

Letter From the Indian Representative (Chakravarty) to  
Secretary-General Thant: Proposed Agenda Item on  
Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons for the Nine-  
teenth General Assembly, October 10, 1964<sup>1</sup>

I have the honour, under the instructions of my Government, to propose for inclusion in the agenda of the nineteenth session of the General Assembly the supplementary item "Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons".

An explanatory memorandum in accordance with rule 20 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly is attached.

B. N. CHAKRAVARTY  
*Permanent Representative of India  
to the United Nations*

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. At its fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth sessions, the General Assembly considered the problem of non-dissemination of nuclear weapons and adopted resolutions 1380 (XIV),<sup>2</sup> 1576 (XV),<sup>3</sup> 1664 (XVI)<sup>4</sup> and 1665 (XVI).<sup>5</sup> In its last resolution on the subject adopted at the initiative of the Irish delegation, the Assembly was convinced that an increase in the number of States possessing nuclear weapons was growing "more imminent" and threatened not only to extend and intensify the arms race but also to increase the difficulties of avoiding war and of establishing international peace and security based on the rule of law. By the same resolution, the Assembly considered that the conclusion of an international agreement on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons was necessary and called upon all States—nuclear States as well as States not possessing nuclear weapons—to direct their efforts to that end.

2. Through protracted negotiations, the Powers came to an agreement on [a] test ban and a treaty in that regard was signed in Moscow last year.<sup>6</sup> That was an important landmark in the disarmament discussions. It restricted the development of nuclear weapons and implied the renunciation of the manufacture of these weapons of mass destruction on the part of those non-nuclear States who subscribed to the test-ban treaty. But as the treaty did not specifically prohibit manufacture, acquisition, receipt or transference of these weapons, the conclusion of an agreement on non-proliferation of nuclear weap-

<sup>1</sup> A/5758, Oct. 10, 1964.

<sup>2</sup> *Documents on Disarmament, 1945-1959*, vol. II, p. 1547.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 1960, p. 373.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 1961, p. 693.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 694.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 1963, pp. 291-293.

ons would be the next logical step after the signing of the test-ban treaty.

3. The Government of India, in common with a large number of Member States as well as an overwhelming volume of world opinion, is deeply concerned at the danger inherent in the spread of nuclear weapons and attaches great importance to measures for limiting the same. The Heads of African States have recently declared their readiness to undertake an international treaty not to manufacture or acquire nuclear weapons and called upon all peace-loving nations to adhere to the same undertaking.<sup>1</sup> The increasing capacity of a large number of countries to make nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons makes the adoption of measures in that direction all the more imperative. The chances of success towards preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons are greater now than afterwards when more Powers would come to possess these deadly weapons. The acquisition of these weapons by more Powers is bound to create more complications in regard to general and complete disarmament and aggravate the danger of nuclear war.

4. In view of the urgency and importance of concluding an agreement or treaty on non-dissemination of nuclear weapons, the Government of India requests that an item entitled "Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons" be inscribed in the agenda for consideration by the General Assembly at its nineteenth session.