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Item 30 of the preliminary list*

URGENT NEED FOR CESSATION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMONUCLEAR TESTS
AND CONCLUSION OF A TREATY DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE A COMPREHENSIVE
TEST BAN

Letter dated 11 April 1974 from the Permanent Representatives of
Australia, Fiji and New Zealand to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

We request you to arrange for the distribution, as a document of the General Assembly under the item entitled "Urgent need for cessation of nuclear and thermonuclear tests and conclusion of a treaty designed to achieve a comprehensive test ban", of the attached extract, relating to nuclear testing, from the communiqué of 24 March 1974, issued at the conclusion of the Fifth South Pacific Forum in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

(Signed) L.R. MCINTYRE
Permanent Representative
of Australia to the United
Nations

(Signed) S.K. SIKIVOU
Permanent Representative
of Fiji to the United
Nations

(Signed) M.J.C. TEMPLETON
Permanent Representative
of New Zealand to the
United Nations

* A/9600.

ANNEX

Extract relating to nuclear testing from the communiqué
of 24 March 1974, issued at the conclusion of the Fifth
South Pacific Forum

Members recalled the expressions of opposition to atmospheric nuclear testing at the last three meetings of the Forum. In particular, they recalled the joint declaration on such testing made at the meeting last year. They deplored the fact that, despite the declaration, France has since carried out a further series of tests in the South Pacific which has resulted in the deposit of radio-active fall-out in a number of countries in the region.

Members once again called on Governments, and in particular the Government of France, the only Government testing in the South Pacific, to heed the views of the Forum, the calls of the United Nations General Assembly and other international bodies and obligations under international law by bringing about an immediate halt to all testing.

Members were unanimous in expressing their concern at the potential health and other hazards to which their people and environment were exposed as a result of radio-active fall-out from such tests.

Members welcomed renewed efforts being made at the international level for a ban on nuclear weapons testing in all environments and agreed to encourage and support any constructive moves that would preserve the human family from the hazards of nuclear weapons testing and further the goal of nuclear arms control and disarmament.
