

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE PREPARATORY COMMISSION FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE
NUCLEAR-TEST-BAN TREATY STATEMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST NUCLEAR TESTS**

29 AUGUST 2014

On 29 August, Kazakhstan opened a new chapter in history leading to the dismantlement of the fourth largest nuclear arsenal. Forty-two years after the Soviet Union detonated its first nuclear device the Semipalatinsk President Nazarbayev shut down the test site.

At Kazakhstan's initiative, the International Day against Nuclear Tests was recognised by the General Assembly in 2009. This date marks both the first Soviet nuclear test as well as the closure of the Semipalatinsk test site. The Republic of Kazakhstan should be commended for this initiative.

Test sites like Semipalatinsk are now silent, unlike the era depicted by Doug Waterfield in his 'Doomtown' painting series on display here in the rotunda.

While the 1963 Partial TBT drove nuclear testing underground, nuclear testing continued, leading to evermore destructive nuclear weapons, contaminating the environment, and poisoning international relations.

Today, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty represents an international norm against all nuclear testing. However it has not yet entered into force. Today serves as a reminder that banning nuclear testing remains unfinished business.

I recently returned from the Republic of Korea, whose northern neighbour is threatening to conduct yet another nuclear test. The development, testing and deployment of nuclear weapons is not just a regional threat, but an affront to international peace and security.

The CTBT is a collective measure by the international community to not only prevent further threats, but to contribute to a world free of nuclear weapons.

In this spirit, I wish to join Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his call on this international day:
"Together, let us demand an end to all nuclear tests and get on with the unfinished business of achieving a world free of nuclear weapons."

Thank you.