

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

care; Improves aid to all needy children, regardless of the circumstances of their birth; Maintains current support for legal immigrants; and Builds public/private partnerships to overcome poverty.

In particular, we urge policy makers not to abandon the concept of "entitlement:" i.e. that there are certain categories of vulnerable people who are entitled to protection. The existing guaranteed support, in the form of support for poor children and the disabled, school lunch programs, and food stamp programs, must remain priorities for our nation.

Current proposals for block grants eliminate the structure of guaranteed support and leave our country's needy at risk from natural disasters and economic downturns. This system of block grants would also create annual budget battles over funding, which could further cripple the welfare safety net. If the Senate enacts block grant proposals despite these very troubling concerns, we strongly urge the inclusion of "maintenance of effort" requirements, which will guarantee that states will continue to do their part in supporting the poor. With the existing requirements that states must match federal funding, the states currently provide 45% of support for America's poor. Without "maintenance of effort" provisions, states could slash their funding to dangerously low levels, especially financially disadvantaged states where assistance is most needed.

The needs of children of unwed mothers under 18 years of age and of mothers already on welfare are just as legitimate as the needs of all other children, and they must not suffer as a result of their parents' circumstances or choices. Therefore, we urge you to vote against family caps and child exclusion provisions. Such measures have never been proven to be effective, and only succeed in encouraging women to have abortions or forcing children to live in extremely deprived conditions.

In addition to our faith-based ethics, these principles are based on years of experience in serving poor families in our churches, synagogues, mosques, temples, and service agencies. Many religious social service providers have a strong track record in developing programs that achieve independence from welfare. We seek to work with the Congress to shape policies that build on these successes.

We are gravely concerned that some current proposals rely on the idea that the religious community can provide for those who will "fall through the cracks" of the safety net, cracks created by proposed reforms now before Congress. In fact, over the last decade, our social service providers have experienced a marked increase in the demand for our services, which are now operating at full capacity. Many of these services, in fact, are currently a partnership between government and religious bodies, dependent upon government funding. A recent study on the effect of the proposed budgetary reforms by Independent Sector reveals that charitable contributions would have to double over the next seven years in order to compensate for the massive cuts proposed by the House. Since the present system severely challenges the religious community's ability to meet the needs of the country's poor, we fear that the current proposals would completely overwhelm our resources for serving the needy.

We support a stronger partnership between the religious community and the government in serving and empowering poor families. For this crucial public-private partnership to survive, it is imperative that Congress pass welfare reform legislation that maintains an effective and helpful role for the federal government to care for our nation's needy.

Sincerely,

The Catholic Community:

Bishop John Ricard, S.S.J., Chair of the Domestic Policy Committee of the U.S. Catholic Bishops Conference;

The Very Reverend Gerald L. Brown, S.S.J., President, Roman Catholic Conference of Major Superiors of Men's Institutions;

Andree Fries, C.P.P.S., President, Leadership Conference of Women Religious;

Reverend Fred Kammer, S.J. President, Catholic Charities USA;

Reverend Michael Linden, S.J. Associate, Jesuit Conference USA, National Office of Jesuit Social Ministries;

Kathy Thornton, RSM, National Coordinator, NETWORK: A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby.

The Protestant Community:

Reverend Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, General Secretary, National Council of Churches of Christ;

Reverend Dr. Gordon L. Sommers, President, National Council of Churches, and President, Moravian Church, Northern Province;

Archbishop Khajag Barsamian, the Diocese of the Armenian Church of America;

Bishop Edmond L. Browning, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church; Bishop Herbert W. Chilstrom, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Reverend Donald M. Hallberg, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois; Reverend Elenora Giddings Ivory, Presbyterian Church USA, Washington Office; Larry Jones, President, Feed the Children; Reverend Dr. Donald E. Miller, General Secretary, Church of the Brethren; Reverend Dr. Paul H. Sherry, President of the United Church of Christ; Ronald J. Sider, President, Evangelicals for Social Action; Bishop Melvin G. Talbert, Secretary, Council of Bishops, United Methodist Church; Reverend Robert Tiller, Director, American Baptist Churches USA, Office of Governmental Relations.

Historical Black Churches: Bishop H. Hartford Brookins, African Methodist Episcopal Church; Bishop William H. Grazes, Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, First Episcopal District; Dr. E. Edward Jones, President, National Baptist Convention of America; Dr. Henry Lyons, President, National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.; Reverend H. Michael Lemmons, Executive Director, Congress of National Black Churches; Dr. B.W. Smith, President, Progressive National Baptist Convention; Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush, Church of God and Christ; Chair, Congress of National Black Churches.

Quakers and Unitarians: Kara Newell, Executive Director, American Friends Service Committee; Joe Volk, Executive Secretary, Friends Committee on National Legislation; Richard S. Scobie, Executive Director, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

Religious Public Policy Organizations: David Beckmann, President, Bread for the World.

Muslim Community: Abdurahman Alamoudy, Executive Director, American Muslim Council.

Jewish Community: Rabbi Alexander Schindler, President, Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Rabbi Paul Menitoff, Executive Vice President, Central Conference of American Rabbis; Rabbi David Saperstein, Director, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism; Alan Ades, President, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism; Rabbi Jerome Epstein, Executive Vice President, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism; Rabbi Alan Silverstein, President, Rabbinical Assembly; Rabbi Joel Meyers, Executive Vice President, Rabbinical Assembly; Dr. Ismar Schorsch, Chancellor, Jewish Theological Seminary; Michael Cohen, President, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association (RRA); Yael Shuman, Executive Director, RRA; Jane Susswein,

President, Federation of Reconstructionist Congregations and Havurot (FRCH); Rabbi Mordechai Leibling, Executive Director, FRCH; Rabbi David A. Teutsch, President, Reconstructionist Rabbinical College; Dr. Mandell I. Ganchrow, President, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations; Martin S. Kraar, Executive Vice President, Council of Jewish Federations; Lynn Lyss, Chair, National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council.

FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

Mr. KERRY. Mr. President, next month the Fourth World Conference on Women will take place in Beijing. During Senate consideration of S. 908, the foreign Relations Revitalization Act, last month, there was some discussion about this conference. At that time, an amendment offered by Senator HUTCHISON was adopted on a voice vote by Senator HELMS and me, as the managers of the bill. That amendment expressed the sense of the Congress on the goals that the United States delegation should promote at Beijing including ensuring that the traditional family is upheld as a fundamental unit of society and defining gender as the biological classification of male and female.

I would like to point out that I agreed to accept this amendment in the interest of moving the legislation process forward. I would also add that the underlying legislation, S. 908, was returned to the calendar because cloture was not invoked.

As Senator BOXER noted accurately in her comments on the Senate floor on the amendment, some of the language seems to raise questions or at least be unnecessary. We all know that there are only two genders, male and female. Why we need to instruct our delegation in that basic fact of biology is unclear to me. Also, the language about promoting the family as the fundamental unit of society raises questions in my mind as to whether a single woman constitutes a family with the right of protection by society. Are we saying that every woman must be married and have children to be protected? I would hope not because no woman should be denied rights simply because she chooses not to marry or if she is divorced. Unfortunately, Senator HUTCHISON was not on the Senate floor to address these questions at the time they were raised by Senator BOXER. Therefore, the real intent of her amendment, which to the best of my recollection only two Members of the Senate—the managers—agreed to, remains unclear.

Mr. President, on August 2, Ambassador Albright spoke to the Center for National Policy about the Women's Conference. In that address, she discussed the U.S. goals at that conference. I ask that her remarks be printed in the RECORD.