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Letter from ACDN to François Rivasseau, Permanent representative of France in the Conference on Desarmament

- Homepage - Correspondance - Foreign Affairs -

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Your Excellency,

We learn through the Abolition 2000 Network that at the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, where you represent France, China has recently taken an important step in supporting an amended version of the so-called A5 proposition, made by the ambassadors of Algeria, Belgium, Chile, Colombia and Sweden. This proposition accepts that negotiations should be undertaken with a view to establishing a Fissile Materials Control Treaty (FMCT) which would make it possible to avoid the dispersal of these materials, while other questions essential to disarmament - ban on militarisation of space (PAROS), nuclear disarmament, and "negative guarantees - could be the object of parallel discussions.

If our information is correct, this proposition A5 has now received the support of two other nuclear states parties to the NPT and permanent members of the UN Security Council, namely Russia and the UK - but not the support of France or the USA.

In the current context, it seems to us essential that France should contribute actively to unblocking the disarmament process and to working against proliferation - actions with can only improve international security.

For these reasons we would like to know what positions the French government and yourself plan to take in France's name during the current process. We would also be happy to receive at the same time the French text of proposition A5, for which your services have doubtless acquired an official translation in its most recent version.

Our organisation and numerous other French and international NGOs have launched an Appeal to the five nuclear nations co-signatories of the NPT asking them to act on their undertaking on 19 May 2000 to eliminate all their nuclear arsenals in accord with article VI of the NPT. France is requested to take the initiative for this.

Naturally, we hope that France will take positive and determined action in favour of proposition A5, which could provide a new momentum for the Conference on Disarmament and real progress in this direction. All over the world there are people keenly hoping for this to occur.

We thank you in advance for your reply.

Yours respectfully,

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Action of Citizens for Nuclear Disarmament (ACDN)

Jean-Marie Matagne, Ph.D, President

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