclear weapons.

Sincerely

Jonathan Granoff
President
Global Security Institute

Henrik Salander
Chairman
Middle Powers Initiative

Robert Grey, Jr
Director
Bipartisan Security Group

Jonathan Granoff is President of the Global Security Institute. **Ambassador Henrik Salander** serves as Chairman of the Middle Powers Initiative and is the former Secretary-General of the Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission and a former Swedish diplomat. **Ambassador Robert Grey** is Director of the Bipartisan Security Group and was a Counselor for Political Affairs of the US Mission to the United Nations in New York, Political Advisor to the Supreme Allied Commander at NATO and also served as Acting Deputy Director for the Arms Control Agency.

Quotations

“(W)e must maintain some level of these weapons ourselves: to deter potential adversaries and to reassure over two dozen allies and partners who rely on our nuclear umbrella for their security – making it unnecessary for them to develop their own.”

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates, October 2008

<http://www.defenselink.mil/speeches/speech.aspx?speechid=1305>

“Should these allies come to believe the United States is unwilling or unable to protect their interests through the full use of our assets, I believe global nuclear proliferation could increase, a clearly unacceptable prospect for US or global security interests”

General Kevin Chilton Head of US Strategic Command, March 2009

[http://armed-services.senate.gov/statemnt/2009/March/Chilton 03-19-09.pdf](http://armed-services.senate.gov/statemnt/2009/March/Chilton%2003-19-09.pdf)

“The US must ensure that its allies around the world continue to judge US strategic capabilities to be credible and sufficient to guarantee their security. In the absence of allied confidence in US capabilities and commitments, these states could feel compelled to acquire nuclear weapons of their own.”

Joint Statement by Secretary of Defense Robert Gates and Secretary of Energy Samuel Bodman, September 2008

<http://www.defenselink.mil/news/nuclearweaponspolicy.pdf>

“We must be aware of the cascade of proliferation that will likely result if the world loses confidence in the US deterrent. Countries such as Japan, South Korea, Germany and Turkey rely on the US deterrent so that they don't have to develop their own.”

Senator Jon Kyl, July 2008

http://www.ft.com/cms/s/0/4315d404-4708-11dd-876a-000779fd2ac.html?nclck_check=1

“Our nuclear deterrent has been the cornerstone of collective security in both NATO and our Asian alliances—in its absence, a number of allies in both Asia and Europe might be motivated to acquire their own nuclear weapons.”

Former Secretary of Defense and Energy James Schlesinger, December 2008

<http://www.defenselink.mil/pubs/pdfs/PhaseIIReportFinal.pdf>

“This ‘extended deterrent’ has also allowed our allies and friends to forgo pursuit of their own nuclear arsenals. It follows that as uncertainty increases about the reliability and/or effectiveness of our deterrent, those under our umbrella will feel a heightened obligation to seek independent nuclear arsenals...This ‘extended deterrence’ has dampened impulses towards nuclear proliferation on the part of countries that rely on the credibility of US security guarantees.”

Former Assistant Secretary of Defense Frank Gaffney, July 2009

[http://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/upload/wysiwyg/center publication pdfs/NDWG- Getting It Right.pdf](http://www.centerforsecuritypolicy.org/upload/wysiwyg/center%20publication%20pdfs/NDWG-GettingItRight.pdf)