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Items 57, 58 and 64 (a), (e) and (i)
of the preliminary list*

CONCLUSION OF EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ON THE
STRENGTHENING OF THE SECURITY OF NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES
AGAINST THE USE OR THREAT OF USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

CONCLUSION OF EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO ASSURE
NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES AGAINST THE USE OR THREAT OF USE
OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT; CONTRIBUTION OF THE
SPECIALISED AGENCIES AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND
PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM TO THE CAUSE
OF ARMS LIMITATION AND DISARMAMENT; NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT;
PROHIBITION OF THE PRODUCTION OF FISSIONABLE MATERIAL
FOR WEAPONS PURPOSES

Note verbale dated 19 July 1988 from the Permanent Representative
of the United States of America to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to enclose the texts of the statements made on 1 July 1988 by President Reagan (annex I) and Marlin Fitzwater, Assistant to the President for Press Relations, (annex IS) on the twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and to request that the texts of these statements be circulated as documents of the General Assembly under items 57, 58 and 64 (a), (e) and (i) of the preliminary list.

* A/43/50.

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46

ANNEX I

Statement made on 1 July 1988 by the President of the
United States of America, commemorating the twentieth
anniversary of the signing of the Treaty on the
Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is one of the international community's most vital instruments for preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and strengthening international peace and stability.

I firmly believe that nuclear war can never be won and must never be fought. If we are to succeed in halting the spread of nuclear weapons, the nations of the world must continue to work together. I call upon all countries that have not yet adhered to the non-proliferation treaty to do so to demonstrate their commitment to preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and to strengthening the foundations of peace. I also urge all parties to the Treaty to rededicate themselves to achieving its objective,

ANNEX II

Statement made on 1 July 1988 by the Assistant to the
President for Press Relations

Twenty years ago, today, 61 nations, including the United States, signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. This Treaty serves as a cornerstone of international efforts to prevent the further spread of nuclear weapons, which is one of the most direct and serious threats to regional and global stability. Nations from around the globe have committed themselves to the Treaty and its objectives. Indeed, with 136 parties, the non-proliferation treaty has the widest adherence of any arms control treaty in history. The important role of the Treaty has been repeatedly reaffirmed. The participants at the Third Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons in 1985 concluded that universal adherence to the Treaty is the best way to strengthen the barriers against proliferation. They urged all States not party to the Treaty to accede to it.

The nuclear-weapon States that are parties to the Treaty have agreed not to assist non-nuclear-weapon States to acquire nuclear explosives. The non-nuclear-weapon States in turn pledge not to acquire nuclear explosives. These mutual pledges acknowledge that the technology of nuclear weapons and nuclear explosives cannot be distinguished and that their further spread threatens the security of all nations.

The non-proliferation treaty also calls for parties to co-operate in the development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, especially in non-nuclear-weapon States which are parties to the Treaty. The peaceful uses of nuclear energy are important to the social and economic well-being of many peoples, and the United States has long been in the forefront of countries providing technical assistance and other co-operation in the nuclear field. We are committed to continuing such co-operation under effective international safeguards. The comprehensive safeguards applied by the International Atomic Energy Agency under the Treaty provide essential assurance of the peaceful intent of the nuclear activities of the States involved, thus benefiting all mankind.

The United States has taken the initiative in negotiations to substantially reduce nuclear arsenals as called for in Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The conclusion by the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics of the Treaty on the elimination of intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles (INF), which entered into force on 1 June, is clear evidence of our deep commitment to nuclear arms reductions. This Treaty, which contains the most stringent verification measures of any arms control agreement, will eliminate an entire class of United States and Soviet nuclear missiles. The United States also continues its negotiations with the USSR to complete a treaty to reduce United States and Soviet strategic offensive arms by 50 per cent. We are in addition, committed to seeking effective and verifiable agreements with the Soviet Union on nuclear testing limitations that could strengthen security for all nations, When discussions of two existing treaties are

completed and they are ratified, we are prepared to pursue negotiations on a step-by-step parallel programme to limit And ultimately and nuclear testing, in association with a programme to reduce and ultimately eliminate all nuclear weapons.

In 1981, the President outlined United States policy to prevent the proliferation of nuclear explosives and declared that this issue was critical to international peace, as well as regional and global stability. If we are to succeed in halting the spread of nuclear weapons, however, the nations of the world must work together. Each State has a responsibility to refrain from seeking nuclear weapons and to take all steps necessary to avoid contributing to the spread of nuclear weapons through the export of nuclear equipment and technology.

As the President has stated on a number of occasions, he believes that a nuclear war can never be won and must never be fought. In order to eliminate the threat of nuclear war, we have sought to achieve deep reductions in the level of nuclear weapons world wide. The INF Agreement is a concrete example of our success. However, in order to rid the world completely of the risk of nuclear war, particularly at the time when the United States and the USSR have agreed to reduce their nuclear arsenals, it is equally vital to prevent any further spread of nuclear weapons. The non-proliferation treaty is clearly the most important means we have for accomplishing this goal.

The United States played a major role in the negotiation of the non-proliferation treaty and, over its lifetime, all United States presidents have strongly supported it. On this, the twentieth anniversary of the opening for signature of the Treaty, the President calls upon all countries that have not yet adhered to it to do so in order to demonstrate their commitment to preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and to reducing the risk of nuclear war. Further, he urges all parties to the Treaty to rededicate themselves to achieving its objectives and to ensuring its continued vitality. This is both our shared responsibility and our contribution to peace for this and future generations.
