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COMMUNICATION OF 18 SEPTEMBER 1995 RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF NEW ZEALAND TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY

1. On 18 September 1995, the Director General received a communication dated 18 September 1995 from the Permanent Mission of New Zealand transmitting:
 - The text of a statement made by the Prime Minister of New Zealand on 17 August 1995 concerning the nuclear test carried out by China;
 - The text of a statement made by the Prime Minister of New Zealand on 6 September 1995 concerning the nuclear test carried out by France;
 - The text of a resolution unanimously adopted by the New Zealand Parliament on 20 July 1995 concerning nuclear testing.

2. As requested by the Permanent Mission of New Zealand, the texts of the statements and of the resolution are being circulated as an official document for the thirty-ninth regular session of the General Conference.

PRIME MINISTER

MEDIA RELEASE

17 August 1995

CHINESE NUCLEAR TEST

"I know that I speak for all New Zealanders in expressing serious concern and regret at China's action in proceeding with yet another nuclear test. This is all the more reprehensible in the light of the current widespread protest at France's decision to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific", the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon J B Bolger, said today. He was responding to reports of another nuclear test explosion having been carried out today in China.

The Prime Minister went on to emphasise that New Zealand was against nuclear testing wherever it occurs and by whomever it is conducted. It was particularly disturbing he said, that the explosion came shortly after 18 Asia/Pacific nations had called for an immediate end to all nuclear testing in the region.

"Feelings in New Zealand are running high on this issue", Mr Bolger said. "It is important that the Chinese Government realises that it cannot simply go on testing its nuclear weapons while hoping that the international community will turn a blind eye. It should not think that the furore over France's intentions to proceed with a further series of tests at Mururoa has removed China from the spotlight. I myself have voiced our concerns direct to President Jiang Zemin. Don McKinnon did likewise when he met with his counterpart in Beijing last month".

"China's actions run counter to the move away from nuclear armaments and will further complicate the negotiation of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. After its last nuclear test, the Chinese Government confirmed that it was committed to the Treaty and would stop testing once the Treaty had been concluded. I urge the Chinese Government to show that it is serious about ensuring that the negotiations in Geneva are completed next year. In particular, we call upon China to announce its agreement to a zero threshold for testing and to withdraw its proposal to allow 'peaceful nuclear explosions'".

"Foreign Minister Don McKinnon will be conveying our serious concerns to the Chinese Ambassador when he calls him in to receive New Zealand's protest. Our Ambassador in Beijing has also been instructed to register our opposition at the highest possible level".

Ends.

PRIME MINISTER

For immediate release
Wednesday 6 September 1995

FRENCH NUCLEAR TEST

"As a mark of New Zealand's outrage, I have today instructed that the New Zealand Ambassador in Paris, Mr Chris Beeby, is to be recalled to New Zealand immediately for consultations", the Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Jim Bolger said today. He was responding to reports of France's detonation of a nuclear device in French Polynesia, the first in a series of tests which the French President announced in June would be conducted over the next few months.

"France is flying in the face of world opinion. Just a short time ago 18 nations of the Asia-Pacific region called for an immediate end to all nuclear testing. France has turned a blind eye to the storm of protest that its decision to resume nuclear testing has stirred up in recent weeks", the Prime Minister said. "Opposition to the tests has come from around the globe including, significantly, from Europe itself. A majority of the French people say the policy is wrong. We live in an interdependent world. It defies explanation that the French Government sees itself as somehow standing apart."

Mr Bolger noted with regret that by using its presence in the South Pacific to pursue its national defence policies, France was totally disregarding the views and interests of the states of the South Pacific. Its actions also ran counter to the worldwide movement away from nuclear weapons and greatly complicated the chances of the international community realising its broader goal of a truly comprehensive and internationally verifiable test ban treaty. "We have welcomed recent French Government statements that France could support a Treaty that prohibits any nuclear test explosion. It is a step in the right direction. But we also want France to close for all time the testing sites at Mururoa and Fangataufa and to sign the protocols to the Treaty of Rarotonga."

"New Zealand is not prepared to stand idly by" the Prime Minister said. "Our prime objective up to this point has been to persuade President Chirac to rescind his decision to resume testing. We deeply regret his refusal to do so. We will press ahead with our appeal to the International Court of Justice for an interim injunction. I will be calling in the French Ambassador today to say that France's actions are unacceptable. At my initiative, I am also having an article conveying my views on the French testing programme published in the next issue of the prestigious French daily *Le Monde*. The message will be that the French nuclear tests are quite simply wrong and the Government of France should stop them. It is time France woke up to the fact that its actions have caused deep concern and anger among countries in this part of the world. They have also caused deep disquiet in the wider international community."

ends

RESOLUTION OF 20 JULY 1995

I move that this House:

Deploring the recent announcement by President Chirac that France intends to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific, thereby breaking the moratorium observed since 1992;

Recognising New Zealand's responsibility as a non-nuclear weapons state under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and as a member of the United Nations;

Recalling New Zealand's status as a nuclear-free zone established by law in 1987, and the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone established by the Treaty of Rarotonga in 1985;

Recalling that France, China, and the other nuclear weapons states undertook during the NPT Review and Extension Conference to exercise utmost restraint on nuclear testing, and to sign a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) no later than 1996, and their obligation under the NPT to negotiate nuclear disarmament in good faith;

Recalling that it is 50 years since the first nuclear weapons were used in war at Hiroshima and Nagasaki;

Believing that the designing, production, testing, possession, deployment and possible use of nuclear weapons constitute threats to the right to life, and to a clean environment for current and future generations and for all species;

Recalling the judgement of the International Court of Justice in 1974 with regard to nuclear testing;

Recalling also the sabotage and sinking of the "Rainbow Warrior", and the killing of Fernando Pereira by French Government agents 10 years ago in order to prevent that vessel making a voyage of protest and witness to the French nuclear testing zone;

Noting that France's decision to resume nuclear testing, and the continuation of testing by China, may jeopardise the negotiations now underway on the conclusion of a truly comprehensive and internationally-verifiable nuclear test ban treaty;

Noting also that France's decision runs counter to strongly-held views in South Pacific countries and has aroused a storm of protest around the world;

Noting regional concern that the planned resumption of testing will put at risk the marine environment, resources, way of life and health of the peoples of the South Pacific;

Resolves to send a delegation of New Zealand parliamentarians to discuss this issue with members of the European Parliament;

Calls on France and China to cancel their planned nuclear testing programmes, and for the closure for all time of all nuclear testing facilities;

Urges France and the other four nuclear weapons states to agree to a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty which specifically prohibits all nuclear tests and experiments, including low and very low yield tests;

Calls on the nuclear weapons states to sign without delay a CTBT as the next step on the road towards complete nuclear disarmament, a CTBT being seen as an essential commitment by the nuclear weapons states towards preventing nuclear proliferation;

Calls on France, the United Kingdom and the United States of America to sign the protocols of the Treaty of Rarotonga (South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty) immediately, as a measure of good faith;

Calls on all countries in the southern hemisphere to conclude at an early date nuclear weapons-free zone treaties currently under negotiation;

Resolves to continue to raise the issue by all available legal and political means in all relevant international fora, particularly those of the United Nations;

Invites France and China to recognise the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice without reservation, in respect of any matters concerning nuclear weapons;

Urges all other parliaments to redouble their efforts to reach an early agreement on a truly comprehensive test ban treaty and move towards complete nuclear disarmament.