



# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHURCHES IN AUSTRALIA

Anglican Church of Australia \* Antiochian Orthodox Church \* Armenian Apostolic Church \* Assyrian Church of the East \* Churches of Christ \* Coptic Orthodox Church \* Greek Orthodox Church \* Roman Catholic Church \* Religious Society of Friends \* Romanian Orthodox Church \* Salvation Army \* Syrian Orthodox Church \* Uniting Church in Australia

## NUCLEAR TESTING

The National Council of Churches in Australia declares its conviction that humans are carers of God's creation and therefore deplores the testing and use of nuclear weapons.

The development and production of nuclear weapons redirects resources away from use in meeting pressing human needs, it hinders the disarmament process, it is an obstacle in the path of true peace and it does serious harm to human life and to the life of the whole planet.

Even if these weapons are never used in war, they damage the environment. Respect for human life and the integrity of creation demand that testing of nuclear weapons cease.

In addition, the NCCA Executive:

1. declares its support for the stance of the Evangelical Church of French Polynesia and the Pacific Conference of Churches in condemning the French Government's decision to resume nuclear testing, and supports the people of Tahiti and other South Pacific nations in any peaceful moves to prevent testing at Mururoa;
2. urges the Australian Government to end military cooperation with France and to ban all uranium sales to France;
3. calls upon the Australian Government to make every effort to -
  - a] ensure that the comprehensive test ban treaty is negotiated in 1996 or as soon as possible;
  - b] ensure that this treaty is followed by progressive dismantling of nuclear weapons stockpiles and the consumption of all weapons-grade fissile materials in the civil nuclear fuel cycle;
  - c] dissuade both France and China from their weapons tests.

**This is a public statement resolved by the Executive of the National Council of Churches in Australia, at its meeting of 24-25 July 1995, and subsequently endorsed by the heads of these member churches:-**

The Anglican Church of Australia	Archbishop Keith Rayner
The Antiochian Orthodox Church	Archbishop Gibran
The Armenian Apostolic Church	Archbishop Baliozian
The Assyrian Church of the East	Bishop Mar Meelis Zaia
The Churches of Christ	Mr Robert Leane
The Coptic Orthodox Church	The Revd Marcos Tawfik
The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia	Archbishop Stylianos
The Religious Society of Friends	Patricia Firkin
The Roman Catholic Church	Cardinal Edward Clancy
The Romanian Orthodox Church	The Revd Dr Gabriel Popescu
The Salvation Army [Eastern Territory]	Commissioner John Gowans
[Southern Territory]	Commissioner John Clinch
The Uniting Church in Australia	Mrs Jill Tabart