



Greenpeace's Campaign Against French Atomic Testing in the Pacific

My Involvement

Brian Allison

Introduction

Greenpeace is a global environmental organization founded in 1971.

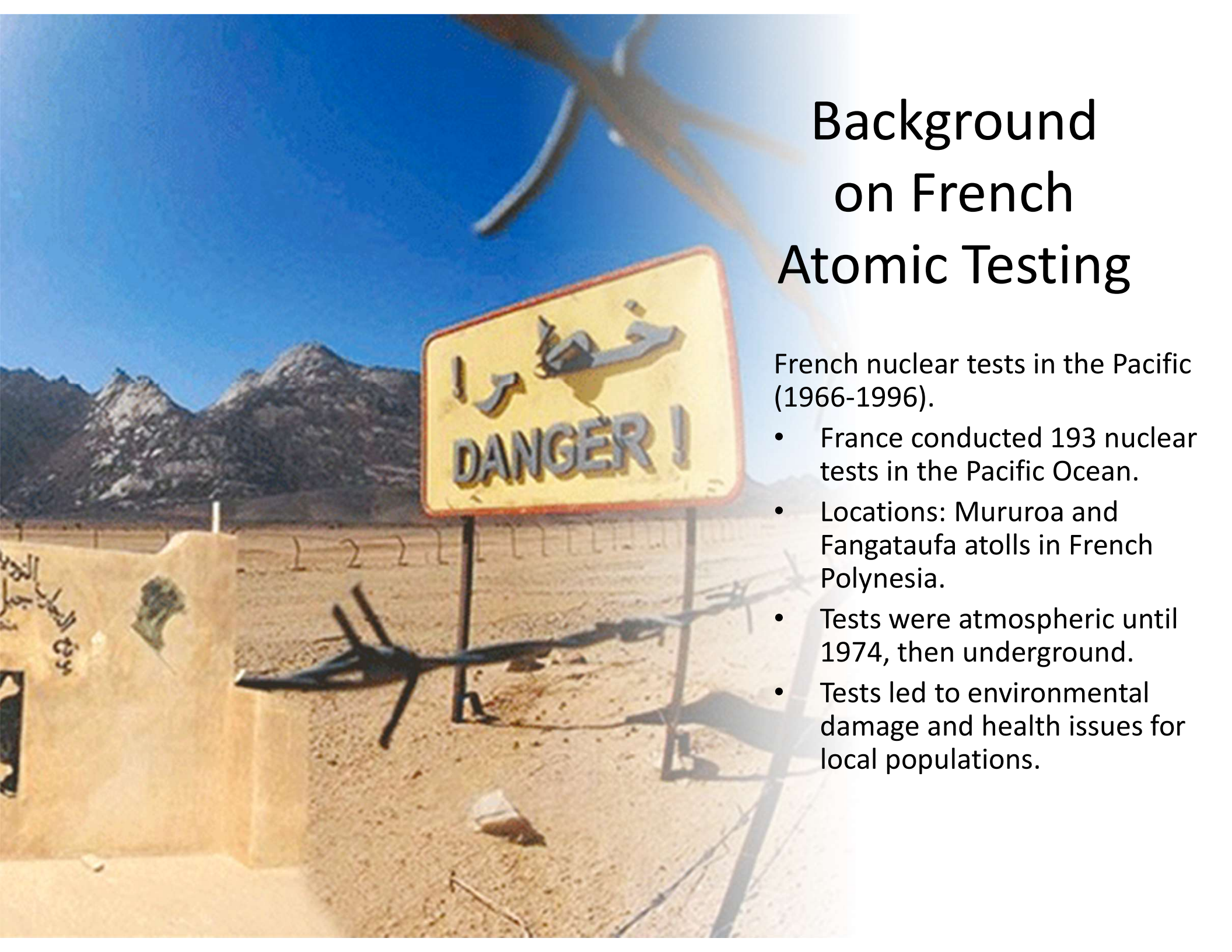
- Mission: To protect the environment and promote peace by tackling issues such as climate change, deforestation, overfishing, and pollution.
- Known for direct action and high-profile campaigns.



Background on French Atomic Testing

French nuclear tests in the Pacific (1966-1996).

- France conducted 193 nuclear tests in the Pacific Ocean.
- Locations: Mururoa and Fangataufa atolls in French Polynesia.
- Tests were atmospheric until 1974, then underground.
- Tests led to environmental damage and health issues for local populations.





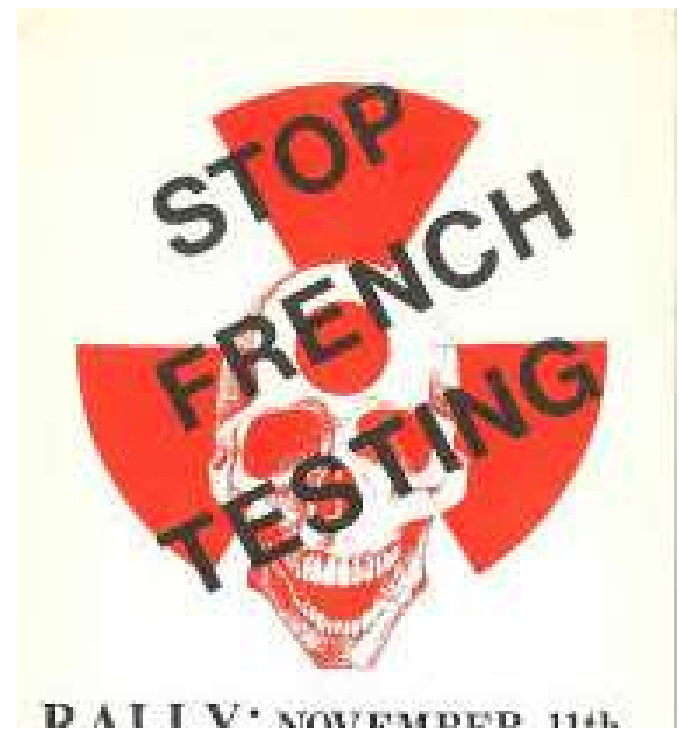
Greenpeace's Involvement

- decision to oppose nuclear testing.
- In the 1970s, Greenpeace began protesting against nuclear tests globally.
- Focused on French tests due to their environmental and humanitarian impact.
- The campaign included direct actions, public awareness efforts, and lobbying.

Public Awareness Campaigns

- Media campaigns, protests, and *international lobbying*.
- *Greenpeace* used the media to highlight the dangers of nuclear testing.
- Organized protests worldwide, garnering attention and support.
- Collaborated with other NGOs, indigenous groups, and political leaders.







Direct Actions

- Blockades and protests at nuclear test sites.
- Greenpeace ships, like the Rainbow Warrior, sailed to test sites to disrupt operations.
- Activists put themselves in harm's way to block and document tests.
- Actions aimed at drawing media attention and pressuring the French government.

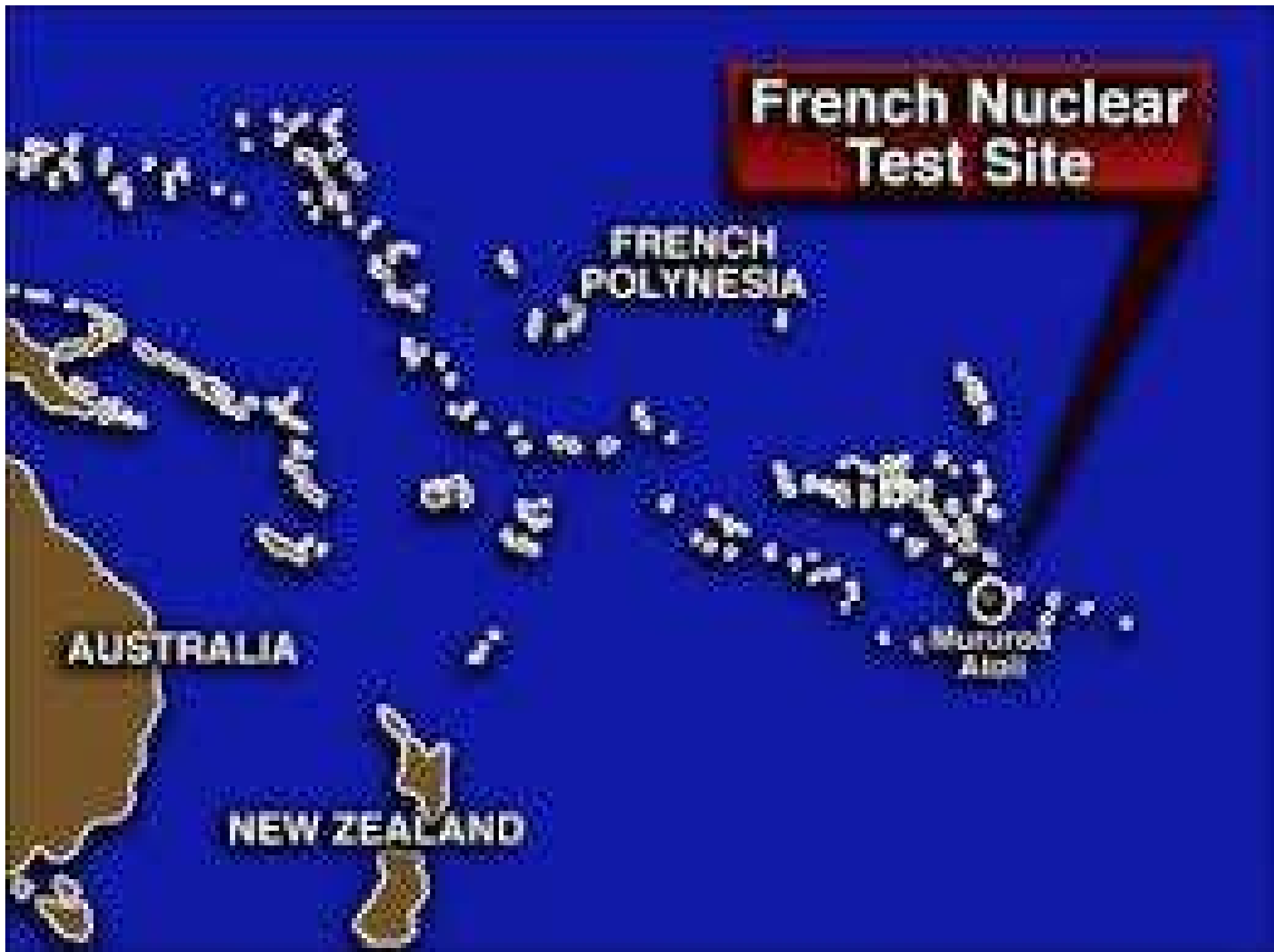
French Nuclear Test Site

FRENCH POLYNESIA

AUSTRALIA

NEW ZEALAND

Mururoa Atoll



The Rainbow Warrior Incident

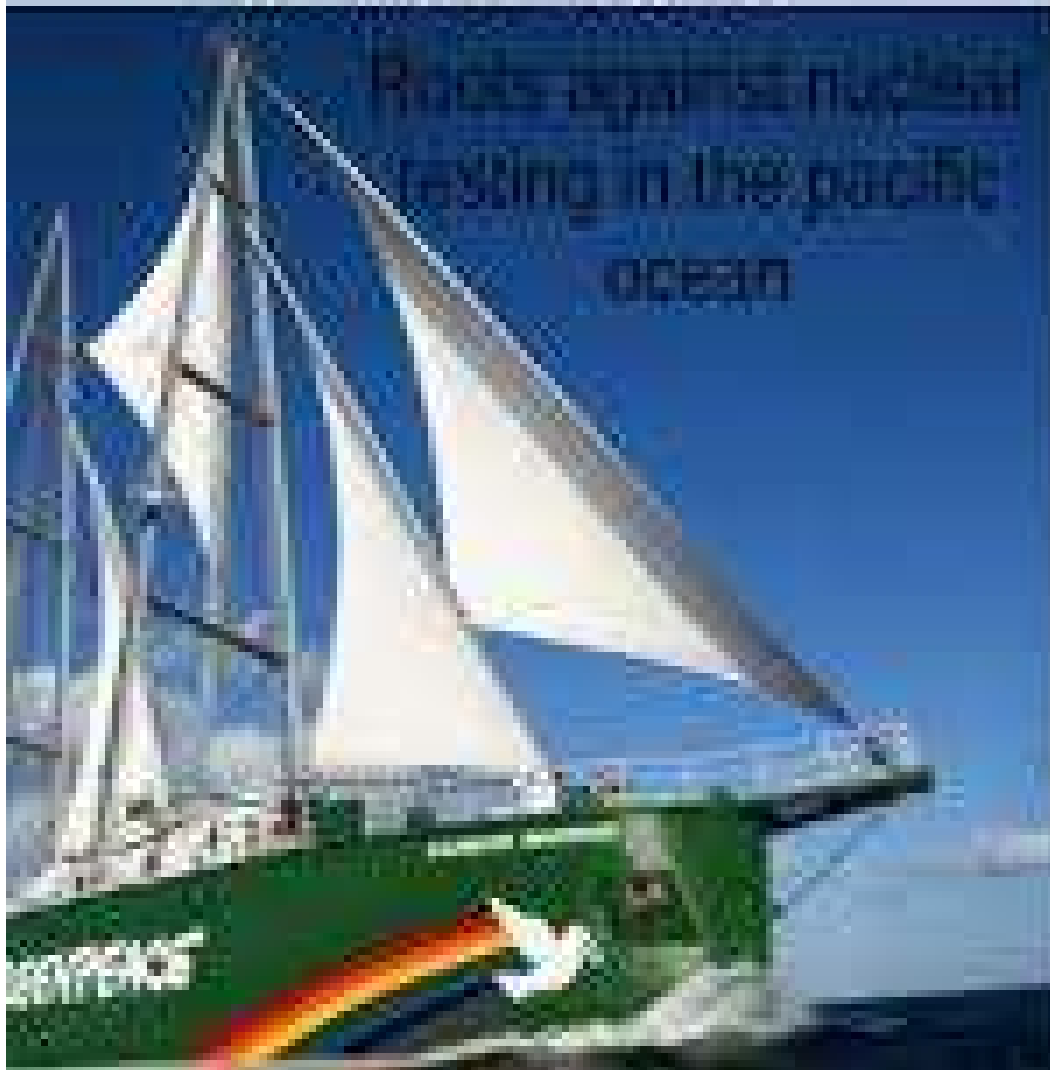
Details of the bombing of the Rainbow Warrior by French agents in 1985.

- July 10, 1985: The Rainbow Warrior was bombed in Auckland, New Zealand.
- Operation conducted by the French DGSE (secret service) to prevent Greenpeace's protest at Mururoa.
- One crew member, photographer Fernando Pereira, was killed.
- Incident led to international outrage and increased support for Greenpeace.



GREENPEACE:

Protests against nuclear
testing in the pacific
ocean



FRANCE:

Refuses to elaborate further
and blows up the boat





Rainbow
Warrior Sunk



The Sydney Morning Herald

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1944

NO. 12,111

SPORTS
PAGE 1

THE DAY THE PACIFIC BOILED

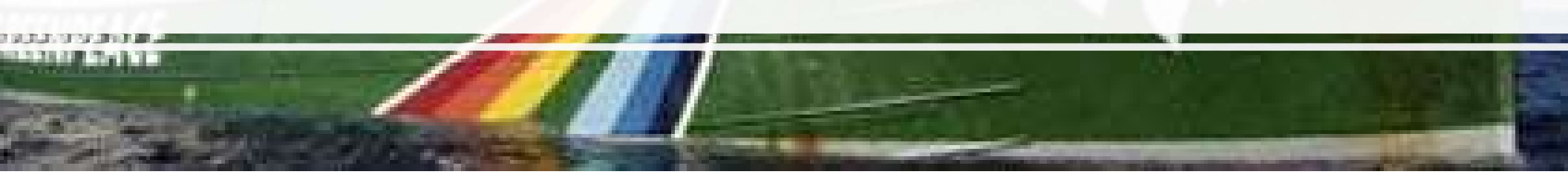


Atomic bomb, which exploded at 8.15 a.m. on September 7, 1944, over the city of Nagasaki, Japan. The atomic bomb was dropped by the United States.

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Rainbow Warrior 2





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MV Greenpeace



Legal and Political Efforts

Greenpeace's legal battles and lobbying efforts.

Filed lawsuits against the French government and international bodies.

Advocated for international treaties banning nuclear tests.

Efforts contributed to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 1996.



Greenpeace Action Against Nuclear Waste Export from Port Botany

Event Overview:

- Greenpeace activists blocked the export of nuclear waste from Port Botany in Sydney.
- The action aimed to highlight the environmental and health risks associated with nuclear materials.

Tactics Used:

- Activists physically blocked the shipment by chaining themselves to shipping containers.
- The peaceful yet disruptive protest delayed the export process.



Greenpeace Action Against Nuclear Waste Export from Port Botany



Objectives:

- Pressure authorities and the public to reconsider the use and transportation of nuclear waste.
- Advocate for the adoption of sustainable and renewable energy sources

Broader Campaign:

- Part of Greenpeace's long-standing opposition to the nuclear industry.
- Emphasis on the risks posed by nuclear accidents and long-term waste management issues.
- Criticism of diverting resources from renewable energy development to nuclear projects.



Paddy Wagon

Outcome and Impact

France's cessation of nuclear testing in 1996.

- In 1996, France announced a halt to nuclear testing.
- Result of sustained pressure from Greenpeace and the global community.
- Long-term impact: Strengthened the global anti-nuclear movement and awareness of environmental issues.





Conclusion

- Greenpeace played a crucial role in bringing global attention to the issue.
- Demonstrated the power of nonviolent direct action and international solidarity.
- The campaign remains a significant example of successful environmental activism.

