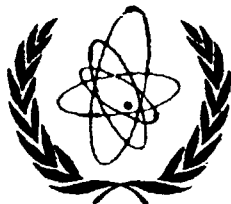


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STATEMENTS COMMEMORATING THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was opened for signature on 1 July 1968.

At the request of a number of Member States, the attached statements commemorating the twentieth anniversary of that occasion are being circulated for the information of all Member States

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ATTACHMENT**Statement by the Secretary-General of the United Nations**

Twenty years ago today the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was opened for signature. Since that time no new nuclear-weapon State has emerged and 134 non-nuclear-weapon parties have committed themselves not to acquire nuclear weapons.

The Treaty has thus so far effectively performed its function as a barrier against the acquisition of nuclear weapons.

The need remains to strengthen the regime still further, both by encouraging wider adherence to the Treaty and by the achievement of early and significant reductions in the number of existing nuclear weapons, so that the Treaty may continue to play its valuable role in contributing to international peace and security. In this context the Secretary-General hopes that further steps will be taken towards the implementation of all the provisions of the Treaty.

Efforts to halt and prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, in all its aspects, are of utmost importance and the Secretary-General urges that all States make every endeavour to pursue these objectives.

Statements on behalf of the Depositary Governments**Statement by the Prime Minister of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
made in reply to questions put by the Soviet news agency TASS**

The Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was one of the first-ever international agreements on the limitation of nuclear weapons. It has been an important factor in ensuring international security and strategic stability.

First and foremost, the Treaty created a powerful barrier of international law in the way of a very serious potential danger - that of a large number of States acquiring nuclear weapons, which would have strained the whole structure of international relations and increased the occurrence of various crisis situations and incidents, and even of fatal accidents. That is to say nothing of the fact that the proliferation of nuclear weapons resembles the nuclear chain reaction which is the basis for the operation of such weapons - and this in circumstances where a large number of countries have reached a level of scientific and technological development enabling them to produce the bomb if they wished.

Mankind realized that the proliferation of nuclear weapons was a general threat to all and that it was necessary to find an adequate collective response to that threat.

Many countries thus had to earnestly weigh on the political scales considerations of national prestige, their strategic interests and concepts, and the task of ensuring security.

In his article "Realities and the Guarantees of a Secure World", General Secretary Michail Gorbachev called the Non-Proliferation Treaty a "unique example of a high sense of responsibility on the part of States".

A high sense of responsibility for the fate of our planet was displayed by both nuclear-weapon and non-nuclear-weapon States: the former - by committing themselves to abstain from promoting in any way the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to conduct talks on nuclear disarmament in a spirit of good will; the latter - by voluntarily renouncing the acquisition of nuclear weapons in any way. The signing of a treaty containing these commitments was a manifestation of high political realism.

Today the non-proliferation principles established by the Treaty are broadly recognized as an integral part of the fundamentals of modern international law. It is no accident that the Treaty is the international legal document in the field of arms limitation with the largest number of signatories - 137.

The history of the Treaty is proof of its effectiveness. The international non-proliferation regime, which has become firmly established on the basis of the Treaty and which includes a system of safeguards applied by the International Atomic Energy Agency, accords on principles relating to nuclear exports, and institutionalized bilateral and multilateral consultations between the parties to the Treaty, is convincing proof of the international community's sincere striving to maintain and strengthen its foundations. The Soviet Union is making a weighty contribution to developing the non-proliferation regime by strictly abiding by its commitments under the Treaty and undeviatingly following the corresponding nuclear export rules.

Special credit goes to the IAEA, which exercises safeguards functions under the Treaty and has established a system of safeguards for effectively and reliably ensuring the non-transfer of nuclear materials from peaceful uses to the manufacture of nuclear weapons. These functions are exercised with due respect for the sovereign rights of States and without detriment to the development of their peaceful nuclear activities or to international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The broad international recognition of the ideas of non-proliferation is also reflected in the fact that countries outside the Treaty do not as a rule oppose its principles, but act according to them in their policies and their commercial and economic activities. Therefore, it is fair to speak of the universal application of these principles.

Admittedly, among the non-signatories of the Treaty there are some States that flagrantly demonstrate their nuclear ambitions. These include above all Israel and South Africa, whose stance on this issue makes the situation in the Middle East and in the south of Africa all the more difficult. It is high time the Israeli and South African authorities realized that the well-being of their countries does not lie in a nuclear future and that accession to the Non-Proliferation Treaty is the sole choice dictated by common sense and morality and by a sense of responsibility at least towards their own people.

For most States the Treaty already symbolizes the reality of a peaceful alternative to the military use of nuclear energy, and for us the ultimate goal is to make it such a symbol for all States. Incidentally, one argument against nuclear disarmament goes as follows: having created nuclear weapons, mankind cannot forget how they are made. This might seem to be true. However, the Treaty provides an entire mechanism for ensuring that nuclear technology does not result in the manufacture of weapons. In particular, we believe there is every reason to use the experience of IAEA safeguards in working out a system for verifying future nuclear disarmament measures.

The twentieth anniversary of the Treaty comes at a time of most important events in the life of the international community. New political thinking which reflects the now urgent needs and imperatives of today's world has found specific expression in the Soviet programme for a stage-by-stage elimination of nuclear weapons. Today we are witnessing the first results of its practical implementation. I have in mind above all the INF Treaty, the considerable progress made in drawing up an agreement on halving the strategic offensive arsenals of the USSR and the USA, and the Soviet-United States talks on the limitation and ultimate prohibition of nuclear weapon tests - and positive changes in many other fields of international life. The commitment made by every party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty - to conduct in a spirit of good will talks on effective measures to end the nuclear arms race and achieve nuclear disarmament under strict and effective controls - still has a

very topical ring to it. One of the conditions for a steady and unceasing process of nuclear disarmament such as is now just beginning is without doubt the preservation and strengthening of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Soviet Union will continue to resolutely support the Treaty, which must remain effective until a nuclear-free and non-violent peace becomes a reality on earth. It can be replaced only by an all-embracing international treaty on the non-revival of nuclear weapons after their total and final elimination.

Statement by the United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign and
Commonwealth Affairs

We celebrate today the 20th anniversary of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The United Kingdom, one of the Treaty's three depositary Powers, is proud to have been closely involved in this Treaty enterprise from the very start.

The Treaty has made an inestimable contribution to peace in the world today by containing the spread of nuclear weapons while at the same time encouraging the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It is therefore central to the security of each and every one of us. The Treaty is the most widely supported arms control agreement in existence, with 137 parties - four fifths of the total membership of the United Nations. I welcome the recent accession of Spain and of Trinidad and Tobago, and also the decision by Saudi Arabia - announced earlier this year - to accede. On this 20th anniversary, I applaud their example and appeal to all countries which have not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty to do so. It is vital that, at a time when there is significant progress in nuclear arms control, all countries which have not yet signed the Non Proliferation Treaty do so. It is vital that, at a time when there is significant progress in nuclear arms control, all governments play their part in discouraging nuclear proliferation.

Statement by the President of the United States of America

The Non-Proliferation Treaty is one of the international community's most vital instruments for preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and strengthening international peace and stability.

I firmly believe that a nuclear war can never be won and must never be fought. If we are to succeed in halting the spread of nuclear weapons, the nations of the world must continue to work together. I call on all countries that have not yet adhered to the Non-Proliferation Treaty to do so in order to demonstrate their commitment to preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and to strengthening the foundations of peace. Also, I urge all parties to the Treaty to re-dedicate themselves to achieving its objective.

Statement by the United States President's Assistant for Press Relations

Twenty years ago today, sixty-one nations, including the United States, signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. This treaty serves as a cornerstone of international efforts to prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons, which is one of the most direct and serious threats to regional and global stability. Nations all around the globe have committed themselves to the treaty and its objectives. Indeed, with 137 parties, the Non-Proliferation Treaty has the widest adherence of any arms control treaty in history. The important role of the Treaty has been repeatedly reaffirmed. In 1985, the participants at the Third Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference concluded that universal adherence to the Treaty is the best way to strengthen the barriers against proliferation. They urged all States not party to the treaty to accede to it.

The nuclear-weapon States which are parties to the Treaty have agreed not to assist non-nuclear-weapon States to acquire nuclear explosives. The non-nuclear-weapon States in turn pledge not to acquire nuclear explosives.

These mutual pledges acknowledge that the technology of nuclear weapons and nuclear explosives cannot be distinguished and that their further spread threatens the security of all nations.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty also calls for parties to co-operate in the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, especially in non-nuclear-weapon States which are parties to the Treaty. The peaceful uses of nuclear energy are important to the social and economic well-being of many peoples, and the United States has long been in the forefront of countries providing technical assistance and other co-operation in the nuclear field. We are committed to continuing such co-operation under effective international safeguards. The comprehensive safeguards applied by the International Atomic Energy Agency under the Treaty provide essential assurance of the peaceful intent of the nuclear activities of the States involved, thus benefiting all mankind.

The United States has taken the initiative in negotiations to substantially reduce nuclear arsenals as called for in Article VI of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. The conclusion by the United States and the Soviet Union of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF), which entered into force on June 1, is clear evidence of our deep commitment to nuclear arms reductions. This treaty, which contains the most stringent verification measures of any arms control agreement, will eliminate an entire class of United States and Soviet nuclear missiles. The United States also continues its negotiations with the Soviet Union to complete a treaty to reduce United States and Soviet strategic offensive arms by 50 per cent. We are, in addition, committed to seeking effective and verifiable agreements with the Soviet Union on nuclear testing limitations that could strengthen security for all nations. When discussions of two existing treaties are completed and they are ratified, we are prepared to pursue negotiations on a step-by-step parallel programme to limit and ultimately end nuclear testing, in association with a programme to reduce and ultimately eliminate all nuclear weapons.

In 1981, the President outlined United States policy to prevent the proliferation of nuclear explosives and declared that this issue was critical to international peace and to regional and global stability. If we are to succeed in halting the spread of nuclear weapons, however, the nations of the world must work together. Each State has a responsibility to refrain from seeking nuclear weapons and to take all steps necessary to avoid contributing to the spread of nuclear weapons through the export of nuclear equipment and technology.

As the President has stated on a number of occasions, he believes that a nuclear war can never be won and must never be fought. In order to eliminate the threat of nuclear war, we have sought to achieve deep reductions in the level of nuclear weapons worldwide. The INF agreement is a concrete example of our success. However, in order to completely rid the world of the risk of nuclear war, particularly at a time when the United States and the Soviet Union have agreed to reduce their nuclear arsenals, it is equally vital to prevent any further spread of nuclear weapons. The Non-Proliferation Treaty is clearly the most important means we have for accomplishing this goal.

