**FEATURES**

**Christians, morality, and the nuclear issue**

New Zealand's anti-nuclear stand has been both praised and condemned by Christians. The televised Oxford Union debate highlighted this contradiction. The Prime Minister, Mr Lange, a Methodist, attacked nuclear weapons as immoral because of their enormous destructive power. The American Baptist preacher, Rev. Jerry Falwell, argued that a moral stand is taken by being against the West, its nuclear arsenal being a deterrent against Soviet attack and domination.

The New Zealand National Council of Churches, the British Council of Churches, and the Catholic Institute for International Relations in London, the chairman of the Pacific Conference of Churches, Bishop Fred Banks, of New Zealand, argued that anti-nuclear arms of all nations, no matter who is the aggressor.

Principals against New Zealand's nuclear-free stance have given support to those who respect democracy and the sovereignty of other countries.

The American Council wants to defend the right of all nations, which have declared themselves nuclear-free, to associate with nations in the United States. It is seen as a way of preventing attacks on United States nuclear-armed ships, but it is also a Christian viewpoint that like to be in peace, according to Rev. Jerry Falwell, the President of the Moral Majority.

Mr Lange says he could not accept an equal-strength condition in the Western world, stating that it is essential to the defence of both countries.

Mr Lange argues that nuclear weapons are a deterrent to war and that in the event of war, the use of nuclear weapons would be a last resort. He also argues that the use of nuclear weapons would not be justified under any circumstances.

The United States and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, which have declared themselves nuclear-free, support the anti-nuclear stance of New Zealand. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland also supported the anti-nuclear stance of New Zealand.

Mrs Jocelyn Armstrong, the wife of the Prime Minister, Mr Lange, has stated that the anti-nuclear stand of New Zealand is a case of moral principle that the United Nations has neglected. She argues that the use of nuclear weapons is immoral and that the United Nations should have taken a moral stand on the issue.

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