

## Mexico wins the Nobel Prize, Trump and Kennedy: Two different visions

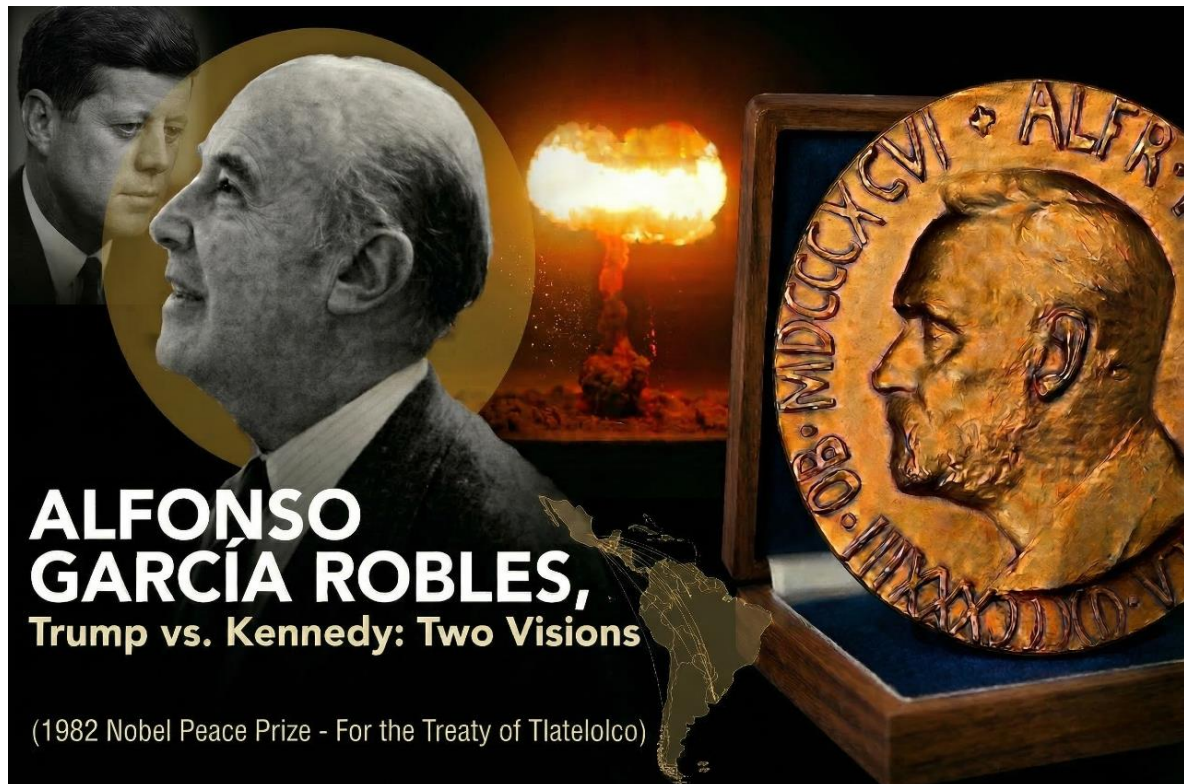


Image Source: IT Capital original – Alfonso Garcia Robles the lesser-known Mexican Nobel Prize winner.

Research Article, Apro. (March 13, 2026). Mexico wins the Nobel Prize, Trump vs. Kennedy: Two different Visions.

### Table of Contents

1. Executive Summary
2. Introduction and Historical Context: 13 days on the brink of nuclear war
3. The Latin American Initiative: Negotiation and Development
4. Treaty Architecture: Provisions and the Role of OPANAL
5. Overcoming Challenges: Argentina, Brazil and Cuba
6. Global Legacy and Inspiration for the World
7. CAF-IAEA Agreements (Sep 2025) for SMRs (Small Modular Reactors).
8. The Shield of Tlatelolco of 1967 (33 countries signed) vs. The Shield of the Americas of 2026 (12 countries signed)
9. Conclusions
10. Bibliography and References.

## 1. Summary

The Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, known as the Treaty of Tlatelolco it was a pioneering diplomatic agreement ***signed on February 14, 1967, which transformed the region into the world's first Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (NWFZ) in a densely populated territory*** Driven by the fear of imminent nuclear war following the Cuban Missile Crisis, this treaty guaranteed that the region would renounce the development, possession, and use of such weapons. Thanks to Mexico's leadership and the work of diplomat Alfonso García Robles, the agreement set a precedent in international law, demonstrating that regional security can be ensured through diplomacy and peaceful development rather than arms proliferation. Today, this treaty serves as a standard for disarmament verification and has inspired numerous regions around the world.



## 2. Introduction and Historical Context: 13 Days on the Brink of Nuclear War

The history of Latin American denuclearization begins with the arrival of atomic power and the humanitarian tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. In the following decades, technological and ideological competition between the United States and the Soviet Union (USSR) triggered a worldwide arms race.

### The Beginning



The presence of US nuclear missiles in Turkey and Italy since 1959, and after the failure of the Bay of Pigs invasion in Cuba in 1961, Cuban leader Fidel Castro and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev agreed to install nuclear missile bases in Cuba in 1962 through a secret operation, to deter any future invasion attempt by the United States and its Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). **In 1962 the CIA received information from Soviet spy Colonel Oleg Penkovsky, who secretly transmitted war plans, secret documents and other intelligence information.** the point of greatest tension was reached between October 14 and 28, 1962, an event known as the **Cuban Missile Crisis**. the ballistic missiles deployed on Cuban soil had sufficient range to strike the U.S. East Coast, in response to the missiles the United States maintained in Europe and Turkey. The United States and the Soviet Union engaged in a 13-day diplomatic confrontation unlike any seen before, marking the closest the world came to nuclear war during that period **the Cold War**.

## Key events of the 13 critical days



**October 16, 1962:** The president was notified of the presence and confirmation of Soviet missiles in Cuba by U.S. intelligence following a U-2 spy plane overflight two days earlier, on October 14, 1962. Two response options were presented to President Kennedy: an air strike and invasion, or a naval blockade with the

threat of further military action surrounding Cuba. The president maintained secrecy and continued with his official agenda to address the public's concerns.

**October 17, 1962:** US troops began deploying to the southeastern United States as U-2 reconnaissance flights revealed the continued development of missile sites in Cuba, equipped with medium- and long-range missiles capable of reaching most of the continental United States in the event of a conflict. The president met with the Libyan head of state and then traveled to Connecticut to support political candidates at events on his political agenda.



**October 18, 1962:** Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko met with the president at the White House, assuring Kennedy that the weapons were defensive. Kennedy did not press the issue; instead, he issued a warning at the meeting about the **"more serious consequences"**. The possibility of finding offensive nuclear weapons in Cuba ended the meeting with diplomatic tension on both sides.

**October 20, 1962:** President Kennedy orders and signs in the White House a "quarantine" from Cuba. The White House called the blockade "quarantine" initially, because technically, a blockade is an act of war. Any Soviet ship carrying weapons to Cuba would be turned away. The president feigned a cold during his political tour as an excuse to end his trip early without alarming Americans and returned to Washington.



**October 21, 1962:** The president attended Sunday mass and later met with General Walter Sweeney of the USAF Tactical Air Command. General Sweeney was unable to guarantee the 100 percent destruction of the missiles during a meeting at the White House.



**October 22, 1962:** President Kennedy briefed former presidents J. Edgar Hoover, J. Truman, and J. Eisenhower, as well as British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, on the Cuban Missile Crisis. He then convened the Executive Committee. **(EXCOMM)** The National Security Council is tasked with coordinating future actions, puts US troops on alert, and informs the public about the blockade of Cuba.

"All the News That's Fit to Print"

# The New York Times.

LATE CITY EDITION  
U.S. mass doors open on an evening. Pretty clearly, freely, west today. Fair and tonight and tomorrow. Temp. emp.: Driest prewar office

VOL. CXII... No. 38,258 NEW YORK, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1962. FIVE CENTS

## U.S. IMPOSES ARMS BLOCKADE ON CUBA ON FINDING OFFENSIVE-MISSILE SITES; KENNEDY READY FOR SOVIET SHOWDOWN

**U. S. JUDGES GIVEN POWER TO REQUIRE VOTE FOR NEGROES**  
High Court Upholds Order Forcing the Registration of 54 in Alabama County

**Chinese Open New Front; Use Tanks Against Indians**  
Nehru Warns of Peril to Independence — Reds Attack New Burmese Border and Press Two Other Drives

**SHIPS MUST STOP**  
Other Action Planned If Big Rockets Are Not Dismantled

**PRESIDENT GRAVE**  
Asserts Russians Lied and Put Hemisphere in Great Danger

ANNOUNCES HIS ACTION: President Kennedy speaking to the nation last night on radio and television. He told of moves to keep offensive equipment away from Cuba.



Kennedy addressed the nation to report on the presence of Soviet missiles in Cuba. He also announced the blockade of the island to prevent the arrival of more "offensive military equipment", declaring that the United States would not lift the blockade until the USSR withdrew the missiles.

The EXCOMM The meeting, convened by President Kennedy, recommended a military invasion of Cuba to end the stalemate, which would have provoked a massive retaliation from the Soviet Union and the destruction of all forces on the island. The United States raised its defense alert level (DEFCON) to 2.

Kennedy wrote to Soviet President Nikita Khrushchev:

"I have not assumed that you or any other sensible man, in this nuclear age, would deliberately plunge the world into a war that, it is evident, no country could win and that could only have catastrophic consequences for the entire world, including the aggressor."

**October 24, 1962:** the Soviet President Nikita Khrushchev publicly denounced the US-imposed quarantine on the island as an act of aggression, writing a letter to Kennedy that included some of this content:

"Mr. President, you are not declaring a quarantine, but rather issuing an ultimatum and threatening to use force if we do not yield to your demands. Reflect on what you are saying! And you intend to persuade me to accept this! what would be accepting these demands mean?"

It would mean guiding relations with other countries not by reason, but by submitting to arbitrariness. You no longer appeal to reason, but seek to intimidate us."



Pope John XXIII, for his part, called on Kennedy and Khrushchev to promote peace.

**October 25, 1962:** The discussion between **Adlai Stevenson**(USA) and **Valerian Zorin** (USSR) before the UN, is one of the most dramatic moments in the history of these 13 days:

**1. The Context:** At the height of nuclear tensions, the United States had denounced the installation of Soviet missiles in Cuba. The USSR, represented by Zorin, systematically denied their existence, dismissing the accusations as "American propaganda."

**2. Stevenson's Challenge:** Stevenson arrived at the Security Council session determined to force a clear answer. In a moment of great intensity, he addressed Zorin directly and posed a direct question:

"Ambassador Zorin, do you deny that the USSR has placed and is placing medium- and intermediate-range missiles and launch sites in Cuba? Yes, or no! Don't wait for interpretation, yes or no!"

**3. Zorin's Evasion:** Zorin, visibly annoyed by Stevenson's tone, tried to evade the question by saying: "I am not in a U.S. court of law, and therefore I have no obligation to answer a question posed to me as if I were a prosecutor." He added that he would receive a response in due course.

#### 4. The "Until Hell Freezes Over" Rebuttal

When Zorin refused to answer, Stevenson uttered his most famous phrase:

*"You are in the court of world public opinion right now... I am prepared to wait for my answer until hell freezes over, if that is your decision. And I am also prepared to present the evidence in this courtroom."*

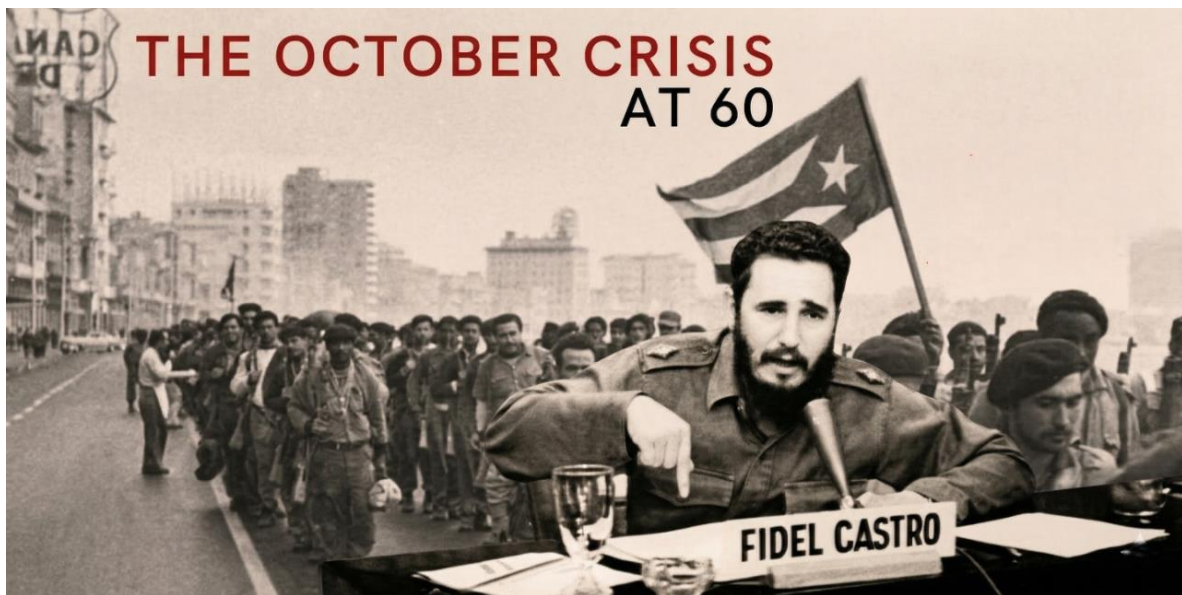
#### 5. The Revelation of the Evidence

Next, Stevenson showed a series of **enlarged aerial photographs** (taken by U-2 spy planes) that clearly showed the missile bases on Cuban soil.



