

*"This is a copy of the letter that was sent to the Prime Minister and, just suitably amended for each other addressee, copied to the Conservative & Lib.Dem leaders."*

**The Rt. Hon. Tony Blair**

15 January 2007

*(Dear Prime Minister)*

Last Friday I was privileged to attend your speech on Defence & Security onboard HMS ALBION. What you said inspired me to write this letter because I am leading on creating a UK National Defence Association (short title 'NDA') whose purpose is:

***To inform the people of the United Kingdom about the case for sufficient, appropriate and fully funded Armed Forces that the Country needs to ensure its people, their security and vital interests at home and worldwide can be defended effectively.***

After eighteen months' work developing this idea, we will have our web-site ([www.uknda.org](http://www.uknda.org)) up and running by 1<sup>st</sup> February. The aim of this introductory site is to publicise the NDA and identify and quantify the amount of real support there is (or is not) for the creation of an NDA, the *raison d'être* for and full details of which are in our Founding Document, a copy of which I enclose. The target date to 'launch' the NDA, assuming sufficient support, is by late spring at the latest.

The NDA is independent, objective and non-political. As stated on the front cover of our Founding Document we whole heartedly support your wish to develop a debate based 'Covenant'. It would be of inestimable help if you would agree to indicate your support for the creation of the NDA, perhaps in the following terms:

***"I welcome the creation of the UK National Defence Association and its potential to facilitate the creation of a Covenant between the people, politicians and Armed Forces of this country in discussing how best to provide for the effective defence of the Realm, its people and their vital interests wherever they may be".***

I am also writing to David Cameron and Sir Menzies Campbell asking them to support the same statement. While there will always be strenuous political 'debate' and even disagreement on how best to resource and equip the Armed Forces, there should be no disagreement as to the fundamental and common aim – i.e. that the first priority of any Government is to ensure the effective defence of the Realm, its people and their vital interests.

I enjoyed, appreciated and greatly admired your speech, and agree with the great majority of it. Speaking for those of us now creating the UKNDA, we would very much value your support.

Yours sincerely

*John Muxworthy*

Cdr, RN    CE UKNDA