The United States played a major role in the negotiation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty and, over its lifetime, all United States Presidents have strongly supported it. On this, the 20th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty, the President calls upon all countries that have not yet adhered to it to do so in order to demonstrate their commitment to preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and to reducing the risk of nuclear war. Further, he urges all parties to the Treaty to re-dedicate themselves to achieving its objectives and to ensuring its continued vitality. This is both our shared responsibility and our contribution to peace for this and future generations.

Other statements

Joint statement by the Nordic Foreign Ministers

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was opened for signature 20 years ago today. The five Nordic countries - Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden - were among the first to sign and to ratify the Treaty.

The Nordic Governments consider the Non-Proliferation Treaty a vital instrument for preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and ensuring that nuclear energy is developed only for peaceful purposes. In our view, the Treaty remains the most important arms control agreement reached multilaterally so far. The Treaty has made a significant contribution to international stability and security.

The strong commitment of the five Nordic countries to further strengthening the non-proliferation regime is reflected in joint Nordic initiatives and working documents submitted to the United Nations and to the NPT Review Conferences. Universal adherence to the NPT and full compliance with the letter and spirit of its obligations are the best approach to achieving the primary goals of the Treaty: to avert the spread of nuclear weapons, to promote international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to limit and reduce nuclear weapons.

The vast majority of States are already parties to the NPT. Close to 140 States have now ratified and adhered to the Treaty. It is regrettable, however, that some States have not yet done so. Since its entry into force, no State party to the Treaty has acquired nuclear weapons. In the view of the Nordic Governments, the constantly increasing membership and also the successful conclusion of the Third Review Conference testify to the great significance of the Treaty and are an encouraging development in efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

In celebrating the twentieth anniversary of the Treaty, the Nordic Governments urge all States which have not already done so to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Statement by the Prime Minister of Australia

Today marks the twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

The NPT is the basis of international efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. The Treaty makes a major contribution to international peace and security and is generally recognized as the single most effective and widely adhered-to nuclear arms control agreement in existence. Australia ratified the Treaty on 23 January 1973.

Membership of the Treaty provides reassurance to the international community and neighbouring States of a nation's peaceful nuclear intentions and has become the standard for responsible international nuclear behaviour.

Australia continues to urge universal adherence to the NPT. It is my hope that the twentieth anniversary of its opening for signature will act as a spur to those countries which have yet to commit themselves to the Treaty.

Statement by the President of Bangladesh

1 July 1988 marks the twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). It also marks the forty-fifth anniversary of the atomic age, when the first successful test of nuclear weapons ushered in the possibility and the ultimate reality of explosives of unprecedented mass destruction, threatening the very survival of mankind.

The threat of nuclear catastrophe has become the pre-eminent issue of our time. It has overshadowed all other critical challenges facing the world community, especially in its efforts to promote the cause of economic and social development of the Third World: progress in the protection of human rights and the construction of a world based on justice and human dignity.

Bangladesh acceded to the NPT in pursuit of its constitutional commitment to promote general and complete disarmament and the renunciation of the use of force in international relations. The Treaty is today, with 137 parties, the most widely adhered-to arms control treaty in history.

This auspicious occasion provides a fitting opportunity for Bangladesh to reaffirm the validity of the goals and objectives of the Treaty in preserving the political, economic and security interests of its parties. Also, it permits Bangladesh to reiterate its outright rejection of the nuclear alternative and to call unambiguously for a halt to and reversal of the nuclear arms race.

Since its entry into force, the NPT has remained the central component of the endeavour to check the harmful uses of nuclear energy while at the same time harnessing the atom for peaceful purposes. It is this dual character of atomic energy, affecting both its benevolent and its destructive use through identical scientific, technological and engineering means, that lies at the heart of the unique problems of its control and spread. Today, it cannot but be recognized that the NPT is the cornerstone of international efforts to erect and sustain viable barriers against the spread of nuclear weapons; nor can it be doubted that the NPT has helped greatly in the long-term international endeavour to ensure uses of nuclear energy.

The fact remains, however, that meaningful progress towards the third fundamental component of the Treaty, the goal of reducing nuclear arsenals and negotiations in good faith towards general and complete disarmament, has been

slow and inadequate. Prime responsibility accrues on the nuclear-weapon Powers to undertake specific disarmament measures and reduce their reliance on nuclear deterrence if they are to discourage horizontal proliferation. A great deal will also depend on the half dozen or so threshold States yet unwilling to commit themselves by treaty to a renunciation of the nuclear option in the absence of tangible progress by the nuclear-weapon Powers to reduce their nuclear arsenals. Bangladesh believes that, with all its limitations, the NPT remains the only viable instrument towards achieving the goal of general and complete disarmament. The NPT has provided a moral, legal, political and institutional base to strive for this end. It has established a critical legal and numerical threshold to encourage those outside its fold to join and make it universal, in recognition of the fundamental reality that it is the control of nuclear energy and not its denial that can provide the only safe course. The NPT constitutes the major stimulus in triggering more transfers of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. Above all, it provides a legal basis for accountability of the nuclear-weapon Powers in their continued possession of weapons of mass destruction and to charge them with fulfilling their obligation.

