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THE BOMB – NEW ZEALAND AND THE NUCLEAR
DEBATE 1945 – 85

THE BOMB

NEW ZEALAND & THE NUCLEAR DEBATE 1945–1985

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NUCLEAR TESTING – POST WORLD WAR TWO

HIROSHIMA / VJ DAY

Islands of the Empire (extract)

Vanguard Films 1985. Duration 1:05

Interspersed images from the last Weekly Review of World War Two – VJ Day in the streets of Auckland and Wellington, and scenes taken shortly after the bombing of Hiroshima in Japan.

ATMOSPHERIC TESTING

A Nuclear Free Pacific (extract)

Pacific Stories Partnership 1988. Duration 3:58

Playing host to nuclear testing was the price of being part of the 'Western Alliance'. Following World War Two, the US began Nuclear tests in the Pacific Ocean and by 1963, the UK and the US had carried out 120 above ground explosions. By 1968, following the signing of the Non-Proliferation Agreement, Britain and the US ceased bombing and moved to underground sites in the Nevada Desert. However, Atmospheric Nuclear testing in the Pacific Ocean did not cease – in 1962 the French transferred their Nuclear Test Programme to the small coral atolls of Fangataufa and Mururoa on the eastern edge of French Polynesia.

STRATEGIC DISPERSAL – POST VIETNAM

U.S. PRESENCE IN THE SOUTHERN OCEAN

Islands of the Empire (extract)

Vanguard Films 1985. Duration 0:32

A graphic shows the intentions of US strategic defence following the Vietnam War. Method number two: bases, for intelligence, ports of call and, as a handy back-up, strategic nuclear defence.

THE NEW ZEALAND CONNECTION

Islands of the Empire

Vanguard Films 1985. Duration 6:27

Different views are presented on New Zealand's role in US strategic nuclear defence. New Zealand's Orion Squadron and the information gathering/intelligence sharing through Tangimoana, Black Birch observatory for missile guidance, joint naval exercises and the deployment of missile power in the Pacific by the United States Navy.

THE NUCLEAR FREE ZONE MOVEMENT

1962-1973

Islands of the Empire (extract)

Vanguard Films 1985. Duration 2:12

The origins of the Nuclear-Free Zone Movement go back to 1962 when the concept of a Nuclear-Free Southern Hemisphere evolved into a "No Bombs South of the Line" plea. The impetus was raised by France's continued atmospheric testing in their Pacific colonies. In 1973 the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and Greenpeace sent vessels to Mururoa, and Norman Kirk's government sent a New Zealand Navy frigate into French territorial waters as protest action against Nuclear testing.

NORMAN KIRK 1973

Hotu Painu (extract)

Paradise Films 1985. Duration 0:56

Norman Kirk explains to the world why a frigate was sent to Mururoa:

“ ...We're a small nation, but we will not abjectly surrender to injustice. We've worked against the development of nuclear weapons, we've opposed their testing everywhere and anywhere. We shall do our utmost to ensure, that the eyes of the world are riveted on Mururoa, and what is planned to take place there... The presence of a frigate in these circumstances will create a great deal of international attention and I believe that that one action alone will do more

to awaken northern hemisphere consciousness to the injury that is being done to the South Pacific people than anything else we can do.”

SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM & THE U.N. 1975

A Nuclear Free Pacific (extract)

Pacific Stories Partnership 1988. Duration 3:30

Prime Minister Norman Kirk died while in office in 1975. His successor, Bill Rowling, does considerable work on a proposed Nuclear Free Zone in the South Pacific, taking a plan of action to the 1975 South Pacific Forum in Tonga. Australia reacts angrily even though Gough-Whitlam's government was elected on a strong anti-Nuclear platform. The Australians were worried about potential damage to the ANZUS Alliance. Undeterred, New Zealand brings a resolution to the United Nations General Assembly for a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone which is passed 110 for, none against – all the Nuclear Powers abstained.

STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIPS 1975-1984

Islands of the Empire (extract)

Vanguard Films 1985. Duration 2:38

A new administration, and Robert Muldoon's National government of 1975 – 1984 brings a change of tack. On the subject of a perceived Soviet Russian threat in the Pacific region:

“There's only one power on earth that can resist that aggression, and that's the power of the United States of America. We must be thankful of that in spite of the catastrophe of Vietnam, a catastrophe brought about by the unwillingness of the American administration to use their ultimate weapon...”

