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INDIA: REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ITEM IN THE
PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION

URGENT NEED FOR SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMO-NUCLEAR TESTS

Letter dated 27 June 1963 from the Permanent Representative of India
to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General

In continuation of my letter of 18 June 1963, proposing that the item "Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests" be included in the provisional agenda of the eighteenth session of the General Assembly, I have the honour to enclose an explanatory memorandum in accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

(Signed) B.N. CHAKRAVARTY
Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of India
to the United Nations

Explanatory Memorandum on "Urgent need for suspension
of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests"

The General Assembly, at its seventeenth session, in resolution 1762 A (XVII) of 6 November 1962, condemned all nuclear weapon tests, asked that such tests should cease immediately and not later than 1 January 1963, and recommended that "if, against all hope, the parties concerned do not reach agreement on the cessation of all tests by 1 January 1963, they should enter into an immediate agreement prohibiting nuclear weapon tests in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water, accompanied by an interim arrangement suspending all underground tests". This resolution was the outcome of the deep concern and anxiety felt by the peoples of the world at the continued testing of nuclear weapons, with all its attendant dangers and evils - both physical and psychological.

In spite of this and earlier resolutions of the General Assembly, such tests continue and no agreement has yet been reached on banning them. The latest development which gives some ground for hope is the meeting of high level representatives of the three Powers concerned, viz., the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in July at Moscow to discuss the question of a test-ban agreement.

The continuation of nuclear weapon tests seriously endangers the health of mankind, accelerates the arms race, aggravates international tension, makes the conclusion of a test-ban agreement more difficult and would lead to a wider dissemination of nuclear weapons. Hence the suspension of all nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests remains a vital and urgent need.

In view of the urgency and importance of this problem, the Government of India request that an item entitled "Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests" be inscribed in the agenda for consideration by the General Assembly at its eighteenth session.