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Anniversary of Kennedy Speech Occasions DOE Protest in Los Alamos

**Groups Petition Secretary of Energy and President Clinton to Extend Nuclear Test
Moratorium, Seek Comprehensive Test Ban**

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At 10 a.m. on June 10 New Mexico anti-nuclear groups will gather at the Department of Energy Los Alamos Area Office to express their opposition to continued nuclear weapons testing. In solidarity with the Western Shoshone Indians, on whose Nevada lands over 900 such tests have taken place since 1954, and in support of the 97 or more protesters arrested on Monday, June 7th at Livermore National Laboratory in California, New Mexicans will urge President Clinton to explode no more nuclear weapons.

On June 10, 1963, then-President John F. Kennedy addressed the commencement of the American University in Washington, DC. His speech announced the successful negotiations with the Soviet Union that led to the cessation of atmospheric tests which he regarded as the beginning of the end of the Cold War. He also announced his intention to begin negotiations toward a comprehensive ban on all testing of nuclear weapons.

Today, thirty years later, People for Peace, the Los Alamos Study Group, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, La Comunidad, Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping (CARD) and other members of the New Mexico activist community implore President Clinton to honor his campaign pledge to convene multilateral talks leading to such a ban, and to extend indefinitely the moratorium on nuclear weapons testing established by Congress last fall.

The United States and Great Britain are the only countries in the United Nations which have resisted the establishment of a CTB.

Demonstrators will hold banners and placards and hope to encircle the DOE offices Thursday morning. Background information will be available on the testing issue, as well as apparent LANL duplicity about its intention to develop new nuclear weapons.

Washington sources say an extension of the testing moratorium is being considered, despite Laboratory pressure to develop several new weapons systems, and the unprecedented apparent gridlock within the administration over testing has given new hope that the nuclear nightmare may be coming to an end.

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