



**CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES
IN NEW SOUTH WALES
CLRI(NSW)**

Prophetic. Pro-Active. Prayerful.

8th October, 2009

The Hon. Stephen Smith MP
Minister for Foreign Affairs
PO Box 6022
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister,

I write on behalf of the Social Justice committee within the NSW Conference of Leaders of Religious Institutes. CLRI (NSW) represents approximately 3,500 Catholic religious, men and women, throughout the state, as well as many people working in organisations run by religious institutes.

Recent media coverage of China's 60th anniversary of communist rule exhibited to the world China's new nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missiles.

While heartened by Australia's stand on promoting nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament and our support for President Obama's resolution to rid the world of nuclear weapons, the fact that Australia is one of the world's largest uranium suppliers is also a stark reality. Do we not end up saying: we believe and will fight for nuclear non-proliferation but we will give you the means of developing nuclear weapons? Is it enough to say that we export uranium on the understanding that it will be used only for peaceful purposes, when we export to countries like China who have either not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty or the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

We are well aware that the question is fraught with complexities. But we affirm strongly that economic issues should not dictate policy, at the expense of human values. Human life and the care of the earth are values on a different qualitative level.

Yours sincerely,

Grace Ellul sm

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

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