

WESTERN SHOSHONE NATIONAL COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

Reno, Nevada
January 27, 1986

On this 35th anniversary of the opening of the Nevada Test Site the Western Shoshone National Council marks this date by publicly expressing our opposition to continued nuclear testing at the Nevada Test Site as well as world wide.

The lands which contain the Test Site are within the borders of the Western Shoshone Nation's Homelands. Western Shoshone aboriginal title to those lands remains unextinguished.

Although the Western Shoshone wish to emphasize the fact of our nation's unextinguished title to the lands, our opposition to nuclear testing is not based on legal or nationalistic self-interest. The continuing detonation of nuclear devices, the majority of which are weapons, endangers Shoshones and Americans alike. Those who have suffered the effects of exposure to fall-out that has vented from the tests and traveled downwind to Nevada and Utah communities are painfully aware of the terrible consequences connected to nuclear testing. Lukemia and other cancer-related diseases plague the communities as a direct result of uncontained fall-out.

While people who live within the Test Site's path of fall-out know of nuclear testing's dangers through experience, those of us who live outside of that path are not outside of the shadow that is cast by nuclear testing. In this later half of the twentieth century, all human beings live under the imminent threat of nuclear holocaust. As a nation indigenous to this continent, continuing here for thousands of years, the Western Shoshone watch with horror as powerful nation-states such as the United States and the U.S.S.R. work to perfect and

stockpile life-destroying technologies.

Because the Western Shoshone National Council understands that the American people are humans, just as we are, and are capable of understanding the need for a peace that is not based on military might, we wish to remind you of this: When a nation's direction is determined by the desires of it's warriors, that nation is bent upon its own destruction. The threat of death that your goverment holds over the heads of its enemies does not stop at your enemy's borders. It knows no national boundaries, but circles the earth, returning to hang above America's own head.

Because the Nevada Test Site operates at the expense of the Western Shoshone Nation's homelands, at the expense of the lives of fall-out victims, and at the expense of possible mass destruction by way of perfection of nuclear weapons through testing, the Western Shoshone National Council declares it's opposition to the continuation of the Nevada Test Site.

Western Shoshone National Council

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