

## **CRISIS SCENARIO 2017 – VIOLATION OF THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO**

On March 24 2017, Wikileaks released copies of electronic communications between agencies of the Argentine and Brazilian governments that revealed that these agencies had been collaborating over the past 15 years to secretly develop nuclear weapons, in violation of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

After an initial review by the Council of the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL), the General Conference of OPANAL met to discuss the situation. After investigating the veracity of the leaked documents, on March 31, 2017, the Secretary General of the OPANAL, Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares, brought the evidence of this violation of the Treaty to the attention of the governments of Argentina and Brazil. Their joint response was to condemn the accusations as “false news,” and to ignore the request of the General Conference to agree to an inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

On April 7, 2017 Ambassador Macedo Soares of OPANAL, in accordance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco, informed the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly, through the Secretary General of the United Nations, of these developments. Simultaneously, he also informed the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States, through its current Chair, Ambassador Diego Pary Rodríguez of Bolivia, of the situation. These communications describe the secret activities of the governments of Brazil and Argentina as acts of non-compliance with the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

On April 9, 2017, OPANAL released a Press Statement, which after summarizing the steps described above, goes on to say:

OPANAL urgently requests the assistance of the Organization of American States (OAS), to assist in the resolution of this serious crisis and to ensure peace and security and a non-nuclear zone in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In reply, on April 10, 2017, Ambassador Pary Rodríguez and the Secretary General of the OAS, Luis Almagro Lemes, promised a quick multilateral response to the situation, and to communicate its first steps in this process to the proper authorities of OPANAL in the immediate future.

WMOAS: What is this multilateral response to be?