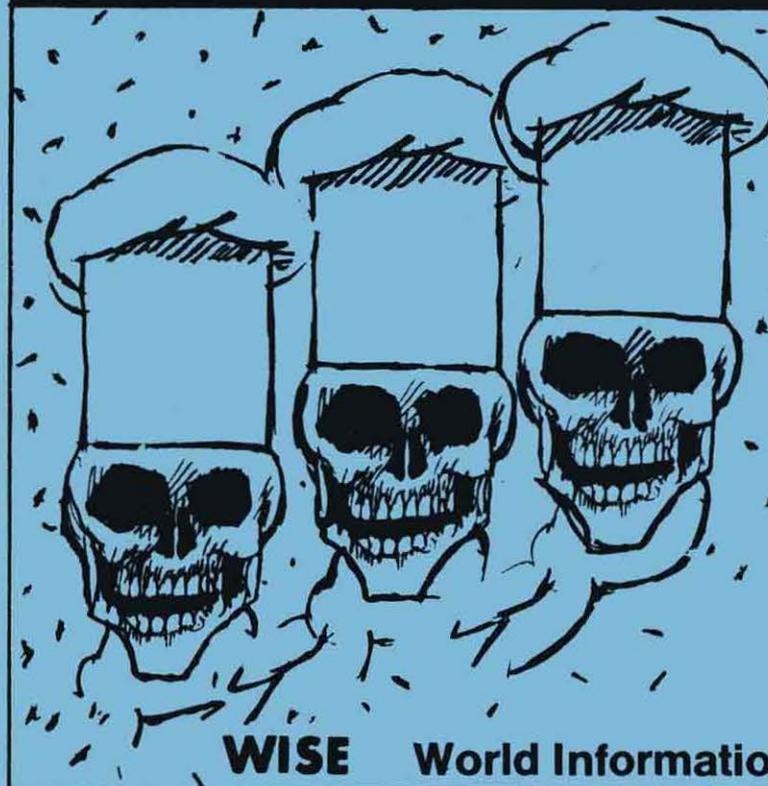
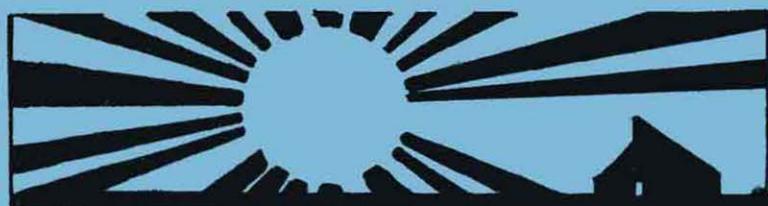


KEEP IT



**keep it in the ground
international stop
uranium mining
newsletter november
1981**

no 17

WISE World Information Service on Energy



SUBSCRIPTIONS

A subscription to Keep It In The Ground costs f20 dutch guilders per year. The various WISE relays, listed on the back of this newsletter, handle all their local subscriptions: and if you have no local relay, then subscribe via WISE Amsterdam.

- f20
- £4.00
- \$10.00
- f50 for institutions.

The Keep It In The Ground project is funded principally by two Dutch foundations, NCO and NOVIB. We are very grateful to these organisations.

WISE is having a lot of difficulty financing itself. The costs of international communication are high, especially if we are to maintain a quality standard of work and to produce regularly. We receive constant feedback from all over the world that the service is important, useful, and should continue. We are asking our readers to help us out of our financial difficulties and support our work by sending donations, either to the Amsterdam office, or to any of the relays. In many countries the donation is tax deductible. As a visiting activist from British Columbia said as he passed by this office today (13.10.81), "You can get rich making war, but its hard to make enough funds to survive on if you are working to make peace".

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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This is a newsletter linking together people all round the world fighting to stop uranium mining and exploration. It was set up in 1979, at the request of a meeting of indigenous peoples fighting uranium mining.

All people involved are invited to share your news. The newsletter is also available in French and in Spanish.

Bulk issues are available to groups - just write and ask. We can give them to you at cost price, and you can distribute them at your actions.

This issue of Keep It In The Ground has been edited by Lin Pugh with participation of the WISE Amsterdam collective, Thankyou to readers and friends, including WISE relays, who have sent in stories. The Gulliver File has been compiled by Roger Moody of CIMRA in London.

Re-publication of this newsletter is encouraged, please quote source.
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WISE was set up by safe energy activists in 1978 to function as an international switchboard for local and national safe energy groups around the world who want to exchange information and support one another.

WISE now has relays in 11 countries and a worldwide network of grassroots contacts. We are funded by the anti-nuclear movement through sales of the Smiling Sun symbol 'Nuclear Energy? No Thanks'.

For information on WISE publications and on how to become a member or give financial support contact:

WISE-Amsterdam, Blasiusstraat 90,
1091 CW Amsterdam, The Netherlands,
Tel.: 020-924264, Post Account:
40.88.285

ACTION

VICTORY FOR THE SWEDISH STRUGGLE AGAINST URANIUM MINING: NO URANIUM MINING IN PLEUTAJOKK!!

SWEDEN: The 17th of September, 1981, marked a great victory for the struggle against uranium mining in Sweden. On this date, the state-owned mining company LKAB decided to stop all plans to mine uranium in Pleutajokk, 20 km west of Arjeplog in Lappland in northern Sweden.

Uranium mining has been one of the main focusses (together with drilling for waste disposal) of the Swedish movement since the referendum in the spring of 1980.

The company says the reason that plans have been cancelled is that it would be too expensive to meet strict environmental demands.

The local opposition to uranium mining plans in Pleutajokk has been very active. In April, 1981, the local government of the Arjeplog municipality decided by only a narrow margin (16 to 15) to say yes to uranium mining in Pleutajokk. But the federal government would probably have said no to the project later this autumn if LKAB had continued its plans. The party of Prime Minister Thorbjörn Fälldin opposes all uranium mining in Sweden.



However, the nuclear industry still plans to mine uranium in other parts of Sweden. Now it seems that a deposit in Lilljuthatten in the northern province of Jämtland is on the list. The deposit in Lilljuthatten contains at least 2,000 tons of uranium, and the nuclear industry is now carrying out test drillings to find more. But here, too, the local opposition against all plans to mine uranium is very active, and the local municipality is expected to reject any company request to mine.

Contact: Folkkampanje mot Kärnkraft,
P.O. Box 16307, S-10326 Stockholm,
Sweden. Tel: 1-354807.

PREVIEW OF THE ATOMIC STATE: BASLE, SWITZERLAND

Last month we carried a story on the anti Nuclex plans in Basel, Switzerland, and the participation of anti uranium groups.

The public tribunals went ahead as planned, and this was with some participation of anti uranium people. Then there was a demonstration, then the Nuclex itself opened. We hardly expected the State's reaction....

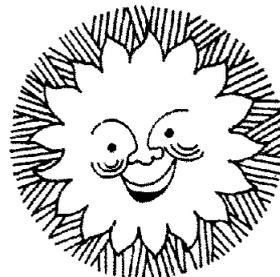
The over 100 demonstrators gathered outside the NUCLEX '81 Trade Fair on the morning of Tuesday Oct.6th were gassed and shot at with rubber bullets by riot police as Nuclex director Frederick Walthard called for respect towards those opposed to nuclear power and for free speech. Local residents in Basle have never before seen such a concentration of police and security measures, and have protested in an open letter about the fear and disruption which has resulted. For example, assemblies of three or more people in front of the exhibition halls are immediately dispersed by uniformed and plainclothes police. People in the vicinity of the exhibition halls have been repeatedly subjected to identity checks and insulting language. The violence by the police and the right-wing groups helping them has shocked even the moderate press. One of the newspapers reporting the co-operation between the police and the 'faschos' during the demonstration which took place in Basle on Saturday Oct.3rd is being taken to court by the police for alleged defamation. During the Saturday demonstration, in which more than 3,000 people participated, the crowd was infiltrated by a number of so-called 'faschos', (right-wing youth extremists). They have also appeared at other demonstrations in Switzerland and co-operate with the police by first encouraging illegal activity and then helping the police make arrests. Also on Saturday, the Swiss/German border was blockaded, first by police and then by about 100 West German activists who were prevented from reaching the demonstration.

