



SECRETARÍA

PRUEBAS NUCLEARES FRANCESAS

La Secretaría General del Organismo para la Proscripción de las Armas Nucleares en la América Latina y el Caribe recibió de la Embajada de los Estados Unidos de América un fax de fecha 28 de junio presente, en la que da a conocer las respuestas de la Casa Blanca al anuncio del Presidente de Francia sobre la reanudación de las pruebas nucleares de ese país en el Pacífico Sur.

Por ser un asunto de interés, del cual se ha ocupado el Consejo del Organismo, la Secretaría General pone en conocimiento de los Estados Miembros del OPANAL el fax arriba señalado.

"3. BEGIN TEXT OF WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT. FRANCE ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT IT INTENDS TO RESUME NUCLEAR TESTING. THE UNITED STATES REGRETS THIS ACTION. WE CONTINUE TO URGE ALL OF THE NUCLEAR POWERS, INCLUDING FRANCE, TO JOIN IN A GLOBAL MORATORIUM AS WE WORK TO COMPLETE A COMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN (CTB)

TREATY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME. IN THIS REGARD, WE TAKE NOTE OF PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S STRONG COMMITMENT TO END FRENCH TESTING NO LATER THAN MAY 1996 AND TO SIGN A CTB TREATY NO LATER THAN THE FALL OF 1996. WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH FRANCE AND ALL OTHER STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE CTB NEGOTIATIONS TO ENSURE THAT A TREATY IS READY FOR SIGNATURE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE. END TEXT OF STATEMENT.

4. BEGIN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. REACTION TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT BY FRENCH PRESIDENT CHIRAC THAT FRANCE WILL RESUME

NUCLEAR TESTING?

A:

-- THE UNITED STATES REGRETS THIS ACTION.

-- WE CONTINUE TO URGE ALL NUCLEAR POWERS, INCLUDING FRANCE, TO JOIN IN A GLOBAL MORATORIUM AS WE WORK TO COMPLETE A CTB TREATY AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME.

-- IN THIS REGARD, WE TAKE NOTE OF PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S STRONG COMMITMENT TO END TESTING NO LATER THAN MAY 1996 AND TO SIGN A CTB TREATY NO LATER THAN THE FALL OF 1996, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH FRANCE AND ALL OTHER STATES PARTICIPATING IN THE CTB NEGOTIATIONS TO ENSURE THAT A CTB TREATY IS READY FOR SIGNATURE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE.

Q: IS THE FRENCH DECISION TO RESUME TESTING A SET-BACK FOR THE CTB NEGOTIATIONS?

A:

-- ALTHOUGH WE REGRET CONTINUED TESTING, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE WE CAN CONCLUDE A CTB TREATY AT AN EARLY DATE.

Q: WILL PRESIDENT CLINTON DISCUSS THIS ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT CHIRAC TOMORROW?

A:

-- YES, PRESIDENT CLINTON PLANS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUE OF NUCLEAR TESTING AND HOW TO ACCELERATE THE CTB NEGOTIATIONS WHEN HE MEETS WITH PRESIDENT CHIRAC

Q: WILL PRESIDENT CLINTON TRY TO CHANGE PRESIDENT CHIRAC'S MIND ON THIS ISSUE?

A:

-- THE PRESIDENT WILL MAKE CLEAR U.S. SUPPORT FOR A GLOBAL MORATORIUM ON TESTING; HOWEVER, PRESIDENT CHIRAC HIMSELF DESCRIBED HIS DECISION TODAY AS "IRREVOCABLE."

Q: DO YOU THINK RUSSIA WILL NOW RESUME NUCLEAR TESTING?

A:

-- RUSSIA WILL HAVE TO SPEAK FOR ITSELF ON THIS ISSUE.

-- WE WOULD, HOWEVER, URGE ALL NUCLEAR POWERS, INCLUDING RUSSIA, TO RESPOND WITH RESTRAINT TO THE FRENCH ANNOUNCEMENT.

Q: WILL THE U.S. RESUME TESTING IN RESPONSE TO FRENCH TESTS?

A:

-- NO.