

Mr. Barack Obama
President of the United States of America

May 24, 2011

**We Protest against the New Form of Nuclear Test by the U.S.
Using the Z Machine**

Dear Mr. President,

The U.S. Department of Energy recently announced that it had completed a series of new form of nuclear tests, using powerful X-ray emissions. Unlike previous subcritical nuclear tests conducted in the underground test facility, the new tests were carried out in the laboratory in Albuquerque, New Mexico. According to the DOE, the tests were conducted in November 2010 and March this year by the team of researchers from Sandia and Los Alamos national laboratories. They collected data from plutonium materials under extreme pressures and temperatures by eradiating them with powerful X-ray emissions created by the “Z machine”.

In August 1945, we were attacked with the first atomic bombs in history in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Bearing the scars incurred deep in our body and mind, for the past 66 years we have appealed to the world that nuclear arms are weapons of the devil that cannot coexist with humans. With the strong determination to prevent any more Hibakusha to be created again, we have worked and demanded the elimination of nuclear weapons immediately.

However, nuclear weapons states still rely on the myth of nuclear deterrence on the premise of their use, not willing to abolish these weapons. Their allies also cling to the nuclear umbrella, accepting the existence and use of nuclear weapons. In your Prague speech of April 2009, you referred to the moral responsibility of the U.S. as the only nuclear power to have used nuclear weapons and created a great hope in the international community for bringing a “nuclear weapon-free world” into reality. However, despite the review on the U.S. nuclear posture and the cooperative attitude toward the success of the 8th NPT Review Conference you have shown, the recent new nuclear tests show the U.S. intention to continue to maintain and strengthen its nuclear deterrence, which clearly runs counter to the trend of the world for nuclear weapons abolition. These tests also bear the possibility of leading to the development of new nuclear weapons. We the Hibakusha firmly reject to accept these attempts.

We demand that you take the following measures:

1) To sincerely accept the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, which determined that “the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons are contrary to international law,” and permanently abandon all plans of subcritical nuclear tests.

2) Reconfirming the “unequivocal undertaking to accomplish the complete elimination of nuclear arsenals” agreed upon in the NPT Review Conference of May 2000, and expressing your grave concern over the possible disastrous consequences that the use of nuclear weapons might bring about, to respect the agreements on the new progress toward achieving the elimination of nuclear weapons, and to take action for their implementation.

3) To immediately start multilateral negotiations for concluding an international treaty to abolish nuclear weapons.

Japan Confederation of A-and H-Bomb Sufferers Organizations
(Nihon Hidankyo)