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**Communication of 22 May 1998 received from  
the Permanent Mission of the Philippines  
to the International Atomic Energy Agency**

Attached is a communication received from the Permanent Mission of the Philippines, forwarding a statement by the Government of the Philippines, for the information of Member States.



**PASUGUAN NG PILIPINAS  
PHILIPPINE EMBASSY / MISSION  
BOTSCHAFT DER PHILIPPINEN**

Vienna, 22 May 1998

Ltr-730-98

Excellency:

I have the honour to enclose a copy of the Philippine statement on the recent nuclear tests conducted by India.

I would highly appreciate it if the IAEA Secretariat could circulate the statement to all member-states of the Agency.

With renewed assurances of my highest esteem.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jose A. Zaide'.

JOSE A. ZAIDE  
Ambassador

H.E. Dr. Mohamed ElBaradei  
Director-General  
International Atomic Energy Agency  
Vienna International Centre  
Wagramerstrasse 5, P.O. Box 100  
1400 Wien

*Text of the Press Release on 14 May 1998*

**Philippine Statement on the Recent Nuclear Tests  
Conducted by India**

14 May 1998  
Department of Foreign Affairs

The Philippines joins the many other nations of the world in expressing its serious concern over the detonation of three nuclear devices during tests conducted by the Indian government on Monday, 11 May 1998.

The Philippines continues to work with the vast majority of states in strengthening nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation structures. As such, it finds it ironic that these tests had to be conducted at a time when global attempts to rid the world of nuclear weapons have been moving forward.

The Philippines spared no effort in concluding the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 1996. It is also actively participating in the process, which seeks to review and strengthen the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It also concluded the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapons-Free Zone Treaty, to add to the existing nuclear weapons-free zones in the world.

The Philippines believes that these initiatives should be strengthened and expanded and greater focus be placed directly on the issue of nuclear disarmament. The Philippines believes that these are critical elements in our efforts to eventually free the world from these weapons of mass destruction.

The Philippines reiterates its call for an end to nuclear testing and its call for those nations that have not yet done so, to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The Philippines hopes that the event in India will not adversely affect the confidence and stability in South Asia.