

Mr. President, it is very important that the world understand that we were very serious about our commitment at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in New York this spring in negotiation of a comprehensive test ban. We must not lose sight of that goal. A good step in that direction now would be an affirmation to the nations of the South Pacific that we stand with them in their desire that there be no further nuclear testing in their region.

Mr. President, today Senator THOMAS and I sent a letter to the President to urge that he take the positive and important step of seeking Senate advice and consent to ratification of three protocols to the South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty. This treaty, known as the Treaty of Rarotonga, took effect in 1986. Parties include Australia, the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu.

Countries in the region are united in their opposition to the proposed French tests. The chairman of the South Pacific Forum, the Prime Minister of Australia, P.J. Keating, expressed the forum's "unequivocal opposition of France's decision" to resume testing. In a separate statement, Keating went on to say that the tests were viewed as "an assault upon the rights of small nations by a large one."

Papua New Guinean Prime Minister Julius Chan described France's decision as "deplorable and unacceptable." He argued that the decision is "not only counter-productive to the conduct of friendly relations between Metropolitan France and Island Governments, but must be condemned." Chan went on to say that "France's total lack of sensitivity of the issue" is a major problem for the entire region.

Several countries in the region expressed concern that the French tests would set back nonproliferation efforts around the world. New Zealand Prime Minister Bolger cited the South Pacific's "sense of outrage" and argued that the tests run "directly counter to the worldwide trend away from the development and use of nuclear weapons and puts at risk all that has been achieved in nuclear disarmament since the end of the cold war." Keating noted that "France's very position as a responsible and leading power in the world means that each new test by France will give comfort to would-be proliferations, and each test will give pause to many of those countries whose support we will need to conclude the CTBT."

The sentiment of the region was perhaps best expressed by Keating, who said that the overwhelming majority of countries in the region felt that "if France must test these weapons, let her test them in metropolitan France."

Mr. President, I hope very much that the administration will decide to show support for the desires and resolve of the inhabitants of the South Pacific with regard to nuclear testing. It will

serve to reinforce our commitment at the Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference to achievement in 1996 of a complete ban on nuclear testing. Moreover, Presidential action would demonstrate that we are willing to stand with those nations desiring to take strong positions with regard to nuclear nonproliferation.

#### MEASURE WOULD FOSTER MARINE AQUACULTURE

Mr. PELL. Mr. President, I rise as a cosponsor of the Marine Aquaculture Act of 1995, a measure sponsored by the junior Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) to foster the growth of our marine aquaculture industry.

Senator KERRY, the ranking member of the Commerce Committee Oceans and Fisheries Subcommittee, has done an excellent job in drafting this legislation to promote marine aquaculture research and the development of an environmentally sound marine aquaculture industry in the United States.

The bill would create a coastal and marine aquaculture research and development program under the National Sea Grant College Program Act. As one of the fathers of the sea grant system, I am delighted that this new measure builds upon the sound and proven base of the sea grant.

I know that this measure is designed to promote marine aquaculture, as distinct from other general aquaculture measures. This is an area that has been largely overlooked and underdeveloped in the United States, but that has become increasingly competitive in the international market.

The United States cannot long afford to ignore the potential of marine aquaculture, because many of our fisheries already are overfished and nearing collapse. The groundfish stock off New England shores already has collapsed and the closures of our fisheries have hit hard.

Marine aquaculture may not be a panacea, but it has the potential to provide both new employment opportunities and to bring some relief to our fisheries by developing alternate sources.

I commend this measure to the attention of my colleagues and I congratulate Senator KERRY for his excellent work.

#### RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS AND SOCIAL SERVICE AGENCIES CALL ON CONGRESS TO REMEMBER THE POOR IN MAKING DECISIONS ON WELFARE REFORM

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, as the Senate prepares to begin its August recess, it is clear that much business awaits our return. One of the first issues we will return to will be reform of our Nation's welfare system. As we reflect over the coming weeks on how our policy choices made here will affect our Nation's neediest, and American society as a whole, I would ask my

colleagues on both sides of the aisle to consider the powerful statement made this week by 47 leaders of our Nation's major religious denominations and social service agencies.

This week, in an unprecedented and moving way, 47 leaders from the Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, and Moslem communities signed a letter that was delivered to every Member of the Senate. The letter called on Congress to remember the poor as it makes decisions on welfare reform.

Citing the verse in Proverbs 31:9, "Speak up, judge righteously, champion the poor and the needy," the leaders called on Congress to reaffirm a federally guaranteed safety net for those in our Nation who are most vulnerable.

The letter also focused on the drastic effects of current proposals on the ability of the religious social service organizations to provide for the poor.

Mr. President, these religious leaders wrote that they are motivated not only from their faith-based ethics, but also from their years of experience in serving poor families in the churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and service agencies across the country. I was particularly moved by the consensus found among America's many and diverse religious communities with regard to the obligation of all of us to care for all of our citizens, especially our children.

I urge my colleagues to reflect on the points raised in this important letter from our Nation's religious leaders.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the letter and the list of 47 signatories be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

DEAR SENATORS DOLE, DASCHLE, PACKWOOD and MOYNIHAN: We write on behalf of the religious organizations we represent to urge you to make the well-being of women, children and families your primary objective as you seek to reform the nation's welfare system. As the Congress sorts through fiscal, political, and ideological pressures to construct real reform, the decisions you make will be a test of our nation's values, of our commitment to "the least among us," and of our willingness to offer genuine help and opportunity to our poorest families.

We are commanded in Proverbs 31:9, "Speak up, judge righteously, champion the poor and the needy." We are called to share God's wealth with those of God's children who cannot provide for themselves. The moral test of any nation is how well it fulfills this Biblical mandate.

As leaders of many of this nation's religious faith communities and religious social service organizations, we are called to stand with, and seek justice for, people who are poor. We share a conviction that welfare reform must not focus on eliminating programs, but on eliminating poverty and the damage it inflicts upon children (who comprise 2/3 of all recipients of cash assistance), on their parents, and on the rest of society. Genuine reform must provide the disadvantaged with the tools they need to become self-sufficient.

Specifically, we advocate reform that: Strengthens families; Preserves a federally guaranteed safety net for the vulnerable; Protects human life and human dignity; Encourages and rewards work; Creates jobs, strengthens job training and improves child