

Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington, New Zealand



20<sup>th</sup> February 2016

### **Nuclear Tests or Peace Treaty with North Korea**

Dear Minister McCully

We strongly agree that North Korea should be chastised by New Zealand and the international community for conducting another nuclear and another apparent missile test. However, such condemnation should be against all nuclear tests and all nuclear-related missile tests.

Some of the other nuclear-armed States have yet to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Therefore, any Security Council action regarding North Korea's nuclear tests should also declare that any nuclear test by any nation would be against international law and a threat to the peace.

Most of the nuclear-armed States are also conducting tests of nuclear capable missiles. Russia and the USA, for example, both tested nuclear capable missiles in November last year. Any action against North Korea's missile tests should therefore be accompanied by establishing a global moratorium against nuclear-related missile tests.

In addition, any condemnatory or punitive actions against North Korea should be accompanied by constructive actions to reduce hostilities, build peace and lower the role of nuclear weapons within the region.

The New Zealand Herald noted that 'North Korea is seeking a peace treaty with the US, China and South Korea to formally end the Korean War and will not stop its nuclear tests until it gets one.' (NZ Herald 13/1/16). Since 1953 there has only been a truce between the two Koreas which obviously needs to be rectified by a Peace Treaty. In addition, as part of this treaty there would need to be reductions and constraint on military exercises by both sides which tend to inflame hostilities. This includes the Foal Eagle exercises conducted by South Korea, the US and other partner countries and perceived by North Korea as preparations for attack.

If we are genuine in our endeavour to stop nuclear tests by North Korea, then we need to pursue the proposed Peace Treaty and also the proposal for a North East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.

The NZ government should support this process and seek ways to offer peace-making services for negotiation of non-militarist solutions. This is in keeping with our Nuclear Free Peacemaker foreign policy which is our most valuable contribution and recognised role in the international community.

Efforts to roll-back the North Korean nuclear weapons program will be enhanced by progress to prohibit and eliminate nuclear weapons globally. North Korea has indicated that it would support and join a nuclear weapons convention. This should be pursued, especially in the Open Ended Working Group on Nuclear Disarmament which opens on February 22, 2016, and in the P5 process established by the 2010 NPT Review Conference outcome document.



Yours sincerely

Laurie Ross, Alyn Ware and Richard Northey

Peace Foundation -International Affairs and Disarmament Committee