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LETTER DATED 2 OCTOBER 1958 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS TO THE UNITED NATIONS,
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

New York, 2 October 1958

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a note dated 1 October 1958 from the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to the Government of the United States concerning the discontinuance of atomic and hydrogen weapons tests.

I should be glad if you would arrange for this note to be issued as an official United Nations document and circulated to all States Members of the United Nations.

(Signed) A. SOBOLEV
Permanent Representative of the USSR
to the United Nations

58-22944

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NOTE FROM THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
dated 1 October 1958

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR presents its compliments to the Embassy of the United States of America and, in connexion with the Embassy's note No. 262 of 10 September 1958,^{1/} has the honour to make the following statement on the instructions of the Soviet Government.

Note is taken of the United States Government's favourable reply to the Soviet Government's proposal that negotiations on the discontinuance of nuclear weapons tests by all the Powers possessing such weapons should be held at Geneva. The date on which the negotiations are to begin - 31 October 1958 - and the place where they are to be held may accordingly be regarded as having been agreed upon.

As regards the objectives of the forthcoming conference, the Soviet Government deems it necessary to reaffirm its position, set forth in the Ministry's note of 30 August, that the purpose of such a conference is to conclude an agreement on the permanent discontinuance of atomic and hydrogen weapons tests by the States and to establish an appropriate control system for the enforcement of such an agreement.

Now that the conference of experts which met at Geneva has confirmed that no atomic or hydrogen weapons tests can escape detection there can be nothing to prevent those Powers which possess nuclear weapons from concluding an agreement to discontinue the testing of all types of atomic and hydrogen weapons immediately and for all time.

Inasmuch as the immediate general discontinuance of nuclear weapons tests is an urgent problem which affects the vital interests of all mankind, the Soviet Government hopes that the participants in the conference will make every effort to ensure that an appropriate agreement is arrived at and signed as rapidly as possible.

Consequently, the Soviet Government believes that the conference should be held at the level of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Soviet Union, the United States and the United Kingdom.

The Soviet Government expresses the hope that the United States Government will give careful study to these proposals by the Soviet Government and will make a favourable reply to them.
