



This week the Review of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty begins in the United Nations and I am there as a Deputy Chair of the NZ Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament.

The 40 year old treaty provides the international framework for managing the non-proliferation and disarmament of nuclear weapons and the peaceful use of nuclear technologies.

Prime Minister John Key has just returned from Obama's nuclear security summit. He was invited on the back of New Zealand's long running, bi-partisan, anti-nuclear policy and our strong contribution to counter the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Over the years, New Zealand governments have remained consistently anti-nuclear and we have proved to the world that we are sensible and balanced in how we promote that policy.

President Obama wanted us at the summit because we are respected internationally. Because of our balanced view, many countries are happy to follow our lead.



“New Zealand has a long history of promoting nuclear disarmament and non proliferation. New Zealanders feel very strongly about the issue. I am pleased that we are seeing progress from the fresh impetus given to this important cause by President Obama”

PM John Key, Washington April 2010

New Zealand has had an anti-nuclear movement from the beginning of the atomic age. The world's very first anti-nuclear lecture after Japan was bombed was held at Canterbury University in August 1945. And we have consistently opposed any nuclear presence in the New Zealand and the Pacific ever since.

As early as 1957 New Zealanders called for the "universal prohibition of the manufacture of thermo-nuclear weapons." And during the 60's the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament was very active. New Zealanders became increasingly concerned about the global nuclear threat and particularly nuclear testing in the south Pacific.

In 1973 after taking France to the World Court to stop testing, we sent the frigates Otago and Canterbury to Mururoa to show our displeasure.

On ANZAC day this year in the Christchurch RSA I met two old sailors who had been on the Frigate Otago. I recognised them by the mushroom cloud badges pinned on by their medals.

Throughout the 70's and 80's there was a movement to declare a growing number of homes, offices, schools, churches, councils and even cars nuclear free zones. My home town Christchurch became the first New Zealand Nuclear Weapon Free city in 1982 and in 1987 Parliament passed The New Zealand Nuclear Free, disarmament and Arms Control Act - the world's first nuclear free legislation.

We have been helping to shape anti-nuclear policy ever since and we have credibility for our global contribution at a technical and policy level.

We are working with the United States, and other countries, to combat nuclear terrorism and nuclear smuggling.

We are working with the Australians on greater transparency in the reporting on nuclear weapon policies, fissile material, and weapons holding. We are a strong partner in the New Agenda coalition working on nuclear disarmament. We lead the group of countries which is working to promote the de-alerting of nuclear weapons. And we are supporting Canada's efforts to strengthen the institutional framework of the Treaty. We also work with our pacific neighbours on reporting and transportation issues.

NZ has a valuable reputation internationally because we are always active, always

pushing our nuclear free agenda in a balanced, sensible way.

New Zealand is nuclear free by public demand. Anti-nuke is ingrained in the New Zealand psyche and it is supported by the majority of New Zealanders and all political parties in Parliament. Our government supports the anti-nuclear agenda in an intelligent, sensible, and balanced way.

The 2010 Review of the Non Proliferation Treaty is an opportunity for the international community to commit to change. As Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said as he opened the Review, "Our moment is now. It is time not just to avoid the nuclear nightmare but to build a safer world for us all".

Best Regards,



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