On this important day, marking the passage of two decades since the signing of this historic treaty, Bangladesh reiterates its appeal to the nuclear-weapon Powers and the threshold States to reject the nuclear option and demonstrably move towards the goal of general and complete disarmament. We are encouraged in making this appeal by the hopeful signs engendered by the recent US-Soviet summit in Moscow progressing towards some tangible nuclear arms control measures and by attitudinal changes that have signalled greater understanding and accommodation among the Superpowers. In the final analysis, it is only through a modicum of common interest and shared understanding that peace can be achieved. We must continuously strive to dissipate and finally dismantle the stranglehold of fear that has so long dominated our existence.

Statement by the Canadian Secretary of State for External Affairs

The continuing major importance of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) has been that it provides for legally binding commitments to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and facilitates international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Another key element is that it sets out a guiding framework for the negotiated reduction of nuclear arsenals.

Canada is a major advocate of universal adherence to the NPT in support of these fundamental policy objectives. Although the Treaty, with 137 States party, has broad support from all regions, a number of States with advanced nuclear capabilities have declined to accede to the NPT. Last month, I instructed Canadian Embassies to inform each country whose government has not yet ratified the NPT that Canada attaches particular importance to the need for all States to become full parties. I welcome the recent accession of Spain to the NPT, as well as Saudi Arabia's announced intention to accede, and hope that other non-parties will follow their example.

We welcome the noteworthy USA/USSR developments in nuclear arms control and disarmament in the past year in conformity with the objectives of the disarmament provisions of the NPT. While recognizing that deep reductions in nuclear arsenals remain a central Canadian objective, efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons are equally important. I hope that significant progress toward both of these important goals will be made before the 1990 NPT Review Conference, where the operation of the NPT, which is scheduled for renewal in 1995, will be discussed.

It is my view that the NPT, which has already made a major contribution to non-proliferation, will continue to be a vital factor in strengthening international security and co-operation.

Statement by the President of Costa Rica

Twenty years ago, on 1 July 1968, a new path was opened for mankind's march towards peace. An extremely important appeal was made to the consciences of all nations - and their governments - in the form of an invitation to sign a treaty with incalculable historical implications, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

The signing of NPT has both symbolic and real value as an irreversible measure against war and in favour of the harmonious coexistence of all peoples, freed from the fear of their own destruction.

The opening of NPT for signature constituted a request to all States to commit themselves to halting the spread of nuclear weapons to nations which had the good fortune not to possess them, by making sure that no such weapons or devices were transferred to those nations and that no assistance with their construction was rendered to them. Implicit in this noble objective is the wider purpose of promoting - as a first step towards complete disarmament - the gradual elimination of nuclear weapons and thereby ensuring that the splitting of the atom, a great achievement of the human mind, serves only the well-being of mankind and does not lead to its destruction.

With the opening for signature of NPT, the cornerstone was placed for the building of a world in which - through complete disarmament - men will come to enjoy that millennial age, so yearned for by the human spirit, when "They shall beat their swords into plough-shares, and their spears into pruning-hooks" and when, bearing these instruments of peace and singing for joy, they will wrest their well-being and their freedom from the soil.

So far 137 States have responded to the invitation. In order that the Treaty may be a binding standard in international relations, it is necessary that further State adhere to it. The invitation to adhere to it still stands - a hope and a call of the peoples of the world.

As the President of a nation which has demonstrated that it can live securely and fruitfully without an army and without the use of arms to ensure its stability, I respectfully but urgently make a fervent appeal to the Governments of those States which have not yet formally adhered to the Treaty, that, by signing it, they give to it a legal value by virtue of which they will become a "rainbow of peace" for those peoples which, terrified by the experience of the past, vehemently cry out "No more Nagasaki! No more Hiroshimas!"

The drafting of the Treaty involved difficult negotiations in which the desire to save the world from self-destruction was amply displayed. Since the Treaty was opened for signature by all States, we have seen this collective desire growing stronger. Filled with joy, we have applauded the most recent progress towards peace guaranteed not by nuclear deterrence, but by the desire for peace. The two Superpowers have agreed up and begun with the elimination of short- and medium-range nuclear weapons. This confirms the magnificent strength of the human spirit in the quest for solidarity among the peoples of the world and, at the same time, destroys the terrifying myth of nuclear weapons as guarantors of peace.

The award of the Nobel Peace Prize to me was an honour for Costa Rica, but it was also more than an honour -- it was a demand to us by other nations that we be in the forefront in the struggle for peace, not just in our geographical region but throughout the world. We know that peace will ultimately be consolidated throughout the world only when there exists a mental attitude which will generate the political courage and the honest readiness of all to achieve complete disarmament among nations.

Clearly, such complete disarmament will be achieved only if, as of now, a stop is put to the nuclear arms race, which, as I have stated in the United Nations, has become the most gigantic monument even built to the blindness of power.

The dynamics of scientific and technical research in the infernal field of nuclear arms development is such that every minute which passes increases the danger geometrically and removes nations further from the possibility of giving up the quest for hegemony and hence from universal brotherhood.

I am an idealist by nature and, believing in the forces of good which are to be found in the hearts of all men, I dream of a beautiful future in which the enormous resources devoted to nuclear weapons will be switched to providing bread and light, freedom and peace for all peoples.

Every signature on the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is a signature in favour of peace and against war.

