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GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT: REGIONAL DISARMAMENT

Letter dated 9 December 1991 from the Permanent Representatives
of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela to the United
Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit to you herewith the Declaration adopted by the Heads of State of the Andean countries on the renunciation of weapons of mass destruction, signed at Cartagena, Colombia, on 5 December. We should be grateful if you would have it circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 60 (1) of the forty-sixth session.

(Signed) Ambassador Hugo NAVAJAS-MOGRO
Permanent Representative of Bolivia

(Signed) Ambassador Fernando CEPEDA
Permanent Representative of
Colombia

(Signed) Ambassador José AYALA LASSO
Permanent Representative of Ecuador

(Signed) Ricardo V. LUNA
Permanent Representative of Peru

(Signed) Ambassador Diego ARRIA
Permanent Representative of Venezuela

ANNEX

Cartagena Declaration on the the renunciation of weapons
of mass destruction

The Presidents of the member countries of the Andean Group, meeting in the city of Cartagena,

Considering that the fundamental changes in international relations resulting from the relaxation of tension between East and West and the end of the cold war have great historical significance and offer new opportunities for strengthening international peace and security,

Conscious that in the present global process of relaxation of tension, international security and cooperation, particularly in Latin America and the Caribbean, must be viewed from an overall perspective linked to the strengthening of democracy, the fostering of a climate of neighbourly peace, the full enjoyment of human rights and the promotion of the economic and social well-being of our peoples,

Resolved to contribute to the global process of international relaxation of tension currently under way,

Resolved to ensure that weapons of mass destruction are not introduced into Latin America and the Caribbean, since that would trigger a disastrous arms race, and thereby limit the allocation and transfer of greater financial resources for the social and economic development of the region,

Prepared to strengthen the role of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean of 1967 (Treaty of Tlatelolco) and the protocols thereto, and to extend that prohibition to all categories of weapons of mass destruction so as to transform this region into a zone free of such weapons,

Reaffirming support for the Acapulco Commitment to Peace, Development and Democracy adopted at the first Summit Meeting of the Heads of State of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action, which states that the concept of security in our region must deal not only with the peace and stability aspects but also with those relating to political, economic and financial vulnerability,

Endorsing the Guadalajara Declaration which seeks to promote conventional disarmament, to prohibit weapons of mass destruction and to ensure that measures for controlling and reducing the latter do not stand in the way of legitimate access to advanced technologies for peaceful uses, since these are indispensable for the social and economic development of the peoples of the region,

Supporting the subregional and multilateral commitments in favour of disarmament, including the Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons,

the Declaration of Ayacucho of 1974, the Andean commitment to peace and cooperation and the Foz de Iguazú Declaration concerning the joint nuclear policy of Argentina and Brazil; and also the resolutions concerning cooperation for security in the hemisphere and limitation of the proliferation of instruments of war and weapons of mass destruction adopted by the Organization of American States at its twenty-first General Assembly, the Declaration concerning the use of nuclear energy exclusively for peaceful purposes, signed by the Presidents of Argentina and Brazil, and the Mendoza Accord,

Agree to the following Declaration:

1. Welcome the initiative by the Government of Peru concerning the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction in Latin America and the Caribbean as the start of a gradual process for strengthening security and mutual confidence in the region.
2. Express the commitment of their Governments to renounce the possession, production, development, use, testing and transfer of all weapons of mass destruction, whether nuclear, bacteriological (biological), toxin or chemical, and to refrain, under any circumstances, from stockpiling, acquiring or retaining such categories of weapons.
3. Reaffirm the inalienable right of their peoples to take advantage, through international cooperation, of scientific and technical developments exclusively for peaceful uses in the field of nuclear energy, biology and the chemical industry and, likewise, to accede to space technologies.
4. Call on the countries possessing technology for the production of weapons of mass destruction to strengthen effectively the systems for controlling the transfer of such technologies.
5. Request the countries possessing weapons of mass destruction to undertake not to use such weapons and not to threaten the Parties to the present Declaration with their use.
6. Announce their intention to be founding signatories to the convention on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction, to which end they express their support for the negotiations of the Conference on Disarmament for the adoption of the convention on chemical weapons in 1992.
7. Support the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction of 1972 and the negotiations to strengthen its verification machinery.
8. Declare their willingness to promote the transformation of Latin America and the Caribbean into the first inhabited area of the world free from weapons of mass destruction.

9. State that the responsibility for prohibiting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and for halting the arms race lies with the international community as a whole, but particularly with those who possess nuclear weapons.
10. Consider prompt discontinuance of nuclear tests of all types to be the best means of putting an end to the increasing sophistication of nuclear weapons and the development of new types of such weapons.
11. Appeal to the other Governments of the region to accede to the present Declaration, and to the entire international community, in general, to support the objectives and purposes enunciated therein and to refrain from any action which might weaken the spirit of this Declaration.

Cartagena, 4 December 1991

Jaime PAZ ZAMORA
President of Bolivia.

César GAVIRIA TRUJILLO
President of Colombia

Rodrigo BORJA
President of Ecuador

Alberto FUJIMORI
President of Peru

Carlos ANDRES PEREZ
President of Venezuela
