

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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LETTER DATED 17 DECEMBER 2002 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PERU ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE SPANISH TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE 157-02 BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF PERU REGARDING THE PUBLIC CEREMONY HELD IN LIMA ON 6 DECEMBER 2002 TO DESTROY FIREARMS IN CIVILIAN USE

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of press release 157-02 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru, regarding the public ceremony held in Lima on 6 December 2002 to destroy firearms in civilian use.

This event, the first of its kind in Peru, was a manifestation of the Peruvian Government's commitment to implement the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The ceremony was organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with support from the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs.

I should be very grateful if you could arrange to have the attached document, including the text of the present letter, circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament to the delegations of all member and observer States.

(Signed) Jorge VOTO-BERNALES
Ambassador

CEREMONY TO DESTROY FIREARMS

Press release 157-02

Issued by the Press and Publicity Office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Today, a public ceremony was held in El Olivar de San Isidro Park, to destroy firearms in civilian use, an event organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, which has its headquarters in Lima, to mark the fifteenth anniversary of its establishment.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs believes that this important undertaking is a practical disarmament measure which helps strengthen public safety by raising awareness of the dangers posed by the use of firearms and reflects the commitment of the Peruvian Government to promote security and disarmament and, in particular, to implement the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. The event was made possible through the technical assistance provided by the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs and the active support of the Lima Regional Centre.

This event also marked the culmination of hard work carried out on the ground by the Office for the Supervision of the Security Services and the Control of Civilian Weapons, Ammunition and Explosives, which ordered the destruction of 2,573 confiscated weapons, found to be in breach of Act No. 25054, governing the manufacture, trade, possession and use by private individuals of non-military weapons and ammunition.

In the final stage of this operation, launched this Monday, the Monitoring and Verification Commission carried out inspections of the warehouses of the above-mentioned office, to confirm that the weapons provided were those intended for destruction and to ensure that all safety requirements had been duly complied with. This Commission, which is composed of officials from the Lima Regional Centre, the Department for Disarmament Affairs, international observers and members of the Peruvian Government, today signed the final verification certificate of the destruction exercise.

The public destruction ceremony included an art exhibition on the topic of peace and the unveiling of a monument to peace and disarmament, constructed from destroyed weapons, with the aim of raising awareness among children and young people of the dangers posed by the use of firearms and of fostering a culture of peace.

Lima, 6 December 2003
