(3) The withdrawal of all foreign troops from the territories of European States and abolition of military bases in the territories of foreign States;

(4) The conclusion of a non-aggression pact between the States members of NATO and the States members of the Warsaw Treaty;

(5) The conclusion of an agreement on the prevention of surprise attack by one State upon another.

78. The Soviet Government considers it appropriate to recall its disarmament proposals of 10 May 1955, which outlined a specific scheme for partial measures in the field of disarmament. It is convinced that these proposals constitute a sound basis for agreement on this vitaly important issue.


DOCUMENT A/C.1/818

Note verbale dated 28 September 1959 from the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of Bulgaria to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to enclose herewith a translation of the declaration of the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria of 24 September 1959 with the request that it be circulated among Members of the United Nations.

DECLARATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Bulgarian people welcomed with great satisfaction the declaration of the Soviet Government on general and complete disarmament [A/4219] submitted for the consideration of the United Nations General Assembly at its fourteenth session. It is a remarkable historic document the implementation of which will radically change the life of humanity. This is a programme which is completely feasible and great by virtue of its significance and content. Only the Soviet Union, the first socialist country in the world, whose people are now building the communist society, could put forward this proposal, which is unparalleled in its humaneness and which reflects the most cherished desires and strivings of all mankind. In all countries the people welcome with unconcealed joy the programme of the Soviet Government for general and complete disarmament. With admiration they are following the visit of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Mr. N. S. Khrushchev, to the United States and hailed with great joy his outstanding speech in the United Nations [799th plenary meeting], which is a brilliant defence and exposition of the peaceful strivings of the Soviet peoples. The millions of ordinary people best of all realize how the world would look if general and complete disarmament were consistently carried out in all States. If armed forces were abolished, as well as general staffs, military ministries and military academies, if the further manufacture of atomic and hydrogen bombs was discontinued, while those which had already been produced were destroyed, if the manufacture of rockets for military purposes were ended, and if stocks of conventional weapons and of chemical and bacterial means of extermination were liquidated, mankind would have a sigh of relief, war would be for ever abolished from the life of society and peace would prevail on earth for all time.

2. In complete accordance with its policy of peace and peaceful coexistence, the Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria shares the belief of the Soviet Government that it is the duty of all States, as well as of the United Nations, to find immediately a new road to the settlement of such an important and urgent issue as the disarmament question. This new road must lead to the exclusion of the very possibility of launching a war. This is the road to general and complete disarmament.

3. The Bulgarian Government fully supports the historic programme of the Soviet Government for general and complete disarmament and holds the view that the implementation of this programme in three stages in the course of a period of four years is fully feasible, provided the efforts of the peoples and their Governments, in particular the great Powers, are united.

4. The Bulgarian Government welcomes the readiness of the Soviet Government to reach agreement with other States on appropriate steps of partial disarmament and on the consolidation of security, if,
for various reasons, the Western countries do not agree to general and complete disarmament.

5. The Bulgarian people and their Government have supported and will support all measures for the creation of a control and inspection zone and for the reduction of foreign troops on the territories of the Western European countries concerned, the creation of an "atom-free" zone in central Europe, the withdrawal of all foreign troops from the territories of the European countries and the abolition of the military bases on foreign territories, the conclusion of a non-aggression pact between the NATO States and the Warsaw Treaty countries, an agreement on the prevention of a surprise attack by one State upon another. There is no people which does not want peace which does not strive for its preservation. This is fully comprehensible because there is no people which has not, in one way or another, experienced the horrors of war. The Balkans have time and again been an area of conflagration, bloodshed and devastation. Within the life-span of only one generation, the Balkan people were plunged, against their will, into the abyss of several fratricidal wars, which took the lives of and maimed hundreds of thousands of the sons of the people and brought unhappiness to their mothers and fathers, their wives and children. One can hardly find a community in Bulgaria and in the other Balkan countries which has not given war its toll in human life. Wars have inflicted the heaviest of disasters on the economies of the Balkan countries; they have wasted huge funds and the wealth of the people. With the modern nuclear and missile weapons, the consequences of a new war would be incomparably more dreadful, as is noted in the declaration of the Soviet Government. The peoples of the Balkans have renounced this past. This past should be renounced by their Governments; not only the socialist but also the non-socialist Balkan countries should absolutely take the path to a reduction of world tension and a consolidation of world peace. The historical ties and traditions which have been created among the Balkan peoples over the centuries are a valuable capital, to which their Governments should turn in order to find a common language and possibilities for co-operation in the name of peace. General and complete disarmament would relieve the peoples of the heavy burden of the military budgets. The abolition of foreign military bases, the discontinuance of the preparations for setting up missile-launching pads on the territory of some countries would scatter the stormy clouds of war hanging over the Balkans and initiate the elimination of mutual suspicions among the Balkan peoples.

6. True to its peaceful policy, the Bulgarian Government has undertaken numerous steps to improve relations with the non-socialist countries in the Balkans, to strengthen peace in that area. It has proposed the conclusion of collective or bilateral treaties among the Balkan countries.

7. Not long ago our country proposed the signing of a non-aggression pact between the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Kingdom of Greece. We have twice reduced our armed forces, thereby giving a new and real expression to our peaceful policy. The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and the Bulgarian people have unanimously supported the proposal of the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Mr. N. S. Khrushchev, for the creation of an "atom-free" and rocket-free zone in the Balkans and the Adriatic because it serves the cause of peace. The proposal for a meeting of the leaders of the Balkan States has the same aim. If these measures are carried out, they will open the road to new agreements among the Balkan countries and will provide new possibilities for turning the Balkans into a zone of peace.

8. The Government of the People's Republic of Bulgaria wishes to believe that the proposal of the Soviet Government for general and complete disarmament will meet with the support and good will of all Balkan Governments, of the Governments of all countries, big or small. Only then will it be possible to save mankind and civilization from the horrors of a nuclear and missile war, which, if it should break out, will devastate not only whole countries, but entire continents. Now it is the supreme duty of all Governments to act prudently and to listen to the voice of their peoples. For this reason, the Bulgarian Government and people express their complete solidarity with, and give their unreserved support to, the proposals of the Soviet Union for general and complete disarmament, which is in the interests of all mankind and in the interests of peace and peaceful coexistence among nations.

DOCUMENT A/C.1/820

United Kingdom declaration on comprehensive disarmament, made by Her Britannic Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the General Assembly at its 798th plenary meeting, on 17 September 1959

[Original text: English]
[16 October 1959]

First stage

In the first stage the following matters should be dealt with:

(a) Nuclear tests. If, as we very much hope, agreement is reached at the present conference between the Governments of the United States, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom [Conference on the Discontinuance of Nuclear Weapons Tests], that agreement should be endorsed by other nations.