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PRIME MINISTER

**TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRIME MINISTER, THE HON P.J. KEATING MP
DOORSTOP AT CONCLUSION OF LEADERS RETREAT, MADANG
RESORT, 14 SEPTEMBER 1995**

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PM: I'll just give you a few remarks. We had a good but long meeting where we have adopted, I think, a good communique which is about advancing the theme of last year which was managing resources. Now, we are talking about securing development beyond 2000. We had a good discussion around those issues and the communique will be published for you very shortly. We also adopted the code of conduct - the logging code of conduct - which we have been working on since last year and we agreed unanimously to implement it with our national codes. So, in other words, as each country implements its national code of logging practices and conduct, it will give effect to the code of conduct principles which are there and which have been published to date.

Could I just say there was a lengthy discussion about nuclear testing in the Pacific and you will find a very strong communique where the leaders say they express their extreme outrage at the resumption of French nuclear testing. Forum leaders again demand that France desist from any further tests in the region and call on other countries also to seek to persuade France to cease testing. It goes on to say that should France continue its testing in the Pacific, the Forum will review France's status as a post-Forum dialogue partner and it goes on in that vein.

So, there was a very strong, and again unanimous view about that. So, by and large, I think, one could report solid progress.

J: Did any particular country object to the communique on France?

PM: No, no. There was a discussion coming from Vanuatu, I think, and some of the people in the Melanesian spearhead group that they want some sort of monitoring program there for the future. Because when this program ceases, they want to be able to evaluate the atoll environment and any attendant risk. So, there was a discussion about that, but by and large it was agreed unanimously.

- J: Did any nations ... break off the post-Forum relations with France?
- PM: There was some discussion about that but not much because, I think, that to most countries the Forum dialogue does provide an opportunity to have a discussion with France, but in the event, as the communique says, if it continues testing, the Forum will review its status as a post-Forum dialogue partner.
- J: So, does that mean that the French Minister due to attend the meeting from Saturday next week, that he may be told that he is not welcome?
- PM: No, no, the French Minister will definitely be involved in the dialogue, at this time.
- J: until next year, by which time the testing will be over anyway.
- PM: The testing will be over, but will France have its dialogue status?
- J: Prime Minister, in relation to the logging code of practice, how do you understand that will apply to the Solomon Islands, as the Solomon Islands say it won't apply until they develop their own national code of practices.
- PM: For a start, it was unanimously endorsed and the Solomon Islands Minister endorsed the code of conduct along with the rest of us. The code of conduct though, is not a binding document which will apply to each country. It is a set of principles and guidelines which will then be subject to adoption as part of their national code of practice and code of conduct. So, in other words and I might just give an example, Vanuatu is just in the process now of adopting it, of ratifying and adopting it as part of its code of conduct before its ministerial council. As you know Australia at the moment is going through its own forestry practice regime PNG has indicated that they are within a few months of their being in a position to adopt their own code.
- J: ... Solomon Islands doesn't introduce its own national code. It will have not affect and practices will continue in the Solomon Islands the same as they are now?
- PM: That is right, but again these codes are adopted here but the effect of them can only be given under national rules or national legislation. That has always been the case. In other words, what you are asking me is if a country wants to wilfully go along and damage through clear felling for instance its forest environment, does this stop it? No, but the Solomon's did endorse the code.
- J: What brought the code of conduct back into discussions today, we'd heard it was to be taken off ...

- PM: No, it was never off the agenda, it was coming back from last year. It was absolutely set on the agenda for this time because it was coming from last year.
- J: Just going back to the nuclear testing issue again briefly, do you think extreme outrage is good enough, hasn't France already got the message that there is extreme outrage?
- PM: Well, would you like us to stand on our head and borrow a few garlands from around here to make the show better for you. What else have we got to say?
- J: Do you think France will take any notice ...
- PM: I think the French are very hurt about all this. Now, they say in a melancholy and wounded way, this is about the rest of us trying to remove France from the Pacific. Well, of course we are not. What it is about is a bad decision to test nuclear weapons. That is what it is about.
- J: ... United Nations Prime Minister, to condemn France over this?
- PM: That is still part of our processes and, of course, we also noted and endorsed New Zealand's taking of the case to the ICJ. So, we are going to continue our campaign.
- J: ... (inaudible) ... [French territories?]
- PM: No, only that it was said at the meeting that these are matters between France itself and the various national groupings and populations.
- J: Was there any discussion about how the Forum ... how France would react to this latest communique?
- PM: It is about getting a reaction. It is designed to get a reaction and, I think, the language makes that clear.
- J: ... (inaudible) ...
- PM: Well, it is about France's general attitude towards the Pacific area and its obvious contempt in this decision. I think they are the things that will be assessed this time next year or between now and then.
- J: So, it can be ... between now and then?
- PM: Yes, sure.
- J: Was the general attitude of the region discussed?
- PM: No, not per se.

- J: So, the next test going off ...
- PM: Well, it will mean for a start we are continuing to express our outrage at what has happened. We repeat that. We again demand that France desist from those tests. Were it to explode another device then it would be up to Forum leaders to decide whether that dialogue status with the Forum continues.
- J: A couple of weeks ago you referred to France as still being a colonial power in the South Pacific. In recent days you have made the point that the status of those territories is a matter for people of those territories and France, yet in the past Australia has taken an active interest in the making of accords for example in New Caledonia. Do you believe that the testing issue will act as a catalyst for change and reconsideration of that territorial status by France, New Caledonia and French Polynesia.
- PM: I don't know the answer to that, but when PNG was seen as a colonial territory of Australia that became a matter of debate and led, of course, to the independence movement, the independence of Papua New Guinea which we celebrate with its twentieth anniversary this weekend. Certain things bring these things into the public debate and I have got no doubt that this weapons' testing program has brought into the public debate France's status in the Pacific. But as with Australia, the independence of PNG was a matter for Australia and the people of PNG. So similarly is independence in the Pacific a matter for France in the French territories for France and the members of those communities. It is not a matter for the Forum.
- J: Well Australia was influenced heavily by other countries in its say in its independence of PNG Prime Minister.
- PM: I think to be fair to ourselves I think we lead our own way out of our colonial arrangements in PNG, perhaps later than might otherwise been, but still within 25 or 30 years of the war. It is for France to make its own mind up about what its status and standing is here and what its national objectives here and how people here relate to it.
- J: Sir Julius ... implied earlier this week that the code of conduct would be rejected, what has changed the situation?
- PM: I think essentially the difference is one of meaning rather than substance - one of words rather than substance - that is, it is always a matter for PNG, say, as with other countries to ratify their code of conduct. What they are saying is they couldn't do that before this meeting. They could do it later, but they were quite happy to endorse the code of conduct and accept that they are endorsing it for ratification which they will do, I think, in the second half of this year.
- J: Prime Minister, there was some recent tension between Australia and PNG over aid and other issues, you had bilateral talks with Sir Julius

Chan yesterday did you make any progress there in terms of the shift from budget aid to program aid?

PM: It was never raised. We have now made a fairly heavy change over time in the shift between budget aid and program aid. We hope that is going well, that is we are able to deliver decent services on the ground for the dollars we provide. It may be a matter in PNG politics, but it was not raised with me by the Prime Minister. So, as far as I am concerned and I would have told him this if it had been raised that the shift is going to continue under the agreement.

J: Was Ok Tedi discussed?

PM: No, not at all.

J: ... (inaudible) ...

PM: You'll find something about that in the communique and I think that will say succinctly ... what we are essentially saying is we are going to examine that over the course of the next year and report back.

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FORUM LEADERS' STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR TESTING

LEADERS EXPRESS THEIR EXTREME OUTRAGE AT THE RESUMPTION OF FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING IN THE PACIFIC. FORUM LEADERS AGAIN DEMAND THAT FRANCE DESIST FROM ANY FURTHER TESTS IN THE REGION AND CALL ON OTHER COUNTRIES ALSO TO SEEK TO PERSUADE FRANCE TO CEASE TESTING.

THE FORUM ALSO NOTE THAT THE PAINFUL MEMORIES RESULTING FROM NUCLEAR TESTING CONDUCTED IN THE REGION A HALF-CENTURY AGO STILL HAUNT MANY PEOPLE IN THE REGION.

