

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 25 JULY 1996 FROM THE CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF UKRAINE ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE ON THE OCCASION OF SIGNING THE AFRICAN NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE TREATY

I have the honour to forward to you the text of the Address of the President of Ukraine on the occasion of signing the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty.

Could you please take the appropriate steps to register this as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament and have it distributed to all member States and non-member States taking part in the work of the Conference.

(Signed): Oleg Shamshur
Chargé d'Affaires a.i.
Permanent Mission of Ukraine

GE.96-63428

**Address
on the occasion of signing
the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty**

Dear participants of the solemn ceremony dedicated to signing the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty!

It is generally recognized that solving the problem of nuclear arms non-proliferation is one of the most urgent issues of nowadays. The Treaty on the Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), to which Ukraine acceded as a full right member in 1994, is an important instrument of the non-proliferation regime.

The first 25 years period of the authority of the NPT has demonstrated vividly that the ideas it is based upon have found an extensive support of the majority of countries of the world. Though the NPT is not an ideal document in the direct meaning of this word, nevertheless it plays the role of an important starting point, from which the nuclear disarmament process has begun. That is why, assessing the international non-proliferation regime as a system which has justified itself in principle, it is necessary to continue efforts on improvement and development of specific mechanisms for practical implementation of norms placed in it.

One of such mechanisms strengthening the non-proliferation regime and being of utmost importance for realization of the Article VII of the NPT, are the regional measures, and in particular, establishment of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in Latin America (Tlatelolco Treaty of 1967), in the South Pacific region (Rarotonga Treaty of 1985) and in Southeast Asia (Treaty of 1995).

Conclusion of one more international legally binding document on the creation of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone on the African continent, is certainly, a new tangible contribution into the process of strengthening the nuclear non-proliferation regime and of supporting strategic stability in the world.

Highly appreciating peaceful efforts of the African countries, on behalf of Ukraine, a state which voluntarily refused the third by scope military nuclear potential in the world, - I sincerely welcome the leaders of all the states that sign today this important document. Along with the other treaties on the Nuclear-

Weapon-Free Zones, it will further reduce nuclear programs through banning deployment, testing and use of nuclear weapons on the considerable part of the territory of our planet.

Signing the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty should prompt the other states, and first of all, nuclear, to more intensive cooperation on development and conclusion of new agreements concerning this problem, and in particular, of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and of a convention on the prohibition of production of fissile material for military purposes.

We are convinced that a universal international cooperation, aimed at diverting a threat of nuclear catastrophe from our fragile world, will undoubtedly bring the desirable results.

Leonid Kuchma