3/2/12
→ R. P/S scan + copy by email to SMT and Owen. Martin

GOVERNMENT OF THE INDEPENDENT STATE OF SAMOA
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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Our Ref: FA 5/10/5
Your Ref:
Please address all correspondences to
The Chief Executive Officer

SPREP
ACTION FILE ~~AP~~ 6/6/1
0 3 FEB 2012
ACTION OFFICER ~~DG~~

responded by letter 3/2/12

3 February 2012

David Sheppard
Director General
SPREP
Vailima

Dear David

Nuclear Testing and its environmental impact in the Pacific

Thank you for your circular of 16 December 2011 for comments on the letter and proposal from French Polynesia regarding nuclear testing and its environmental impact in the Pacific, and regret the delay in responding.

We agree on the importance of this matter and also deem that the views of the countries such as the Republic of Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Cook Islands that are mentioned in H.E. President Temaru's letter would be important ones to consider on work that could usefully be done by the proposed panel. It would also be useful to consider that the panel comprises these countries and that a proper mandate be drawn up for the panel including the destination of its outcome report.

In addition, we would appreciate an indication from SPREP on resource and budget implication that such additional work would require including where funding will be sourced from for the resources needed and the proposed meetings of the panel.

Such additional information could be put forward to members to discuss including at the next annual session of the organization.

Sincerely

Faalavaau Perina J Sila
For **Chief Executive Officer**

Liberté • Égalité • Fraternité
RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AND EUROPEAN AFFAIRS
MINISTRY FOR OVERSEAS DEPARTMENTS AND TERRITORIES

The Ambassador,
Permanent Secretary for the Pacific,
Permanent Representative of France

Paris, 30 January 2012

N°11/SPP/HTP

Dear Director General,

Thank you for your letter dated 16 December 2011, in which you advised me of your correspondance with the President of French Polynesia.

The Permanent representation of France has taken note of M. Oscar Manutahi Temaru's request to establish a panel of independent experts to assess the consequences of the nuclear tests on the Pacific environment.

Before commenting on this issue, France would like to know the position of other Members of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme and would therefore be grateful if you could advise us of any input they might have in this respect.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

H. de La Tour-du-Pin.

Hadelin de La TOUR du PIN
Ambassador,
Permanent representative of France
to the Pacific Community
and the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Mr David Sheppard
Director,
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme (SPREP)
PO Box 240
APIA, Samoa

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Noumea 30 JAN 2012

Presidency

Regional Cooperation
and External Affairs

CS 12-3007- 002

Followed up by:
Anne-Claire GOARANT

SPREP
ACTION FILE AP 6/6/1
22 FEB 2012
ACTION OFFICER DG

Subject: Consultation of SPREP Member countries on French Polynesia's proposal to establish, at SPREP, a panel of experts to assess the environmental consequences of nuclear testing in the Pacific.

Ref: Circular 11/108 of 16 December 2011

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Dear Director,

Further to Circular 11/108 dated 16 December 2011, I am pleased to advise you of New Caledonia's position regarding the abovementioned proposal made by French Polynesia.

It is undeniable that nuclear tests have environmental consequences. However, I believe that such consequences should be investigated and assessed independently by the recognised experts from existing agencies, such as the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency).

The experts' reports could be forwarded to SPREP to ensure it is fully informed on this issue. SPREP would then be able to propose appropriate action plans for the protection of the Pacific environment, with a view to achieving sustainable development for the benefit of present and future generations.

These reports should also be sent to the Pacific Islands Forum to ensure proper political backing.

It seems to me that it would be inappropriate for SPREP, as a technical and scientific operational organisation, to host an initiative with such political overtones.

This is why the New Caledonian government does not agree with the current proposal. However, New Caledonia is convinced of the significance of this issue and is willing to collaborate on the organisation of a regional discussion of the matter.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mr David Sheppard
Director General
PO Box 240- Apia
SAMOA

Le Président du Gouvernement
de la Nouvelle-Calédonie

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE * GOUVERNEMENT DE LA NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE *

Harold MARTIN

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2 February 2012

David Sheppard
Director General
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional
Environment Programme (SPREP)
Apia
SAMOA

Dear Mr. Sheppard,

Subject: Nuclear testing and its environmental impact in the Pacific

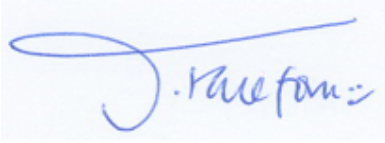
This letter serves as Tuvalu's comment on the issue of nuclear testing and its environmental impact in the pacific region that you sought the views of SPREP members, as per your letter dated 16 December 2011.

The proposal by French Polynesia to establish a Panel of Expert under the umbrella of SPREP is most welcomed by Tuvalu. Likewise, the suggestion on the membership of the Panel of Expert as well as the offer by French Polynesia to host the first meeting is supported.

Tuvalu would like to see that the decisions made by leaders at the 29th Forum Leaders Meeting in 1998 are properly revisited and attended to by the proposed Panel of Expert, and to provide the necessary reports to member countries and leaders at future Forum Leaders Meeting.

Please accept our apology for the late submission of our comments.

Yours sincerely,



Tapugao Falefou
Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Trades, Tourims, Environment and Labour

-----Original Message-----
From: Barth, Norman H [mailto:BarthNH@state.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, 31 January 2012 6:57 p.m.
To: David Sheppard
Cc: Traub, Herbert S; Tampio, A Jesse
Subject: US comment submission re letter fm French Polynesia to SPREP DG

Dear David -

Earlier this year you received a letter the President of French Polynesia regarding nuclear testing in the Pacific. At that time you requested SPREP members to submit comments to you by 31 January.

Please find below the U.S. comment.

Thank you,

- Norman

Begin US comment:

The United States is not persuaded that this is an appropriate issue for SPREP to address, for several reasons. The issue directly touches only a small number of SPREP members, but the request is for a basin-wide study. The request falls largely outside of SPREP's budget and mandate, given that the primary concern here would be one of public health. SPREP has no technical expertise in public health nor does SPREP have any kind of health mandate or lead in the Pacific. It is also not clear what a new study would add to the corpus of studies of this issue in the region that have already been made.

It would be difficult to support the activity and associated expenditures of SPREP's time and member focus.

:End US comment

Regional Environmental Office, Pacific
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