

# ACTION ALERT

Pacific Concerns Resource Center P.O. Box 27692 Honolulu, HI 96827 USA  
phone (808) 538-3522 cable NUCFREEPAC

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April 14, 1983

URGENT: Messages of protest and support needed by Maoris

\*\*The findings of a government sponsored Maori tribunal in Aotearoa (New Zealand) have been rejected and over-ruled by Prime Minister Muldoon. The board, comprised largely of Pakeha (whites) and a couple of Maoris in government positions, after hearing testimony, found the Maori people to be justified in their claims of crimes (both historical and current) committed against them. By over-ruling the tribunal findings, however, Muldoon has further undermined the Maori independence struggle and eliminated any chance for Maoris to receive any form of recompense or restitution.

\*\*A Maori tribe, Te Ati Awa, based on the West coast of the North Island, whose traditional fishing ground is the harbour in an area now known as New Plymouth. Effluent from industrial plants and oil rigs is currently being pumped into the water there. The damage and pollution to sea and fishing beds is so extensive, that the government has gone so far as to place signs along the coast warning people not to eat fish caught in the area. This harbour has also got the potential to house nuclear subs and/or subs carrying nuclear warheads. The government has been investigating this possibility for a couple of years.

The Te Ati Awa people have exhausted every form of legal/political intervention in order to stop this environmental and cultural disregard by the Muldoon government. The traditional lifestyle of the Te Ati Awa people, although guaranteed to them by the Treaty of Waitangi, is being grossly violated, and threatening them with cultural extinction. The Treaty of Waitangi, signed in 1840 between Maori leaders and British representatives, was supposedly intended to end the warfare between them. The treaty further specifies that in return for the right of the British Crown to purchase Maori land, Maori people are guaranteed their traditional land rights. Additionally, the treaty guaranteed the Maori people that the British would protect them from the exploitation of "other" foreigners and "unscrupulous" land companies. The Te Ati Awa people have met with Muldoon most recently on 11 April, 1983 regarding this situation.

Send Messages of support to:

Aila Taylor  
20 Hume St.  
Waitara, Aotearoa (NZ)  
ph#8823

PPANAC  
P.O. Box 61086  
Otara, Auckland Aotearoa (NZ)  
ph# 274-7019

Send messages of protest to:

Prime Minister Muldoon  
Parliament Building  
Wellington, Aotearoa (NZ)

\*\*PLEASE TURN OVER

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## French Nuclear Testing Alert

1) Four major hurricanes have battered Tahiti in the last several months. The most recent hit Tahiti April 13, leaving thousands homeless and one dead. The latest hurricane, according to wire service reports, cut a path through the southern Tuamotu Islands where the French nuclear test site at Moruroa is.

2) The French were planning a nuclear test series in early 1983, but postponed it for six weeks "for technical and meteorological reasons." The French still intend to explode at least 10 "underground" bombs at Moruroa, including neutron weapons, this year.

3) In 1981, similar heavy storms in Tahiti washed radioactive debris from a huge nuclear garbage dump on Moruroa into the lagoon. The ocean was heavily contaminated for days following the storm. The contamination was serious enough to force French Atomic Energy Commission technicians to break 15 years of silence in a report documenting the severe radiation hazard the storm had created on Moruroa.

There is every reason to believe that the four serious storms in the past few months have caused similarly extensive damage at Moruroa, and are the prime cause for the six week delay in the nuclear testing program.

The Fiji-based Pacific Conference of Churches, in late March, sent a strongly worded letter of protest to the French government following an announcement of plans to resume the testing. And Greenpeace New Zealand has launched a campaign to press the French government to explain the situation at Moruroa. Your letters are needed to force a release of information.

### ACTION NEEDED:

\*\* Write to French President Francois Mitterrand, Palais de Versailles, Paris, France:

1. Protesting plans to continue underground nuclear tests at Moruroa;
2. Demanding a release of information about environmental and radiological conditions at the Moruroa nuclear test site following the recent storms.

Please send PCRC a copy of your letters or cables.

\*\*PLEASE TURN OVER