

ORGANISMO PARA LA
PROSCRIPCIÓN DE LAS ARMAS
NUCLEARES EN LA AMÉRICA LATINA
Y EL CARIBE



DISTR.
GENERAL

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Secretaría

La Secretaría General del Organismo para la Proscripción de las Armas Nucleares en la América Latina y el Caribe recibió de la Embajada de la República de Sudáfrica en México la nota de fecha 17 de septiembre de 1997 anexando un Comunicado de Prensa el cual se transcribe a continuación para conocimiento de los Estados Miembros del OPANAL:

**"MEDIA STATEMENT ON SOUTH AFRICA'S PARTICIPATION AT AN
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE CREATION OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN
NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE: UZBEKISTAN: 14-16 SEPTEMBER 1997.**

South Africa is participating in an International Conference on the creation of a Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, which is being held in the capital of Uzbekistan, Tashkent, from 14-16 September 1997.

The Conference is to discuss the possible creation of a Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone extending across the five Central Asian States - Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kirgistan and Tajikistan. Besides the Foreign Ministers of the five Central Asian States, many foreign countries will be also represented, including the five nuclear-weapon states. Other representatives will include the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and a representative of the United Nations Secretary-General. The Conference is scheduled to be opened by the President of Uzbekistan, Mr. I Karimov.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister AB Nzo, is being represented at the Conference by South Africa's Ambassador to Turkey, Mr. TF(Tom) Wheeler, who will deliver a speech on behalf of the Minister during one of the Workshops of the Conference. The speech, entitled "Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones: International Experiences" will highlight, among other things, South Africa's experience of the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (The Treaty of Pelindaba), signed by South Africa in 1996.

The South African Government firmly believes that the creation of nuclear weapons free zones in the world is a clear demonstration of the continued commitment of non-nuclear-weapon States to the goal of ridding the world of nuclear weapons. South Africa is convinced that the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba and, eventually, the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone, will serve to strengthen the international non-proliferation regime and encourage the establishment of additional nuclear-weapon-free zones in other parts of the world.

**ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PRETORIA**

16 SEPTEMBER 1997."