



Nuclear Free Local Authorities (Scotland)

Secretariat

Our Ref: 23/1/G AAD
Date: 20th July, 1995

SOLICITOR'S DIVISION
Town House, Aberdeen AB9 1AQ
Telephone: 01224 271270
Fax: 01224 322490
DX: AB52

Chief Executives of
Shadow Authorities in Scotland

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposed resumption of Nuclear Testing

Further to my letter of 5th July concerning the above, I enclose a copy of a recent letter from the Secretary of the National Steering Committee of Nuclear Free Local Authorities (UK) intimating that Committee's decisions at their meeting on 30th June regarding the proposed resumption of nuclear testing.

I would draw your attention to the various suggested actions which Local Authorities are invited to consider in response to the situation, namely:-

- to support the non-governmental organisation Abolition Caucus developed at the New York UN Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Extension Conference in May this year;
- to write in suggested terms of protest to the Governments of France and/or China;
- to raise concerns and report actions taken to MPs, MEPs and to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Nuclear Non-Proliferation Division;
- to inform the public of the internationally promoted boycott of French goods and advise, where considered appropriate, of the availability of alternatives to these;
- to encourage concerned authorities to be represented at the IULA Congress in the Hague in September and to support the National Steering Committee in contributing to the content of the IULA final statement; and
- to release to local and national Press in suggested terms details of action taken/to be taken in response to the situation.

In order that the National Steering Committee's proposals may be considered, I should be obliged if you would place this letter together with its enclosure before the appropriate Committee or Committees of your Council.

Please advise me of any decisions taken by your Council in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

John A. Marr,
NFLA (Scotland) Secretary.



ALAN F. TOWNS
CITY SOLICITOR



**NUCLEAR FREE
LOCAL AUTHORITIES**

NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

**NUCLEAR POLICY AND INFORMATION UNIT
MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL
TOWN HALL
MANCHESTER
M60 2LA**

SECRETARY: STEWART KEMP

Our Ref: NPIU/NSC
Date: 10 July 1995
Tel: 0161 234 3324
Fax: 0161 236 8864
Email: nfzpsc@gn.apc.org

To: Member and Officer Contacts

Dear Colleagues

- 1) Nuclear Testing: Decisions of the 30 June 1995 National Steering Committee (NSC)**
- 2) Annual General Meeting and Conference: First Announcement**

NUCLEAR TESTING

The NSC at its meeting on 30 June expressed its grave concern about the decision by China and France to resume nuclear testing after giving assurances to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Extension Conference in May that, together with other Nuclear Weapon States (US, Russia and UK), they would show "utmost restraint" pending "entry into force of a Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)" by the end of 1996.

The NSC also expressed concern at the prospect of the US backtracking on a CTBT by exempting 'small' nuclear explosions (up to 500 tonnes high explosive equivalent) to assist new nuclear weapon design. More recently the press have reported pressure from our own Government on US authorities to allow British nuclear weapon testing to continue in the Nevada desert.

This bad faith has provoked international condemnation from many of the 173 non-nuclear weapon states who are party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Indignation has been heightened in the context of the approaching commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings but this reaction, and the implications for future peace and international security, has been largely obscured in the UK by domestic political news coverage.



PRINTED ON RE-CYCLED PAPER

The NSC Chair, Cllr Louise Fyfe, summarised the Committee's view in a statement to the press:

" We want local government in the UK to throw its weight behind the international campaign to stop nuclear weapons testing. The British Government is internationally isolated in its uniquely deplorable silence over testing. This does not represent the public view nor demonstrate a consistent commitment towards environmental protection.

Nuclear weapon testing is an abuse of the environment and threatens international security. At the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty Extension Conference in May the five nuclear powers promised to show 'utmost restraint' ahead of reaching agreement in 1996 on a total test ban. China broke this promise within three days and a month later France announced it would follow suit. This diminishes the authority of the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty and encourages others to ignore their international obligations."

The NSC decided to call on member authorities to use their influence to highlight international concern about nuclear testing and the need for the early completion of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Member Authorities are asked to consider the following actions:

- **Resolve** - at the next meeting of the Council's Policy Committee to support the NGO Abolition Caucus. The Abolition Caucus was a lobby developed amongst NGOs observing at the New York UN NNPT Extension Conference in May. It now comprises some 200 peace and environmental groups worldwide (A current listing is available from the Caucus European organisers - details at end Annex A). The NSC has endorsed the Statement at Annex A and asks member authorities to individually endorse the same and inform the Caucus European organisers in Germany -- International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW).
- * **Write** - in the terms at Annex B (a letter and translation from Leeds City Council addressed to the President of France). Member Authorities are asked to make their protest by writing in the terms at Annex B to the French and/or Chinese Government copying correspondence to a) their French and/or Chinese twin town/city and b) the French or Chinese Embassies. Address details are as follows:

President Jacques Chirac
Palais de l'Elysee
55-57 Rue de Faubourg St Honore
Paris 75008

His Excellency Mons. Jean Guergnin
French Embassy
58 Knightsbridge
London SW1X 7JT

Premier Li Peng
Peoples Republic of China
Beijing
China

His Excellency Ma Yu-Zhen
Embassy of the Peoples Republic of China
49-51 Portland Place
London W1N 3AH

Member authorities are also recommended to raise their concerns and report their actions to their MP, MEP and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Nuclear Non-Proliferation Division, Downing Street, London SW1A 2AL.

