



XIX Regular Session of the General Conference
Agenda Item 16
Santiago, Republic of Chile, 7-8 November, 2005.

**EDUCATION FOR PEACE, DISARMAMENT, AND NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION
MEMORANDUM OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL**

1. At its XVIII Regular Session in Havana, Cuba on 5-6 November 2003, the General Conference approved Resolution 445 (XVIII), which in operative paragraph 4 reads:

"To request the Secretary General to prepare a specific proposal on the application by the Agency of the recommendations included in the United Nations study aimed at international and regional agencies."

2. The Secretary General on the basis of document A/59/459 "United Nations Study on Disarmament and Non-proliferation Education," participated in several events whose purpose was to raise awareness on these issues. He participated in the Seminar "The Challenge for Citizens of the XXI Century" sponsored by Soka Gakkai of Mexico on 10 September 2004, where he spoke on "Efforts of the International Community to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons and Impede Their Proliferation." The event also included the participation of Ambassador Miguel Marin Bosch, President of Desarmex S.C., and was attended by more than 100 young Mexicans.
3. In October 2004, the Secretary General also participated in the Fall International Days at the Colegio Holandés, where he spoke on "Mexico and the New International Agenda." This opportunity allowed him to inform some 200 university students about the purposes of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and highlight the important role of university students in disarmament and non-proliferation education, giving them the chance to do some critical thinking on the subject and develop their vocation to peace.

4. In December 2004, the Secretary General participated in the forum "Parliamentarians, Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones" at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand and the NGO "Parliamentary Network for Nuclear Disarmament and Parliamentarians for Global Action." The Forum was attended by representatives from 29 countries and more than 40 parliamentarians from around the world. The Secretary General spoke on "Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones and the Promotion of Nuclear Non-Proliferation." In his presentation he underscored the need to establish coordination and cooperation mechanisms among the NWFZs to consolidate and strengthen the objectives of nuclear disarmament. During his stay, he spoke with the Minister of Disarmament, H.E. Madame Marian Hobbs, on the importance of holding an NWFZ Conference and invited all of the parliamentarians and authorities of the Government of New Zealand.
5. On 14 February 2005, in the Conference Area of the Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Relations, with representatives of all the OPANAL Member States present, a ceremony to honor former Brazilian Foreign Minister Mr. Joao Augusto de Araujo Castro as the promoter of the first initiative in the United Nations to denuclearize Latin America, Ambassador Emeritus Alfonso Garcia Robles as the author of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, and H.E. Mr. Leopoldo Benites Vinueza as the first Secretary General of OPANAL. Attendees included representatives from the Member States, the Diplomatic Corps, the son of Ambassador Emeritus Alfonso Garcia Robles, and H.E. Dr. Miguel Hakim Simon, Undersecretary for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Relations, who welcomed all the Representatives on behalf of his Government. Members of the academic community and the general public were also invited to attend.
6. In addition to speaking at Mexican institutions, the Secretary General has on previous occasions spoken on the Treaty of Tlatelolco and nuclear disarmament at universities and academic institutions in Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Cuba. He has also spoken on the subject at meetings sponsored by the United Nations and the Organization of American States.
7. In the Declaration adopted by the Conference of the States Parties and Signatories of the Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, in paragraph 30 he expressed his conviction that "...disarmament and non-proliferation education constitutes an important measure that can contribute to achieving a world free of nuclear weapons threats. We therefore encourage all States to promote programs instilling the values of peace, disarmament, and nuclear non-proliferation in their respective educational and academic spheres and call upon IAEA and donor countries to help in the promotion and implementation of such programs."

8. OPANAL has sent notes to a number of Mexican universities to offer the Secretary General as a speaker at seminars or courses to inform about the goals and objectives of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the need to expand the culture of peace, disarmament and non-proliferation.
9. OPANAL has also followed an open-door policy for many university students to serve as interns or fulfill their social service requirement at the Agency, encouraging them to become more familiar with the important subject of disarmament and non-proliferation as well as advising them on their theses for graduation.
10. In July, the Secretary General appeared on the program "Entrevista Ventana Semanal" on Channel 22 in Mexico, as part of the marking of the 60th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. His interview focused on the activities of OPANAL and the Treaty of Tlatelolco.
11. On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Secretary General spoke at the Conference "The Treaty of Tlatelolco, Mexican Diplomacy, and the Promotion of Nuclear Disarmament" held at the Mexican Senate. On that occasion, he shared his vision of the Latin America and the Caribbean's historical commitment to the nuclear disarmament process as well as the challenges on the world agenda to control nuclear weapons.
12. OPANAL maintains a website containing the history and activities of the Agency as well as speeches given by the Secretary General on specific topics related to disarmament, non-proliferation, and nuclear-weapon-free zones.
13. The Secretary General, with allocated resources, had the publications for the commemoration ceremonies as well as the official documents of the Agency printed in order to raise awareness about the objectives of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.
14. The Secretary General is convinced of the importance that contributing to the promotion of the values of peace, disarmament, and nuclear non-proliferation holds for OPANAL, and therefore, within the Agency's budget constraints, proposes to continue with the academic and educational activities mentioned in this Memorandum. To that end, the Secretary General will accept the invitations from universities and academic centers, not only in Mexico but also in other countries to speak or participate in academic gatherings that make it possible to inform the public about the

Treaty of Tlatelolco and disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, when his other obligations so permit without incurring any expenses for OPANAL not provided for in the budget and with the approval of the Council. Similarly, he will continue to promote the signing of cooperation agreements with universities and academic centers, similar to the agreement reached with the University of Malaga, which is expected to be signed sometime in 2006.