**October 26, 1962: The U.S. Armed Forces are preparing for total war.** The U.S. military raised its alert level to DEFCON 3. Once the blockade was established, all Soviet ships bound for Cuba either maintained their positions or changed course. Some ships were inspected and allowed to continue their voyage. The missiles in Cuba became operational, and construction continued. Soviet IL-28 bombers began constructing air bases in Cuba. **Fearing an imminent attack from the United States, Cuban president Fidel Castro suggested to Nikita Khrushchev that the USSR attack first.**

**The Soviet president sent a letter to President Kennedy, stating his willingness to withdraw the missiles from the island if the United States pledged never to invade Cuba.**



**October 27, 1962 (Black Saturday):** Nikita Khrushchev offers Kennedy a new deal. In a second letter, with a harsher tone, the Soviet premier agreed to withdraw the missiles if Kennedy promised never to invade Cuba, but also the United States should commit to withdrawing the American Jupiter missiles from Turkey. A U-2 spy plane verifying the progress of the missiles was shot down over Cuba, an event in which the pilot, Major Rudolph Anderson, died and the aircraft was completely destroyed. **Despite the downing, neither side escalated the conflict.** The United States ignored Nikita Khrushchev's public offer and accepted his first proposal. adding that he would voluntarily withdraw the Jupiter missiles from Turkey a few months later.

On the same day, a U.S. Navy ship dropped depth charges as a warning to a Soviet submarine that was below the blockade line around Cuba. The submarine, armed with nuclear torpedoes, was nearly hit by a cargo ship and other naval targets due to a delay of minutes in communication with the Kremlin. **finally, a US aircraft was driven out of the Kamchatka region by MiG fighter jets.**

That evening, the USSR and the United States, through Robert Kennedy and Soviet ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin, reached an agreement to reduce the tension of the conflict.

## The Conflict resolution

**October 28, 1962: The USSR announces the withdrawal of missiles from Cuba**  
Radio Moscow announced that the Soviet Union accepted the proposed solution and published the text of a letter from Khrushchev in which he affirmed the withdrawal of missiles from Cuba. The missiles were loaded and shipped back to the Soviet Union in early November 1962. Soviet bombers left Cuba before the end of the year in December. For his part, John F. Kennedy pledged to stop trying to invade Cuba, and also as it was written This same year a direct communication line was established between the USSR and the United States called "**The Red Telephone**" to guarantee direct communication between Russia and the United States to resolve any future conflicts.

The final chapter concerns the end of the US embargo on Cuba. However, President Kennedy only did this temporarily. A few months later, he ordered the Jupiter missiles to be removed from Turkey at the end of April 1963. He was finally assassinated on November 22, 1963. In retaliation, subsequent presidents reinstated the embargo on the island and have NEVER lifted it to this day (64 years later). This prevented an imminent nuclear war between the world's two nuclear powers at the time.



Although the leaders of both powers resolved the conflict, Latin America was deeply shaken to realize its high susceptibility to the powers and that the region was at risk of becoming the epicenter of destruction and a target of attacks. The impact was also assessed from an environmental and human perspective, given the devastating effects, such as cancer and radioactive fallout, caused by nuclear testing in the Pacific.



### 3. The Latin American Initiative: Negotiation and Development

Faced with the imminent risk, Latin America decided to distance itself from the war on April 29, 1962 (months before the Cuban Missile Crisis), at the initiative of then-President of Mexico, Adolfo López Mateos, and diplomat Alfonso García Robles, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, and Bolivia were convened. Together, they issued a joint declaration at the UN proposing the denuclearization of Latin America.

Under the shadow of the subsequent “Missile Crisis” of October 1962 and the tension of the Cold War, Latin America sought to protect itself from being the target of nuclear attacks or becoming a “no man’s land” in a foreign conflict.

#### Date and Context of the Meeting

This historic meeting took place on **April 29, 1962** It was convened at the initiative of the Mexican president. **Adolfo López Mateos** and the diplomat **Alfonso García Robles** the leaders of five nations participated in this initial meeting: **Mexico, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Bolivia.**

## The Three Key Points Proposed

The vision of these five presidents was condensed into three fundamental objectives that would lay the foundations for future regional disarmament:

1. **Declaration of a Denuclearized Region:** The primary objective was to formally establish all of Latin America as a nuclear-weapon-free zone.
2. **Expansion of the Regional Bloc:** It was proposed to actively invite other Latin American countries to join this initiative and the future treaty.
3. **Recognition of World Powers:** The aim was for the region to be recognized internationally, and especially by the major nuclear powers (such as the US and the USSR), as a strictly denuclearized zone to guarantee its legal security.

By 1964, the Preparatory Commission for the Denuclearization of Latin America (COPREDAL) was created, headquartered in Mexico City, under the leadership of diplomat Alfonso García Robles. García Robles, who would become known as "Mr. Disarmament," masterfully argued that denuclearization was not a concession or a sign of weakness, but a **strategic shield to prevent the region from becoming collateral damage of the Cold War**, he argued that the billions that superpowers spent on arsenals, Latin America could invest in education, health, and infrastructure.

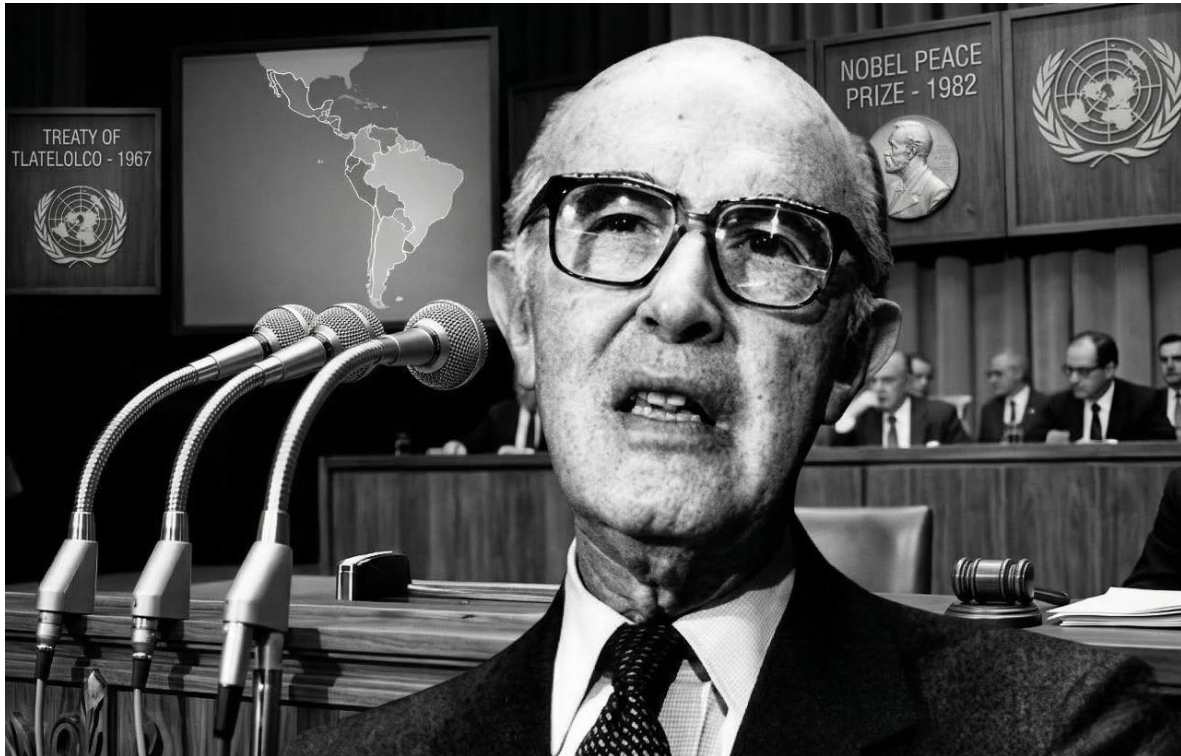
The effort bore fruit after rigorous negotiations. The Treaty was finalized on February 12, 1967, and was **signed on February 14, 1967** in the building of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs located in the Tlatelolco area of Mexico City. Finally, it came into effect on April 25, 1969.

### Timeline: From Negotiation to Legal Certainty

Following that initial push, the path was formalized through a series of meetings and technical bodies:

| Year  | Important Event / Meeting                                     | Key Result                                                                     |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1964  | Creation of the <b>COPRADAL</b> .                             | Preparatory Commission for Denuclearization in Mexico City.                    |
| 1967  | <b>February 14</b> Signature of <b>Treaty of Tlatelolco</b> . | 33 countries pledge not to manufacture or allow nuclear weapons on their soil. |
| 1969  | <b>April 25:</b> Entry into force of the treaty.              | The treaty acquires full international legal validity.                         |
| 1982  | Nobel Peace Prize for <b>Alfonso García Robles</b> .          | Worldwide recognition of the "Father of Disarmament".                          |
| 1990s | Ratification of <b>Brazil and Argentina</b> .                 | End of the covert nuclear arms race between the two military regimes.          |

| Year | Important Event / Meeting     | Key Result                                                             |
|------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2002 | Ratification of <b>Cuba</b> . | The last key nation fully integrates into the denuclearization regime. |



## 4. Treaty Architecture: Provisions and the Role of OPANAL

The treaty bound the nations of the region to a strict commitment: the prohibition of the manufacture, acquisition, testing, possession, deployment or control of nuclear weapons in addition to banning weapons, the agreement guaranteed that nuclear energy could only be used for peaceful purposes, such as generating electricity, agriculture, or medicine.

To monitor and verify this agreement, the treaty established a permanent institution: the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (OPANAL) The verification process also included safeguards implemented by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), establishing a very robust international standard.

Additionally, the Treaty has additional protocols (Protocols I and II) that obligated external nuclear powers (United States, France, United Kingdom, China and Russia) to respect the status of the zone, including in territories administered by them within the Caribbean region, and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against the States Parties.

To ensure that denuclearization treaties are not just "dead letters," robust technical systems and organizations have been established to monitor every gram of nuclear material. Here's how these verification mechanisms operate:

### 1. The Role of OPANAL (Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean)

This organization is the administrative and oversight heart of the Treaty of Tlatelolco.

- **Headquarters and Mandate:** Based in Mexico City, its main function is to ensure that all member countries strictly comply with what has been agreed.
- **Regional Verification:** It is responsible for promoting the implementation of the treaty and ensuring that the region remains free of nuclear weapons.
- **International Cooperation:** Currently, OPANAL remains active in collaborating with other nuclear-weapon-free zones around the world to strengthen disarmament norms.



## 2. The IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)

While OPANAL is regional, the IAEA acts as the technical "watchdog" at the global level.

- **Origin:** It was created in 1957 with the responsibility of promoting and, above all, ensuring that nuclear technology is used only for peaceful purposes.
- **Safeguards:** The Treaty of Tlatelolco requires IAEA verification, using safeguards that are even considered stronger than those of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Plants (NPT).
- **Technical Support:** It provides the necessary support to ensure that atomic energy in signatory countries is only applied in medicine, agriculture or electricity generation.

## 3. Mutual Detection and Control Systems

Beyond the agencies, there are technological methods and bilateral agreements to prevent "cheating":



- **Technological Detection:** It is now almost impossible to hide clandestine nuclear tests; advanced seismographs are used to detect vibrations from underground tests, even if they try to conceal themselves.

- **Mutual Inspections:** A significant milestone was the system of mutual inspections established between Brazil and Argentina in the 1990s, which allowed both countries to fully ratify the treaty after years of mutual suspicion.

- **Fuel Control:** In countries like Mexico, it is verified that the uranium used (as in the Laguna Verde plant) is enriched only to **5%** the **6%** (peaceful use), far from **90%** necessary for a weapon.



## 5. Overcoming Challenges: Argentina, Brazil and Cuba

The path to the treaty's full regional implementation was not without challenges. Initially, powers like the United States viewed the treaty with suspicion, fearing that it would limit their strategic capabilities in what they considered their sphere of influence.

At the regional level, two nations offered strong resistance: Brazil and Argentina. In the decades following the signing, both countries were under military dictatorships engaged in a burgeoning arms race, fueled by the idea that industrial development should be intrinsically linked to military and nuclear power. However, the high economic cost of these programs, coupled with the democratic transitions of the 1980s and the establishment of a system of mutual inspections, facilitated the eventual ratification of the treaty by both states in the 1990s.

The role of **Brazil** and **Argentina** was fundamental to consolidating the effectiveness of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, since for decades they represented the greatest challenge to the nuclear unity of the region due to their geopolitical ambitions and covert military programs.

### 1. The Context of Rivalry (1970s and 1980s)

- **Military Ambitions:** Both countries were under military regimes that saw industrial and military development as intrinsically linked to the development of nuclear energy.
- **Covert Arms Race:** Under the guise of civilian programs, both nations were seeking nuclear weapons capabilities, which generated deep mutual distrust.
- **Initial Resistance:** During this period, Argentina and Brazil were reluctant to fully accept the Treaty of Tlatelolco so as not to limit their technological and defense aspirations.

### 2. The Factors of Change

The transition to peace was due to a combination of internal pressures and changes:

- **Democratic Transitions:** The end of military dictatorships in the 1980s facilitated a paradigm shift towards transparency and civilian control of nuclear technology.
- **Financial and Diplomatic Costs:** The high cost of maintaining a nuclear arms race and the diplomatic isolation that this entailed outweighed the perceived benefits of having the bomb.
- **Absence of Total Conflict:** Unlike other regions of the world, there was no irreconcilable historical conflict between Brazil and Argentina that would justify the use of weapons of mass destruction.

### 3. The Milestone of Cooperation: ABACC (1991)

To resolve the mistrust, both countries created an innovative mutual inspection mechanism:

- **Inspection System:** A system of reciprocal control was established to ensure that neither nation was diverting material for war purposes.
- **Total Transparency:** This agreement allowed inspectors from one country to review the facilities of the other, eliminating suspicions of clandestine programs.

### 4. Full Ratification in the 90s

- **Legal Certainty:** Thanks to this system of mutual inspections and the restoration of their democracies, both countries finally ratified the Treaty of Tlatelolco in the 1990s.
- **Regional Leadership:** With their integration, Latin America and the Caribbean finally became a seamless nuclear-weapon-free zone, sending a message of unity to the rest of the world.

This process of "disarmament through trust" It is considered today a global model of how diplomacy and technical cooperation can defuse nuclear tensions without the need for external intervention.

## The final integration of Cuba

The case of **Cuba** It is fascinating and fundamental, since it was precisely the country that was at the "eye of the storm" during the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962. Its full integration into the Treaty of Tlatelolco marked the definitive end of the denuclearization cycle in the region. It signed the treaty in 1995 and ratified it in 2002.

Here I detail the chronology and reasons for their particular path towards disarmament:

### 1. The Epicenter of Tension (1962)

- **Starting point:** In October 1962, the USSR installed nuclear missiles on Cuban soil aimed at the United States.
- **Regional Vulnerability:** This event made the rest of Latin America realize that it could become "collateral damage" in a nuclear war between powers.
- **Initial Resistance:** Due to its close alliance with the Soviet Union and its direct conflict with Washington, Cuba was initially reluctant to sign a treaty that would limit its defense options.

## 2. The Long Diplomatic Road

Cuba was the country that waited the longest to formally integrate, following a pace dictated by global politics:

- **Company (1995):** Following the end of the Cold War and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the geopolitical context changed drastically. Cuba signed the treaty on **March 25, 1995**, under the leadership of Alfonso García Robles (who had already won the Nobel Prize by then).
- **Final Ratification (2002):** It wasn't until the year **2002** when Cuba fully ratified the agreement. With this act, it was achieved that **all states** Latin America and the Caribbean will form part of the nuclear-weapon-free zone.

## 3. Historical Significance

- **Legal Certainty:** Cuba's accession eliminated any "blind spots" on the map of the region.
- **Continental Commitment:** By joining, Cuba accepted the same prohibitions on manufacturing, possession, and storage as the rest of its neighbors.
- **Power Backing:** This step forced external nuclear powers to formally respect Cuba's status as a territory free of atomic weapons.

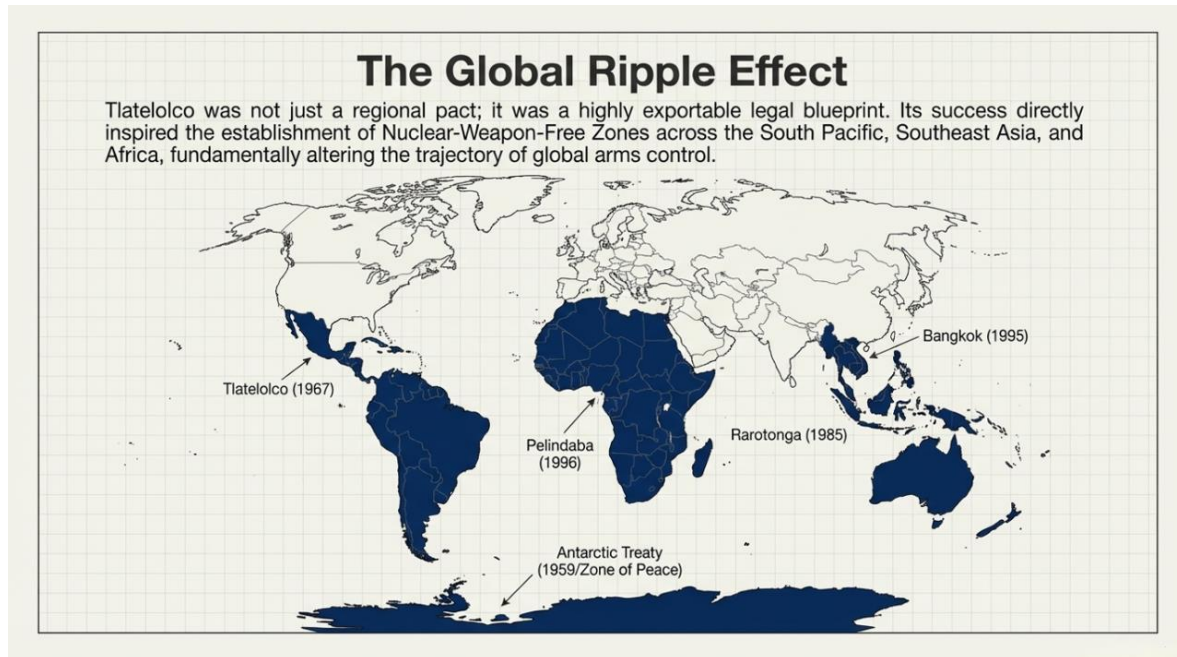
## Summary of Total Coverage

With Cuba's ratification, the Treaty of Tlatelolco fulfilled its original vision:

- **33 countries** committed to peace.
- **Protection of sovereignty** in the face of conflicts in the Global North.



## 6. Global Legacy and Inspiration for the World



The diplomatic and peaceful impact of the Treaty of Tlatelolco transcended the borders of the American continent. This first regional instrument became the blueprint for the establishment of other nuclear-weapon-free zones around the world. Thanks to this example, similar treaties emerged in other regions.

- **Treaty of Rarotonga (1985):** In the South Pacific, including Australia and New Zealand.
- **Bangkok Treaty (1995):** In Southeast Asia.
- **Treaty of Pelindaba (1996):** On the African continent.

Following the success of the Treaty of Tlatelolco (1967), which served as a fundamental "blueprint" or model for nuclear disarmament, various regions and international organizations have promoted similar agreements to keep the planet free from the atomic threat.

Comparative table with the most relevant international denuclearization agreements that emerged after the Treaty of Tlatelolco 1967:

## 6.1 International Denuclearization Agreements (Post-Tlatelolco)

| Region / Initiator | Agreement Name                                           | Year of Signature | Summary of the Agreement                                                                                                                       | Countries / Region covered                                                                                                        |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Global             | Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) | 1968              | Global agreement to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and promote disarmament. | <i>Global (currently almost all countries in the world).</i>                                                                      |
| South Pacific      | Treaty of Rarotonga                                      | 1985              | It establishes a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the South Pacific, prohibiting the testing, possession, or deployment of these weapons.           | <i>Australia, New Zealand and various South Pacific island nations.</i>                                                           |
| Mongolia           | Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Status                          | 1992              | Unilateral declaration of Mongolia as a nuclear-weapon-free territory, internationally recognized.                                             | <i>National territory of Mongolia.</i>                                                                                            |
| Southeast Asia     | Bangkok Treaty                                           | 1995              | It prohibits states parties from developing, manufacturing, acquiring, possessing or controlling nuclear weapons in the region.                | <i>The 10 ASEAN nations (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam).</i> |
| Africa             | Treaty of Pelindaba                                      | 1996              | It prohibits the development, manufacture, testing and deployment of nuclear weapons throughout the African continent.                         | <i>The entire continent of Africa and several surrounding islands.</i>                                                            |

| Region / Initiator | Agreement Name                                      | Year of Signature | Summary of the Agreement                                                                                                         | Countries / Region covered                                                                               |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Global             | Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)        | 1996              | Multilateral treaty that prohibits any type of nuclear explosion, whether for peaceful or military purposes, in any environment. | <i>Global (requires ratification by specific countries with nuclear technology to enter into force).</i> |
| Asia Central       | Treaty of Semipalatinsk                             | 2006              | It turns Central Asian countries into a nuclear-weapon-free zone, prohibiting their production and stockpiling.                  | <i>Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.</i>                                  |
| Global             | Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) | 2017              | First legally binding multilateral agreement to completely prohibit nuclear weapons, with the goal of their total elimination.   | <i>Global (States parties that have ratified it, mainly from the Global South).</i>                      |

---

#### Additional Notes

- The Legacy of Tlatelolco: This treaty was the world's first legally binding instrument for regional denuclearization in a densely populated area.
- Mexican Prominence: Alfonso García Robles, the architect of Tlatelolco, received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1982 for his tireless work in this field.
- Peace Zones: Although the Arctic and Antarctica are not "post-Tlatelolco" treaties in the strict sense (Antarctica dates from 1959), both are considered cooperation zones where nuclear deployment is prohibited.

## 7. CAF-IAEA Agreements (Sep 2025) of the SMR (Small Modular Reactors).

The world today lives under the shadow of geopolitical tensions and a potential armed conflict that could trigger another nuclear war. Latin America maintained its irrevocable commitment to disarmament and remains a nuclear-free zone until 2025.

The **CAF-IAEA Agreements** The agreements, signed in September 2025, represent a milestone in cooperation for the peaceful use of nuclear technology in the region. The official signatories of this memorandum of understanding (MoU) were:

- **Sergio Díaz-Granados**: Chief Executive of **CAF** (Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean).
- **Rafael Mariano Grossi**: Director General of the **IAEA** (International Atomic Energy Agency).

### Agreement Details

This agreement seeks to boost the technological and energy infrastructure of Latin American countries under the following pillars:

- **Nuclear power**: To promote the development of **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** as a clean and stable energy alternative for the regional energy transition.
- **Non-Energy Applications**: Strengthen the use of nuclear technology in critical areas such as **medicine** (radiotherapy and diagnosis), the **agriculture** (crop improvement) and the **food security**.
- **Strategic Financing** CAF will act as the financial arm to facilitate that the projects meet the high safety and verification standards required by the IAEA.

This pact reinforces the region's commitment to the **Treaty of Tlatelolco** ensuring that any expansion of nuclear scientific capability remains strictly within the limits of the **peaceful purposes**. However, following the signing of the historic memorandum of understanding between the **CAF** and the **IAEA** By September 2025, several countries in the region have moved from technical curiosity to financial and operational planning for their first reactors **SMR (Small Modular Reactors)**. **The Role of CAF in this Process** The CEO of CAF, **Sergio Díaz-Granados** The CAF has confirmed that it is acting as a bridge to mobilize institutional resources in these member countries. CAF is not only seeking to finance construction, but also...**environmental and social impact studies** prior to ensuring public acceptance, a critical factor for the success of SMRs in the Caribbean and remote areas of South America.

The countries leading these talks and initial steps are:

1. El Salvador: The Most Active "Newcomer"

El Salvador has positioned itself as one of the countries with the greatest institutional progress in a short time.

- **INIR Mission:** The country has scheduled its first mission of **Milestone 1 (INIR Phase 1)** by the IAEA by mid-May 2026.
- **Aim:** This mission will assess the national infrastructure to determine its readiness for an SMR-based nuclear energy program.

2. Dominican Republic: Roadmap Defined

The Dominican government has formally integrated the nuclear option into its long-term energy planning.

- **Strategic Milestone:** The Deputy Minister of Nuclear Energy, Gaddis Enrique Corporan Segura, has indicated that the support of CAF and the IAEA is vital to reduce the learning curve in the technical, economic and social aspects of SMRs.
- **Stake:** The country was one of the key players in the regional workshop of the **SMR School** held in Argentina at the end of 2025.

3. Argentina and Brazil: The Giants with New Ambitions

Despite having established nuclear programs, both countries are using the CAF-IAEA framework to diversify with SMR.

- **Argentina:** It served as the headquarters of the **IAEA SMR School** in October 2025, bringing together more than 50 experts from 10 countries in the region to discuss investment and security frameworks.
- **Brazil:** During 2025 and early 2026, discussions on financing new construction projects have intensified (**new builds**) and the role of SMRs in the region's largest nuclear industry event.

4. Countries in Technical Cooperation (Projects 2026)

Since January 2026, a new IAEA technical cooperation project (INT2025) has begun working specifically with:

- **Peru, Jamaica and Guatemala:** These countries are formally participating in capacity building for the deployment of SMR and its non-electrical applications (such as water desalination or industrial processes).

## 8. The Tlatelolco Shield of 1967 (33 countries signed) vs. The Shield of the Americas of 2026 (12 countries signed)



The Treaty of Tlatelolco stands as one of the greatest triumphs of Latin American diplomacy in the 20th century. However, the past March 7, 2026, the president Donald Trump convened a high-level summit in the Doral Resort in Miami, Florida, and the golf course owned by companies belonging to President Donald Trump's family. The official presidential event, called "The Shield of the Americas" Its central objective was to redefine the security architecture of the Western Hemisphere under a new military vision.

### Countries Involved

In addition to the United States, the confirmed participants in this new coalition are 12 nations from the region:

Participants: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, and Trinidad and Tobago. (Representing a combined population of over 154,000,000 people in Latin America).

## 8.1 Literal quotes from key players during their speeches at the "Shield of the Americas 2026" Treaty summit

President Donald Trump (at the summit): **About the Summit:** "I am honored to welcome distinguished heads of state... for the first Shield of the Americas Summit."

- **Regarding the cartels:** "We will use lethal military force to destroy the sinister cartels and terrorist networks once and for all."
- **About Mexico:** "The cartels are running Mexico. We can't allow that. It's too close to us."
- **Regarding the language:** "I will never learn Spanish... I don't intend to waste my time with your damn language... I only speak American."
- **Regarding Venezuela:** "We officially recognize the government of Delcy Rodríguez... We have reached a historic golden agreement."

Peter Hegseth (Secretary of Defense):

- *"You just have to tell us where the bad guys are and we'll go and attack them... welcome to Great North America".*
- **Regarding military cooperation:** "We need your help, you just have to tell us where the bad guys are and we'll go and attack them."
- **About the New North America:** "For Washington, there is a new region that stretches from Greenland to the Gulf of America, the Panama Canal and the surrounding countries... Greater North America."
- **Regarding the regional vision:** "We don't have to live with communities flooded with drugs, violence, or cartels... We can seal our border."

Marco Rubio (Secretary of State): *"It is an action coalition... that will put its capabilities under American leadership."*

- **Regarding the alliance:** "The creation of the Anti-Cartel Coalition of the Americas was signed... It is an action coalition of like-minded countries that will make their capabilities available with US leadership at the forefront."

