

STATEMENT BY DR. JIM CAIRNS
ACTING PRIME MINISTER

The Acting Prime Minister Dr. Jim Cairns said today that the decision of the International Court of Justice was wonderful news. Australia's objective in ending the French tests in the atmosphere above the Pacific had been achieved.

The influence of the application to the Court must have been of great significance in persuading the French to end the tests.

The application no doubt strengthened the Court's rulings in this regard and it may encourage more Nations to turn to the Court.

Dr. Cairns congratulated the Attorney-General and his staff for the competent way in which they had presented the case and on the success of the application.

It was a triumph of law over war.

The decision has raised the prestige of the International Court and it represents an important precedent, justifying the confidence of those who had made the application.

CANBERRA
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