



**DEPARTMENT OF
FOREIGN
AFFAIRS**

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FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING

The Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Whitlam, said today that the Government had reason to believe that France had carried out an underground nuclear test on Fangataufa atoll in the Pacific Ocean on 6 June.

Mr Whitlam said that the Australian Government wished to reiterate its opposition to all forms of nuclear weapons testing by any state. The Australian Government continued to urge the nuclear powers to reach agreement on a comprehensive test ban.

At the same time the Australian Government noted that the French Government was refraining from conducting nuclear weapons tests in the atmosphere in the Pacific region. The Australian Government hoped that the French Government would continue to refrain from further atmospheric nuclear tests which in the past years have given rise to considerable concern in Australia and other countries.