

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



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LETTER DATED 12 SEPTEMBER 1961 FROM THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF GUATEMALA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to ask you to be good enough to have the following statement circulated to the delegations of Member States:

"The Government of Guatemala views the resumption by the Soviet Government of nuclear testing in the atmosphere with deep sorrow and concern.

"Scientists and experts in the matter have pointed out the immense dangers which atomic explosions entail for mankind and they have advocated the discontinuance of such explosions, since radiation is extremely harmful, if not lethal, to the human species.

"The world views the attitude of the Soviet Government with horror and disapproval. Many countries have protested against the current tests and are clamouring for their suspension; fear is increasing with the announcement concerning super-bombs of inconceivable destructive power.

"The Russian decision can only intensify and increase the armaments race among States and incite countries which so far have no nuclear or thermo-nuclear weapons to procure them; when this happens, disarmament will become impossible.

"The pollution of the atmosphere through atomic radiation endangers the health and safety of the people of the world; the blame for this rests solely and exclusively on the consciences of those who use nuclear explosions to further their propaganda designed to intimidate the countries which cherish peace and international coexistence.

"For the above reasons, the Government of Guatemala protests against, repudiates and condemns, and holds the Moscow Government responsible for the resumption of nuclear tests and for the damage such tests cause to the people of the earth."

(Signed) Guillermo FLORES AVENDAÑO
Permanent Representative