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**Letter to the Program for Promoting Nuclear
Non-Proliferation Group Members**

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Summary:

Updates Core Members on funding problems and reformulation of the group to remain within financial limits.

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LETTER TO PPNN CORE GROUP MEMBERS

12 April 2001

Six months have passed since our last meeting, at Chilworth Manor, in Southampton, where we spoke about the future of PPNN. As we told you there, we had requested our previous funders for the resources that would enable PPNN to continue for another two years. The Core Group members who attended the meeting expressed themselves strongly in favour of a continuation of PPNN, especially to clarify and define the specific meanings of the forward-looking elements of the Final Document of the 2000 NPT Review Conference and the identification and analysis of options for the implementation of those elements. There was also strong support for the continuation of PPNN's information function and in particular the **Newsbrief**. The hope was expressed that in the slightly longer term meetings of the Core Group could be resumed, and that means could be found to fund further briefing seminars for senior officials dealing with nuclear non-proliferation issues. As you may recall, it was recognised that the scope of PPNN's future work would be determined by the available means.

Earlier this year, it became clear that those means would be very scant. The W. Alton Jones Foundation, from whom we had hoped to obtain the lion's share of our resources, turned us down altogether, as did the Nippon Foundation, while the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the Ford Foundation promised us grants of \$150,000 and \$100,000, respectively, for a single year's work on the proposed analysis and clarification of the relevant elements in the Final Document, with the help of a working group of about a dozen members. The Japan Atomic Industrial Forum told us it would again help fund our work at the usual level. We were unable to obtain any support that would have permitted the continuation of the Core Group meetings, briefing seminars or the **Newsbrief**. Stringent economies and a lucky exchange rate have made it possible to produce one more issue of that publication, which is the very last one. As this letter is being written, that issue has just gone to press.

We accordingly reformulated the work programme to stay within the financial limits. Current plans call for all of PPNN's available resources to be concentrated through to March 2002 on the creation and activities of the international Working Group. Invitations will shortly be sent to those whom PPNN will seek to involve in this work. Taking into account the wishes of the funding bodies, the Working Group will be so constituted as to ensure through its membership close cooperation with

other non-governmental bodies in the field. It will include some Core Group members who have close ties to such bodies, such as Lewis Dunn (SAIC), Rolf Ekéus (SIPRI), Harald Müller (PRIF) and Iftekhar Zaman (Bangladesh Freedom Foundation), as well as several persons from outside the Core Group, such as Rebecca Johnson (Acronym Institute) and William Potter (Monterey Institute of International Studies).

The Group will make extensive use of electronic means to exchange draft texts and introduce comments, but it is anticipated that two meetings will also take place: one in the summer of 2001, mainly to discuss the subjects and issues that should be dealt with, and to allocate tasks among members, and one in early 2002, to discuss results and ways to put them together in a single report. It is hoped that this report can be issued in March 2002, in time for the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2005 NPT Review Conference. A more detailed description of this programme of activities is attached to this letter.

I intend to keep you informed about the progress of the work, and still hope that it will be possible, at the end of the year, around April or May 2002, to convene the Core Group once again, to take note of the work done. Until then, I wish to thank you warmly for all the contributions you have made to PPNN's work and send you my best wishes for the future.

With best wishes,

BEN SANDERS
Executive Chairman

P.S. You may wish to be informed of some personal changes within PPNN. Emily Taylor, née Bailey, left PPNN to devote her full attention to her daughter, Isabelle. Abigail King, née Sanders, also left, to take a full-time job with a not-for-profit organisation in New York. This coincided with my own move to North-Western Connecticut. Successors for the two ladies are still being sought.