

These principles reflect an emerging consensus in the decades-long debate over urban policy. These principles are neither Democratic nor Republican: they are American. They will enable local communities, individuals and families, businesses, churches, community-based organizations, and civic groups to join together to seize the opportunities and to solve the problems in their own lives. They will put the private sector back to work for all families in all communities. I therefore invite the Congress to work with us on a bipartisan basis to implement an empowerment agenda for America's communities and families.

In a sense, poor communities represent an untapped economic opportunity for our whole country. While we work together to open foreign markets abroad to American-made goods and services, we also need to work together to open the economic frontiers of poor communities here at home. By enabling people and communities in genuine need to take greater responsibility for working harder and smarter together, we can unleash the greatest underused source of growth and renewal in each of the local regions that make up our national economy and civic life. This will be good for cities and suburbs, towns and villages, and rural and urban America. This will be good for families. This will be good for the country.

We have undertaken initiatives that seek to achieve these goals. Some seek to empower local communities to help themselves, including Empowerment Zones, Community Development banks, the Community Opportunity Fund, community policing, and enabling local schools and communities to best meet world-class standards. And some seek to empower individuals and families to help themselves, including our expansion of the earned-income tax cut for low- and moderate-income working families, and our proposals for injecting choice and competition into public and assisted housing and for a new G.I. Bill for America's Workers.

I am determined to end Federal budget deficits, and my balanced budget proposal shows that we can balance the budget without abandoning the investments that are vital to the security and prosperity of the country, now and in the future. I am confident that, working together, we can build common ground on an empowerment agenda while putting our fiscal house in order. I will do everything in my power to make sure this happens.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.
THE WHITE HOUSE, August 3, 1995.

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PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on August 3 and was not present for rollcall vote No. 618. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote No. 618.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1114

Mr. KLINK. Mr. Speaker I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 1114.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

PROVIDING FOR ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE FROM THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1995, OR FRIDAY, AUGUST 4, 1995, TO WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1995 AND ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE SENATE ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 1995, THROUGH SATURDAY, AUGUST 19, 1995, TO TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1995

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 92) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 92

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, August 3, 1995 or the legislative day of Friday, August 4, 1995, pursuant to a motion made by the Majority Leader, or his designee, it stand adjourned until noon on Wednesday, September 6, 1995, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day beginning on Saturday August 5, 1995, through Saturday, August 19, 1995, pursuant to a motion made by the Majority Leader, or his designee, in accordance with this resolution, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Tuesday, September 5, 1995, or until such time on that day as may be specified by the Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until noon on the second day after Members are notified to reassemble pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

SEC. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and Senate, respectively, to reassemble whenever, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERMISSION FOR SUNDRY COMMITTEES AND THEIR SUBCOMMITTEES TO SIT FOR BALANCE OF WEEK DURING THE 5-MINUTE RULE

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all committees and their subcommittees be allowed to sit for the balance of the week while the House is under the 5-minute rule with the exception of the Committee on Resources.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

Mr. WATT. Reserving the right to object. Mr. Speaker, and I will not object. I am advised by the Democratic leadership that they have consented to the request.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute, to revise and extend his remarks and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the editorial board of the New York Times for an excellent editorial commentary this morning, entitled, "Mr. Chirac's Nuclear Blunder" and I recommend the article to my colleagues and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I will say again and again—shame on you President Chirac of France—shame on you President Chirac and your military cronies—the gall and arrogance to come marching to the South Pacific to explode eight nuclear bombs starting this month.

Mr. Speaker, as I indicated yesterday to my colleagues and to all the citizens of our country who may be listening to this television broadcast, the government of France has just announced it will now begin its program of exploding its first nuclear bomb within 3 weeks of this month rather than next month.

What has happened, Mr. Speaker, is that the President of France and his advisors have totally underestimated the outrage of millions of people around the world, and the leaders of nations from the Pacific Region from Asia, from Latin America, and even from Europe—all expressing resentment and disappointment for France's recent decision to resume its nuclear testing program on certain atolls in the South Pacific.

Mr. Speaker, several known leaders of governments around the world have asked their constituencies to boycott all French made goods and products in their countries—in other words, don't buy French wine, French perfumes and cosmetics, French foods, French clothing, French shoes—French everything and anything that is manufactured or produced in France. Mr. Speaker, I wish I did not have to make this appeal to the American people not to purchase French goods and products, but how else is the French government going to take responsibility for its announced policy to resume nuclear testings in the middle of the Pacific Ocean?

It seems to me, Mr. Speaker, that the President of France can better utilize the 1 billion dollars he plans to spend for these eight nuclear bomb explosions—to resolve the serious problem of unemployment French citizens are now confronted with—a 12-percent unemployment rate right now in France.

