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NOTE VERBALE DATED 5 AUGUST 1963 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES
OF ETHIOPIA, NIGERIA AND THE UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED
NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Permanent Representatives of Ethiopia, the Federation of Nigeria and the United Arab Republic to the United Nations present their compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and have the honour to refer to the attached memorandum submitted by Ethiopia, Nigeria and the United Arab Republic to the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee in Geneva on 10 June 1963.

In accordance with the wishes of the original sponsors of the said memorandum, and in view of the importance of the document, the Permanent Representatives of Ethiopia, Nigeria and the United Arab Republic request the Secretary-General to circulate it officially among the members of the United Nations.

10 June 1963

Memorandum of the Delegations of Ethiopia, Nigeria and the U.A.R.
on the Question of the Cessation of Nuclear Weapon Tests

The Delegations of Ethiopia, Nigeria and the U.A.R. to the Eighteen-Nation Disarmament Committee;

In fulfilment of the policies and wishes of their respective Governments;

In the light of the historic meeting of the Heads of Independent African States and Governments, held at Addis Ababa from 22 to 25 May 1963 in which they gave close attention to the urgent problem of the cessation of nuclear weapon tests which has been a source of deep concern, particularly to the African peoples and Governments;

And in furtherance of the aims and the spirit of the African Summit Conference's Resolution on the problems of General and Complete Disarmament;

Now address the following thoughts and considerations to the Nuclear Powers:

1. They are firmly convinced that the nuclear powers can agree to end all further nuclear testing, under satisfactory and safeguarded conditions, in the immediate future. Present day circumstances, as well as technical, military and economic considerations, all favour the immediate conclusion of a test-ban treaty. The positions of the nuclear powers have never been closer than at present. The whole world has pinned its hopes on the sense of wisdom and practicality of the nuclear Powers. The world will not understand or condone their failure to bridge the residual final gap on such a vital and far-reaching issue as the cessation of nuclear tests.
2. The conclusion of test-ban treaty is likely to bring about a general improvement in international relations, to herald the settlement of other pending problems, to inhibit the further spread of nuclear weapons and to contribute to the slackening of the nuclear armament's race. It will certainly put an end to radiation hazards and to the poisoning of man's environments. It will save humanity and posterity from untold worries and suffering. It will release the nuclear Powers' much needed energy, funds, and technical knowhow and channel them to peaceful endeavours, to more profitable enterprises which are badly needed by the majority of mankind, especially by the African, Asian, and Latin-American peoples.

3. The three aforementioned delegations are convinced that direct contacts between the nuclear Powers, for example on the Foreign Ministers' level, and possibly direct communications and contacts between the Heads of the nuclear states and Governments, may prove of great value in reaching a quick and adequate solution of this problem.

It is for this reason that the Heads of African States and Governments meeting at Addis Ababa have appealed to the nuclear Powers to spare no diplomatic effort and to work unceasingly towards reaching an immediate agreement fulfilling the hopes and dreams of mankind, without letting political problems inhibit the progress of their negotiations. In the light of present circumstances, time is of the essence. The nuclear Powers should not let this propitious moment slip away for want of a resolute and determined effort to reach an agreement which all the world, including the nuclear Powers, needs and aspires to.

4. Various non-aligned delegations to our Committee, during the last three months produced many valuable ideas and thoughts which are well known to the nuclear powers, and which aimed at breaking the deadlock in the Geneva test-ban negotiations about the number of inspections as well as about the method of discussing the quota-figures in relation to the study of the modalities of inspections.

The three African delegations earnestly appeal to the nuclear Powers to give attention to those non-aligned ideas and thoughts as well as to their continued attempts at finding practical honourable and equitable compromises, which, in the last analysis, may prove to be good and lasting solutions to the test-ban problem.

5. Chairman Khrushchev and President Kennedy's exchange of letters in December and January on the cessation of tests has given proof of the existence, on both sides, of a welcome spirit of constructive compromise and mutual accommodation, and above all, of courage and good will.

6. It may very well be that science may, in the future, show beyond doubt that on-site inspections may no longer be needed to identify suspicious seismic events or to adequately control a test-ban treaty. For the time-being, however, the three African delegations recognize that three, four or so, yearly truly effective inspections - or an adequately proportionate figure spread over more years - may be needed to dispel mutual suspicions, to help build up confidence

between the nuclear Powers, and, no less importantly, to facilitate their reaching a practical political settlement.

7. After having maintained that there was no need for any obligatory inspections, Mr. Khrushchev's offer last December, of three on-site inspections must therefore, be taken as a sign of moral courage and good faith. In a like manner, the current British-American demarches at Moscow, and their offer of the possibility of further compromise should be encouraged and taken as a sign of political courage and good will.

8. The three African delegations are convinced that they speak not only for their own people and all the African peoples, but for the whole world, when they urgently appeal to the nuclear Powers to give more proof of a much needed sense of practicality and of a necessary spirit of constructive compromise and good will. The world will hail and appreciate any show of compromise as evidence of great moral courage, political acumen and love for peace. On the other hand, the world cannot but consider their failure to compromise over the last few remaining differences as unwillingness on their part to end nuclear testing and the nuclear armaments race, essential conditions for any constructive and realistic discussion of general and complete disarmament.

9. Since there is general agreement, however, that the number of on-site inspections is less relevant than the terms of the modalities or conditions for the adequate and effective conduct of such on-site inspections, the three delegations therefore exhort the nuclear Powers to rise above quarreling on an insignificant difference of one or two inspections, and to accept a reasonable compromise-quota of inspections contingent upon adequate and effective modalities on inspection.

10. Agreement on the latter should be sought, inter alia, in these illustrative areas:

- (a) The location of the epicentre of the seismic event
- (b) Criteria for the eligibility of the seismic event for inspection
- (c) Composition of the International Scientific Committee and its role in the establishment of the criteria and the supervising of their proper application

- (d) Agreement on the initiation of inspections according to agreed criteria and to the data submitted to the International Committee
- (e) The composition of the Inspection teams in such a way as to obviate self-inspection and to ensure the effectiveness and the adequacy of the visit
- (f) Agreement on the criteria and relevant details of the actual conducting of the inspection
- (g) Agreement on the shape and size of the inspection area
- (h) Safeguards against abuse and against the utilization of such facilities and inspection personnel in any manner that might be extraneous to the purpose of identifying the event concerned or that might endanger the security of the receiving state.

In the name of the African peoples and in the name of all humanity, the three African delegations address this urgent appeal to the nuclear Powers to give the world proof of their goodwill, of their seriousness of purpose, and of their sense of responsibility, by issuing the necessary instructions to their representatives in the test-ban negotiations to come to the quick and equitable compromise solutions which the whole world is expecting of them, and whose groundwork has already been laid during the last three months of negotiations at Geneva.
