



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 15, 2006

I send greetings to those gathered for the 50th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

At this critical moment in history, we must continue our work together to ensure that countries can meet their growing energy needs, dispose of nuclear waste safely, advance nuclear non-proliferation, and keep nuclear technology and material out of the hands of terrorist networks and terrorist states. To help address these challenges, my Administration has announced a bold new proposal called the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership. Working with nations that have advanced civilian nuclear energy programs, we will develop and deploy innovative, advanced technologies to produce more energy while dramatically reducing the amount of nuclear waste and reducing the risk of nuclear proliferation. We will also share these technologies with developing economies in return for their agreement to forego uranium enrichment and reprocessing activities and use nuclear power for civilian purposes only. Together, we can ensure that cheap, safe, and clean nuclear energy and its benefits are available to nations who meet their non-proliferation obligations.

To build in this important progress, President Vladimir Putin and I announced the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism at the G8 Summit this past July. The United States is committed to work with our international partners in combating the threat of nuclear terrorism, and the Global Initiative reflects our firm commitment to protect nuclear facilities from terrorist threats and prevent the acquisition, transport, or use of nuclear materials by terrorists. This is one of the most dangerous international security challenges we face, and our nations share a common goal of cooperation to counter this grave threat.

Throughout all these efforts, the IAEA plays a vital role. When President Dwight Eisenhower laid out his vision for the IAEA in 1957, he described an international agency responsible for the inspection and control of nuclear programs around the world. President Eisenhower also recognized “a special purpose... to provide abundant electrical energy in the power-starved areas of the world. Thus the contributing powers would be dedicating some of their strength to serve the needs rather than the fears of mankind.” As the IAEA approaches its 50th anniversary, I am pleased to recognize your allegiance to these founding principles and your commitment to creating a safer, cleaner, and more prosperous world for our children and grandchildren. The United States is proud to support your continued good work.

Best wishes for a successful conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George W. Bush".