

Information Circular

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Communication dated 11 September 2006 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan regarding the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia signed on 8 September 2006

1. The Secretariat has received a Note Verbale, dated 11 September 2006, from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the IAEA regarding the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia signed on 8 September 2006 in Semipalatinsk by the leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
2. The Note Verbale and, as requested therein, the enclosed information regarding the Treaty on a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Central Asia, is reproduced herewith for the information of Member States.



**PERMANENT MISSION
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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the International Organizations in Vienna presents its compliments to the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to request to distribute among member-states of the Agency enclosed information regarding the Central Asian Nuclear-Free-Zone-Treaty signed on 8th September 2006 in Semipalatinsk by leaders of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the International Organizations in Vienna avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.

Vienna, September 11, 2006

**INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC
ENERGY AGENCY**



Central Asian Nuclear-Free-Zone-Treaty was signed in Semipalatinsk (Kazakhstan)

On 8th September 2006 Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Ambassador of Turkmenistan signed the Central Asian Nuclear-Free-Zone-Treaty. IAEA Deputy Director General Yuri Sokolov, Director of the UN Regional centre for peace and disarmament in Asian-Pacific Region Tsutomu Ishiguri, representatives of international, non-governmental organizations, heads of diplomatic mission accredited in Kazakhstan participated in Treaty signing ceremony.

The document was signed in Semipalatinsk near which nuclear tests of the former USSR were carried out. The signing of the Treaty is timed to the 15th anniversary since the closure of the Semipalatinsk nuclear-test-site where the Soviet Union for over 40 years carried out nuclear weapons tests. Kazakhstan has been consistently coming out in favor of the creation of a nuclear-free zone in Central Asia. The decision on the closure of the Semipalatinsk range made by President Nursultan Nazarbayev 15 years ago, in August 1991 has become an important landmark on this way. The decision was of extreme importance because Kazakhstan possessed the so-called full nuclear cycle, which included the development of U-mines, uranium processing and possibility of carrying tests of nuclear weapons.

The new denuclearized zone in Central Asia has a number of unique features. First, this zone includes the state, Kazakhstan which in the past possessed the forth largest nuclear arsenal. Secondly, for the first time the denuclearized zone is created in Northern hemisphere. Thirdly, this Treaty becomes the first multilateral agreement in security area which brings together all five Central Asian countries. For the first time the denuclearized zone has been created in the region which borders upon two nuclear states.

Participating states will assume obligations to ban the production, acquisition and deployment of nuclear weapons and their components or other nuclear explosive devices. At the same time the treaty does not prohibit using of nuclear power for peaceful purposes.

The work on the treaty's draft continued for nine years with active assistance and under the aegis of the United Nations. This initiative is a collective contribution of Central Asian countries to ensuring global and regional security, process of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, which is especially important in the context of the global campaign for fighting terrorism and prevention of weapons of mass destruction getting into the hands of terrorists. Russia and China have already expressed support to the attitude of the states of the Central Asian region. Similar zones free from nuclear weapons have been created in Latin America, Africa, the Pacific region and Southeast Asia and unite over 100 countries.