

August 2, 2019
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about first use of nuclear weapons. Launch cods remains your sole prerogative and today you ended the 1987 INF treaty. The treaty ushered in a calmer era after decades of escalation. This involved the realization that no sane person would ever start a nuclear war (the premise of the MAD doctrine). Unfortunately there remain officials who argue that first use is a viable option, that tying our hands would weaken our country and that leaving people guessing strengthens negotiation. These views are clear in your recent deployment of tactical nuclear warheads and the pentagons recent nuclear operations document. These views are wrong. The prospect of first use is destabilizing, the collapse of US diplomacy is accelerating nuclear development in Russia, Iran and North Korea and finally the assumption that you are sane is suspect.

Please assure me that you will commit the US to a no first use policy and remove the power to launch from the hands of any single person.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our responsible nuclear stance.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson