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PIR Center to Work in Partnership with NTI's Nuclear Security Project

The Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI) and the PIR Center today announced that they will work together to advance international dialogue and understanding about reversing reliance on nuclear weapons globally, preventing their proliferation, and ultimately ending them as a threat to the world.

With a grant from the Nuclear Threat Initiative, the PIR Center will be a partner to NTI's Nuclear Security Project working to galvanize global action to reduce the risk of a nuclear weapon being used by increasing understanding, awareness, support and action by policymakers, policy experts and the public around the world for purposefully and significantly changing direction and reducing nuclear dangers.

The Project builds on the January 4, 2007 *Wall Street Journal* op-ed, "A World Free of Nuclear Weapons" by former U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, former U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry, former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former U.S. Senator Sam Nunn. The op-ed links the vision of a world free of nuclear weapons with urgent steps designed to reduce nuclear dangers. The Project involves all four authors, and NTI serves as the General Secretariat of the Project, responsible for coordinating the work of the four principals as well as managing the implementation of this project.

"Future of nuclear arsenals in the world should be a subject of an intensive debate. The coming 18 months will bring both significant challenges but also great opportunities for such a debate. First of all, the next U.S. administration and the Russian Federation should find ways to continue reductions of the strategic nuclear weapons. Secondly, the NPT Review Conference in the year 2010 will become a critical point for both discussions and decisions on global nuclear reductions and concrete steps towards disarmament," said Dr. Vladimir A. Orlov, President of PIR Center.

Orlov added, "We at PIR Center are happy to continue our joint work with the NTI on the most urgent of today's challenges to the international security and on the strategic, long-term vision towards a nuclear-weapon-free world, as committed by the parties to the NPT."

NSP co-director Joan Rohlfing welcomed collaboration saying, "We are delighted to welcome the PIR Center as a partner and look forward to working with their excellent team to advance these issues in a critical part of the world."

Over the next 12 months, the PIR Center will provide analysis and expertise, hold a series of round tables in Moscow, and publish discussion papers and reports in *Security Index* journal as well as post them on the Center's web site, www.pircenter.org. Leading Russian experts will be invited to share their viewpoints and proposals for future strategies.

There has been growing momentum behind the vision and steps for a nuclear weapons free world, including:

- Australia and Japan have launched the International Commission on Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament;
- Both U.S. presidential candidates have talked about the importance of working toward a world without nuclear weapons;
- More than two-thirds of the living former U.S. Secretaries of State, Secretaries of Defense and National Security Advisors – spanning the Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton and Bush Administrations – support the project;
- The British government has embraced the initiative;
- Statements from the Indian Prime Minister and other Indian officials have advance the goal of global nuclear disarmament; and
- Senior statesmen from across parties in the United Kingdom and in Italy have written op-eds embracing the vision and steps toward a nuclear weapons free world.

The Nuclear Threat Initiative is a non-profit organization working to reduce the global threats from nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

The PIR Center is a Moscow-based independent nongovernmental organization which carries out research, as well as educational, public awareness and publishing activities, and provides consulting services.

More information about the Nuclear Security Project can be found at www.nuclearsecurity.org