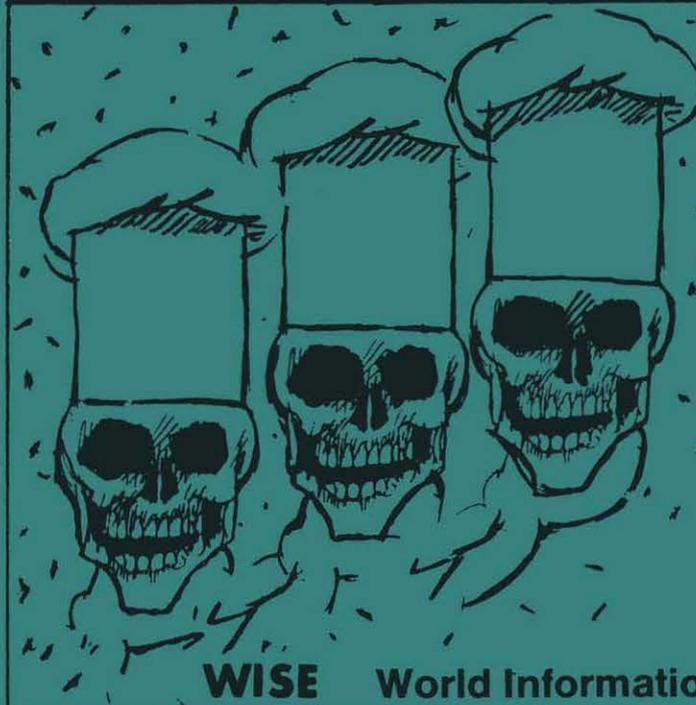


KEEP IT IN THE GROUND



keep it in the ground
international stop
uranium mining
newsletter december
1981 no 18

WISE World Information Service on Energy

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A subscription to Keep It In The Ground costs:

f25 for individuals (c.£5.00, \$12.50)

f50 for institutions.

Subscriptions can be gotten from your nearest WISE relay office - they can tell you the right rate. If there is no relay in your country, or if you live in the Netherlands, subscribe through WISE Amsterdam.

The WISE Uranium project is funded through subscriptions, sales, and the grants of the NCO and the NOVIB, two Dutch funding groups.

We are in financial difficulties, nevertheless, at WISE, and so we ask our friends: PLEASE PLEASE BE GENEROUS to our service and where possible give a donation, so that we can keep working through next year. Our giro is 4088285. Don't forget to RENEW your subscription for 1982, and give a subscription to a friend. Together, combining our knowledge and resources, we can STOP URANIUM MINING.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

WORKERS.....	page
Australia, Canada.....	3-4
EXPLORATION	
Sweden, Technical Paper, Nova Scotia.....	5-6
ACTION	
USA, Britain, West Germany, Ireland, International..	7-9
POLITICS	
Australia, Portugal, USSR.....	10-13
RESOURCES	
Bates Inquiry, Raw Materials Group, Natural Peoples News	13-15
THE GULLIVER FILE.....	16-19
LETTERS.....	19
BACK PAGE	
Adresses of WISE.....	20

CORRECTIONS TO THE LAST KIITG

On the South Africa story, page 15, please understand that there were small dots beside the following companies:

President Brand, President Steyn, Free State Geduld, Western Holdings, Free State Saaiplaas, and Western Deeps. The dot (.) refers to the paragraph coming immediately after the table.

(maybe I should have used an asterix!)

On page 17 the Australia:Lake Way story should read that Wyoming Mineral Corporation is a subsidiary of Westinghouse.

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.
COPYRIGHT WISE AMSTERDAM 1981

wise
World Information Service on Energy

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.

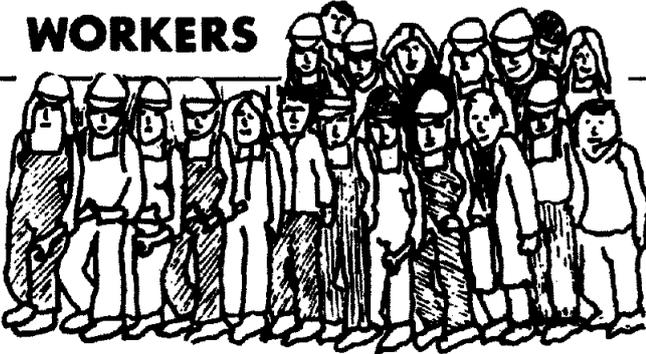
WISE now has relays in 11 countries and a worldwide network of grassroots contacts.

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

WORKERS



DARWIN UNIONS BLOCK YELLOWCAKE

Industrial action by maritime unions is preventing a shipment of uranium oxide (yellowcake) from the Queensland Mines Ranger site at Jabiru, in Australia's Northern Territory, leaving the port of Darwin.

Members of the Waterside Workers Federation (WWF), the Seamen's Union (SUA) and the Transport Workers Union (TWU) stopped work on October 16 and mounted a picket outside the wharf. The Tongan-registered ship "Pacific Sky" sailed out of Darwin on October 19 with a cargo of hides instead of the 16 containers of yellowcake.

Representatives of Ranger Uranium visited the home of WWF Darwin secretary Brian Manning at 7 am to inform him of the load. "We initially stopped work in the port and demanded that the containers be taken away, but we had no support from the Port Authority.," Manning said. "However, one container that got on to the wharf was removed to a holding yard with the rest and the prime movers were unhooked, leaving the cargo on the trailers."

Members of the WWF decided to unload the "Pacific Sky's" cargo of timber and send the ship away empty. The ship's owners assured the unions that they were not interested in carrying yellowcake if it was loaded by anyone other than WWF members.

TWU members carried the 278 tonnes of yellowcake from the Ranger site after being told that they themselves would load the ship. However, the TWU members involved refused to cross the picket line as soon as they were contacted.

TWU organiser Frank Guivarra was reported in the national Australian press as saying that the members were deceived and believed they were carrying empty containers to the wharf.

Despite the good stand taken by local TWU officials, Brian Manning said, it looks as though the unions have to work hard to extend the anti uranium policy through to the rank and file members.

"But we also have to build wider action with other unions. For example, the WWF itself is handling sulphur and lime which are essential for making yellowcake. It's essential that the WWF, the TWU, the Seamen's Union and the Miscellaneous Workers Union get together and stop these materials going in to make the yellowcake", Manning said.

By November 11 the unions were under extreme pressure to end their actions, and put out a call for international support.

The Northern Territory government is preparing a landing site on a remote part of the Darwin Harbour from which it can export yellowcake in defiance of the bans. The government denies this, but unionists have seen powerful lights being set up at the site which would allow secret export operations.

"A foreign crew could have been used to get around Seamen's Union bans. It's obvious they are prepared to go to the lengths of bringing in a foreign ship and using scab (non union) labour to get yellowcake out of Australia," Manning said.

He also thought the government may try airfreighting the goods.

Northern Territory Chief Minister Everingham addressed both leaders and rank and file members recently in attempt to have the bans lifted. He had no success. Instead, he was reminded of the ACTU policy which opposes uranium mining and milling. None of the criteria the Australian Council of Trade Unions have created have come anywhere near being fulfilled.

The main points in that policy are:

- mining and exporting Australia's uranium threatens Australian sovereignty, the environment, the economic welfare of the Australian people, Aboriginal rights and workers health and safety. There are also the problems of waste storage and the use of Australian uranium in nuclear weapons. None of these problems have been resolved yet - therefore the uranium should not be exploited, say the unions.

- No developments have occurred that would justify a retreat from policy.

Messages of support can be sent to:

Waterside Workers Federation
Brian Manning, PO Box 1174,
Darwin, Australia.

source: Tribune, Oct 21 and Nov 11 1981.



TRACKING THE TRANSPORTS

Greenpeace in Vancouver has a lot of material available on transport and shipping of nuclear materials in Canada. Greenpeace has spent much time tracking down this information, and it is certainly worth your while to contact them if you want to do research on shipping in your own country.

One discovery led to the following news-release in July:

A Greenpeace investigation has led to the discovery that uranium mining illegally happening by a multinational mining corporation in Namibia is being processed by Canada by a federal crown corporation.

