

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 19, 2007

The Honorable Manmohan Singh  
Prime Minister of India  
South Block, Raisina Hill  
New Delhi, India 110 011

Dear Prime Minister Singh:

India and the United States are natural allies, bonded by shared democratic values and faced with similar threats to those values from terrorism and intolerance. We hope that the coming years witness a further strengthening of this partnership, which can serve as a great promoter of freedom and peace in the world.

In the spirit of friends speaking honestly to one another, we write today to request that the Indian government suspend its military cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran. While we applaud India for enforcing international sanctions by ceasing the export of nuclear-related equipment to Iran, we were disturbed to read of recent reports that Iran and India have agreed to form a "joint defense working group." This agreement, which is purported to build off of the India-Iran strategic partnership accord of 2003, will serve to undermine the efforts of the international community to isolate the regime in Tehran.

We believe that India's own interests are damaged by its support for the Iranian military. Under the leadership of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the current Iranian regime has brazenly defied the will of the international community in its pursuit of a nuclear capability, openly called for the destruction of the Israeli state, and continued to threaten regional stability through its support for terrorist organizations. Putting greater military capabilities into the hands of an unstable regime with a revolutionary, and possibly messianic, view of international relations can only damage the long-term security of a responsible nation like India.

We believe that India's principles are also poorly served by deepening its military relationship with Iran. As a nation eager to show principled leadership in nuclear matters, India would set an important example by holding Iran accountable for its failure to comply with its nuclear non-proliferation obligations. India has long stood for the sovereignty and dignity of all nations and spoken out against "bullying" by one nation against another. Therefore, we maintain that President Ahmadinejad must be repudiated for advocating the destruction of the state of Israel. Finally, state sponsors of terrorism, such as Iran, cannot be tolerated without consequence. The formation of a "joint defense working group" sends exactly the wrong signal.

For these reasons, we urge India to cease all military cooperation with Iran immediately. In addition, we hope that you will publicly declare your intent to refrain from further cooperation with Iran until that nation has completely and verifiably ceased its pursuit of nuclear weapons

and its support for international terrorism. Such an announcement would serve the long-term security interests of both India and the United States and remove a potentially serious barrier to future cooperation between our two nations.

Sincerely,



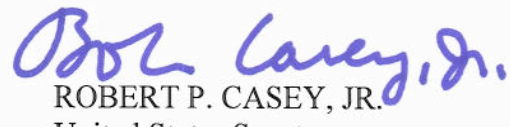
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BARBARA BOXER  
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United States Senator



ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.  
United States Senator



RICHARD DURBIN  
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