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UNSC Resolution 1887: Positive Step Toward Nonproliferation Goals Outlined in Statement by 30 Top Former Foreign Policy Officials

Washington, D.C.-- UN Security Council Resolution 1887 is important progress on the recommendations made by 30 prominent Republicans and Democrats in May 2009, urging full support of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

“Our ability to achieve success on our major nonproliferation goals is reliant, now more than ever, on the cooperation of countries throughout the world,” said former Governor and Chair of the 9/11 Commission Thomas Kean. “Through this Resolution, we have all taken an important step forward in our efforts to rebuke countries that develop nuclear weapons in violation of the NPT and reduce the risk that terrorists will acquire nuclear capability.”

The Partnership for a Secure America (PSA) supports the United States’ leadership on this important resolution and commends the unanimous adoption of this Resolution. We strongly encourage the Administration and Congress to continue to work together in a bipartisan manner to ensure that the spirit of this Resolution carries through to additional concrete actions that will make our country safer and more secure.

PSA was created in 2005 by former Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-IN) and former Sen. Warren Rudman (R-NH) to foster bipartisan, consensus driven solutions to the major national security and foreign policy challenges facing our country. More information on PSA and bios of our distinguished bipartisan Advisory Board can be found at www.psaonline.org.

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--Text of Statement --

Our Best Weapon Against Nuclear Proliferation

May 4th, 2009

WE DON'T NEED A NEW GRAND BARGAIN.

WE NEED TO STRENGTHEN THE ONE WE SIGNED 4 DECADES AGO.



For nearly 40 years, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have provided the stability and the structure necessary to control the spread of nuclear weapons. Without the NPT, there is no doubt that more countries would possess nuclear weapons. Without the IAEA, which has functioned as the indispensable watchdog monitoring civilian nuclear activities and reporting on potential violations of IAEA safeguards, the world would certainly be more dangerous.

Still, there are many challenges, which were amplified by the contentious NPT Review Conference in 2005. But now is the time to strengthen the treaty's core principles and reinforce the mechanisms that support them, rather than lament their shortcomings. With renewed dedication and leadership from the United States, the NPT and IAEA can continue to be important tools for the global community to confront countries that develop nuclear capabilities in violation of their commitments and to reduce the risk that terrorists will acquire these devastating weapons.

As we prepare for the NPT Review Conference in 2010, we, the undersigned Republicans and Democrats, strongly encourage the Obama Administration to take decisive action to support

the NPT and the IAEA.

- Reaffirm the NPT as the cornerstone of global nonproliferation and disarmament efforts by sending a high-level delegation to the 2010 Review Conference.
- Strengthen enforcement mechanisms for use against countries deemed in violation of their NPT obligations.
- Commit to work with all states possessing nuclear weapons to reduce arsenals to the minimum achievable level. Enhance U.S.-Russian cooperation and joint leadership on non-proliferation and disarmament, including renewal or replacement of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START).
- Promote measures to ensure that all countries have access to peaceful nuclear energy without creating additional risks of proliferation and terrorism.
- Establish multilateral arrangements, such as assured international fuel supply mechanisms, to discourage the spread of enrichment and reprocessing capabilities.
- Support the IAEA safeguards mission through an increase in resources, training, equipment and personnel, and assist other states in using peaceful nuclear applications to address poverty and the challenges associated with underdevelopment.
- Work with NPT and IAEA member states to increase the IAEA's authority for greater access to suspect nuclear sites and universal implementation of the Additional Protocol.
- Encourage countries to participate fully with IAEA nuclear security programs to help ensure that nuclear materials are not accessible to terrorists.
- Work aggressively to complete a verifiable, irreversible, and nondiscriminatory Fissile Material Cutoff Treaty (FMCT).
- Continue to work aggressively to ensure high confidence in stockpile reliability and multilateral verification mechanisms compatible with a comprehensive ban on nuclear testing.

SIGNATORIES

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