

**formal Plenary**

Wednesday 6 September 2006

**Statement by the United States**

I refer back to the statement by the British Ambassador on the subject of a Central Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty.

The United States shares many of the concerns articulated by the British Ambassador on behalf of the delegations of the United Kingdom and France. The United States, the United Kingdom and France are concerned and have noted in correspondence with the UN Secretary-General that the UN Department of Disarmament Affairs representative in charge of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone did not follow the procedure recommended in the UN Disarmament Commission Guidelines of 1999 regarding consultation of the nuclear weapon States in the negotiation of Treaties establishing nuclear-weapon-free zones.

The United States, the United Kingdom and France have been in touch with the five Central Asians States on a number of occasions, most recently in November 2005 and again in the past few weeks, expressing concern for the inadequacy of consultations in developing the draft treaty.

The United States, the United Kingdom and France continue to have substantive reservations concerning the draft treaty. We have been awaiting an invitation in response to our requests for further consultations between the C5 and the P5, but nothing has happened. Given these concerns, should the C5 decide to sign the draft treaty, the United States would not be able to support it and we will explain the reasons for that position in due course.

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