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Letter from Joan Cook, Church and Society Commission of the National Council of Churches in New Zealand, to Geraldine Ferraro

Joan Cook

National Council of Churches in New Zealand

Geraldine Ferraro

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CHURCH & SOCIETY COMMISSION

National Council of Churches in New Zealand



Thursday, 6th September, 1984.

Chairwoman: Mrs Jocelyn A. Armstrong
 Secretary: Dr. Alan A. Brash
 Address: P.O. Box 68-148,
 AUCKLAND.
 25 Wellington Street
 Telephone: 775-464

The President
 Ronald Reagan
 The White House
 Washington D.C.
 U.S.A.

Dear Mr Reagan,

This Commission, representative of the Member Churches in the National Council of Churches in Aotearoa desires to commend to you, the peace initiatives of our current government during this time of rapid escalation of world-wide conflicts. Their efforts deserve whole-hearted support of all sections of people striving for peace.

We particularly support the governments stand in banning Nuclear ships in NZ ports and waters and see this as a step towards a Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific. No one can dispute that the nuclearization of the Pacific is one more chain in the ongoing exploitation and destruction of the Pacific peoples lands and lives by colonial powers.

We also make the point that a number of small independent nations, such as Belau and Vanuatu in the Pacific, have made couraeous stands regarding the exclusion of such nuclear vessels and weapons. The recent South Pacific Forum saw more countries wanting to make such a stand. If our neighbour across the Tasman had remained firm to pre-election promises a strong united front may have been possible by now. We believe it necessary for our government to remain fast to its election statements and find unacceptable any pressure to alter those promises - whether that pressure comes from Australia, USA or from within New Zealand.

We call upon the USA, the USSR, the UK, France and China to halt all testing, production and deployment of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, to be followed immediately by substantial reduction in nuclear forces.

We as a Commission call upon the Churches to intensify their efforts for peace and justice in cooperation with others who seek to arouse the conscience of the public regarding the current threats to peace.

People throughout the world and it seems 64% of the population of Aotearoa are expressing as never before their concern for the future. As public discussion of peace and disarmament continues and increases, the support and encouragement of an informed public will greatly strengthen our government's action.

The threat posed by the nuclear arms race to human survival knows no parallel in history. The race has to be stopped and the present trends reversed to preserve humanity and God's creation.

One of our Commission members told us a story at our meeting last month - she and a friend were taking confirmation class at the local parish church. In reply to the question "Is there anything that you think God would not forgive" one of the girls (11 years old) replied "God will never forgive us if we destory the creation" - a unique but simple way of saying God has made us and all creation and we are required to seek peace, justice and dignity in a world where none need fear and

WASHINGTON
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all life is sacred.

Yours faithfully,

Joan Cook.
ACTING SECRETARY.

Copy to: Senator Mark Hatfield.
Senator Edward Kennedy,
Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro.
Rev, Angus McLeod. Gen. Sec. N.C.C. N.Z.
Gen. Sec, U.S.A. N.C.C.