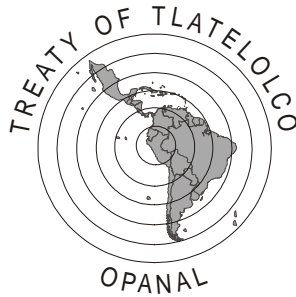


AGENCY FOR THE  
PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR  
WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA  
AND THE CARIBBEAN



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XVIII Período Ordinario de Sesiones de la Conferencia General  
La Habana, Cuba, 5-6 de noviembre de 2003

**PALABRAS DEL REPRESENTANTE DEL REINO UNIDO,  
EXCMO. SR. PAUL HARE**

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Secretary General,  
Distinguished Delegates,

The Delegation of the United Kingdom would like to thank the Government of Cuba for hosting this XVIII General Conference of OPANAL and the chairmanship of the Presidency.

The United Kingdom would also like to congratulate the Government of Cuba for its signature and ratification of the Treaty of Tlatelolco and welcomes the fact that it is now in force for 33 sovereign States of the region.

The United Kingdom would like to respond to the letter from Ambassador Edmundo Vargas Carreño, OPANAL's Secretary General, requesting that the United Kingdom considers reviewing its statements made at the time of signing the Protocols to the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

The United Kingdom has carefully considered the request from Ambassador Carreño, Secretary General of OPANAL, that we review the declarations made at the time of ratifying Additional Protocols I and II to the Treaty of Tlatelolco. We are still considering whether to review our declarations. This includes both legal and policy questions relating to the modification or withdrawal of the declarations. We have not taken a decision to withdraw declarations at this time. We are continuing our consideration of this issue.

I should emphasize that our position in no way detracts from our continued strong support for the Treaty of Tlatelolco and our full compliance with both Protocols.

Nor does it detract at all from our continued support for the principle of NWFZ, provided there is

support from all the States of the region concerned.

In particular, we hope it will soon be possible to satisfactorily conclude consultations on the Central Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone, and on the Protocol to the South East Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty.

Mr. Chairman, Thank you.