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**Chairman: Mr. Ismail FAHMY**  
(United Arab Republic).

**AGENDA ITEM 91**

**Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (*continued*) (A/6663, A/6676 and Add.1-4; A/C.1/946)**

**GENERAL DEBATE (*continued*)**

1. Mr. DOSUNMU (Nigeria): Mr. Chairman, as my delegation is taking the floor for the first time since the Committee commenced its work, you will permit me, Sir, to express to you the fraternal felicitations of the Nigerian delegation on your unanimous election to the high office of Chairman of this Committee. We are also deeply satisfied with the election of the representatives of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and of Sweden to the offices of Vice-Chairman and Rapporteur respectively and we greet them both.

2. My delegation would like to join others who have spoken before me in saluting the Governments and peoples of Latin America for their practical wisdom in initiating steps which have culminated in the conclusion of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America [A/C.1/946]. The Treaty, in our view, has much more than contemporary significance. It is an historic milestone providing for the first time the creation of a nuclear-free zone in a populated area of the earth.

3. With the possible exception of the suspension of all nuclear weapon tests in all environments, to which, to a large degree, it is also linked, no other question has so agitated the minds of mankind in general or so dominated the discussions of any international forum as that concerning the need to take adequate steps to halt the spread of nuclear weapons. In this forum, in Geneva within the framework of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee, at the Second Conference of the Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held in Cairo in 1964 and in the various Councils of the Organization of African Unity, Nigeria, like many other countries, has consistently directed attention to the dangers of proliferation of nuclear weapons and to the obvious necessity of arresting their spread. There is no doubt also that time

has continued to justify the correctness of our forebodings. We are all fully aware of the present serious threats to international peace and security.

4. It is in this connexion, therefore, that Nigeria commends the understanding which has prevailed amongst the contracting parties to the Latin American Treaty. We have also been particularly impressed by the very business-like manner in which the Latin American States have conducted themselves throughout the five-year period of negotiations in their relentless efforts to seek and create a situation which would not only assure security to the future generations of their area, but also ensure an atmosphere of peace in which they could pursue peaceful nuclear technology, with all its multiple vastly promising rewards for the development of mankind, many of which can only be dimly envisaged at this stage.

5. The Nigerian delegation notes with deep satisfaction the general agreement reached by the contracting States for safeguards and especially the arrangements in respect of an international inspection system in co-operation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, as provided for specifically in articles 13 to 16 of the Treaty. This, in our opinion, clearly attests to the earnest determination and sincerity of purpose of the Latin American States in contributing to the goal of general and complete disarmament.

6. The example shown by the successful conclusion of the Treaty of Tlatelolco is indeed one of great significance to us in Africa. I should like to recall that the General Assembly in its resolution 2033 (XX) strongly endorsed the declaration on the denuclearization of the African continent. Nigeria will therefore draw due inspiration from the Latin American Treaty for the common aspirations and the efforts to which all African countries have been committed for the achievement of a nuclear-free zone for Africa.

7. In conclusion, we all know that at least all the nuclear Powers participating in the Geneva negotiations have long professed themselves not only convinced of the need for an agreement to disarm but also anxious to secure it. In order, therefore, that the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America shall become effective, as required in its article 28 sub-paragraph 1 (c), and in the spirit of the Additional Protocol II of the Treaty, the Nigerian delegation sincerely hopes all those nations inside and outside the area which possess nuclear military capacity will respect and guarantee the needed security of the Latin American States which, of their own free will, decide not to acquire, produce and use nuclear weapons.

8. Mr. ANTOINE (Haiti) (*translated from French*): I am happy to join in the chorus of rare praise that the

delegations preceding me at this rostrum have raised, and to extend to you, Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Government of Haiti which I have the honour to represent, my sincerest congratulations on your election as Chairman of this august body.

9. The delegation of Haiti would not have raised its voice in the Committee had it not been moved by the sincere desire to give its views on the denuclearization of Latin America, that eminently humanitarian project formulated in Mexico. A tribute is due to that country through its distinguished representative, Mr. Alfonso García Robles, for all the efforts put forth to achieve a goal which has won the unanimous support of every sister Latin American republic and the other countries of the region with the exception of one country that we hope to see accede to the project in the near future.

