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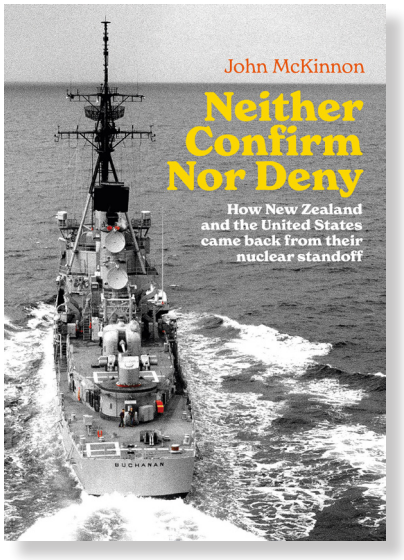
Neither Confirm Nor Deny

How New Zealand and the United States came back from their nuclear standoff

JOHN MCKINNON



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A DIPLOMATIC HISTORY OF AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND'S NUCLEAR-FREE POLICY

What happened between governments in the years after New Zealand enshrined its nuclear-free policy in law and its mighty ally suspended its obligations to New Zealand under ANZUS? How, after Prime Minister David Lange strode the world as the voice of opposition to nuclear weapons, did New Zealand and the United States reconcile?

The New Zealand prime ministers who succeeded Lange had to tread deftly as they balanced strong anti-nuclear sentiment in New Zealand with not getting too far offside with the United States.

Drawing on his ringside-seat position as a former diplomat, John McKinnon details how a relationship that seemed to be fatally wounded in the 1980s was steadily rebuilt, and how what the two countries had in common outweighed, in the end, what divided them.

This timely book describes how it became possible, after 30 years, for a United States naval vessel once again to visit New Zealand.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John McKinnon is a former senior New Zealand diplomat whose posts include New Zealand's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York and New Zealand's Ambassador to Beijing. From 2004 he was Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible for international politics and security. Following six years as Chief Executive of the Ministry of Defence, he served as the Executive Director of the Asia New Zealand Foundation. From 2015 he served a second term as New Zealand's Ambassador to China, in Beijing. Now retired, he is chair of the New Zealand China Council.

SALES POINTS

- A unique angle on New Zealand's cherished nuclear free policy
- Authoritatively and accessibly written with an insider's perspective
- Timely reflection on a key element of New Zealand's foreign policy

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