Statement by Cyprus

The 20th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and the lapse of 43 years since the bombardment of Hiroshima and Nagasaki remind the whole world of the horror and destruction of nuclear war, especially at the present time, when even more sophisticated destructive nuclear weapons exist.

The prime importance of the Treaty lay in the fact that it is essentially an arms control agreement. The Treaty has effectively contributed to the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, or at least to their horizontal non-proliferation, and has proved that when political will exists it can produce effective agreement even on the most difficult issues. It is at the same time very encouraging that the historic agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union on the elimination of medium- and shorter-range weapons in Europe (INF) has been signed. This agreement may represent only a first step, but it is a historic act in the cause of the survival of the human race. It has caught the imagination of the whole world, whose peoples and Governments have welcomed it with a sigh of relief. The Treaty, therefore,

with the signing of the INF agreement between the USA and the USSR, may well be said to have started achieving to some extent its main objective as far as vertical proliferation is concerned.

The fact that 137 countries have so far acceded to the Treaty is evidence that the non-proliferation regime which it established and its objectives are widely accepted. The forthcoming NPT Review Conference should provide an opportunity for all States to review the operation of the Treaty in a frank and objective manner and try to identify its successes and weaknesses and respond better to its objectives while at the same time reaffirming the need to respect its fundamental principles.

On the occasion of this anniversary, it should not be forgotten that, in compliance with the Charter of the United Nations, States should abstain from using or threatening to use force against the territorial integrity and political independence of any State and that international peace and security should be promoted with the least diversion of the world's human and economic resources for armaments.

Statement by the Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs

During these days we recall the twentieth anniversary of the conclusion of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which was opened for signature on 1 July 1968. It has become the most widely representative multilateral treaty, to which 137 States have already acceded. The Treaty has been significantly contributing to the stabilization of international relations and for two decades has served as an important barrier in the way of the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Czechoslovakia has been a signatory of this important treaty from the very beginning. In all international fora and also bilaterally, it has consistently spoken out and continues to speak out in favour of strengthening the authority of the Treaty and making it fully universal.

We call on all States which still remain outside the Treaty to sign and ratify it as soon as possible, and especially those countries which are approaching the threshold of the so-called "Nuclear Club" and are situated in regions of current international tension or conflict.

Statement by the Egyptian Foreign Ministry

1 July 1988 marks the twentieth anniversary of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, which aims at sparing the world the adversity of nuclear war and the danger of a spread and escalation of the production of nuclear weapons. Beginning with this concept, the Treaty is considered one of the principal achievements of the United Nations and the international community in the field of denuclearization. Therefore, the Treaty stands as one of the greatest accomplishments in the multilateral field, and ranks with the 1963 Bilateral Moscow Agreement and with bilateral agreements concluded between the US and USSR. The Non-Proliferation Treaty also supports efforts aimed at establishing denuclearized areas, particularly in the Middle East and Africa.

In commemorating this anniversary, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses Egypt's steadfast belief in the necessity of achieving complete disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, so that the world may enjoy tranquility, peace and security, and so that relations among nations may flourish and resources and potential may be channeled to development and prosperity. Nuclear energy would then be confined to peaceful uses in application of the fourth Article of the NPT.

Recalling efforts to approve the Non-Proliferation Treaty in the Disarmament Conference in Geneva and the UN General Assembly in New York, Egypt was keen to be one of the first countries to put its signature to the Treaty. Egypt then ratified the Treaty in 1981 and has observed its provisions. Egypt feels the importance of extending the application of the Treaty to all States. Therefore Egypt addresses a strong call to all

countries, especially those in the Middle East and Africa which have not yet joined or refuse to join the Treaty, to observe its provisions and subject all nuclear facilities to the safeguards of the IAEA as proof of good intentions toward other countries and as a means of enhancing chances for peace and the building of confidence among States.

Finally, the Foreign Ministry would like to pay tribute to the serious, positive efforts exerted by the IAEA regarding the application of safeguards in countries party to the Treaty and co-operation with these countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Statement by the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Federal Republic of Germany

Twenty years ago today, on 1 July 1968, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was presented for signature in Washington, Moscow and London. In the meantime the Non-Proliferation Treaty has been ratified by more than 130 countries and thus became the arms control treaty with the largest number of signatories in the history of disarmament and arms control.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty has proved to be an important cornerstone for international stability and the preservation of peace. The emergence of additional nuclear Powers would not only have changed regional power relations, but also have initiated destabilizing developments with worldwide consequences.

The Treaty has placed international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy on a stable basis appropriate to the principle of political equality, and thus favoured research and industry, partnership in development policy and nuclear safety.

The systems of control established by the Non-Proliferation Treaty and put into practice by the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna have to date, within the areas covered by the Treaty, prevented atomic fuels meant for peaceful purposes from being misused for the production of nuclear weapons. The IAEA safeguards procedures have provided the basis for the development of the peaceful use of nuclear energy and have done so in such a way as to ensure that the resulting broad international co-operation has taken place on the basis of trust.

The purpose of the Non-Proliferation Treaty is not merely to prevent the emergence of additional nuclear-weapon States - in Article VI it obliges the nuclear-weapon States to work for disarmament. We Germans emphatically remember this obligation. An important first step has been taken in the form of the INF Treaty. It is now of primary importance that the two world Powers intensify their negotiation efforts in order to come to the earliest possible conclusion of an agreement providing for a 50 per cent reduction in strategic nuclear weapons.

