



GC

GC(39)/INF/9  
30 August 1995

International Atomic Energy Agency

# GENERAL CONFERENCE

GENERAL Distr.  
Original: ENGLISH

---

Thirty-ninth regular session

## **COMMUNICATION OF 17 AUGUST 1995 RECEIVED FROM THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRALIA TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

1. On 18 August 1995, the Director General received a communication dated 17 August 1995 from the Permanent Mission of Australia transmitting Statements by the Prime Minister and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia concerning the recent nuclear weapon tests by the People's Republic of China and the resumption of nuclear testing by France in the South Pacific.
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.



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS**  
**SENATOR GARETH EVANS**

M48

15 May 1995

**AUSTRALIA CONDEMNS CHINESE NUCLEAR TEST**

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, Senator Gareth Evans, has condemned today's nuclear test by China.

The explosion, which took place at Lop Nor at 1406 (AEST) was detected by the Australian Seismological Centre. It had a yield estimated at the equivalent of between 40 and 150 kilotonnes of TNT.

Senator Evans said it was deeply disappointing that China had once again shown disregard for international opposition to nuclear testing, and, all the more so, in the positive aftermath of the Review and Extension Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty which concluded in New York last week.

"Australia, along with many other countries, protested against the nuclear tests carried out by China in June and October 1994. We have consistently urged China to join other nuclear weapon states in declaring a moratorium on its testing program," he said.

Senator Evans said the negotiations on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which had been a long-standing Australian goal, were moving steadily towards conclusion. Australia was hopeful that the Treaty would be finalised by the end of the year, and open for signature in 1996. We looked to the nuclear weapon states to desist from further testing as the CTBT negotiations entered this final, critical stage.

"China's continued testing is out of step with the positive atmosphere of the CTBT negotiations, as well as with China's own support for nuclear disarmament and its stated commitment to negotiation of a CTBT by 1996.

"China, and other nuclear weapon states, must come to terms with the imminent fact of a ban on nuclear testing for all time and in all environments," he said.

Senator Evans said he had instructed the Australian Embassy in Beijing to convey Australia's concerns about the test to the Chinese authorities.

CANBERRA



**RESUMPTION OF FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING: STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER**

**AUSTRALIA DEPLORES FRANCE'S DECISION TO RESUME NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC, ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT CHIRAC ON 13 JUNE.**

**AUSTRALIA IS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO NUCLEAR TESTING BY ANY NUCLEAR WEAPON STATE. IN RECENT MONTHS WE HAVE MADE OUR OPPOSITION VERY CLEAR TO THE FRENCH, INCLUDING TO PRESIDENT CHIRAC.**

**FRANCE'S DECISION IS ALL THE MORE REGRETTABLE GIVEN THAT THE MORATORIUM IT HAD OBSERVED ON NUCLEAR TESTING, TOGETHER WITH THOSE OF THE US, RUSSIA AND THE UK, WAS AN INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE STRENGTHENING OF GLOBAL NON-PROLIFERATION. FRANCE LAST CONDUCTED A NUCLEAR TEST IN JULY 1991, AND ANNOUNCED A MORATORIUM ON ITS NUCLEAR TESTING PROGRAM IN APRIL 1992.**

**THE ACTIONS OF BOTH FRANCE AND CHINA (WHICH CONDUCTED A TEST ON 15 MAY) RUN COUNTER TO THE UNDERTAKINGS THEY MADE AT THE RECENT NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY REVIEW AND EXTENSION CONFERENCE TO EXERCISE "UTMOST RESTRAINT" IN NUCLEAR TESTING.**

**AUSTRALIA HAS WELCOMED THE COMMITMENT MADE AT THE NPT REVIEW AND EXTENSION CONFERENCE TO THE COMPLETION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY NO LATER THAN 1996. ANY FURTHER TEST BY ANY OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES WOULD INEVITABLY CLOUD THE POSITIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE ATMOSPHERE OF THE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA.**

**WHILE I NOTE THAT PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S ANNOUNCEMENT FORESHADOWS THAT THE NUMBER OF NUCLEAR TESTS WILL BE LIMITED TO EIGHT BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 1995 AND MAY 1996, I EMPHASISE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY IS LOOKING TO THE NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES TO DESIST FROM FURTHER TESTING AS THE CTBT NEGOTIATIONS ENTER THIS FINAL AND CRITICAL STAGE.**

**AS CHAIRMAN OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM I WILL BE IN CONTACT WITH MY SOUTH PACIFIC COLLEAGUES ABOUT REGISTERING OUR STRONG OBJECTIONS TO FRANCE'S DECISION TO RESUME TESTING, AND OUR CONCERN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE TREATY. AUSTRALIA HAS REPEATEDLY URGED FRANCE TO ACCEDE TO THE PROTOCOLS OF THE TREATY. DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY REVIEW AND EXTENSION CONFERENCE IN MAY, FRANCE UNDERTOOK TO GIVE EARLY CONSIDERATION TO DOING SO.**

**IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO FREEZE COOPERATION BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND FRANCE IN THE DEFENCE FIELD AT ITS EXISTING LEVEL, WHILE ANY NEW TESTING PROGRAM CONTINUES.**

**THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN PARIS HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CONVEY AUSTRALIA'S PROTEST TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT.**

13/06/95



**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P J KEATING MP  
FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING**

CABINET MET LAST NIGHT TO CONSIDER FURTHER AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S ANNOUNCEMENT ON 13 JUNE THAT FRANCE WOULD RESUME NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.

CABINET'S DELIBERATIONS WERE AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF THE FRENCH REJECTION OF THE EFFORTS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM DELEGATION, LED BY SENATOR EVANS, TO PERSUADE FRANCE NOT TO PROCEED WITH THE TESTS.

AUSTRALIA'S RESPONSE TO THE FRENCH DECISION HAS BEEN STRONG.  
UNEQUIVOCAL AND CONCRETE.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ATTACKED THE DECISION IN VERY STRONG TERMS - FIRST IN A STATEMENT I ISSUED ON 14 JUNE IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ON PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S ANNOUNCEMENT DEPLORING THE DECISION. I ANNOUNCED IN THAT STATEMENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD FROZEN COOPERATION WITH FRANCE IN THE DEFENCE FIELD. THE LANGUAGE OF THAT STATEMENT WAS REPEATED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER, IN JAPAN AT THE TIME, IN A SERIES OF PRESS CONFERENCES, AND IN A DIRECT TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER, MR HERVE DE CHARETTE. THE ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER CALLED IN THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND ISSUED A FORMAL PROTEST AND OUR AMBASSADOR DID LIKEWISE IN PARIS.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO TAKEN THE LEAD IN PROMOTING A STRONG SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ACTION. ON 15 JUNE, I ISSUED A STATEMENT AS CHAIR OF THE FORUM CONDEMNING THE FRENCH DECISION, AFTER CONSULTATIONS WITH MY FELLOW SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM HEADS OF GOVERNMENT. ON 19 JUNE SENATOR EVANS LED A DELEGATION OF FORUM REPRESENTATIVES WHICH CONVEYED DIRECT TO THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT THE REGION'S CONDEMNATION OF THE DECISION AND THE DEEP RESENTMENT IT HAS AROUSED IN THE WHOLE REGION.

THE GOVERNMENT GAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS EMBASSIES ABROAD TO MAKE OUR POSITION KNOWN ON THE FRENCH DECISION. MANY COUNTRIES HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE TESTS, INCLUDING A NUMBER OF OUR CLOSEST NEIGHBOURS.

AUSTRALIA HAS ALSO MADE ACTIVE USE OF MULTILATERAL FORUMS TO LEAVE NO DOUBT AS TO WHERE WE STAND ON THIS ISSUE. WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR OUTRAGE AT THE FRENCH DECISION IN THE UNITED NATIONS IN NEW YORK, AS WELL AS THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY IN VIENNA AND THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT IN GENEVA.

ON 19 JUNE I MADE A SPEECH IN PARLIAMENT SETTING OUT THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THE DECISION AND AUSTRALIA'S RELATIONSHIP WITH FRANCE.

