

Briefing Paper for President's Press Conference

December 2, 1959

FRENCH SAHARA TESTS

QUESTION

Mr. President, the General Assembly endorsed a resolution calling upon the French to desist from their proposed atomic test in the Sahara. We voted against the resolution but since it has been adopted by the United Nations do we intend now to exert any influence we might have on the French in its behalf?

ANSWER

I believe the United States can best fulfill the United Nations desires as expressed in not one but three nuclear testing resolutions passed by the General Assembly by continuing to exert every effort to enhance the prospects for success at the Geneva test ban negotiations. Certainly an agreement at Geneva among the U.S., U.K. and USSR on a controlled discontinuance of nuclear weapons tests, with provision for adherence by other states, would be the most effective action that could be taken to comply with the primary aim of all three resolutions.



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