We shall also support the Non-Proliferation Treaty in the future as an instrument for effectively preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and as a basis for international co-operation in the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy.

I again appeal to those countries which have not already done so to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Statement by Greece

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Greece, recognizing the great importance of this event for the future of humanity, notes that the Treaty is a particularly significant factor in the international effort to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

Greece was among the first nations to sign the Treaty and, as is commonly known, our country has shown great interest in the prevention of the horizontal and the vertical (i.e. both the geographical and the qualitative) proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons responds to the fervent wish of all peoples for a peaceful future; this is borne out by the fact that no other disarmament agreement has been accepted by so many countries. During the 20 years that it has been in force, it has contributed substantially to the restriction of nuclear weapons proliferation.

Statement by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Hungarian Parliament

Twenty years ago, on 1 July 1968, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was opened for signature. It was signed on the very first day by no less than 61 States, including the Hungarian People's Republic. During the past two decades the number of States parties has increased to 137, which has made the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons the arms control agreement with the widest adherence and has contributed to averting the danger of nuclear catastrophes threatening the destruction of the entire world.

The Foreign Affairs Committee is convinced that it is expressing the unanimous view of Hungarian public opinion by reaffirming - after two decades of the Treaty's operation - the continued commitment of Hungary to the objectives, obligations and measures set forth in the Treaty. It would have a beneficial effect if all States which, for whatever reason, have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty would take that step without delay, as is rightly expected from them by the international community. The reality of the nuclear age is that every country of the world has a share of responsibility to discharge in promoting the cause of peace and security, the reduction of international tension, the limitation of armaments and disarmament.

A special responsibility is placed upon the States possessing nuclear weapons. They are expected by the peoples of the world to set an example and to take the lead in the limitation, reduction and elimination of nuclear weapons. The Foreign Affairs Committee therefore welcomes with profound appreciation the ratification of the agreement concluded by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America on the elimination of medium and shorter-range missiles and also the beginning of its implementation. Also, it attaches great importance to the efforts of the two States aimed at reaching an agreement on a 50 per cent reduction of their strategic offensive armaments. The agreements that may lead to a large-scale reduction in the number and yield of the test explosions by the two States can be welcomed as important intermediate steps on the way to halting the nuclear arms race.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons emphasizes the promotion of research on and the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and international co-operation in this field. The Hungarian People's Republic is particularly interested that various forms of such co-operation should develop unhindered.

In this connection the Foreign Affairs Committee attaches paramount importance to the activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency, whose task is to verify compliance with the Treaty, to prevent the misuse of nuclear materials and to provide for the international co-ordination of measures relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The security of peaceful applications would be greatly enhanced by the early conclusion of an international agreement on the prohibition of any attack against nuclear power stations and other nuclear facilities. The Foreign Affairs Committee wishes to stress that the Conference on Disarmament is an appropriate forum for bringing the negotiations to a successful end, which in its turn requires constructive efforts and readiness to come to an agreement on the part of all the participants in the negotiations.

Statement by the Government of Ireland

On 1 July 1968, twenty years ago today, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was opened for signature. This treaty owes its origins to an Irish initiative in the United Nations ten years earlier. The special role of the then Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Frank Aiken, in bringing this issue to the world's attention was marked by the fact that the first signature on the new treaty was that of Mr. Aiken himself on behalf of Ireland. Ireland was proud to have this honour; this instrument is the centrepiece of a world system aimed at limiting the dangers posed by nuclear weapons by preventing their proliferation, ending the nuclear arms race and achieving nuclear disarmament under international control.

The parties to the Treaty, apart from the nuclear-weapon States, commit themselves not to acquire nuclear weapons. As a counterpart to this commitment, the nuclear-weapon States commit themselves to ending the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

The Government is pleased that the Treaty, which makes a major contribution to world stability, has now been adhered to by some 140 States. It remains a distressing fact, however, that several countries have chosen to remain outside the NPT and that some may have since acquired, or are persisting in efforts to acquire, nuclear weapons capability. The possibility that some of them may have gone even further and actually produced nuclear weapons unfortunately has to be reckoned with, with all the destabilizing consequences which the possession of such weapons gives rise to. It is the Government's belief, a belief shared by the vast majority of countries in the international community, that a universal and effective nuclear non-proliferation regime is in the best interests of international peace and stability and of all countries - large and small, nuclear and non-nuclear.

The Government attaches equal importance to the commitment by nuclear weapon States party to the Treaty to pursue in good faith negotiations aiming at an end to the nuclear arms race and at nuclear disarmament. The Government welcomes the progress that has been made by the two Superpowers in this respect through the agreement to eliminate their intermediate nuclear forces and their commitment to a 50 per cent reduction in their strategic nuclear arsenals. Ireland looks forward to further early progress in these important negotiations.

Statement by the Foreign Minister of Japan

Today, on the 20th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Japan recalls that the Treaty, to which 117 countries are parties, has played an extremely important role as a major international framework for realizing both the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The strengthening of this treaty regime will contribute to international peace and stability and to the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy. From this viewpoint, Japan has ratified the Treaty and endeavoured to strengthen it. On this anniversary, Japan expresses its resolve to make further efforts for reinforcing this regime and ardently expects non-contracting parties to accede to the Treaty as soon as possible.

