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CONCLUSION OF A TREATY ON THE COMPLETE AND GENERAL
PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR-WEAPON TESTS

Letter dated 3 June 1977 from the Permanent Representative
of Nigeria to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General

At its thirty-first session, the General Assembly, in its resolution 31/89 of 14 December 1976, again called upon all nuclear-weapon States, in accordance with Assembly resolution 3478 (XXX) of 11 December 1975, to proceed as soon as possible with negotiations on the conclusion of a treaty on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, with the participation of non-nuclear-weapon States.

I have the honour to inform you that, in order to contribute to the implementation of the provisions of these resolutions, the group of 26 non-nuclear-weapon States, appointed for participation in the negotiations, held an unofficial meeting at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 2 May 1977.

The group took note of the fact that, in an official letter addressed to you (A/32/60), the Soviet Union reaffirmed its readiness to participate in the aforementioned negotiations.

The 26 non-nuclear-weapon States, whilst appreciative of the response of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, consider that for the purpose of implementing the General Assembly resolutions it is essential that all nuclear-weapon States should participate in the negotiations.

At the same time, the group took into account that since its informal consultations in June 1976, of which I had the honour to inform Your Excellency (A/31/108), proposals had been made and relevant documents submitted to the General Assembly, as was specifically noted in resolution 31/89, with a view to finding a compromise basis for a generally acceptable understanding regarding the supervision of compliance with an international agreement on the cessation of all types of nuclear-weapon tests.

* A/32/50/Rev.1.

The group expressed the opinion that this fact as well as the reaffirmation by the General Assembly of the pressing need to begin the negotiations with the aim of reaching an agreement on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests enhance the responsibility of all States for the implementation of the obligations imposed on them in this regard by the General Assembly.

Accordingly, the members of the group of non-nuclear-weapon States directed that I should, on their behalf, request Your Excellency to convene an official meeting of the States appointed by the General Assembly and its President for the negotiations on the complete and general prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests in order to discuss the necessary measures to be undertaken for the implementation of the provisions of resolutions 3478 (XXX) and 31/89.

I was also authorized to request you, in accordance with paragraph 2 of resolution 31/89, to render every assistance for holding such a meeting and, taking into account the importance of the question, to participate personally in this meeting. The tireless efforts of Your Excellency in this regard have been noted with appreciation.

I shall be grateful if you will circulate this letter as a document of the General Assembly under item 49 of the preliminary list.

(Signed) L. O. HARRIMAN
Ambassador and Permanent Representative
of Nigeria to the United Nations
