

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



NY 5108
26 March 1962

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 26 MARCH 1962 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
FINLAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to request that the text of my letter of 2 March 1962, setting forth the views of the Government of Finland concerning specific undertakings by countries not possessing nuclear weapons referred to in resolution 1664 (XVI) of 4 December 1961, be circulated as an official United Nations document.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Ralph ENCKELL
Permanent Representative of Finland

New York, 2 March 1962

Excellency,

By a letter of 2 January 1962, you have requested the Government of Finland to submit its views on the conditions under which it might be willing to enter into specific undertakings to refrain from manufacturing or otherwise acquiring nuclear weapons and to refuse to receive in the future such weapons on its territory on behalf of any other country.

The Government of Finland points out that in the peace treaty of 1947 between Finland and the Allied and Associated Powers Finland has undertaken "not to possess, construct or experiment with any atomic weapon". It further follows from the policy of neutrality pursued by Finland that Finland does not agree to receive on its territory nuclear weapons or any other military equipment on behalf of any other country.

With reference to the idea of creating nuclear-free zones based on mutual undertakings between several States, the Government of Finland considers that while general and complete disarmament under effective international control, in accordance with the resolution unanimously adopted at the fourteenth session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, must be regarded as the ultimate aim, efforts towards this end undoubtedly would be advanced by such partial measures as would limit the further development and spread of nuclear weapons. Accordingly the Government of Finland has repeatedly emphasized, both in the United Nations and in other connexions, the importance of achieving an agreement on the banning of nuclear tests. A similar purpose would be served in the event that States not possessing nuclear weapons were to enter into undertakings, subject to appropriate control, not to manufacture, acquire or receive nuclear weapons by concluding agreements on the creation of nuclear-free zones which the nuclear Powers would commit themselves to respect. In the opinion of the Government of Finland, the creation of such nuclear-free zones covering wide areas would be a significant contribution to the relaxation of international tension.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Ralph ENCKELL
Permanent Representative of Finland