Police forces from Switzerland and the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) co-operated in preventing demonstrators from crossing the border to Basle, using aerosol gas and assaulting people. A car which ran into an alleged demonstrator was not stopped. Swiss police were also seen carrying out violence on German soil. Director Walthard has repeatedly broken his word. First he said that anyone could visit Nuclex. In fact, anti-nuclear activists are stopped from entering. When challenged on the issue of free speech, he agreed to admit the editor of a critical newsletter, NUX, but later, when reporters were not present, he refused to do so.

His call for respect towards the opponents is contradicted by his administration's close co-operation with the police in identifying leading opponents for arrest and arranging the repressive security measures, knowing the high cost will fall on the city's residents and not on Nuclex itself. Walthard defied opponents to find one direct connection between Nuclex and nuclear weapons. He will shortly receive a lengthy report from anti-nuclear groups, listing the main links, especially Rockwell International's involvement with the MX-missile, the Bi Bomber, the Cruise Missile flight computer, the space shuttle and its operation of Rocky Flats, Colorado where US-developed nuclear weapons are developed and produced. One demonstrator who lay down outside Nuclex on Tuesday morning was severely beaten about the head by police with rifles. He will be hospitalised for some time. The official version given was that he stood up suddenly and police with rifles around him did not have enough time to prevent him from throwing himself at the rifle butts! Arrests of opponents not involved in provocative acts continued all day Tuesday and at 10.30 pm, a number of people from the opposition group Nix Nuclex marched on the city jail, protesting detention without charge of several people from the FRG and Switzerland. Thirty-five of them were arrested then, and a large, peaceful march took place again on Wednesday evening, this time without arrest. Later on Wednesday evening, two meetings took place, one on Namibia uranium exploitation and the other a detailed presentation by ANC from the U.K. on nuclear power and proliferation, followed by a discussion. Inside the exhibition

hall, men in suits exhibited their wares surrounded by glossy brochures, 3-D models of nuclear power plants, slick slide shows and upbeat music. Most of the exhibitors, representing nineteen countries, were trying to sell parts for the nuclear industry, (eg. valves, pipes, electronic controls etc.). Complete power plants, fast breeders and reprocessing facilities were also on display. The Soviet Union was also present with an exhibition entitled "atoms for peace". The most popular stand appeared to be one distributing free yo-yos. Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. stated that spray paints had caused more damage than nuclear power plants. Austriatom distributed a cartoon poster showing how an abandoned nuclear power plant could be converted into a recreation centre, including a sauna in the reactor-core. (Austria has decided by referendum to ban nuclear power, and one fully constructed plant in Zwentendorf has been mothballed). The gross display area occupied this year was the smallest ever (19,300 m²). The first Nuclex exhibition in 1966 occupied 22,000 m². According to independent observers, the political and economic problems of the nuclear industry, the unacceptability to the people of Basle of the whole Nuclex concept and the growing boycott by prominent industrial leaders such as Deutsches Atomforum and virtually the entire British industry means that this Nuclex will probably be the last one. On Friday at the closing of Nuclex, Nix Nuclex will hold a funeral procession.

Contact: International Conference of Co-ordination (ICC), Postfach 231, CH-4051 Basle, Switzerland, or ANC, PO. Box 216, Sheffield, S11BD, Yorkshire, England.



BRITISH PETROLEUM BOYCOTTED IN AUSTRALIA

On October 7 1981 the boycott on British Petroleum (BP), 49% shareholder in South Australia's Roxby Downs uranium leaching project, was launched. The boycott has been organised by the Campaign Against Nuclear Energy in Adelaide, who claim that BP's environmental impact statement is extremely inadequate.

Legislation involving an indenture agreement (details of services and facilities provided by the State Government, like roads, water and royalties to be paid by the mining partners) for the Roxby Downs project will go before the present session of State Parliament.

The BP boycott will continue until the company withdraws. The groups are publicly discussing strategies for effectively implementing the boycott.

At the present time a field camp of 200 people is established on the Roxby Downs site, with equipment maintenance workshops and drill sample processing facilities. 13 diamond drills are operating. Work on a 500 metre shaft has begun and it may already be into the ore body (approx 300 metres down). It is quite likely that bulk ore samples will be sent to AMDEL in Thebarton for processing to help with feasibility studies and mill design very soon. (Thebarton is a suburb of Adelaide).

Approximately 200 holes have been completed on the 800 metre grid.

contact: CANE, 310 Angas Street, Adelaide, SA 5000, Australia.

CANE also has a good newsletter, giving details on the project. Hopefully we will be kept informed on the boycott.

PEOPLE'S RUN FOR LEONARD PELTIER

The People's Run for Leonard Peltier arrived in New York September 12 for a rally outside the United Nations. They had covered 110 miles of New York State. The run, which began Sept 2, is part of a continuing effort to seek a new trial for Leonard Peltier, convicted for the deaths of 2 federal agents killed in a shoot-out at Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Additional demands by runners included: An end to strip mining of uranium and other natural resources on native lands; an end to nuclear power and weapons; and recognition and support for Indian Treaty Rights. The run was dedicated to the memory of Kimberly Means, a nine-year-old Native American girl killed after being struck by a car while participating in the Freedom Run held in June this year in South Dakota. (Charges against the driver of the car, who was drunk, were dropped). Forty-five runners took part, running in relays one at a time. Stops along the way included Indian Point nuclear plant and Attica prison. Organisers feel the run has been successful and well received and, stressing their solidarity with native peoples world wide, see it as an effort to build stronger unity among people of all colours.

contact: Leonard Peltier Support Group
PO Box 16, Mohegan Lake,
NY 10547 USA.

POLITICS

NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY IN VANCOUVER VOTES AGAINST URANIUM EXPORTS

A resolution calling for an immediate halt to the export of uranium and nuclear technology as well as a permanent halt to new uranium mine and reactor construction leading to the eventual phase-out of all existing projects was passed by a vote of 591 to 400 at the New Democratic Party's national convention in Vancouver in early July. Saskatoon Sutherland MLA, Peter Prebble (NDP), said it could be the beginning of a shift in the development stance of the Saskatchewan NDP. He said it was "An immensely important step toward bringing an end to Canadian contributions to nuclear proliferation in the world."

Saskatchewan's Premier, Allen Blakeney, said the federal party's decision will have no effect on his government which is guided by policies of the provincial NDP. He predicted the resolution would be reversed at the next national NDP convention which is scheduled to be held in Saskatchewan in 1983.

Prebble, however, predicts the demonstration of a nation wide desire to stop uranium development will cause the Saskatchewan party to reassess its position and re-open discussion in a serious way.

Source: Nuclear Newsletter
PO Box 1372, Saskatoon, Sask.
S7K 3N9, Canada. Tel 306/665-6655

URANIUM: A CRITICAL DECADE

by Roger Moody

Current spot market uranium prices are now so low, according to Barry Lloyd of Pancontinental Mining, that they don't even cover direct operating costs of "a major part of the uranium mining industry". Lloyd was addressing the annual symposium of the industry's OPEC - the Uranium Institute - in London on September 3. Says Lloyd "No likely price increase will be large enough to permit higher-cost suppliers to re-enter the market, even though the nuclear industry will continue to grow quite rapidly for the next decade."

Lloyd attributed the industry's problems to overproduction and stockpiling, while another speaker, Andrew Clements, head of Britain's Civil Uranium Procurate, said the industry may have to reduce its growth rate, in order to bring production in line with reactor consumption.