10. Latin America has embarked on an eminently humanitarian task, for nuclear weapons could well wipe out the greatest masterpieces Divine Providence has created: the earth and man. Man has beautified the earth, enriched it, and created in it a vast domain in which hundreds of millions of human beings live and develop. It would be a disaster for mankind if men were unable to reach an understanding and lacked the wisdom to agree to outlaw the nuclear bomb, the most frightening weapon the human brain has conceived for the destruction of mankind.

11. Latin America is fortunate to have been wise and successful enough to draw up the Tlatelolco Treaty,<sup>1</sup> submitting it to the attention of this august body, along with the Protocol of accession that enables all Powers—in particular, the nuclear Powers—to play a part in outlawing that engine of destruction. Latin America is hopeful that other areas of the world will join with it in its work of salvation, to act where the nations that possess the device have failed to act, and to call for its destruction for the good of mankind. That is Latin America's great hope. Its greatest triumph is that it has crystallized the United Nations dream of creating peace on earth and reconciling nations amongst themselves. If that dream came true, tensions would disappear and mankind could turn to the solution of other problems that are more worthy of it than the mass destruction of the human species.

12. Lord CARADON (United Kingdom): Today I come to welcome the Treaty. I wish to pay most sincere tribute to those who laboured so thoroughly and so persistently and so successfully to produce it. I wish also to announce the intentions of my Government on the Treaty, and on the question of signature of its two Additional Protocols. I shall refer briefly to some of the considerations and interpretations which my Government has in mind in the matter of this Treaty, but I do not wish today to go into complicated technical or legal details. Such matters are important, but they are not part of my purpose today.

13. I am sure that I speak for all of us present when I say that it is a matter of great satisfaction to welcome the conclusion of the Treaty. When, over the years, this Committee has repeatedly turned its attention to debating

questions of disarmament, all too often we have had to express concern at lack of progress. It is a happy contrast, therefore, to be able to turn from frustration to success. No one can doubt that the Treaty represents a most important advance in disarmament negotiations. No one can question the far-reaching consequence of provisions which, when they enter into force, can have the effect of excluding a great continent from the nuclear arms race.

14. It is said that nothing succeeds like success, and my Government has no doubt that the conclusion at the beginning of this year of a treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons in Latin America greatly encouraged the efforts of the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee at Geneva to bring the nuclear arms race under control. The conclusion of this Treaty was a spur and an encouragement to the continuing and difficult and protracted negotiation of a general non-proliferation treaty. That effort goes forward, and we all devoutly hope that it will also be crowned with success.

15. I am happy that I can respond to the pleas addressed earlier this week to my delegation and to others by many previous speakers in this Committee. I am authorized to announce that my Government has now completed its examination of the text of the Treaty and that the United Kingdom is willing to sign both Additional Protocols to the Treaty. It is our earnest hope that this response by the United Kingdom in becoming the first Government to announce its willingness to sign both Protocols will soon be followed by similar statements by the Governments of the other States which possess nuclear weapons or which have territories within the area covered by the Treaty for which they are internationally responsible.

16. In stating the willingness of my Government to accept the obligations under Additional Protocol I of the Treaty, I make it clear that we are still in the process of consulting the Governments of the territories concerned in respect of which the United Kingdom concludes treaties and remains responsible. We do not, however, anticipate any objection from them.

17. In the case of Additional Protocol II, Her Majesty's Government accept the obligation set out in this Protocol not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against the Contracting Parties to the Treaty. Like all other Members of the United Nations, we have accepted the obligation imposed on us by the Charter to refrain from the threat or use of force, and I repeat once more that my country will not use any weapons at its disposal, either nuclear or otherwise, for the purpose of aggression. My Government would, of course, have to examine its commitment under this Protocol in the unlikely event of any aggression by a Contracting Party in which it was supported by a nuclear weapon State.

18. I am also glad to be able to reassure the representative of the Netherlands that, although it is not committed to do so under the Treaty, my Government will extend the scope of its undertaking not to use, or to threaten to use, nuclear weapons against the Contracting Parties to cover also the Territories within the zone of application of the Treaty which become associated with the Treaty under Protocol I.

<sup>1</sup> The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America was signed at Tlatelolco, Mexico.

19. As a further demonstration of its support for the Treaty, my Government will, after signature and the deposit of its instrument of ratification, consider sympathetically any request that inspections similar to those that will be carried out in the territories of the Contracting Parties should also be carried out in the territories within the geographical zone established by the Treaty for which the United Kingdom is internationally responsible.

