Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean



General Dist.

C/DT/76 Prov. 13 November 2007.

COUNCIL

PARTIAL REPORT OF THE CURRENT PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL IN CHARGE OF THE SECRETARIAT GENERAL OF OPANAL

In accordance with Resolution C/Res.43 "Interim Functions of the Council in view of the Resignation of the Secretary General," approved at the 51st Special Session of the Council on June 28, 2007, it was decided that the various rotating Presidents of the Council would assume the responsibilities of the Secretariat General. The current President of the Council, the Republic of Peru (November 1 to December 31, 2007), presents herein a list of the activities carried out during the month of November to ensure the proper operation of OPANAL.

I. Collection of Contributions

1. Payments were received from:

BELIZE \$ 1,198.80 (6/XI/07) URUGUAY \$29,623.00 (12/XI/07)

TOTAL \$30,821.80 USD

II. Correspondence Sent

- 1. Acknowledgement of receipt and a note of thanks for payment was sent to Antigua and Barbuda alter receiving a check for \$5,000 USD.
- 2. Two sets of documents that will be studied at the XX Regular General Conference together with a compact disk containing the documents were sent to the Member States.
- Acknowledgement of receipt was sent to the H. General Directorate of Protocol of the Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Relations of diplomatic note PRO 13903 referring to the initiation of a recredentialing program for international organizations.

- 4. Acknowledgement of receipt was sent to the H. Embassy of Belize for the payment of its contribution for 2007 via diplomatic note.
- A note was sent to the H. General Directorate of Protocol acknowledging receipt of diplomatic note PRO 14145 regarding the dates for reception and delivery of correspondence during the holiday period.
- 6. Supporting documentation of the request for reimbursement by Mr. Rafael Jardón Huerta was sent to the National Workers' Housing Fund (INFONAVIT).
- 7. Notes of congratulation were sent to Suriname and Barbados on their national holidays.
- 8. A note convening the 53rd Regular Session of the Council together with its Agenda was sent to the Member States and Observers of the Council.
- 9. The Agency acknowledged receipt of the deposit made by the H. Embassy of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay into OPANAL's bank account.
- 10. Ms. Monika Szymurska from the NGO Atomic Mirror called the Agency to enquire as to whether NGOs were going to be invited to the General Conference. She was told the General Conference would only last one morning. She thanked OPANAL for the information and sent an invitation to attend a panel discussion on the 40th Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, the first nuclear-weapon-free zone, and its contribution to disarmament and non-proliferation.
- 11. Acknowledgement of receipt of diplomatic note 121/4 regarding the delegation that will attend the General Conference was sent to the H. Embassy of Jamaica.
- 12. Acknowledgement of receipt was sent to the H. Embassy of the Republic of Cuba regarding the note it sent informing of its delegation that will attend the General Conference.
- 13. Acknowledgement of receipt was sent to the H. Embassy of the Republic of Bolivia regarding the note it sent informing of its delegation that will attend the General Conference.
- 14. Acknowledgement of receipt was sent to the H. Embassy of the Republic of Ecuador regarding the note it sent informing of its delegation that will attend the General Conference.

III. Payments Made

- 1. "Maintenance" fees were paid for the office space occupied by the Agency at the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela for the month of November.
- 2. Employee salaries for the month of November.
- 3. Payments were made to: Teléfonos de México, Marcatel, Iusacell, and the Mexican Institute of Social Security.
- 4. Payment was made for the insurance policy covering the Agency's automobile, maintenance and vehicle verification were performed, and the gas tank filled.

- 5. Replenishment of petty cash.
- 6. Payment was made for the translation into English of the documents for the General Conference.

IV. Invitations Received

- 1. An invitation was received from the General Directorate of Protocol of the Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Relations to attend a private viewing of the Exhibit: "Diego Rivera, Epic Murals" at the Palace of Fine Arts (20/XI/07)
- 2. An invitation from the Kingdom of Thailand was received to attend a celebration of the birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. (3-XII-07)
- 3. An invitation was received from the Instituto Matías Romero of the Secretariat of Foreign Relations to attend the keynote speech "Challenges of International Law in the Contemporary World," which will take place on November 21. (14/XI/07)

V. Pending Business

There is no pending business.

As of November 1, the representative of the Republic of Peru assumed the presidency of the Council and also took responsibility for the Secretariat General. In this capacity he presents a summary of the Agency's regular activities since the resignation of the Secretary General on June 30, 2007, for the information of the Member States at the XX Regular Session of the General Conference.

VI. Activities of the Secretariat General

- 1. The Council held three regular meetings: the 229th Session on August 30, the 230th Session on October 4, and the 231st Session on October 26th. The Council also conducted three Special Sessions: the 51st on June 28, the 52nd on September 17, and the 53rd on November 16.
- 2. On behalf of the Council and as the current President, I wish to take the opportunity to thank the representatives of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, and Uruguay for participating as observers at the Council's meetings.
- 3. At its regular meetings, the Council studied the resolutions approved by the XIX Regular Session of the General Conference and those approved at the XVIII Special Session as well. As regards the political resolutions, the President informs that:

Resolutions from the XIX Regular Session of the General Conference

Resolution CG/Res.471 (XIX) "Status of the Treaty and its Additional Protocols."