Rio Tinto Zinc, one of the world's largest mining companies, is mining uranium in Namibia under licensing of the South African government. Some of this uranium is being shipped through Montreal to Port Hope Ontario where it is being refined by the federally owned Eldorado Nuclear Ltd for re-export to Japan.

Canada recognises the 1950 International Court ruling which states that South Africa has illegally occupied Namibia. According to Paul Lapointe of the Department of External Affairs U.N. Branch, Canada does not recognise the authority of South Africa to issue licenses for mining in Namibia.

A spokesperson for Eldorado Nuclear Ltd. Dave Smith, has admitted that Eldorado refines uranium concentrate mined in Namibia.

Greenpeace researchers witnessed unloading of secret shipment of South African uranium in four twenty foot containers from the ship Thorswave on June 15, 1981 at pier 52 in Montreal. Canadian Christensen African Lines owns the ship.

...

In another press release on the same day, Greenpeace reported on the lack of

safety in the transportation of nuclear materials:

Uranium hexafluoride gas in containers identical to one involved in a major radiation accident in France in 1977 are stored in the open at the port of Montreal amid lax security, leaving them open to sabotage.

The ports of Montreal, Halifax, St. John, New Brunswick, are all major transportation centres for the import and export of nuclear materials with Vancouver and Niagara Falls handling lesser quantities. Many of these shipments consist of large cylinders containing up to 12 tonnes each of uranium hexafluoride gas which has been produced at the Eldorado Nuclear Ltd. refinery at Port Hope, Ontario, and is en route to the Soviet Union or France for enrichment.

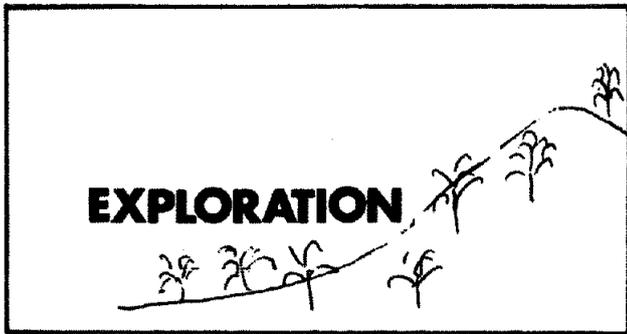
Large numbers of these cylinders are regularly carried by truck through the streets of Montreal for storage on the docks. There is no equipment to deal with uranium hexafluoride spills in transport and drivers in trucks have no training to deal with such spills.

There are no geiger counters or any other radiation monitoring equipment present on the docks where nuclear materials are stored and handled. Radioactive shipments are subject to visual inspection only, even though radiation is not visible. Until 10 months ago, workers in the port of Montreal were handling uranium from South Africa unknowingly because some shipping companies were not labelling containers with radiation stickers.

In St John, New Brunswick, nuclear materials are stored directly alongside other dangerous goods, some of which may be explosives. One official said, "there might be any kind of commodity in the area".

"It should be noted that uranium hexafluoride gas has entirely different characteristics than uranium concentrate (yellowcake)," stated Greenpeace Canada Director Dr Patrick Moore. "A spill of uranium hexafluoride would be similar to a chlorine spill and because it is gas, people in a wide radius might be forced to breath uranium and hydrofluoric acid, both of which are extremely toxic. The city of Montreal and other major centres through which this material is passed would be wise to investigate this situation immediately".

contact: Greenpeace
3480 McTavish Rm. 417,
Montreal, Quebec. M3A 1X9



**THE STRUGGLE AGAINST URANIUM MINING
CROSSES ALL BOUNDARIES: A NEW
STRUGGLE IN SWEDEN**

"To our friends of peace and survival
all over the world
Please help us
They are mining uranium at Lilljuthatten
in Sweden.

Think of us, as we think of you.
Support us through your local work, for
a world to live in, wherever you are.
The future depends on us people.
Take part in the work for peace in
survival."

from Lilljuthatten.

After the great success of the people
against uranium mining in Pleutajokk,
Sweden, which we reported in the
last number of KIITG, an anti climax.
On the 64° latitude line in the north
of Sweden, at the mountain Lilljuthatten,
plans are developing rapidly for
mining uranium.

Percy and July come from a farm next
to the mountain, and I spoke with them
in Copenhagen on November 14.

"Until a few years ago, the mountain
lay within the national park. But the
border has recently been moved, and the
site where the test drilling is now hap-
pening is on the border. This is reindeer
country, sacred to the Sami who are also
living on the mountain," they told me.

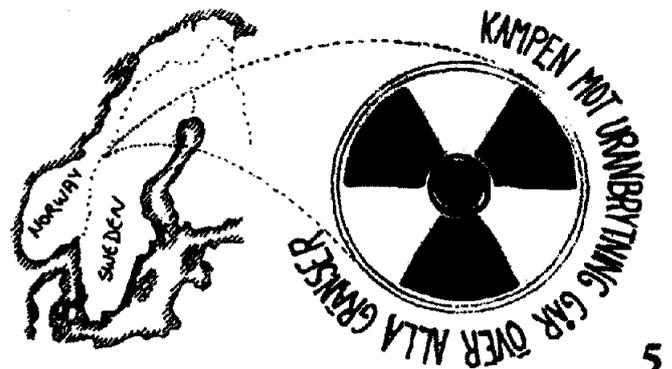
The site, a long ore body, situated on
Sami land, has 100 gm uranium per ton.
It is owned by 2 nuclear power companies
plus the Swedish government - SKBF. Already
100 million Swedish Crowns (US\$20 mill)
have been spent just developing the site.
Permission to build one road had been
given the exploration company - but 10
have been built. 70 holes have already
been drilled. At present there is no
milling facility - if it were to come,
some of the more remote sites would also
be exploited. Thousands of tons of
machinery have been sent up the mountain.

The closest village houses 70 people,
and several kilometers away is another
village with 80 people. 1000 people live
on the area. "The local village has al-
ready been moved three times", said
Percy," because of the hydro electricity
plant. The people have suffered a lot
of damage, and have been compensated with
electricity and colour television". This
is one of the remotest areas in the world,
it seems terribly inappropriate to
have colour television.

Mining companies are now busy getting
popular with the locals. Publicising the
work as "clean and modern", it is made to
sound better than working in the forests.
Nevertheless 30-40 people have formed the
campaign to stop the mining. More have
said they are not interested in meetings,
but would be willing to do something when
dynamite will be used. The local midwife
and some elderly people are willing to
lay down before the trucks.

"Its difficult for the people at Lilljut-
hatten as at Pleutajokk," said July, "they
want to earn to eat. Its a dilemma. The
project provides 100 jobs - but the 100
million Swedish crowns could have made
a lot of job opportunities available in
another project." "I don't know any
capitalists who are willing to lose so
much money", said Percy. "They want to
win. We need to reach a lot of people
all over the world to talk about this
issue, to fight it. If you look hard you
will see that its the same people all over
the world mining uranium."

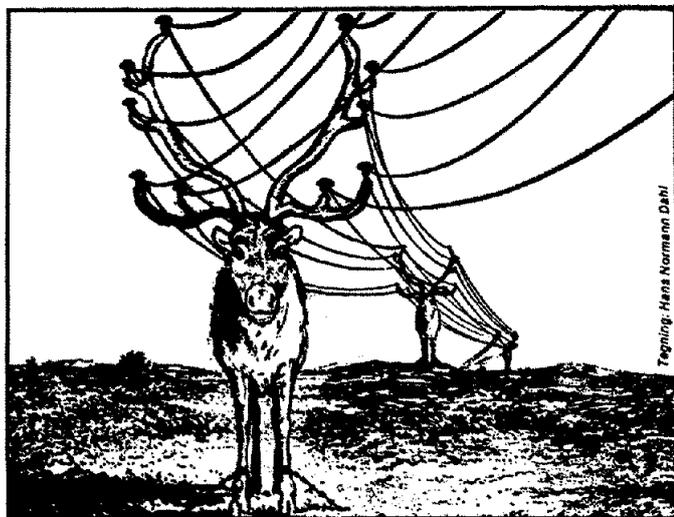
July and Percy first came to live in the
area several years ago. Together with 30
others plus caravans and horses, they
begun a "survival experiment", travelling
north for two years in search of land
which was clean and air that was fresh.
They found two farms which had been
deserted ten years earlier, and here they
squatted, near the mountain and with Sami
neighbours. They were full of visions and
ideas, but they soon found out that the
companies were there and that the environ-
ment was already being poluted by
uranium exploration drilling. Night and
day the light shines, night and day the
company is working, and you can always
hear the noises.