Statement by the Government of Liechtenstein

Twenty years ago, on 1 July 1968, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (Non-Proliferation Treaty) was opened for signature in Washington, London and Moscow.

The Princely Government takes the occasion of this 20th anniversary to call attention to the significance of this treaty.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty, to which Liechtenstein became party in 1978, is one of the most important treaties in the field of arms control and international security. Together with the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), of which Liechtenstein has been a member since 1968, it forms the essential basis for the international non-proliferation regime which makes peaceful uses of nuclear energy possible for all States, subject to the corresponding obligation not to contribute to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Some important States have not so far become party to the Treaty, which renders impossible the global application of the Treaty and thereby impedes more rapid progress in the field of nuclear arms control and disarmament. For this reason, the Princely Government supports all efforts which can lead to the adherence of the greatest possible number of States to the Treaty.

Statement by the Government of Mexico

The Government of Mexico welcomes the 20th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. During the past two decades, this important international instrument has helped to create a safer world by fostering the principle that nuclear energy must be utilized for manifestly peaceful purposes.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) established the legal framework necessary in order to prevent the destructive power of the atom from spreading beyond all control and threatening the very survival of mankind. At the same time, in order to ensure compliance with the Treaty's provisions, the International Atomic Energy Agency was established and has since maintained a careful watch over the use made by different countries of atomic energy for peaceful purposes. By preventing an increase in the number of States possessing nuclear weapons and by regulating the peaceful use of nuclear energy, NPT has strengthened peace and international security and has opened up new development possibilities for all nations.

The Treaty imposes binding commitments of major significance on all the States party to it, and particularly on those States which possess nuclear weapons. Thus, the parties to the Treaty undertake to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures aimed at putting an end to the nuclear arms race and to bringing about nuclear disarmament. Particularly important among such negotiations are those which relate to the total prohibition of nuclear weapons testing - a priority objective of Mexico's disarmament policy.

The Government of Mexico welcomes the progress made in the negotiations on nuclear weapons between the United States of America and the Soviet Union and expresses the hope that those negotiations will lead to the adoption of new measures aimed at general and complete disarmament, to which the two countries committed themselves under the Non-Proliferation Treaty. At the same time, the Government of Mexico expresses its concern at the possibility that the two Powers might conclude an agreement which, by legitimizing the performance of nuclear tests, would depart from the original spirit of the Treaty.

The observance of the 20th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is a suitable occasion on which to reaffirm that only the faithful discharge of their commitments by all parties to the Treaty can create the conditions necessary to ensure its success and universal application. Similarly, this is the right moment to appeal to those States which are not yet parties to NPT to play their part in strengthening the non-proliferation regime in the near future.

Statement by the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On 1 July 1988 it was 20 years since the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was opened for signature. Together with 136 other countries, the Netherlands is a party to this treaty, the main objective of which is to counter the proliferation of nuclear weapons to countries not

possessing them so far. In addition, the nuclear-weapon States commit themselves to start negotiations to stop the nuclear arms race and to strive for disarmament under effective international control. From the start the Netherlands has been a major supporter of the NPT and has always stated that not only the effective control of the strictly peaceful use of nuclear energy by non-nuclear-weapon States but also measures leading to nuclear disarmament by the nuclear-weapon States are touchstones for the success of the Treaty. The NPT has led to the institution of an effective international safeguards system to control the peaceful use of nuclear energy (carried out by the International Atomic Energy Agency - the IAEA). This control agency also organizes and co-ordinates many co-operation projects involving the use of nuclear energy and radioactive materials. As a result of this, developing countries also benefit from the varied possibilities of using nuclear energy in a peaceful manner.

The NPT is helping to strengthen international stability and safety through a combination of control and co-operation in the nuclear field. Fear of the uncontrolled proliferation of nuclear weapons led to the realization of the Treaty. Also, in practice the NPT has proved to be an essential and indispensable instrument for countering the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Netherlands considers a further expansion of the group of countries participating in the Treaty the most desirable way in which guarantees against the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons can take shape.

Statement by New Zealand's Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control

New Zealand signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on 1 July 1968, the day it was opened for signature, because it recognized the fundamental importance of this agreement to arms control and security.

It considers that the NPT makes an important contribution to global stability through its promotion of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. The Treaty establishes a comprehensive regime for halting the spread of nuclear weapons. Also, it encourages the conduct of disarmament negotiations, in particular nuclear disarmament negotiations.

Because of the importance which New Zealand attaches to the Treaty, the NPT has been implemented in its domestic legislation through the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament and Arms Control Act.

New Zealand is also party to the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty, which firmly upholds the role of the NPT in nuclear non-proliferation.

New Zealand is greatly encouraged by the fact that over 130 States have to date become party to the NPT, by far the largest number of adherents to any arms control agreement.

The potential threat of the spread of nuclear weapons would be further reduced if all States acceded to the NPT, and New Zealand calls in particular on those few States with significant nuclear capabilities that have not yet become party to the NPT to reconsider their position.

Statement by Solomon Islands

On the occasion of the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), it gives me great pleasure to reiterate Solomon Islands' continuing and fervent support for the principles of the Treaty.