This pessimism is tempered with optimism about the much predicted up-turn in market demand during the late 80's. Pierre Desprairies, chair of the French Institut Français des Petroles, claimed that "however disappointing the outlook for the development of nuclear electricity may seem at present in a great many countries, there is no doubt it will soon resume its forward progress." According to Desprairies, uranium provides electricity 30% cheaper than coal.

Another speaker to the symposium - Adam Mustafa of OPEC - predicted that developing countries capacity for nuclear power would rise 36 Gigawatts by the end of the 80's at a cost of about \$67 billion.

However, the latest report by Roskill Information Services, a private prestigious "think tank" for the mining industry, estimates that nuclear power world-wide "is unlikely to exceed 400 Gwe" by 2000AD.

This is well below any previous industry estimate, including the IAEA's, and less than half the lowest estimate produced by the INFCE (834 Ge).

While it is more than double current installed nuclear capacity in the western world, and would mean an annual uranium supply about three times its current level, the Roskill projection does not augur well for a major part of the uranium industry.

In the past year, more than a dozen US mines have closed due to fall in market prices. Even South African producers - normally impervious to market vagaries - are postponing major uranium projects.

Nonetheless, low-cost mining companies, operating in areas of high-grade ore, (especially northern Saskatchewan and Australia) have already sold major parts of the product from mines which are only just coming into operation. Moreover, as the latest issue of WORLD MINING ANNUAL points out, the investment in uranium exploration world-wide, has never been higher. For the next decade then, it is likely that the uranium industry will modify, but not collapse.

The US, by far the world's largest producer and consumer of uranium, will probably move from being a net exporter, to become once again a net importer of uranium.

And, exploration in countries such as Brazil, Egypt and Pakistan, which was of no consequence 5 years ago, will become of major importance. Significantly, these are countries with major nuclear power (some with covert nuclear weapons) programmes, which will often be prepared to subsidise uranium mining and exploration, whatever the state of the western industry, or the market price of uranium.

There are three major threats to this fairly rosy prediction. The first is an early reduction in nuclear generated electricity. (Last year, contrary to popular belief that nuclear power has ground to a standstill, there was a 6.9% increase in nuclear generation in the WOCA (World Outside Communist Areas)). This could cut off investment needed now to open mines in the 1990's.

Second is a break in the cold war, and a reduction in stockpiling nuclear weapons - which would not only lessen demand for uranium, but might release uranium currently sitting in nuclear warheads, for reactor use.

Third would be a change of government (or government policy) in Australia and Canada, both countries currently hell-bent on selling uranium where they can; an independent Namibian government which closed the Rössing mine; and turmoil in South Africa (Azania) which disabled the gold/uranium industry.

So, nuclear power, and the uranium industry, critically depends for its growth over the next decade on the actions and policies of third world liberation and ecology movements and opposition parties, as well as the failure of native peoples in the west to gain their land rights.

contact: Roger Moody, 218 Liverpool Rd,
London N1 England. 01 609 1852

UNITED NATIONS MEETS ON INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

The United Nations hosted an NGO conference on Indigenous Peoples and the Land from September 16 to 17 at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland.

In the last KIITG we had a small story on Native American preparations for the conference. The conference consisted of several commissions, which we summarise below. The complete (draft) report is available from WISE in Amsterdam, for those people wishing to have fuller information.

The Legal Commission:

The relationship of indigenous peoples to the land was continually stressed in this commission. This relationship was recognised as basic to their cultures, spiritual way of life, integrity as a people and economic survival. The right of self-determination and recognition as nations was taken as a basic to being able to take indigenous demands seriously: they should not, in international law as well as in the minds of any person, be regarded as a minority group or a social class.

The Legal Commission reaffirmed the Programme of Action adopted at the Indigenous People's Conference of 1977, and demanded its implementation. It also recommended the setting up of a Working Group on Indigenous Populations in order to review developments pertaining to the promotion and protection of the human rights as fundamental freedoms of indigenous populations. This Group should be kept well informed with constant and reliable information.

The Legal Commission also proposed that indigenous law become part of international law.

Commission on Transnational Corporations and their Effect on the Resources and the Land of Indigenous Peoples:

Testimony was heard on energy - coal, oil, natural gas, uranium, hydro and geothermal; minerals; agri business and logging; international financial institutions; food and drugs. Local, national and international short term strategies and recommendations were drawn up, which were guidelines on how indigenous people can confront the multinationals. Internationally, there will be a UN Commission on transnational development and indigenous resources. It was recommended that a network of groups all round the world should be set up for constant interchange of transnational corporation related information, so that victims can share experience. On this aspect, at least for the section energy, the World Information Service on Energy can help substantially (that is in fact our task) and we would invite once more people to exchange information through the medium of Keep It In The Ground and the monthly WISE bulletin.

A working group to establish a code of conduct for transnationals and their operations in or on indigenous land was called for.

There were two other commissions: one on Indigenous Philosophy, which demanded sending out fact finding teams such as the World Council of Churches to crisis areas. The other was the Impact of Nuclear Arms Build up on the Land and life of indigenous peoples.

contact: International Indian Treaty Council
777 United Nations Plaza,
New York, NY 10017 USA

WORKERS

UNION PICKED INSPECTORS AUTHORISED TO CLOSE URANIUM MINES

A three-year collective agreement ratified in early September by employees of Denison Mines Ltd and Rio Algom Ltd includes a clause giving employees the right to appoint inspectors who will have the power to shutdown workplaces evaluated as unsafe. "I don't think there is anywhere in North America that will have such powerful safety and health people", said Homer Sequin, local staff representative for the United Steelworkers of America. "That will be an objective in the mining field and in other hazardous industries".

The agreement gives the union the right to appoint five full-time inspectors at Denison and eight at Rio Algom. The inspectors, paid and trained by the companies, will have the responsibility to police the mines for health, safety and environmental hazards. The inspectors will have full access to workplaces and to the company health and safety records. "In effect, we've taken over the company's health and safety departments," Mr Sequin said.

source: Nuclear Newsletter
Saskatchewan Environmental Society
PO Box 1372, Saskatoon, Sask S7K 3N9

RANGER MINERS TACKLE SAFETY ISSUES

Australia: Workers at the Ranger Uranium Mine walked off the site at the beginning of September over a wage claim and safety issues at the mine.

Workers from both the mining and milling processes are involved. The workers charged that the company has breached safety regulations governing traffic and heavy machinery at the site. They also charge that the management has breached the radiation protection controls, including by a lack of proper controls over radiation monitoring.

In a letter to the Northern Territory Department of Mines, Miscellaneous Workers Union delegate Allan Thuaux said that he had raised his concerns several times with Ranger's management, with little success.

The Darwin MWU branch also discussed safety issues with the DME "without any apparent success", the letter said.

Thuaux's letter details alleged safety breaches at the site including abuse of general radiation safety standards by some salaried and wages staff and contractors.

Ranger has refused to negotiate and the Arbitration Commission has ordered a return to work. The workers are expecting a long battle.

source: TRIBUNE, Sept 23 1981.

MINING

SHIFT FROM COAL TO URANIUM ON INDIAN LANDS

The United States has begun to see a major shift by the energy corporations in the area of its capital investments. The Reagan Administration, through its local mechanism the Bureau of Land Management, has gradually shifted the emphasis on uranium, as a major energy source, to coal.

The Southwest is targeted to become a major producer of this coal.

In 1980, the price of yellowcake dropped from \$42 to \$25 per pound. This was due to a crisis of overproduction of uranium ore that has since resulted in the closing down of many uranium mines in northwestern New Mexico.

The Bureau of Land Management has affirmed a series of land use proposals which will give approval of 1.5 million acres in northwestern New Mexico's coal-rich San Juan Basin. All that remains to be decided is the "fine tuning" of the approval to lease land for mining the identified 30 billion tons of coal.

The American Indian Environment Council (AIEC) sites destruction of water tables, cultural genocide, lack of adequate historic and religious inventories as a few of the preliminary concerns of this activity.

