

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 15 AUGUST 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF SOUTH AFRICA AND NEW ZEALAND ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE TEXT OF THE 'MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION AND ARMS CONTROL' SIGNED IN CAPE TOWN BY PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA AND PRIME MINISTER JAMES BOLGER ON 8 AUGUST 1996

We have the honour to forward to you the text of the "Memorandum of Cooperation and Arms Control" which was signed in Cape Town by President Nelson Mandela of South Africa and Prime Minister James Bolger of New Zealand on 8 August 1996 as a part of a Joint South Africa/New Zealand Communiqué.

The Memorandum refers to the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and to other important disarmament and non-proliferation issues.

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

(Signed): J.S. Selebi  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative  
of South Africa to the  
Conference on Disarmament

(Signed): W. Armstrong  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative  
of New Zealand to the  
Conference on Disarmament

**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION ON DISARMAMENT AND ARMS CONTROL**

On behalf of our Governments and people we reaffirm the strong commitment of South Africa and New Zealand to achieving a world free of all weapons of mass destruction. We are pleased at the close cooperation between our two countries in the various international disarmament and non-proliferation fora which will increase now that we are both full members of the Conference on Disarmament.

We also reaffirm that, following the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) text through multilateral negotiations, our Governments intend to sign the Treaty at the earliest opportunity. Our delegations to the Conference on Disarmament will work actively to support the Chairman of the negotiating committee in his endeavour to resolve the difficulties which the Conference is presently considering with regard to the Treaty. We call on all other countries to give their prompt support to the Treaty. Looking ahead, we confirm that our Governments will work for the commencement next year of negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament on a treaty banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons.

Further steps are needed in the programme to bring the world closer to the ultimate goal of the elimination of nuclear weapons. We note that all parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) have committed themselves to that goal, a commitment which was explicitly recognised in the recent Advisory Opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons. In that context, the process of reviewing the NPT which commences next year provides a means for promoting the full implementation of the Treaty and the Principles and Objectives for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament which were agreed at the time of the indefinite extension of the Treaty in May 1995.

We welcome the opening for signature on 11 April 1996 of the Pelindaba Treaty creating a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Africa and agree that it represents a milestone for the African continent. In the Pacific region, the end of nuclear testing had been marked by the signature of the protocols to the Treaty of Rarotonga by France, the United Kingdom and the United States. We affirm the objective of achieving a southern hemisphere free of nuclear weapons. Our Governments will work together with other like-minded countries with a view to developing increased cooperation between existing or prospective nuclear-weapon-free zones, which with the addition of Antarctica cover more than 50 % of the earth's landmass.

As State Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), South Africa and New Zealand reaffirm our Governments' full support for the Convention. We call on the United States and the Russian Federation, as the major declared possessors of chemical weapons, as well as other states to ratify the Convention at the earliest opportunity. In addition, we look forward to the imminent 65th ratification, which will trigger entry into force and implementation of the Convention.

The Governments of South Africa and New Zealand also reaffirm our commitment towards strengthening the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) by establishing a verifiable compliance regime for the Convention. To this end our Governments will work together with other like-minded countries with a view to conclude successfully the ongoing negotiations in the BWC Ad Hoc group.

We share the international community's concern at the build up of conventional weapons beyond the legitimate requirements of self defence. To this end we welcome the achievement of the Guidelines for International Arms Transfers which was agreed to at the 1996 Session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission. We also call for a greater focus on conventional arms in all disarmament fora. All of the member states of the United Nations are also encouraged to actively participate in and support the UN Arms Register. In view of the suffering and casualties caused by anti-personnel land mines to civilians, we call for the world wide elimination of anti-personnel land mines. In alleviating this suffering we are committed to reinforcing international cooperation for mine-clearance and the development of national capacities for mine clearance in mine infested countries. We also support the development of effective demining and land mine detection capabilities.

We continue to cooperate in various international arrangements dedicated to the non-proliferation of dual use equipment and technologies which could be used in the development of weapons of mass destruction, and in discouraging any destabilising build-up of conventional weapons.

Given the many interests our two Governments and peoples share in this area, we agree that periodic consultations should take place between our Governments on issues relating to disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.