Sixteenth session
FIRST COMMITTEE
Agenda items 73 and 72

CONTINUATION OF SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMO-NUCLEAR TESTS
AND OBLIGATIONS OF STATES TO REFRAIN FROM THEIR RENEWAL

THE URGENT NEED FOR A TREATY TO BAN NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS UNDER
EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL

Note Verbale dated 23 October 1961 from the Permanent Mission of Norway
addressed to the Secretariat of the United Nations

The Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations presents its
compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and has the honour to
request that the attached statement, which was adopted by the Norwegian
Parliament today at 1400 local time, may be circulated without delay as a
document of the sixteenth General Assembly.
STATEMENT BY THE NORWEGIAN PARLIAMENT REGARDING NUCLEAR TESTS,
ADOPTED BY THE PARLIAMENT ON 23 OCTOBER 1961

The Parliament of Norway states: When the Government of the Soviet Union declared in 1958 that their nuclear tests were to cease, this decision was warmly welcomed by large and small nations, who interpreted this step as a hopeful sign that the rivalry in the build-up of nuclear weapons and the further spread of such weapons might be brought under international control.

The negotiations which were initiated in Geneva between the United States, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom further strengthened the hope of harnessing the nuclear forces, not only in the technical field, but also with regard to an international agreement.

The decision of the Government of the Soviet Union to resume nuclear tests in the atmosphere has created a profound disappointment and caused serious apprehensions about what the future might hold. Continued tests with nuclear weapons will elicit deep anxiety and indignation.

Competent Norwegian scientists state that if the fissionable energy which up to now has been released by the nuclear explosions this autumn should increase as a consequence of further explosions, it is realistic to assume that it might prove necessary to take certain steps in an effort to reduce the effects of distant radioactive fall-out. On the other hand, it should not be precluded that meteorological and other local conditions might make it imperative to initiate measures to protect certain population groups, even if the series of explosions now should terminate.

The Parliament of Norway, therefore, considers it a right and a duty to protect and warn against further violations of universal ethics, which condemn nuclear weapons tests. The Parliament requests the Government to assure that this statement be delivered to the Government of the Soviet Union and to the United Nations.