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Note by the Secretary-General

The Secretary-General has the honour to transmit to the members of the General Assembly, for their information, the attached letter dated 20 March 1990 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (see annex), which encloses a statement made on 5 March 1990 by the President of the United States of America concerning the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

ANNEX

Letter dated 20 March 1990 from the Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to forward the text of the statement made on 5 March by the President of the United States of America, commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (see appendix). In his statement, President Bush reaffirms the support of the United States for the Treaty and its goals, and he urges all States that have not yet done so to accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

I would appreciate it if you could have the text of the present letter and its enclosure distributed as an official document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Thomas R. PICKERING

APPENDIX

Statement made on 5 March 1990 by the President of the
United States of America concerning the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

Twenty years ago today, the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons entered into force. One hundred and forty States have joined the Treaty making it the most widely accepted arms control instrument in history. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons represents the primary legal barrier to nuclear proliferation and thus constitutes a principal foundation of international security. Later this year, the parties to the Treaty will convene the Fourth Review Conference of the Treaty. In the context of this review, I reaffirm the determination of the United States to carry out its treaty commitments and to work to assure its continuance in the interest of world peace and security.

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons has been not only a significant arms control instrument, it has also facilitated international co-operation in a wide variety of peaceful uses of atomic energy under the International Atomic Energy Agency. These applications have included using nuclear technology to improve health conditions, as well as to increase agricultural output, electric power generation and industrial capabilities. The United States will continue to play a leading role in nuclear co-operation pursuant to the Treaty.

Our long-standing commitment to serious arms control negotiations has helped to bring forth a number of important arms control agreements, including the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty, concluded in 1987. At this very moment we are making significant strides towards concluding far-reaching arms control agreements in the nuclear and conventional areas.

It is essential in these times of great change and great promise, and of major progress in arms control, that the community of nations work together even more diligently to prevent nuclear proliferation, which poses one of the greatest risks to the survival of mankind. I urge all States that are not party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to join and thereby demonstrate their support for the goal of preventing nuclear proliferation, and I call upon all States parties to the Treaty to join our efforts to secure the integrity of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which benefits all countries.