Last month Russel Barsch, representing the Oglala Lakota traditional people and the Miqmac Nation came to the mountain to talk with the people. Messages of strength and support are needed. Information on the danger of drilling and mining is needed in the campaign. Send to:

Arne Wiklander,
Aspasvagen 38, 830 40 Krokum, Sweden

and: Percy and July
Moder Jord, 290 10 Tollarp, Sweden
tel (0450) 20132



Technical Paper

TECHNICAL PAPER: POTENTIAL RADIATION RELEASES FROM EXPLORATORY DRILLING

by Deb Rogers, August 1980. Center
for Alternative Mining Development Policy,
1121 University Avenue, Madison WI 53715
USA

SUMMARY

A number of potential sources of radiological impact from uranium exploration drilling are outlined, and calculations are presented which show the possible order of magnitude of certain radiation releases. Potential sources which are addressed include radon release during drilling, radon emanation from drillholes after drilling, inter-aquifer communication, migration of contaminants from the ore zone into aquifers, loss of drilling muds into the aquifer, gamma radiation from mudpits, radon emanation from the mudpits, vegetative uptake of radionuclides, overland runoff of muds, seepage from mudpits into groundwater, gamma radiation from cores and cuttings, radon emanation from cores and cuttings, and drilling and cuttings dust.

Using parameters chosen by Evans (1980) radiation releases of a hypothetical drilling program were calculated. The most significant results are the following: Radon emanation from the drillhole could reach rates of 1.18×10^5 pCi Rn-222/second in the worst case. Calculated typical case rates of 1.6×10^3 pCi/second, which agrees closely with EPA (1979) predicted radon release rates of 1.4×10^3 pCi/second. Radon emanation from the mudpit (into which drilling fluids and cuttings are thrown) was estimated at up to 196 pCi Rn-222/m²/sec, or up to 3.08×10^{10} pCi Rn-222 annually for each mudpit.

Vegetative uptake of radionuclides from the reclaimed drillsite mudpit area was calculated to be sizeable. Values for annual accumulation in below ground organic matter were estimated for Th-230 (up to $64140 \mu\text{g}/\text{meter}^2$), Ra-226 (up to $78630 \text{ pCi}/\text{m}^2$), Pb-210 (up to $4968990 \text{ pCi}/\text{m}^2$), and Po-210 (up to $681420 \text{ pCi}/\text{m}^2$). Values for annual aboveground accumulation in organic matter was estimated for Th-230 (up to $14.1 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^2$), Ra-226 (up to $3744 \text{ pCi}/\text{m}^2$), Pb-210 (up to $3135 \text{ pCi}/\text{m}^2$), and Po-210 (up to $123 \text{ pCi}/\text{m}^2$). Calculations of the amount of radioactivity potentially available as airborne dusts from rotary drilling and cuttings estimated up to 2.25×10^8 pCi of each element in the Uranium-238 decay chain in the worst case.

This discussion of potential radiation releases associated with exploration drilling provides the basis for site-specific estimates of radiologic impact of a drilling program, and for development of a program to monitor the most significant potential sources of radiation.

For the full study, (10 pages), write to WISE Amsterdam or direct to Deb Rogers.

NOVA SCOTIA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AGAINST URANIUM EXPLORATION

At their annual meeting on Friday, 20 November 1981, 1000 members of the Nova Scotia (Canada) Medical Association unanimously voted to oppose uranium exploration in their state. The group called for an immediate halt to all exploration and a ban on uranium mining. There is at present no uranium mining taking place in Nova Scotia.

(we will have a contact address for this group in the next KIITG)

ACTION

THE BLACK HILLS ARE WELL AND TRULY OCCUPIED

Larry Redshirt and Russell Barsh, representing the traditional people of the Lakota Nation, are touring Europe at present. They want to make contact with people who are prepared to act responsibly toward the land and the society they live in. They are from a society who are, as Larry says, "Digging in for what we need". They have reclaimed their sacred Black Hills.

Readers of KIITG will know the background of this action. The 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty between the Lakota nation and the U.S. government stated that the land belongs to the Oglala people (Lakota's) and that the US must defend that right. But instead of protecting land rights, the US government has allowed an incredibly huge exploitation of the mineral resources in those hills to all who were willing to join in the massacre of the land. Meanwhile the Indians have been pushed into poverty and are forced to live in small spaces on their once huge reserve. Crazy Horse first went into the hills 100 years ago to demand them back from the USA, but he was shot dead. Since then the people have been struggling; the battle of Wounded Knee is a well known example, as is the struggle of Leonard Peltier imprisoned for his activities in protecting the right of his people to live in the Black Hills.

Now the people are tired of demonstrations, boycotts, marches, petitions and whatever, and three encampments were set up in the Black Hills: Craven Canyon (where a lot of uranium has also been found), Crazy Horse Camp and the American Indian Movement's Yellow Thunder Camp.

The US government plans to use the land for a national nuclear park - with uranium mines, waste dumps, nuclear reactors and a missile base.

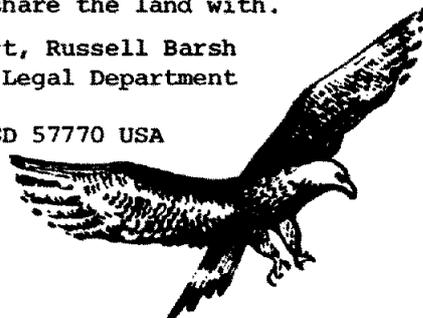
By September the Craven Canyon people had to move, leaving at gunpoint and they joined the Crazy Horse people. Then governor Janklow of South Dakota himself threatened to move the camp if the Feds didn't. In early October a petrol tank at the camp was exploded, fortunately no-one was injured. Gunshots were fired at the people. None of this was ever reported in the national press,

which is not unusual considering media magnate Randolph Hurst owns many gold mines in the Black Hills.

Once more the people moved on, this time to Devils Towers, just over the Wyoming state border. The US government refuses to talk with the people before they get back to the reservations - which is exactly what was said 100 years ago to Crazy Horse. This time the people are not falling for the trick. Crazy Horse camp lives in constant anticipation of confrontation.

Larry and Russell would like direct contact with any people who, like themselves, feel responsibility toward the land and the people they share the land with.

Larry Redshirt, Russell Barsh
Oglala Sioux Legal Department
PO Box 862
Pine Ridge, SD 57770 USA



ANTI NUCLEAR COUNCILS MEET IN BRITAIN

Seventy five local authorities from Britain went to a conference during October, to work out strategies for implementing decisions - now taken by 133 British councils - to become 'nuclear free zones'. Although nothing concrete was decided, the delegates can't have complained of lack of ideas. Several papers were produced emphasising the connections between nuclear weapons construction and nuclear power. CND and PARTIZANS also distributed documents pointed out the connections between RTZ mining uranium and the nuclear weapons programme. More than half the county councils which have declared themselves 'nuclear free' still have shares in Uranium giant RTZ. Indeed only one council, Tibe and Wear, has disinvested its shares. Anti uranium campaigners see the disinvestment strategy as being of key importance in weakening the power of corporations like RTZ. This was implicitly recognised by a representative of the Greater London Council. He told a Partizans member that, if the GLC were to sell its 300,000 plus shares in the company, it would reduce the listed value of RTZ shares. And thus reduce the sales value of the GLC shares!

The term 'nuclear free' covers a number of different policies, however. Many councils are not opposed to nuclear power stations: some which are opposed have not yet condemned every aspect of the nuclear process, including production of uranium.