20. My Government will arrange to sign the Protocols to the Treaty shortly in Mexico City, and it intends thereafter to deposit its instrument of ratification when the regulatory organizations of the Agency come into existence.

21. This is not the place to go into the details of our interpretation of certain articles of the Treaty. But I would emphasize one point. My Government supports the lucid interpretation of those articles of the Treaty which concern nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes which was given by the representative of Mexico [1504th meeting]. That is, that the Treaty does not permit the Contracting Parties to carry out peaceful nuclear explosions unless and until future advances in technology permit the development of devices for peaceful explosions which are not capable of being used as weapons.

22. My Government was represented by an observer at the negotiations in Mexico City which led to the conclusion of the Treaty. We are therefore well aware that these negotiations were of great difficulty and complexity. We know of the efforts which were made to overcome and to reconcile differences of view and to find acceptable compromises on points where full agreement proved unobtainable. With that knowledge in mind, we salute the nations of Latin America. We pay a tribute to them in that they have given an example to the rest of us. They have blazed a trail further into the untried, little known, but desperately important world of disarmament.

23. We congratulate those who worked in the Preparatory Commission and in the Chancelleries of Latin America to make possible the conclusion of this Treaty. Particularly, we echo the sentiments expressed by several other delegations, and we take the opportunity of his presence here to congratulate the Chairman of the delegation of Mexico, Mr. García Robles, upon the role which he played in the work of the Preparatory Commission and in the elaboration of the Treaty.

24. My Government has supported and encouraged the efforts of the Latin American countries throughout the negotiations and has publicly recognized the Treaty as a valuable arms control measure. We very much hope that steps will soon be taken so that the Treaty may enter into force. In that connexion we attach great importance to the establishment of the Agency for the prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America. We note from article 28 of the Treaty that the Agency may be set up and can commence its work as soon as eleven States have ratified the Treaty and allowed its provisions to enter into force. I congratulate the representative of Mexico on the action taken by his Government on 20 September 1967 in becoming the first country to ratify the Treaty. By waiving the requirements in paragraph 1 of article 28 Mexico has taken the decisive step of allowing the Treaty to enter into force as far as the

Territory of Mexico is concerned. We welcome particularly the statement made by Jamaica here this morning, and now that all the twenty-one Latin American States concerned have signed the Treaty we respectfully hope that as many as possible of those States will follow the example of Mexico. We look forward to the time when the Treaty has entered into force throughout the area.

25. I should like to end by emphasizing again, I hope on behalf of us all, our welcome for the Latin American initiative. Earlier this year I was privileged to visit several of the countries of Latin America. I could not fail to mark the deeply-felt concern in those countries to speed the economic development of their great continent. The Treaty which we are now discussing is further evidence of the concern of Latin America that resources should be used to that purpose, rather than in pursuing the dangerous and costly development of nuclear weapons; and at the same time I confirm that my country stands ready to do all that it can to assist the countries of Latin America in the civil development of nuclear energy.

26. It is in a spirit of respectful admiration and a desire for further fruitful co-operation that I make this statement on behalf of my country here today.

27. Mr. ARAD (Israel) (*translated from Spanish*): My delegation associates itself with the congratulations extended by previous speakers to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the other officers.

28. We are genuinely happy to associate ourselves with the many speakers who have expressed their satisfaction at the signing of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, and we endorse the sincere congratulations extended to the representatives of the Latin American countries which have made so signal a contribution to the cause of nuclear disarmament throughout the world and by their efforts have given a powerful impetus to the unceasing struggle for the achievement and maintenance of international peace and security.

29. It may seem invidious to mention names, but I am sure that no one will find it unjust if I single out the representative of Mexico in this Committee, Mr. García Robles, the Mexican Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, whose contribution to the fashioning of the Treaty over many months of difficult and intricate negotiations as Chairman of the Preparatory Commission for the De-nuclearization of Latin America was of capital importance.

30. As the Secretary-General of the United Nations said in his press release of 13 February 1967, the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America marks an important milestone in the long and difficult search for disarmament, and is an achievement of which the Latin American countries have every right to feel proud. This is the first time that all the countries of a region, by free negotiations amongst themselves, have voluntarily and mutually placed limits on their armaments: and they have done so not merely in the interests of their own region, but in the larger interests of all mankind.

