

Taken from the Report of the
1980 Nuclear Free Pacific Conference
held in Honolulu, Hawaii.

NUCLEAR-FREE ZONES: PRESENT AND PROPOSED

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Two nuclear-weapon-free zones, for Antarctica and Latin America, have been in force since 1959 and 1967 respectively. Zones for eight other regions have been proposed to the United Nations, as well as for the world seabed and outer space.

In 1975 a U.N.-appointed group of 21 government experts reported on "The question of Nuclear Weapons-Free Zones and All Its Aspects." I have used their report as a basis for this paper.

Antarctica (Antarctica Treaty, Washington, D. C., 1959)

This treaty, which provides for international co-operation in research, declares that Antarctica shall be used for peaceful purposes only. All military measures are banned including nuclear weapons and weapons testing. Nuclear explosions and nuclear waste disposal are also prohibited.

A system of control is based on national means of inspection, carried out by observers from the treaty States. These means include aerial observation and the inspection of stations, ships, and airplanes.

The treaty covers the surrounding seas up to 60 degrees south latitude but without prejudicing the rights of any State concerning freedom of the seas in that area.

Twenty-one States support the treaty--Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, South Africa, United Kingdom, U. S. A., U. S. S. R. (the original "club of 1959"), plus Brazil, Czechslovakia, Denmark, German Democratic Republic, German Federated Republic, Netherlands, Republic of Korea and Rumania.

Seven States--Argentina, Australia, Chile, France, New Zealand, Norway, and the U.K.--together claim 85 per cent of a continent twice the size of Australia. The U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. make no territorial claims and recognize no others. All claims are "on ice" until 1991, when the treaty expires.

To avoid disputes and the misuse of resources, the U. N. Associations of New Zealand and Australia urge that Antarctica and its surrounding seas be controlled as a strategic trusteeship under the U. N. Security Council. This arrangement would provide, inter alia, for permanent demilitarization, including maintenance of the nuclear-free zone. (U. N. control of Antarctica was first proposed by the U.S.A. in 1948.)

Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco, Mexico 1967)

This is the only agreement yet concluded to set up a nuclear-free zone in a densely inhabited area. It is also the first disarmament treaty to establish a control system under a permanent supervisory organ (Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America, OPANAL).

While banning nuclear arms and nuclear testing, the treaty permits the use of nuclear energy, including nuclear explosions conducted for peaceful purposes. The control system provides that safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) are applied to all nuclear activities in the zone and for means of inspection and information exchange.

The U.S.S.R. objected at the U.N. to provisions for "peaceful" explosions and for possible extension of the treaty to areas of the high seas. The treaty envisages relations between OPANAL and other international agencies and outlines measures to meet violations.

The treaty is in force for 20 Latin American States--Barbados, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Grenada, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Trinidad, Uruguay, and Venezuela. Brazil and Chile have ratified but not yet enforced the treaty; Argentina has signed but not yet ratified; and the Bahama's, Cuba, and Guyana have not acted on the treaty. The U.N. has invited nuclear powers to support the treaty.

Seabed

In 1970 the U.N. General Assembly adopted a treaty banning the placing of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction on the seabed and the ocean floor. The treaty entered into force in 1972 and is now supported by some 100 States.

Outer Space

In 1966 the U.N. General Assembly adopted a treaty governing the activities of States in the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies. This treaty, inter alia, bans the placing of nuclear arms in orbit around the earth or their installation on celestial bodies; bans all military activity on celestial bodies or elsewhere in space; and provides that all stations or vehicles on these bodies be open to U.N. inspection. This treaty entered into force in 1967 and is supported by over 100 States.

Other Nuclear-Free Zones

The U.N. has received proposals for nuclear-free zones in Central Europe (submitted by Poland and the U.S.S.R.); the Balkans and the Mediterranean (Rumania, U.S.S.R., Yugoslavia); Northern Europe (Finland, U.S.S.R.); Africa (Organization for African Unity); The Middle East (Iran, Egypt); and South Asia (Pakistan). In

the last case, India objected that South Asia was only a sub-region of the Asia-Pacific area and observed that the presence of nuclear arms in that area, as well as of foreign bases in the Indian Ocean, greatly affected the area's security.

Pacific Zone

The U.N. has welcomed suggestions on the setting up of a nuclear-free zone in the Pacific (or South Pacific). The extension of 200-mile economic zones through much of this vast area could provide the basis for an ocean-wide economic zone, the outer boundaries of which would define the nuclear-free zone. The Pacific Forum (the coordinating agency in the South Pacific) could help to promote these developments.

Surveillance by satellites and surface sonar devices has now made it possible to keep an ocean free of nuclear-armed ships, including submarines. Satellites are expensive, but the latest sonar devices are economic, unsophisticated and long-lasting. They could be used by Pacific island States, for example, to spot nuclear intruders and alert other States in the zone. The intruder could risk destruction if it failed to withdraw.

