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Dear Ambassador:

**Revitalise Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as North Korea
Withdraws & NPT Review Process Begins in Geneva on April 28**

We are writing to urge all members of the Security Council to support a negotiated settlement over North Korea's nuclear programme, and to reject military action as a response to this and future crises in the non-proliferation regime. We welcome the initiatives by Secretary General Kofi Annan to mediate the crisis between North Korea and the United States.

We fear that the U.S.'s "preventative war" against Iraq has set a dangerous and damaging precedent for response to crises involving states with suspected weapons of mass destruction capabilities. We appeal to all Security Council members to immediately engage in active diplomacy to strengthen the nuclear non-proliferation regime and avoid further war.

North Korea has started a research reactor outside of the 1994 Framework Agreement and announced on January 10, 2003 that it will formally leave the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), which could become effective on April 10. Due to the disturbing steps by North Korea in violation of the NPT, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) referred the North Korea situation to the Security Council (and General Assembly) on February 12, 2003 for your consideration.

The US Administration has labelled North Korea a member of the "axis of evil" and refuses to rule out pre-emptive military strikes against North Korea, thus heightening risk of a large-scale war on the Korean Peninsula.

We urge the North Korean government to re-join the NPT as a non-nuclear member and to return to full compliance with the treaty and IAEA safeguards agreements. Negotiations between North Korea the U.S. and other countries in the region may hold one key to this crisis.

We urge the United States not to continue evading its own non-proliferation obligations under Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty by retaining a massive arsenal of nuclear weapons. We urge the U.S. Administration to re-commit to the goal of eliminating its nuclear arsenal, to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and to adopt a "no first use" policy with regard to the use of nuclear weapons. Proposed development of new nuclear weapons by the U.S., moves toward a return to nuclear testing, and plans for a new nuclear weapons factory to make plutonium "pits" all threaten to further weaken the NPT.

It is clear that the nuclear non-proliferation regime is in crisis. We therefore call on all Security Council members, and other states party to the NPT, to revitalise the regime by:

- calling for full compliance with the disarmament provisions of Article VI;

- agreeing to new rules to curb the proliferation of nuclear weapons, including components and weapons-usable materials;
- committing to multilateral treaty-based non-proliferation mechanisms to stop any further repeat of US unilateral action;
- reaffirming the pledge by nuclear weapons states not to threaten or target with nuclear weapons any non-nuclear country that is in good standing with the NPT;
- rejecting the policy of the first use of nuclear weapons, including in response to chemical and biological attack;
- working systematically and progressively to eliminate discrimination in the NPT, which can only be achieved completely by comprehensive nuclear disarmament
- desisting from any and all nuclear policies and programs that retard non-proliferation objectives, including the development and production of new nuclear weapons.

The fact that nuclear technologies and fissile materials have a dual civilian-military nature means that continued use of nuclear power will result in enduring risks of nuclear weapons proliferation. In parallel with a thorough assessment of the NPT's Article IV, an international focus on development of sustainable, non-nuclear energy sources must become a priority in addressing this inherent proliferation threat.

Given the urgency caused by the crisis in Iraq, the withdrawal of North Korea from the NPT, and the upcoming NPT "preparatory committee" in Geneva from April 28 to May 10, it is time to take decisive steps to strengthen the NPT and rid the world of the threat of nuclear weapons. The coming days will prove important in revealing if the Security Council and global community will rise to meet the daunting task now before us. We look forward to your leadership toward this essential goal.

Yours Sincerely,



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