



Office of International Justice and Peace

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New START Treaty Resources

April 9, 2010

Dear Catholic Social Ministry Leaders:

President Obama and President Medvedev signed a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) on April 8, 2010. The signing of the New START Treaty will generate public debate and offers an opportunity to study and act on Catholic social teaching on nuclear weapons.

The New START Treaty: reduces deployed strategic nuclear warheads to 1,550, 30 percent below the existing ceiling; limits the United States and Russia to no more than 700 delivery vehicles; and includes new verification requirements. The Treaty needs ratification by the U.S. Senate. USCCB supports strong, bipartisan action to ratify the New START Treaty.

In this packet you will find four resources to help you engage the Catholic community:

1. **Letter from Cardinal George to President Obama:** On April 8, 2010, Francis Cardinal George, President of USCCB, welcomed the signing of the New START Treaty between the United States and the Russian Federation. He urged members of the U.S. Senate to come together across party lines to ratify the new START Treaty.
2. **Action Alert:** Please distribute this alert and urge senators to ratify the new START treaty to verifiably reduce nuclear weapons.
3. **Catholic Study Guide** for use with *Nuclear Tipping Point* DVD: This study guide based on Catholic social teaching is for use with a free DVD, *Nuclear Tipping Point*. It is designed to assist small groups of adults and mature young people in exploring some issues related to nuclear weapons in the light of their Catholic faith. The small group study can be completed in two one-hour sessions.
4. **Background on Nuclear Arms Treaties:** This background material explores the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the new START Treaty, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Church's activities and teaching related to nuclear weapons.

Thank you for your leadership.

In Christ's Peace,

Dr. Stephen M. Colecchi, Director
scolecchi@usccb.org



Office of the President

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Cardinal Francis George, OMI
Archbishop of Chicago
President

April 8, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) welcomes the signing of the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) between the United States and the Russian Federation. We will urge members of the U.S. Senate to come together across party lines to ratify the new START Treaty.

For decades the Holy See and the USCCB have worked for a world without nuclear weapons. Our 1983 pastoral letter, *The Challenge of Peace*, made a “definitive and decisive” moral judgment to say “no” to nuclear war. In 1993 in *The Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace*, we argued: “The eventual elimination of nuclear weapons is more than a moral ideal; it should be a policy goal.”

We acknowledge that the path to a world free of nuclear weapons will be long and difficult. It will involve many steps:

- verifiably reducing nuclear arsenals as the new START Treaty continues to do;
- ratifying and bringing into force the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;
- reducing our nation’s reliance on nuclear weapons for security as the new Nuclear Posture Review begins to do;
- securing nuclear materials from terrorists which will be discussed at next week’s Nuclear Security Summit;
- adopting a Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty to prohibit production of weapons-grade material;
- strengthening the International Atomic Energy Agency to monitor nonproliferation efforts and ensure access to peaceful uses of nuclear power; and
- other actions that take humanity in the direction of a nuclear-weapons-free world.

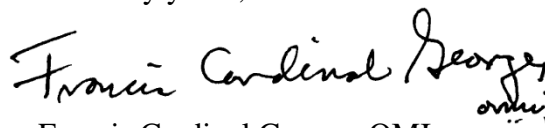
We are pastors and teachers, not technical experts. We cannot map out the precise route to the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons, but we can offer moral direction and encouragement. The horribly destructive capacity of nuclear arms makes them disproportionate and indiscriminate weapons that endanger human life and dignity like no other armaments. Their use as a weapon of war is rejected in Church teaching based on just war norms. Although we cannot anticipate every step on the path humanity must walk, we can point with moral clarity to a destination that moves beyond deterrence to a world free of the nuclear threat.

Letter to President Barack Obama
April 8, 2010
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We share the vision of our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI. In his January address to diplomats the Pope said, "...I firmly hope that, during the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference to be held this May in New York, concrete decisions will be made towards progressive disarmament, with a view to freeing our planet from nuclear arms."

Based on a moral imperative to rid the world of nuclear weapons, the Conference of Bishops will be a steadfast supporter of strong and bipartisan action on the new START Treaty as an important and essential step toward a nuclear-weapons-free future.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis Cardinal George" with a small flourish at the end.

Francis Cardinal George, OMI
Archbishop of Chicago
President



Action Alert!

Urge Senators to Ratify New START Treaty to Verifiably Reduce Nuclear Weapons!