## 8.2 The Agreements: The American Coalition Against the Cartels

The most significant outcome of this summit was the launch of the Americas Counter Cartel Coalition (ACCC) Key points include:

- **Military Mobilization:** The signatory countries agreed to mobilize military forces in their countries to directly combat drug cartels and organized crime throughout the region.
  - **Training and Resources:** The United States pledged to train and mobilize allied troops to ensure combat capability against criminal groups in each of the 12 countries that signed the agreement.
  - **Deprivation of Resources:** A joint strategy to stifle the financing and territorial control of cartels in the hemisphere.
  - **Special Correspondent:** The appointment of **Kristi Noem** as the "Special Envoy for the Shield of the Americas".
- 

## 8.3 Why the name and its relation to Tlatelolco, and what are the differences?

The name "**The Shield**" It is not a linguistic coincidence, but an attempt to re-appropriate a historical concept of regional security:

1. **The "Strategic Shield" of Tlatelolco (1967):** The diplomat **Alfonso García Robles** He was the first to present denuclearization not as a weakness, but as a "**strategic shield**" that protected the sovereignty of Latin America against the collateral destruction of the Cold War.
2. **The "Shield of the Americas" (2026):** Trump uses the term to project a defense against internal threats (cartels) and "old hostile influences" (such as Cuba), framed within what analysts call the "**Donlo Doctrine**", which seeks to strengthen US hegemony in its "backyard".
3. **The Fundamental Difference:** While the Tlatelolco shield sought peace through disarmament and the exclusion of nuclear weapons, Trump's current shield proposes peace through...**rearmament and coordinated military intervention** against transnational crime.

## 8.4 The Scandal of Kristi Noem, owner of "The Shield of the Americas"

In this In March 2026, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) oversight hearings became the epicenter of a political storm that culminated in the firing of Kristi Noem and her surprise appointment as special envoy for "Shield of the Americas".

---

### 1. Meeting with Senator John Kennedy (Louisiana)

**Date:** March 3, 2026.

**He/She:** The expenditure of **\$220 million** in a national advertising campaign starring Noem herself.

- Featured Video (PBS News): [Kennedy questions Noem about ad campaign](#).
- Key Exchange Video (CBS News): [Exchange that may have been key to removal](#).
- Summary: Kennedy strongly questioned whether the expenditure was properly tendered and whether President Trump personally approved it.
- A quote from John Kennedy: *"Did the president approve in advance your spending of \$220 million to promote yourself?"*.
- Kristi Noem's response: *"The president tasked me with delivering the message... these pieces have been extremely effective."*.

---

### 2. Meeting with Congressman Jesús "Chuy" García (Chicago)

**Date:** March 4, 2026.

**He/She:** Abuses of force by ICE and CBP, and the alleged cover-up of murders of U.S. citizens.

- Video of the Confrontation: [Rep. García Presses DHS Secretary Noem](#).
- Summary: Garcia presented video evidence that contradicted Noem's claims about officers being injured after the shooting of Silverio Villegas-Gonzalez and Marimar Martinez.
- Quote from Jesús "Chuy" García: *"You celebrate the murder of citizens with enthusiasm... it symbolizes the cruelty, corruption, and incompetence of this administration."*.
- Garcia's conclusion: *"You are a disgrace to this nation and should resign or face impeachment."*.

3. Dismissal and new employment at the "Shield of the Americas"

**Date of Dismissal:** March 5, 2026.

**Summit in Miami:** March 7, 2026.

- Summit Video (Spanish): [The "Shield of the Americas": Trump gathers his club of docile presidents | La BaseLatam 1x150.](#)
- Video of Trump's speech: [Trump Hosts Latin Leaders in Miami.](#)
- Press Release: After being "destroyed in the interrogations," Trump removed Noem from her position., Noem's successor, Senator **Markwayne Mullin has already taken up his new post** But to prevent her from becoming unemployed, President Trump created the position of "Special Envoy for the Shield of the Americas," a position that has still not been explained to this day, in detail nor its scope in the region.

- **Kristi Noem (and her spots):** *"If you try to enter illegally, we will catch you, deport you, and you will never return."*

**"Did the president approve in advance that you spend 220 million dollars on television ads across the country in which you prominently appear?"**

**- SENATOR JOHN KENNEDY (LOUISIANA)**



**SENATOR JOHN KENNEDY  
(LOUISIANA)**



**KRISTI NOEM, SECRETARY OF  
HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)**



**SENATOR JESUS 'CHUY' GARCIA  
(CHICAGO)**

**- SENATOR JESUS 'CHUY' GARCIA (CHICAGO)**

**"You celebrate the murder of citizens with enthusiasm... you symbolize the cruelty, corruption, and incompetence of this administration"**

This media blitz confirms that, although Kristi Noem left DHS through the "back door" after the financial scandal of the ads \$220 million and the murders of 2 Americans and 35 foreigners due to negligence in ICE operations It remains a key piece in the militarization of the continent proposed by the Trump administration for Latin America in 2026.

## 9. Conclusions

The Treaty of Tlatelolco stands as one of the greatest triumphs of Latin American diplomacy in the 20th century. By establishing the first Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in a densely populated region known as the "Tlatelolco Shield," Latin America demonstrated that The true security of nations does not lie in the accumulation of weapons of mass destruction, but in cooperation, international law, and mutual trust. Despite some contemporary criticisms suggesting that the treaty limited technological and military defense development in the region compared to nations like India and Pakistan, the final outcome allowed for the integration of all of the 33 Free and Sovereign Countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The continued success of institutions like OPANAL and the legacy of figures like Alfonso García Robles continue to provide indispensable moral guidance in the face of the proliferation challenges the world faces today. In recognition of his immense diplomatic work and his role as an architect of the Treaty, **Alfonso García Robles was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1982**(along with Swedish diplomat Alva Myrdal), becoming a global icon of denuclearization. Her vision achieved a resounding geopolitical objective: when looking at the war strategy maps of powers like the United States, Russia, or China in the event of nuclear conflict, South America does not appear in their attack plans, and that was the case until very recently.



At a practical level today, a country like Mexico focuses entirely on the peaceful use of this energy; for example, the Laguna Verde nuclear plant in Veracruz uses uranium enriched to only 5 or 6%, which makes the development of weapons impossible (which requires enrichment to 90%).

---

All these observations reinforce the need for careful regulation of military infrastructure at a global level, in order to mitigate potential risks related to external conflicts, ecological disasters due to regional nuclear tests and maintenance of nuclear infrastructure in Latin America.

This analysis examines the specific legal and strategic points of friction between the protocols of the **Anti-Cartel Coalition of the Americas (ACCC)** of 2026 and the protections of **Treaty of Tlatelolco/OPANAL** established in 1967.