A variety of federal agencies, state agencies, elected officials, citizen's groups, noted artists and others have joined the battle against the proposals to begin massive coal strip mining and related industrialisation in the Chaco Canyon region.

Navajo Chapters in the strippable coal region from the Bisti area to Torreon, near Cuba, New Mexico, has passed resolutions opposing any further federal coal leasing in their area.

contact: Mt Taylor Alliance, c/- AIEC
PO Box 7082, Alburquerque,
NM 87194 USA

NEW RADIOACTIVE LEAK AT URANIUM MINE

AUSTRALIA: Queensland Mines is responsible for a radioactive leak at the Nabarlek uranium mine in Australia's Northern Territory. The leak--which occurred March 6--was first made public when exposed by State Labour politician Bob Collins in August.

Heavy rainfall on March 6 from Cyclone Max caused a holding pond containing toxic waste to overflow. Radiation measures after the leak showed several hundred times the normal level, according to Collins' sources. And the normal

level was already well above the "accepted" safe level.

The day after Collins' statement in parliament, a classified government report was leaked to the local papers, in which serious deficiencies in the Nabarlek run-off system were alleged. The high level of radiation at the pond is probably due to a serious leakage within the uranium mill plant, the report found.

Friends of the Earth accused Queensland Mines of "criminal negligence" over the incident. The group's Darwin coordinator, Margaret Gillespie, called for a Federal Inquiry into environmental monitoring at the Nabarlek site. The Northern Territory government and monitoring bodies were "completely incompetent", she said, which is why mining control should be taken out of state hands and put under federal control.

Contact: FOE Darwin, PO Box 2120, Darwin, 5794 NT, Australia.

Source: Tribune

ENRICHMENT

BRAZIL FAVOURS URANIUM FROM URENCO

According to Brazilian sources, Brazil has definitely decided to get all its enriched uranium supplied by the Dutch British-West German consortium Urenco. Brazil will no longer depend on its uranium from the USA, because of the stricter safeguards attached to supply from the US.

Agreements with Urenco already existed for the Angra II and III nuclear power plants, but this new deal concerns the Angra I plant. This plant, built by Westinghouse, is expected to begin operations at the end of the year.

A contract signed between the USA and Brazil in 1972 ensured US enriched uranium for this plant. The first of this supply arrived in 1979, but then the USA was in trouble because of the Non Proliferation Treaty, created in 1978. It was no longer possible to supply the rest of the contract, as Brazil was not a signatory to the Non Proliferation Treaty. Brazil refused to put its nuclear programme under international scrutiny. In the meantime, Brazil has stated that the international controls are a good idea, but this compromise is not sufficient, and negotiations have broken down between Brazil and the USA. The Brazilians think that the USA is legally duty bound to fulfill the contract of 1972.

During his visit to Brazil last month, the American under secretary for Foreign Affairs, carrying the portfolio Latin America, promised that the USA was at the point again of becoming a trusted nuclear partner for Brazil. The Brazilians

seem not to believe in this promise and have in the meanwhile made an agreement with Urenco. Angra II and III are also built with a contract with Germany.

In political circles in Brazil there is little belief any more that agreement will be reached between Brazil and the USA. A representative for Urenco at Almelo, in the Netherlands, confirmed that the first deliveries would take place at the end of this year. According to him this has little or nothing to do with the halt in American deliveries. According to the contract between Brazil and Urenco, the uranium supplied does not necessarily have to be used in the power plants they are originally intended for; this means that the Urenco uranium will shortly find its way anyway into Angra I, expected to go on line at the end of the year.

Brazil expects that the total imports from Urenco contracts will now increase. This has caused the Urenco representative in the Netherlands some embarrassment, and he denies there have any discussions on this point.



According to diplomatic sources in Brazil the enriched uranium will come from the Capenhurst plant in England. This avoids getting heated debates once more in the Netherlands - as happened when the question of contracting to Brazil came up in 1978. However, the conditions of the 1978 agreement will still be held. That is, that Brazil will try to conform to International Atomic Energy Agency storage conditions for the plutonium which will be made at the Brazilian reprocessing plant. If this is not the case two years before reprocessing would begin, then the three Urenco countries will make an 'ad hoc' storage regime.

Brazil's reprocessing plant is still a long way from being built, although they do have a laboratory reprocessing testing facility. It appears, according to diplomatic sources in Brazil, that the country is working on getting into the IAEA standards. The chairperson of the IAEA commission working on a storage regime for plutonium is himself a Brazilian diplomat.

source: NRC Handelsblad, the Netherlands, 13.10.81.

contact: LEK, 2e Weteringplantsoen 9
1017 ZD Amsterdam, the Netherlands

RESOURCES



THE RANGER URANIUM ENVIRONMENTAL INQUIRY

In 1976 and 1977 the Australian government released Commissioner Fox's Ranger Uranium Inquiry. The two volumes represent hours of presentations by anti nuclear forces as well as the uranium industry. We feel that a summary of the main issues will be helpful to people who are facing uranium hearings and inquiries in their own region.

Thanks to Joe Camilleri of the Movement Against Uranium Mining in Melbourne for this information.

In response to mounting public concern on the issue of uranium, the Whitlam (Labor) government, acting in accordance with its Environmental Protection (Impact of Proposals) Act 1974, set up the Ranger Inquiry to investigate and make recommendations in relation to "all environmental aspects" of uranium mining. The Commission which conducted the Inquiry heard evidence over 18 months. Opposition to the project was spearheaded by environmental groups, churches, Aboriginal and other community organisations - all operating on shoe-string budgets.

By the time the Inquiry released its first report in October 1976 - the Labor government had been dismissed from office in November 1975 and replaced by a Liberal-National Country Party coalition with Fraser as Prime Minister - a strong and broad based movement had grown up in Australia in opposition to uranium mining.

The First Ranger Report dealt with the larger environmental and global implications of uranium mining.

The Report emphasised the many dangers associated with nuclear power, in particular the unresolved problem of waste disposal, the risk of nuclear proliferation, and the possibility of nuclear theft, sabotage and blackmail.

In one of its key recommendations the Ranger Commission stated:

"Policy respecting Australian uranium exports, for the time being at least, should be based on a full recognition of the hazards, dangers and problems associated with the production of nuclear energy, and should therefore seek to limit or restrict expansion of that production." (p 185)

Having recognised that many of the questions involved are ultimately "social and ethical ones", the commission concluded that "the final decision should rest with the ordinary man," (and presumably also woman, but if they meant that why didn't they say it?) and recommended ample time for public consideration of its report and for debate on it. Obviously the responsibility of such a decision was too large to be entrusted to the nuclear industry, to the bureaucracy, to the government, or to "any group of scientists and experts, however distinguished" (page 6).

And yet it took only 14 days from the release of the report for the government to authorise the export of uranium to fulfil existing contracts. It was obvious, however, even then that this partial go-ahead was primarily designed to

continued page 12 →

What We Don't Know About Radiation And Birth Defects

Evelyn Oden



Evelyn Oden was staff pediatrician at the Shiprock Indian Hospital from July 1978 to July 1979. She came to Shiprock after a three-year residency at Children's Medical Hospital in Detroit. Her experiences were surprisingly similar:

"I was astonished that the pace at a small Indian hospital like Shiprock, which serves a population of 30,000, was the same as at the larger, metropolitan hospital. Even the incidence and severity of infant and childhood illness was comparable. What amazed me most, however, was the seemingly high number of infants born with birth defects. Some of these infants had extremely rare defects, including Kneist Syndrome, causing dwarfism and heart and lung malfunction, and Polyspenia Syndrome, an extremely rare form of cyanotic congenital heart disease. Within six months, two infants were born with gastroschisis (protruding intestines from an opening in the abdominal wall). Some of these infants died from defective hearts. Others were small at birth with smaller than normal heads, and failed to grow and develop normally. None were born to women who drank alcohol or took drugs during their pregnancy.