Some of the U.N.-appointed government experts stressed that in defining the territory of a nuclear-free zone, members of the zone must respect international law, including freedom of the seas. Other experts, however, held that the effectiveness of a zone had priority for its inhabitants and also stressed that nuclear-armed ships should be banned from ports in any nuclear-free zone.

The U.N. can encourage the creation of nuclear-free zones and can be their guarantor under Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter (Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Agression). Specifically, it can provide machinery and services, promote consultations between zonal States, help to settle disputes and, possibly, influence undertakings by nuclear States to respect nuclear-free zones. Zonal States should keep the Secretary-General of the U.N. informed about the implementation of their treaties.

The main barriers to the creation of a Pacific nuclear-free zone are political, military, and industrial. They are formidable. But military experts concede that the creation of a Pacific zone is inevitable if the Pacific peoples press hard enough.

Sources

1. U.N. Expert Committee, Study of the Question of Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones. United Nations, New York, 1976.
2. Dick Ryan (Director of the New Zealand Commission for the Future), article, "A Nuclear-Free South Pacific," New Zealand International Review, Wellington, March 1980.
3. Christopher Beeby, The Antarctic Treaty, New Zealand Institute of International Affairs, Wellington, 1972.
4. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, SIPRI Yearbook, Stockholm, 1980.

PACIFIC CONCERNS RESOURCE CENTER

Honolulu

Vanuatu

Belau

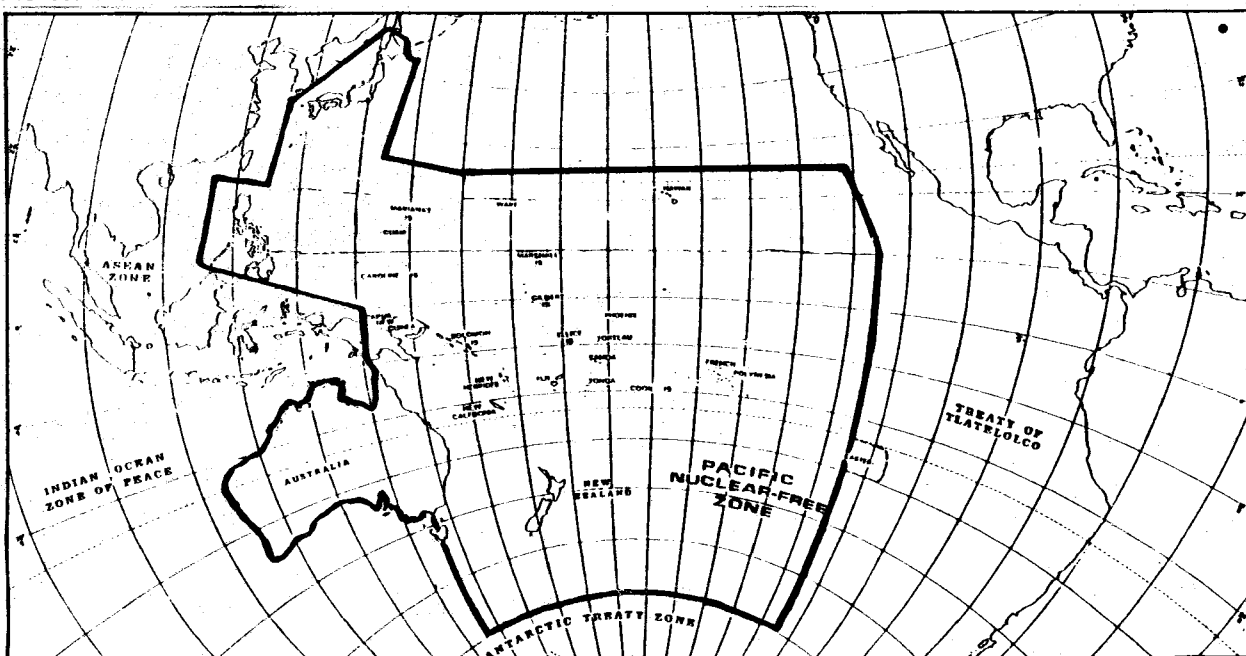
Aotearoa

THE PEOPLE'S CHARTER for Nuclear Free Pacific was drafted at the 1975 Nuclear Free Pacific Conference (NFPC) and reaffirmed at the NFP conference in Ponape in 1978. It embraces the goals of the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Movement which the Pacific Concerns Resource Center (PCRC) is committed to fulfill.

