

In spite of all this an agreement to solve the question of the unconditional and immediate cessation or even of the temporary suspension of nuclear tests had unfortunately not yet been reached.

Motivated by a desire to make a practical start in the cessation everywhere of atomic and hydrogen weapon tests and thus to take the first step toward the complete liberation of mankind from the threat of an atomic war of annihilation, the Supreme Soviet of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics has resolved to stop the testing of all types of atomic and hydrogen weapons in the Soviet Union.

Implementing this resolution of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., the Soviet Government has decided unilaterally to stop the testing of all types of atomic and hydrogen weapons from March 31, 1958.

The Soviet Government has approached the Governments of the United States and Great Britain with a proposal to join in this measure. The Soviet Government calls upon the Government of Canada to support this initiative in the common interest of all mankind.

If the governments of the countries that now possess nuclear weapons support this proposal of the U.S.S.R. and take, in their turn, a decision to stop further tests, then the question which causes profound concern to the peoples of the whole world will at last find its solution, and thus a great step will be made towards establishing genuine confidence between states and consolidating peace.

However, if the governments of the countries that are in possession of nuclear weapons do not wish to respond to this decision of the Soviet Government, preferring to leave everything as before, and continue experiments with atomic and hydrogen weapons, then the Soviet Union will, of course, have no other alternative, in the interests of ensuring its security, than to consider itself free of the obligations which it has assumed with regard to the cessation of nuclear tests. The Soviet Government would not like the matter to take this course.

Hope is expressed in the appeal of the Soviet Government to the Governments of the United States and Great Britain that these Governments will join in the initiative of the Soviet Union and thus make possible everywhere and forever the cessation of nuclear weapons tests.

This first practical step toward the protection of people from the calamities with which they are threatened by the modern nuclear weapon will immensely facilitate progress toward the solution of the task--the complete deliverance of the peoples from the threat of an atomic war. One will hardly deny that the cessation of experiments with atomic and hydrogen weapons will without doubt greatly improve the entire international political atmosphere, and will create more favourable conditions for settling other outstanding international problems.

Allow me, Mr. Prime Minister, to express the hope that the above-mentioned proposals of the Soviet Government will meet with a positive reaction on the part of the Government of Canada.

With sincere respect,

N. KHRUSHCHEV