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## CESSATION OF ALL TEST EXPLOSIONS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

## URGENT NEED FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY

Letter dated 15 January 1987 from the Permanent Representative  
of Nicaragua to the United Nations addressed to the  
Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the communiqué issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 13 January 1987.

"The Government of the Republic of Nicaragua has carefully analysed the statement made by the Soviet Government concerning a universal moratorium on nuclear tests, in which the following three basic points were made;

"1. The Soviet Union is again proposing that comprehensive negotiations on the complete banning of nuclear tests be opened without delay.

"2. The USSR is prepared to continue its moratorium; however, it will resume nuclear testing as soon as the United States carries out its first nuclear test in 1987.

"3. If the United States discontinues nuclear testing, the USSR will be prepared to discontinue the implementation of its nuclear testing programme.

In the view of Nicaragua, a member of the Non-Aligned Movement and a staunch defender of international peace and security, the existence of nuclear arms threatens mankind's survival. Accordingly, Nicaragua has strongly supported the efforts of the international community, particularly those of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Group of Six, with a view to curbing the nuclear-arms race. Curbing that race will help - and this is a matter of the utmost urgency - to make our planet a safer place and one less threatened with extinction,

On this basis, we have **categorically** condemned the theory that world **peace** and security should be based on nuclear deterrence for **that** theory denies the peaceful Principles of the United Nations Charter and creates an unthinkable 'balance' based on mutual fear.

In that **same** spirit, Nicaragua has **been in** favour of arranging a multilateral comprehensive treaty concerning the complete **banning** of all types of nuclear weapons and **negotiating** an international treaty concerning the **banning** of the threat or use of nuclear **weapons**.

Conscious of the **dangers** that stem from a nuclear era, Nicaragua, **together** with the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement, welcomed the unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests which the USSR declared in August 1985 and which it has extended several times. At the Eighth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries held at **Harare**, Zimbabwe, **Nicaragua** joined in the appeal to the United States to join in the moratorium declared by the USSR and **urged** the latter to maintain that moratorium.

Eighteen months have elapsed since the Soviet Union declared the moratorium and no one can doubt the profound **significance** of that declaration which gave rise to real **hope** in the search for a world free from the nuclear threat. Nevertheless, the Soviet decision was not followed by a similar decision on the part of the United States. Nicaragua welcomes the willingness of the USSR to continue its moratorium and its readiness to halt nuclear tests on the basis of reciprocity with the United States Government.

Nicaragua is convinced that discontinuance of nuclear testing by both Parties will be an achievement of tremendous **importance** for mankind. Nevertheless, this possibility of **peace** depends on mutual responsibilities and concessions. In that connection, Nicaragua **appeals** to the United States Government to refrain from conducting a first nuclear test **during** 1987, thereby **establishing** the basis for the USSR to maintain the moratorium as it has offered to do. Nicaragua is convinced that this would help to curb the nuclear-arms race as a first **step** towards the eradication of nuclear weapons, thereby benefiting our Planet, which is **hovering** between the tremendous benefits that would ensue from peaceful coexistence and the total destruction that would result from an unthinkable nuclear **conflagration**."

I should be grateful if you would see to it that this **communiqué** is circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under **the** items entitled "Cessation of all test explosions of nuclear weapons" and "**Urgent** need for a comprehensive nuclear-test-ban treaty".

(Signed) **Nora ASTORGA**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

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