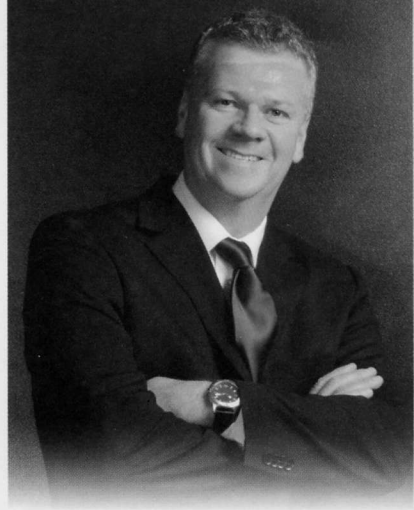


Scottish Labour

MICHAEL McCANN

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Dear Cardinal O'Brien, Rev Hardt & Isobel

TRIDENT NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Thank you for your letter dated 2 March.

I agree that nuclear weapons should be removed.

I also agree with the initiative taken by our Prime Minister, Gordon Brown and President Barack Obama to rapidly progress talks on counter proliferation and reductions in nuclear stock piles.

I appreciate your position is one of unilateralism, however, that position has been rejected by the people of the United Kingdom and, when in government, the two major political parties for more than 60 years.

The world is still a dangerous place and there are nations that are intent on obtaining a military nuclear capacity. Therefore, until such times as those threats do not exist; I will continue to support Britain's independent nuclear deterrent.

I also support the United Kingdom's membership of NATO which has served us well since the end of World War II and which is underpinned by the retention of a nuclear capability.

However, if you can provide evidence that a policy of unilateralism could convince nations such as Iran and North Korea, who continue to have nuclear weapons ambitions, to give up their intentions I would be prepared to consider such a policy.

Yours sincerely

Michael McCann
10 March 2010

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