



International Atomic Energy Agency

# INFORMATION CIRCULAR

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**COMMUNICATION OF 24 NOVEMBER 1995 RECEIVED FROM  
THE PERMANENT MISSION OF AUSTRALIA  
TO THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

1. On 27 November 1995, the Director General received a communication dated 24 November 1995 from the Permanent Mission of Australia transmitting Statements of 22 November 1995 by the Prime Minister of Australia, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia and the Secretary-General of the South Pacific Forum on "The Fourth French Nuclear Test".
2. As requested by the Permanent Mission of Australia, the texts of the Statements are being circulated for the information of Member States of the Agency.

## **THE FOURTH FRENCH NUCLEAR TEST**

STATEMENT BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA. THE HON P J KEATING MP

I STRONGLY CONDEMN THE LATEST FRENCH NUCLEAR TEST AT MURUROA ATOLL.

I AM APPALLED THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO SHOW DISREGARD FOR THE FEELINGS OF THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC. IT HAS FURTHER ISOLATED ITSELF FROM INTERNATIONAL THINKING ON NUCLEAR ISSUES AND SIGNIFICANTLY DEVALUED ITS INTERNATIONAL CREDENTIALS.

AUSTRALIA WARMLY WELCOMED THE RECENT UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE END TO NUCLEAR TESTING. IT IS CLEAR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SHARES AUSTRALIA'S CONVICTION THAT CONTINUED NUCLEAR TESTING IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH CHANGED GLOBAL STRATEGIC CIRCUMSTANCES AND CHANGING WORLD OPINION.

THE GOVERNMENT FULLY SUPPORTS THE RECENT COMMONWEALTH STATEMENT ON DISARMAMENT IN WHICH THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF LEADERS CONDEMNED CONTINUED NUCLEAR TESTING AND ALL LEADERS EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DETERMINED PURSUIT OF THE ELIMINATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. THIS CONFIRMED TO ME THE BREADTH AND DEPTH OF OPPOSITION TO CONTINUED NUCLEAR TESTING.

CONTINUED TESTING RAISES THE LEVEL OF SCEPTICISM AMONGST NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES ABOUT THE SINCERITY OF SOME NUCLEAR POWERS TO PURSUE NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT AND THEREFORE ADVANCES THE PROSPECT THAT SOME NON-NUCLEAR WEAPON NATIONS WILL PURSUE THEIR OWN NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAMS. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT MUST REALISE THAT BY SENDING THE WRONG SIGNALS ABOUT ITS NUCLEAR INTENTIONS IT IS IN FACT UNDERMINING ITS LONG TERM SECURITY. NOT STRENGTHENING IT. SECURITY IN THE NEXT CENTURY WILL NOT BE FOUND IN THE POSSESSION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

THE GOVERNMENT CALLS ON FRANCE TO ABANDON IMMEDIATELY ITS TESTING PROGRAM AND TO DESIST FROM ACTIONS WHICH UNDERMINE PROGRESS TOWARDS A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY AND MEASURES TO PREVENT THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

I WILL SHORTLY BE MAKING A STATEMENT ON THE NEXT STEPS AUSTRALIA WILL BE TAKING TO PURSUE THE GOAL OF A WORLD FREE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS WHICH I SET OUT IN MY UNITED NATIONS DAY SPEECH ON 24 OCTOBER 1995.

CANBERRA  
22 NOVEMBER 1995

## **FOURTH FRENCH NUCLEAR TEST**

MINISTERIAL MEDIA RELEASE

ISSUED BY THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SENATOR GARETH EVANS QC

I CALLED IN THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR THIS MORNING TO CONVEY IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS OUR PROTEST AGAINST THE LATEST FRENCH UNDERGROUND TEST.

I TOLD HIM THAT THE TEST PROGRAM WAS CONTINUING IN CONTEMPTUOUS DISREGARD OF WHAT WAS CLEARLY THE OVERWHELMING OPPOSITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY - DEMONSTRATED MOST RECENTLY IN LAST WEEK'S VOTE AT THE UNITED NATIONS. AND BEFORE THAT AT THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING.

