

January 5, 2018
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Dear Mr President:

I am very concerned by nuclear weapons. Every modern president has had to deal with complex decisions around these devices from early test bans to the standoff in Cuba to containment attempts in Iran and Korea. While the best strategies are impossible to know, the shift in tone over the past eight months with both Iran and North Korea appear to be destabilizing. Your personal and public commentary in both cases has shifted the discussions from the quiet of a negotiating table where each party must only sell the final product to their constituents to extremely public feuds in which every comment, speech and tweet must be tailored for the public. This is an extremely dangerous form of negotiation since it makes trade-offs almost impossible. It also greatly strengthens the hand of the weaker party (not us) since in an actual negotiation we hold many more chips. This is particularly terrifying since it appears to be pushing North Korea even more rapidly toward extremely dangerous actions such as aerial nuclear tests.

Please assure me that you will avoid nuclear war.

I am very proud to be a US citizen and a large part of that derives from our moral world leadership.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson