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Sahara - French Nuclear Tests

5-15 April - 60

- a) Text of a letter from perm. representatives
of the 22 delegations - to D.H.
- b) Note by D.H.

DELEGATIONS OF AFGHANISTAN, BURMA, CEYLON, ETHIOPIA, FEDERATION OF MALAYA, GHANA, GUINEA, INDIA, INDONESIA, IRAQ, JORDAN, LEBANON, LIBERIA, LIBYA*, MOROCCO, NEPAL, PAKISTAN, SAUDI ARABIA, SUDAN, TUNISIA, UNITED ARAB REPUBLIC AND YEMEN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

5 April 1960

Following is the text of a letter, dated 4 April 1960, which was transmitted today to the Secretary-General from the permanent representatives of the above 22 delegations:

"We have the honour to refer to our letter dated 14 March 1960 requesting you to summon a special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of considering the French nuclear tests in the Sahara, and to bring to your attention that on 1 April 1960 the Government of France carried out a second test in the Sahara, in further disregard of General Assembly Resolution 1379 (XIV).

"In the light of this development, it is the view of our governments that a special session of the General Assembly is now even more urgent than before."

* *** *

* The Libyan representative was unable to sign the letter and indicated that he would cable his endorsement to the Secretary-General.



UNITED NATIONS
GENERAL
ASSEMBLY



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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REQUEST FOR THE SUMMONING OF A SPECIAL SESSION OF
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION
OF FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTS IN THE SAHARA

Note by the Secretary-General

1. By a letter dated 14 March 1960, the Permanent Representatives of Afghanistan, Burma, Ceylon, Ethiopia, Federation of Malaya, Ghana, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Morocco, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Tunisia, United Arab Republic and Yemen requested, under Article 20 of the Charter and rule 9 (a) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, that a special session of the Assembly be summoned to consider the question of French nuclear tests in the Sahara.

2. On 15 March 1960, the Secretary-General communicated the request to all Member States, by telegram sent to the Permanent Missions, and inquired whether they concurred in the summoning of the session. At the same time the Secretary-General stated that if within thirty days a majority of Members so concurred, a special session would be summoned in accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure.

3. Up to and including 14 April 1960, replies to the Secretary-General's communication have been received as follows:

Members concurring in the request (in addition to the twenty-two requesting States)

	<u>Date of reply</u>
Cuba	16 March
Yugoslavia	4 April
Japan	6 April
Thailand	7 April
Albania	12 April
Bulgaria	12 April
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic	12 April

<u>Members concurring in the request (continued)</u>	<u>Date of reply</u>
Czechoslovakia	12 April
Haiti	12 April
Hungary	12 April
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic	12 April
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	12 April
Poland	12 April
Romania	13 April
	<u>Total</u> - 14
<u>Members not concurring in the request</u>	
Dominican Republic	16 March
Honduras	19 March
Ireland	21 March
Peru	23 March
Sweden	26 March
Austria	8 April
Greece	13 April
	<u>Total</u> - 7
<u>Members abstaining</u>	
Bolivia	17 March
Laos	29 March
Cambodia	8 April
	<u>Total</u> - 3

4. With the twenty-two States which requested the calling of a special session, the number of Members in favour of holding such a session is therefore thirty-six, which is less than the majority required (forty-two) under rule 9 (a) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.
