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SUPPLEMENTARY LIST OF ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA OF THE
FOURTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:
ITEM PROPOSED BY INDIA

SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMO-NUCLEAR TESTS

Letter dated 16 August 1959 from the Permanent Representative of India
to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General

New York, 16 August 1959

In accordance with the instructions of the Government of India and pursuant to rule 14 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to propose the following supplementary item for inclusion in the agenda of the fourteenth regular session of the General Assembly:

"SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMO-NUCLEAR TESTS"

2. The explanatory memorandum in terms of rule 20 of the rules of procedure is attached.

(Signed) C.S. JHA

Permanent Representative of India
to the United Nations

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The United Nations has for several years been discussing the problem of suspending nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests. The General Assembly considered it during the tenth, eleventh, twelfth and thirteenth sessions and India submitted draft resolutions on this subject on numerous occasions.

2. The Government of India have repeatedly drawn the attention of the United Nations to the deterioration in the situation over the last few years by the development and accumulation of new weapons, the increase in the number of countries possessing them and the possibility of further increases. With the developments in the field of armament and the progress made in outer space missiles, any major conflict may result in the annihilation of the world's population and the extinction of all forms of life. There is an ever-growing hazard with incalculable consequences from the continuing accumulation of radiation from test explosion of nuclear weapons. Future generations are not safe from this hazard. The Government of India have noted with concern that the number of countries possessing nuclear weapons may soon be increased and thus considerably add to the current dangerous possibilities.

3. The report of experts who met at Geneva in 1958 to study the feasibility of detecting the violation of a possible agreement on the suspension of nuclear tests indicated that it was technically and scientifically practicable to establish arrangements in order to ensure the observance of any agreement on the discontinuance of such tests. As a consequence of this report, the States which are testing such weapons met in a conference which commenced in Geneva on 31 October 1958, with a view to reaching agreement on the discontinuance of such tests. Such information as the Government of India have of the proceedings of this conference shows that some progress has been made at the conference. The Government of India hope that the efforts made at Geneva will reach a successful conclusion and are at the same time anxious that the United Nations should be associated with any decision which may be taken on this important subject. It may also be recalled that by its resolution 1252 (XIII) the General Assembly expected to be seized of this problem on a continuing basis. It is the view of the Government of India that in the unfortunate event of no agreement being reached

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at Geneva in the near future, a discussion of this problem at the forthcoming session of the General Assembly should contribute to its early and satisfactory solution. In the circumstances the Government of India have proposed the item "Suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests" for the agenda of the fourteenth session of the Assembly.