Were nuclear-free councils like the GLC and West Midlands to ban the transport of uranium through their areas, it could become extremely difficult for the industry to gain supplies. The present Namibian uranium route, from the south coast up the motorways to Preston could be strangled virtually overnight.

contact Partizans, 218 Liverpool Rd
London N1 England

URANIUM IS THE FUEL FOR WEAPONS

In these past months literally millions of Europeans have taken to the streets to protest against the nuclear weapons threat hanging constantly over our heads. Only the bigotted, and the people who can't see because they refuse to look, can separate the weapons issue from the nuclear power issue and, back to basics, the uranium question. This link has not been overlooked. In London 250,000 people came out and marched. Partizans distributed a pamphlet on RTZ and Bombs, entitled 'No BOMBS without FUEL, no FUEL without RTZ'. The pamphlet detailed RTZ activities around the world, and the involvement of Local Authorities in Britain in RTZ. The pamphlet urges local authorities to immediately sell their RTZ shares. In Amsterdam 400,000 people were on the streets, and a pamphlet handed out by WISE was enthusiastically accepted - once again the links between the weapons industry and the uranium industry were clear.

During their two months of investigation in June and July Greenpeace Montreal also came up with some important facts on this:

In January 1980, 297 lbs of weapons grade plutonium was permitted to enter the port of Halifax enroute from Portsmouth New Jersey to Antwerp, Belgium.

Also in 1980, 72,665 lbs of high level nuclear reactor waste was permitted to pass through the port of Halifax, presumably enroute to a reprocessing plant in Europe where plutonium would be extracted for use in weapons programs.

In June 1981 Greenpeace personnel witnessed the unloading in Montreal of uranium from South Africa bound for Eldorado (see story 'Tracking the transports' in this issue).

At the present time, over 300,000 lbs of uranium from the Cluff Lake Mine in northern Saskatchewan is being refined at Port Hope, Ontario, for shipment to France. The Cluff Lake mine is owned by Amok Consortium of France, which in turn is 35% owned by the French nuclear weapons agency, CEA - which is currently developing and testing a neutron bomb in Muroroa in the South Pacific - and has been testing atomic weapons on this island since the 1960's.

Canada makes regular shipments of refined uranium to the Soviet Union for enrichment. Canada thus directly supports the economy of the Soviet nuclear industry. These shipments continued throughout 1980 during the boycott on educational, cultural and sporting exchanges with the Soviet Union.

"These facts can only lead one to the conclusion that Canada is as deeply involved in the proliferation of nuclear weapons as are all countries who supply nuclear materials for the international market," stated Greenpeace Director Dr Patrick Moore.

"The fact is that not one uranium mine in the Western world will admit that its uranium is destined for use in nuclear weapons. The large amount of uranium which is required for the nuclear weapons program of the United States, United Kingdom and France is not coming from another planet".

Greenpeace, 3480 McTavish Rm 417
Montreal, Quebec, M3A 1X9 Canada

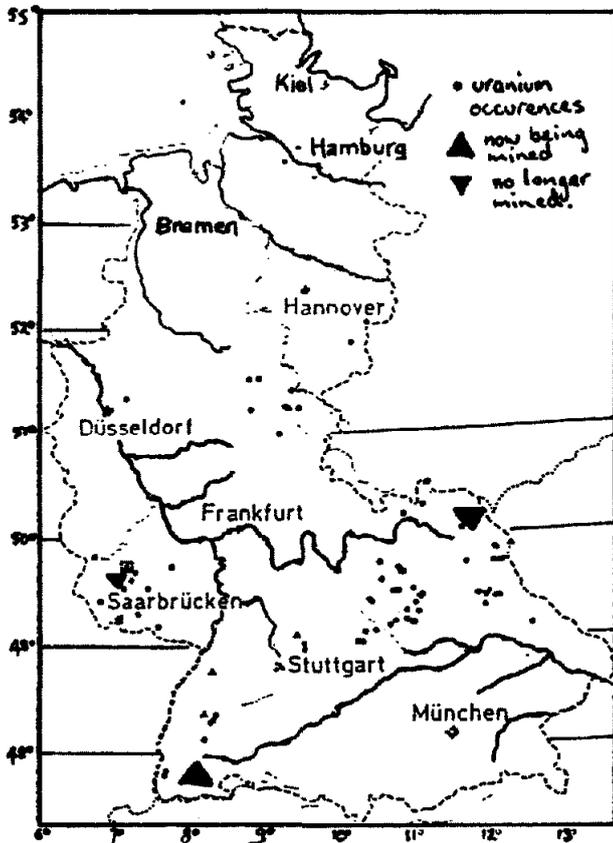
WORKGROUP ON URANIUM IN WEST GERMANY

On October 16 a group of people from landrights support groups and from the anti nuclear movement met in Berlin to talk on the theme, uranium and peoples rights. The day was also the occasion of a visit to Berlin of a delegation of Oglala Lakota traditional people.

The workgroup decided to set up an information network between the Bundes Republic and Berlin, for groups and individuals working on the uranium issue. This also extends to peace groups. As part of keeping the network informed there will be another meeting in 1982, when it is planned to set up a working group on uranium.

People who have material and want to share it among the network members, and who want to receive information, please contact:

Heiner Matthies
Taborstr. 18
1000 Berlin 36
BRD. 030/6184747



Das Uranbergbau-Revier Baden Baden/Gernsbach

- Uranium mining in Baden Baden and Gernsbach, West Germany. Heinz Joachim Altmann has written and published a booklet on uranium mining in this beautiful, almost natural area in West Germany, complete with a geographical analysis, a description of the uranium exploration, description of the planned projects, and photos and maps of the area. The last chapter is devoted to describing legal means of stopping uranium mining. For example, he explains that the Euratom agreement, which says that a country must exploit all uranium available in its own territory, cannot be strictly applied as long as uranium could be gotten from somewhere else the local deposits need not be exploited. Unfortunately this neglects the fact that if you don't have the problem, someone else will. We all need to work together to stop uranium mining all over the world.

Send DM 6.50 to cover booklet (50pp) and postage to
H.J. Altmann,
Im Rad 14
7562 Gernsbach, BRD.

INTERNATIONAL CONTACT ADDRESS NETWORK FOR TRADE UNIONISTS AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER

WISE Amsterdam has set up an international network for Trade Unionists against Nuclear Power. The network is a list of 35 addresses all around the world, and a group in Vienna is coordinating the continuation of the contact. People within the network take it on themselves to send interesting material to others on the network. If you want to join in that information flow, contact
Trade Unionists Against Nuclear Power
c/- Rudolf Hesser
PO Box 38
A-1107 Vienna, Austria



RIO TINTO SLIPS OUT OF IRELAND

In a letter to a Donegal anti uranium activist dated October 15 1981, Sir Anthony Tuke, the RTZ Chairperson, stated "RTZ has let go all uranium licences in Donegal, and are no longer interested in exploring in Ireland".

Hoorah, Hoorah, another victory to the people fighting to stop uranium mining. And another piece of real good honest fuel to stoke the fires to stop the industry.

source: Partizans, 218 Liverpool Rd, London N1 England. tel (1) 609 1852

ANTI URANIUM CONFERENCE IN MADISON

The Madison, Wisconsin based Center for Alternative Mining Development sponsored a Tristate Anti Uranium Organisers Training Conference for the weekend of September 18-20. We are still waiting for more news of the conference, but if you want you can directly contact the group through
CAMDP
1121 University Ave
Madison W1 53715 USA
tel (068) 251 7246.

(We heard of this conference through one of the best movement papers in the States - Northern Sun News. Very sad news is that NSN does not have enough money to publish any more. We are touching wood hoping they find the funds to continue.)

Twin Cities Northern Sun Alliance
1519 E. Franklin, Mpls., Minn 55404 USA.)

And on conferences, we still expect a report quite soon on the Portuguese/Spanish conference on uranium mining, also held in September.

POLITICS

THE STATE OF THINGS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The state of South Australia is moving ahead far too quickly in nuclear development. This is jeopardising aboriginal land rights, among many other things.

