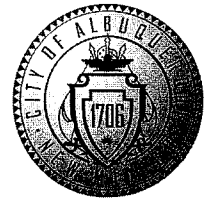


CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE

Office of the Mayor



June 10, 2008

Martin J. Chávez, Mayor

Mr. Peter Neils, President
Los Alamos Study Group
2901 Summit Place, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87106

Dear Mr. Neils,

Regarding your letter of June 7, 2008, we are clearly not seeing things the same way. I feel terribly sorry for Mrs. Sasamori and the pain she endured as a result of her governments' actions during World War II. Thankfully, she survived. My uncle and tens of thousands of his fellow Americans did not. Like Mrs. Sasamori, they committed no crime or wrongdoing. Rather, they fought to prevent the subjugation of our nation by an aggressor nation. I find your dismissal of their ultimate sacrifice on the basis that they were "combatants" deeply offensive. We will never fully know how many innocent lives they saved in the process of giving their own lives. I thank my God that they had the courage to do so. I'm not aware of any portion of the Geneva Convention that justified bombing civilians and military alike at Pearl Harbor or marching Americans emaciated by malaria into the jungle and purposely starving them to death.

I hope that no one ever has to endure the suffering of war by the unprovoked aggression of nations such as that visited upon the United States by Japan in World War II. That is why I have always supported disarmament by all nations. I will continue to do so.

I am equally proud that the United States and Japan are now strong allies. I have visited Japan many times (including Hiroshima and Nagasaki) to strengthen the bonds between us and most recently completed the Sasebo Japanese Gardens here in Albuquerque. At their invitation, I am looking forward to again visiting Japan this November.

But I shan't undertake and promote that relationship from the perspective of apology for the successful conclusion of World War II. The devastation wreaked upon Japan was at their own hand. I only wish that Japan had ended the war sooner so that I and millions of Americans and Japanese alike might have gotten to know love ones forever lost to all of us.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Chávez

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