31. The Treaty of Tlatelolco is a proof that the problems of disarmament, and in particular nuclear disarmament,

which face the world today are capable of being solved in the regional context, as foreseen in Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, whenever the States of the region are fully in agreement to solve those problems and to that end are able to negotiate freely in a spirit of good will. This is a signpost for all of us, and the Latin American nations have therefore earned our gratitude.

32. The CHAIRMAN: I apologize to the next speaker, but I am forced to declare a fifteen-minute recess until the list of speakers for this afternoon is clarified.

*The meeting was suspended at 3.25 p.m. and resumed at 3.50 p.m.*

33. Mr. CORRÊA DO LAGO (Brazil): In my statement to this Committee on the item under consideration [*1505th meeting*] I did not find it necessary to make any special reference to the matter of the interpretation of article 18 of the Treaty of Mexico.

34. The position of the Brazilian Government concerning the utilization of nuclear explosives for peaceful purposes is well known. It was only recently reaffirmed by my Minister of External Relations in opening the general debate of this twenty-second session of the General Assembly [*1562nd plenary meeting*].

35. We have asked for the floor again—on a point of clarification solely for the records of the Committee—because some delegations raised the question of the interpretation of article 18.

36. To this effect I should like to bring to the attention of this Committee the contents of the note delivered to the Mexican Government—in its capacity as depositary of the Treaty—by the Brazilian Plenipotentiary upon signing the Treaty in Mexico City on 8 May 1967.

“The Brazilian Government . . . wishes to reaffirm its interpretation of the meaning of article 18 of this instrument. It is the understanding of the Brazilian Government that the aforementioned article 18 allows the signatory States to carry out with their own means, or in association with third parties, nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, including explosions which may involve devices similar to those used in nuclear weapons.”

The Brazilian Government, in that note, requested the Government of Mexico to circulate the contents of its communication among all the signatories of the Treaty.

37. It is the understanding of the Brazilian Government that the Treaty of Mexico draws a clear distinction between nuclear weapons, which it prohibits, and nuclear devices for peaceful purposes, whose manufacture and utilization it permits.

38. We believe, furthermore, that the system of international safeguards and controls set up by the Treaty will assure that any nuclear explosive devices will be used exclusively for peaceful purposes.

39. Mr. COX (Sierra Leone): Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for allowing my delegation to make this intervention aimed mostly at congratulating the Latin

American States which took the initiative to pilot the plan for the creation of Latin America as a nuclear-free zone. We congratulate them for their tenacity of purpose which has culminated in the conclusion of a treaty for the prohibition of nuclear weapons in Latin America. My delegation is happy that as of yesterday all but one Latin American State had signed the Treaty, and is further heartened by the good news we heard in this Committee this morning that the Ambassador of Jamaica in Mexico had received instructions to sign the Treaty at 2 p.m. New York time today, 26 October 1967.

40. The Latin Americans have shown quite clearly that they are interested more in the welfare of their peoples, especially in the economic and social areas, than in nuclear weapons which, apart from being terribly expensive, can bring—in their ugly, ominous and inauspicious train—only destruction, misery and wretchedness to humanity as a whole.

41. It is not an easy thing for statesmen living in an age characterized by seething international turmoil and gruesome international tensions to take such an objective step. Such a step constitutes in the eyes of my delegation nothing short of wisdom. It is therefore the ardent hope of my delegation that the initiative taken by the Latin American States will serve as a beacon light to other States in the world. One of the aims of the Treaty is

“ . . . to contribute, so far as lies in their power, towards ending the armaments race, especially in the field of nuclear weapons, and towards strengthening a world at peace, based on the sovereign equality of States, mutual respect and good neighbourliness.” [*A/C.1/946.*]

Such an aim reflects the very best of determination on the part of the Latin American States to contribute to world peace and happiness through disarmament.

42. The Latin Americans should be encouraged to pursue this line of determination so that other areas, such as Africa, which have for some time now been contemplating such a step as that taken by the Latin Americans may have the right atmosphere for pursuing their objective.

43. In this regard the nuclear Powers have a considerable responsibility. They constitute the developed parts of the world. We can only hope that such development will be used in the interest of humanity as a whole—just as the developing countries, like those of Latin America, anxious to see the world a better place for all mankind, have indeed forgone the opportunity of having nuclear weapons on their soil.