MPs should be asked to advise on their actions to register disapproval of the Chinese and French nuclear weapon testing programmes; what action their Party has taken; and if they have not done so, whether they will support the Parliamentary Early Day Motion No.1248 'French Nuclear Weapon Tests' "deploring" France's decision.

MEPs should be asked what action is being pursued by the European Parliament following the resolution passed on 15 June condemning the resumption of French nuclear testing; and asking them to write to the European Commission insisting that France respects the requirements of Article 34 of the Euratom Treaty. [*Article 34 of the Euratom Treaty requires that France first obtain the opinion of the European Commission on additional health and safety measures which it should take before conducting particularly dangerous experiments in its territories, namely French Polynesia in which the French nuclear test site is located. It also requires the assent of the Commission before the experiment is conducted if it is liable to affect the territories of another member State eg. the UK which has territories near French Polynesia, namely the Pitcairn, Solomon and Gilbert Islands.*]

The FCO should be asked why it has not condemned French and Chinese nuclear testing; whether it will provide an assurance that the UK has no plans to resume nuclear testing; and that it remains committed to its pledge given at the NNPT Extension Conference, to conclude a CTBT by the end of 1996.

Additionally letters can be faxed to Sir Michael Weston, Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, seeking his assurance that the UK is working constructively towards concluding a CTBT before the end of 1996 (Fax 00 41 22 918 23 22).

Finally, member authorities are asked to seek an assurance from the US Ambassador in the UK that his Government has no intention to resume nuclear testing ahead of negotiations for a CTBT, and that his Government remains committed to a 'zero threshold' (ie. comprehensive) nuclear test ban treaty. (address: United States Embassy, 24 Grosvenor Square, London W1A 1AE.)

- * **Inform** - the public. The June meeting of the NSC discussed the international boycott of French wines and other products being promoted internationally by the Geneva based International Peace Bureau and CND here in the UK. The NSC's Legal Officer provided the following advice:

a) s17(5)(e) Local Government Act 1988 "prohibits authorities from taking into account the country or territory of origin of supplies to, or the location in any country or territory of the business activities or interests of, contractors as regards an authority's actual or proposed public supply or works contracts." In addition, difficulties may arise

under EC freedom of movement of goods and services provisions and EC requirements for the award of public contracts; b) it is lawful for an authority to be specific about the products which it does seek to procure but not specific about the country of origin only by reference to quality or type [eg. an authority can insist on Jaffa oranges but not oranges exclusively from Jaffa]; c) authorities can publicise what they would wish to do, subject to legal advice; d) trading standards authorities to which s69, Weights and Measures Act 1985 applies, have powers to provide information for the benefit of consumers, in response to public demand. Therefore, in response to consumer demand arising from French nuclear testing, trading standards authorities could provide printed information for the public about how to obtain, for example, alternatives to French wines; and e) any action taken should be linked to the view that the authority believes that a moratorium on nuclear weapon testing is in the interests of its inhabitants.

IULA Congress - The Secretary wrote to Member contacts on 2 June alerting them to the Congress in the Hague between 3-7 September. The NSC Chair, who is to address the Congress will make the Environmental and Security implications of resumed testing and the urgent need for a CTBT the main theme of her presentation. The Secretary is arranging a fringe meeting with international speakers on the same theme. Both 'platforms' will be used to influence the content of the IULA Congress Final Statement, which in turn, is widely disseminated in local government internationally and submitted to the UN Secretary General. The Secretary is advised that currently the draft final statement to be put to the Congress contains no references to any nuclear issues.

As many representatives as possible from member authorities at the Congress will help promote the NSC's objective of influencing the IULA Final Statement and highlighting to other delegates the depth of concern about nuclear testing.

Full IULA Congress registration details are available from:

International Union of Local Authorities (IULA)
32nd World Congress
c/o Holland Organising Centre
Parkstraat 29
2514 JD The Hague
The Netherlands

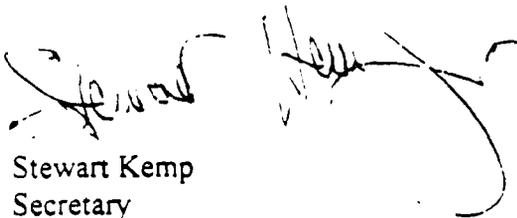
Please inform me if your authority is able to be represented at the Congress.

Announce - through a press statement to the local media the action upon which your Authority has decided. A draft model press release text is attached at Annex C for illustrative purposes.