The commander of the USS Truxton gives us the infamous: "We can neither confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons on any of our vessels" statement.

NUCLEAR FREE NEW ZEALAND

THE U.S. NAVY AND NEW ZEALAND PORTS 1976-1984

Islands of the Empire (extract)

Vanguard Films 1985. Duration 4:16

This extract includes footage of extensive protest activity against regular US ship visits to New Zealand waters from 1976–83. After the victory of David Lange's Labour Government in the 1984 snap election, Ian Fraser interviews the new Prime Minister and asks if the anti-nuclear plank will be 'welshed on'.

LANGE AT THE UNITED NATIONS 1985

6:30 NEWS 26/09/1984

TVNZ 1984. Duration 6:26

David Lange at the United Nations. Bill Rowling and National spokesman Michael Cox on ANZUS and trade.

CALENDAR DATES 1985

Duration 0:44

Contextual background:

The seminal year of 1985 includes:

February 4 The Labour Government declines a request from the US Government for a nuclear capable warship.

March 2 The Oxford Union Debate

July 10 Rainbow Warrior sunk in Auckland's Waitemata Harbour

August 6 The South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty is signed

October 25 Renewed French testing on Mururoa

THE OXFORD UNION DEBATE

The Oxford Union Debate : David Lange and Jerry Falwell (extract)

BBC 1985. Duration 4:52

March 2 1985. Great one-liners, lucid argument, polished debating style, the international stage.. The Oxford Union Debate on the morality of nuclear deterrence is widely regarded as David Lange's finest moment, stirring significant national pride in 'Nuclear Free New Zealand.'

THE RAINBOW WARRIOR

Eyewitness News 11/07/1985 (extract)

TVNZ 1985. Duration 3:29

Headline the day after.

6:30 NEWS 27/10/1985

6:30 News 27/10/1985 (extract)

TVNZ 1985. Duration 3:55

And yet the French let off some more bombs.

THE SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE

Eyewitness News 07/08/1985 (extract)

TVNZ 1985. Duration 3:58

The Zone becomes reality, albeit a watered down version.

1987 ELECTION ADVERTISING

Labour Party Election advertising

Colenso 1987. Duration 2:25

Deflecting the pain of economics with the nationalistic appeal, Labour pulls out the stops with this ad, using US television actors Bruce Weitz and Lou Grant to tickle our pride.

CASE STUDY: FRANCE IN THE PACIFIC

THE FRENCH AND NUCLEAR PSYCHOLOGY - ADVERTISEMENT

Peace Flotilla Advertising

Peace Flotilla 1995. Duration 0:55

Recently discovered on a regional television reel. The imagery is pertinent.

THE VOYAGE OF THE RAINBOW WARRIOR

Hotu Painu (extracts)

Paradise Films 1985. Duration 11:11

On 10 July 1985, the Rainbow Warrior was bombed in Waitemata Harbour, Auckland, by French Secret Agents. Martin Gotje, the Warrior's First Mate, explains that their planned voyage was to evacuate the people of radiated Rongelap in the Marshall Islands and to see how the people east of Mururoa Atoll had fared from the French atmospheric testing.

HOME TRUTHS IN FRENCH POLYNESIA

Hotu Painu (extracts)

Paradise Films 1985. Duration 4:45

Tahitians relate their personal experience of the Bomb, its effect on ongoing health and reproduction complications and the medical practices of the French authorities.

MARELLE PEREIRA'S STORY

A Child of the Rainbow Warrior (extracts)

McDougall Craig 1995. Duration 5:15

Marelle Pereira, daughter of photographer Fernando Pereira, was eight years old when her father was killed by bombing of the Rainbow Warrior. In this documentary we follow Marelle as she travels through French Polynesia, New Zealand and to France to find information about her father and the truth of

what happened. Along the way she learns about the environmentalist struggle in the South Pacific.

Marelle talks to former Prime Minister David Lange about the politics that surrounded the arrest of the French Secret Agents and their subsequent release after only three years. In France, attempts to speak with politicians or people involved with the Rainbow Warrior bombing were met with silences and closed doors.