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Compliance with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements

Letter dated 6 March 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 5 March 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this letter and its annex as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 67.

(Signed) Antonio **Monteiro**
Permanent Representative of Portugal to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 5 March 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

On the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force on 5 March 1970, the European Union reiterates its firm support for the Treaty.

For the European Union, the Treaty has a fundamental role to play in strengthening global peace and security and remains both the cornerstone of the global non-proliferation regime and the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament.

The European Union welcomes the fact that 187 countries are already parties to the Treaty but feels, nevertheless, that universal accession is the key to the reinforcement of the global non-proliferation and disarmament objectives which are at the core of the Union's policy. The Union therefore urges those States that have not yet done so to take the necessary steps to accede to the Treaty.

The European Union is deeply committed to a better, more promising and internationally secure environment for all. Its member States, both individually and collectively, will work hard for a successful outcome to the 2000 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, whose work is scheduled to begin shortly in New York, and call on all other States parties to join them in this endeavour.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey and the European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.