LETTER DATED 22 AUGUST 1958 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

New York, 22 August 1958

I have the honour to transmit the text of an announcement issued today by Her Majesty's Government.

I should be grateful if you would arrange for it to be circulated for the information of all Members of the United Nations.

(Signed) Pierson DIXON
Her Majesty's Government have learnt that the Conference of Scientific Experts at Geneva on the detection of nuclear weapons tests has reached a successful conclusion. This report represents a new and hopeful development, and Her Majesty's Government regard the outcome as a clear justification of the technical approach to problems of control and inspection in the field of disarmament which they themselves first proposed over a year ago.

2. It is now established that effective international control over a suspension of nuclear weapons tests is technically possible. The report of the Geneva Conference provides the essential technical basis on which to build further progress. The next task is to find solutions to the important practical and political problems relating to the organization, installation and functioning of a control Organization.

3. Her Majesty's Government are prepared to enter into negotiations with other Governments which have tested nuclear weapons with a view to solving these problems and concluding an agreement for the suspension of nuclear weapons tests under effective international control. Her Majesty's Government for their part will be ready to begin negotiations for that purpose by 31 October 1958.

4. Her Majesty's Government hope that such negotiations will not only lead to successful results in themselves but will also facilitate early negotiations on measures of disarmament. Her Majesty's Government have always made it clear that they do not regard the suspension of nuclear tests as itself constituting a measure of disarmament. If peace and security are to be placed upon a firmer and more lasting foundation, early progress must be made towards real disarmament, both nuclear and conventional, by measures such as Her Majesty's Government have themselves proposed. Any real disarmament must also be subject to effective international control, and Her Majesty's Government hope that the precedent of expert discussion established by the Geneva Conference may be followed in other fields.

5. As is known, Her Majesty's Government are now beginning a short series of tests. This will be completed as soon as possible. In view of the opportunities for agreement now opened up both on the controlled suspension of nuclear tests and on measures of real disarmament, Her Majesty's Government will from the date...
when negotiations are begun for the suspension of nuclear tests under effective international control refrain from further testing of nuclear weapons for a period of one year. They will do so on the understanding that the object of the negotiations has been accepted in principle by all the Governments which have tested nuclear weapons, and so long as the Soviet Government does not resume testing in this period. Her Majesty's Government will be prepared to refrain from nuclear tests thereafter for further successive periods of one year provided that the Soviet Union will do the same, and that satisfactory progress has been made towards the installation of an effective system of international control over the suspension of nuclear tests and towards the adoption and execution of measures of real disarmament.