Mr. Speaker, if President Chirac really wants to prove how much of a world class leader that he claims to be—be a real man by showing real compassion and sensitivity to the hazards and dangers of nuclear bomb explosions—don't explode any more nuclear bombs in French Polynesia.

[From the New York Times, July 30, 1995]

ASIAN NATIONS PUTTING PRESSURE ON FRANCE
OVER NUCLEAR TESTS
(By Philip Shenon)

BANGKOK, THAILAND, July 29.—With France only weeks away from returning nuclear tests in the Pacific, governments across Asia and the south Pacific are demanding that the French reconsider, and there are warnings of an economic boycott that could damage the French economy.

The most potent threat may come from Japan, where the Government has bitterly criticized the decision by President Jacques Chirac to resume nuclear testing in French Polynesia this fall after a three-year moratorium. Mr. Chirac says his decision is irrevocable.

Last week 47 Japanese lawmakers, many of them prominent members of parties in the coalition Government, called for a boycott of French luxury goods, a threat that carries weight given the affection of millions of Japanese consumers for brand-name French fashion, perfumes and liquor.

The Japanese market accounts for as much as half of the profits for some French makers of luxury goods, and shares of several of those companies have been tumbling in the French stock markets as a result of the protests in Japan.

"Nations that possess nuclear weapons must show their wisdom and set an example to countries that do not have nuclear weapons," the Japanese Science and Technology Minister, Makiko Tanaka, said in a letter to Mr. Chirac. Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama has accused France of "betraying" nonnuclear countries with the resumption of nuclear tests.

Mr. Chirac announced in June, shortly after his election, that France would carry out eight underground explosions in two tiny Polynesian atolls—Mururoa and Fangatauta—from September through May. After that, he has promised, France will sign the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty and end nuclear testing forever.

The French Government has said it needs to carry out the tests to check the reliability and safety of its existing nuclear arsenal. But that has not satisfied foreign leaders and environmental campaigners who say computer simulations would offer much the same information.

There is debate among scientists about the environmental impact of the tests, with French geologists insisting that none of the radiation from the test sites can leak from the hard basalt bedrock of the atolls. Scientists elsewhere are not so sure, concerned that radiation could reach the ocean through a porous layer of limestone.

The decision to resume the tests has been criticized by the United States, Britain and Russia—nuclear powers that have all halted testing.

Last week, the lower house of the Russian Parliament condemned the French tests, describing as "dangerous such testing in the fragile systems of coral reefs." Only China, which has continued to conduct underground nuclear experiments at Lop Nor in the western province of Xianjiang, has continued to test.

Although they can threaten nothing like the economic wallop of a Japanese boycott, the Governments of Australia and New Zea-

land have offered far stronger words against the French.

"An arrogant action of a European colonial power," Prime Minister Jim Bolger of New Zealand has said of the French tests. The Australian Prime Minister, Paul Keating, described the tests as "deplorable."

"We are determined to maintain the pressure on France to modify its program to desist from testing weapons and also to encourage further international focus on France," Mr. Keating said last week in Melbourne after meeting with Mr. Bolger.

[From the Washington Post, Aug. 2, 1995]

FRANCE MOVES UP PACIFIC A-TEST SCHEDULE
(By William Drozdiak)

PARIS, Aug. 1.—France is accelerating the timetable for a series of nuclear tests in the South Pacific to avert a confrontation with protest groups and to defuse a diplomatic crisis that is damaging the country's image as well as its pocketbook, French officials said today.

President Jacques Chirac announced two months ago that France would conduct eight nuclear explosions at the Mururoa coral atoll from September through May before signing a comprehensive test-ban treaty. But officials said the schedule will be moved up so the tests can begin later this month and conclude more quickly. Four of the eight nuclear devices are now ready, sources said.

By triggering the first blast this month, French officials hope to avoid a showdown with a "peace flotilla" organized by Greenpeace and other ecology groups. The Greenpeace ship Rainbow Warrior II is now close to Fiji, but other boats that will make up the protest fleet are still gathering in New Zealand and are at least four weeks' sailing time from the test site.

France's planned speed-up reflects a growing fear in the government that the hostile reaction provoked by Chirac's decision to conduct tests could spin out of control unless Paris moves quickly to muffle the global outrage.

French officials anticipated a brief spasm of protests but figured the promise to sign the treaty and close down the test site would appease world opinion. Instead, the protests have gathered strength and threaten to seriously harm sales of French exports worldwide.

Australia and New Zealand have declared they will suspend all defense cooperation with France unless the tests are abandoned. Antinuclear groups in Japan and Germany—two of France's biggest markets for its consumer products—have been accumulating support for a campaign to boycott French wines, clothing and other luxury goods.