The Amendments to the Treaty of Tlatelolco need to be signed and/or ratified for entry into full force.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Bahamas sent diplomatic note MFA/73/8/2 of May 10, 2007, informing that its Government is working on the matter.

Resolution CG/Res.472 (XIX) "Status of the Convention on Privileges and Immunities of OPANAL."

The Embassy of the Republic of Honduras sent diplomatic note EHM/217/2007 of May 10, 2007, informing that its Government had ratified the aforementioned Instrument. The ratification was sent by OPANAL to the Treaty's Depositary State in diplomatic note S-17654.

The Government of the Bahamas informed that it is studying the document.

Resolution CG/473 (XIX) "Control System, Application of Articles 13 and 14."

As regards Article 13 "IAEA Safeguards," the President informs that the Additional Protocol has entered into force for: Chile, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Haiti, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru and Uruguay.

The Council took note that the Governments of Argentina, Bahamas, Brazil, Cuba, Ecuador, Chile and Mexico were in compliance with Article 14.

Resolution CG/474 (XIX) "Application of Article 24."

Notification of OPANAL of agreements directly linked to the objectives of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

The Government of the Bahamas notified in a note dated May 7, that it has not reached any international agreements referred to in the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

Resolution CG/Res.475 "Use of Nuclear Energy for Peaceful Purposes."

States Parties of the Treaty of Tlatelolco were reminded to send their official position regarding this important subject to the Secretariat.

The Government of the Bahamas sent the following reply:

"The Bahamas recognizes the right of States under Article IV of the NPT and Article 17 of the Treaty of Tlatelolco to benefit from the peaceful uses of nuclear energy without discrimination. However, these considerations should not be inimical to the sustainable development of other States and should not be diverted for weapons purposes. The development, research, production and use of nuclear energy should be in conformity with non-proliferation obligations and safeguards obligations under the Treaty."

Resolution CG/Res.476 "Prevention of Radioactive Contamination of the Marine Environment within the Framework of the Treaty of Tlatelolco."

The Governments of the Member States that have yet to do so were reminded that they should express their opinions regarding the technical and legal measures necessary to effectively prevent the radioactive contamination of the marine environment in the zone of application of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

In a diplomatic note dated May 7, the Government of the Bahamas wrote:

"The Bahamas is deeply concerned over the serious ecological and security risks posed by the transport of radioactive material and other dangerous waste by sea or other navigable waters.

The Bahamas, thereby, exhorts all States –particularly those that transport such materials- to strengthen the legal code as regards security and responsibility measures applicable to this mode of transportation, through the effective application of the commitments adopted within the IAEA, the IMO and other international fora.

The Bahamas also exhorts all States to exchange information at the government level on the transport of radioactive material and calls for the establishment of the comprehensive regulatory framework to promote state responsibility with respect to disclosure, prior informed consent liability and compensation in the even of accidents."

Resolution CG/Res.477 "Interpretative Declarations of the Nuclear Powers to Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco."

The Secretariat General sent letters requesting the opinion of all of the Member States on this

subject. Comments were also requested regarding the possibility of conducting studies, seminars, or other complementary activities that would help disseminate information about this important subject and its promotion in academe and civil society.

Resolution CG/Res.478 "Strengthening of OPANAL."

The Secretariat General sent the text of the Resolution to the Member States and in August received a letter from the director of UNLIREC expressing his willingness to work together with OPANAL, based on the Memorandum of Understanding signed on April 29, 2003.

The Secretariat received from the University of Málaga the Specific Agreement between OPANAL and the University signed by Ambassador Edmundo Vargas Carreño and now by the rector of the University.

Resolution CG/Res.479 Education for Peace, Disarmament, and Nuclear Non-Proliferation

The Secretariat sent the document on this subject to all of the Member States and is waiting to receive the points of view of the governments.

XVIII Special Session of the General Conference

Resolution CG/E/Res. 489 "Report of the Secretary General."

The Secretary General, Ambassador Edmundo Vargas Carreño, presented a report covering the period from January 1 to December 16, 2006 (Doc. CG/E.606). In addition to the substantive matters of the Agency, he specifically mentioned the dire financial situation that OPANAL was experiencing.

Resolution CG/E/Res. 490 "Report of the Committee on Contributions and Administrative and Budgetary Matters."

The report of the president of the CCAAP was approved. (Doc. CG/E.607)

Resolution CG/E/Res. 491 "Budget and Scale of Contributions of the Agency."

The Budget and Scale of Contributions for the year 2007 was approved, assigning a credit of \$324,000.00 USD (Doc.CG/E/608).

Resolution CG/E/Res. 492 "Analysis of the Agency's Dire Financial Situation."

In operative paragraph 3, this Resolution authorizes the CCAAP and the Council to accept proposals from the governments that have historically been behind on their contributions allowing

them to pay part of their debts while forgiving the rest based on the criteria set forth in Resolution CG/E/Res.463(E-XVII) of November 2004.

Resolution CG/E/Res. 493 y CG/E/Res.494 "Certification by the External Auditor of the Financial Statements of Account of the Agency for the fourth quarter of 2005 and the First Three Quarters of 2006."

The Statements of Account were approved (Doc. CG/E/603 and CG/E/610).

Note: The activities carried out through November 21, 2007 will be presented in document C/DT/76, which will be distributed during the Plenary Session.