

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 8, 2010

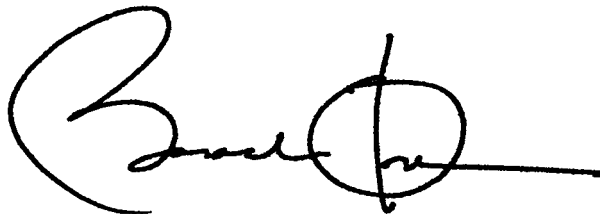
I am pleased to welcome all those attending the Fissile Materials Working Group event, "Next Generation Nuclear Security: Meeting the Global Challenge." Your contributions to preventing the spread of nuclear weapons are vital to our Nation's security, and I thank you for your dedication.

We face no greater threat than the acquisition and use of nuclear weapons by terrorist groups, and we can only defeat this danger through cooperation and collective action. These efforts must involve not only governments, but also all parts of civil society—including non-governmental organizations, industries, international organizations, and the media.

This week, the leaders of over 40 countries—many which you represent—will discuss ways we can address this global challenge together. As we work to secure all nuclear materials from theft and diversion, we will need your expertise. Your insights will make a crucial difference in global efforts to educate others about the threat nuclear weapons pose and our response to that threat; in securing all nuclear materials through additional domestic and international measures; and in stopping cross-border trafficking in illicit nuclear materials and technology.

Your support will also be critical in helping the world understand that the dangers facing one nation can affect all states, and that terrorist attacks are an affront to all civilians. A nuclear device in the hands of a terrorist group threatens civilization and humanity everywhere, and we must prevent this from happening.

Our charge does not end here in Washington; your efforts in each of your respective countries help ensure the cause which joins you today will continue with renewed vigor and purpose. Thank you again for your commitment, and I look forward to hearing the results of your deliberations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned at the bottom center of the page.