

# CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

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22 January 2003

ENGLISH  
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**LETTER DATED 17 JANUARY 2003 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF PERU ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE CONFERENCE  
ON DISARMAMENT TRANSMITTING THE SPANISH TEXT OF THE  
COMMUNIQUÉ ISSUED BY THE RIO GROUP ON 16 JANUARY 2003 REGARDING  
THE DECISION BY THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO  
WITHDRAW FROM THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY AND  
FROM THE SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC  
ENERGY AGENCY**

I have the honour to forward herewith the text of the communiqué issued on 16 January 2003 by the Rio Group, regarding the decision by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and from the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

It may be recalled, in that context, that Peru assumed the chairmanship of the interim secretariat of the Permanent Body for Political Consultation and Coordination, known as the Rio Group, on 10 January 2003 and that it shall exercise those functions throughout 2003.

I should be very grateful if you could arrange for the attached document to be circulated as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament to the delegations of all member and observer States.

(Signed):       Jorge VOTO-BERNALES  
                    Ambassador

**Communiqué by the Rio Group regarding the decision by the  
Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the  
Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and from the safeguards  
system of the International Atomic Energy Agency**

The member countries of the Permanent Body for Political Consultation and Coordination - the Rio Group - deeply regret the decision by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to withdraw from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and from the safeguards system of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The resulting situation, which poses a particular threat to stability in the east Asian region, represents a setback for those international commitments, which have as their primary aim the maintenance of peace and security among nations.

The Rio Group, formed by countries which belong to the NPT, is firmly committed to the nuclear-weapon-free regime established by the Treaty of Tlatelolco and, in consequence, to the complete elimination of nuclear weapons; it urges the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the international community to make every possible effort to find, at the earliest stage, a solution to this crisis through the appropriate diplomatic channels, in strict conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

Lima, 16 January 2003

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