April 9, 2010



Passages from a [USCCB Letter to President Obama](#)

Our 1983 pastoral letter, *The Challenge of Peace*, made a "definitive and decisive" moral judgment to say "no" to nuclear war. In 1993 in *The Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace*, we argued: "The eventual elimination of nuclear weapons is more than a moral ideal; it should be a policy goal."...

The horribly destructive capacity of nuclear arms makes them disproportionate and indiscriminate weapons that endanger human life and dignity like no other armaments. Their use as a weapon of war is rejected in Church teaching based on just war norms. Although we cannot anticipate every step on the path humanity must walk, we can point with moral clarity to a destination that moves beyond deterrence to a world free of the nuclear threat. ...

Based on a moral imperative to rid the world of nuclear weapons, the Conference of Bishops will be a steadfast supporter of strong and bipartisan action on the new START Treaty as an important and essential step toward a nuclear-weapons-free future.

--Francis Cardinal George,
OMI, USCCB President,
April 8, 2010

Summary: President Obama and President Medvedev signed a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) on April 8, 2010. The New START Treaty: reduces deployed strategic warheads to 1,550, 30 percent below the existing ceiling; limits the United States and Russia to no more than 700 delivery vehicles; and includes new verification requirements. The Treaty needs ratification by the U.S. Senate. USCCB supports strong, bipartisan action to ratify the New START Treaty.

Background: Originally proposed by President Ronald Reagan, the United States and Soviet Union signed the original START Treaty in 1991. This treaty limited the number of nuclear warheads and delivery vehicles (missiles and bombers) that each country could deploy.

Today the United States and Russia still hold about 95% of all nuclear weapons, large arsenals left over from the Cold War. Many of these weapons are on immediate alert status.

Ratification of the New START Treaty is critical because verification ensures transparency and these reductions in the number of weapons can set the stage for future reductions. The New START Treaty is also important to international efforts to address nonproliferation. With fewer nuclear weapons in the world the likelihood of one falling into terrorist hands is reduced and countries are more likely to cooperate in enforcing nonproliferation demands and controlling the supply of nuclear materials. Strong support for the New START Treaty will also help build momentum for eventual ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

The possession and maintenance of nuclear weapons are a grave threat to human life and dignity. Consistent with Catholic teaching, the bishops have long supported securing nuclear materials from terrorists and reducing the number of nuclear armaments. For decades they have promoted the policy goals of preventing proliferation of these horrific weapons and ultimately eliminating them.

Nuclear war is rejected in Church teaching because the use of nuclear weapons cannot insure noncombatant immunity and their destructive potential and lingering radiation cannot be meaningfully proportionate. Pope Benedict XVI said in a January 2006 statement, "In a nuclear war there would be no victors, only victims."

Take Action Now!

- Contact your Senators and urge them to give bipartisan support to the New START Treaty. (For contact information, visit www.senate.gov.) The Capitol switchboard number is 202-224-3121.

For more information, contact:

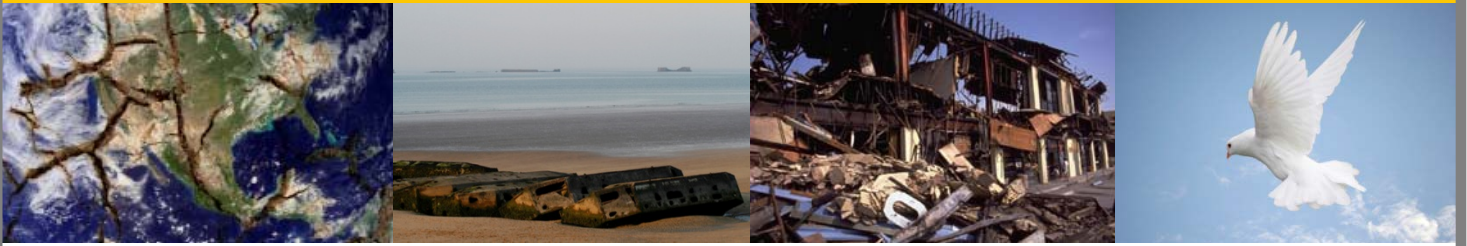
Dr. Stephen Colecchi, Director, International Justice and Peace, 202-541-3196, scolecchi@usccb.org or visit: www.usccb.org/sdwp/international.

Sign up to be informed about future issues and alerts!

