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Statement by Ambassador Hector P. Garcia, United States
Representative in Committee I, on the Treaty for the Prohibition
of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, October 26, 1967.

Mr. Chairman, my Government warmly welcomes the conclusion on February 12, 1967, of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America. At that time, my Government declared that "it considered the conclusion of this first international instrument establishing a nuclear-free zone to be an event of unique significance . . . We hope that the Treaty will constitute a milestone on the road to general and complete disarmament, and in particular, that it will lead in the near future to the conclusion of a world-wide treaty prohibiting the proliferation of nuclear weapons." It is with pleasure that my delegation extends congratulations to the twenty Latin American nations who are already signatories to the Treaty, and particularly to the Government of Mexico which has already ratified. In this connection, I wish to express my delegation's appreciation for the outstanding work of Senor Garcia Robles, Chairman of the Preparatory Commission and the members of that Commission who negotiated the drafting of the Treaty.

It is indeed fitting that Latin America is the first area of the world which has produced a detailed treaty embodying the nuclear-free zone concept, with provision for verifying compliance by the Parties. Latin America has traditionally been an area where solutions to problems have been sought through the development of law and regional cooperation. Latin America has provided world leadership in the development of international political organization. The OAS is the oldest regional organization devoted to problems of peace and security. Latin American statesmanship and optimism made a significant contribution to the development of the United Nations Charter. Latin American faith in the reasonableness of man has triumphed in the Treaty before us today. My Government supports the determination of the countries of the region to maintain the high level of international comity which has served as an example to other areas of the world. The outstanding

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