The use of nuclear weapons in Japan was necessary for the war effort because it provided a means of bringing a swift and decisive end to the war, and of avoiding the loss of additional American lives. By dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we were able to force Japan to surrender, and to prevent the need for a costly and protracted invasion of the Japanese Home Islands. At the same time, we recognized that the use of nuclear weapons was a momentous and tragic event, and that it had far-reaching consequences for the world and for humanity. Today, we remain committed to the goal of promoting peace and stability, and to reducing the risk of nuclear conflict in the world.