

Message to the Parliament of New Zealand

By

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Honourable Members,

Twenty-five years ago, New Zealand's Parliament adopted a landmark decision in the field of nuclear disarmament establishing New Zealand as a Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone. This critical measure, along with other actions undertaken by the House of Representatives, has confirmed New Zealand's role as one of the leading countries in the global movement against nuclear weapons.

Your institution's dedicated commitment to global nuclear disarmament is amply demonstrated by the 1987 adoption of the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Act. This legislation, which passed in the face of strong international opposition, reinforced New Zealand's stance against the continued development of weapons of mass destruction and underscored Parliament's full support for nuclear disarmament. It has become central to New Zealand's self-identity as a nation, and serves as an example of how determined and principled action can directly affect world peace and security.

New Zealand has long been at the vanguard of efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons. Beginning in the late 1950's when New Zealand called for an end to nuclear weapons tests, your country has played a crucial role in promoting the disarmament agenda. It has been an active and tireless participant in various international fora. It has also been a key partner to, and champion of, the Secretary-General's five point proposal on nuclear disarmament.

The Parliament of New Zealand has continued to build on these solid foundations with its support to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the establishment of the Disarmament Education United Nations Implementation Fund, and its strong advocacy for the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty. I commend these ongoing efforts made by the Honourable Members of the House of Representatives.

The many decisive steps undertaken by New Zealand's Parliament show its unwavering commitment to the goal of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons. They remind us not only of the value of multilateral dialogue and combined action, but also of the necessity of leadership and example-setting in an issue as complex and sensitive as nuclear disarmament. They are also a reminder that a world without nuclear weapons is not a distant and unattainable dream, but an achievable reality.

For your many proud achievements, I am honored to send my message of support on the 25th Anniversary of the adoption of legislation which established New Zealand as a Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone.