

Exhibit 3a.

13/07/2004

## Press Release

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### UN CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT ISSUES ON “MOUNTING CHALLENGES TO PEACE AND SECURITY AND DISARMAMENT TODAY” TO CONVENE IN SAPPORO, JAPAN, 26-29 JULY

NEW YORK, 13 July (Department for Disarmament Affairs) – A United Nations Conference on Disarmament Issues will be held from 26 to 29 July 2004 in Sapporo, Japan, to address new challenges to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. In close cooperation with the Government of Japan, Sapporo City and Hokkaido Prefecture, the Conference is organized by the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific of the Department for Disarmament Affairs.

The Conference will discuss the following topics: mounting challenges to nuclear non-proliferation and international response to them, nuclear black market, strengthening the IAEA, challenges and prospects of the 2005 NPT Review Conference, strengthening multilateralism, regional security in Northeast Asia and the role of civil society.

Approximately 60 participants, from government, academic institutes, non-governmental organizations and the press will attend the Conference, in their personal capacity.

The Conference is entirely financed through voluntary contributions made to the Regional Centre by the Government of Japan, Sapporo City and Hokkaido Prefecture.

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