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**COMMUNICATION OF 9 OCTOBER 1995 RECEIVED FROM THE
PERMANENT MISSION OF NEW ZEALAND
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

1. On 11 October 1995, the Director General received a communication dated 9 October 1995 from the Permanent Mission of New Zealand transmitting a Statement of 2 October 1995 by the Prime Minister of New Zealand concerning the second nuclear test conducted by France.
2. As requested by the Permanent Mission of New Zealand, the text of the Statement is being circulated for the information of Member States.

2 October 1995

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SECOND NUCLEAR EXPLOSION IN FRENCH POLYNESIA

New Zealanders are outraged that once again France is thumbing its nose at world opinion, said the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Jim Bolger today in response to the news that France had conducted a second nuclear test in French Polynesia.

"We will again be calling in France's Ambassador to New Zealand.

"We will ask him to remind his Government that this kind of activity is not acceptable in the South Pacific. It comes right on the heels of the South Pacific Forum's outright rejection of nuclear testing in the region, and is a step backwards in the nuclear disarmament process. It is a wrong call for France politically and it is irresponsible environmentally. We will again tell the Ambassador that President Chirac must call an immediate halt to the programme and close down the testing sites in French Polynesia for all time."

The Prime Minister said that he found it difficult to put into words his intense sense of frustration at France's latest action. New Zealand had done all it could at the national level to get its message across. No other government or country had done more. "Our focus will now shift to collective action at the regional and multilateral levels."

On the regional front, the Prime Minister recalled New Zealand's active participation in the South Pacific Forum mission to Paris, the regional Environment Ministers meeting in Brisbane, and the ASEAN Regional Forum meeting in Brunei. He noted that non-proliferation and nuclear testing had been a major topic at the recent South Pacific Forum meeting in Papua New Guinea and that all Heads of Government had joined in condemning nuclear testing programmes in the region. "In line with the decisions taken at that meeting there will now be a review of France's status as a dialogue partner. This unprecedented action shows just how strongly the region feels about France's decision to resume testing", the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister added that the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade had strong words to say about nuclear testing at last week's meeting of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York.

Jim Bolger said he will be again underscoring New Zealand's opposition to the French programme at this month's celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the United Nations.

The Prime Minister said the issue will be firmly on the agenda at the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Auckland next month. New Zealand continues to work in conjunction with other Pacific Rim countries across a range of international meetings - including the First Committee of the United Nations in New York, the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna and the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva - to get New Zealand's message across to the world.

The Attorney-General, Hon. Paul East, will also lead New Zealand's participation next month in the hearings the World Court will conduct on the legality of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

"New Zealand has established a position at the forefront of international action against nuclear testing", Mr. Bolger said. "We intend to maintain that position in the weeks ahead. The French Government must be brought to realize that its actions are not just illogical and unsustainable in the context of the international community's move away from nuclear weapons, but politically unacceptable. France's case for resumed nuclear testing simply does not hold up in today's world", he said.