The making of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) was closely linked with that of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, known more commonly as the Treaty of Tlatelolco. Mexican officials with Undersecretary of State Alfonso García Robles at the helm played central roles in negotiating the Treaty of Tlatelolco and in shaping the NPT. The results were a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Latin America and a more even balance of rights and obligations between nuclear-weapon states (NWS) and non-nuclear weapons states (NNWS) in the NPT, which constituted the treaty’s “grand bargain.”

**THE TREATY OF TLATELOLCO SET KEY PRECEDENTS FOR NPT**

- It was the first treaty to specify the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as the agency responsible for applying full-scope safeguards on nuclear activities.
- Its Article 17 detailing a right to “nuclear energy for peaceful purposes” was the model for Article IV of the NPT.

**NNWSs BENEFITED FROM FOUR MEXICAN AMENDMENTS TO NPT**

- Draft Article IV was expanded to lay down the rights of states parties to and the special duty of nuclear-weapon states to facilitate “the fullest possible exchange of information on peaceful uses of atomic energy.”
- Article V provided for an international service to supply ‘peaceful nuclear explosives.’
- Article VI embodied, according to Mexican diplomats, “a solemn recognition of the special responsibility of the nuclear Powers,” to “undertake to pursue negotiations in good faith” for nuclear arms control.
- Article VII ensured that the NPT would not affect “the right of any group of states to conclude regional [denuclearization] treaties.”

**LATIN AMERICAN STATES WON MAJOR CONCESSIONS FROM NWSs IN FINAL UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY DEBATES ON THE NPT**

- Numerous NWSs agreed to ratify Protocol II of the Treaty of Tlatelolco in exchange for Latin American votes.
- Article IV of the NPT was further expanded to require exchanges of nuclear-related equipment and materials in addition to information.
- A statement was added to the NPT’s preamble that invoked the UN Charter’s prohibition against states employing “the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State.”