

September 1, 2008

G8 Parliamentary Speakers at the September 2 Hiroshima Summit
C/- KONO Yohei
Speaker of the Japanese Diet

Fax: 81-3-3597-9887

Dear KONO Yohei - Speaker of the Japanese Diet,
Nancy Pelosi - Speaker of the United States House of Representatives
Gianfranco Fini - President of the Italian Camera
Rt Hon Michael Martin MP - Speaker of the UK House of Commons
Dr. Norbert Lammert - President of the German Bundestag.
Boris Gryzlov - Speaker of the Russian Duma
Hon Peter Milliken - Speaker of the Canadian House of Commons
Bernard Accoyer - President of the French National Assembly

We commend you for meeting in Hiroshima on the 63rd anniversary of the ending of World War II in order to discuss the vital issues of peace and disarmament and the role of legislatures in strengthening nuclear non-proliferation.

The devastation caused by the nuclear weapons used on Hiroshima and Nagasaki – devices with a fraction of the explosive potential of today's nuclear arsenals – reminds us all of the imperative that nuclear weapons must never be used again.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is under strain and must be preserved and strengthened. This requires progress on the implementation of non-discriminatory steps that would both prevent proliferation and achieve nuclear disarmament. Without such progress we face the dual threats of further proliferation and a potential nuclear catastrophe by accident, miscalculation or design.

Former U.S. officials Henry Kissinger, George Shultz, Sam Nunn and William Perry recently expressed their belief that while “nuclear weapons were essential to maintaining international security during the Cold War because they were a means of deterrence, reliance on nuclear weapons for this purpose is becoming increasingly hazardous and decreasingly effective.” They asserted the need for “the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons and practical measures toward achieving that goal.”

We encourage you to lead the parliaments of G8 countries in promoting this vision and in implementing steps leading to the achievement of a nuclear weapons free world. Technical, political and institutional developments in the 21st Century have transformed the ideal of nuclear disarmament into a realistic goal. However, it will take leadership and action to make this happen.

Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, a non-partisan network of legislators from around the world, is ready to work with you to ensure success.

Yours truly,

Hon Marian Hobbs MP
PNND Co-President

Alexa McDonough MP
PNND Co-President

Uta Zapf
PNND Co-President

Senator Abacca Anjain-Maddison
PNND Co-President