

remain under probation until next December.

14 Latin Countries Sign Atom-Free Zone Treaty

By Charles Green

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 14 (AP) — Fourteen Latin American nations tonight signed a treaty banning nuclear weapons in a huge zone of the Western Hemisphere between the United States and Antarctica.

The treaty is the first of its kind and scope. The treaty, almost four years in the making, bans the manufacture, use, storage or acquisition of nuclear weapons in that area. It does not prevent peaceful uses of atomic energy.

Before the document can be legally binding on all the countries in the zone it will require ratification of the 21 negotiating nations.

Also required will be guarantees by the five nuclear powers—the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and Communist China—that they will not violate the treaty. Ratification will also be needed from governments outside the zone that control territory within the zone.

Four of the nuclear powers—the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union—have indicated they will observe the treaty. Communist China has refused to acknowledge its existence.

Cuba, situated in the zone, has taken no part in deliberations leading to the treaty and has said it will not sign.

The countries signing were Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Chile, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The countries not signing immediately were Argentina, Brazil, Jamaica, Trinidad-Tobago, Paraguay, Nicaragua and the Dominican Republic.

With the signing, a supervisory agency with headquarters in Mexico will be created to administer the treaty.

The Western nuclear powers want time to study official

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Scientists Ask Ban on Atomic Weapons in Vietnam

By J. V. Reistrup
Washington Post Staff Writer

Scientists, members to get signatures, the four men explained.

Matthew Meselson, the apparent originator of the idea of petitioning the President, conceded that the question of whether in some cases riot-control gases might be more humane than bombing or shooting people is a difficult one. Meselson is a professor of biology at Harvard.

If a White House review showed that "you could really make and hold" a distinction between humane and inhumane uses, he said, it might be valid.

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that Roosevelt first use of World War II when the use of atomic weapons was more on a large scale.

the use of atomic weapons is broken down into "the use of atomic weapons for peaceful purposes" and "the use of atomic weapons for military purposes."

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the petitioning that finally the Protocol on the prohibition of the use of atomic weapons as a method of warfare.

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Drawing by Architects J...

PROPOSAL—This sketch for a downtown Washington airport was shown at a news conference here yesterday by a promoter who said it could be built for \$50 million. He suggested that a Federal Airport Authority be established to build the airport.

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14 Latin Countries Sign Atom-Free Zone Treaty

translations of the document. The Soviet Union said it will sign if the four other nuclear powers sign.

American observers at the negotiations objected to the inclusion of the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico in the nuclear free zone. They argued that these islands were U.S. possessions and vital to national defense.

France may have a constitutional problem involved in signing for its possessions in the Caribbean because the islands are considered part of metropolitan France. Britain is unhappy because its possessions in the zone are, in the British view, to be included under the treaty restrictions without any rights.

The United States and Britain won the right for the nuclear powers to transport nuclear weapons through the zone as long as they do not violate international law.

British observers were angered by an anticolonial resolution pushed through by Argentina, Venezuela and Guatemala—with whom Britain has territorial disputes—expressing Latin American solidarity in such disputes.

The British observers were upset by the resolution, but said it probably would not affect a decision on signing because the resolution is not an official part of the document.

Murrey Marder of The Washington Post reported in Washington:

The Latin American treaty creating a nuclear-free zone is likely to raise new wrangles over the pending global treaty to ban the spread of nuclear weapons.

American officials sought today to minimize added complications for the larger negotiations about to resume in Geneva in the 17-nation disarmament conference.

But officials here conceded that the Latin treaty probably will intensify demands by the nuclear "have not" nations to be assured access to nuclear technology.

West German groups that have been pushing the technological demand most strenuously have now been provided with a reinforcing argument by the Latin treaty.

What the Latin treaty leaves open is the possibility for non-nuclear nations to carry out peaceful nuclear explosions, if "future advances in technology" make it possible to distinguish between nuclear explosions for war and for peace.

The United States position, and that of the Soviet Union and Britain as well, is that such explosions are now "indistinguishable." American officials maintain that it is only a "theoretical possibility," and an unlikely one at that, that it ever will be possible to devise a nuclear blast that cannot also serve as a nuclear weapon.

In consultations behind the scenes at Mexico City, the nuclear powers, who only had observer status, headed off what would have been a head-on conflict with the pending global treaty. They talked the Latins into dropping an outright provision which Brazil and Argentina took a lead in pushing, that would have left the Latin nations free now to employ nuclear blasts for peaceful uses.

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