



**MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO THE LAUNCH OF:
SECURING OUR SURVIVAL:
THE CASE FOR A NUCLEAR WEAPONS CONVENTION.**

PARLIAMENT TUESDAY 14 AUGUST 2007

**FROM HON MATT ROBSON
MINISTER FOR DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL 1999-2002**

I am sorry that other commitments have prevented me being present at this very important occasion.

To me it signifies an important step forward in the work to build on the decision of the International Court of Justice in 1996 that Article VI of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty calling for good faith negotiations towards nuclear disarmament requires a legal obligation to bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international controls.

Thus states who are not involved in such negotiations are in breach of international law.

As more and more nations move away from this requirement it is important to remember that the overwhelming majority of nations and the peoples of the world want nuclear disarmament. The authors of this important book are in step with the people of the world, in step with international law, although out of step with those leaders who are trying to ignore their legal obligations under international law.

I congratulate the authors and thank them for providing a weapon, if I may use that term, in this crucial task of nuclear disarmament upon which the survival of the world depends. They have spurred all of us on to greater efforts.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Robson". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Matt Robson