In the latest twist to the nuclear controversy, Australia barred a French company from bidding on a \$740 million contract to supply jet fighters because of the planned tests. In response, France recalled its ambassador from Canberra. The Foreign Ministry said today that the ambassador was withdrawn to demonstrate outrage at the way Australia has waged its protests. The ministry cited several hostile acts, including blocking the delivery of mail and diplomatic bags, allowing protesters to obstruct access to the French Embassy and delaying French ships in Australian ports.

The loss of the potential contract for up to 40 light jet fighters was the heaviest price Paris has paid since arousing the fury of Asian and Pacific nations with its decisions to resume tests after a three-year moratorium.

France is one of the world's leading arms exporters and has targeted Asia as one of the most important future markets for such big-ticket exports as naval frigates and fighter

planes. French officials said their arms industry is in fierce competition with the United States and needs to capture a good chunk of Asian markets to cut losses in the defense sector.

"Nuclear tests should not be mixed up with the question of arms industry contracts," Defense Minister Charles Millon said, "I want the French people and foreigners to understand this is a sovereign act which will enable France to remain a great power and also permit it to join a comprehensive test ban treaty from 1996 while retaining a credible and reliable deterrent force."

Millon said he was surprised that Australia had not protested Chinese nuclear tests, which although conducted on China's mainland are closer to Australia than is the site of the French tests. He also repeated Chirac's invitation to any scientist to visit the Mururoa atoll once the tests have taken place to verify that no wildlife has been affected.

France says that no radioactivity can escape because the nuclear blast occurs 1,800 to 3,000 feet underground and the heat from the blast vitrifies the volcanic rock around the device. But documents released by France's Atomic Energy Commission and published today in the newspaper *Le Monde* showed that at least three of more than 200 French nuclear tests since 1960 led to some contamination at the Mururoa atoll.

[From the New York Times, Aug. 3, 1995]

MR. CHIRAC'S NUCLEAR BLUNDER

France's new President, Jacques Chirac, seems determined to squander the good will that greeted his arrival in office. Heedless of the damage he is inflicting on French interests and the world's hopes for reining in nuclear weapons, he persists in his plan to resume underground nuclear tests in the South Pacific next month.

Paris says the tests are needed to insure the reliability of France's nuclear weapons stockpile before a comprehensive test-ban treaty is negotiated next year. That is a specious argument. Reliability can be adequately assured by computer simulations. More fundamentally, breaching the de facto test ban now observed by all nuclear powers except China undermines French nuclear security.

Charles de Gaulle developed France's nuclear arsenal as a cold-war deterrent and a symbol of French independence from the American nuclear umbrella. With the end of the cold war, the arsenal no longer has any obvious military use. France's nuclear security today depends not on deterring Soviet attack but on preventing potential nuclear powers like Iraq and Iran from developing weapons on their own.

Preventing the spread of nuclear weapons depends in turn on global efforts against proliferation. Earlier this year, France joined the other nuclear nations in lobbying for an indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-proliferation treaty. They persuaded non-nuclear countries to go along by pledging to negotiate a formal ban on nuclear testing by next year. France's decision to test this year does not violate the letter of that pledge. But it surely violates its spirit.

Critics of the French tests also worry about the risk, however small, of environmental catastrophe. France has already exploded more than 100 nuclear weapons at its Mururoa Atoll test site. The coral that makes up the atoll sits atop the crater of a submerged volcano. The nuclear explosions take place within a shaft drilled into the underlying volcanic rock. Each blast can cause limited fracturing of nearby rock.

As long as the surrounding mass of the volcano remains intact, the radioactive byproducts remain safely contained. But some scientists worry that the combined effects of further testing and natural erosion could cause a slow leak of radioactive material or an abrupt falling away of the volcanic wall, releasing massive radioactive waste.

These two concerns—about proliferation and the environment—have provoked strenuous international opposition. Polls also show

that a majority of people in France itself oppose the tests.

The strongest reaction so far has come from Australia, which this week barred a French aerospace concern from bidding on a \$547 million jet fighter contract. The government in one Australian state has said that it will no longer entertain French bids on a \$9 billion water privatization project. Other regional governments in Australia are also contemplating costly reprisals.

Mr. Chirac's response has been to call France's Ambassador home "for consultations." That is a standard form of diplomatic protest. But in this case, real consultations—not only with Australia but with other critics—would be a far better idea. Mr. Chirac has badly underestimated the opposition to testing. He has also reacted with more stubbornness than statesmanship to his critics. He still has time to extricate himself and France from a costly and dangerous mistake.