CONCERNED ABOUT FLOW-ON CONSEQUENCES OF THE FRENCH DECISION, I HAVE INSTRUCTED OUR AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON TO WELCOME THE CONTINUED US COMMITMENT TO ITS MORATORIUM AND URGE THE UNITED STATES TO MAINTAIN ITS LEADERSHIP IN NEGOTIATING A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY (CTBT) IN TERMS ACCEPTABLE NOT ONLY TO THE NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES BUT THE WIDER INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. OUR AMBASSADORS IN BEIJING, LONDON AND MOSCOW WILL ALSO BE MAKING REPRESENTATIONS TO THE OTHER NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES IN FAVOUR OF THE MORATORIUM ON TESTING AND EARLY CONCLUSION OF THE CTBT.

BY ANY MEASURE THIS AMOUNTS TO AN UNEQUIVOCAL RESPONSE. I AM IN NO DOUBT THAT THE FRENCH ARE CLEAR ABOUT OUR VIEWS.

LAST NIGHT, CABINET - AFTER HEARING A REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM SENATOR EVANS - DECIDED UPON A SERIES OF FURTHER MEASURES NOW TO BE TAKEN AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE OUTCOME OF THE FORUM DELEGATION'S VISIT TO FRANCE. COVERING ACTIONS AT THE BILATERAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVEL. THESE MEASURES ARE IN LINE WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSISTENT POLICY ON THIS ISSUE WHICH HAS BEEN TO RESPOND IN A MEASURED, GRADUATED WAY, LEAVING OPEN EVERY AVENUE FOR FRANCE TO RESPOND TO SOUTH PACIFIC CONCERNS.

THE FULL DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED MEASURES ARE SET OUT BELOW. IN BROAD OUTLINE, THEY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED THAT AUSTRALIA'S AMBASSADOR IN PARIS IS TO BE RECALLED FOR URGENT CONSULTATIONS AND BRIEFING ON HOW AUSTRALIA CAN BEST CONTINUE TO REACT TO THE FRENCH DECISION.
- THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO EXTEND THE CURTAILMENT OF DEFENCE CONTACTS WITH FRANCE IN THE AREAS OF SHIP AND AIRCRAFT VISITS, TRAINING, SENIOR OFFICER VISITS, MATERIAL ACQUISITION, AND DEFENCE-RELATED AGREEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS. THE SENIOR ADF REPRESENTATIVE IN PARIS WILL BE RECALLED. (IN RELATION TO THE CURTAILMENT OF AIRCRAFT VISITS, DEFENCE WILL TAKE THE OPERATIONAL STEPS REQUIRED TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE THE SAME LEVEL OF MARITIME SURVEILLANCE TO THE PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES.)
- THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONVENE A SPECIAL MEETING OF SOUTH PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS TO DISCUSS THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF TESTING.
- THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE CONSULTING WITH FORUM COUNTRIES ON POSSIBLE REGIONAL MEASURES INCLUDING THE SUSPENSION OF FRANCE'S STATUS AS A SOUTH



PACIFIC FORUM DIALOGUE PARTNER FOR THE DURATION OF TESTING, A POSSIBLE BOYCOTT BY INDIVIDUAL FORUM COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES TO BE HELD IN FRENCH POLYNESIA IN AUGUST, AND THE FORMATION OF A FORUM REGIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE TO COORDINATE RESPONSES TO FRANCE'S DECISION, MOBILISE AND SUPPORT COMMUNITY CAMPAIGNS IN FORUM COUNTRIES, AND REPORT TO THE MADANG FORUM IN SEPTEMBER.

- THE GOVERNMENT WILL BE CONSULTING WITH FORUM COUNTRIES ON THE DESIRABILITY OF A PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN BEING MOBILISED IN FRANCE TO SENSITISE PUBLIC OPINION TO THE STRENGTH OF REGIONAL OPPOSITION TO FRENCH TESTING AND THE REASONS FOR IT.

- AT A WIDER INTERNATIONAL LEVEL, AUSTRALIAN DELEGATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES TO REGISTER AUSTRALIAN AND REGIONAL OPPOSITION TO FRENCH TESTING IN THE UN AND ALL OTHER APPROPRIATE MULTILATERAL BODIES, INCLUDING WHERE APPROPRIATE THROUGH THE INITIATION OF RESOLUTIONS.

