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CESSATION OF ALL TEST EXPLOSIONS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

URGENT NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

Letter dated 15 January 1987 from the Permanent Representative
of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the communiqué issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 13 January 1987.

"The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua has carefully analysed the statement made by the Soviet Government concerning a universal moratorium on nuclear tests, in which the following three basic points were made:

- "1. The Soviet Union is again proposing that comprehensive negotiations on the complete banning of nuclear tests be opened without delay.
- "2. The USSR is prepared to continue its moratorium; however, it will resume nuclear testing as soon as the United States carries out its first nuclear trial in 1987.
- "3. If the United States discontinues nuclear testing, the USSR will be prepared to discontinue the implementation of its nuclear testing programme.

In the view of Nicaragua, a member of the Non-Aligned Movement and a staunch defender of international peace and security, the existence of nuclear arms threatens mankind's survival. Accordingly, Nicaragua has strongly supported the efforts of the international community, particularly those of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of Six, with a view to curbing the nuclear-arms race. Curbing that race will help - and this is a matter of the utmost urgency - to make our planet a safer place and one less threatened with extinction.

On this basis, we have categorically condemned the theory that world peace and security should be based on nuclear deterrence for that theory denies the peaceful principles of the United Nations Charter and creates an unthinkable 'balance' based on mutual fear.

In that same spirit, Nicaragua has been in favour of arranging a multilateral comprehensive treaty concerning the complete banning of all types of nuclear weapons and negotiating an international treaty concerning the banning of the threat or use of nuclear weapons.

Conscious of the dangers that stem from a nuclear era, Nicaragua, together with the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement, welcomed the unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests which the USSR declared in August 1985 and which it has extended several times. At the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at Harare, Zimbabwe, Nicaragua joined in the appeal to the United States to join in the moratorium declared by the USSR and urged the latter to maintain that moratorium.

Eighteen months have elapsed since the Soviet Union declared the moratorium and no one can doubt the profound significance of that declaration which gave rise to real hope in the search for a world free from the nuclear threat. Nevertheless, the Soviet decision was not followed by a similar decision on the part of the United States. Nicaragua welcomes the willingness of the USSR to continue its moratorium and its readiness to halt nuclear tests on the basis of reciprocity with the United States Government.

Nicaragua is convinced that discontinuance of nuclear testing by both parties will be an achievement of tremendous importance for mankind. Nevertheless, this possibility of peace depends on mutual responsibilities and concessions. In that connection, Nicaragua appeals to the United States Government to refrain from conducting a first nuclear test during 1987, thereby establishing the basis for the USSR to maintain the moratorium as it has offered to do. Nicaragua is convinced that this would help to curb the nuclear-arms race as a first step towards the eradication of nuclear weapons, thereby benefiting our planet, which is hovering between the tremendous benefits that would ensue from peaceful coexistence and the total destruction that would result from an unthinkable nuclear conflagration."

I should be grateful if you would see to it that this communiqué is circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under the items entitled "Cessation of all test explosions of nuclear weapons" and "Urgent need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty".

(Signed) Nora ASTORGA
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
