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**COMMUNICATION OF 24 APRIL 2000 RECEIVED FROM THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

Attached is a communication received from the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation, forwarding a statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, for the information of Member States.

ПОСТОЯННОЕ ПРЕДСТАВИТЕЛЬСТВО
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ
ПРИ МЕЖДУНАРОДНЫХ ОРГАНИЗАЦИЯХ
В ВЕНЕ



PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
IN VIENNA

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24 April 2000

Excellency,

I would appreciate your assistance in distributing to Member-States as information document the attached hereto statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation in connection with the ratification by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Valeri V. LOSHCHININ

Ambassador,

Permanent Representative of the
Russian Federation to the
International Organizations in Vienna

Attachments:

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Russian original, English translation).

H.E. Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei
Director General
International Atomic
Energy Agency (IAEA)
Vienna

**Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
in connection with the ratification by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly
of the Russian Federation of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty**

The State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation by overwhelming majority adopted the federal law on the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) on April 21.

The ratification of the CTBT by the State Duma is yet another confirmation of our country's consistent course of enhancing the regime of nuclear weapons non-proliferation, disarmament and strengthening strategic stability in the world.

The community of nations has passed a long road to achieve a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests. The road from the Moscow Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Tests in Three Environments of 1963 to CTBT took almost 40 years.

Along with the recent ratification by both chambers of Russia's Federal Assembly of the START-2 our country, as a great nuclear power, by ratifying CTBT demonstrates its responsibility to the entire world community and the adherence to its commitments in the field of strengthening strategic stability, arms reduction and disarmament, including within the framework of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). On the eve of the opening of the NPT Review Conference it is necessary to particularly stress the role of CTBT as a key factor of strengthening the regime of nuclear weapons non-proliferation.

We are convinced that the early entry into force of the CTBT and the achievement of its universal adherence is equally in the national interests of Russia and the whole of mankind. Under the conditions of a comprehensive ban on nuclear tests and the accession to it of all states with a potential to develop nuclear

weapons an insurmountable barrier will be erected to any attempts to spread or qualitatively improve nuclear weapons.

We again urge all countries that have not yet signed or ratified the CTBT to do so as soon as possible so that the objectives proclaimed by it become a reality already in the near future.

April 21, 2000