

**Proposed 2010 Update of IYM Minutes on Nuclear Weapons
for Representative Council action April 2010**

April 2010

President Barack Obama

The White House, Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President,

We are writing to affirm and express thanks for your hope and vision for a world free of nuclear weapons. We recognize that such a change in global realities will not occur suddenly, but will require persistent pursuit of incremental steps. We offer to you our support for concrete US steps towards a new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and other means of controlling and minimizing the world's nuclear weapons.

Soon after its formation in England over 350 years ago, the Religious Society of Friends publicly declared its conviction that wars and preparations for wars were inconsistent with the spirit and teaching of Christ. It remains our spiritual conviction that rather than ending the threat of wars, the development and holding of nuclear weapons has left the world a riskier, more dangerous place. The monetary costs have diverted resources away from essential infrastructural and social investments. The environmental hazards associated with nuclear weaponry place all life on the planet at potential risk. Worst of all, nuclear weapons degrade our very humanity. Their use by nations to threaten the destruction of fellow human beings -- persons made in the image of God and loved by God -- puts all of us in the position of disobeying Christ's instruction to love others as He loves.

Our spiritual convictions bring us to conclusions very similar to those recently expressed by a bipartisan group of former Secretaries of State (Kissinger, Shultz) and Defense (Perry), military officers (Gen. Abizaid), and an Armed Services Committee chairman (Nunn). Their support for nuclear

arms reductions and the test ban treaty has been forged from the wisdom produced by extensive experience in the details of these concerns.

Thus, we commit ourselves to pray faithfully for your success in leading the way towards a world free of nuclear weapons, and for your strength and endurance in that undoubtedly lengthy journey.

By copy of this letter, we also are imploring the Senators from our various states to rise above political partisanship to support you in this crucial and noble endeavor for all humanity, and specifically to support a new START agreement and ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty at the earliest possible date.

On behalf of the 64 churches of Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends in Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan,

IYM Presiding Clerk
IYM Peace & Christian Social Concerns Committee clerk
IYM Minuted Letter on Nuclear Weapons, 1959

August 21, 1959
The President of the United States
The White House, Washington DC

Dear Mr. President [Eisenhower],

We are in wholehearted support of your efforts to help relieve international tensions through the forthcoming exchange of visits between yourself and Premier Khrushchev. We know that your visits will be undertaken in a spirit of friendship and good will, and [we] trust that they will initiate a new era in which the nations of the world will enter into serious negotiations aimed at establishing a disarmed world under the rule of law.

It would be a wonderful step if these visits could lead to final decisions regarding the end of nuclear weapons testing for military purposes forever,

with an adequate inspection system to insure enforcement. Pending such an agreement, we urge you to continue the United States suspension of all nuclear weapons tests.

On behalf of the Indiana Yearly Meeting of Friends,
D. Elton Trueblood, Clerk

Approved by IYM in session on August 20, 1959

Minute on Nuclear Arms Freeze, 1983
Adopted by IYM Administrative Council on February 5, 1983

For more than 300 years, Friends have testified that war and preparations for war are contrary to the will of God. We reaffirm this testimony today as it becomes ever more apparent that wars are catastrophes, corrupting the human spirit and destroying God's creation.

We recognize that many Americans do not share our religious conviction. Specifically, on the issue of the nuclear arms race, they require other grounds for decision. To them we say that we are also convinced by the testimony of many thoughtful people -- scientists, statesmen, and even military men free to speak -- that it is imperative to bring the arms race to an end. They present convincing evidence that the present nuclear arms buildup, promoted by many of our national leaders, is not increasing our national security. Rather it makes more probable a nuclear holocaust with death and devastation beyond our capacity to imagine, both to us and to other peoples of the world.

Therefore, we endorse and we call upon our fellow Americans to support, as a first step toward achieving a safely habitable world, the negotiation with the USSR and other nations of an immediate, mutual, and verifiable freeze on the development, manufacture, and deployment of all nuclear weapons and weapons-delivery systems.