"These were personal observations over a relatively short period of time. At this point, they are not backed by a scientific, controlled study, but there should be controlled studies to verify or discount these observations. I believe that this high incidence of birth defects may be related to the higher than background levels of radiation in the Shiprock area from uranium mining and milling. My views are shared by pediatricians and other medical staff, past and present, at the Shiprock Indian Hospital."

Cosmic rays, sunlight, and radioactive materials in the earth's crust produce background radiation. Although associated with spontaneous instances of cancer, leukemia, birth defects, and aging, it is considered low-level radiation, and a natural phenomenon.

Since the atomic age, however, we have been exposed to additional low levels of man-made radiation from fallout, medical and dental X-rays, nuclear plant emissions, and wastes from uranium mining and milling. These added doses compound the threat from radiation exposure. In fact, there have been increases in leukemia and cancer deaths as well as a higher incidence of birth defects from levels of radiation once thought to be relatively safe.

Casualties from uranium-bearing ore were noted as long ago as 1557, when an unusually high number of miners died from lung disease.¹ Investigations of deaths in European uranium miners showed lung cancer as a predominant cause. These findings were subsequently documented in the 1960s in uranium miners in the United States; their incidence of lung cancer has reached epidemic proportions.² The miners are exposed to radon gas and toxic radioactive decay products polonium, lead, and bismuth, whose carcinogenic effects may not show for 5 to 40 years.

Significant concentrations of uranium decay products (U^{238} , U^{234} , Th^{230} , Ra^{226} , and Pb^{210}) are also released into the air in the milling process,² which at one mill site produced a four-fold increase in cancer of the lymphatic system among mill workers.³ A larger survey will be conducted by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to confirm the risk to mill workers.⁴

The potential health hazards associated with uranium development throughout the fuel chain — from mining and milling through waste discharge and disposal — are blatant.

Most severe is the contamination of the environment by mining wastes and mill tailings. Contamination begins with the venting of mine air into surrounding communities. Often the vents are located near homes, schools, and public gathering places. For instance, levels of radon gas near exhaust ducts at a post office and trailer park in Grants, New Mexico — the self-proclaimed Uranium Capital of the World — were found to be as much as six times the level recommended for the general population by the Environmental Protection Agency.⁵

The water supplies of surrounding communities can also become a casualty of mining development. As a part of underground mining, as much as 4,000 gallons of water per minute are pumped from underground aquifers into arroyos or used for mill process water, never to be reclaimed. Besides

depleting the groundwater, mining also has been responsible for drying up public and private water systems. The groundwater may also become contaminated from seepage of radioactive tailings piles, left exposed to the elements, to be carried off by wind and rain. In the semi-arid environment of the Southwest, loss of water is loss of life.

There are 70 million tons of radioactive tailings in New Mexico alone. In the town of Shiprock, for example, on the Navajo Reservation, 2 million tons of tailings sit approximately one mile from the public school and housing project, abandoned by Kerr-McGee after it shut down its uranium mine and mill in 1968. In the past, uranium mine and mill tailings were used in Shiprock as landfill for industrial and residential building sites and in the actual construction of Indian homes.⁶ Families have thus been exposed to higher than recommended levels of gamma and alpha radiation, and, as reported in the *Albuquerque Tribune* (May 5, 1981), among their children and grandchildren there is a high incidence of birth defects.

There is now increasing evidence that exposure to low levels of radiation is responsible for an excess of birth defects. Studies have shown a higher incidence of chromosomal abnormalities among residents in areas of high background radiation from thorium-bearing sands.⁷ Also, a study in New York state showed that infants born in areas of abnormally high background radiation (corresponding to uranium and thorium content in the rock) had a higher rate of mortality from birth defects — some 20% to 40% greater than in areas with lowest activity.⁸

Joseph Wagoner, the noted epidemiologist and radiation biologist, has presented preliminary data from birth certificates that compare the rate of congenital anomalies (birth defects) in high-density uranium mining areas (by state and by county) to corresponding populations where there is no uranium activity. Specific findings were:

1) An increase in the rate of congenital anomalies (no./100,000 live births) in states with a high density of uranium activity when contrasted with the entire United States, i.e., Utah (935.6), Colorado (986.8), New Mexico (995.4), and Arizona (1,005.0) vs. U.S. (846.8).

2) A doubling of the rate of congenital anomalies (no./1,000 live births) in Utah counties with a high density of uranium mines when contrasted with the rest of Utah, i.e., 25.2/1,000 vs. 11.3/1,000.

3) An increase in the rate of congenital anomalies (no./100,000) in New Mexico counties with uranium mining and milling activities when contrasted with other counties in the same state where there is no uranium mining.⁹

Genetic damage responsible for birth defects and childhood disease takes a generation or longer to appear. Harder to detect are the more subtle effects of radiation —

premature aging and increased susceptibility to infection and disease. Research and population studies do not offer corollary data, but a relationship appears to exist. Dr. Rosalie Bertell, a cancer researcher formerly with Roswell Memorial Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York, noted an accelerated aging process, i.e., lower resistance to illness, increase in heart problems and infectious diseases, in persons exposed to low-level radiation from X-rays.¹⁰

So often, the exposure of a population to levels of radiation "slightly" higher than background is thought to be safe. However, in areas of uranium mining and milling, not only background radiation but the total exposure from all sources should be considered — including fallout, contaminated drinking water, uptake of radioactive elements by plants and animals, airborne radioactive elements from ventilation shafts and tailings piles. It is also important to consider the constant daily exposure to this "low" level radiation. The recently discovered increase in birth defects in mining areas may soon show that a "safe" level of radiation does not exist, that the health and well-being of future generations is being threatened by taking too lightly the very harmful effects of protracted exposure to low-level radiation.

Mine Talk
PO Box 4524
Albuquerque, NM 87106 USA

FOOTNOTES

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RANGER REPORT (cont from page 10)

embarrass the Labor Party, which had committed itself when in office to the honoring of existing contracts, and to establish the uranium industry before the Australian public had had the opportunity to consider the issue.

For their part, the Commissioners let it be known that they were deeply disturbed by the misleading interpretation of their report. Within days, the media changed their tune and began to present a more cautious and balanced assessment of the Inquiry's recommendations.

A widespread and intensive community campaign was launched, among which a signature campaign calling for a five-year moratorium on uranium mining. 250,000 people endorsed the statement within three months — but the bigger success was the growing participation of an even larger section of the community in the anti uranium movement.

The Second Report, issued in May 1977, rejected the specific mining proposal submitted by the Ranger partners, and

outlined a number of very stringent conditions which would have to be followed if any mining were to take place. More importantly, the Inquiry insisted that, should a decision be made in favour of mining, uranium development would need to be pursued sequentially, so as to minimise the adverse impact on Aboriginal Land.

When formally announcing its uranium policy on August 25 1977, the Australian government's Prime Minister Fraser referred to the "exhaustive consideration of the issues" and "the high sense of moral responsibility" which led to the decision. Far from accepting the findings and recommendations of the Ranger Inquiry, the Fraser Government ignored or rejected the main thrust of the Inquiry's two reports.

On waste disposal, Fraser said "The technology for the handling, solidification and safe storage of the high level radioactive liquids exists". But the Inquiry said "There is at present no generally accepted means by which high level waste can be permanently isolated from the environment and remain safe for any long periods".

The commission felt that Australia could make a genuine contribution to the energy requirements of other countries by concentrating on the production of liquid and gaseous fuels and the supply of coal as a replacement for oil. In the longer term the development of solar technology provided the most promising alternative, especially for low and intermediate heat applications.

