

MESSAGE

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AND
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OF STATES PARTIES TO THE
TREATY BANNING NUCLEAR WEAPONS TESTS
IN THE ATMOSPHERE, IN OUTER SPACE
AND UNDER WATER
ON THE OCCASION OF THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY

Today, the world commemorates the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water. Widely known as the Partial or Limited Test Ban Treaty, it was rightly hailed as a trailblazing event. Although the Treaty left much room for improvement by not banning underground nuclear test explosions, it was nonetheless a historic milestone in nuclear arms control and disarmament because it was the first agreement between the rival nuclear powers. To encourage this positive development, dozens of non-nuclear weapon states, including my own country, Indonesia, signed on to the Treaty within weeks after it was concluded.

This anniversary is special not because it marks a long passage of time, but because we observe it when, for the first time since the Treaty was signed, silence reigns at the nuclear weapon test sites. Today more than ever before, there is hope that the Treaty's promise of a total test ban will be finally fulfilled.

In 1988, on the 25th anniversary of the Treaty, Indonesia and five other members states of the United Nations, launched an effort to amend and to convert the 1963 Treaty into a comprehensive test ban treaty. That effort was propelled as much by a keen sense of exigency as by hope. After we and the other