



# BRITISH AMERICAN SECURITY INFORMATION COUNCIL

Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer  
NATO Headquarters  
Blvd Leopold III  
1110 Brussels  
Belgium

6 June, 2005

Dear Sir

As the Nuclear Planning Group will be meeting at NATO HQ on 9/10 June 2005, we would like to respectfully suggest that the participants use the opportunity to take long-overdue steps to begin the process of removing all obsolete sub-strategic nuclear weapons from Europe.

Given that there is no military justification for the continuation of this deployment 15 years after the end of the Cold War, the collapse of the Soviet Union and disintegration of the Warsaw Treaty Organisation, we would recommend that you facilitate a dialogue among NATO member states on the process by which such weapons may be permanently withdrawn to the United States.

Furthermore, in order to make the withdrawal process verifiable and transparent, we urge the NATO member states to confirm which of them host tactical nuclear weapons and how many are based in each Member State.

Please also consider that elected representatives within several European countries have called for greater accountability and action regarding U.S. as well as Russian tactical nuclear weapons, and the issue was raised on the floor of the recently concluded Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference by States Parties delegations and by non-governmental organisations. Unfortunately, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov on 2 June rejected talks on tactical nuclear weapons as long as U.S. nuclear weapons are deployed in Europe.

Beginning the process of withdrawal now is in tune with U.N. General Assembly resolution 59-75 from late October when **all** NATO member states **except** the United States supported a call for further reductions in tactical nuclear weapons.

In addition, the nuclear weapons component of the current NATO Strategic Concept is inappropriate for our times and the current security risks facing Europe, the Alliance, and the international community. It suggests quite clearly that the positioning of U.S. tactical nuclear weapons is merely a symbol of political unity amongst alliance members:

*“A credible Alliance nuclear posture and the demonstration of Alliance solidarity and common commitment to war prevention continue to require widespread participation by European Allies involved in collective defence planning in nuclear roles, in peacetime basing of nuclear forces on their territory and in command, control and consultation arrangements.”*



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Widespread involvement of non-nuclear NPT member countries in NATO nuclear planning is incompatible with NATO's efforts to prevent proliferation of nuclear weapons.

While the total number of tactical nuclear weapons based in Europe has been drastically reduced since the end of the Cold War, the stationing of over 400 such weapons continues to impede progress toward greater accountability, control, and eventual elimination of the far larger and less secure Russian stockpile. In addition, the continued stationing of such weapons on the soil of European NATO member states contradicts the commitments made by NATO member state governments at the 2000 NPT Review Conference to move to a 'diminishing role for nuclear weapons in security policies' and "reductions in non-strategic nuclear weapons".

We would appreciate a reply to our inquiry and suggestions at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely

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and on behalf of:

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