Solomon Islands has adopted an anti-nuclear arms and dumping policy as a manifestation of its desire to participate in the promotion of peace in the world. Solomon Islands detests the use of nuclear weapons on its territory

and in the South Pacific region. Nuclear weapons are obnoxious and threaten the existence of all of humanity. As a positive measure within the framework of its anti-nuclear policies, Solomon Islands has participated in regional efforts to obliterate from the Pacific region all forms of nuclear arms and has been active in the prevention of the use of the Pacific region as a dumping site for nuclear wastes.

Solomon Islands is a party to and supporter of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty and the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific Region.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is a cornerstone of international efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons both horizontally and vertically.

It is, therefore, our earnest desire to create a world of peace and stability - a world free from the scourge of war and fear.

I avail myself of this occasion to sincerely implore all States which have nuclear arms to cease the production thereof and to hasten measures through which total disarmament may be achieved.

Statement by the Spanish Government

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Spanish Government wishes to testify to the importance it attaches to strengthening this treaty, which is essential to world peace and stability.

Spain welcomes the recent accession of Saudi Arabia, which represents a step forward in the necessary strengthening of the NPT and which we hope will be followed by the early accession of other countries. In this spirit, Spain calls upon all countries which have the capability to produce nuclear weapons to renounce it expressly, by adhering to the Treaty.

Lastly, the Spanish Government is confident that the signing of the INF Treaty and the decisive progress that has been made in recent months in negotiations for the reduction of strategic nuclear arms between the United States and the Soviet Union will contribute to attaining all the objectives of the NPT.

Statement by Sri Lanka

Over the past 20 years, since the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was opened for signature, 137 countries – including Sri Lanka – have adhered to it.

The massive destructive potential of nuclear weapons, with their attendant capability of devastating regions beyond the theatre of conflict, makes the international community view security in a global perspective. The realization that nuclear proliferation poses an ominous threat to world security has led to the signing of the NPT.

Many of the signatories, including Sri Lanka, expected the Treaty to be the first step on the road to the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world. Their hopes were belied, but it is encouraging to note the recent trends towards the reduction of nuclear arsenals and cessation of the nuclear arms race. It is our hope that the next NPT Review Conference will lay a firm foundation for the attainment of nuclear disarmament.

Statement by the Swiss Federal Council

On 1 July 1968, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was opened for signature in Washington, London and Moscow.

On the 20th anniversary of this event, the Federal Council wishes to recall the importance which it attaches to this agreement.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is one of the most important instruments for arms limitation and international security. Together with the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), it constitutes the cornerstone of the international non-proliferation regime, which has given all States the opportunity to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

So far, 137 States have acceded to the Treaty. Its objectives are therefore generally recognized. However, the Federal Council regrets that some important States are still holding themselves aloof. Thus, the Federal Council expresses the hope that States which have not yet acceded to the Treaty will do so as soon as possible. In its opinion, such a step would be facilitated if the process of limitation and reduction of existing nuclear weapons were accelerated.

The Federal Council is convinced that the objectives of the Treaty will retain their importance for international security in the future. It expresses its firm will to continue to observe strictly all obligations arising from the Treaty and to contribute actively to strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime.

Statement by Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs

On the twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, Thailand reiterates its full support of the Treaty, to which it became a party in 1972.

With deep concern over the production, stockpiling and deployment of nuclear weapons, Thailand attaches great importance to the Treaty and hopes that the international community will actively pursue, within the framework of the United Nations, the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions so as to effectively prevent the proliferation of such weapons.

Thailand believes that the Treaty can help to avert the danger of nuclear war and contribute to bringing about international peace and security. It is the time for all of us to develop an international consensus on strict adherence to the Treaty and reaffirm our common view that nuclear energy should be used only for peaceful purposes, so as to promote the economic development and well-being of all mankind.

Statement by Trinidad and Tobago

Today marks the 20th anniversary of the United Nations Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), a cornerstone of international efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. It is the most widely adhered-to arms control agreement presently in force. Trinidad and Tobago was among the early signatories of the Treaty, which so far has been signed by 136 other countries.

The NPT remains the fundamental instrument designed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. However, the increasing availability of fissionable material and of nuclear know-how has made the technological barriers to nuclear proliferation less formidable.

Last June, in New York, when he addressed the General Assembly's Third Special Session Devoted to Disarmament, Prime Minister Robinson stated that Trinidad and Tobago, as a non-nuclear-weapon State, would continue to give its full support to all measures which seek to buttress the aims and objectives outlined in the NPT.

Trinidad and Tobago signed the Treaty -- in London -- on 22 August 1968 and ratified it on 30 August 1986.

Statement by Western Samoa

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, opened for signature in 1968, today represents one of the greatest initiatives taken towards the achievement of global peace and security. The near-universal consensus among those nations which have ratified this agreement and the concerns expressed by those which have not testify to the need for collective efforts to prevent the spread and abuse of nuclear might.

It is unfortunate, however, that a difference in interpretation and action between those few nations which possess nuclear arsenals and others which have the capacity to develop them, compared to the vast majority which do not, has obstructed achievement of the full potential of this treaty.

In commemorating the 20th anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty, it is our utmost hope that a greater sense of commitment and obligation to abide by the articles contained in it will prevail among all parties.

Also, we appeal to all who have yet to ratify this agreement and who have a genuine desire for the easing of international tension to express that desire by becoming signatories, thereby not only strengthening the trust that exists between peace-loving nations but also ensuring the welfare of mankind.