

Declaration made by the People's Republic of China

21st August, 1973

The Latin American countries proposed the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America with a view to countering the policy of nuclear threat and blackmail pursued by the superpowers and safeguarding the peace and security of Latin America. The Chinese Government respects and supports this just position and, complying with the respect of the United States of Mexico and other Latin American countries, has decided to sign the Additional Protocol II to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America in Mexico City on August 21, 1973.

The Chinese Government has always stood for the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and maintained that, as the first step, all nuclear countries should first of all undertake not to use nuclear weapons, particularly not to use them against non-nuclear countries and nuclear-weapon-free zones. The Chinese Government has repeatedly declared that at no time and in no circumstances will China be the first to use nuclear weapons. On behalf of the Chinese Government, China's Minister of Foreign Affairs Chi Peng-fei gave a specific undertaking in regard to the nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America on November 14, 1972. The Chinese Government will now reiterate this undertaking: China will never use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear Latin American countries and the Latin American nuclear-weapon-free zone; nor will China test, manufacture, produce, stockpile, install or deploy nuclear weapons in these countries or in this zone, or send her means of transportation and delivery carrying nuclear weapons to cross the territory, territorial sea or air space of Latin American countries.

It is necessary to point out that the signing of the Additional Protocol II to the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America by the Chinese Government does not imply any change whatsoever in China's principled stand on the disarmament and nuclear weapons issue and, in particular, does not affect the Chinese Government's consistent stand against the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Partial Nuclear Test-ban Treaty, which have been used by certain countries possessing huge numbers of nuclear weapons in an attempt to establish their

nuclear monopoly, nuclear superiority and nuclear hegemony in the world. China is developing nuclear weapons, solely because she is compelled to do so, and she is developing them entirely for defensive purposes as well as for breaking the nuclear monopoly and proceeding from there to the elimination of nuclear weapons.

What merits attention in the view of the Chinese Government is that, under the smokescreen of “détente”, the superpowers, which possess huge numbers of nuclear weapons, are now continuing to intensify their nuclear arms race and their contention for spheres of influence, thus gravely threatening the peace and security of non-nuclear countries and nuclear-weapon-free zones. The Chinese Government holds that, in order that Latin America may truly become a nuclear-weapon-free zone, all nuclear countries, and particularly the superpowers, which possess huge numbers of nuclear weapons, must first of all undertake earnestly not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against the Latin American countries and the Latin American nuclear-weapon-free zone, and they must be asked to undertake to observe and implement the following: (1) dismantling of all foreign military bases in Latin American and refraining from establishing any new foreign military bases there; (2) prohibition of the passage of any means of transportation and delivery carrying nuclear weapons through Latin American territory, territorial sea or air space.

The Chinese Government hopes that the Latin American countries will strengthen their solidarity and advance together in their struggle against the policy of nuclear threat and blackmail pursued by the superpowers and for the establishment of the Latin American nuclear-weapon-free zone. The Chinese Government will continue to make unremitting efforts together with the Latin American countries and all other peace-loving countries for the attainment of the great, long-range objective of the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons throughout the world.