THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 16, 2009

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your letter to the President regarding the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review (NPR).

As you know, the Obama Administration is committed to reducing the role of nuclear weapons in national security and urging other nations to do the same.

As long as nuclear weapons exist, the President is also committed to maintaining a safe, secure, and effective arsenal to deter any adversary and to guarantee the same defense for our allies. The future of the U.S. deterrent and the effectiveness of our nonproliferation policies are dependent on an appropriately configured arsenal. As you state, the Department of Defense, in consultation with other departments and agencies, is conducting the NPR. I assure you that we are working closely with Secretary of Defense Gates and his senior staff to ensure that we make prudent decisions on these important issues.

I encourage you to share your thoughts with Secretary Gates, and I look forward to working with you on these and other important national security matters.

Sincerely,

Jim Jones

General James L. Jones, USMC, Ret.
National Security Advisor

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0530