



International Atomic Energy Agency

INFORMATION CIRCULAR

INF

INFCIRC/585

17 April 2000

GENERAL Distr.

ENGLISH

Original: SPANISH

COMMUNICATION OF 31 MARCH 2000 RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

1. Attached is a letter of 31 March 2000 from the Resident Representative of the Argentine Republic attaching the declaration of the Advisory and Political Harmonisation Forum of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile with regard to the 30th Anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The declaration issued on 27 March 2000 and is now being circulated to Member States of the Agency as requested.

00-10486 (102)
Translated from Spanish

EMBASSY OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC
Vienna

Ref. No.: OA 31/2000

31 March 2000

Sir,

I am writing to ask for your assistance in distributing to the Member States of the Agency the declaration of the Advisory and Political Harmonization Forum of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile with regard to the 30th anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, issued on 27 March 2000.

I should like to take this opportunity of reiterating the assurances of my highest esteem.

Yours, etc.,

(signed) Juan Carlos Kreckler
Ambassador
Resident Representative

Mr. Mohamed ElBaradel
Director General
International Atomic Energy Agency

DECLARATION OF THE ADVISORY AND POLITICAL HARMONIZATION FORUM OF MERCOSUR, BOLIVIA AND CHILE WITH REGARD TO THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The thirtieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was on 5 March 2000. The Governments of the MERCOSUR countries (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) and the Governments of Bolivia and Chile would like to take this occasion to reaffirm the fundamental role of the NPT, the instrument upon which the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament system rests.

The Governments of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile therefore assign particular importance to the NPT Review Conference which will start on 24 April 2000 in New York as a forum for reviewing implementation of the Treaty in the light of the decisions adopted at the 1995 Review and Extension Conference.

In the light of recent events which could place the objectives of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament at risk, the Governments of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile consider it vital to ensure universal accession to the Treaty and that progress is made in complying with the obligations established in the NPT in order to achieve the objective of a world entirely free of nuclear weapons. Thus, we appeal to the countries which have not yet acceded to the NPT to do so unconditionally and to sign the other instruments of the international nuclear non-proliferation regime, fully respecting the obligations deriving therefrom.

The most important of these obligations is the commitment to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament and to general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control. In support of this, the Governments of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile urge the nuclear weapons States to make an unequivocal commitment to the complete elimination of their nuclear arsenals in the near future, with a view to full compliance with the obligations of Article VI of the Treaty.

At the same time, Article IV of the Treaty recognises the inalienable right of all peoples to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. On the basis of this right, the Governments call for the NPT Review Conference, like other relevant forums, to adopt decisions which promote international co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Latin America is a pioneering region which is permanently committed to the cause of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. Our countries are part of the first nuclear-weapon-free zone in a densely populated part of the planet, created under the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Tlatelolco Treaty).

This situation, in turn, has been strengthened in our sub-region by the political declaration of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile, signed by the Presidents in Ushuaia in July 1998, declaring our countries a zone of peace and free of the weapons of mass destruction.

In this framework, the Governments of the MERCOSUR countries, Bolivia and Chile reiterate their commitment to the NPT as the foundation of the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime and to the aim of making whatever efforts are necessary to ensure its full implementation and universality in order to achieve the ultimate objective of a world free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Buenos Aires, 27 March 2000