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LETTER DATED 1 AUGUST 1958 FROM THE ACTING PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE
UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour on instructions from Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom to transmit to you the texts of letters addressed by the Right Honourable Harold Macmillan M.P., Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, to Mr. Nikita S. Khrushchev, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the 22nd of July, the 26th of July and the 31st of July.

I should be grateful if these texts could be circulated for the information of members of the United Nations.

I have the honour to be, etc.

(Signed) H. Beeley
Acting Permanent
Representative to
the United Nations

1. TEXT OF LETTER SENT BY MR. MACMILLAN TO MR. KHRUSHCHEV ON JULY 22

I am now able to send you a considered reply to your message of July 19 about the situation in the Middle East. As I explained in my interim reply which will have reached you earlier today this is a matter which Her Majesty's Government have considered in consultation with our allies.

I shall come quickly to the point of your letter. First, however, I wish to make it plain that I do not share your judgement that the world is on the verge of a military catastrophe. I say this in full and certain knowledge of the pacific intentions of the Western Powers and in the belief that the Soviet Government would not themselves take a step which would lead to world war.

I also wish to forestall any misunderstanding by saying at once that I cannot accept in any particular your description of the action which we have taken in sending troops to Jordan, of our motives, or of the situation in Jordan itself. As has been made abundantly clear, the sole reason for our action in Jordan was to protect a small and independent country which had appealed for help against the threat of aggression and subversion stimulated from without.

However, although I reject your premises, it by no means follows that I reject your conclusion. Indeed I agree with you that it would be useful if Heads of Government could find an early opportunity to meet and discuss the Middle East. I should certainly be glad to explain to you face to face how Her Majesty's Government view the problems which beset the area.

I was glad to see that in your message you referred, with marked disapproval, to the idea of "circumventing the United Nations". As you know, the Security Council already has under consideration certain questions concerning the Middle East. I hope that you will agree that the proceedings in the Security Council should not be circumvented but that the discussions for which you have asked should take place in that forum thus providing continuity. Article 28 (2) of the United Nations Charter enables the Security Council to hold meetings at which each of its members may, if it so desires, be represented by a member of the Government or by some other specially designated representative. I would certainly be ready to go to New York for such a meeting if you would also go: and I take it from the terms of your message that you would.

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It would not be the intention of Her Majesty's Government that any resolutions should be put forward at this special meeting of the Security Council unless they arose out of previous agreement. In other words, the object would be to reach fruitful agreements rather than to register differences by votes. I hope that this spirit will prevail.

You hoped that we might meet in Geneva today. I hope that we may meet soon in New York in accordance with the plan I have suggested.

2. TEXT OF LETTER SENT BY MR. MACMILLAN TO MR. KHRUSHCHEV ON JULY 26

Thank you for your message of July 23.

I am sorry that in spite of your statement that you do not want to enter into polemics you should still have felt it necessary to repeat accusations of Western aggression which have no foundation. Nevertheless, I have noted with satisfaction the main point of your letter which is that you have accepted my view that certain Middle East problems should be discussed at a Security Council meeting in New York under the provisions of Article 28 of the United Nations Charter which permits Heads of Government to be present. I repeat that I would certainly be ready to go to New York for such a meeting if you would also go.

I suggest that the necessary arrangements should be made through the Permanent Representatives of the members of the Security Council and that they should be requested to reach agreement about the date of the Council's first meeting under Article 28 and to decide what other states should be invited to be represented. The work could begin without delay in close consultation with the Secretary-General.

3. TEXT OF LETTER SENT BY MR. MACMILLAN TO MR. KHRUSHCHEV ON JULY 31

I have received your letter of July 28. I will not reply to its many accusations against allied policy in the Middle East. None of these has any foundation in fact.

In my letter of July 22 I proposed a special meeting of the Security Council to be attended by Heads of Government. On July 26 I elaborated this proposal. I said that I was glad that it was acceptable to you and I suggested that the necessary arrangements should at once be made through the permanent

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representatives of members of the Security Council. I hope that on reflection you will agree that this is the best course; I am encouraged in this hope by the passage in your last letter where you call for a return to my original proposal. From this proposal I have never departed.

In addition to meetings of the whole Council under Article 28 it would of course be possible to arrange less formal meetings of Heads of Government on the questions which the Security Council is considering. The procedure would thus be flexible and should promote the chances of making progress. As I said in my message of July 22 it would not be our intention that any resolutions should be put forward at this special meeting of the Security Council unless they arose out of previous agreement.

Of course this meeting would not preclude the holding of the Summit Meeting for which we have been working for some time.

I am now instructing the United Kingdom permanent representative at the United Nations to propose to the President of the Security Council a special meeting to take place under Article 28 on August 12. Meanwhile the permanent representatives should discuss arrangements for the special meeting and decide where it will take place. If this meeting is agreed I shall be there on August 12. I hope you will be there too. So far as I am concerned New York, Geneva or any other place generally agreeable will do.

