

MEMO TO CHURCH LEADERS: Proposal for a Joint Church Service at Waitangi.

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From: Bob Scott.

You will have gathered by now that we are not to proceed further with the proposal for a joint church service at Waitangi on Waitangi Day.

Most church leaders were cautious about the proposal--mainly on the grounds of not wanting to pre-empt what Maori people are planning that day.

I left the sending of this memo as late as possible , in case there was a change of emphasis or strategy from Kotahitangi which might mean church leaders wanting to take further consideration. But, with the planned Hikoï only days away, there will be no major change.

Not to proceed further with the Proposal is an appropriate response , in my opinion particularly as the plans and hopes for Te Hikoï ki Waitangi emerge.

The Kotahitangi Movement is committed to being peaceful, with the intention of encouraging discussion of the issues surrounding the Treaty of Waitangi. It should be noted nevertheless that the basic stand of Kotahitanga has been (and it has not changed) to stop the celebrations, though this particular year the Movement will move peacefully to Waitangi.

It seems to me to be appropriate that pakeha people are sensitive to what Kotahitanga hopes to achieve and we do nothing to distract from that voice being heard.

Kotahitanga has asked for pakeha support and pakeha people are welcome to join the Hikoï and the forum which will take place at Waitangi itself. Some church leaders may consider being present themselves , at Waitangi, to show solidarity with Kotahitanga while not becoming involved with the Government-sponsored observances on the Treaty House grounds.

I would like to add a personal note: I believe that "pakeha restraint" in 1984 does not absolve pakeha people from continuing to reflect on the pakeha role in the signing of the Treaty and its subsequent place in New Zealand history. I believe there is pakeha action needed in response to that and , though we may put those actions " in quarantine" for this year's ceremonies, the situation will have to be reviewed for 1985. To that end I am encouraged by the number of positive resolutions and statements made by church courts and church leaders.

Thank you for considering the matter. I understand from church leaders they considered it a worthwhile "exercise".

*With warm regards*

*Bob Scott*

25th January 1894.