URGENT NEED FOR SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR AND THERMONUCLEAR TESTS

Letter dated 28 September 1973 from the Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government I have the honour to refer to my letter of 25 July 1973 (A/9109) and to bring the following additional information to Your Excellency's attention.

On 22 and 29 July 1973 respectively the French Government exploded two nuclear devices in the atmosphere above Mururoa Atoll.

Detection devices on the territory of Australia began to register fresh fall-out throughout Australia beginning during the period 6 to 9 August.

Analysis of the short lived radio-active products in the samples has positively identified the fall-out with the French explosions in Polynesia.

In the opinion of the Government of Australia the conduct of the Government of France constitutes a clear and deliberate breach of the Order of the International Court of Justice of 22 June 1973. 1/

This Order stated, inter alia, that:

"The Governments of Australia and France should each of them ensure that no action of any kind is taken which might aggravate or extend the dispute submitted to the Court or prejudice the rights of the other Party in respect of the carrying out of whatever decision the Court may render in the case; and, in particular, the French Government should avoid nuclear tests causing the deposit of radio-active fall-out on Australian territory."

1/ Sec 8/10962.
On 24 August 1973 the Australian Government forwarded a note of protest to the French Government in relation to, *inter alia*, the detection in Australia of fall-out which has been positively identified as resulting from French explosions in Polynesia.

This note also called for an assurance that no further breaches of the Order of the International Court of Justice would take place.

The Government of Australia also has reason to believe that the French Government exploded three more nuclear devices in the atmosphere over Mururoa Atoll on 19, 25 and 29 August 1973.

On 26 September 1973 the Australian Government forwarded a further note to the French Government protesting against these further explosions.

The Australian Government is deeply concerned at these nuclear explosions, which are contrary to the repeated calls of United Nations bodies for an immediate cessation of atmospheric nuclear testing.

I have the honour to request that this letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under the item "Urgent need for suspension of nuclear and thermonuclear tests".

(Signed) L. R. McIntyre
Permanent Representative