AGM & CONFERENCE, CARDIFF, 2-3 NOVEMBER 1995

The programme and registration details for the 1995 AGM and Conference are enclosed. All the plenary speakers are now confirmed. The National Steering Committee is very grateful for the organisational assistance being provided by South Glamorgan County Council, and very pleased for the opportunity to take the AGM & Conference to Wales for the first time. **Please consider your Authority's representation at the earliest opportunity** and return the registration form to Ms Helen Everard at the address given. General queries can be directed to me in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



Stewart Kemp
Secretary

NB. On 4 July the Government published the findings of its consultation on future radioactive waste management policy. The Press Statement enclosed with this mailing was issued the following day. A full analysis of the Government's policy statement will be included with the next NSC Bulletin 39 out in August.

NGO NUCLEAR ABOLITION CAUCUS STATEMENT

A secure and livable world for our children and grandchildren and all future generations requires that we achieve a world free of nuclear weapons and redress the environmental degradation and human suffering that is the legacy of fifty years of nuclear weapons testing and production.

Further, the inextricable link between the "peaceful" and warlike uses of nuclear technologies and the threat to future generations inherent in creation and use of long-lived radioactive materials must be recognized. We must move toward reliance on clean, safe, renewable forms of energy production that do not provide the materials for weapons of mass destruction and do not poison the environment for thousands of centuries. The true "inalienable" right is not to nuclear energy, but to life, liberty and security of person in a world free of nuclear weapons.

We recognize that a nuclear weapons free world must be achieved carefully and in a step by step manner. We are convinced of its technological feasibility. Lack of political will, especially on the part of the nuclear weapons states, is the only true barrier. As chemical and biological weapons are prohibited, so must nuclear weapons be prohibited.

We call upon all States -- particularly the Nuclear Weapon States, declared and de facto -- to take the following steps to achieve nuclear weapons abolition. We further urge the states parties to the NPT to demand binding commitments by the declared nuclear weapons states to implement these measures:

- 1) Initiate in 1995 and conclude by the year 2000 negotiations on a nuclear weapons abolition convention that requires the phased elimination of all nuclear weapons within a timebound framework, with provisions for effective verification and enforcement.*
- 2) Immediately make an unconditional pledge not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons.
- 3) Rapidly complete a truly comprehensive test ban treaty with a zero threshold and with the stated purpose of precluding nuclear weapons development by all states.
- 4) Cease to produce and deploy new and additional nuclear weapons systems, and commence to withdraw and disable deployed nuclear weapons systems.
- 5) Prohibit the military and commercial production and reprocessing of all weapons-usable radioactive materials.
- 6) Subject all weapons-usable radioactive materials and nuclear facilities in all states to international accounting, monitoring, and safeguards, and establish a public international registry of all weapons-usable radioactive materials.

ANNEX B

CONFIDENTIAL

Monsieur le President de la Republique
Palais de l'Elysee
55 rue du Faubourg Saint Honore
75008 Paris
FRANCE

Our ref: JF089/AD/PE/AAA

28 June 1995

Dear Monsieur le President de la Republique

RESUMPTION OF FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING

Leeds City Council notes with great concern the decision to carry out eight more nuclear tests between September 1995 and May 1996 in the Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific, particularly after France's commitment to exercise the 'utmost restraint' on nuclear testing at the recent Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty Conference in New York..

Yours sincerely

Councillor J H Trickett
Leader of the Council

CONFIDENTIEL

Monsieur le Président de la République
Palais de l'Elysée
55 rue du Faubourg Saint Honoré
75008 Paris
FRANCE

Nos réf : JF089/AD/PE/AAA

29 juin 1995

Monsieur le Président de la République,

REPRISE DES ESSAIS NUCLEAIRES FRANCAIS

Leeds City Council note avec grande inquiétude la décision de réaliser huit nouveaux essais nucléaires entre septembre 1995 et mai 1996 dans l'atoll de Muroroa, dans le Pacifique sud, particulièrement après que la France se soit engagée à exercer la plus grande restriction dans le domaine des essais nucléaires lors de la récente Conférence sur la Non Prolifération Nucléaire, qui a eu lieu à New York.

Je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur le Président de la République, l'expression de mes sentiments distingués.

Councillor J H Trickett
Leader of the Council

For immediate release

(Name) to Lobby on Nuclear Testing

(Name) Council has endorsed the national Nuclear Free Local Authority campaign to oppose nuclear weapon testing. At its meeting on (date) the Council resolved to:

- * declare opposition to nuclear testing and join the international umbrella 'Abolition Caucus' which is supported by 200 non governmental organisations worldwide.
- * lobby French and Chinese twin towns and cities to oppose their Government's continued nuclear testing.
- * lobby local MP, (name) and MEP, (name) to raise the Council's concerns at Westminster and Brussels.
- * be represented at the largest bi-annual local government conference in The Hague, September, where 1500 municipal delegates meet to debate environmental and development objectives. The Council will support a proposal at the 32nd International Union of Local Authorities Congress to broaden IULA policy to oppose nuclear weapons testing.

Explaining the decision, Councillor (name), Chair of (name) stated:

(insert quote)

ENDS

(date)

(insert contact details)