- A HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS MISSION WILL BE SENT TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES TO ARGUE THE CASE FOR AN ACCEPTABLY DRAFTED AND QUICKLY NEGOTIATED CTBT.

WHILE IT IS NOT PROPOSED TO EMBARK UPON ANY TRADE OR OTHER DIRECT ECONOMIC RESTRICTIONS, IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE EXISTING POLICY OF ENTERING INTO NO NEW CONTRACTS FOR THE SALE OF URANIUM TO FRANCE UNTIL FRANCE ENTERS INTO A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY WILL REMAIN IN FORCE.

THE GOVERNMENT WILL KEEP THE IMPLEMENTATION AND IMPACT OF THE ABOVE MEASURES UNDER CLOSE REVIEW IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. WE ARE DETERMINED TO DO EVERYTHING WE POSSIBLY AND REASONABLY CAN TO ENSURE THAT FRANCE UNDERSTANDS THE NATURE AND EXTENT OF AUSTRALIAN AND SOUTH PACIFIC OPPOSITION TO ITS TEST RESUMPTION DECISION, AND ACTS ACCORDINGLY.

CANBERRA 23 JUNE 1995

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO FRENCH RESUMPTION OF NUCLEAR TESTS:  
ADDITIONAL MEASURES

A. BILATERAL  
DIPLOMATIC

(1) RECALL AMBASSADOR BROWN FROM PARIS FOR URGENT CONSULTATIONS AND BRIEFING ON THE GOVERNMENT'S RESPONSE TO DATE TO FRANCE'S DECISION.

DEFENCE

(2) RECALL THE SENIOR ADF REPRESENTATIVE IN PARIS.

(3) RESTRICT AUSTRALIAN BILATERAL DEFENCE CONTACTS WITH FRANCE IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

(I) SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT VISITS

- SUSPEND SHIP AND AIRCRAFT VISITS TO FRANCE AND FRENCH PACIFIC TERRITORIES EXCEPT WHERE SUCH VISITS ARE RELATED TO HUMANITARIAN AND DISASTER RELIEF ACTIVITIES. THE SUSPENSION WILL REMAIN IN FORCE UNTIL FRANCE CEASES NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE PACIFIC. THIS WILL INCLUDE THE CANCELLATION OF:

: A PLANNED VISIT TO NOUMEA BY HMAS NEWCASTLE IN SEPTEMBER TO PARTICIPATE IN NEW CALEDONIA VP CELEBRATIONS;

: TWO MARITIME SURVEILLANCE FREMANTLE CLASS PATROL BOAT VISITS PLANNED FOR LATER THIS YEAR; AND

: MARITIME PATROL AIRCRAFT VISITS TO NOUMEA.

- FRENCH MILITARY SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO VISIT AUSTRALIA WHILE THE FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING PROGRAM CONTINUES EXCEPT WHERE SUCH VISITS ARE RELATED TO HUMANITARIAN OR DISASTER RELIEF ACTIVITIES.

(II) TRAINING

- SUSPEND THE FOLLOWING TRAINING ACTIVITIES UNTIL FRANCE CEASES NUCLEAR TESTING:

: ATTENDANCE BY FRENCH STUDENTS AT THE JOINT SERVICES STAFF COLLEGE IN CANBERRA;

: ATTENDANCE BY AN AUSTRALIAN OFFICER AT A FRENCH MILITARY STAFF COURSE IN PARIS;

: ADF FRENCH LANGUAGE STUDENTS VISITING NEW CALEDONIA FOR LANGUAGE TRAINING, AND THE VISIT BY THE ARMY TECHNICAL STAFF OFFICERS COURSE TO FRENCH COMPANIES LATER THIS YEAR.

**(III) SENIOR OFFICER VISITS**

- SUSPEND VISITS BY SENIOR DEFENCE ORGANISATION OFFICERS (ONE STAR AND ABOVE) TO FRANCE AND BY FRENCH SENIOR OFFICERS TO AUSTRALIA.

**(IV) MATERIEL ACQUISITION**

- APPLY FOR THE DURATION OF FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING THE FOLLOWING RESTRICTIONS TO THE DEFENCE MAJOR CAPITAL EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT PROGRAM:

: NO NEW PROCUREMENT ARRANGEMENTS WILL BE ENTERED INTO WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT;

: PROPOSALS BY FRENCH COMPANIES TO BID AS PRIME CONTRACTORS WILL BE CONSIDERED FOR APPROVAL CASE BY CASE BY THE MINISTER FOR DEFENCE.