SHOULD FRANCE CONTINUE ITS TESTING IN THE PACIFIC, THE FORUM WILL REVIEW FRANCE'S STATUS AS A POST-FORUM DIALOGUE PARTNER.

THE OUTRAGE OF THE FORUM MEMBER COUNTRIES IS SO MUCH THE GREATER BECAUSE OF THE INTRANSIGENCE OF FRANCE, TOGETHER WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, IN PERSISTING WITH THEIR NUCLEAR TESTS IN THE FACE OF NOT ONLY THE STRONG VIEWS OF THE PACIFIC REGION, BUT ALSO THE APPEAL OF THE ASEAN REGIONAL FORUM, AND THE WORLD-WIDE SENTIMENT AGAINST TESTING.

THE DECISIONS BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF FRANCE AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO CONTINUE TESTING ARE COMPLETELY CONTRARY TO THE UNDERTAKING AT THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT) REVIEW AND EXTENSION CONFERENCE ON 11 MAY 1995 TO EXERCISE "UTMOST RESTRAINT" IN NUCLEAR TESTING PENDING THE COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY (CTBT) THAT WOULD BAN NUCLEAR TESTS FOR ALL TIME.

THE CONCLUSION OF A CTBT IS AN OBJECTIVE OF THE HIGHEST IMPORTANCE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. LEADERS THEREFORE WELCOME THE RECENT ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE UNITED STATES AND FRANCE TO SUPPORT A TRULY COMPREHENSIVE CTBT. THEY CALL ON ALL MEMBERS OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AND ESPECIALLY THE NUCLEAR WEAPON STATES, TO SPARE NO EFFORT TO ENSURE THE CONCLUSION OF A CTBT NO LATER THAN 1996.

IN THE SPIRIT OF THIS RENEWED EMPHASIS ON GLOBAL DISARMAMENT, LEADERS CALL ON FRANCE TO SIGN AND RATIFY THE PROTOCOLS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE (SPNFZ) TREATY. THEY URGE THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM TO DO LIKEWISE, NOTING THAT THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND RUSSIA HAVE ALREADY SIGNED THE PROTOCOLS.

THE DECISION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF VANUATU TO SIGN THE SPNFZ TREATY AT THE FORUM IS WARMLY WELCOMED.

THE FORUM WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE NUCLEAR TESTING AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY INCLUDING AT THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

LEADERS COMMEND THE EFFORTS COMMENCED BY THE FORUM DELEGATION TO PARIS IN JUNE. THEY THANK THE FORUM REGIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE FOR ITS WORK IN SUPPORTING THE ACTIVITIES OF FORUM GOVERNMENTS AND ENDORSE THE REPORT OF ITS ACTIVITIES PRESENTED TO THE FORUM.

LEADERS WELCOME NEW ZEALAND'S ACTION TO RESUME ITS 1973 INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE CASE AGAINST FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING AND ITS ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS IN THE PACIFIC AND COMMEND THE ACTION OF FORUM MEMBERS SEEKING TO INTERVENE IN THE PROCEEDINGS TO SUPPORT NEW ZEALAND'S REQUEST TO THE COURT.

LEADERS REITERATE THE CALL BY THE MELANESIAN SPEARHEAD GROUP LEADERS THROUGH THE LAKATORO DECLARATION AND BY THE SOUTH PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT MINISTERS MEETING IN AUGUST 1995 FOR FRANCE TO CLOSE ITS NUCLEAR TESTING FACILITIES IN THE PACIFIC, EXCEPT AS REQUIRED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING; TO ACCEPT FULL AND EXCLUSIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY ADVERSE IMPACTS FROM FRENCH TESTING ON THE PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT AND PEOPLE; AND TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO ALL THE SCIENTIFIC DATA IT HOLDS AND TO THE TESTING SITES THEMSELVES TO ENABLE AN INDEPENDENT AND COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE RISKS INVOLVED.

FINALLY, FORUM LEADERS EXPRESS THEIR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THE PEOPLE FROM THE REGION AND AROUND THE WORLD WHO HAVE OFFERED THEIR SUPPORT AND THEIR VOICE TO THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTING. THEY RENEW THEIR UNDERTAKING TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO STOP NUCLEAR TESTING AND THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

MADANG, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

14 SEPTEMBER 1995