44. Once again I crave your indulgence to congratulate the Latin American peoples on their initiative and foresight in taking such a step designed to enhance the welfare of humanity. Finally may I, on behalf of my delegation, extend our warmest congratulations to H. E. Ambassador Alfonso García Robles who, with night and main, devoted himself to seeing the glorious outcome of a Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America.

45. Mr. ALARCON DE QUESADA (Cuba) [*translated from Spanish*]: I have asked to speak so as to explain once again my country's position in regard to the Treaty for the

Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America. My delegation has already made known its views on other occasions, since the very first negotiations that were to lead to the adoption of the present text.

46. First and foremost, the Revolutionary Government of Cuba affirms its peaceful outlook and its sympathy towards any measures calculated to save the world from a nuclear holocaust. We express our profound understanding and our great appreciation of the intentions that inspired the Government of the United States of Mexico as the leader and the moving spirit behind this Treaty; and we pay a tribute to the repeated efforts to that end made by the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Mexico and Chief of the Mexican delegation to this Assembly, Mr. Alfonso García Robles.

47. We believe it is vital that these measures towards disarmament should effectively contribute to achieving their objectives. In the case of the Western Hemisphere we must take into account first of all the inescapable need to include in the establishment of the zone the only nuclear Power in the region, namely the Government of the United States of America. This is all the more significant when we recall the aggressive policy practised by the Government of the United States against all the countries of the world, its most eloquent expression being the savage aggression against Viet-Nam.

48. The United States keeps under its direct domination a number of very important places in the continent. The United States still keeps under the colonial yoke the sister island of Puerto Rico and has a number of military bases installed there, including nuclear weapon bases. The United States possesses military bases in a number of Latin American countries, including the Guantánamo Naval Base illegally established on Cuban soil contrary to the express will of the Cuban people and Government.

49. I must also point out that from 1959 to the present time the imperialist Government of the United States, using such bases and other machinery of different types, has followed an unceasing policy of harassment, provocation, pressure, threat and aggression against Cuba, with the declared intent of trying to block the revolutionary course taken by our people.

50. For these reasons my Government has not felt it proper either to join in the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Denuclearization of Latin America or to become a party to the resulting Treaty. In this connexion, allow me to quote the statement made by the Foreign Minister of Cuba in the general debate at the twenty-first regular session of the General Assembly:

“With regard to the use, control, limitation and prohibition of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons, the Cuban delegation has made its position known at previous sessions of the General Assembly, especially in connexion with the plan for the denuclearization of Latin America. My Government has stated on several occasions that it would only begin to consider this initiative if it encompassed the denuclearization of the only nuclear Power in the hemisphere, and the abolition of its military bases in Panama and Puerto Rico and the naval base at the enclave of Guantánamo on Cuban soil. This delegation regards it

as an inescapable duty to reaffirm that the people and the Revolutionary Government of Cuba reserve the right to possess such arms as they deem appropriate for their own defence, irrespective of their nature. Cuba has not and will not enter into any commitment which might compel it to limit its defensive capabilities, even potentially. The Cuba people are convinced that their decision to defend their country to the last drop of blood of the last fighting man is their most effective contribution to the cause of peace.” [1446th plenary meeting, para. 123.]

51. Mr. GHAUS (Afghanistan): I should like, in this first intervention of my delegation in this Committee, to present to you, Mr. Chairman, our congratulations on your unanimous election to the Chairmanship of this important Committee.

52. The cordial relations happily existing between our countries gave my delegation immense pleasure in seeing you presiding over our deliberations. We are confident that under your able guidance this Committee will fully discharge its responsibilities and that its work will be crowned with success.

53. My delegation extends equally its felicitations to the representative of the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic and Mr. Örn of Sweden on their election to the posts of Vice-President and Rapporteur respectively. We have the most friendly relations with their countries.

54. In the present critical international situation, fraught with dangers of a nuclear holocaust, the signing of a Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America is indeed a welcome step of great significance. The countries of Latin America should be congratulated on the initiative that they took three years ago and on their subsequent success in attaining their laudable objective. We are happy to note that in this particular instance the policy of restraint and self-discipline has finally triumphed and the provisions of General Assembly resolution 1911 (XVIII) have been duly implemented. This agreement will not only help to promote effective collective measures to maintain peace and security in the area but will, to some extent, affect favourably the welfare of the peoples in other parts of the world. It is not unreasonable to believe that the conclusion of this Treaty will allay some of the widely-held fears and apprehensions and will contribute to the lessening of international tensions.