**(V) DEFENCE RELATED AGREEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS**

- NOT PROGRESS PROPOSED AGREEMENTS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS WHILE THE FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING PROGRAM CONTINUES:

: FRENCH-AUSTRALIAN COLLABORATION ON NAVAL EQUIPMENT;

: A COOPERATIVE DEFENCE LOGISTICS SUPPORT AGREEMENT;

: AN MOU ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EXISTING AGREEMENT ON COLLABORATION ON DEFENCE RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY;

: AN ARRANGEMENT FOR THE EXCHANGE OF CLASSIFIED MARITIME INFORMATION.

**B. REGIONAL**

(4) CONSULT WITH SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM COUNTRIES ON SUSPENSION OF FRANCE AS A SOUTH PACIFIC DIALOGUE PARTNER FOR THE DURATION OF FRENCH TESTING.

(5) CONSULT WITH THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM COUNTRIES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE TO:

(I) COORDINATE FORUM FOLLOW-UP TO THE FORUM MISSION'S TALKS WITH FRANCE,

(II) DEVELOP A FORUM CAMPAIGN ON NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC TO

- MAINTAIN A FLOW OF INFORMATION TO REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND GROUPS;

- ASSIST IN CHANNELLING COMMUNITY VIEWS TO APPROPRIATE UN AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL BODIES; AND

- ASSIST IN CHANNELLING COMMUNITY VIEWS TO TARGET FRENCH COMMUNITY GROUPS SUCH AS NGOS, POLITICAL PARTIES AND SCHOOLS.

(III) REPORT ON THE COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES TO THE LEADERS AT THE MADANG FORUM MEETING IN SEPTEMBER.

(6) CONVENE A SPECIAL MEETING OF SOUTH PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS TO DISCUSS THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF TESTING AND THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MONITORING PROGRAM.

(7) CONSULT WITH SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM COUNTRIES ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN - INCLUDING, FOR EXAMPLE, EXHIBITIONS, NEWSPAPER ARTICLES, TELEVISION AND CINEMA ADVERTISEMENTS - TO BE UNDERTAKEN IN FRANCE TO SENSITISE FRENCH PUBLIC OPINION TO THE STRENGTH OF REGIONAL OPPOSITION TO FRENCH TESTING AND THE REASONS FOR IT.

(8) CONSULT WITH SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM COUNTRIES ON THE POSSIBLE BOYCOTT OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES TO BE HELD IN FRENCH POLYNESIA IN AUGUST THIS YEAR.

#### C. GLOBAL

(9) SEND AS SOON AS POSSIBLE A HIGH-LEVEL OFFICIALS MISSION TO THE NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES TO ARGUE THE CASE FOR A STRONG AND EFFECTIVE COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY AND ACCELERATE THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS FOR IT.

(10) TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUDING WHERE APPROPRIATE THROUGH THE INITIATION OF RESOLUTIONS, TO REGISTER AUSTRALIAN OPPOSITION TO FRENCH TESTING IN UN AND OTHER APPROPRIATE MULTILATERAL FORUMS. PARTICULARLY:

: THE CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT;

: THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN AUCKLAND IN NOVEMBER;

: THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY;

: THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION, OF WHICH AUSTRALIA IS CURRENTLY AN EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER;

- : THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY;
- : THE UN SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE EFFECTS OF ATOMIC RADIATION;
- : THE UN 50TH ANNIVERSARY SUMMIT IN OCTOBER;
- : THE HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF ECOSOC. 4-6 JULY;
- : THE INTERNATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMISSION WHICH IS CURRENTLY MEETING IN PARIS FROM 13-27 JUNE;
- : THE UNESCO EXECUTIVE BOARD AND GENERAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD IN PARIS IN OCTOBER.



**STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER  
THE HON P J KEATING MP ON HIROSHIMA DAY**

**HIROSHIMA DAY - 50 YEARS ON**

**WHEN AN ATOMIC BOMB WAS DROPPED ON HIROSHIMA FIFTY YEARS AGO THE WORLD WAS CHANGED FOREVER. WE HAD BEEN THROUGH THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE WAR IN HUMAN HISTORY. AT THE VERY MOMENT WE EMERGED INTO THE PEACE WE LEARNED THAT THERE WERE WEAPONS IN THE WORLD OF UNIMAGINABLE DESTRUCTIVE FORCE. WE ENTERED A COLD WAR AND WITH IT CAME THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR - WHICH, IT BECAME INCREASINGLY APPARENT, MEANT THE ANNIHILATION OF CIVILISATION.**

**WE WERE NOT THE FIRST GENERATION IN HISTORY TO LIVE IN FEAR OF THE END OF THE WORLD. BUT WE WERE THE FIRST TO HAVE PROOF THAT IT COULD HAPPEN. FROM WHAT WE KNEW OF HIROSHIMA AND NAGASAKI WE KNEW WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE. AND AS FIRST THE SOVIET UNION AND THEN OTHER COUNTRIES DEVELOPED WEAPONS, AND TESTED THEM, AND THE WEAPONS BECAME INFINITELY MORE POWERFUL THAN THE HIROSHIMA BOMB, THE THREAT GREW.**

**FOR HALF A CENTURY WE HAVE LIVED WITH THIS THREAT: THAT A MISCALCULATION OR A MOMENT OF MADNESS AMONG A HANDFUL OF MEN IN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW MIGHT BRING AN END TO HUMAN LIFE.**

**TO SAY THAT THIS KNOWLEDGE HAS PROFOUNDLY CHANGED OUR THINKING IS TO UNDERSTATE THE CASE. THE MUSHROOM CLOUD HAS LIVED IN ALL OUR MINDS. IT HAS PERVADED OUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE FUTURE,, ABOUT OUR CHILDREN, ABOUT HUMAN NATURE.**

**SO LONG AS THE COLD WAR CONTINUED, THE SHADOW OF NUCLEAR WAR GREW LARGER. NEW TECHNOLOGIES EMERGED TO MAKE WEAPONS AND THEIR DELIVERY SYSTEMS EVER MORE EFFICIENT AND DEADLY. WE BECAME FAMILIAR WITH TERMS LIKE MUTUAL ASSURED DESTRUCTION, BUT WE NEVER GOT USED TO THE IDEA.**

**THE COLD WAR LIMITED OUR OPTIONS, BUT MANY COUNTRIES DID WHAT THEY COULD TO MAKE THE WORLD SAFER. AUSTRALIA WAS AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES. IN FACT, AT THE FOREFRONT OF THEM.**

**WE WORKED THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS TO PERSUADE THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO HEED THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR COMPETITION AND PREVENT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND REDUCE NUCLEAR STOCKPILES. WE CREATED A NEW POST - AN AMBASSADOR FOR DISARMAMENT. IN 1985 WE TOOK A LEADING ROLE IN DEVELOPING THE TREATY OF RAROTONGA WHICH ESTABLISHED THE SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE. PROTOCOL 3 OF THAT TREATY PROHIBITS NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC.**

**THE END OF THE COLD WAR CAME AS AN UNEXPECTED AND PROMISING CODA TO THE CENTURY. IT PROMISED A WAY OUT OF THE NUCLEAR PRISON. FOR A MOMENT IT SEEMED POSSIBLE THAT WHAT WE HAD ASSUMED TO BE A PERMANENT FEATURE OF OUR LIVES MIGHT HAVE BEEN A TEMPORARY NIGHTMARE.**

**IT CREATED A GREAT OPPORTUNITY: BUT TO SEIZE THIS OPPORTUNITY THE TWO GREAT QUESTIONS OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND NUCLEAR TESTING HAD**

**BEFORE THE COURT.**

**THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF CALLS FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO SEND A SHIP TO MURUROA ATOLL AS PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL PROTEST AGAINST THE TESTING PROGRAM.**

**I HAVE PREVIOUSLY RULED OUT SENDING A NAVAL VESSEL. THE GOVERNMENT TAKES THE VIEW THAT NAVAL VESSELS SHOULD BE USED FOR NAVAL PURPOSES.**

**WE HAVE ALSO CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY OF SENDING A NON-NAVAL VESSEL. THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED AGAINST SUCH AN ACTION IN THE CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES. OUR REASONS ARE PRINCIPALLY STRATEGIC AND FINANCIAL. IT WOULD BE A COSTLY EXERCISE AND IT IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN THAT IT WOULD HAVE ANY PRACTICAL EFFECT. WE BELIEVE, ON BALANCE, THAT OUR RESOURCES CAN BE PUT TO BETTER USE DEVELOPING OTHER ELEMENTS OF OUR CAMPAIGN.**

**THE GOVERNMENT IS, HOWEVER CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAFETY OF AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE FLOTILLA. PRESENT INDICATIONS ARE THAT AROUND TEN AUSTRALIAN YACHTS COULD BE INVOLVED. THE AUSTRALIAN MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE, WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH RELEVANT SOUTH PACIFIC SEARCH AND RESCUE AGENCIES TO OFFER ANY ADDITIONAL SUPPORT IF THIS IS REQUIRED.**

**THE GOVERNMENT WILL ALSO STRENGTHEN CONSULAR SUPPORT FOR AUSTRALIANS IN FRENCH POLYNESIA.**

**WITH THE TRAGEDIES OF WORLD WAR 2 AND COLD WAR TENSION NOW BEHIND US, WE HAVE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MANY GENERATIONS AN OPPORTUNITY TO REMAKE OUR CONCEPTS OF WORLD SECURITY AND TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TOWARDS A WORLD WITHOUT NUCLEAR WEAPONS.**

**HIROSHIMA IS A MOST POWERFUL REMINDER THAT WE MUST NOT WASTE THAT OPPORTUNITY.**

**CANBERRA  
ISSUED 5 AUGUST 1995**



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

TESTING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY CHINA

AUSTRALIA CONDEMNS THE LATEST TEST OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON BY CHINA.

THIS TEST IS THE SECOND IN ONLY THREE MONTHS SINCE THE EXTENSION OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS (NPT) IN MAY THIS YEAR. AT THE NPT REVIEW AND EXTENSION CONFERENCE ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES AGREED TO EXERCISE 'UTMOST RESTRAINT' WITH RESPECT TO NUCLEAR TESTING PENDING THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY IN 1996, AND TO WORK SINCERELY TOWARDS THE ELIMINATION OF ALL NUCLEAR WEAPONS. CHINA'S ACTION FLIES IN THE FACE OF THESE UNDERTAKINGS, WHICH IT SUPPORTED AT THE NPT CONFERENCE.

ONE OF THE UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES OF CHINA'S DECISION TO CONTINUE TESTING IS THAT NATIONS WHICH ASPIRE TO POSSESS NUCLEAR WEAPONS WILL QUESTION THE SINCERITY OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES TO EVENTUAL NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND THEIR INTEREST IN DEVELOPING NUCLEAR WEAPONS MAY BE REINFORCED. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE A SERIOUS THREAT TO WORLD PEACE.

AUSTRALIA WELCOMES THE RECENT STATEMENT OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM, WHICH CALLED ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES TO BRING AN IMMEDIATE END TO NUCLEAR TESTING, AS A CLEAR EXPRESSION OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONCERNS ABOUT THE CONTINUED AND UNWARRANTED TESTING OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

AUSTRALIANS ARE ANGRY THAT DESPITE THE END OF THE COLD WAR AND THE SUCCESSFUL EXTENSION OF THE NPT BOTH CHINA AND FRANCE HAVE DECIDED TO CONTINUE TESTING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. OUR DISAPPOINTMENT IS THE GREATER BECAUSE OF THE RESTRAINT EXHIBITED BY THE OTHER NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES AND THE FACT THAT THESE WEAPONS TESTING PROGRAMS ARE OCCURRING AT A CRITICAL TIME IN INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS ON A NUMBER OF NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT INITIATIVES.

AUSTRALIA URGES CHINA TO CEASE ITS NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTING PROGRAM NOW AS BOTH AN IMPORTANT BOOST TO GLOBAL NON-PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT EFFORTS AND GLOBAL SECURITY.

17/08/95