Visit: www.usccb.org/sdwp/takeaction.shtml

Catholic Study Guide

for use with NUCLEAR TIPPING POINT



A study on nuclear weapons and our Catholic response

This study guide based on Catholic social teaching is for use with the film, *Nuclear Tipping Point*. It is designed to assist small groups of adults and mature young people in exploring some issues related to nuclear weapons in the light of their Catholic faith. The small group study can be completed in two one-hour sessions.

Synopsis: *Nuclear Tipping Point* is a conversation with four men intimately involved in American diplomacy and national security over the last four decades: former Secretaries of State George Shultz and Henry Kissinger, former Secretary of Defense William Perry and former Senator Sam Nunn. In the film, the four men share personal experiences that led to their vocalizing support for a world free of nuclear weapons and the steps needed to get there. The film is introduced by General Colin Powell, narrated by actor Michael Douglas, and includes interviews with Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Film length: 55:24

For a free copy of the DVD: go to www.nucleartippingpoint.org or click [here](#).

Disclaimer: The use of this DVD is not an endorsement of the individuals who appear or their views on these or other issues; its purpose is to stimulate discussion on nuclear weapons. While the DVD can be a helpful resource, the views expressed in this film and on the website do not necessarily reflect the perspectives of USCCB.

Instructions for the Facilitator

Before the meeting: At least a week before the meeting, make available to participants the Catholic social teaching quotes on pages 2 and 3. On the day of the session, have available copies of pages 2, 3, and 4 for all participants.

Room Set up: Arrange for a DVD player and TV to be in the room and set up chairs to face the TV. Select one person to read the prayer by Pope John XXIII at the appropriate time (found on page 4).

Beginning the session: Welcome everyone and remind them that the purpose of the gathering is to reflect in faith on the nuclear threat in our world today. We will do this during two one-hour discussions that include watching parts of the film, *Nuclear Tipping Point*, and reviewing Catholic teaching. Indicate that the Church has a long history of addressing moral questions regarding nuclear weapons and that this session will explore the topic from the perspective of both policy experts and Catholic social teaching.

Introductions (5 minutes): Invite everyone to briefly introduce himself or herself, and to share one word that captures how he or she feels when thinking about the topic of this session.

Opening Prayer (1 minute): Invite everyone to place herself or himself in the presence of God. Invite the reader to read the prayer on page 4.

Watch the Film (26 or 29 minutes): During Session 1, watch from the beginning of the film until 26:27. During Session 2, watch from 26:28 until the end.

Review the Quotes (4 minutes): Invite everyone to spend a few minutes reviewing the quotes from Catholic teaching on the handouts.

Discussion (19-22 minutes): Explain the guidelines and then use the questions and action suggestion on page 4.

Closing Prayer (2 minutes): Invite participants to offer intentions based on the discussion. Close with an Our Father.



Catholic Social Teaching on Nuclear Weapons

The Catholic Church's teaching requires that any use of force be proportionate and discriminate; it must not produce more harm than good, and must respect noncombatant immunity and protect civilians. The Church has long opposed the use of nuclear weapons, especially against non-nuclear threats, and the development of new nuclear weapons. While possession of a minimal nuclear capability may deter the use of nuclear weapons by others, the Church urges that nuclear deterrence be replaced with concrete measures of disarmament based on dialogue and multilateral negotiations. The following quotes explore Catholic teaching on nuclear weapons. The quotes are from:

- *Peace on Earth (Pacem in Terris)*, Blessed Pope John XXIII's 1963 encyclical, which offers a fundamental framework for building a just peace through the creation of a political order that serves the common good, defined in terms of the protection and promotion of human rights.
- *The Church in the Modern World (Gaudium et Spes)*, the 1965 Pastoral Constitution by the Second Vatican Council which reflects on issues facing our world, such as the arms race, in the light of our faith.
- *The Challenge of Peace*, the 1983 Pastoral Letter on War and Peace by the Catholic bishops of the United States. This letter offered criteria for applying Catholic teaching to our own situation and U.S. nuclear policy.
- *The Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace*, a 1993 statement by the United States Catholic bishops on peacemaking in a post-Cold War world.
- *World Day of Peace messages*, issued since 1968, when Pope Paul VI called on all people of the world to together celebrate the "Day of Peace" on January 1.