South Australia's Premier Tonkin announced in the beginning of November that the Pitjantjatjara people, living in the northwest of South Australia, have now freehold title to 100,000 square kilometres of their own land. Tonkin said at the same time that similar freehold titles will not be given to other aborigine communities.

The Pitjantjatjara agreement was the first such agreement to be reached in Australia. But now the agreement can be changed by 'compromise agreement' which can be amended by an act of parliament. Under this agreement, one third of royalties from any mining (in this area it is principally bauxite) will be paid to the Pitjantjatjara and another third to general aboriginal welfare. If the Aborigines refused any application for mining on their land, or impose any conditions unacceptable to the mining companies, the matters will be decided by court. So you cannot really call the agreement watertight.

Two other groups of aborigines are not happy that similar agreements will not be entered for their own communities. The aborigines at Maralinga, where Britain tested atomic bombs in the 1950's, are claiming land rights. In fact land rights had been promised 15 year ago, but Tonkin is unwilling to fulfill the promise.

The other group are the aborigines living in the same area as the Roxby Downs uranium deposits and the Honeymoon deposits. At Honeymoon permission has been given by both state (May 1980) and federal (28 October 81) governments to go-ahead with mining. It seems the aboriginal communities in the area have not even been asked permission - at least nothing is ever written on that to prove otherwise.

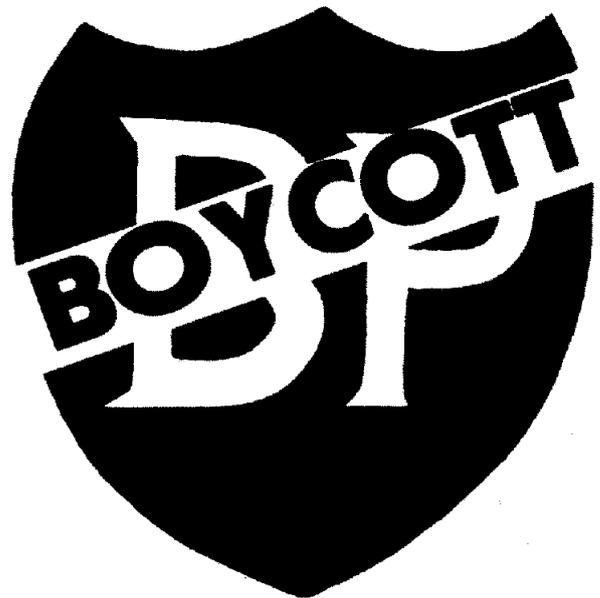
The Campaign Against Nuclear Energy is proposing a national occupation of Honeymoon in April/May 1982.

At Roxby Downs development is being held up because of legislative procedures. The Roxby Downs project is so large that an agreement for mining between government

and mining company has to be passed in both the upper and lower houses of state parliament. Because Labour has a majority in the Upper House (the Legislative Council) and because the Labour Party in May reaffirmed its strong anti mining stand, it seems the so-called Indenture Bill may very well be blocked. If this happens, the issue may have to go to especially called elections.

The Southern Lands Council, a recently formed group representing Aboriginal interests across the north of South Australia, says that an aboriginal survey team, including the council's own anthropologists, has found evidence of damage to sacred sites at Roxby Downs. The Southern Lands Council is calling for a moratorium on development at Roxby Downs.

STOP ROXBY



STOP URANIUM

campaign against nuclear energy 223 6617

So there is a lot of work having to be done in South Australia - and over all this looms the planned uranium enrichment facility.

sources: Anti Nuclear Times (Adelaide) Nov 81, and Tribune, November 11 1981.

Contact: CANE, 320 Angus Street, Adelaide South Australia, Australia.

PORTUGAL:

THE GOVERNMENT ONLY ASKS THE PEOPLE WHAT THEY THINK WHEN THEY'RE SURE THEY'LL AGREE

Jorge Domingos Dias Andrade wrote the following story on behalf of Friends of the Earth and printed it in the Gazeta das Caldas , Portugal.

Portugal is selling uranium to the petrol dictators, who are making the Asian continent nuclear and are ensuring that weapons grade plutonium is easily accessible.

What democratic process gave the Portuguese government permission to export 130 tons of uranium in 1979 and another 102 tons in 1980 to Irak? Who gave the government permission to sell to anyone who would buy because the price of uranium has dropped so much recently, due to competition from the new Canadian findings? Who gave permission for re-opening the mine at Sortelha? Uranium from the Sagubal mines, especially from the very rich Bica mine, is milled in Urgeiriça.

But there are even more plans to restart some mines and intensify activity at others, although the plans cannot advance because of low market prices on the world uranium market. Even exploitation below 500 metres depth is abandoned at present, as is happening at Urgeiriça, and instead open pit mining is being favored. That is also going to happen at Bica, and the eight underground corridors will be abandoned.

Because of low market prices, costs have to be cut, and only a part of what is being brought to the surface is being used. The residents in the mine vicinity are being subjected therefore to greater doses of radiation both through the waste piles and through the more polluting open pit mining method. This increases the possibility of genetic damage and cancer in the area.

Who is keeping the people informed on these increasing dangers? Three workers from the Urgeiriça mines have been taken to hospital for treatment because of contact with radioactivity.

Mining officials wear dosimeters. None of the workers take iodine tablets to fill their body with iodine so there is no radioactive iodine intake.

What democratic process gave the Portuguese government permission to prepare for exploiting uranium in Niza in Alentejo where, according to well informed sources, the most important uranium mine will come? People are wondering whether the immense reservoir near Sabugal is for

the Cova da Beira or if it is to become the water reservoir for mining exploits in the Sabugal area. That will happen already in 1982 if the plans now on the drawing board go ahead. Bushfires and military practising recently in the area have made it completely accessible, ready for uranium exploitation.

In the re-opened mines of Sortelha prehistoric instruments have been found. The Romans had also exploited minerals, mostly copper and uranium (for what?) and, sporadically, turquoise, silver and gold.

The Portuguese government will only ask the people what they want when they are sure that the people will not say no.



SOVIET URANIUM POLICIES

by Zoltan Grossman

(This article is still being researched - it is in fact a draft. Zoltan would like people to send information to fill in the gaps, please.)

Uranium is the kernel of all nuclear programmes -- whether military or civilian. This fact would be generally understood if atomic plants were called "uranium plants" and nuclear bombs were called "uranium bombs". The dangers of radiation from uranium were first observed in the 16th century among pitchblende miners in Czechoslovakia, who worked in uranium-rich mines. Uranium development releases radon gas, which has been shown to cause lung cancer, leukemia, and birth defects among miners and residents living in the vicinity of the mines. Uranium often occurs in conjunction with other minerals, such as gold, copper, phosphates, and vanadium.

Often referred to as the "front end of the nuclear chain", uranium has figured as a particularly strategic raw material in global politics. Roots of some armed conflicts, such as those in Namibia and Chad, can be traced to disputes over ownership of uranium fields. Within industrialised countries, some "internally colonised" peoples see uranium deposits as a prime reason for the domination of their nations. In the U.S. for instance, well over three quarters of the uranium lies under Indian lands -- leading to direct

confrontations with corporations, federal agencies, and armed agents⁴. In Australia, Aborigines have resisted uranium development of their homelands.

In the Soviet Union, the over 200 national minorities have traditionally held strong nationalistic feelings. In the 14 non-Russian republics, these sentiments have often led to conflicts with the central government. Could the Soviet nationalities' struggle self-determination also take up mineral exploitation as an issue? It would seem plausible with uranium, owing to the experiences of East Europeans, and to the fact that uranium is given 'national security' priority and is mined at all costs -- often regardless of a mining region's economic or physical well-being. It would be interesting to know the reactions in these regions -- uranium deposits occur on Kazakh⁵, Kirghiz⁶, Uzbek¹¹, Ukrainian⁸, Komi⁹, Tyvan¹⁰, Evenk¹², and Buryat¹³ lands.

