



Eighteenth session

NOTE VERBALE DATED 7 AUGUST 1963 FROM THE PERMANENT
MISSION OF BULGARIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour, on the instructions of its Government, to transmit enclosed herewith the Declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria of 27 July 1963 on the reaching in Moscow of an accord for a treaty between the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland banning the nuclear tests in the atmosphere, in space and under water.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to circulate the aforesaid Declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to all Members of the United Nations.

STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA
CONCERNING THE AGREEMENT REACHED TO BAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS IN
THE ATMOSPHERE, IN OUTER SPACE AND UNDER WATER

The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the entire Bulgarian people hail the agreement reached at Moscow by the Governments of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to conclude a Treaty banning nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water.

The Bulgarian people, just as the peoples of other countries, regards the agreement to ban nuclear weapons tests as a vital step forward, one which opens up new and brighter prospects for the solution of the most thorny and pressing problem confronting the world today - the problem of general and complete disarmament.

The Bulgarian Government and people greet this agreement between the three Powers with the warmest approval. The People's Republic of Bulgaria has always advocated the elimination of nuclear weapons. In the United Nations, in the Eighteen-Nation Committee on Disarmament meeting at Geneva and in all international conferences and meetings, the People's Republic of Bulgaria has unceasingly maintained that it is both possible and necessary to put an end to nuclear testing, to halt the armaments race and the dissemination of nuclear weapons and to cease contaminating man's environment with radioactive substances.

The nuclear test ban Treaty could have been concluded a long time ago if the supporters of the "positions-of-strength" policy and the "cold war" had not placed artificial obstacles in the way of agreement. It is only as a result of the insistent and patient efforts of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, as well as the efforts of all peace-loving men throughout the world, that it has now become possible to take this first step towards the solution of the problems of disarmament.

The meeting of the First Secretaries of Central Committees of the Communist and Workers' Parties and of the Heads of Government of the States members of the Warsaw Pact, which took place several days ago, endorsed the results of the Moscow negotiations which led to the agreement to conclude a Treaty banning nuclear

tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water. The Bulgarian Government is prepared to accede to this Treaty and hopes that it will enter into force as soon as possible.

The favourable issue of the Moscow negotiations is an event of the greatest international significance. It must not be forgotten, however, that it is only an initial step towards realization of the major objective - general and complete disarmament - on which mankind's future ultimately depends. The Moscow talks demonstrate anew that, given goodwill on the part of the States concerned, it is possible to find mutually acceptable solutions and to enter upon a path which may lead to the settlement of this problem and of many other important international problems urgently requiring solution: the conclusion of a non-aggression pact between the States belonging to NATO and the member nations of the Warsaw Pact, the reduction of military budgets of States, the adoption of steps to prevent the possibility of surprise attack, the elimination of the after-effects of the Second World War, the establishment of atom-free zones, etc. The conclusion of a non-aggression pact between the States members of the Warsaw Pact and the member nations of NATO would constitute a fresh victory for the forces of peace and a serious impediment to attempts to revive the cold-war policies.

The agreement reached to conclude a Treaty banning nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water will do much to increase trust among States and improve the international atmosphere. It will also create more favourable conditions for the conversion of the Balkans and the Mediterranean basin into atom-free zones. The Bulgarian Government will continue, in future as well, to do all required of it for the achievement of that end. It trusts that in view of the new possibilities for the favourable development of international relations, the Governments concerned, responding to the aspirations of their peoples, will not fail to offer their fullest co-operation in order to transform the Balkans and the Mediterranean basin into areas of peace and international accord.

The first step taken - the nuclear test ban agreement - demands of the peoples, the Governments and all men of goodwill throughout the world redoubled efforts to achieve further and even more substantial results in the endeavour to solve the

other important problems on which world peace depends. The People's Republic of Bulgaria will continue in the future to make its contribution towards the conclusion of an agreement on general and complete disarmament, for only the solution of this problem can halt the armaments race and free the world from the constant threat of thermonuclear war.

Sofia, 27 July 1963
