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## **Around the World**

# **21 Latin N**

MEXICO CITY—Twenty-one Latin American and Caribbean countries formally approved a treaty yesterday establishing the area as a nuclear-free zone.

The document will be signed Tuesday in the Mexican Foreign Ministry building after the almost four years of negotiations. There were indications that the five nuclear powers may not immediately sign the protocols attached to the treaty that would bind them to observe treaty provisions. The United States indicated it might make a unilateral statement supporting the treaty and pledging not to violate its provisions.

The treaty bans nuclear weapons in a huge zone of the Western Hemisphere between the United States and Antarctica, but does not prevent the peaceful uses of atomic energy in the zone.

The United States may not sign the treaty because it objects to the inclusion of the Virgin Islands and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in the zone. Cuba has taken no part in the negotiations and has said it will not sign.