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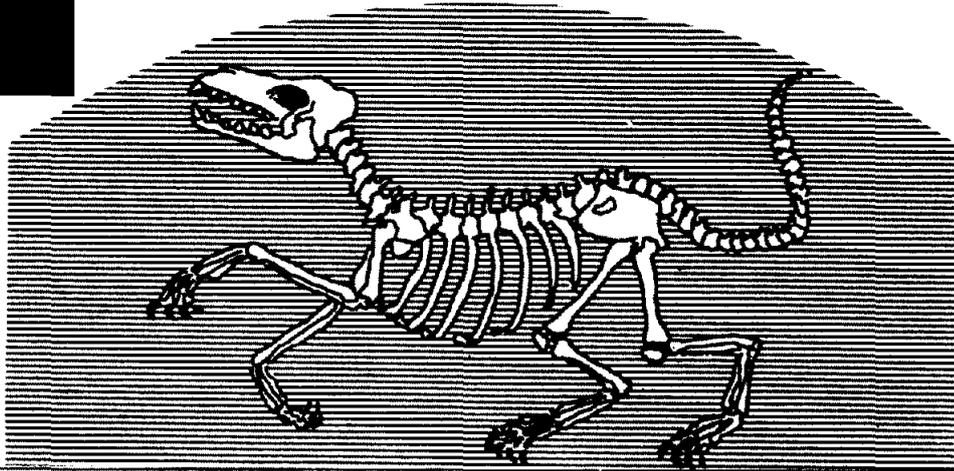
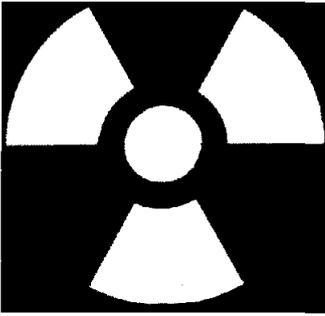


PRINCIPAL FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

These findings and recommendations are to be read and understood in the context of the Report as a whole and with particular reference to the sections of the Report in which they are respectively discussed.

1. The hazards of mining and milling uranium, if those activities are properly regulated and controlled, are not such as to justify a decision not to develop Australian uranium mines.
2. The hazards involved in the ordinary operations of nuclear power reactors, if those operations are properly regulated and controlled, are not such as to justify a decision not to mine and sell Australian uranium.
3. The nuclear power industry is unintentionally contributing to an increased risk of nuclear war. This is the most serious hazard associated with the industry. Complete evaluation of the extent of the risk and assessment of what course should be followed to reduce it involve matters of national security and international relations which are beyond the ambit of the Inquiry. We suggest that the questions involved are of such importance that they be resolved by Parliament. In Chapters 15 and 16 we have gone as far as the terms of reference and the evidence permit in examining the courses open and in making suggestions.
4. Any development of Australian uranium mines should be strictly regulated and controlled, for the purposes mentioned in Chapter 16.
5. Any decision about mining for uranium in the Northern Territory should be postponed until the Second Report of this Commission is presented.
6. A decision to mine and sell uranium should not be made unless the Commonwealth Government ensures that the Commonwealth can at any time, on the basis of considerations of the nature discussed in this Report, immediately terminate those activities, permanently, indefinitely or for a specified period.
7. Policy respecting Australian uranium exports, for the time being at least, should be based on a full recognition of the hazards, dangers and problems of and associated with the production of nuclear energy, and should therefore seek to limit or restrict expansion of that production.
8. No sales of Australian uranium should take place to any country not party to the NPT. Export should be subject to the fullest and most effective safeguards agreements, and be supported by fully adequate back-up agreements applying to the entire civil nuclear industry in the country supplied. Australia should work towards the adoption of this policy by other suppliers.
9. A permanent Uranium Advisory Council, to include adequate representation of the people, should be established immediately to advise the Government, but with a duty also to report at least annually to the Parliament, with regard to the export and use of Australian uranium, having in mind in particular the hazards, dangers and problems of and associated with the production of nuclear energy.
10. The Government should immediately explore what steps it can take to assist in reducing the hazards, dangers and problems of and associated with the production of nuclear energy.
11. Policy with regard to the export of uranium should be the subject of regular review.
12. A national energy policy should be developed and reviewed regularly.
13. Steps should be taken immediately to institute full and energetic programs of research and development into (a) liquid fuels to replace petroleum and (b) energy sources other than fossil fuels and nuclear fission.
14. A program of energy conservation should be instituted nationally.
15. The policy of the Government should take into account the importance to Australia, and the countries of the world, of the position of developing countries concerning energy needs and resources.

Our *final recommendation* takes account of what we understand to be the policy of the Act under which the Inquiry was instituted. It is simply that there should be ample time for public consideration of this Report, and for debate upon it. We therefore recommend that no decision be taken in relation to the foregoing matters until a reasonable time has elapsed and there has been an opportunity for the usual democratic processes to function, including, in this respect, parliamentary debate.



THE GULLIVER FILE

APARTHEID URANIUM

Report on South African uranium industry.

by Roger Moody

South Africa's uranium industry has stood up under depressed market conditions better than in almost any other country. This is because the bulk of uranium output is recovered as a by-product of gold mining, at virtually no additional cost. Moreover, all the country's production - except RTZ's at Phalaborwe (itself a by-product of copper mining) - is channeled through Nucfor, a private company which nevertheless acts as a state corporation. To an extent this protects South Africa's uranium from the vagaries of the free market - more important it guarantees customers a reliable supply at uniform grade and quality.

At present there is only one primary uranium producer in the apartheid regime, the ANGLO AMERICAN company's AFRIKANDER LEASE. South Africa's second largest mining company, GENCOR (formerly General Mining which merged with Union Corporation) soon expects to open its own primary uranium mine, BEISA, at Welkom. According to the company's latest quarterly report

construction of the uranium plant has reached "an advanced stage" while "building of the bar and beer garden in the hostel has commenced".

GENCOR's Chemwes project, which is jointly managed by the Corporation's Stilfontein and Buffelsfontein subsidiaries, produced just over 170,000 kilogrammes of uranium oxide, during the first quarter of 1981.

The other major new projects, commissioned within the last two years are:

ERGO (East Rand Gold & Uranium, part of the Anglo-America Corporation) currently producing 280 tons a year U308 - and probably the best known "slimes treatment" project in the country.

JOINT METALLURGICAL SCHEME (JMS) - also Anglo American - producing 850 tonnes a year of uranium oxide in the Free State.

SOUTHVAAL (Anglo American, part of the company's Vaal Reefs' mining subsidiary) with 750 tonnes a year U308.

RANDFONTEIN - owned by Johannesburg Consolidated Investment (JCI or "Johnnies") producing 600 tonnes a year.

HARMONY (Rand Mines; part of the Barlow Rand Group) which produced 140,000 kg of uranium oxide during this year's first quarter.

New projects coming to fruition in the next couple of years also include a dump treatment plant project of Rand Mines, and the Middle Elsburg uranium plant which is owned by Western Areas (part of JCI).

In addition to these, the following comprise the other uranium producers, in order of their importance:

<u>MINING COMPANY</u>	<u>OWNED BY</u>	<u>URANIUM PROFITS FOR ONE YEAR TO MARCH 81</u>
Buffelsfontein	Gencor	Rand 14,489,000
President Brand	Anglo Amer	13,804,000
Hartbeestfontein	Anglo - Transvaal	13,196,000
Blyvoor	Barlow Rand	11,103,000
President Steyn	Anglo Amer	5,820,000
Vaal Reefs	Anglo Amer	3,584,000
West Driefontein	Goldfields	3,717,000
Free State Geduld	Anglo Amer	2,819,000
Welkom	Anglo Amer	2,276,000
Western Holdings	Anglo Amer	2,227,000
Free State Saaiplaas	Anglo Amer	2,098,000
Western Deeps	Anglo Amer	1,476,000

. These mines are, in fact, part of the JMS mentioned above, but included here to show the pre-eminence of Anglo American in the South African uranium industry.

The figures given here comprise the share of profit by each company from the JMS.

What these various enterprises contributed, in broad terms, was increased uranium production of 22% in 1979 and a further 28% last year - making 7,109 tonnes in all. This put South Africa only just behind the western world's second biggest producer, Canada.

