

November 15, 2007

The Norwegian Nobel Committee
Henrik Ibsens gate 51
NO-0255 OSLO
Norway.

Dear Sirs and Madams:

It is a great pleasure to support Governor Bill Richardson's nomination for the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize. I have known Governor Richardson for several decades since he was a student at the Fletcher School for Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.

For years I have studied the growing danger of nuclear terrorism. We know that a black market exists in nuclear materials, that Pakistani nuclear scientist A.Q. Khan trafficked in nuclear technology, and that Al Qaeda has sought to acquire nuclear weapons. Nuclear materials are scattered around the world in more than 40 countries, and despite many good efforts by the US and other governments, some of those materials remain poorly-secured.

Throughout his career Governor Richardson has understood this problem and worked to reduce it. While he has contributed to the cause of peace in many important ways, I believe his efforts in the area of nuclear security and non-proliferation are among the most significant.

As Secretary of Energy under President Clinton, Bill led the way to increase funding, from \$85 million to \$138 million, for DOE's Material Protection, Control and Accounting program. This program was designed to protect Russian nuclear warheads and weapons grade fissile material from falling into the hands of terrorists or black market dealers. He was also able to secure \$200 million in supplemental funds to cover the cost of disposal of 34 tons of Russian weapons-useable plutonium.

Bill used his considerable negotiation and relationship-building skills to enlist Russia's cooperation in securing their arms, materials and nuclear technology after to fall of the Soviet Union. He began the Nuclear Cities initiative which helped to convert Russian nuclear cities into research centers. This program provided private sector jobs for scientist and technicians to help prevent them from selling their knowledge to rogue states or terrorist organizations.

Bill worked directly with Russian Minister of Atomic Energy Yevgeny Adamov to purchase a billion dollars worth of enriched uranium for use as fuel in nuclear power plants. He also signed an agreement with Russian Navy Commander-in-chief Admiral Vladimir Kuroyedov stipulating a joint program of nuclear safety and control implying continued U.S. funding for decommissioning of nuclear submarines and liquid radioactive waste.

Bill Richardson understands the importance of personal contact in building trust. He traveled frequently to countries of the former Soviet Union to gain cooperation for US nuclear security initiatives. He braved a typhoon in Vladivostock to accompany the Admiral of the Pacific Fleet on a visit to a naval facility where DOE was funding storage and security for spent fuel from Russian nuclear subs. On another occasion he was hosted by the Admiral of the Baltic Fleet on an ice-breaker in Murmansk, and he later visited the top-secret base in Kamchatka where he found nuclear subs rusting on the docks. He attended the ceremony closing the Chernobyl nuclear facility -- a project that took more than fifteen years to accomplish. In some cases he helped to provide such basic necessities as heaters and blankets for Russian guards stationed at military outposts.

Since leaving the DOE, Bill has continued to be a strong advocate for non proliferation and securing nuclear weapons, materials and enrichment. He served as a crucial communication link between the US and North Korea when the Bush Administration would not speak with them directly. His efforts were instrumental in getting the North Koreans to shut down their reactor in Yongbyon.

Now, as Governor of New Mexico and candidate for President, Bill Richardson regularly speaks on the threat of nuclear terrorism. Most impressively for a candidate, he has outlined a comprehensive global policy to reduce the size of all nuclear arsenals and to consolidate nuclear fuel, spent-fuel and enrichment worldwide into a limited number of highly-secure locations, with a global fuel-banking system to supply fuel for peaceful purposes.

Bill understands the changed nature of the nuclear threat in an age of terrorism, and the urgent need for America to take the lead in preventing catastrophe. His leadership and advocacy have helped focus attention on the danger, and he has worked tirelessly to promote international cooperation to meet it. I greatly admire and appreciate his efforts, and I am honored to support for his nomination for the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize.

Sincerely,

Graham Allison
Director, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs
John F. Kennedy School of Government
Harvard University