"Justice, right reason, and the recognition of man's dignity cry out insistently for a cessation to the arms race. The stockpiles of armaments which have been built up in various countries must be reduced all round and simultaneously by the parties concerned. Nuclear weapons must be banned. ... Everyone must sincerely cooperate.... But this requires that the fundamental principles upon which peace is based in today's world be replaced by an altogether different one, namely, the realization that true and lasting peace among nations cannot consist in the possession of an equal supply of armaments but only in mutual trust." - Pope John XXIII, *Peace on Earth*, nos. 112, 113

"The horror and perversity of war is immensely magnified by the increase in the number of scientific weapons. For acts of war involving these weapons can inflict massive and indiscriminate destruction, thus going far beyond the bounds of legitimate defense. ... Any act of war aimed indiscriminately at the destruction of entire cities or extensive areas along with their population is a crime against God and man himself. It merits unequivocal and unhesitating condemnation. ... Scientific weapons, to be sure, are not amassed solely for use in war. Since the defensive strength of any nation is considered to be dependent upon its capacity for immediate retaliation, this accumulation of arms, which increases each year, likewise serves, in a way heretofore unknown, as a deterrent to possible enemy attack. Many regard this as the most effective way by which peace of a sort can be maintained between nations at the present time." - Second Vatican Council, *The Church in the Modern World*, no. 80, 81

"Whatever be the facts about this method of deterrence, men should be convinced that the arms race in which an already considerable number of countries are engaged is not a safe way to preserve a steady peace, nor is the so-called balance resulting from this race a sure and authentic peace. Rather than being eliminated thereby, the causes of war are in danger of being gradually aggravated. While extravagant sums are being spent for the furnishing of ever new weapons, an adequate remedy cannot be provided for the multiple miseries afflicting the whole modern world. ... The arms race is an utterly treacherous trap for humanity, and one which ensnares the poor to an intolerable degree." - Second Vatican Council, *The Church in the Modern World*, no. 81



Catholic Social Teaching on Nuclear Weapons

“The need to rethink the deterrence policy of our nation, to make the revisions necessary to reduce the possibility of nuclear war, and to move toward a more stable system of national and international security will demand a substantial intellectual, political, and moral effort. It also will require, we believe, the willingness to open ourselves to the providential care, power and word of God, which call us to recognize our common humanity and the bonds of mutual responsibility which exist in the international community in spite of political differences and nuclear arsenals.” - Catholic bishops of the United States, *The Challenge of Peace*, no. 196

“The dangers of modern war are specific and visible; our teaching must be equally specific about the needs of peace. Effective arms control leading to mutual disarmament, ratification of pending treaties, development of nonviolent alternatives, are but some of the recommendations we would place before the Catholic community and all men and women of good will. These should be part of a foreign policy which recognizes and respects the claims of citizens of every nation to the same inalienable rights we treasure, and seeks to ensure an international security based on the awareness that the creator has provided this world and all its resources for the sustenance and benefit of the entire human family.” - Catholic bishops of the United States, *The Challenge of Peace*, no. 202

“In the words of our Holy Father, we need a ‘moral about face.’ The whole world must summon the moral courage and technical means to say ‘no’ to nuclear conflict; ‘no’ to weapons of mass destruction; ‘no’ to an arms race which robs the poor and the vulnerable; and ‘no’ to the moral danger of a nuclear age which places before humankind indefensible choices of constant terror or surrender. Peacemaking is not an optional commitment. It is a requirement of our faith. We are called to be peacemakers, not by some movement of the moment, but by our Lord Jesus. The content and context of our peacemaking is set, not by some political agenda or ideological program, but by the teaching of his Church.” - Catholic bishops of the United States, *The Challenge of Peace*, no. 333

“In 1983, we judged that nuclear deterrence may be morally acceptable as long as it is limited to deterring nuclear use by others; sufficiency, not nuclear superiority, is its goal; and it is used as a step on the way toward progressive disarmament.” - Catholic bishops of the United States, *The Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace*, 1993

“Special problems of international security that . . . must be addressed [include] (1) the urgency of stopping nuclear proliferation and of promoting further progress toward nuclear disarmament, (2) the need for general global demilitarization, (3) the legitimacy and scope of economic sanctions, (4) the requirements and risks of humanitarian intervention, and (5) the issue of global responses to regional conflicts.” - Catholic bishops of the United States, *The Harvest of Justice is Sown in Peace*, 1993

“What can be said, too, about those governments which count on nuclear arms as a means of ensuring the security of their countries? Along with countless persons of good will, one can state that this point of view is not only baneful but also completely fallacious. In a nuclear war there would be no victors, only victims. The truth of peace requires that all —whether those governments which openly or secretly possess nuclear arms, or those planning to acquire them— agree to change their course by clear and firm decisions, and strive for a progressive and concerted nuclear disarmament. The resources which would be saved could then be employed in projects of development capable of benefiting all their people, especially the poor.” - Pope Benedict XVI, 2009 World Day of Peace Message, no. 13



Small Group Discussion

Discussion Guidelines:

- Remember that the purpose of the discussion is to reflect on this issue in the light of our faith, not to debate with one another.
- Listen carefully to what others are saying.
- Use “I” statements. (Take responsibility for what you express. Do not speak for “them.”)
- Help all to participate. (Do not dominate.)
- Stay on the topic and stay focused on the film and Catholic teaching.
- Be respectful and charitable at all times.