THE CHARTER:

We being inhabitants of the Pacific

1. CONVINCED that our peoples and our environment have been exploited enough by superpowers;
2. ASSERTING that nuclear powers in the Pacific are operating here against our will, from territories administered or claimed by them as colonies;
3. BELIEVING that the political independence of all peoples is fundamental to attaining a Nuclear Free Pacific;
4. BELIEVING that nuclear tests in the Pacific and the resultant radiation constitute a threat to the health, livelihood and security of the inhabitants;
5. BELIEVING that nuclear tests and missile tests are the major means by which the armaments race maintains its momentum;
6. BELIEVING that the presence of nuclear weapons, nuclear reactors, nuclear powered vessels and nuclear wastes in the Pacific endangers the lives of the inhabitants;
7. RECOGNIZING the urgent need for ending the use and manufacture of nuclear weapons;
8. DESIRING to contribute towards the ending of the armaments race;
9. and NOTING that a nuclear free zone is not an end in itself but only a step towards total, worldwide nuclear disarmament, have agreed as follows:
10. ARTICLE 1: THAT A PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE BE DECLARED, including all that area of the South Pacific bounded by the Tlatelolco (Latin America), Antarctic, Indian Ocean and ASEAN zones, and including all of Micronesia, Australia, the Philippines, Japan and Hawaii;
11. ARTICLE 2: THAT THE PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS OF THE PACIFIC WILL NOT permit any of the following activities or installations within this zone:
 - a) all tests of nuclear explosive devices including those described as "peaceful";
 - b) all nuclear weapon test facilities;
 - c) all tests of nuclear weapon delivery vehicles and systems;
 - d) all storage, transit, deployment or any other form of presence of nuclear weapons on land or aboard ships, submarines and aircraft within;
 - e) all bases carrying out command, control, communication, surveillance, navigation, and any other functions which aid the performance of a nuclear weapon delivery system;
 - f) all nuclear power reactors, excepting very low capacity experimental units, all nuclear powered satellites, surface and sub-surface vessels and all transit, storage, release or dumping of radioactive material;
 - g) uranium mining, processing and transport;
12. ARTICLE 3: THAT THE PEOPLES AND THE GOVERNMENTS WITHIN THE ZONE will withdraw from all mutual defense alliances with nuclear powers;
13. ARTICLE 4: THAT THE PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS SIGNATORY TO THIS CHARTER will work to ensure the withdrawal of colonial powers from the Pacific;
14. ARTICLE 5: THAT THE PEOPLES AND GOVERNMENTS SIGNATORY TO THIS CHARTER will meet at intervals of not more than three years to explore ways of extending the geographical extent of the zone and the comprehensiveness of the bans enforced within it.



NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE CERTIFICATES

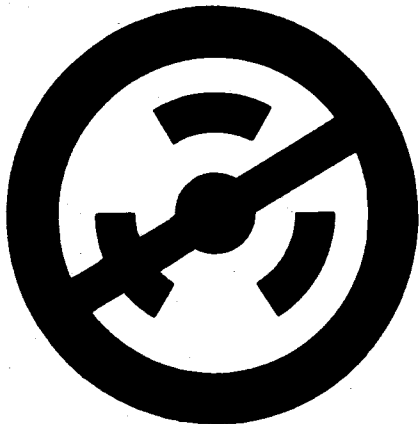
Can you declare your home a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone? Certainly! and likewise can your neighbors, your school, your neighborhood, city, county and on and on!

People in the Pacific, in Belgium, in Holland are doing it! Ashland, Oregon; Sydney, Australia; and Seattle's sister city, Christchurch, New Zealand have all done it.

This is a grassroots campaign to assert our rights to take responsibility for our own living spaces. And it is spreading.

The Pacific Peacemaker Project distributes Nuclear Free Zone Certificates (see below) to help promote this movement and to raise funds for its educational work for a Nuclear Free Pacific. This particular certificate originated in New Zealand and was circulated throughout the Pacific by the *Peacemaker* on its voyage to Seattle last year.

Red/black on white;
8½ x 11.



**THIS IS A
NUCLEAR WEAPON
FREE ZONE**

This is to certify that

.....
has been declared a Nuclear
Weapon Free Zone and is now a
link in a chain of Peace that
seeks to bind all peoples in a
common stand against the
proliferation of nuclear weapons
and in a shared concern for
Life on this planet.

Dated at

this ... day of, 198

by

NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE CERTIFICATES

Originating in New Zealand, this is the beginning of a grassroots campaign to assert our right to declare our own homes and work places Nuclear Weapon Free Zones. Order in lots of 10 for \$10, or lots of 100 for \$50.

PACIFIC PEACEMAKER

309 18th Ave. E. 204
Seattle, WA 98112
323-3758.

ORDER NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE
CERTIFICATES SO YOU CAN:

1. TAKE A STANCE ABOUT YOUR OWN LIVING SPACE;
2. HELP SPREAD THESE ZONES IN YOUR AREA;
3. HELP THE PACIFIC PEACEMAKER WORK FOR A
NUCLEAR FREE PACIFIC;
4. RAISE SOME FUNDS FOR YOUR OWN GROUP WHILE
WORKING IN SOLIDARITY WITH PACIFIC PEOPLES!