Not that it has all been plain sailing (or digging among the slimes). Iran, under the Ayatollah, cancelled a large contract with JMS in 1979, which has since found a replacement in Taiwan; Hartbeestfontein (Anglovaal group) announced earlier this year a halt to uranium processing operations; and West Rand Consolidated has said it will cease uranium production altogether. Moreover, the new Anglo American mine at Erfdeel-Dankbaarheid will only stockpile uranium bearing tailings, to await possible recovery at a later date.

This despite the fact that it has a grading of 0.2 kg/ton U308.

Most recently, Phalaborwe (or Palabora as it is usually called), 39% owned by



Uranipolitoainekilän kehti syntyy kymmeniä tonnia radioaktiivisia jätteitä.

RTZ, announced a significant drop in uranium sales. This was due to the failure of an unnamed power utility to obtain construction approval for a reactor. The company reports that alternative sales have been "difficult" to arrange, due to current market conditions.

Overall, however, prospects for South African producers look fairly bright. They will look brighter if the South African government agrees to industry calls to set up a government stockpile of uranium - a sort of commodity bank, as a hedge against low prices.

The only foreign-owned company definitely known to be prospecting for uranium in South Africa is Esso which has been exploring with JCI/Randfontein in the Karroo, between the towns of Beaufort West and Sutherland.

Officially no viable deposits have yet been discovered. However, rumours circulate in Johannesburg that Esso has actually started mining operations underground and is still buying mining rights in the area.

Under South Africa's Atomic Energy Act, the publication of more than the barest details about nuclear operations is prohibited, but in the mining field this doesn't in fact make South Africa much less communicative than most other countries.

sources for this article include Gulliver File accumulated records, reports of the South African Mining Companies, Mining Journal July 24 1981 and Aug 14 81 and article in World Mining Annual 1981.

LAWSUITS ARE PLENTIFUL, BUT URANIUM IS SCARCE

It seems one problem is to line up sales of uranium, but that getting the goods to supply the sales is a more difficult question. Such is the problem with a particular case in America where lawsuits seem abundant, and uranium is not.

BOKUM is a small "uranium exploration production firm", although as yet not having produced uranium. It possesses an unfinished mine full of water and an unused mill. Nevertheless it signed an agreement in 1976 with Long Island Lighting Co (LILCO), in which Bokum promised the supply of 5 million pounds of uranium from 1978-85.

LILCO is suing Bokum for the unfulfilled promise. Bokum is suing LILCO for money they say LILCO still owes them. All very confusing really, but it doesn't stop there.

This contradictory state of affairs began in the early 70's when LILCO, like other optimistic companies at the time, planned an ambitious programme of nuclear plants - none of which are built yet. Its intended supplier, Westinghouse, couldn't meet its contracts so LILCO found Bokum. This was in the setting of panic in 1975, when fears that demand for nuclear plants would far outstrip uranium supplies, were rife.

At that time Bokum's prices were low and its founder was a respected leader in the uranium industry. However, one wonders what promoted a firm like LILCO to get involved in an "unproven and obscure" uranium supplier, thus becoming its first customer. A Suffolk county jury is also wondering the same and trying to determine whether any of the firms in fact benefits from the deal. And while the president might be impressive all the names connected with Bokum are not so impressive. For example Aladeria Fratianno, also known as Jimmy the Weasel. A mafia figure turned informer and responsible for convicting about 24 mobsters.

Despite all this the agreement is signed. Bokum promised uranium and LILCO advanced a \$15 million deposit to Bokum, half of which was earmarked for the development of a mine at Marquez. In 1978 the company failed to deliver and another loan of \$5.1 mill was advanced. By 1980 all the money had been spent, and though the mill was finished, the mine was still 250 feet from the uranium. Another \$15 million is needed to get to the deposit.

But in the meantime, uranium prices have fallen, so much so that Marquez is uneconomical and LILCO is able to get uranium elsewhere.

Added to the who's suing who for what, we have a lot of dissatisfied shareholders shouting along with the respective companies. And against the companies for not having disclosed the deals. LILCO shareholders have two cases going, suing the company for mismanagement.

source: WALL STREET JOURNAL , 19.6.81

Australia: KOONGARRA

DENISON MINES of Canada, which last year took over the Koongarra mine on Aboriginal land in Australia's Northern Territory, has entered talks with the Northern Lands Council over terms for opening the mine. Contrary to press reports, however - and the NLC's own March newsletter - at least two of the five designated "traditional owners" are "extremely dissatisfied" with the NLC's conduct of negotiations and will not attend further meetings. Violet McGregor and Jessie Alderson say that "pursuit of further landclaims (will be) pointless if our land use proposals (are) overridden in this matter". (Information from Bunji, Darwin May 81) Meanwhile, the Federal Australian government has introduced special legislation to change the boundaries of the Kakadu National Park, in the interests of uranium and other mining companies, and against the interests of Aborigines and other Australians. (CANP Queensland Newsletter June 81)

Australia: CRA

RTZ's subsidiary, CRA has given notice that it will explore for uranium in the Gisborne, Sudbury and Whittlesea areas of Victoria. (see also KIITG 15). The notice covers two separate areas each of 792 square kms. Gisborne borders on the City of Melbourne. At the RTZ AGM last May, Sir Roderick Carnegie was asked by Aboriginal spokesperson Les Russell if the company intended mining uranium in Victoria. In his evasive reply, Carnegie claimed CRA was interested in "all kinds of metals" "one of which is uranium". (MJ 5 June 81; PARTIZANS, 218 Liverpool Rd London N1 England)

Australia: RTZ/AGIP

Mary Kathleen Uranium (a subsidiary of RTZ) and AGIP AUSTRALIA (Italy) are jointly exploring eleven mining leases in Queensland, with an option to extend their exploration. MKU operates a uranium mine in the State, while Agip has been exploring for uranium in the Northern Territory with Urangesellschaft (West Germany) and Central Pacific (Aus).
(MJ 17 April 81)



The Wall Street Journal

'That's a good question which demands some real evasion.'

Without reprocessing, a world uranium shortage is foreseen by the Battelle institute in Frankfurt. This projection is included in a study conducted from the Commission of the European Economic Community. The study, titled 'The Effects of a Policy of Moratorium on Requirements for Reprocessing of Spent Fuel Elements in the EEC', estimates that uranium production in the non-communist world could rise from the present level of around 45 000 tonnes/year to between 110 000 and 120 000 tonnes per year between 1990 and 2000. The study suggests that there will only be enough uranium on world markets to cover half the needs of EEC countries, Japan and the USA by 2000, even if fast reactors are being introduced by that time. The year 1995 is seen as the year of uranium crisis if there are no fast reactors or reprocessing plants in operation.

source: Nuclear News August 1981.

(Ed: So the question is, do we want a plutonium economy, or are we willing to stop nuclear and go solar?)

Australia: Lake Way

Vam Ltd of Australia and Delhi Int Oil (USA) are gaining control of the Lake Way uranium project in Western Australia after acquiring the 51% from Wyoming Mineral Corporation (RTZ subsidiary) they didn't already have.

Lake Way is near the Yeelirrie uranium deposit.

(MJ 17 April 81)

ACCORD OPENS WAY TO HUGE URANIUM DEALS

The way to multi-million dollar uranium deals between Australia and the European Economic Community was opened on September 21 when the Australian government signed a uranium safeguards agreement with the community.

The first of the deals to be announced was between Energy Resources of Australia (a government body) and West Germany. A number of other deals are expected to be announced soon.

A serious problem in the negotiations had been the free transfer of goods between the nine EEC countries. This system of free trade is directly opposed to Australia's usual uranium policy, which insists that exported uranium remain in the country of the buyer and not resold elsewhere.

But the problem of transfers was overcome in the agreement by the EEC being treated as a single entity. This was acceptable to the Australian Government because all EEC countries, it said, were signatories to international nuclear safeguards agreements, including Britain and France, the two nuclear weapon producing countries within the EEC. Yet France is not a signatory of the Non Proliferation Treaty so the Government is selling some lies to the public on this issue.

