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H.E. Ambassador John Bolton
Permanent Mission of the United States to the United Nations
799 United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
United States

9 March 2006

Dear Ambassador John Bolton,

Greenpeace unequivocally opposes nuclear power and nuclear weapons. Greenpeace campaigns against both, regardless of which country possesses them. We reject the claims of Iran and any other country that nuclear energy is a so-called “inalienable right.”

Greenpeace shares concerns about Iran’s nuclear programme, yet insists that any action taken be based on facts. We attach a fact sheet on what is known and suspected about Iran’s nuclear programme which leads us to conclude: What is the Rush?

Greenpeace is extremely concerned about the increase in tension and inflammatory press items and statements being made about Iran’s nuclear programme. Coercion, threats and linkages being exercised may not only have the effect of producing action that will increase tension between Iran and others, but may also cause a dangerous breakdown between powerful actors. If the Security Council truly wishes to enhance international peace and security, States should not abandon opportunities for negotiation on the basis of an arbitrary timetable, and nor should they throw away diplomatic opportunities to address today’s real problems.

The only long-term resolution to the global proliferation crisis is to eradicate the temptation of nuclear technology altogether. Genuine negotiations are desperately needed on a nuclear-free Middle East. Only a Middle East free of all nuclear technology can be a Middle East free of nuclear proliferation. The Security Council has a role to play. As it has referenced the goal of a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East in prior resolutions, now is the time for the Security Council to actually do something about that, through facilitating dialogue on the political and security issues that will clear the way for the zone.

Please find attached a paper that details why Greenpeace believes there is a Charter and IAEA Statute basis for the General Assembly to be engaged on this issue. The paper also details how Greenpeace believes the Security Council can best respond to the Iran situation, through:

- Calling on Iran to clarify all outstanding issues with the International Atomic Energy Agency
- Acknowledging the integrity of the IAEA as an independent technical body
- Inviting regular reports of the IAEA Director General to the IAEA Board, the Security Council and the General Assembly

- Encouraging negotiations to recommence
- Inviting the Secretary-General to support and facilitate dialogue
- Establishing a joint Committee with the General Assembly to advance the “the goal of establishing in the Middle East a zone free from weapons of mass destruction and all missiles for their delivery

Ambassador, Greenpeace along with others in the non-governmental community is eager to support diplomatic initiatives and processes that would ensure that Iran abandons any nuclear ambitions peacefully; we are campaigning vigorously for all nuclear states to abandon both their weapons and programmes. We clearly have a shared common goal in eliminating the threat of nuclear weapons from the planet. The situation with Iran presents an opportunity for us to move forward towards that goal as it highlights many of the key problems and blockages towards a political process, which eliminates nuclear weapons from around the globe. We look forward to an opportunity to exchange views and ideas with you towards this goal.

Sincerely



Felicity Hill
Political Adviser on Nuclear and Disarmament Issues
Greenpeace International