



Committee on International Justice and Peace

3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3160

WEBSITE: WWW.USCCB.ORG/JPHD • FAX 202-541-3339

May 4, 2018

Rear Admiral Garry E. Hall
Special Assistant for International Organizations and Alliances
National Security Council
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear Admiral Hall,

The deadline is fast approaching for a decision by the United States on whether to remain in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) or to reimpose sanctions on Iran. As Chair of the Committee on International Justice and Peace of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I am sure you are well aware of our past support for the P5+1 Iran deal. Following the example of his saintly predecessors, Pope Francis has continued the Church's mission of advancing dialogue and engagement to resolve crises, as opposed to resorting to military force.

Since you are likely to be involved in discussions within the Executive branch regarding the Iran deal, I am providing you with a copy of two previous letters that my Committee has sent in favor of the JCPOA. These letters explain the reasons for our support. I understand the concerns expressed about Iran's nuclear ambitions, but believe the stringent verification measures imposed under JCPOA do provide the constraints needed to limit such developments.

I trust these comments will be useful as deliberations continue on this very sensitive issue that has implications for regional and indeed, global stability.

Sincerely yours,

Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio
Archbishop of Military Services, USA
Chair, Committee on International Justice and Peace

Enclosures



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November 9, 2017

The Honorable Bob Corker, Chairman
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ben Cardin, Ranking Member
Senate Foreign Relations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Corker and Cardin:

As Chair of the Committee on International Justice and Peace of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I urge you to oppose H.R. 1698, the Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act.

Last month, President Trump refused to certify Iran's compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), a 2015 multilateral agreement that has restrained Iranian nuclear activities. Objective reports indicate that Iran is complying with the agreement. Experts tell us that key components of the agreement will remain in place indefinitely, including on-site inspections.

Both the Holy See and our Committee welcomed the agreement as well as the efforts made by the international community to ensure Iran's compliance with its provisions. In our view, the alternative to a diplomatic accord leads toward armed conflict and greater regional and global instability. Jeopardizing the JCPOA would seriously undercut diplomacy and dialogue as tools for avoiding armed conflict.

The passage of H.R. 1698 threatens to undermine the JCPOA, marginalize vital U.S. alliances and weaken the global coalition promoting nuclear nonproliferation. This legislation violates the terms of the JCPOA, damaging the credibility of the United States in negotiations with other states such as North Korea. Breaching the JCPOA would also aggravate geopolitical tensions with key allies, Great Britain, France and Germany, and with China and Russia, both of whom have common interests in restraining North Korea's program.

More immediately, the imposition of sanctions that violate the agreement may empower hardline elements of Iranian leadership, undermining an initiative that enjoys wide support among ordinary Iranians who want their nation to become reintegrated into the international community. Given all these considerations, a renegotiation of the JCPOA would be impossible.

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November 9, 2017

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While unrelated Iranian activities in the region are indeed worrisome, our country must consider whether the urgency of those particular threats outweighs the severe long- and short-term risks likely to be incurred by a unilateral U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA.

As the United States has demonstrated countless times, dialogue among nations is an essential pillar of peace. I invite you, therefore, to reflect on the JCPOA as the culmination of thirteen years of dialogue involving six nations and Iran, and to work to ensure the integrity of the indispensable tradition of pursuing peace through sincere and honest dialogue.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized first letter 'O', followed by a large 'C', and a final flourish that resembles a 'U' or 'H'.

Most Reverend Oscar Cantú

Bishop of Las Cruces

Chair, Committee on International Justice and Peace



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July 14, 2015

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

As Chair of the Committee on International Justice and Peace of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I welcome the momentous agreement just reached between the United States and its P5+1 partners with Iran. This significant achievement aims to curb Iran's development of nuclear weapons while allowing them to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

More importantly, this agreement signals progress in global nuclear non-proliferation. In January 2015, Pope Francis said, "I express my hope that a definitive agreement may soon be reached between Iran and the P5+1 Group regarding the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, and my appreciation of the efforts already made in this regard."

Since 2007, our Committee on International Justice and Peace, reflecting the longstanding position of the Holy See, has urged our nation to pursue diplomacy to ensure Iran's compliance with its obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. For years, we have supported dialogue and a negotiated resolution of the conflict in collaboration with international partners.

It is no small achievement that the United States, the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, China, Germany and France have reached this agreement with Iran. We hope that the full implementation of the agreement will gradually foster an environment in which all parties build mutual confidence and trust, so that progress will be made toward greater stability and dialogue in the region. In that spirit, our Committee will continue to urge Congress to endorse the result of these intense negotiations because the alternative leads toward armed conflict, an outcome of profound concern to the Church.

The United States and its international partners have taken a remarkable step with Iran in reaching this agreement. We encourage Congress to support these efforts to build bridges that foster peace and greater understanding. In the words of Pope Francis, may the negotiated framework "be a definitive step toward a more secure and fraternal world," a goal we all share.

Sincerely yours,

Most Reverend Oscar Cantú
Bishop of Las Cruces
Chairman, Committee on International Justice and Peace
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops