June 17, 1986

The Honorable Ronald Reagan
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C.

Dear President Reagan:

At the 75th Annual Meeting, held in Washington, D.C., the Executive Council of the American Psychoanalytic Association passed the following resolution on May 8, 1986:

The American Psychoanalytic Association considers that the spiraling nuclear arms race and the human and technological disaster at Chernobyl have heightened psychological tensions in the world to an unprecedented degree.

As specialists in the issues of human conflict and the anxiety produced by them, we suggest that the Chernobyl accident makes us all highly aware of the possibility of accident in the testing and deployment of nuclear weapons.

Therefore, we respectfully urge that all possible avenues toward mitigating the profound distrust between the governments of the United States and the U.S.S.R. be explored, including the vigorous continuation of nuclear arms reduction talks and the reopening of negotiations on a mutual, monitored ban of nuclear testing.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Simons, M.D.
President

cc: Members of the U.S. Senate
Members of the House of Representatives