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Letter from a Supporter in New Zealand to Geraldine Ferraro

Geraldine Ferraro

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Representative Geraldine Ferraro,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D. C. U.S.A.

Dear Mrs. Ferraro,

Given the publicity at the present time concerning New Zealand declaring itself a nuclear weapon free zone, and the recent meeting between our Prime Minister Mr. David Lange and Secretary of State Mr. Shultz to discuss it, I would like to put to you my views as an ordinary New Zealander and explain why the majority of New Zealanders feel very strongly about this issue.

Firstly, we are not anti American in our no-nukes declaration. For myself, my wife is a United States
citizen and there are many things about the U.S. that I admire and respect greatly. We recognise that the U.S. has had some really great Presidents in the past and we respect the role that America played in ending Nazi and Japanese aggression in WWII.

Secondly, my own commitment to peace is based on the conviction that there is too much emphasis on the "might is right" philosophy in world politics today, and not enough concern for the feelings of ordinary people. I accuse all major powers of adopting this attitude.

Thirdly, the "peace-race" has to start somewhere, and I feel that ordinary people the world over have had enough of the criminally expensive arms-race, with its male aggression dominated power-at-any-cost mindset.

New Zealand led the world in the 1930's with social welfare legislation, (later adopted by other countries), and I believe we can lead the world again in the
search for World Peace, and I said so recently in a letter to Mr Lange on this subject. Obviously, an improved international climate will benefit all people everywhere including the people of the United States.

As you are no doubt aware of the implications of the present Administration policies toward the Soviet Union, I would like to ask you to use your influence both on the Reagan administration and the U.S. news media to respect our views, and ask them on our behalf not to refer to New Zealand as having "Hollanditis" or the "Greek Disease".

Such comments dehumanise our sincerely held convictions on nuclear arms proliferation, and make it easier for some kind of "pressure" to be applied. (Please refer to encl. news clipping.)

I would like to add further that whatever the differences of opinion between the U.S. and the USSR, dialogue is essential if war is to be avoided, and countries that are talking to each other at least aren't
Right here in N.Z. dialogue and intense negotiations have vastly improved relations between diverse sector groups such as farmers, businessmen and the trade unions, since the election of the Labour government in July this year.

I believe that our governments extending this policy of dialogue and negotiation into world affairs is a correct stance, and is supported by the majority of New Zealanders, 64% of whom now live in locally declared nuclear-free-zones.

I would like to conclude by wishing you, Mr. Mondale, and the Democratic party, every success in the upcoming election, and express the hope that the United States will again become a country that people the world over will look up to.

Yours Faithfully,

Member, West Auckland Peace Group.