EVERY TEST THAT TAKES PLACE NOT ONLY CREATES NEW RISKS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC. BUT MAKES MORE DIFFICULT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE WORLD TO WHICH ALL THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES ARE COMMITTED UNDER ARTICLE VI OF THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.

EACH NEW TEST REINFORCES THE SCEPTICISM - NOW, UNHAPPILY, WIDELY FELT - ABOUT THE INTENTIONS OF ALL THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS STATES. AND IN PARTICULAR THROWS FURTHER DOUBT ON FRANCE'S CREDIBILITY AND BONA FIDES.

THROUGH THE AMBASSADOR I CALLED AGAIN UPON FRANCE TO

. ABANDON NOW ANY PLANS FOR FURTHER NUCLEAR TESTS

. COMMIT ITSELF NOW TO CLOSE ONCE AND FOR ALL ITS NUCLEAR TEST FACILITIES IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC

. PROVIDE TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FULL AND UNRESTRICTED ACCESS TO ALL THE SCIENTIFIC DATA IT HOLDS AND TO THE TEST SITES TO ENABLE AN INDEPENDENT AND COMPREHENSIVE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT TO TAKE PLACE. AND

. ACCEPT FULL AND EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY ADVERSE IMPACTS FROM THE TESTS ON THE SOUTH PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT AND PEOPLE.

CANBERRA  
22 NOVEMBER 1995

## **SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM RESPONSE TO FOURTH NUCLEAR TEST AT MURUROA ATOLL**

TEXT OF A STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE FORUM SECRETARIAT (IEREMIA TABAI) CONCERNING THE FOURTH FRENCH NUCLEAR TEST AT MURUROA ATOLL.

### SECRETARY-GENERAL DEPLORES 4TH NUCLEAR TEST WITH RIFT IN FRENCH-FORUM RELATIONS WIDENING

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM, HON IEREMIA TABAI, TODAY EXPRESSED EXTREME OUTRAGE AT THE FOURTH NUCLEAR TEST WHICH FRANCE DETONATED EARLY THIS MORNING.

THE BLAST SAID TO BE IN THE RANGE OF BETWEEN 5 AND 20 KILOTONNES TOOK PLACE AT MURUROA ATOLL AROUND 0930 THIS MORNING (FUI TIME).

IN A STATEMENT TODAY, MR TABAI SAID FRANCE HAD ONCE AGAIN IGNORED OVERWHELMING OPPOSITION BY BOTH THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COMMUNITIES AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTING.

HE SAID SINCE FRANCE BEGAN ITS CURRENT NUCLEAR TEST PROGRAMME IN SEPTEMBER. INTERNATIONAL OPPOSITION HAD CONTINUED TO INTENSIFY. AS REFLECTED IN THE MOST RECENT STATEMENTS MADE BY THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN AUCKLAND AND TIME RESOLUTION PASSED LAST WEEK BY THE UNITED NATIONS DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE WHICH VOTED 95 TO 12 AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTING.

"TODAY'S EXPLOSION HAS FURTHER ERODED FRANCE'S RELATIONS WITH MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM. THE REGION'S RESOLVE HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THESE RESOLUTIONS AND WE SHALL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH THE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION WHICH CONTINUES TO BE CONDEMNATORY OF NUCLEAR TESTING. ESPECIALLY THE FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING PROGRAMME IN THE REGION." MR TABAI SAID.

"IN OCTOBER. THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM SUSPENDED FRANCE'S STATUS AS A POST-FORUM DIALOGUE PARTNER IN A CLEAR MESSAGE TO PARIS THAT WE ARE UTTERLY DISPLEASED AT FRANCE'S CONTINUED TESTING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC. THE LATEST EXPLOSION ONLY INTENSIFIED OUR ANGER." SECRETARY-GENERAL TABAI SAID.

"OUR POSITION ON NUCLEAR TESTING IS FIRM AND UNMOVABLE. WE ARE OPPOSED TO NUCLEAR TESTING. ESPECIALLY WHEN OUR OWN BACKYARD IS BEING USED FOR SUCH EXPERIMENTS." HE SAID.

"IT IS MY HOPE THAT FRANCE NOTE THAT OUR CONTINUING ANGER OVER NUCLEAR TESTING IS JUSTIFIED." THE SECRETARY-GENERAL SAID.

22 NOVEMBER 1995