Questions for Part 1:

1. What reactions do you have to what you have seen and heard in the film?
2. Why are Shultz, Kissinger, Nunn and Perry concerned about the growing proliferation of nuclear weapons and materials used to construct them?
3. Catholic social teaching is also concerned about nuclear proliferation. Based on the quotes you have read, what is the moral and religious grounding for the Church’s concern? How is nuclear proliferation related to human life and dignity?
4. The Second Vatican Council condemned weapons of “massive and indiscriminate destruction.” Reflect on the destruction likely if nuclear weapons are used. Consider the stories of the four men and your own knowledge of history.

Questions for Part 2:

1. The bishops point out “the need to rethink the deterrence policy of our nation.” What problems with current nuclear policies does the film highlight?
2. What steps do Shultz, Kissinger, Nunn and Perry call for in order to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear threat?
3. Reflect on the way Catholic social teaching connects the arms race, poverty, and the causes of war.
4. The United States Catholic bishops call peacemaking “a moral requirement of our faith.” How are you called to become involved in peacemaking? What steps will you take?

Take Action: Go to www.usccb.org/sdwp/takeaction.shtml to sign up for action alerts on reducing nuclear weapons and other issues. At www.usccb.org/globalpoverty learn more about the connection between peace and addressing poverty.



Prayer for Peace

Let us, then, pray with all fervor for this peace which our divine Redeemer came to bring us.

May He banish from the souls of men whatever might endanger peace.

May He transform all men into witnesses of truth, justice and brotherly love.

May He illumine with His light the minds of rulers, so that, besides caring for the proper material welfare of their peoples, they may also guarantee them the fairest gift of peace.

Finally, may Christ inflame the desires of all men to break through the barriers which divide them,

to strengthen the bonds of mutual love, to learn to understand one another, and to pardon those who have done them wrong.

Through His power and inspiration may all peoples welcome each other to their hearts as brothers, and may the peace they long for ever flower and ever reign among them.

Pope John XXIII, *Peace on Earth (Pacem in Terris)*, no. 171





Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development Office of International Justice and Peace

Background on Nuclear Arms Treaties **April 2010**

...I firmly hope that, during the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference to be held this May in New York, concrete decisions will be made towards progressive disarmament, with a view to freeing our planet from nuclear arms.
-- Pope Benedict XVI, January 1, 2010

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is the cornerstone of global efforts to curb and reverse the spread of nuclear weapons. 198 countries have ratified the treaty, including the five acknowledged nuclear powers: United States, Russia, United Kingdom, France, and China. Only four nations have not: India, Israel, Pakistan and North Korea. The NPT prohibits non-nuclear states from acquiring nuclear weapons (non-proliferation), requires nuclear states to reduce and eliminate nuclear weapons (disarmament), and guarantees access to peaceful nuclear technology (nuclear power). The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty are important to preserving support for the NPT.

Years ago President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev called for abolishing all nuclear weapons. More recently, former Secretaries George Shultz, William Perry and Henry Kissinger and Senator Sam Nunn have promoted a nuclear-free world. Last year President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev committed “our two countries to achieving a nuclear free world.”

New START Treaty

Originally proposed by President Ronald Reagan, the United States and Soviet Union signed the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START) in 1991. This treaty limited the number of nuclear warheads and delivery vehicles (missiles and bombers) that each country could deploy to 6,000 warheads and 1,600 delivery vehicles. The treaty also incorporated a solid set of verification measures the two nations could use to monitor each other’s nuclear arsenals and compliance with the treaty.

In 2002, the U.S. and Russia adopted the Strategic Offensive Reductions Treaty (SORT), known as the Moscow Treaty, which would reduce the number of warheads to between 1,700 and 2,200 by the end of 2012. As with previous reductions, an indeterminate number of the weapons “cut” from the arsenals would be stored, not dismantled. Under this “good faith” arrangement there are no verification measures and thousands of tactical (short-range) nuclear weapons are not covered. SORT expires on the date its reductions become mandatory in 2012.