## 9.1 Legal Conflict: The "Strategic Shield" vs. The "Shield of Force"

The fundamental tension lies in the shift from a "passive" regional defense based on neutrality, towards an "active" military integration under external leadership.<sup>1</sup>

| <u>Feature</u>     | <u>OPANAL / Tlatelolco (1967)</u>                                | <u>ACCC / Shield of the Americas (2026)</u>                        |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <u>Legal Basis</u> | <u>Multilateral International Law (UN)</u>                       | <u>Intergovernmental Military Coalition (ACCC)</u>                 |
| <u>Command</u>     | <u>Sovereign and Autonomous (Regional Consensus)<sup>1</sup></u> | <u>Integrated (US Leadership)</u>                                  |
| <u>Assets</u>      | <u>Strictly peaceful nuclear technology<sup>1</sup></u>          | <u>"Lethal military force" and tactical deployment<sup>1</sup></u> |
| <u>Aim</u>         | <u>De-escalation and Non-Proliferation</u>                       | <u>Combat and Eradication of Threats</u>                           |

## 9.2 Critical Points of Jurisdictional Friction

### 1. Sovereignty and the "American Front"

The Treaty of Tlatelolco was designed as a "Strategic Shield" specifically to prevent Latin America from becoming a "backyard" or "collateral damage" of conflicts between global powers.<sup>1</sup>

- **The Conflict:** The protocols of the **ACCC** They require signatory nations to place their military capabilities under "U.S. leadership." This subordinate's regional militaries to the U.S. **"Donlo Doctrine"**, which envisions the region as the **"Greater North America"**, a direct challenge to the autonomy that Tlatelolco sought to preserve.<sup>2</sup>

### 2. The Definition of "Location and Control"

He **Article 1**The Tlatelolco Convention prohibits the "placement" or "control" of nuclear weapons by any party within the zone.

- **The Conflict:** Under the **Shield of the Americas** The U.S. has increased its naval presence to support counter-cartel operations. If this "lethal military force" includes the deployment of U.S. nuclear-powered or nuclear-armed assets (such as submarines or carrier groups) in the territorial waters of ACCC members, it would violate the non-embedding clause and the **Protocol II**, which requires that external powers respect the denuclearized status of the area.<sup>3</sup>

### 3. Militarization of "Peaceful Use"

Tlatelolco and the **IAEA** guarantee that the nuclear infrastructure (such as reactors) **SMR** planned through agreements (**CAF-OIEA**) must be used **strictly for peaceful purposes**.<sup>+1</sup>

- **The Conflict:** The ACCC's approach to the **rearmament** and coordinated military intervention pressures member states to align their technological research with defense needs. Critics argue that SMR infrastructure in countries like El Salvador or Argentina could be pressured to support the military logistics or energy needs of ACCC bases, blurring the line of "peaceful use."<sup>+3</sup>

## 9.3 The Paradigm Shift in 2026

While the **ACCC** offers a "convenient" military solution to cartel violence, threatens to dismantle the **"Shield of Tlatelolco"**, the legal barrier that has kept the region free from direct strategic control by the northern nuclear powers for almost 60 years.<sup>2</sup>

Based on the information analyzed about the **Treaty of Tlatelolco (1967)** and the recent summit of **Shield of the Americas (2026)** Strong conclusions can be drawn about the possibility that the United States, under the Trump administration and through the **ACCC**, promote a regional rearmament for nuclear military purposes.

Here are the key findings:

### A. Conventional Rearmament: An Ongoing Process

Through the **Americas Counter Cartel Coalition (ACCC)** The United States is already implementing a plan to **regional rearmament**.

- The main objective of the coalition is the **mobilization of military forces** to directly combat organized crime.
- The United States has formally committed to **train and mobilize allied troops** in the 12 signatory countries.
- This approach marks a break with the past: while Tlatelolco sought peace through disarmament, the **ACCC proposes peace through rearmament** and the coordinated military intervention.

### B. The Geopolitical Conflict with China and Russia

The creation of **Shield of the Americas** It responds directly to Washington's need to secure its "backyard" against hostile external influences.

- The so-called **"Donlo Doctrine"** It seeks to strengthen US hegemony in the Western Hemisphere.
- Although the official discourse focuses on the cartels, analysts indicate that "Operation Shield" projects a defense against **"old hostile influences"** (such as the Cuba-Russia alliance).
- The Secretary of Defense, **Peter Hegseth**, has defined a new strategic region that it calls the **"Greater North America"** extending Washington's control to the Panama Canal and surrounding countries.

## C. Reactivation of the Military Nuclear Purpose?

This is where the legal protection of 1967 clashes with the strategic ambition of 2026.

- **The Legal Barrier (OPANAL):** The **Treaty of Tlatelolco** it strictly prohibits the placement, control, or testing of nuclear weapons in the region. Furthermore, the **Protocol II** it obliges the powers (including China and Russia) to respect this status.
- **The Trojan Horse (SMR):** The implementation of **Small Modular Reactors (SMRs)** For "peaceful" purposes (CAF-IAEA agreements of 2025), this could be the blind spot. Although its use is civilian, the ACCC could lobby for this energy infrastructure to power **military logistics bases** under US command, blurring the line of "peaceful ends".
- **Integrated Control:** By placing its military capabilities under the **"American leadership at the forefront"** The ACCC countries could de facto cede control of the strategic space to a nuclear power, which would violate the spirit of autonomy of Tlatelolco.

---

**"The General Conclusion: It is highly likely that the US will use the ACCC for a massive conventional military rearmament in Latin America as a shield against China and Russia. However, a direct military nuclear reactivation would face an unprecedented legal crisis with the OPANAL, unless Washington manages to reinterpret the "peaceful use" of the new regional nuclear reactors for military logistics support purposes.**

---

### **Legal Notice:**

**This is a completely free research article, produced by a non-profit organization for purely informational purposes. Its distribution is authorized. exclusively by IT Capital, and any other use is not authorized by IT Capital or its authors.**

---

## Video Source:

[Excerpts from JFK's speech at American University, June 10, 1963](#)

YouTube video published on October 7, 2021

Link to YouTube: <https://youtu.be/gHEb1yD2qwo?si=KhnOCM008FIH5lpu>

---

Download link:

Full article in English:

---

## 8. Bibliography and Journalistic and Research References (Sources and Articles):

All the information contained in this article was extracted and supported by the following documentary sources:

1. **United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (2021).** *"Anniversary of the Treaty of Tlatelolco | UN Disarmament Chief"*United Nations.
2. **Book** *"The Treaty of Tlatelolco and the epicenter of nuclear weapons"*.
3. **Book***"The Treaty of Tlatelolco: historical context and characteristics"*.
4. **Documentary History.** *"The Mexican Nobel Peace Prize and the Treaty of Tlatelolco."*
5. **History.Culture.projects.** *"How Mexico Created the Largest Nuclear Free Zone on Earth"*.
6. **Millennium Channel.** *"Nuclear-weapon-free countries"*. YouTube.
7. **DW Español.** *"Why Latin America renounced the development of nuclear weapons"*.
8. **The Republic - LR+.** *"Why doesn't Latin America have nuclear weapons?"*.
9. **Millennium Channel.** *"Why did Mexico say NO to nuclear weapons?"*.
10. Research article "The New Nuclear World of the Americas" Roberto Patiño Hinojosa