

... China has always attached great importance to and actively participated in the disarmament efforts of the international community. It stands for effective disarmament and arms control in a fair, reasonable, comprehensive and balanced manner. It has all along been in favour of complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear, biological, chemical, and space weapons. The possession by China of a limited number of nuclear weapons is solely for the purpose of self-defence. Besides, China has unilaterally undertaken not to be the first to use nuclear weapons and not to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear States and regions. It supports non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. It has formally acceded to the NPT treaty and agreed to observe MTCR. It has actively participated in the negotiations on the Chemical Weapons Convention and hopes to see the Convention concluded at an early date.

CHINA'S POSITION ON THE DISARMAMENT AND SECURITY ISSUES  
A TO THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF CHINA  
DISARMAMENT AND SECURITY ISSUES  
CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT AND SECURITY ISSUES

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 17 August 1997, in which you refer to the Chinese position on disarmament and security issues. I would like to point out that the Chinese position on disarmament and security issues is based on the principles of fairness, reasonableness, comprehensiveness and balance. We are committed to the goal of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction. We support the efforts of the international community to achieve this goal through dialogue and negotiation.

Wang Kang  
Ambassador of China to the Conference on Disarmament  
Geneva, Switzerland