



Embassy of the United States of America



June 20, 2011

Mr. Nobuo Hoshino
1-6-1 Tokura
Kokubunji-shi, Tokyo 185-8501

Dear Mr. Nobuo Hoshino:

Thank you for sharing your views on the plutonium experiment on March 31, 2011. These experiments support President Obama's Prague agenda. In his speech, he said that as long as we have these weapons we have to maintain their safety, security, and effectiveness without testing. These experiments gather data that makes this possible.

As part of its effort to maintain the safety, security, and effectiveness of the U.S. nuclear stockpile without conducting underground nuclear tests, the National Nuclear Security Administration conducted an experiment at Sandia National Laboratory's Z machine on March 31, 2011.

Experiments conducted at Sandia's Z machine allow researchers to explore the properties of plutonium materials under extreme pressures and temperatures. As the size of the U.S. nuclear stockpile continues to be reduced, it is important to ensure the safety, security and effectiveness of the shrinking stockpile. These experiments produce essential scientific data and technical information. This data is compared to computer models and predictions, helping make the computer models more reliable and verifiable.

I appreciate the time and effort you have spent to explain your views on this issue. Again, thank you for sharing your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Luke
Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs