

wise

World Information Service on Energy/Service Mondial d'Information sur l'Energie/
Weltweiter Energie Informationsdienst/Servizio Mondiale d'Informazioni Energetica/
Servicio Mundial de Información sobre la Energía

11

KIITG



1981

JANUARY / FEBRUARY

KEEP IT IN THE GROUND

international stop uranium mining newsletter

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A subscription to *Keep It In The Ground* costs 15 Dutch guilders per year. In the US it costs \$7.50, and in the United Kingdom it is £4.00.

This, you will realise, only covers the cost of stamps. We ask groups who can pay more to do so. The rate for institutions is f40.

If you are paying to Holland, mark your cheques KIITG. Giro number 4088285.

This issue is put together by Lin Pugh and Volker Hauck with help from the WISE team in Amsterdam, in cooperation with Roger Moody of CIMRA in London. Information is supplied by the movement including WISE groups.

Copyright WISE 1981

Re-publication is free to the movement press. Please quote our name as source.

WISE has received two subsidies for this newsletter service. Both are from Dutch organisations, NCO and NOVIB. The grants cover production costs and provide funding for printing the Gulliver File.

WISE
2e Wateringsplantsoen 9
1017 ZD Amsterdam
The Netherlands
tel. 20/255064



TABLE OF CONTENT

INTERNATIONAL		3
COUNTRY BY COUNTRY	AUSTRALIA	6
	NAMIBIA	8
	SOUTH AFRICA	9
	CANADA	9
	USA	12
	EUROPE	17
INDUSTRY NEWS		18

ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This is a newsletter linking together people all over the world fighting to stop uranium mining.

We pass on information from groups who want to share that information with other groups. The newsletter was set up at the request and initiative of a meeting of people from isolated pockets of this earth who needed to keep in touch with each other, and feel the solidarity of others in the same struggle.

Everybody who is fighting to stop uranium mining or exploration, and who is fighting against uranium imports and the use of uranium is invited to participate in this newsletter. Please send information on your struggle, copies of new research and publications information requests etc. to your nearest WISE relay. You can also send direct to WISE Amsterdam.

Many people in the movement have experienced postal difficulties when corresponding with other groups. If you would like to get a copy of a report from the WISE Amsterdam office, this is also possible: we will charge copying costs.

BULK ISSUES OF KEEP IT IN THE GROUND ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL GROUPS. DISTRIBUTE THEM TO ALL ACTIVISTS. ADVERTISE THIS NEWSLETTER IN THE MOVEMENT PRESS.

ABOUT WISE

WISE was founded in February 1978 at a meeting of anti nuclear and soft energy activists from many parts of the world. Our aim is to serve the movement through information exchange. We publish a bi-monthly BULLETIN, with news of tactics and publications, of peoples struggles against uranium mining to struggles against reprocessing plants. SUBSCRIBE, and ask for a sample copy from your nearest WISE group.

STOP RIO TINTO ZINC WEEK OF ACTION

British groups have organised a week of action against the multinational mining company Rio Tinto Zinc (RTZ), from May 4-11 1981.

The action is the British response to the proposal put forward by a group participating in the Survival Gathering in the Black Hills last July, for an international week of action against uranium mining companies. "The longterm goal of this campaign is to unite communities around the world to break the economic and environmental domination by multinational corporations, that threaten our very survival."

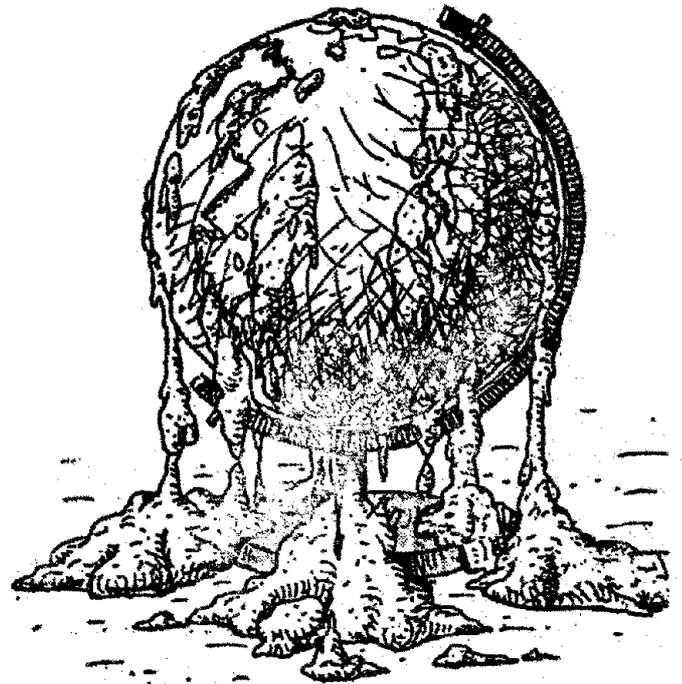
The campaign organisers in Britain has produced a detailed brochure on RTZ, its history, finances and opposition. Why RTZ? "Rio Tinto Zinc exemplifies all the worst excesses of the way in which multinationals perpetuate and intensify neo-colonialist exploitation. ...RTZ produces 26% of the western worlds uranium (thus making it the most important supplier), 25% of its boron (used in fibre glass manufacture) and 25% of its bauxite (for aluminium). It also produces substantial quantities of gold, silver, lead, copper and iron ore". RTZ has more than 200 subsidiary companies.

The week of action is at present coordinated by Partizans (People against Rio Tinto Zinc and its subsidiaries). Other groups participating are Shanti, ELTSA, SCRAM (Scottish Campaign to Resist the Atomic Menace), SANE (Students Against Nuclear Energy), Greenpeace London, CIMRA (Colonial Indigenous Minorities Research and Action), Third World First, Sheffield Anti Nuclear Campaign, the Beast magazine, and Peoples Survival Project. In Australia the North Queensland Land Council and

the Kimberley Land Council have endorsed the action. CAFCINZ of New Zealand has also endorsed it.

The week of action, it is planned, will include teach-ins, public debates, exhibitions, demonstrations and pickets, shareholders actions, trade union initiatives, direct action, anti recruitment campaigns, large scale leafletting. Posters are available. The Partizans group is asking people to buy 1 share in RTZ to be able to participate in the shareholders meeting.

contact: Partizans
218 Liverpool Road
London N1 UK tel (1) 609 1852



POBÉURS

FOURTH RUSSELL TRIBUNAL - on the Rights
of the Indians of the Americas

In a week of many events and stories, the Fourth Russell Tribunal was held in Rotterdam, Holland, and faced the issue of the rights of the Indians of the Americas. The Tribunal received quite a lot of publicity. It is one in a series of activities the Workgroup Indian Project in the Netherlands will do to publicise the struggle of Indian peoples .

It is not possible to go through all the cases and give the reader a total picture. To have an impression, we quote from the Press Communique put out on the Big Mountain Dine (Navajo) against the US government.

"The accusation of the Navajo (Arizona USA) is in fact a continuation of the Hopi-case. The accusation concerns the forced displacement of 6000 Navajo Indians from their original places to towns surrounding their reserve. In this reserve extensive uranium supplies of uranium are found. The Navajos of Dine like the Hopi Indians have to deal with a tribal council, which has been forced upon them. Only a minority of the Navajos is represented in this tribal council. Traditional rule is not recognised. The Big Mountain region was expropriated for exploitation without the consent of the inhabitants." Attorney Herbert Blatchford, representing the Big Mountain people, accused the US of the genocide through the enactment of laws that permit, and even encourage, the destruction of the indigenous community and culture. He described the attitude of colonising of American governments since 1492.

Herb Blatchford stressed the fact that Navajos signed a treaty with the USA which according to international law is still in force - and ignored by the US government.



Robert Blackgoat, President of Big Mountain, declared that his people refuse to be shifted. "Although we are being subjected to force, we are simply going to stay where we are."

The Vice President of the Big Mountain Dine, Kee Shay, illustrated in his own language the way in which his people feel attached to their land and their sacred regions.

Expert witness John Redhouse, active in Indian Environmental organs, explained to the jury how the mining companies, including the Peabody Coal Company, operate and the effects of mining operations on the environment. As a result of these operations the Navajos would not be able to live any more from shepherding and cattle breeding in this area.

In its conclusion the Jury said "The use of the Big Mountain land for energy development against the will of the Big Mountain people violates the right to control economic development and disposition of resources."

Observers of various other indigenous nations were present at the Tribunal, including Jens Karlson and Ole M. Egede as a delegation from Greenland, where the Danish government intends to open uranium mining activities. Len Clarke and Peter Yu represented respectively the Victorian Lands Council and the Kimberley Lands Council in

Australia, and Myron Matoa from Tahiti spoke on the dangers created by atomic experiments in the surroundings of Tahiti. These experiments are being carried out by the French government.

The reports of these people and their struggle against uranium mining are incorporated in the Conclusions of the Tribunal.

The Conclusions cost US\$2.50, and are available from MIP

*PO Box 61322, 1007 EH
Amsterdam, Nederland.*

Since the Tribunal there has been an assessment of the week long event. P.U.M.A. -America (Peru) has had two evenings of assessment, and including in their conclusions solidarity with Bolivia.

As many people in various countries may like to get in contact with a group with more information on the Tribunal and on the Indian problematic in general, we publish here an address list.

MONEY CANNOT BUY A NEW CULTURE



"We oppose the destruction of our land and our way of life. We condemn the mining ventures of all multinational corporations for the rape of our sacred Mother Earth."

COUNTRY BY COUNTRY

AUSTRALIA

YELLOWCAKE LEAVES DARWIN PORT

The first batch of uranium produced in the Alligator Rivers Region left Darwin, in Australia's Northern Territory, on November 10 1980. The public was not aware of this until a small article appeared in the local press five days later.

The Waterside Workers Federation (Darwin) has been strong in refusing to handle yellowcake, though they do handle materials such as sulphur for the processing of uranium. The transport and mining companies have got around the WWF ban by using barges which are only loaded by the Transport Workers Union. The other union involved in moving yellowcake is the Seamen's Union, who provide labour for the barges.

The barge used belongs to the V.B. Perkins company. They transport much equipment for the mine site at Nabarlek. The transport of the yellowcake from the Queensland Mines Nabarlek uranium mine to a storage place at Winnellie and then to the barge is shrouded in secrecy.

It is understood by one newspaper that future movement will be by air, through the Sydney based company Jet Airlines. This is the company's solution to the problem posed when Oenpelli aborigines raised legal and physical objections to transport of yellowcake through their lands.

*contact: Environmental Council of NT
PO Box 2120 Darwin NT 5794
Australia*

FRENCH MINE CHALLENGED IN QUEENSLAND

On December 8 the Townsville Regional Conservation Council, with the backing of the Australian Conservation Foundation, mounted the first serious legal challenge to the granting of a uranium mining lease at Ben Lomond, in North Queensland.

The group is asking the Queensland Mining Court to refuse French-controlled Minatome extra uranium leases on the Ben Lomond prospect near Townsville. Townsville is a relatively large town. A spokesperson for the group, Adrian Jeffreys, says the leases fall within the Burdekin Dam catchment area. The Burdekin Dam is one of Australia's largest water resource projects and is also used for recreation.

The Council will also claim that it is not in the public interest for uranium leases to be granted until it can be demonstrated that the processing and distribution of uranium is safe.

The court hearing does not necessarily resolve the issue. The State Minister for Mines has the power to veto any decision made in the court.

*contact Lyn Martinez
Townsville Environment Centre
PO Box 384 Townsville 6743
Qld. AUSTRALIA*

GOVERNMENT GETS HEAVY CRITICISM

The Australian Labor Party and the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) have come down heavily on the Fraser government for its recent relaxation on controls over uranium exports. (see KIITG 10).

Deputy opposition leader Mr Bowen said the move to increase the chance of the world "being destroyed for the sake of a few lousy dollars". And a prominent left wing union leader, John Halfpenny called the decision "the most irresponsible in a long line of irresponsible decisions on uranium and nuclear issues".

The Movement Against Uranium Mining (MAUM) has also called the recent uranium treaty with France - which was facilitated by doing away with the "no prior consent to reprocessing" clause in the original rules - "probably the most irresponsible agreement Australia has made to date."

In February the ACTU will meet to consider action preventing the French deliveries. It is expected that there will be more opposition to implementing the contracts than there has been over the past two years.

The ACTU has also withdrawn from the Uranium Advisory Committee in protest at the federal government's uranium mining policy. The Australian government has also announced that the government "...will be able to give the go-ahead to new uranium projects" - presumably opening the way to development of the delayed Jabiluka mine (see industry news). The Australian multinational CSR has pledged \$800 million towards building the country's first enrichment plant. French, Japanese, American and the British-Dutch-West German consortium URENCO are still apparently in the running. Uranium deals made in the past year by Australian mines are all believed to contain a clause stipulating that at least 35% of the uranium should be enriched in Australia before export. (information from AGE Melb. 9.1.81, Australian Express 2.12.80 and 20.1.81)



WAKE UP AUSTRALIA

THE AFRICAN CONTINENT

NAMIBIA

1981 CAMPAIGN TO STOP URANIUM EXPLOITATION IN NAMIBIA

UK: On January 25 the British Campaign Against the Namibian Uranium Contracts (CANUC) held an all-day discussion on the strategy for this years campaign. 100 delegates from many regions and a large number of groups participated: Anti Apartheid groups, the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, People Against Rio Tinto Zinc and its subsidiaries (Partizans), Stop Urenco Alliance, Third World First, churches, political parties and trade unions.

The new campaign will be: the non-payment of 7% of the electricity bills - the percentage calculated to be coming from Namibian uranium; direct trade union action to stop import; and a national day of action on March 14 against Central Electricity Generating Board depots and Rio Tinto Zinc offices and RTZ subsidiaries around the country.

Delegates at this very animated meeting decided to reconvene a strategy meeting in May or June, and to establish a newsletter for the participating groups.

CANUC was set up in 1977, initiated by the Anti Apartheid Movement and the Namibia Support Committee (NSC). Campaign initiatives, research and publicity are directed by NSC. The British government has two contracts with Rio Tinto Zinc, who is delivering from their Rossing mine in Namibia 50% of British uranium imports. Namibia is illegally occupied by South Africa, and the contracts are therefore also illegal. Since 1977 CANUC has campaigned through petitioning and letters to both Labour and Conservative governments to cancel the contracts. CANUC produced "The Rossing



File", a booklet, in 1980, summing up their experiences in dealing with the South African uranium income can be secured by long term contracts, a practice common to most South African uranium producers. Afrikander Lease, for example, will cover sales between 1984 and 1990 with long-term contracts, although for the next few years output will have to be sold on the open market.

The Times 27.1.81

SOUTH AFRICA

CHEAP PRODUCTION HAS MEANT CONTINUING SUPPLY

(The information in this article is largely coming from an article in the TIMES in England. It is not really movement news, but perhaps useful for groups in lands receiving South African uranium to know.)

South Africa is the third biggest producer of uranium in the Western world. The government of South Africa does not allow information to be published about its uranium and nuclear industries. This secrecy is formally assured under the Atomic Energy Act. A reasonable amount is, however, known about uranium mining in this apartheid country.

There are plans to increase production extensively. Output in 1980 was 6,500 tonnes, rising to 10,400 tonnes in 10 years time. That level will be 9% of the total supply compared with 13% today.

South Africa can contemplate raising production for three reasons:

- + it has no environmental lobby
- + it is determined to develop its nuclear weapons and other nuclear programmes
- + output is relatively cheap. The low cost of production has enabled South Africa to continue mining uranium when other countries either stopped or slowed down. A key to low cost is that gold and uranium are mined together, and the profitability of gold absorbs the unprofitability of uranium.

Altogether there are 13 mines in South Africa with treatment plants producing uranium. Two of these are not mines in the normal sense, but facilities set up to work waste dumps, some of which date back to the end of the last century.

governments in this campaign. CANUC has carried out research on the transport route of the illegal cargo, and by their information several television networks have made documentary programmes exposing the trade. The information also made possible actions directed against the transport.

Through its trade union work CANUC has won a lot of support, particularly from the National Union of Seamen and the Train Drivers Union. The Campaign this year will build on trade union support, and aims to have the Namibian uranium contracts raised as an issue at both Labour Party and Trade Union national conferences this year. Unionists are being asked to support the campaign not just because the contracts are illegal, but also to support unionists in Namibia in their struggle.

contact: CANUC c/- NSC
188 North Gower Street
London NW 1 2NB UK

NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT

CANADA

KEY LAKE URANIUM: NATIVE PEOPLE MADE REFUGEES IN THEIR OWN LAND

Uranium mining in Northern Saskatchewan, Canada is a controversial. While the government is actively supporting the rapid expansion of existing mines and the construction of several new mines, native land claims have not been settled and a group of people known as uranium refugees has emerged.

To further express their concerns, community and environmental groups throughout Saskatchewan have boycotted the recent environmental inquiry into the Key Lake mine.

Under Canadian law, 50% of all new mining and exploration in the state must be with the Saskatchewan Mining Development Corporation (SMAC).

People questioning the present form of northern development in Saskatchewan and the uranium industry in particular have been given no meaningful way to voice their concerns, and often learn of mine developments after they are well into the construction phase. For example, the government, in the late 1970's granted AMOK, a large French uranium company, exploration leases in the Cliff Lake area. The first time the Indians became aware of this was when the trees were cut, trap lines burnt, and in some cases, drilling taking place beside camps already in use.

When they complained, the Friends of the North committee reports that the Native people were told they were trespassing. The people were forced to move from their ancestral homes, and are now the uranium refugees.

In an attempt to improve public input the government convened a board of inquiry to examine the most recently proposed mine - Key Lake. More than a year before the inquiry began the last cent had been payed on Eldorado Nuclear's \$95 million interest in the Key Lake mine. In addition, at least 8 lakes had been drained, a 200 kilometre road had been built to the site, and employee accomodation constructed - all under the name of "exploration".

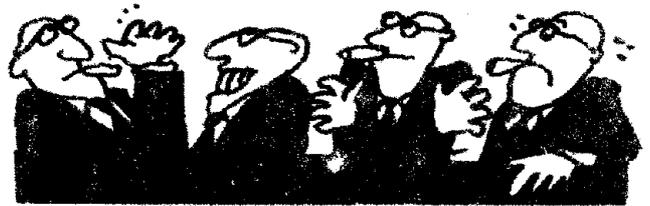
This is why the community and environment groups boycotted the inquiry.

When the inquiry opened more than 50 people marched down the Main Street in La Ronge, where the inquiry was being held. The group of protesters was part of a "Caravan for Survival" that travelled from Regina to Saskatoon

and Prince Albert, to publicise their concern over human rights violations by the government and uranium companies.

La Ronge is situated at the gate to the northern uranium development. Due to the developments the size of the town has doubled to 3,500. Not everyone in that town is happy, however, and early in the spring a molotov cocktail was thrown through the office window of Uranerz Canada Ltd, a West German company involved in uranium mining and exploration. The cocktail failed to ignite but Uranerz reacted by spending \$10,000 on installing bullet-proof glass. Uranerz owns 50% of the Rabbit Lake mine and one third of the Key Lake mine.

Contact *Save the North Programme*
PO Box 4174 Regina,
Saskatchewan, CANADA



YUKON: GAPS FOUND IN MORATORIUM
WHICH ARE AFFECTING OTHER PROVINCES

The failure of British Columbia's uranium mining and exploration moratorium is already affecting people outside its apparent sphere of influence.

Adanac Mines have availed themselves of a custom-made loophole in the provincial legislation to push ahead with plans for a molybdenum mine at Atlin in northern BC, just 30 miles from the Yukon border. The mining company has managed to bypass the moratorium restrictions with technicalities - even though the Atlin mine will in fact mine 7 times more uranium than the Blizzard

Mine (site of controversy which precipitated the BC controversy.) Adanac will not separate and sell the uranium until after the moratorium expires. The proposed mine would dump more than 500lbs of uranium and 1000 lbs of thorium *daily* into Atlin Lake, the headwaters of the Yukon River which supplies the whole of the Yukon with drinking water and extends into Alaska as well. The town of Teslin, populated mainly by Native people, is in the direct path of prevailing winds which would carry the deadly radon gas generated by the molybdenum tailings dam. The dam is apparently located on the Adera fault, which has experienced 78 sizeable tremors in the last 71 years, according to the geological survey of Canada.

Citizens Awareness, an Indian and non-Indian coalition centred in Whitehorse, has been active in attempting to alert the public.

contact *Citizens Awareness*
Tim and Dale Keenan
6190 6th Avenue
Whitehorse, Yukon, CANADA
Source: *Transitions*, Autumn 1980

AMENDMENT TO THE BC MORATORIUM

August 21, 1980 less than six months after Premier Bennett's announcement of a "seven year moratorium on uranium exploration and mining", saw an amendment slip quietly through the B.C. Legislature. Although the word 'uranium' only appears three times in the new legislation, the message is clear: "The Chief Inspector of Mines ... may consent, on conditions ordered by him, to the recommencement of exploration or development on the opening of a mining operation that has been closed under the regulation."

source: *Transitions* Autumn 1980

URANIUM MINING IN CANADA -Some Health and Environmental Problems is the title of a recently released 140 page report by Miles Goldstick. The report is an in-depth study of the current uranium mining industry in Canada and it documents the radiation and dust hazard to uranium miners, and their treatment by industry, government, and the medical profession; mill waste management; and the hazards of uranium exploration. In addition, the study details the second uranium exploration and mining boom which Canada is now experiencing. Included is a useful bibliography. Available from: *British Columbia Survival Alliance*, c/- 2148 Cornwall, Vancouver, BC V6K 1B4 for \$8.00 (CDN) + postage.

STAMP OF DISAPPROVAL

Early in September 1980, the Canada Post Office issued a new stamp celebrating the Canadian uranium industry. The 35¢ stamp (that means it gets stuck on overseas letters) features an arrangement of red and black balls against a blue background with "uranium resources" printed neatly below.

The Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility felt this was not at all a good way of portraying this very strong and powerful element. CCNR has issued its own stamp, with more of the design of what uranium can do. It features a mushroom cloud in the background with the words "Uranium Boom" boldly blazoned across the front. This is a 13c stamp. You can order this colourful stamp, a sheet of 50 for \$1.00 from CCNR, 2010 MacKay, Montreal, Quebec H3G 2J1 Canada tel (514) 486 6182

UNITED STATES

URANIUM FIRM PULLS OUT OF VERMONT

On December 10 1980 Urangesellschaft, the German based multinational, terminated its exploration leases and mining designs in Vermont, USA. The expressed reason for leaving was that the climate, politically and environmentally, was not favourable.

The citizen's group "Stop Uranium Mining" has fought against the uranium plans in Vermont for two years now. "We battled one of the biggest uranium mining companies in the world and we won. They have pulled out, SUM chairperson Ms Cole proclaimed.

During the past two years the SUM group has studied up the radiation dangers of uranium operations, called in expert witnesses before the Vermont legislature about the dangers, held rallies to develop anti-mining support and monitored everything Urangesellschaft did in Vermont. SUM also mounted a successful campaign to convince more than 30 Vermont towns to ask their elected representatives to adopt an ordinance banning uranium mining in the towns.

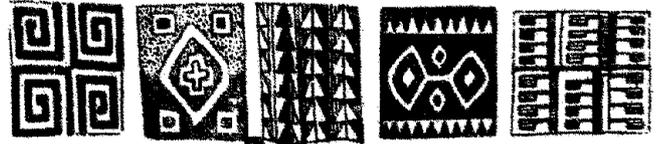
Urangesellschaft had still more barriers than this against its programme. Under Vermont's land development law Urangesellschaft, before mining, would have to prove that its operations would promote the general welfare in the state. The Vermont Public Interest Group and SUM were successful in having a bill in the state legislature presented and passed, under which the plans of a uranium firm wanting to mine the state would be carefully reviewed and require the approval of both Houses of government.

The uranium opposition in tiny Vermont crushed Urangesellschaft, who has vast

mining interests in Canada, Australia, African countries, South America and other parts of North America.

"Now, in future years, we have to assure that the federal government doesn't encroach on our soil with such things as nuclear waste storage and the transportation of waste through the state." Ms Cole said.

contact Stop Uranium Mining
Jamaica
Vermont 05343 USA
tel (802) 874 5871



PITCH THE PITCH URANIUM PROJECT

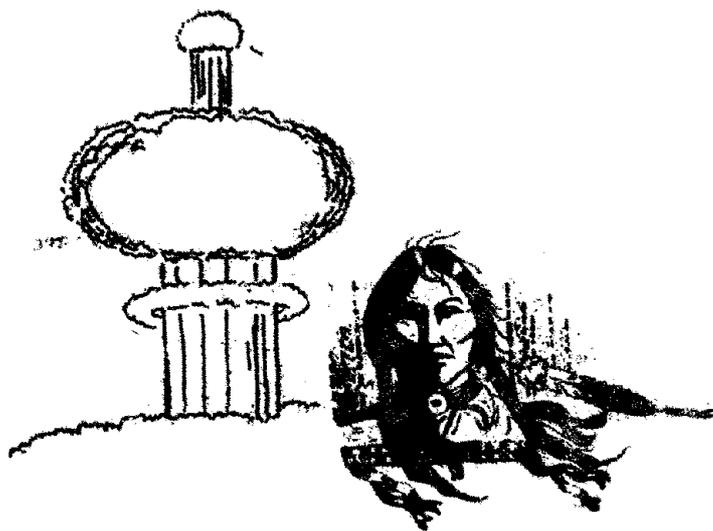
December 10 1980 saw the commencement of hearings on the Pitch Project uranium mill and radioactive waste disposal tailings site in Colorado, USA. The hearings were held in Gunnison, where Homestake mining company wants to locate these projects - in the Gunnison National Forest, at the head of a steep watershed which ultimately drains into the Colorado River.

Homestake has a history of accidents at the Pitch Project site. In May 1980 the small earthen dam of one of the upper settling ponds washed out. To overcome the problem, Homestake pumped water from the sedimentation pond directly into the Indian Creek. In the summer of 1979 there was a mass movement of waste material. In October 1979 the Mined Land Reclamation Board found Homestake to be in violation with respect to improper stockpiling of ore, for which they were fined \$1,000.

Homestake also has a uranium mill together with United Nuclear at Grants, New Mexico, and is mining gold in South Dakota.

The Sunflower Coalition opposes the Pitch project, but also opposes the hearings. The Sunflower Coalition is made up of 6 Colorado Citizens groups and a number of individuals. They strongly accept the concept of public hearings on environmental issues, but the Pitch mill license hearings as currently scheduled are unacceptable to them for four reasons;

- + It is not yet determined which government agency will be monitoring uranium mills and enforcing applicable regulations in Colorado in the near future. It is possible that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will take over from the State's Radiation Health Programme. The Coalition feels this should be clarified before the hearings.
- + No mill license hearings should be completed until after the councils complete their review on the health effects of uranium mill tailings and mine waste and determine the adequacy of existing regulations and their enforcement.
- + It is unreasonable and unfair to expect grassroots community organisations to have all the necessary resources to appeal these hearings.



+ The location of the hearings is not only remote, but the road is almost impassable due to weather conditions - therefore people are not able to participate.

In order to be able to know more about the project she is fighting, Margaret Puls, a Coalition member, asked Homestake (she holds 1 share with the company) where the uranium from Pitch goes to. They refused, under a secrecy law, to tell her. If anyone else can supply that information, please contact her. She is a contact also for the Sunflower Coalition.

contact: Future

*PO Box 2825 Denver
Co 80201 USA*

NEW URANIUM DISTRICT THREATENS KAIBAB PAIUTES

Despite the active movement in North America's Southwest to shut down the nuclear fuel industry, the literal cancer of uranium mining and milling is still spreading. Years of corporate exploitation and bureaucratic inertia have brought untold suffering and bitterness to native people. The latest victims of the push for nuclear fuels are the residents of the Kaibab Band of Paiutes, who live in the Arizona Strip, north of Grand Canyon.

Highgrade uranium ores have been found on the strip, within the drainage area of Grand Canyon, including areas of the Reservation itself.

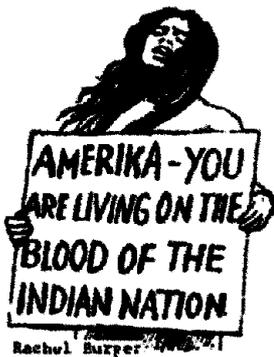
Without lease or permit, Energy Fuels Nuclear, Inc (for Western Nuclear) has already completed the first of several mines on Bureau of Land Management land. With ore stockpiled and ready to be shipped, the corporation *now* seeks a right of way

across several miles of Reservation road. Several vocal tribal members stopped such an agreement being signed. Now the energy companies offer free lunches to the Indians, to influence the Native people to trust the companies. The companies have offered the Tribe \$10,000 per year for five years if they approve the through-traffic, otherwise they will make a longer road and still be on tribal land but will offer the tribe no money. Regional Native American and Environmental organisations are working with Lawyers Guild attorneys to fight this situation.

The tribal membership is largely apathetic on the issue, mostly because they are uninformed. Critics of the uranium exploiters have experienced resistance in their outreach and education among local residents, both Native and Anglo, in an effort to address both the specific and broader perspectives of the risks, impacts, and implications of uranium development. Impacts specifically stressed include:

- long term, low level radiation
- water depletion and pollution
- traffic hazards
- stress on local economy services
- destruction of quality of life and traditional culture
- cumulative impacts with other and "anticipated" developments.

Source: *Americans Before Columbus*
National Indian Youth Council
 vol 8 no. 4



TAILINGS IN GRAND JUNCTION TO BE CLEANED UP, A LITTLE BIT

Property owners in Grand Junction, Colorado, are finally to have their radiated properties cleaned up - in a few years time.

These properties are the legacy of CLIMAX uranium company's (now AMAX) 20 year uranium mill operation. The tailings, still containing 85% of the radioactivity, was not just left in waste piles - that in itself constitutes a big enough problem. The tailings were used by contractors and the general public as free building material in homes, schools, sidewalks and innumerable other construction projects.

6072 buildings are contaminated by tailings, and 3,800 of these buildings were constructed with tailings.

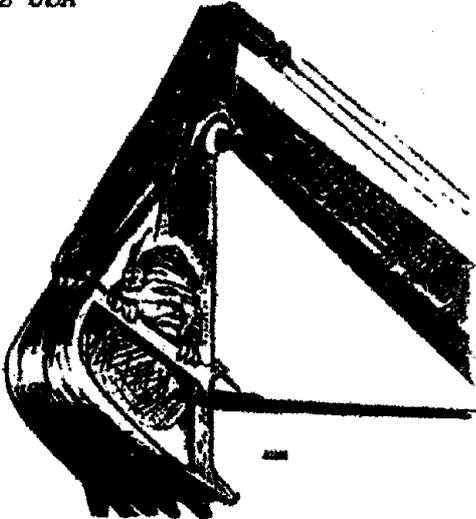
16 June 1980 was the deadline for people to apply to the Remedial Health Programme of the state government's department of health. Less than 50% of the 3800 property owners have applied for remedial action. Of these that did reply, it is estimated that 740 will qualify for eventual cleanup. Only 12% of the contaminated properties will finally be cleaned up by this programme. Then the whole programme was slowed down even more when state funding was cut back 60%.

So even after the programme is finished, 3000 properties will remain as a potential health hazard to their occupants.

The 2 million tons of tailings lying abandoned on the pile also remain a health hazard. At an injunction in May 1980 the present owner and licensee, Robert Shumway, was charged with inadequate stabilisation of the pile and willful radiation control violations. Shumway has now filed bankruptcy, and no-one really knows who will now be responsible for

radiation control at the site. The site will be eventually cleaned up by the Department of Energy in 1983. Such a clean up only shifts the rubbish into someone else's backyard. All the clean up plans so far have been accomplished because concerned citizens demanded it.

*TRCA Uranium/Nuclear committee
PO Box 2932 Grand Junction
81502 USA*



WOMEN IN MINING

A volunteer organisation - Women in Mining - which was founded in Colorado in 1972 has recently been gaining in support, according to a lead article in December 1980's issue of the Mining Magazine (London). Women have played some roles in mining from the early days of underground coal mining in the U.S., and there have been female mining engineers and geologists for several decades. Now there are over 3,000 women coal miners in the US. No information is provided in this article about women in uranium mines. We'd like to hear from any American recipients of KIITG if they know of such employment, or any statement made by women miners about the peculiar - and inordinate - radiation hazards of uranium mining as they affect women and also their children.

FREE THE PEOPLE - FREE LEONARD PELTIER

Native American political prisoner Leonard Peltier faces a renewed threat to his survival in the Marion Federal Prison and the infamous "control unit" in Marion, Illinois.

The death of Bobby Garcia, found hanged in his cell at Terre Haute Federal Prison on December 13 1980, is the most recent attack and example of the length the United States government will go to keep Peltier imprisoned with no chance of defense in a legal or just hearing on his case. We are saddened and we honour the courage and strength of our now gone warrior brother Bobby Garcia.

In July of 1979, Garcia, along with Leonard Peltier and Dallas Thundershield, all political prisoners, escaped from Lumpoc prison in California following revelations that prison and government officials were plotting to have Peltier killed. Thundershield was killed by an ex-prison guard, and Garcia gave himself up so that Leonard could escape. The reason for Bobby Garcia's death was because of his part in exposing the conspiracy on the part of prison and federal authorities to assassinate Peltier. Standing Deer, another political prisoner, was an important witness, and it was his evidence which exposed the facts behind the plot.

Prison and Native activists are now intensifying their efforts to secure the safety of Peltier and Standing Deer. Both are in great danger since Bobby Garcia's death. There are many questions which remain unanswered in the death of Garcia, we strongly believe that he was murdered by the authorities, We believe there is more to his death than the officials claim of suicide. Before his death, Garcia had talked to a prison psychologist about a contract on his life. Questions remain such as why Bobby was isolated, how was it possible for Garcia to hang himself

in the isolation unit when there was 24 hour surveillance and why his body was embalmed after prison authorities performed their autopsy knowing, without a doubt, a full investigation would be demanded by Native American people.

The case of Leonard Peltier is directly linked to the energy wars of today, to energy exploitation on Indian land, particularly uranium for nuclear development. Approximately 1/8th or 180,000 acres of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation was signed away illegally to the National Forest Service in Washington, DC on June 26 1975, on the same day FBI agents Jack Coler and Ronald Williams (with a back up team) opened fire on an Oglala community, resulting in the deaths of one Indian man and two F.B.I agents. The murder of Joseph Stuntz was never investigated, yet the deaths of the two agents resulted in repressive military action and trumped-up charges against four Indian men, including Peltier. The land signed away in 1975 is now under exploration by several trans-national corporations, among them Union Carbide.

Bobby Garcia's death occurred approximately two weeks before a January 8 1981 hearing in Los Angeles to appeal the Lompoc escape attempt decision. Two hearings in Portland, Oregon on December 22 1980 and January 7 1981 were also related to Leonard Peltier - on a motion to dismiss charges made against Peltier, Dennis and Kamook Banks, Russell Redner, Kenneth Loudhawk and former A.I.M. activist Anna Mae Aquash, five years ago in Oregon. The six were charged with possessing firearms and explosives, although no explosives were ever found and the government has never been able to prove that Dennis and Peltier were ever there!

The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee has developed a slide show called "Free the People" which documents the Leonard Peltier case, as well as the threats to survival faced by all indigenous people. The slide show is available to any individual or organisation which can afford the reproduction cost of the slides and one cassette tape at a cost of \$100 U.S.

*for information contact
Free the People c/- Juan Reyna
Leonard Peltier Defense Committee
P.O. Box 1492
Rapid City, South Dakota 57701
USA*



EUROPE

SLIDE SHOW: FROM SCOTLAND

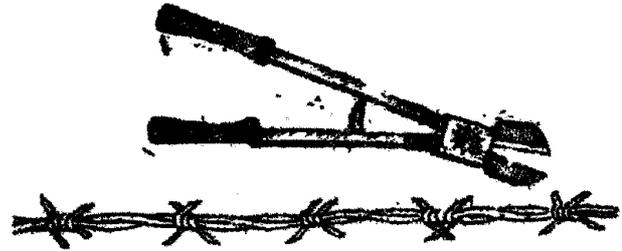
SCRAM in Scotland has produced a set of 25 slides, with full notes on uranium exploitation throughout the world. It covers from prospecting to fuel fabrication.

To buy it, pay SCRAM £9 (includes the carriage), and to hire for two weeks is £3 (including carriage).

The Anti Nuclear Campaign in Britain has produced a leaflet Uranium, the Plain Facts, at a cost of 5p each or £2 per hundred.

SCRAM: 2a Ainslie Place, Edinburgh 3, Scotland

ANC: 266 Battersea Park Rd, London SW11.
UK



IRELAND

COMPANIES WITHDRAWING

Northgate Exploration is reported to be withdrawing its uranium exploration activities from Donegal, Ireland, according to The Rebel newspaper. Among the reasons for withdrawal are "poor results" and "local agitation"

Uranium companies in Donegal have used various methods to swing public opinion to favour mining. Companies made contributions to all political parties in the county during the November elections. Many of the parties returned the funds.

3000 people so far have signed a petition against uranium mining in Donegal.

On the other side Sinn Fein- The Workers Party member Seamus Rogers called a meeting of uranium workers "for a fight to keep the job".

Tara Exploration has now also pulled out of Donegal. Anglo-United has reduced its commitment, having now only three workers and one rig.

source: Rebel
PO Box 1103
Dublin 1 Ireland

outta control
7. Wintavern St
Smithfield, Belfast, N. Ireland

Resource : NUCLEAR ENERGY AND THE THIRD WORLD

Members of WISE are writing a resource book, Nuclear Energy and the Third World. The book gives some idea of different treaties which are important at the moment, and different contracts important to the nuclear industry.

The writers have now produced their second draft of the book. They need comments and information, preparatory to a full writing and publishing. For a copy of the preliminary version, send \$4.00 (\$2.00 US) to
World Information Service on Energy
2e Weteringplantsoen 9
Amsterdam 1017 ZD The Netherlands

INDUSTRY NEWS

What we want to do by publishing these industry news items:

We think that if you have information on where the companies are, how they treat their workers, what they do to the environment, what their weaknesses are, their illegal practices etc etc, we think it can be useful in your own struggle against the companies.

THIRD WORLD PROFILE

Mexico In November 1980 URAMEX, the Mexican state-owned company in charge of uranium mining and the nuclear industry, produced a report claiming that recent uranium discoveries in the heart of the Sierra Madre will soon make it one of the world's leading uranium producers.

The biggest single deposit so far confirmed is in the state of Oaxaca (a legendary Aztec centre) which "could become one of the biggest uranium mines in the world". Work is underway on five other mines. According to the report, the country could be turning out up to 700 tons a year by 1982. While this is small (that is less than the annual production of Mary Kathleen uranium in Queensland, Australia alone), conservative estimates of reserves in Baja, California alone indicate reserves of 150,000 tons.

The Sierra Madre deposits, in Chihuahua, are located in volcanic rock - so much easier to work than granitic and other sedimentary deposits, the URAMEX chief Francisco Vizcaino exclaims "nature has certainly blessed this country". Vizcaino claims that the main reason for developing the country's uranium is to fuel its own nuclear industry. Though beset by problems (the first plant Laguna Verde is six years behind schedule), URAMEX hopes to build

15 nuclear power stations in the next twenty years.

As with oil, the government intends to use uranium as a semi-political weapon (It's already given support to Cuba). How this will work out in practice, given that most third world nuclear development is taking place in military dictatorships ostensibly opposed to the liberal policies of Jose Lopez Portillo, isn't clear. More likely is that Sweden and France (both bidding for contracts to build nuclear power stations) and other European nuclear states will get the yellow-cake contracts.

see *The Sunday Times business news* 16.11.80

Argentina has 28,000 tons of proved uranium reserves, will soon be in control of all parts of the nuclear fuel process and intends to be contributing no less than 15% of electricity to the national grid from nuclear generation by 1985. One of the most important "reforms" needed to permit this "development" was the alteration of the country's 1887 mining code which effectively debarred foreign companies from operating in the mining sector. Thanks to Cictatoro Videla's economy minister, this code will now be amended - allowing international tenders, larger concessions and a five year exemption from virtually all taxes on extraction and marketing. The government hopes that this will help overcome Argentina's huge rate of inflation which in 1979 was no less than 150%.

Sri Lanka. According to Sri Lanka's Geological survey department, high grade uranium deposits have been located in five coastal areas of the country. Further assessment is expected soon. *Source: Mining Journal* 26.12.80

Taiwan and Bolivia. Taiwan is to assist the Bolivian government in an uranium search and Taiwanese specialists will soon be sent from the Asian to the South American dictatorship to implement the agreement. Taiwan has, relatively speaking, one of the largest programmes for nuclear power in the world.

At the same time, the United States government has agreed to offer Taiwanese Power Co. an uranium fuel enrichment service for the company's fourth projected nuclear power station, construction for which will probably start next year.

Chile is planning an uranium recovery plant at its state-owned Chuquicamata copper mine this year, while the Cascada copper mine will begin production of 20,000 Kg of U308 from October.

Compania Minera Pudahuel is investing \$8 million in the uranium oxide facilities and will market the product overseas, if the Chilean junta does not take up its option to buy.

Source: Mining Magazine 12.12.80

Brazil. Pechiney Ugine Kuhlmann, the huge French chemicals and metal processing corporation is to build an uranium flouridation plant in Brazil, at Resende near Rio de Janeiro. The plant, using PUK's own technology is to start up in 1985 with an initial capacity of 450 tons a year. This deal completes Brazil's attempts over a decade to acquire virtually all the nuclear fuel process, now that it is benefitting from both Argentinian reprocessing technology and supplies of URENCO enriched uranium.

Source: Mining Journal 23.1.81

~~~~~



Australia

Australia's Mary Kathleen mine (51% owned by Conzinc Rio Tinto Australia, which in turn is 61.1% owned by RTZ) has now paid off half its debt-burden to major shareholders \$20 million had to be raised to re-open the mine five years ago.

Production of U308 last year was around 800 tons, about the same as in 1979

*Source: Mining Journal 23.1.81*

United Nuclear Resources - one of America's largest uranium companies - will soon be exploring the whole of Australia in a search for minerals, including uranium. Through Teton Australia, a wholly owned subsidiary, UNC already has a quarter interest in the Honeymoon uranium prospect in South Australia and is seeking a 16% interest at the nearby East Kalbarroo deposit. Its minerals exploration programme is being undertaken with North Kalgurl, Mines Ltd., in which the Australian company will have a 50% interest. The deal is subject to agreement by the Fraser administration which is not likely to object.

*Source: Mining Journal 2.1.81*

Pancontinental - the majority (65%) owner with Getty Oil (35%) of the huge Jabiluka uranium deposit on aboriginal land in Australia's Northern Territory made a loss of \$1.35 million in the year ending June 1980, but has extended its exploration in Canada and Australia, according to its latest company records. The company has a 27% interest, an uranium drilling project in Quebec, Canada.

8 January, 1981: Australia and France completed a nuclear safeguards agreement allowing France to reprocess Australian uranium. Direct sales of Australian uranium to France could now proceed.

Source: *Nuclear News and Reviews*,  
Canberra, Australia

#### USA AND AUSTRALIA AGREEMENT

A joint mineral exploration and development program has been agreed upon between UNC Resources, of Falls Church Virginia, and North Kalgurli Mines Ltd. of Australia. As part of the agreement, UNC is selling to North Kalgurli a 50% interest in Teton Exploration Drilling Co., Pty. for \$5.8 million. Teton Exploration Drilling Co., Inc., is a subsidiary of United Nuclear Corporation, the operating company for UNC Resources. Teton will undertake general mineral exploration throughout Australia as part of the agreement.

Source: *Nuclear News January 1981*

#### Yugoslavia

##### YUGOSLAVIA INVESTS IN URANIUM

Preparing to fuel its first nuclear power plant, Yugoslavia is reportedly investing some \$127 million in its first uranium mining development. The initial fuel for the Krsko nuclear plant, supplied by Westinghouse Electric Corp. will be imported, but the new uranium mine is expected by mid-1982 to be producing about 120 tons of ore per year. Enrichment will be performed in the United States.

Source: *Nuclear News*, January 1981



#### France

##### COGEMA CUTS BACK URANIUM PRODUCTION

A reduction in the output from French uranium mines of between 10 and 20 percent, but no permanent closure of any mines, is envisaged by Georges Besse, chairman of Cogema, in response to a fall of around 30% in the world spot price for uranium and the large accumulation of stockpiles in many countries, including France. The reentry into the world market of Australian companies, with likely production costs that could not possibly be matched by the relatively small mines in France, is another factor in the softness of the uranium market. France is one of the first countries since the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation to have concluded a bilateral agreement with Australia to cover possible supplies of uranium during the 1980's.

Besse does not, however, believe that the present depressed state of the uranium market will last for more than four or five years. There are no plans to lay off personnel involved in the mining operations, but since March of 1980, the hiring of new personnel has been stopped. In the coming year the production from Cogema's largest mining division, La Crousille, comprising three mines and the concentration plant at Bessines, is likely to be reduced by 100 to 200 tonnes from the current level of around 1000 tonnes per year, and similar reductions are likely at the two smaller mining divisions.

Cogema's total production from domestic mines in 1979 was 2200 tonnes, and a slightly larger quantity was taken up under optional purchase arrangement from mining consortia in Niger and Gabon in which Cogema is a partner. French demand for uranium in support of the large nuclear power

program is expected to rise from the present level of around 4000 tonnes per year to more than 10,000 tonnes per year by 1990. Present stockpiles are thought to be of the order of 20,000 tonnes, of which Cogema accounts for about half.

Source: *Nuclear News*, January 1981

### North America

#### Canada

An Inuit Development corporation (IDC of Ottawa) is loaning up to £9 million to open a gold mine in the Keewatin district of Canada's Northwest Territories. The 'eskimos' have acquired an option on 400,000 shares in Cullaton Lake Gold mines. We don't know yet whether other minerals, such as uranium, are associated with the gold, but this is the only recent example we know, of a native peoples organisation becoming heavily involved in a mining project, apart from American tribes associated with CERT (Council of Energy Resource Tribes).

Source: *Financial Times*, London  
January 1981

Canada's Northwest Territories expect a 25% boost in mineral production in 1982. Urangesellschaft's new uranium find near the Lone Gulf uranium deposit, also exploited by Urangesellschaft, is one of five projects contributing to the boost.

#### RIO ALGOM WILL SUPPLY W. GERMAN UTILITY WITH U OXIDE

13 January 1981. Rio Algom, a Canadian uranium mining company owned 53% by RTZ, concluded an agreement to sell 3.4 million pounds of uranium oxide to Preussische Elektrizitaets -AG of West Germany. The ore is to be sold for \$28 per pound. The uranium oxide will be supplied from Rio's Elliot Lake operations in northern Ontario over a 13 year period, starting in 1983.

The transaction is subject to Canadian government approval, but

has been approved by the Evanston Supply Agency.

Eldorado Nuclear Ltd., a unit of the Canadian government, will convert the uranium oxide into uranium hexa-fluoride.

Source: *Wall Street Journal* 13.1.81

### UNITED STATES

ARCO, or rather Anaconda, the minerals partner in the huge US oil company, is to phase out open pit uranium mining near Grants, New Mexico though underground mining will continue until the end of 1983. According to the company the run-down "reflects the declining quality of the ore and a 25% decline in uranium prices since the start of the year".

Source: *Mining Journal* 23.1.81

Wyoming Fuel, a subsidiary of Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Co., has discovered "significant" uranium at Crow Butte, northwest Nebraska, possibly more than 11,000 tons of uranium oxide.

Source: *Mining Journal* 9.1.81

We're sorry to have fallen down a little on providing industry news over the past six months. This is due to our subscriptions to two of the world's leading mining sources, *Mining Magazine* and the weekly *Mining Journal*, having lapsed in August 1980. Thanks however to a recent generous grant from NOVIB (Netherlands) we have resumed subscriptions and future issues of KIITG will give a full rundown on all developments associated with the uranium industry in the western world, which the industry itself deigns to publish.

*The Gulliver File*, which should now see the light of day before the summer, will contain summaries of all uranium developments, from an industry perspective, updated to spring 1981.