



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



Distr.
GENERAL

A/4414
20 July 1960

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifteenth session

PROVISIONAL AGENDA OF THE FIFTEENTH REGULAR SESSION OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY: ITEM PROPOSED BY INDIA

SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMO-NUCLEAR TESTS

Letter dated 19 July 1960 from the Permanent Representative of India
to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General

New York, 19 July 1960

1. In accordance with the instructions of the Government of India and pursuant to rule 13 (e) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, I have the honour to propose the following item for inclusion in the provisional agenda of the fifteenth 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
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of India to the
United Nations

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. The cessation of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests has long been a subject of concern to the United Nations. The General Assembly has considered the problem at its last five sessions and at its fourteenth session adopted two resolutions on the subject, by votes of 78 and 60 in favour. These resolutions took note of the negotiations in progress at Geneva, expressed appreciation to the States concerned for their patient and sincere efforts to reach agreement and further expressed the hope that agreement would be reached at an early date. The Assembly also appealed to the States concerned in the Geneva discussions to continue their present voluntary suspension of tests and appealed to other States to desist from such tests. In addition, the States concerned were requested to report to the Disarmament Commission and to the General Assembly the results of their negotiations.
2. No report has so far been made to either the Disarmament Commission or the General Assembly. Such information as the Government of India has of the negotiations at Geneva indicates that these continue to make progress though less rapid than the Assembly had hoped. Meanwhile, the situation which these negotiations are designed to control has worsened. The growth of nuclear stockpiles, the development of new weapons, the progress made in the production of missiles and in launching satellites into outer space now add to possible future tests an additional dimension of danger. At the same time, the radiation from previous tests continues and even increases and the consequences for future generations have yet to be determined. Finally, the number of countries possessing nuclear weapons has increased; tests have taken place, notwithstanding the General Assembly's appeal and there is every possibility that yet more countries may be in a position to manufacture and to test nuclear weapons thus adding further to the existing hazards.
3. Both the progress made in producing nuclear weapons and the widening knowledge of how to produce them make it urgent that agreement should speedily be reached on an agreement to cease tests which would command world-wide adherence. Failure to reach such an agreement adds to existing tensions, reduces the prospects of progress in disarmament and poses a progressive threat to the well-being of

present and future generations. The General Assembly also cannot remain insensitive to the mounting pressure of world public opinion for the cessation of nuclear weapons tests.

4. In these circumstances, it is the view of the Government of India that a renewed appeal should be addressed to the Powers taking part in the negotiations at Geneva to redouble their efforts to reach agreement and that the Assembly should also call upon all States to desist from the testing of nuclear weapons. The Government of India, accordingly, propose the item "Suspension of nuclear and thermo-nuclear tests" for the agenda of the fifteenth session of the General Assembly.