The government now thinks that the uranium will be used only for non-weapons purposes.

The Fraser government has always promised that Australia's uranium would only be exported under the strictest of safeguards. Sir Charles Kerr, one of the Commissioners in the Ranger Environmental Inquiry of 1976/77, described these international safeguards as "virtually useless" and "full of loopholes". (The AGE, August 31 1977). These statements are once again proved true, with the signing of these very dubiously "safe" agreements with the EEC. France continues to test atomic weapons in the Pacific.

contact: Movement Against Uranium Mining,
250 George Street, Fitzroy 3065
Victoria, Australia.

Australia: Northern Territory NGALIA Drilling

The partners in the Ngalia project will start drilling soon (see Northern Territory article in this issue), to determine extensions to known reserves. So far six hundred holes have been drilled. (MJ 24 July 81)

Northern Territory: Battle Royal

The Northern Territory government was about to introduce a bill, during June, which would increase royalties on mining to a 35% levy on profits, applicable at marketing point. The levy would not affect uranium mining, nor the Gove bauxite and aluminium development. Australian business and mining response was so vocal, however, that according to the Australian journal The Miner the government may now reconsider its plans.

(MJ 26 June and 24 July 81)

Australia/Philippines Contract

The Australian government has confirmed that it will supply the Philippines with "all the uranium it requires" to operate the Bataan nuclear power plant when, as the Philippines government blithely expects, it will be operative by 1995.

Australia expects to be able to supply the 840 tons of uranium needed from 1984 to the end of the decade.

(MJ 10 July 81)

Japan/Australia

A spokesperson for Japan's Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Dev Corp (PNC) has said its' Western Australi Desert deposit 'promises to be commercially viable'. A Japanese newspaper report has said the deposit contains about 9,000 tons of uranium.

(MJ 19 June 81)

Tokyo "ultimatum"but joint exploration goes on

At the beginning of August, the Japanese government was reported to have held from signing the so-called safeguards agreement with Australia, because Australian regulations were too strict. Yet these regulations had just been very heavily watered down.

Australia's deputy Prime Minister Mr Doug Anthony said Japan was being asked "no more than had mutually been agreed with 16 other countries" (including the US and the EEC). Japan for its part argues that the NNPT and international inspection should be sufficient: to accept Australia's bilateral conditions would be to negate the international non-proliferation regime.

Despite this gobbledegook, it is likely Japan will sign - it needs the 12,000 tons already contracted with ERA, and Japanese

companies are involved in other uranium ventures in Australia.

Meanwhile, American capital investment in Australia is expected to rise by 30% in mining (in the rest of the Pacific US investment is expected to rise by 7%). In Australia itself fixed capital spending has increased by a huge 75% in mining in the last year, according to Prime Minister Fraser, who has predicted "a decade of unprecedented growth". Fraser has also predicted that, by 1999, Australia would have its own nuclear power industry. One fly in the ointment is the amount of Australian mining industry still controlled by foreign corporations. Despite successive attempts to increase Australian ownership, and blithe promises from key operations like RTZ and Shell, to sell part of their holdings to Australian companies, little has happened. In August, Australia had a record balance of payments deficit. In the long run, Australian ownership of resources might stem the expatriation of capital to foreign companies, but in the short term sale of local share capital could increase the drain.

(FT 3 June , 7 Aug, 8 Aug 81 and MM

Aug 81 and Australasian Express 14 July 81)



INDIA ANNOUNCES URANIUM PROGRAMME

The Government of India plans to set up a large programme for exploiting indigenous uranium reserves. The reserves are some of the richest in the world, and are intended to cover India's reactor needs over the next 20 years. This was announced by the State-owned corporation Uranium Corporation of India. The nuclear capacity of Indian reactors is expected to be 10,000MW, and for this an expected 60,000 tonnes of uranium ore will be mined. The programme, to begin in 1982, will cost US\$12.5 million. Some already existing mines, such as Jaduguda in the east, will be expanded, and new mines will be opened. The potential uranium resources of India are 360,000 tonnes, of which 5000 tonnes are in Jaduguda.

source: AFP 6.8.81.

ARAB WORLD/Phosphates

At a recent pan Arab Mineral Resources Conference, attended by observers from the Uranium Institute (among others) the Arab Organisation for Mineral Resources (AOMR) decided to undertake a preliminary study of the area's uranium resources, in particular the feasibility of extracting yellowcake from phosphates.
(MJ 8 June 81)

Eire (Southern Ireland): ANGLO UNITED

Anglo United Development Corp. has recently reported on its exploration of the Finn uranium project in Donegal. The deposit average 0.26 kg U308 per ton of ore over a width of nearly 9 metres along a strike of more than 500 metres. The company says that only about 15% of the nearly 10 km strike has yet been tested.
(MJ 26, June 81)

Canada: AMAX gets Goahead for Kitsault

Amox of Canada has been given permission to restart molybdenum operations at its Kitsault mine in British Columbia, having earlier been ordered to stop its operations because tailings pollution had violated regulations. While mining molybdenum uranium is also being extracted but not processed - a way of getting around the BC uranium moratorium and hoping for changes in the future. The Nishga native people had taken court action against AMAX, and participated with non-native Americans and Australian Aborigines in presenting a shareholders resolution to the Annual General Meeting of AMAX earlier this year, condemning the company's flagrant violation of indigenous land rights. AMAX, was in the middle of the Noonkanbah land rights battle last year.
(MJ 5 June 81 and Project North (Canada) Newsletter).

Saskatchewan: Key Lake Update

The final go-ahead has been given for development of the Key Lake uranium deposit in Northern Saskatchewan, where total U308 reserves (most of very high grade ore) have been put at around 60,000 tons. KEY LAKE MINING Co has now announced agreement in principle with the Sask Mining Development Corp (state government) which holds 50% of the project. The other partners are Uranerz of West Germany (33.33% and Eldorado Resources, a subsidiary of Eldorado Nuclear (Federal Government owned), which holds 16.66%. First production from the open pit operations is expected in 1983.
(MJ 14 August 81)

Canada/ DENISON "improved earnings"

DENISON MINES, which jointly operates at Elliot Lake Ontario with Rio Algom (RTZ), reports an 11% improvement in earnings for the first half of 1981, compared with the first half of 1980. This includes provision to pay \$C17.6 million to Westinghouse in settlement of the cartel case. Last year, the company reaped \$C80.78 million from mining, mostly uranium, though it is now increasingly diversifying into coal. The company reports that its expansion programme at Elliot Lake is now nearly complete, and its milling capacity has been raised nearly double, to 13,600 tons per day. The company is examining precious metal deposits in Mexico, Peru, Chile and Argentina, but none of these appear to be uraniumiferous..
(DENISON First Half Year Report 1981)

abbreviations: (all are British publications)	
MJ	Mining Journal
MM	Mining Magazine
FT	Financial Times

Canada: NORTHGATE Expands

NORTHGATE EXPLORATION (whose subsidiaries, Anglo United and Westfields, have uranium prospects in Eire and Newfoundland) is acquiring part of the Dutch PATINO company, thus giving it control of three mines in Quebec (none uranium producers) and an important 6 percent direct control of Brascan. Brascan controls Western Mines and another key uranium exploring company NORANDA (Canadian). This deal should be seen in the light of a huge number of unprecedented moves by Canadian companies to acquire part of, or full, control of foreign companies particularly in the US, a move which has been indicted by some US industrialists as being "Neo-Imperialist" (they should know) but is in fact more a reflection of the control which the US had over Canadian business. Canadian companies are trying, with the help of recent legislation, to reverse this pattern.
(FT 22 August 81)

Alberta, Canada: EARTH Sciences Eat Their Hat

Earth Science's Mexican Hat project in Alberta, Canada is to be suspended because of...you guessed it. The \$C17 million U from phosphoric acid unit has a capacity of 60 tons a year uranium oxide.
(MJ 24 July 81.)