



## PRIME MINISTER

FOR PRESS:

PM'S NO 63/72

### ATMOSPHERIC TESTS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Statement by the Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand, The Rt Hon. William McMahon, C.H., M.P., and The Rt Hon. J.R. Marshall, M.P.

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The Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand, meeting in Canberra today, agreed to a joint message for transmission to the Chairman of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament in Geneva.

The text of the joint message reads :

" Upon the resumption of the meetings of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament, it is a matter of the deepest regret that it should prove necessary for the Australian and New Zealand Prime Ministers, meeting in Canberra, to address themselves to you to express their joint protest that a further series of atmospheric tests of nuclear weapons should be imminent in the South Pacific.

"The Government of France must bear the full responsibility for the decision which it has apparently taken to proceed with such tests. It does so contrary to the appeals made to it by many Pacific countries, contrary to the urging of the General Assembly and contrary to the recent call by the Stockholm Conference which has especially condemned those tests carried out in the atmosphere.

"The Australian and New Zealand Governments :

reflecting the grave concern felt throughout their communities and conscious that the problem of atmospheric testing in their region is part only of a broader problem;

recalling their support at the U.N. General Assembly November 1971 for resolution 2828 (c), which stressed the urgency of bringing to a halt all nuclear weapon testing in all environments by all States;

call jointly on the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament to continue to accord high priority to the question of the urgent need for the suspension of such tests and the formulation of a comprehensive test ban treaty.

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"We should be grateful if you would take steps to arrange for this message to be circulated as an official document of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament.

" Signed

William McMahon, J.R.Marshall  
Prime Minister of Australia. Prime Minister of New Zealand.  
Canberra  
20 June 1972 "

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Canberra  
20 June 1972

NOTE FOR PRESS:

The text of the joint message has also been released to the New Zealand press.