

thought that world opinion would be very critical of the country which first resumes tests. Mr. Merchant remarked that the Russians had already been first in starting tests after the original suspension. Mr. Green suggested that past tests were now a considerable distance behind us and that attention was now focussed on what happens from this point onward. Perhaps the United States could have got away with starting tests again if they had acted immediately after the Russian series. Now they would be held to blame if they were to start tests after the memory of the Soviet tests had pretty well faded. Mr. Green hoped that the United States would at least hold off any resumption of tests until the Russians had made another start. Mr. Merchant remarked that delay in resuming tests might impair the development of United States weapons. Mr. Green said that he did not think the delay would necessarily be very long since no doubt the Americans could commence testing in two or three weeks' time after the Russians had started.

6. Mr. Merchant returned again to the point that the Russians had been the first to resume tests. He thought it would be most unfair if the 8 neutral nations were to withdraw from the Geneva talks in the event that the United States found it necessary to start up tests again before the Russians got around to initiating their next series of tests. Mr. Green expressed the hope that the United States would not feel that it had to begin tests while there was still some chance of progress in the Geneva talks. He was certain that rightly or wrongly, a resumption of tests by the United States would have a very bad effect on the Geneva negotiations.¹⁶

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23.

DEA/50271-M-40

*Le conseiller du Gouvernement canadien en matière du désarmement
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Advisor to Government of Canada on Disarmament
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 626

Geneva, April 7, 1962

CONFIDENTIAL. OPIMMEDIATE.

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NON-ALIGNED NATIONS AND NUCLEAR TESTING CESSATION

At a lunch given by Swedes on April 6 Lall, Padilla Nervo and Abdel Fattah Hassan were present besides myself and conversation was mostly about what could be done to stop resumption of nuclear testing.

2. Some doubt was expressed that nuclear powers really wanted to stop. Russians may be preparing for another test series and would like to place blame for renewed tests on Americans. Both sides may have adopted and be holding to positions on a nuclear test cessation treaty that they are sure other side could not repeat not adopt.

3. General view was that neutrals would have to intensify their efforts to bring about a compromise agreement. As representatives of world's non-aligned nations, they had this duty and could not repeat not let testing recommence by their default. They should try to get

¹⁶ Estampillé :/Stamped:
Seen by John G. Diefenbaker.