

CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/1715

2 September 2003

ENGLISH

Original: SPANISH

Letter dated 2 September 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba addressed to the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament transmitting an information note on the holding of the eighteenth regular session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) in Havana, Cuba, on 5 and 6 November 2003

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations Office at Geneva and other international organizations with headquarters in Switzerland presents its compliments to the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva and has the honour to transmit in the annex an information note on the holding of the eighteenth regular session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), in Havana, Cuba, on 5 and 6 November 2003.

The Permanent Mission would be grateful if this note could be published as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

(Signed): Jorge Iván **Mora Godoy**
Ambassador

Annex

Information note from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba on the eighteenth regular session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL)

The eighteenth regular session of the General Conference of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) will be held in the Palace of Conventions in Havana, Cuba, on 5 and 6 November 2003, as agreed by the OPANAL Council at its 204th session, held on 3 July 2003 at the Agency headquarters in Mexico City.

Following the recent accession by the Republic of Cuba to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco), the holding of this General Conference in Havana further demonstrates the importance and priority which the Cuban Government attached to all matters relating to nuclear disarmament, and serves to reaffirm Cuba's political resolve to make an active contribution to the full implementation of international instruments dealing with this issue.

The eighteenth General Conference of OPANAL will unquestionably offer a new arena for Latin American and Caribbean countries to renew their commitment to disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation and will also provide an ideal opportunity to endorse the status of Latin America and the Caribbean as the world's first inhabited area completely free of nuclear weapons. At the same time, it will provide a favourable context for promoting exchanges and strengthening relations between OPANAL and other global and regional intergovernmental agencies and bodies whose work is directly related to disarmament in general and nuclear disarmament in particular, or which play a prominent role at the regional level.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba will shortly be posting on its web site (www.cubaminrex.cu) a handbook containing more detailed information about the organization and other logistic issues related to the holding of this event. This handbook may also be viewed on the OPANAL web site (www.opanal.org).

- - - - -