

Building a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World

*International Conference and Commemoration of the 25th
anniversary of the closing the Semipalatinsk
nuclear test site and the 25th anniversary of Kazakhstan
independence*

Astana, 28-29 August 2016



Speech by H.E Oscar Manutahi TEMARU
Mayor of Faa'a,
Former President of French Polynesia,
Former president of the parliament of French Polynesia,
President of the independentist and anti-nuclear party
“Tavini Huira’atira”

Mr Noursoultan Nazarbaïev , President of Kazakhstan,

Mr Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Chairman of the Senate of the Parliament of Kazakhstan,

Mr Erlan Idrissov, minister of foreign affairs of Kazakhstan,

Mr Alyn Ware, PNND coordinator

Mr Adilbek Dzhaksybekov , mayor of Astana,

Dear distinguished delegates,

'la ora na,

I am sorry not being there physically but I fully support that idea, and that's the only way, if we want to live in peace in this world. As they say in the Beatitudes : blessed are the peace makers for they will be called sons of God.

After the independence of Algeria in 1962 the French government decided to use our country for their nuclear testing. So they dismantled everything from the Sahara desert, started to setup all those materials in our country on the atolls of Moruroa and Fangataufa, and the first atmospheric test was held in 1966, July 2nd.

From the beginning of that nuclear testing in my country we stood up and demonstrated on the streets against the French decision to use our country for their nuclear testing.

What I found unacceptable was the decision taken by the General De Gaulle, because there was a warning from the American military telling to the French all the consequences on human beings, and the French government just didn't care.

In 1976 the trade unions from Australia and New Zealand organized an embargo on all French products entering the Pacific ocean countries. The president of the government at that time was Mr. Valéry Giscard-D'Estaing. He decided from that year to make it underground (the nuclear testing), which is worse.

To the French, they can do that in our country without taking care of the health problems for our population. Forty years after we can see all the consequences in our country: health problems, economical problems...

We also worry about the next generation. We have so many handicapped children in our country. All different types of cancers. From the beginning the French government used to say that the French nuclear testing is harmless. But now, some scientists, doctors, French doctors and French scientists are recognizing the consequences of the French nuclear testing in our country.

And after all those years of demonstration throughout the Pacific and also throughout the world we realized that we had to get the support of the international community. So I flew to New-York for the first time in 1978 with a delegation of the FLNKS from New Caledonia. We met with the people from the committee of decolonization and they told us : "we can do nothing for you because your country has been removed from the list (of non-autonomous territories to be decolonized) from 1963". Which means just three years before the first atmospheric test. So I think they did it on purpose, purposely.

Then we started to get the support from all the countries of the Pacific. Also throughout the world to get our country back on the list. It was not easy. It took us nearly forty years. Finally we got the resinscription of our country on the list in 2013, 17th May. So now the United Nations can be informed on the consequences of these nuclear testing in our country.

And the resolution taken by (adopted by) the United Nations is asking to the French to permit neutral scientists from the United Nations to come down to Tahiti and make their research on the consequences from the nuclear fallout. But the French government still refuses, it's playing a waiting game, we don't know, but we keep telling to the world that we need your support.

And also, we join our struggle against the French nuclear testing and our struggle to be a free Nation, a sovereign Nation. Those two issues are linked and we cannot dissociate. Nuclear weapons, nuclear testing in our country was a political decision and we have so many problems to solve in our country so we need the support of the international community.

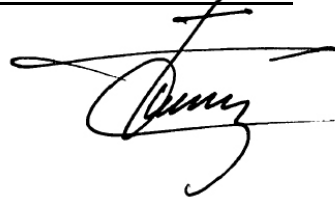
All the super powers have used their colonies for their nuclear testing. Like the French in our country, the USA in Bikini and Marhsall islands, and the Russians and the Chinese. So it is their full responsibility in accordance to the U.N charter, to free this world from nuclear weapons.

So I fully support this event and say thank you very much to the president and the whole country of Kazhakstan, and I hope there will be a few more meetings like this to raise awareness in the whole world about the future of our planet.

The nuclear weapons should be eradicated from our beautiful planet.

Mauruuru roa (Thank you very much).

Oscar Manutahi TEMARU

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Oscar Manutahi TEMARU', written in a cursive style with a large initial 'O' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.