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February 2, 2018

Gen. James Mattis
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Secretary Mattis,

We were very pleased to learn of the decision by South Korea and the United States to postpone joint military exercises until after the official period of the Olympic Truce. It was with great alarm, then, that we read a January 11 article in *Bloomberg* indicating that the Air Force Global Strike Command has no plans to postpone two Minuteman III ICBM tests in February, also during the Olympic Truce.

Captain Anastasia Schmidt of Global Strike Command stated, "There are two launches currently scheduled for February that have been scheduled for three to five years."

Regardless of advance planning, it is essential to global security that the United States be flexible and respect worthwhile initiatives for peace such as the Olympic Truce. The Air Force has postponed launches due to unfavorable weather conditions, technical problems, and other issues. There is no reason why the Air Force cannot, at a minimum, postpone these ICBM tests until after the designated weeks of the Olympic Truce.

If North Korea were to test an ICBM during the Olympics, many nations, including the United States, would view the act as provocative and threatening. One does not have to stretch the imagination too far to guess how North Korea might react to our testing of ICBMs during the same period.

For the sake of global stability and to honor the Olympic spirit, we urge you to postpone the February ICBM tests.

Sincerely,

David Krieger
President
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

Robert Laney
Chairman
Nuclear Age Peace Foundation