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LETTER DATED 22 OCTOBER 1958 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE
UNITED NATIONS, ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

New York, 22 October 1958

I have the honour to transmit the text of a Note delivered to the Ministry
of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on 20 October by
Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy in Moscow.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for it to be circulated for the
information of all Members of the United Nations.

(Signed) Pierson DIXON

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Her Britannic Majesty's Embassy present their compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and have the honour to refer to the Ministry's Note of 1 October 1958, about the negotiations which are to take place at Geneva on 31 October among the Governments of the United States, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and United Kingdom on the question of the suspension of nuclear weapons tests and the establishment of an international control system.

Her Majesty's Government take note of the statement in the Soviet Note that the aim of the Conference would be the conclusion of an agreement to cease tests of atomic and hydrogen weapons by States for ever, and the establishment of appropriate control over the implementation of such an agreement. For their part it is the sincere and earnest hope of Her Majesty's Government that the Conference will make sufficient progress to justify the expectation that the final termination of all nuclear tests explosions may in due course be achieved. Her Majesty's Government have always accepted as a most desirable objective the final termination of nuclear test explosions; but they feel it necessary to draw attention once more to the terms of their statement of 22 August 1958, which was communicated to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the Embassy's note of that day. In this statement Her Majesty's Government declared that they would be prepared to refrain from nuclear tests, for further successive periods of one year after the initial suspension of one year, provided that the Soviet Union would do the same, and that satisfactory progress had been made towards the installation of an effective system of international control over the suspension of nuclear tests and towards the adoption and execution of measures of real disarmament. If sufficient progress can be made in this way at the Geneva Conference which is to open on 31 October, and subsequently in the practical introduction of an effective international system of control and the adoption and execution of measures of real disarmament, then there is no reason why any of the three Powers participating in it should, after the Conference has met, ever again require to conduct nuclear test explosions.

For their part Her Majesty's Government attach the greatest importance to ensuring the success of the Geneva negotiations and the conclusion of a satisfactory agreement as soon as possible, and Her Majesty's Government have no objection in

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principle to the attendance of Foreign Ministers at these negotiations. But it should be recognized that in order to bring the negotiations to a successful conclusion much detailed work will be necessary to deal with the complex political and technical matters entailed in putting into effect the recommendations of the earlier Geneva Conference of Experts. Her Majesty's Government consider, therefore, that it would be impracticable for Foreign Ministers to attend for the whole duration of the conference. If, as the discussions proceed, the presence of Foreign Ministers seems necessary and desirable, Mr. Selwyn Lloyd would be prepared to attend.
