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NOTE VERBALE DATED 9 APRIL 1962 FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE ACTING SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Mission of the Hungarian People's Republic to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General, and has the honour to request that the letter of 30 March 1962, addressed to the Secretary-General by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Hungarian People's Republic, in reply to the Secretary-General's letter of 2 January 1962 concerning General Assembly resolution 1664 (XVI), be circulated as an official United Nations document.

Budapest, 30 March 1962.

Excellency,

With reference to your letter PO 134 of 2 January 1962 requesting the Governments of Member States to state their views on General Assembly resolution 1664 (XVI) concerning the prevention of the further spread of nuclear weapons, I have the honour to communicate the following:

The Hungarian Government holds that the further spread of nuclear weapons would intensify war tension, would increasingly threaten the peace and security of the peoples, and would thereby raise further obstacles to reaching an agreement on general and complete disarmament.

Although the prevention of the further spread of such weapons would not eliminate the danger of an atomic war, it might nevertheless constitute a step forward on the road to the complete prohibition of their use and to their destruction. The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic would, therefore, approve of a statement by all States capable of producing atomic weapons to the effect that they are willing, like the Soviet Union, to enter into undertakings to refrain from turning over nuclear weapons and equipment suitable for their manufacture to other countries, from placing such weapons and installations suitable for their launching and storage in the territory of any other country, since such undertakings constitute one of the most important guarantees against the further spread of nuclear weapons. In this case, the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic would for its part assume an obligation to refrain from manufacturing, purchasing and otherwise acquiring atomic and other nuclear weapons and to refuse to permit the storage or testing of such weapons in its territory.

The Government of the Hungarian People's Republic is convinced of the positive part such an obligation would play in the struggle for the prevention of an atomic war, but in consideration of the danger held out by a unilateral obligation to its own security it deems it necessary for all countries without exception to assume identical obligations.

H.E. Mr. U Thant
Acting Secretary-General
United Nations Organization
New York, N.Y.

The sixteenth session of the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution on consideration of Africa as a denuclearized zone. This resolution had the vote of the Delegation of the Hungarian People's Republic as well. My Government believes this resolution to be of great importance also for the question raised in your letter. The creation of atom-free zones would proscribe atomic weapons from a whole range of countries. If it is possible to come to a decision on eliminating atomic weapons from one part of the world, a similar decision could equally be extended to other parts of the world. My Government holds that the States which voted for the proposal for the African atom-free zone should also make it a point of duty to facilitate the implementation of the resolution they voted for.

However, there are also other proposals for the establishment of atom-free zones. Their adoption and implementation would signify another step forward towards broadening the range of countries refusing to allow the use, manufacture and storage of atomic weapons. My Government deems it justified that these proposals should receive well-intentioned consideration and support. Therefore we declare ourselves in support of the proposals on establishing denuclearized zones in Central Europe, the Balkans, the Adriatic, in the Middle and the Near East, as well as in the Far East and the Pacific area.

My Government is convinced, however, that the above-mentioned measures in themselves would fail to remove the danger of a possible atomic war, although they would result in considerable progress against the present situation. The danger of an atomic war could be averted only by the nuclear big Powers joining the proposals, put forward by the Soviet Union and consistently supported also by the Government of the Hungarian People's Republic, for the prohibition of the manufacture and the use of nuclear weapons and for the destruction of existing stockpiles. Such measures forming part of those aimed at general and complete disarmament would ease international tension, tend to increase security and confidence among peoples, and thus make a major contribution to the cause of realizing general and complete disarmament.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) János PÉTER
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the
Hungarian People's Republic