

Mr. Barack Obama
President of the United States of America

July 21, 2011

Objection to Subcritical Nuclear Tests

Dear Mr. President,

It has come to light that the United States conducted subcritical nuclear tests at the Nevada Test Site in December of 2010 and February of 2011.

It is being reported that this is the third subcritical nuclear test conducted under your authority, bringing the total of such tests to 26 since July 1997.

We survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki have appealed many times that all tests related to the development and maintenance of nuclear weapons be halted and have demanded that rather than continuing testing, all efforts should be put into abolishing nuclear weapons. We strongly object to these tests, which flagrantly disregard these calls to halt testing.

The American government claims that these tests are “to maintain the safety and reliability of nuclear stockpiles” and that the U.S. “is not subject to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT),” but the idea of confirming the reliability of nuclear weapons is predicated on their development and use, which we atomic survivors cannot accept.

You resoundingly pronounced that you would work towards “a world without nuclear weapons” and even won a Nobel Prize for Peace for this statement. However, it has become clear that under your presidency the U.S. nuclear budget has increased and since last year two verification tests using the Z Machine were successfully conducted. There was no advanced public notification for these recent tests, and reports to the National Nuclear Security Administration were only submitted after the fact. Such actions do not give any indication of your desire to secure “a world without nuclear weapons.”

We survivors make the following appeals:

- 1) We cannot abide subcritical nuclear tests, which are a means of demonstrating the preservation of the United States’ threatening nuclear deterrence force.
- 2) The United States must show initiative to conclude an international treaty to abolish nuclear weapons.

3) The United States must promptly pursue the abolishment of nuclear weapons so as to respond to the dangerous potential of a nuclear weapons accident or terrorist action.

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