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COMMUNICATION OF 7 SEPTEMBER 1995 RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRALIA TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

1. On 8 September 1995, the Director General received a communication dated 7 September 1995 from the Permanent Mission of Australia transmitting two Statements by the Prime Minister of Australia, one issued in his capacity as Chairman of the South Pacific Forum, concerning the resumption of nuclear testing by France.
2. As requested by the Permanent Mission of Australia, the texts of the Statements are being circulated as an official document for the forthcoming regular session of the General Conference.

**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM, THE PRIME
MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA, THE HON P J KEATING MP**

TESTING OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON BY FRANCE

**AS CURRENT CHAIR OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM, ON BEHALF OF MY FORUM
COLLEAGUES, I CONDEMN THE TEST OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON BY FRANCE IN THE
SOUTH PACIFIC.**

**FRANCE HAS DEFIED THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC, THE
APPEAL BY THE ASIAN NATIONS AS EXPRESSED IN THE RECENT ASEAN
REGIONAL FORUM STATEMENT THAT CALLED ON THE NUCLEAR WEAPON
STATES TO BRING AN IMMEDIATE END TO TESTING, AND THE VOICE OF AN
INCREASING PART OF THE EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. THE
MAJORITY OF THE FRENCH PEOPLE ALSO OPPOSE FRANCE'S TESTING PROGRAM
IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.**

**OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO THE COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC IS THE
FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S RELUCTANCE TO FULLY ADDRESS THE
ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH RISKS POSED BY THE TESTING.**

**FORUM LEADERS REITERATE THE CALLS MADE BY SOUTH PACIFIC
ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS IN BRISBANE ON 17 AUGUST FOR:**

**. AN IMMEDIATE END TO TESTING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE SOUTH
PACIFIC AND THE CLOSING OF ASSOCIATED FACILITIES, EXCEPT THOSE
REQUIRED FOR FUTURE ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING:**

**. FRANCE TO ACCEPT FULL AND EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR AN
ADVERSE IMPACTS FROM FRENCH TESTING ON THE SOUTH PACIFIC
ENVIRONMENT AND PEOPLE: AND**

**. FRANCE TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO
ALL FRENCH SCIENTIFIC DATA AND TO THE TESTING SITES THEMSELVES TO
ENABLE AN INDEPENDENT AND COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE EFFECTS
OF TESTING.**

**FORUM COUNTRIES CALL ON THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO ACKNOWLEDGE
THE WEIGHT OF OPINION AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTING AND ABANDON
IMMEDIATELY ITS TESTING PROGRAM IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.**

**FORUM LEADERS WILL CONSIDER NUCLEAR TESTING ISSUES AS PART OF THE
SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM MEETING IN MADANG, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, FROM 13-15
SEPTEMBER.**

**CANBERRA
7 SEPTEMBER 1995**

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP

THE FIRST FRENCH NUCLEAR TEST

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT UTTERLY CONDEMNS FRANCE'S NUCLEAR EXPLOSION AT MURUROA.

BY ITS ACTIONS THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT EXPRESSES ITS CONTEMPT FOR THE COUNTRIES AND PEOPLE OF THE REGION, AND FOR ALL THOSE WHO HOPE AND WORK FOR A NUCLEAR FREE WORLD.

WHATEVER THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAD IN MIND BY CONDUCTING THIS TEST, IT HAS DONE NOTHING TO ENHANCE THE HONOUR OF FRANCE, AND HAS SEVERELY DAMAGED ITS INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION.

AUSTRALIA WILL BE PROTESTING IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS TO FRANCE, AND PRESSING AHEAD VIGOROUSLY WITH OUR COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF ACTION AIMED AT CONVINCING THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO DESIST FROM FURTHER TESTS.

I HAVE ASKED THE MINISTER FOR PACIFIC ISLAND AFFAIRS, MR BILNEY, TO CONVEY OUR PROTEST DIRECTLY TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT DURING HIS VISIT TO PARIS LATER THIS WEEK AS LEADER OF THE AUSTRALIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION ON NUCLEAR TESTS.

AS I HAVE SAID, OUR PROTESTS WILL NOT END WITH THE FIRST TEST. UNTIL THE TESTS STOP, WE WILL CONTINUE TO REMIND THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT THAT WITH EVERY TEST THEY CONDUCT, THE GOOD NAME OF FRANCE IS DIMINISHED IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD.

I NOTE REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT CHIRAC HAS SUGGESTED THE NUMBER OF TESTS AT MURUROA MAY BE FEWER THAN ORIGINALLY ANNOUNCED. THIS APPARENT RESPONSE TO INTERNATIONAL PROTESTS WILL NOT DIMINISH OUR OPPOSITION TO EACH AND EVERY NUCLEAR TEST IN THE PACIFIC. WE DO NOT WANT FEWER TESTS: WE WANT NO TESTS.

**DARWIN
6 SEPTEMBER 1995**