START expired on December 5, 2009 and with it the verification protocols, but both nations have agreed to keep its provisions in effect. On April 8, 2010 Presidents Obama and Medvedev signed the New START Treaty. The New START Treaty: reduces deployed strategic warheads to 1,550, 30 percent below the existing ceiling; limits the United States and Russia to no more than 700 delivery vehicles; and includes new verification requirements. The Treaty needs ratification by the U.S. Senate. Ratification is critical because verification ensures transparency and these reductions in the number of weapons can set the stage for future reductions. The New START Treaty is also important to international efforts to address nonproliferation. With fewer nuclear weapons in the world the likelihood of one falling into terrorist hands is reduced and countries are more likely to cooperate in enforcing nonproliferation demands and safeguarding nuclear materials.

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Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

Despite U.S. involvement in initiating negotiations for a test ban treaty, in 1999, the U.S. Senate failed to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) that would stop nuclear testing. Some Senators who voted “no” expressed concerns about the ability of the United States to maintain its arsenal in the absence of testing and others were concerned about verifying compliance with the treaty. Prominent scientists have argued that the U.S. can safely maintain its nuclear arsenal without testing and that the ability of the international community to verify compliance is amply demonstrated by detections of tests in North Korea. The Obama Administration supports ratification of this treaty that 151 other nations have ratified (including UK, France, and Russia). Originally, there was hope that the U.S. would ratify the CTBT before the Review Conference on the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in May 2010, but it will likely be next year.

USCCB POSITION

Nuclear war is rejected in Church teaching because the use of nuclear weapons cannot insure noncombatant immunity and their destructive potential and lingering radiation cannot be meaningfully proportionate. Pope Benedict XVI said in a January 2006 statement, “In a nuclear war there would be no victors, only victims.” While possession of a minimal nuclear capability may deter the use of nuclear weapons by others, the Church urges that nuclear deterrence be replaced with concrete measures of disarmament based on dialogue and multilateral negotiations. In its nuclear policy the U.S. should commit to never use nuclear weapons first and to reject use of nuclear weapons to deter non-nuclear threats. The U.S. and other nuclear powers must move away from reliance on nuclear weapons for their security. A global ban is more than a moral ideal; it should be a policy goal.

USCCB successfully advocated cutting funds for the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator and the Reliable Replacement Warhead, new nuclear weapons programs proposed by the previous Administration. Archbishop Edwin O’Brien delivered a major address on “Nuclear Weapons and Moral Questions” at a July 2009 Deterrence Symposium sponsored by the Strategic Command in Omaha. In a September 2009 letter to the Senate, Bishop Howard Hubbard, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on International Justice and Peace, reiterated “the moral support of the Catholic bishops of our nation for concrete steps to reduce the number of nuclear weapons and to advance nuclear non-proliferation with an ultimate goal of seeking a nuclear-free world.” He noted that “Senate action will be needed to help our nation to secure loose nuclear material, strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and support a follow-up to the 1991 Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (START).” The positive example of the U.S. ratifying the New START Treaty and the CTBT will be important to international efforts to address nonproliferation and the successful control of nuclear materials in this age of terrorism. On April 8, 2010 Francis Cardinal George, USCCB President, expressed support for the New START Treaty and urged bipartisan action to ratify it.

The USCCB has urged the Administration and Congress to view arms control treaties not as ends in themselves but as steps along the way to achieving the goal of a mutual, verifiable global ban on nuclear weapons. Much deeper, more irreversible cuts, in both strategic and tactical weapons, are both possible and necessary. The Holy Father said on January 1, 2008: “It is truly necessary for all persons of good will to come together to reach concrete agreements aimed at an effective demilitarization, especially in the area of nuclear arms.”

USCCB has expressed support for the Global Security Priorities Resolution (H.Res.278) introduced by Congressmen McGovern and Lungren. This resolution will link long-term savings derived from reducing our nuclear arsenal to increased support for nuclear nonproliferation efforts and child survival programs.

ACTION REQUESTED

1. Urge members of the Senate to support ratification of the New START Treaty.
2. Urge members of the House to support the Global Security Priorities Resolution (H.Res.278).

For further information: visit <http://www.usccb.org/sdwp/international/nuclear.shtml> or contact *Stephen Colecchi*, Director, Office of International Justice and Peace, USCCB, 202-541-3196 (phone), 202-541-3339 (fax), scolecchi@usccb.org.

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