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IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 2935 (XXVII)
CONCERNING THE SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL
PROTOCOL II OF THE TREATY FOR THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA (TREATY OF TLAHELCO)

Letter dated 30 August 1973 from the Permanent Representative of
China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to your note PO 134/3 LA dated 8 January 1973, I have the honour to inform you of the following:

Appointed by the Chinese Government, Hsiung Hsiang-hui, Chinese Ambassador to Mexico, signed Additional Protocol II to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America on 21 August 1973 in Mexico City. On signing the Protocol, Ambassador Hsiung Hsiang-hui read a statement on behalf of the Chinese Government, expounding the Chinese Government's respect and support for the just stand of the Latin American countries for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America and reaffirming the Chinese Government's principled position on the question of disarmament and nuclear weapons.

Attached herewith is the Chinese Government's statement made at the signing of the Protocol. Your Excellency is kindly requested to have this letter and the attached statement of the Chinese Government circulated as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) HUANG Hua
Permanent Representative of the
People's Republic of China
to the United Nations

* A/9100.

Statement of the Chinese Government on signing Additional
Protocol II to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear
Weapons in Latin America

The Latin American countries proposed the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America with a view to countering the policy of nuclear threat and blackmail pursued by the super-Powers and safeguarding the peace and security of Latin America. The Chinese Government respects and supports this just position and, complying with the request of the United States of Mexico and other Latin American countries, has decided to sign Additional Protocol II to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America in Mexico City on 21 August 1973.

The Chinese Government has always stood for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and maintained that, as the first step, all nuclear countries should first of all undertake not to use nuclear weapons, particularly not use them against non-nuclear countries and nuclear-weapon-free zones. The Chinese Government has repeatedly declared that at no time and in no circumstances will China be the first to use nuclear weapons. On behalf of the Chinese Government, China's Minister for Foreign Affairs Chi Peng-fei gave a specific undertaking in regard to the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America on 14 November 1972. The Chinese Government will now reiterate this undertaking: China will never use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear Latin American countries and the Latin American nuclear-weapon-free zone; nor will China test, manufacture, produce, stockpile, install or deploy nuclear weapons in these countries or in this zone, or send her means of transportation and delivery carrying nuclear weapons to cross the territory, territorial sea or air space of Latin American countries.

It is necessary to point out that the signing of Additional Protocol II to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America by the Chinese Government does not imply any change whatsoever in China's principled stand on the disarmament and nuclear weapons issue and, in particular, does not affect the Chinese Government's consistent stand against the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the partial nuclear test ban treaty, which have been used by certain countries possessing huge numbers of nuclear weapons in an attempt to establish their nuclear monopoly, nuclear superiority and nuclear hegemony in the world. China is developing nuclear weapons solely because she is compelled to do so, and she is developing them entirely for defensive purposes as well as for breaking the nuclear monopoly and proceeding from there to the elimination of nuclear weapons.

What merits attention in the view of the Chinese Government is that, under the smokescreen of "détente" the super-Powers, which possess huge numbers of nuclear weapons, are now continuing to intensify their nuclear arms race and their contention for spheres of influence, thus gravely threatening the peace and security of non-nuclear countries and nuclear-weapon-free zones. The Chinese Government holds that, in order that Latin America may truly become a nuclear-weapon-free zone, all nuclear countries, and particularly the super-Powers, which

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possess huge numbers of nuclear weapons, must first of all undertake earnestly not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against the Latin American countries and the Latin American nuclear-weapon-free zone, and they must be asked to undertake to observe and implement the following: (1) dismantling of all foreign military bases in Latin America and refraining from establishing any new foreign military bases there; (2) prohibition of the passage of any means of transportation and delivery carrying nuclear weapons through Latin American territory, territorial sea or air space.

The Chinese Government hopes that the Latin American countries will strengthen their solidarity and advance together in their struggle against the policy of nuclear threat and blackmail pursued by the super-Powers and for the establishment of the Latin American nuclear-weapon-free zone. The Chinese Government will continue to make unremitting efforts together with the Latin American countries and all other peace-loving countries for the attainment of the great, long-range objective of the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons throughout the world.