Uranium mining is treated as a state secret in the USSR, meaning that publicising a mine's conditions or output could be met with a prison sentence. American officials, such as those in the U.S. Bureau of Mines¹⁴, claim ignorance about secret Soviet uranium mining. Yet several sources have amassed a good deal of information on the locations and schedules of mines in Eastern Europe and the USSR. It seems likely that American agencies would have no knowledge of the mining of the material used for the Soviet nuclear weapons. If they do know, why does the U.S. government refuse to divulge the information to its own citizens.

The answer again lies in the mutually-sustaining relationship between the USSR and the USA. American officials do not want to draw attention to uranium policy anywhere, as they may reflect on their own policies and practices. The January, 1981 issue of *New West* magazine reports that the American nuclear industry is using uranium that has been enriched in the USSR. The uranium follows a complex route from Canadian mines to Riga, Latvia, then shipped to West Germany and the Hanford complex in Washington State. In April, 1980, a utility in upstate New York ordered \$45 million worth of Soviet uranium via West Germany for use in its Ginna nuclear plant¹⁵. It marked the first time that a U.S. company has imported cheap foreign uranium for electrical generation.

A more extreme example of uranium 'realpolitik' is the Soviet collaboration with right-wing dictatorships. Argentina

is openly competing with Brazil to see which country will be the first to assemble a nuclear bomb in Latin America and both are competing for the strategic minerals and technology that will make it possible. When President Carter announced his post-Afghan grain embargo of the USSR, Argentina refused to join the American effort. In return, Buenos Aires received Soviet uranium and nuclear technology¹⁶.

Another unholy alliance created out of economic interest is the direct Soviet link with South Africa. The *British Journal New Scientist* (16 April/26 March, 1981)¹⁷ has reported on the close cooperation between Soviet and South African mining officials, who met in Switzerland to draw up phosphate, platinum, gold and diamond deals. South Africa wants to buy a Soviet lead smelting process.

The Soviet Union already uses South African expertise in gold mining. It has used a South African ion exchange extraction process at the Muruntau mine -- the process is commonly used for uranium processing. Muruntau comes under the aegis of the Navoi mining company, which is a big producer of uranium. *New Scientist* speculates that the South Africans may have thus aided the Soviets in uranium mining.

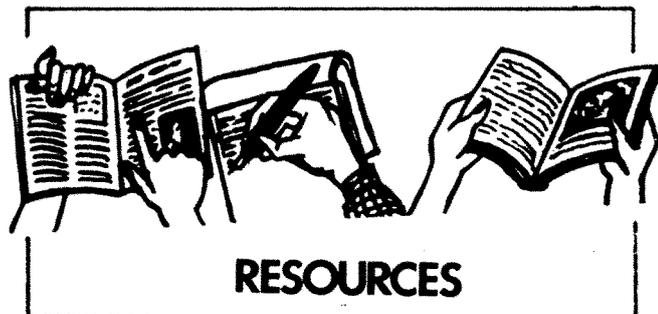
The largest uranium mine in the world is at Rossing in Namibia. In January 1979 a French cargo plane transporting Rossing uranium to Europe was intercepted over Angola by a MiG fighter jet, and was ordered to land. While the plane was on the ground, the orders were mysteriously cancelled and the plane was given "full authority to overfly" the territory of apartheid's foremost enemy. How could this have happened? Different anti-apartheid figures have pointed at the interest of Soviet authorities in preventing uranium seizures. According to these sources, the USSR enriches some Namibian uranium for use in West Germany¹⁸.

It seems that despite the anti-American, anti-fascist, and anti-apartheid rhetoric in the USSR, Soviet leaders are quite comfortable in dealing with their adversaries when it comes to uranium. For a government that espouses an end to the arms race, it seems curious that it would so easily trade nuclear technology and fissionable material.

...

1. Dr Rosalie Bertell in *No Nukes* (edited by Anna Gyorgy, South End 1979) p.100

2. See Environmental Analysis of the Uranium Fuel Cycle EPA-520/4-76-017 1976. and Wagoner, et al "Radiation as the Cause of Lung Cancer Among Uranium Miners" New England Jrnl of Medicine 273:181, 1965
3. Grossman, Z "The Uranium Wars in Africa", Northern Sun News, 1980-81
4. Johansen & Maestas Wasichu: The Continuing Indian Wars 1980
5. Nucleonics April 1957 pg 27 Announcement of find by Dmitri Scherbakov.
6. Mineral Industries of the USSR - US Bureau of Mines 1977
- 7,8,9,10,11,12,13, ibid.
14. Letter from V.V. Strishkov 7 Jan 81
15. Critical Mass Journal April 1980.
16. WISE 'Nuclear Energy and the Third World' draft booklet, 1980.
17. New Scientist (16 April 1981) 'South Africa wants to buy Soviet Mining Technology'. (26 March 81) 'Moscow Gold: The South African Connection'.
18. Transcript, United Nations Hearings on Namibian Uranium. June 1980



The Bates Uranium Inquiry

BATES REPORT BURIES THE "HOT STUFF"

(In KIITG 15 we published a little story on the Bates Inquiry, and asked for reaction from the Canadian movement. We publish here a much more detailed report, from the Kootenay Reporter, a movement publication in Canada.)

By Richard Banner

Don't read the recommendations in the Bates uranium mining; read the text. The report, released in May after two years and \$2 million worth of study, presents information that will help even the informed understand the process of uranium mining and milling. The recommendations are weak, sometimes inaccurate. They hardly reflect the text of the report.

The Report was issued amid great confusion, with news reports stating that the Bates commission had given the go-ahead to uranium mining and that the government of B.C. had refused to accept the recommendation, upholding the seven-year moratorium on uranium mining.

A few days later, it appeared neither the government nor the news media had read the report, for Bates himself was quite clear when explaining the report that uranium could not be mined safely in B.C. at this time and that only limited forms of exploration for the mineral should be allowed to proceed.

I mention this somewhat embarrassing incident because it is characteristic of the underlying flaw in the report: the commission's central thesis is that uranium mining could be safe if a system of close public scrutiny can be put in place to monitor and control it.

Unfortunately, the news media, the government and the Royal Commission itself combined to frustrate and discourage public action. For the record the Bates report says that the regulatory system in B.C. is inadequate to protect public and worker health and safety, that the uranium mining should be prohibited in B.C. for the time being, but that with further research and good will, there is no reason why, in the future, we could not build a safe uranium mine and mill.

Regarding uranium exploration, the Report says that the early stages of exploration do not present any public danger, but that later stages of exploration involving substantial ground disturbances are essentially the same as small-scale mining and should be prohibited.

The report identifies a number of very serious deficiencies in uranium mining and milling technology, including some problems which, by their very nature, appear to be irresolvable: they are vicious circles.

Uranium tailings, for example, if they are stored dry cause dust and radon gas problems. If they are stored wet, they are difficult to control and cover, and inevitably leak out of their containment pond.

The report identifies several similar problems, and other problems that no-one has even begun to deal with, such as what to do with the radium sludges that are too highly radioactive to store along with the rest of the tailings. The

assumption of the uranium commission is clearly stated that science can and will find ways to deal with these problems.

The report makes these points clearly, although without comment. The recommendations, however, are frustrating to read, as they do not reflect the detail of the text and are misleading in places.

In the chapters on exploration, regulation and environment, for example, the summary recommendations are a very weak and watered down version of the content of the text. The Commissioners frequently appear, in fact, to deliberately attempt to bury their most forceful statements where few people, particularly the news media, will see them - in the text of 200 pages of closely printed text.

Why they chose to report in this manner is a matter of speculation. Perhaps they were responding to pressure, perhaps they didn't want to make waves, perhaps they just wanted to test us and see who really reads the report.

The problem is that if an independent commission is not direct and open in its report, then the public cannot place much importance in a process that relies on hired staff, consultants and bureaucrats for its information.

In fact, judging from the procedure followed by the commission in its own inquiry, and from its suggestion that Pollution Control Board hearings are a model to follow, it seems that the commission has a fairly limited conception of what public participation involves.

Throughout the inquiry there was continual pressure to get things done, to move on to the next phase, to not keep things waiting. This kind of process does not inspire public confidence. And if it was a serious problem before a royal commission of Inquiry, it will be more serious when what is at stake is the operation of a mine or mill with perhaps several hundred jobs awaiting the outcome of public scrutiny.

