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LETTER DATED 22 OCTOBER 1958 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, ADDRESSED
TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

New York, 22 October 1958

The Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations presents his compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit the attached text of the United States reply of 20 October to the Soviet note of 1 October (A/3940) regarding the negotiations to commence 31 October on the suspension of nuclear tests.

The Representative of the United States has the honour to request that the Secretary-General arrange to circulate the text of this note of 20 October as a document of the United Nations.

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TEXT OF A NOTE DELIVERED TO THE SOVIET MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, 20 OCTOBER 1958

The Embassy of the United States of America presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and has the honour to refer to note 58/OSA of 1 October 1958, regarding arrangements for the meeting on suspension of nuclear tests and establishment of an international control system scheduled to begin in Geneva among the United States, United Kingdom and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on 31 October.

The United States takes note of the Soviet statement that the aim of the conference would be the conclusion of an agreement to cease tests of atomic and hydrogen weapons by all States forever, and the establishment of appropriate control over the implementation of such an agreement. It is the sincere hope of the United States that the conference will make sufficient progress to justify the expectation that the final termination of all nuclear weapons test explosions may in due course be achieved. The United States has always accepted as a most desirable objective the final termination of nuclear weapons test explosions. However, the United States feels it necessary to refer once again to the terms of the statement of the President of the United States of 22 August 1958. In this statement, President Eisenhower declared that the United States would be prepared to refrain from nuclear weapons tests for further successive periods of one year after the initial suspension of one year, provided that the Soviet Union would do the same, that the agreed inspection system is installed and working effectively, and that satisfactory progress is being made in reaching agreement on and implementing major and substantive arms control measures. If sufficient progress can be made at the Geneva conference which is to open on 31 October and if subsequently these objectives are effectively achieved without undue delays, the world could then be confident that nuclear weapons testing would never be resumed by the parties to the agreement.

The United States considers that an agreement for the suspension of nuclear weapons testing under international control should be worked out as rapidly as possible. In view of the complexities of detecting and verifying violations of an

agreement on suspension of nuclear tests which are revealed in the report of the Geneva Conference of Experts, careful and detailed negotiations will be required for an agreement of such importance, however, and the United States considers that this work should be initiated on 31 October at the diplomatic level. If, as the discussions at the diplomatic level proceed, the presence of Foreign Ministers seems necessary and desirable, the Secretary of State would be prepared to attend.
