



July 3, 2006

Ambassador Spogli
United States Embassy
via Vittorio Veneto 119/A
Rome, Italy 00187

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

On the occasion of the Fourth of July, we, as U.S. citizens living in Italy, are once again taking the opportunity to express our deep concerns about continuing military practices--well documented--that are contrary to our nation's commitment to the rights of every human being, as expressed in both our Bill of Rights and our Constitution.

Some of those concerns are contained below and in the previous six letters that we have written to you over the past ten months.

In your role as a diplomat, you have chosen an approach to settling conflict, that is, one of diplomacy--fighting with words and not weapons. We are strongly encouraging you to use all the skills of your profession and the influence that you have to make progress on the below-mentioned areas of concern.

1) To insist that the U.S. government, fundamentally, honor the Geneva Conventions. By doing so, the torture of Iraqi prisoners would stop. The setting up of "interrogation camps" around Europe (with the cooperation of said governments) would stop. The use of chemical weapons, like white phosphorous, would stop. The imprisonment of 460 "suspected terrorists", without a civilian trial or legal defense would stop.

(We wish to acknowledge the justness of the recent Supreme Court decision that informed the Bush administration that "potential terrorists can challenge their treatment in U.S. courts.")

2) To monitor the covert work of the CIA. In Iraq, this would focus on stopping the military training of Baathist Sunnis and Shiites as well, with the purpose of continuing to fuel the civil war and keep the country in chaos, ungovernable. In Palestine, the focus would be to stop the fueling of the opposition groups to the newly, democratically elected Hamas government, including recent provocative actions by the Israeli government.

3) To negotiate an agreement with the Iranian government about its nuclear program. It is the legitimate fear of many that a military strike against Iran either by the U.S., or its client state Israel, would escalate the loss of human life particularly in the Middle East region.

In conclusion, we the people, represented by the U.S. Embassy here in Italy, believe that our government as part of the United Nations needs to act in compliance with international law and the law of our own nation.

We are calling for a return to the diplomatic times when our nation was seen as a beacon of hope for human rights and international development, not as a military aggressor.

Sincerely,

U.S. Citizens for Peace & Justice, Rome