

(Mr. Garcia Robles, Mexico)

On Wednesday the sixth and Thursday the seventh of August, six statesmen from Latin America, Asia, Africa and Europe, who have repeatedly and tangibly demonstrated their profound interest in contributing to disarmament and peace, met in Ixtapa, Mexico. They were Raúl Alfonsín, President of Argentina; Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, President of Mexico; Rajiv Gandhi, Prime Minister of India; Andreas Papandreu, Prime Minister of Greece; Ingvar Carlsson, Prime Minister of Sweden; and Julius Nyerere, who was the First President of Tanzania.

The Conference they attended was a continuation of a process started with the Declaration of 22 May 1984 (contained in document CD/502) and continued with the New Delhi Declaration of 28 January 1985 (document CD/549) and with three joint messages of 24 October 1985 (to be found in document A/40/825), 28 February 1986 (document CD/676) and 8 April 1986.

At that meeting, which I had the privilege to attend, two fundamental documents were adopted, both signed on 7 August 1986. One is a Declaration bearing the title "Mexico Declaration", and the other is the "Document on verification measures issued at the Summit Meeting at Mexico".

The authors of the Declaration also recall that in October 1985 and February and April 1986, they urged the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union "to undertake a fully verifiable suspension of nuclear testing, at least until their next summit meeting", repeating that "the unilateral moratorium by one of the two major nuclear States" should become "at least a bilateral moratorium". It then proposes that a suspension of this kind, for whose verification the Six offer their unconditional co-operation, should be "immediately followed by negotiations for the conclusion of a comprehensive test-ban treaty". The Declaration also refers to the main measures that the assistance offered would comprise, a subject that I will not refer to at present to avoid repeating myself, since I will be looking at this later when I get on to the second document I mentioned.

The other aim emphasized by the six signatories of the Declaration is the same as the one that appeared in January 1985 in the Declaration of New Delhi, on which we can read inter alia in the Mexico Declaration:

"We reiterate our demand that an arms race in space should be prevented. Space belongs to humanity, and as participants in this common heritage of mankind, we object to the outer space of our Earth being misused for destructive purposes. It is particularly urgent to halt the development of anti-satellite weapons, which would threaten the peaceful space activities of many nations. We urge the leaders of the United States and the Soviet Union to agree on a halt to further tests of anti-satellite weapons, in order to facilitate the conclusion of an international treaty on their prohibition. Our New Delhi warning that the development of space weaponry would endanger a number of agreements on arms limitation and disarmament is already proving to be justified. We stress that the existing treaties safeguarding the peaceful uses of outer space, as well as the 1972 Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-Ballistic Missile Systems, be fully honoured, strengthened and extended as necessary in the light of more recent technological advances."