

their willingness to provide true altruism.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DELAY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DELAY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York [Mr. OWENS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. OWENS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan [Mr. EHLERS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. EHLERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

FRENCH NUCLEAR TESTING—NO. 3

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from American Samoa [Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strongest opposition to France's announced resumption of exploding nuclear bombs in the South Pacific.

After decades of work, and through the efforts of peoples of divergent countries throughout the world, we are, or at least we were, moving toward a common goal of removing nuclear weapons from the face of this planet. Last month, the United States, France, and the major nuclear powers promised over 170 non-nuclear nations that the nuclear powers would exercise "utmost restraint" with regard to nuclear testing and work toward a comprehensive test ban treaty. Despite reservations, these commitments were accepted at face value by the non-nuclear nations, which are the vast majority of the countries of the world, and it was only with their support that permanent extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] was gained.

Following in the footsteps of China's nuclear detonation right after the NPT's renewal, a testing resumption by France would confirm the ugliest fears of the non-nuclear nations. The implications are quite obvious, and what the French Government is now saying to the international community

and especially countries like India, Pakistan, North Korea, Iraq, and Iran is—the nuclear powers in the name of national interest are more than willing to undermine the NPT, and their commitment to nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament is suspect. The French Government is also sending the message that it does not care about the concerns of some 27 million people who live in the South Pacific region—and we should also add some 1.5 million Americans who live in the State of Hawaii, Guam, the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa.

Mr. Speaker, what the French Government is saying is we're going to explode eight nuclear bombs in the middle of the South Pacific Ocean—and there is nothing you can do about it.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot believe for a minute that the citizens and the good people of France want its government to explode nuclear bombs that will have tremendous negative impact upon the marine environment of the Pacific Ocean. I cannot believe the good people of France will permit their government to exercise poor judgment on such an important and critical international issue as nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. Mr. Speaker, what a reprehensible display of arrogance of power by a major European country that loves to expound upon moral principles of human rights, protection of the environment, and due fairness and equity to all of humanity.

Instead of complying with the spirit of the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, France has said, in effect, we still want to ban nuclear testing, we really do, but not just yet. We want to get every possible advantage we can from our testing program before we stop our tests. So please just ignore these eight nuclear bomb explosions, then next year we will sign a treaty to stop further testing.

Mr. Speaker, I suspect that the military establishment of every nuclear power wants to perform more tests of weapons from their nuclear arsenals to ensure the reliability of their systems. But the fact is all of the nuclear powers, except China, have given up this benefit and stopped testing programs in the interest of making the world a safer place to live. The United States has stopped its testing program because it could derive no more benefit from further tests; it stopped testing to encourage other countries to cease their testing. It is only through leadership such as this that we can hope to rid our planet of the most dangerous weapon mankind has devised—the only weapon we have created that can destroy every form of life as we know it.

Mr. Speaker, I want to comment President Clinton and his administration for standing by its commitment to continue this country's ban on nuclear bomb testing, and I also want to commend the United Kingdom for its statement committing to maintain its ban also. Other governments which have already spoken in opposition to France's

resumption of testing include Russia, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Fiji, Austria, and Norway.

The 15 island nations which comprise the South Pacific Forum have also stated their objection to resumed testing, noting that it would be a major setback to relations between France and the region. These South Pacific nations are members of the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty [SPNFZ] and have consistently supported all international efforts to prevent and terminate nuclear proliferation.

The people of the South Pacific want nothing to do with nuclear weapons. They know firsthand of the horrors of nuclear testing and have agreed amongst themselves to keep their part of the planet nuclear-free. Isn't it ironic that the region is about to become not nuclear-free, but a nuclear hazard. This is not happening by the choice of the 27 million people of the South Pacific, but through the arrogance of a European world power, again playing the role of a colonial master to the detriment of peaceful citizens on the other side of the world.

In announcing France's intent to resume nuclear bomb testing, President Chirac has asserted that exploding the series of nuclear bombs is environmentally safe. Mr. Speaker, we have all seen the results of the nuclear explosions during World War II and the devastation they wreaked. Today's bombs are many times more powerful. France's testing program is to involve the detonation of eight nuclear bombs, almost one a month, all under one small, coral atoll. How many tons of dead fish and countless other marine life are going to be sacrificed this time? What about the safety and health conditions of the Polynesians living in the surrounding islands?

My question to President Chirac is, if the testing is so safe, why are the bombs being exploded in the South Pacific—so far away from France? Why were France's early nuclear bomb explosions conducted in Algeria? Why not detonate these bombs under French soil? If they are so safe, why not explode these bombs under Paris?

Mr. Speaker, the explosions of thermonuclear bombs are not safe. It is not safe for people, it's not safe for animals or plants, and it's not safe for the environment. Nuclear bombs have only one purpose, they were created to slaughter people, but the result is to annihilate everything. We all know they are extremely hazardous. We all know the reason France explodes its bombs in French Polynesia and not in France. It's the same reason the United States early on conducted its tests in the Pacific—the bombs are extremely dangerous, and no one wants to subject their homeland to this danger, if they have a choice.

Mr. Speaker, I want to appeal to the people of France to tell their government and their President to stop this insanity, stop this renewal of the threat of global destruction. President