On behalf of the Soviet Government and on my own behalf I extend greetings to the participants of the Ten Nations Committee on Disarmament, which is beginning its work at Geneva.

The Ten Nations Committee is entrusted with a most important and responsible task, namely, to work out within the shortest possible time practical ways of bringing about general and complete disarmament, thus putting into effect the recommendation of the General Assembly at its fourteenth session, which was unanimously approved by all Members of the United Nations. To-day, when weapons of terrible, destructive power - atom and hydrogen bombs and intercontinental missiles - have been created, the question of disarmament has become the major and most vital problem of the present time.

The Soviet Union is making every effort to move the disarmament problem forward from its state of standstill. Last September the Soviet Government submitted to the United Nations for consideration proposals for general and complete disarmament, which were transmitted to the Ten Nations Committee for thorough consideration. It is general and complete disarmament that is the most reliable and surest means of eliminating wars forever from the life of human society. The Soviet Union is fully determined to make general and complete disarmament a reality. It has demonstrated its desire to back this determination with positive deeds by the recent decision to reduce its armed forces further by 1,200,000 men, and this, in our view, is bound to contribute to the creation of favourable conditions for the negotiations on general and complete disarmament for which you are now gathered at Geneva.

The Soviet Government has given instructions to its representative on the Ten Nations Committee to contribute in every possible way to fruitful work by the Committee, and to strive for the speediest preparation of a treaty on general and complete disarmament. On behalf of the Soviet Government I should like to
express the hope that the other participants of the Ten Nations Committee will also make their contribution to the practical solution of the problem of general and complete disarmament. The Soviet Government, for its part, is ready to give careful consideration to all proposals aimed at the achievement of this goal.

I send to the participants of the Committee our wishes for successful and fruitful work for the good of the peoples. I am deeply convinced that the day is not far off when the age-old dream of mankind will come true and the world will live without weapons and without wars.

N. Khrushchev,
Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

14 March, 1960
To the participants of the Ten Nations Committee on Disarmament
Palais des Nations
Geneva