Bates and his fellows make the point several times that the public in the province of British Columbia do not have the confidence in the process that governs uranium mining and milling. Not only are the same agencies which promote uranium development responsible for regulating it in the public interest, but information has been withheld from people since uranium became a strategic material in the second world war.

The report accepts that people will

not have confidence in safety of uranium mining until, in a clear and open process, they have been able to look at all the hazards and ways of mitigating the hazards, and have satisfied themselves that health and safety factors have been kept to acceptable limits.

In the report, public scrutiny is to stimulate public confidence in uranium mining regulations, but also to press the government to make the regulations work. In a comment on a uranium mining inquiry in Saskatchewan, written before he was named to chair the B.C. Commission, Bates said that the standards set there would be adequate, but that it would be difficult, or impossible, to ensure enforcement of them.

In B.C. public scrutiny is to ensure enforcement of regulations. Careful monitoring and public examination on the public records - before, during, and after the mining process - is recommended. It is apparently the Commissioners' belief that public scrutiny will force both mining companies and government regulators to be scrupulous in maintaining the high standards that will be necessary for operation of a safe uranium mine.

This theory of the commissioners is a nice one: it accords with our liberal-democratic tradition, it gives due respect to the popular concerns expressed around the province, it does not rely on coercion to be effective and it does not permanently block the development of the province's uranium resources, which, the commission assures us, may be necessary to protect western civilisation.

It would be nice if it worked.

Can public scrutiny really deal with the issues that concern us? The Bates commission, wide ranging though it was, simply refused to deal with many of the most significant issues that were raised before it by the public, by people appearing before it at community hearings.

Many questions about ethics, and economics and society were regarded by the commissioners as beyond their jurisdiction - but were necessary for the commission to make even the incomplete report it did make.

In the end, is public scrutiny enough? I believe that, even if science is able to resolve the technical problems the Bates commission identifies, the public and the workers will not be protected until they are able to look after their own interests, and no amount of scrutiny

will change that. The question is not just one of having a good enough watchdog: if the watchdog is chained up it cannot act.

When the media are confused and superficial, when the government promotes development at any cost, when even a royal commission of Inquiry feels obligated to bury its main conclusions, we need more than public scrutiny to safeguard our health and safety.

URANIUM MINING IS NOT IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST

This is the report to the commission of inquiry into uranium mining, presented 25 March 1980, by the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility. The report is divided into five sections:

- History of involvement of the Kelowna branch of CCNR in the uranium issue
- Ethical considerations regarding the mining and use of uranium
- Environmental risks posed by uranium mining,
- Health hazards of uranium mining
- Economics of uranium mining.

The booklet is 70 pages long, so the material covered is not in tremendous detail (unlike for example publication of the hearings of the Ranger Commission as we reported in the last KIITG). The booklet's conclusion is "We firmly believe that the decision on uranium mining should not be up to politicians least affected by it, let alone those who would stand to gain the largest benefits, ie the mining corporations. The crucial and irreversible decision should be made exclusively by the people whose health and environment would be threatened by a uranium mine. Anything less would be a gross injustice to the people involved"

CCNR
PO Box 1093 Kelowna, BC, Canada
send \$6.50 (includes postage)

NATURAL PEOPLES NEWS

It seems to me that far fewer people are reading Natural Peoples News than should be the case. This radical statement of mine is even well founded. Natural People's News is a magazine, extremely well researched, which gives news on indigenous peoples struggles all over the world. It is in fact a tool for linking these struggles - and I have heard many people talk of the need for such a publication. Well, it exists, and you really should read it. For example, the one which

has just come out, there is news on Reagan and Guatemala, on the Queensland Land grab, Argentinian Nilo Cayugueo on Marxism and the Argentine struggle. And there is a four page lift out on the struggle of Native Peoples against French nuclear tests in the Pacific, Indians Against the Missile, the people of Diego Garcia's struggle for independence instead of becoming a US base, and the story of murder at Maralinga because of nuclear weapons tests. And of course much much more.

It costs 50P pr \$1.50, and can be obtained through

CIMRA
218 Liverpool Road, London NI UK

Like KIITG should be, NPN should be on sale at radical bookshops.

Raw Materials Report is a quarterly magazine published by the Raw Materials Group in Sweden. The aims of the magazine are:

- To alert general opinion world wide of the economic, political and military implications of the present struggle for raw materials. The main focus will be on metallic minerals, but we also cover energy, agricultural and forestry resources.
- To introduce and analyze existing, viable alternatives to the present exploitation of world resources by transnational corporations (TNCs) and the imperialist states.
- To support the liberation struggle in the "third world" and the anti-capitalist struggle in the industrialized countries.

These aims do not implicate that we have to or will take sides in economic, political or military conflicts between different states or parties. We are convinced that developing the analysis of imperialism today will be our best contribution to the unity and strength of all progressive forces in the world.

Raw Materials Report regularly covers the following subjects:

- Regional report
- Company profile
- Commodity report
- Data sources (books, articles, institutions)
- Raw materials round up, news notes
- Raw materials and the environment
- Profile: interview with key decision makers
- Labour/union news
- Close-up (photo-documentation from a particular region, mine, TNC etc)

For further information on services provided and on Raw Materials Report please contact:

**RMG · PO Box 5195 · S-102 44 Stockholm · Sweden
+46-8-62 72 89**

Mexico (the country's biggest uranium area) and the same figure is being approached in Wyoming (the country's second largest).

(MJ 2/10/81)

Rio Algom, RTZ's Canadian subsidiary, has also announced a 50% layoff at its Lisbon mine and mill in Utah.

(MJ 16/10/81)

USA: WATT A LOAD OF RUBBISH

More than 5,000 delegates met in September at a US mining industry convention in Denver, Colorado, where they heard Sec. of the Interior James Watt - after facing noisy demonstrations from environmentalists - tell them that the government's plans to open public lands for mineral development would in fact 'improve' national park areas. Other speakers stressed the need to remove 'unnecessary' provisions which hamper the industry - like those in the Clean Air Act - and to reduce US dependence on unreliable ('socialist') sources overseas.

(MJ 2/10/81)

USA: UNION CARBIDE REOPENS MILL

Against the recent trend of uranium shutdowns, the Union Carbide Corporation is to reopen its Uravan, Colorado, uranium mill after 6 months closure. The mill can process 700 tons a day of ore, but the company has been unable to find customers for all its production, so it will operate on a part time basis.

Union Carbide operates several mines, is employing in situ leaching in Texas, is one of the world's largest providers of U235, has leases on Aboriginal land in Australia, is exploring in Namibia, and is involved in seed standardisation - a process which is setting at risk the nutrition of the world. It was targetted along with RTZ for a special campaign during the 1980 Survival Gathering - which has not so far materialised.

(MJ 4/9/81)

URANIUM INSTITUTE

The Uranium Institute - think tank of the industry - has released its fifth position paper, which comments on bilateral (nuclear) agreements and the evolution of the International Safeguards System. While supporting the idea of internationally agreed rules of trade the Institute thinks it is unlikely these will be evolved in the near future. Instead it expects current bilateral agreements to evolve into an International de facto consensus.

The Institute thinks that recent relaxation of export restrictions by Australia, Canada and the USA indicate more 'realistic trading policies' (surprise) and it supports an international plutonium storage system under IAEA safeguards.

BRITAIN: RIO TINTO SINKS...A LITTLE

RTZ, like many other metal producers, has reported poor half-year earnings for 1981. In the case of RTZ, the world's biggest uranium producer, its Australian subsidiary CRA reported an 80% reduction in net profit. Rio Algom, the company's uranium and copper producer in Canada, reported a decrease too - mainly a reflection of copper and molybdenum prices, as its uranium sales increased due to Elliot Lake. Sales at the Rossing mine were also higher, largely because of 'the favourable effect of the higher exchange rate for the US dollar which most selling prices are expressed.'

(Half Yearly Report of RTZ)

JAPAN/NIGER: URANIUM AGREEMENT

The Japanese nuclear fuel development corp (PNC) has signed an exploration agreement with Niger, which involves investing CFA F2,000 over the next four years. The agreement covers the exploration rights of a large area in the northern Inadrar region.

Niger expects to produce about 4,600 tons of uranium in 1981 (as metal) and already several Japanese consortia are digging away at its reserves.

(MJ 18/9/81)

VENEZUELA: MAZARUNI STILL IN DOUBT

Conflict continues over the Upper Mazaruni hydro scheme in Guyana, which would flood the land of thousands of Akawaio native people. Venezuela (which claims the site as part of its own territory) has told the World Bank it will oppose WB funding for the scheme. It is still one of the bank's major projects for the '80's. Meanwhile a Swedish company Sweco, and the US Motor Columbus with EnergyProject of Yugoslavia are continuing with feasibility work for the dam.

(MJ 16/10/81)

BOLIVIA: NO HOLDS BARRED

The Bolivian regime has abandoned prohibitions on prospecting exploration and exploitation of minerals in eastern Bolivia - which comprises a Pre-Cambrian shield that could well contain uranium.

The Minister of Mines is now empowered to grant concessions to nationals and foreigners - excluding a 50 km corridor along the frontier with Brazil.

(MJ 11/9/81)

MINING CODES: PINOCHET PINCHING, ROYO ROCKING

Chile's fascist dictator Pinochet has approved a new mining code which will give foreign investors greater protection in exploiting Chile's natural resources. Meanwhile, the new President of Panama, Aristides Royo is vacillating over giving RTZ the go-ahead for Cerro Colorado copper mine, on Guaymi Indian land in Chiriqui province. The company is trying to get a new mining code instituted which will - it appears - allow it to exploit non-union labour, and control its own electricity source for the project. RTZ has threatened to stop paying the wages of the project's personnel (some \$400,000 a month) if the situation isn't resolved to the company's advantage by the beginning of December.

(MJ 2/10/81 and Partizans newsletter September 81)

contact: People Against Rio Tinto Zinc (Guaymi Support Group) at 218 Liverpool Rd, London N1 UK.

ITALY IS HUNTING UP YELLOWCAKE

Hunting Surveys - one of the world's largest survey companies (British) is carrying out uranium exploration in the Italian Alps and Sardinia, on behalf of AGIP SpA (Italian).

(MJ 20/6/81)

ZIMBABWE: URANIUM PROSPECTS

The Mugabe government is apparently to permit exploration for uranium according to an overview of the country's mineral resources in the Mining Journal. The Mining industry is currently - and for the foreseeable future - dominated by local subsidiaries of several major international companies, notably Anglo American, RTZ and Union Carbide.

All three companies operate in Namibia too, in flagrant violation of the United Nations rulings on the territory, a fact which does not seem to have been remarked on publicly by Robert Mugabe or any of his cabinet - despite strong assistance ZANU provided SWAPO before Zimbabwe's independence.

(MJ 20/6/81)

AUSTRALIA: JABILUKA UPDATE

"Agreement" on opening what could become the world's biggest uranium mine moved a step closer in October, when the Northern Lands Council, despite strong opposition of some of its own members, agreed to Pancontinental proceeding with the mine.

(MJ 9/10/81 and CARE Newsletter)

WHO WILL CONSTRUCT THE ENRICHMENT PLANT IN AUSTRALIA?

President Reagan decided mid-November to allow US companies to enter the competition to become a partner in the establishment of a uranium enrichment enterprise in Australia. In letters to the Australian Ambassador to the US and to the private Uranium Enrichment Group of Australia (UEGA), DOE Secretary James Edwards said the US gas centrifuge technology would be available for use in a two-year feasibility study that is expected to end in construction of a 1 million swu/yr plant by 1990. The mechanism for the transfer, Edwards said, would be private US companies but would be conditioned on amending the current bilateral agreement for nuclear cooperation to insure that the highly classified centrifuge technology would be protected. The US has never before allowed the transfer of its enrichment technology to another country.

The ball is now clearly in the court of the US centrifuge manufacturers - Goodyear, Boeing and Garret AiResearch - to prepare proposals to UEGA within the next several months. Those proposals, according to sources, must include not only preliminary information on construction plans, but also information on how much help with financing the plant and the marketing of its product is needed. The three centrifuge manufacturers are expected to attempt to form loose consortia with other companies which have expertise in engineering, construction, and marketing, and which are willing to share in the risk of the Australian venture.

Knowledgeable sources say that the US's only real competitor is URENCO, These sources say that URENCO put a proposal before the UEGA last year. If URENCO is selected as partner, the Almelo Treaty which was formed in a Dutch-West German-British partnership would be revised to include Australia, the sources say. In addition, those sources say, they expect UEGA to seek out a third partner, possibly Japan, to help finance the enrichment plant.

Meanwhile, DOE is drafting plans to collect a fee through US companies participating in the Australian venture that would reimburse the government for allowing the use of gas centrifuge technology. At present DOE officials are discussing an amount what would be about 5% of the total costs of the plant, which are expected to be somewhere around \$700 million.

(Nucleonics Week, Nov 19 1981)

SO MUCH FOR HOPE IN THE SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT IN FRANCE:

Latest news is that the US is going to supply uranium for the Koeberg nuclear reactor in South Africa, and this enriched uranium will be sent first to France then to South Africa. A more detailed story in the next KIITG

LETTERS

where are the love letters?



Dear Friends,

We are a group of people, fighting against nuclear power in West Germany. In Bonn, our home town, one of the German companies exploring and prospecting uranium all over the world, the Uranerzbergbau GmbH and CoKG, has its residence. West Germany's largest electricity producer, Rheinisch - Westfälische-Elektrizitäts-werke AG, Essen (RWE) is the owner of Uranerzbergbau(UEBG) with 50% holdings. UEBG itself owns many other companies, Uranerz USA Inc, Uranerz Australia Ltd, Uranerz Exploration and Mining Ltd, Canada, and others.

The company is prospecting and mining in Canada (Athabasca Basin, 33,3%), Rabbit Lake (49%), Agnew Lake (10%) and in Saskatchewan. It is working in Tanzania and in Togo, and probably in USA (where?) in South America (where?) and probably has 6.3% participation in the Ranger Mine in Australia. It cooperates with Gulf Oil, Marathon, Urangesellschaft and Saarberg-Interplan. Most of the UEBG activities occur on native peoples land. We know that this means cultural robbery, land robbery, cancer etc, to the native people.

We want to publish these facts and support the fight of third and fourth world people. We need detailed information on UEBG activities
- where exactly is the company prospecting, exploring, exploiting

- international treaties with UEBG or West Germany
- what does UEBG presence mean to the local people.

We are also interested in information concerning other German companies involved in uranium mining.

Please send us information, and we will remit any expenses. Thankyou in advance and we'll be glad to hear from you soon.

with anti nuclear greetings
Gerd Folkens
Servatiusstr. 40
530 Bonn 1
West Germany



COALITION FOR A NUCLEAR FREE AUSTRALIA

Dear Friends at WISE,

I have placed you on the mailing list of the Coalition for a Nuclear Free Australia. This coalition was formed in June of this year. Many of the groups in the Coalition were previously in the Uranium Moratorium. The coalition is a broadening of the movement with the anti nuclear, peace, environmental groups, trade unions, doctors for nuclear awareness, womens groups and others.

Regularly information is circulated to members of the coalition giving update information about events and activities ovvuring around Australia.

Apart from the regular circulation, contact between groups is carried out by telephone, telegram and telex. This has been working quite well as information from isolated places like Darwin and the uranium mines in Northern Territory is reaching the other states very rapidly. We feel that it is essential for all groups working for a non-nuclear future to cooperate as much as possible, as this is the way we will be most effective. The Nuclear Free Pacific Campaign shows the influence small communities can have when they join voices. WISE has always stood for unity of action around the world, so we were distressed to receive your letter that WISE is short of money. Not that activist groups ever have an over abundance but we hope your financial situation improves in the near future.

Yours for a nuclear free future

Louise Duxbury,
CNFA
537 Wellington St
Perth, WA 6000 Australia
tel (9)321 2269