

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 7, 2006

**Nuclear Trade with India:
A Bad Idea for National and International Security**

Dear Colleague:

Last week the President visited India and announced an agreement with Prime Minister Singh on the separation of India's civilian and military nuclear programs. This agreement is a precursor to a future nuclear trade agreement with India. President Bush had promised "to encourage India to produce a credible, transparent and defensible plan to separate its civilian and military nuclear programs". Here is what security and nonproliferation experts are saying about the separation plan that the Administration negotiated with India:

"It would appear as though we just basically wanted this agreement so badly we got it - badly."

Henry Sokolski, Director, Nonproliferation Education Policy Center

"This is Santa Claus negotiating. The goal seems to have been to give away as much as possible."

George Perkovich, Vice President for Studies, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

"Apparently, at an all-night session on the last night in India, the U.S. negotiators capitulated to all of India's demands, lest Bush leave New Delhi with nothing to show for a trip halfway around the world but an agreement to import mangoes."

Patrick J. Buchanan, Former Republican Presidential Candidate

"Basically the nuclear establishment of India dug in its heels, Prime Minister Singh backed them up, and the administration caved again."

Robert Einhorn, Senior analyst, Center for Strategic and International Studies

"Normally a foreign trip gives you something. You go there, but if we're walking back with mangoes, and they're getting nuclear rods, that's not a very good swap."

Ed Rollins, Served in the Administrations of President Richard Nixon, President Gerald Ford, and President Ronald Reagan

"You can cheat and we may apply sanctions for a while, but in the end...we'll give you what you wanted in the first place."

Daryl Kimball, Executive Director, Arms Control Association

The deal "whitewashes, via silence, India's past transgressions in violating bilateral agreements with the United States and Canada, and it puts the United States in arguable violation of its own commitments to the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty."

Leonard Weiss, a key architect of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Act

"This is the Holy Grail of international acceptance, and we sold it for pennies on the dollar."

Jon Wolfsthal, Fellow, International Security Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies

"It's Orwellian doublespeak... They're giving up their ability to be credible when they oppose proliferation."

Gary Millhollin, Director, Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control

"It is very difficult to make the case to the international community and to the Iranians themselves that we are serious about proliferation."

Ray Takeyh, Senior fellow, Council on Foreign Relations

"With this deal, India has sent a signal that it can expand its nuclear arsenal as it wants... This creates suspicion, which is what you don't want."

David Albright, President, Institute for Science and International Security

"The lesson Iran is likely to draw is simple: if you hold out long enough, the Americans will cave. All this talk about violating treaties, they will reason, is just smoke."

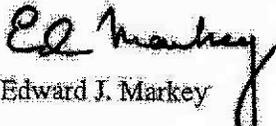
Joseph Cirincione, Director for Nonproliferation, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

"There are huge downside risks here if we break up the rules of nuclear commerce we have spent decades tightening."

Michael Krepon, Co-Founder of the Stimson Center

In light of the dangerous effects that nuclear trade with India could have on national and international security, we have introduced H. Con. Res. 318. Our resolution supports strengthened ties between the U.S. and India but expresses concern over the potential negative impacts on nonproliferation that could result from nuclear trade with a country that has not signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, that has tested nuclear weapons, and that continues to produce fissile material for nuclear bombs. Please contact Nicole Gasparini or Jeff Duncan (Rep. Markey) at x52836 or Debra Marshall (Rep. Upton) at x53761 if you would like to cosponsor our resolution.

Sincerely,


Edward J. Markey


Fred Upton