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Letter from a Supporter in New Zealand to Geraldine Ferraro

Geraldine Ferraro

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Vice-Presidential Candidate Ms Geraldine Ferraro,
Democratic National Committee,
1625 Massachusetts Ave N.W.,
Washington D.C.,
20036 U.S.A.

Dear Ms Ferraro,

We have just heard here in New Zealand that the Democratic Party theme for contesting the forthcoming election is 'the restoration of the American dream.'

If this 'dream' is of a powerful, but just and generous nation, respected and trusted, the way we used to think of the United States, then we can only hope that your mission is successful and that it can arrest the downward spiral of the American image, under the Reagan administration, to that of a nation feared and distrusted and increasingly unworthy of respect; not only here in New Zealand but, from all reports, in many other countries.

We enclose clippings from New Zealand's most widely read newspaper. The report on ANZUS is by our former Minister of Overseas Trade, who would well know the pressures that have been applied. We must allow nuclear warships into our harbours or be destroyed by our would-be 'protector'.

To force a dangerous weapon of nuclear war into Auckland's harbour, into the very centre of the city, which virtually surrounds the beautiful harbour, is hardly the action of a friend. Almost a million civilian people are put at risk, both from the ship itself, and from the fact that the city immediately becomes a target in the event of trouble. Remember that we do not have the nuclear surveillance and early warning systems that are a part of the United State's defence.

All this we are told is for the 'rest and recreation' of the small group on board, and the major demonstrations that have occurred at each visit have not deterred the practice.

It is hard for Auckland's people to feel the warmth they would like to feel towards the country that commits this hostile act; and similar conditions apply in Wellington.
The fury that is surfacing in New Zealand now that we are told we will be smashed as a nation unless we carry out the orders of the Reagan regime can hardly help the American image here, or in other countries that are watching. This is a sovereign nation. 63% of our people voted for political parties which presented the nuclear-free issue as a most important part of their policies.

Please raise this issue, and do what you can for us. We wish you every success in re-establishing the American dream, as the Reagan 'dream' for us is rapidly becoming a nightmare.

Yours sincerely,