



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

June 2009

UNA-UK Annual Conference 2009

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to send my best wishes to everyone attending this year's UNA-UK Conference.

The work of the UN remains as vital as ever – whether on regional development and conflict resolution, or on global challenges such as the MDGs and climate change. I am sure these issues, along with the question of UN reform, will be discussed in Edinburgh this year.

But I know your Conference has a particular focus on President Obama's speech in Prague in April, and the vital task of making the world safer from the dangers of nuclear weapons. America's weight and influence, not least as the country with the largest number of operationally active nuclear warheads, is clearly indispensable to the success of global disarmament initiatives.

What the President described as the "basic bargain" is that countries with nuclear weapons move towards disarmament; countries without nuclear weapons do not acquire them; and all countries are able to access peaceful nuclear energy. Non-proliferation is a vital part of this bargain. Left unchecked, the proliferation of nuclear weapons threatens to undermine not only steps taken towards reducing stockpiles elsewhere but even potentially the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty itself.

The President's lead has given much-needed impetus to all these efforts, and I am delighted that you are participating in this important debate. I would like to wish you well for a productive Conference and for the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Cameron'.

David Cameron