55. The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America is the first serious attempt at regional denuclearization. We all know that similar initiatives in the past, which in our view deserved a better fate, have been temporarily or permanently abandoned owing to the lack of adequate support.

56. It is undeniable that the technological advancements in the field of nuclear science carry with them a risk: the risk of self-destruction and total annihilation. It therefore depends mainly upon the wisdom and foresight of all peace-loving nations, nuclear and non-nuclear, to initiate meaningful measures of self-preservation conducive to freeing the world of atomic weapons. Thus the scientific progress in this domain would benefit only the development of peaceful nuclear technology.

57. The Treaty which, was concluded eight months ago among the Latin American States is considered by us to be a valuable addition to the Antarctic Treaty of 1959,<sup>2</sup> the partial test ban Treaty of 1963<sup>3</sup> and the Outer Space Treaty [General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI), annex] of last year. It is a milestone in the search for means of preventing the further spread of nuclear weapons and bringing about their complete prohibition. This Treaty has the added merit of providing for an elaborate system of verification and control, and in this connexion has envisaged the application of the Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

58. Another remarkable feature of the Treaty is its stipulations regarding the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. These provisions could serve as a useful guideline in the formulation of similar clauses to be incorporated in future agreements on non-proliferation and denuclearization.

59. While general, complete and universal disarmament remains the essential objective, the establishment of nuclear-free zones constitutes a step towards non-proliferation and comprehensive disarmament. I should like to state that my Government has always welcomed all initiatives aimed at creating denuclearized zones, and we consider this to be an important collateral measure in the field of disarmament.

60. The delegation of Afghanistan believes that the establishment of nuclear-free zones as an approach to the problem of non-proliferation deserves increased attention from all concerned. The creation of such areas in certain parts of the world, if desired by the countries of the regions concerned, would bring us nearer to the ultimate goal, which is general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

61. It is our hope that the conclusion of the present Treaty will contribute to a better understanding of the concept of nuclear-free zones and will eliminate some of the misgivings connected with the idea of denuclearization. We have clearly seen that where there's a will there's a way.

62. It would be in the interest of all mankind if this Treaty were to become the point of departure in the proliferation of nuclear-free zones.

63. Once again the Latin American States have made a great contribution to the cause of peace, and we hope that their example will be followed in other fields of disarmament.

We hope further that the course of events will be favourably influenced by their initiative.

64. It is our wish that this Treaty will provide the necessary impetus for further progress towards complete, general and universal disarmament which would create the necessary conditions for mutual confidence, peace and security throughout the world.

65. Mr. TSURUOKA (Japan): On behalf of the Japanese delegation I should like to associate myself with you, Mr. Chairman, and with the preceding speakers in congratulating the Latin American countries on the conclusion of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America.

66. I also wish to express our appreciation to Mr. García Robles, representative of Mexico, for his detailed and enlightening statement [1504th meeting] on the main features of the Treaty and his account of the processes by which the Treaty was negotiated.

67. The signing of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America is an epoch-making step in the efforts of mankind towards general and complete disarmament. No one would disagree about the great importance of disarmament among all the vexing subjects that plague the world and with which the United Nations must deal.

68. The future of humanity will be shaped very largely by what we do and how well we succeed in achieving disarmament. In this connexion we greatly appreciate the wisdom and courage of the Latin American countries in reaching agreement on this Treaty.

69. As mentioned in its preambular paragraphs, the Treaty will contribute towards ending the armaments race, especially in the field of nuclear weapons, and towards strengthening the peace of the world.

70. The denuclearization of Latin America will prevent the resources and the skills of that continent being wasted on a nuclear weapons race by causing those resources to be used instead for the economic and social progress of the region. This is a realistic and positive approach to the solution of two of the major problems with which the present-day world is confronted—namely, general and complete disarmament and the economic and social progress of developing countries.

71. As a country with feelings of warm friendship for the Latin American States, Japan welcomes the conclusion of this Treaty and greatly admires the wisdom of the Latin American statesmen whose tireless labours during very difficult negotiations led to the signing of the Treaty.

*The meeting rose at 4.20 p.m.*

<sup>2</sup> Antarctic Treaty, signed in Washington D.C., on 1 December 1959.

<sup>3</sup> Treaty banning nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water, signed in Moscow on 5 August 1963 (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 480 (1963), No. 694).