

KIITG

keep it in the ground. inter-
national stop uranium mining
news letter. june 1982



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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This is a newsletter linking together in an information chain people all round the world working to stop uranium mining. It is a participation publication, and all people are invited to send articles to us. We also publish scientific information which groups can use in their campaign. An amazing amount can be shared, and there is a lot to be gained from learning from the knowledge and experience, solidarity and support of others.

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.

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We are founded by the anti-nuclear movement through sales of the Smiling Sun symbol 'Nuclear Power? No Thanks.

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

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FUNDING THIS NEWSLETTER

The Keep It In The Ground project has recently received a generous donation from the Onaway Trust, in England. Another source of income is the Dutch NOVIB foundation. We are very grateful for both these grants.

We are also looking to the movement itself to give us financial support. The best and simplest form is by increasing subscriptions -- and by adding more members to our WISE group. Try and get your local papers to subscribe to KIITG, your library, other people in the movement locally. Help us find the finances to continue networking.

THIS ISSUE: is put together by Lin Pugh of the Amsterdam office. Stories are sent in by friends or by (other friends) in the various WISE relays. Martha McDevitt did the typing, thanks. ELVAS doe the printing. We have 700 copies per printing.

WARNING: Maybe the next issue will be quite late. Lin is having a baby.

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Correction: Big Mountain Dine address is c/- Kee Shay
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Arlit: France's Resource Colony



URANIUM SCANDAL IN NIGER

Roger Moody, London

Boys of fifteen and sixteen are being radiated in the French dominated mines of Niger ---there is virtually no protection from radon gas inhalation...the workforce, drawn almost exclusively from Touareg nomads, remains totally ignorant of the effects of mining... radiation health controls and monitoring are non-existent.

These are just some of the facts brought back by a British television producer who, along with a Panorama (UK) camera team became the first outsiders to visit Arlit, in northern Niger. Christopher Olgiati is a tall, lean, vocal young man. He has no axe to grind against the military regime of President Kountché: indeed, he defends the government against the widespread accusation that it has allowed the Libyans to hijack uranium ore. (Olgiati thinks it is possible this was a CIA-inspired ruse).

For all I know, Chris Olgiati may also be a defender of nuclear power. But what appalled him, during his ten day visit to one of the world's most important uranium areas, was the conditions under which the workforce has to live. And the contrast between their lives and that of the French management.

"Arlit is absolutely in the middle of nowhere", he told me in an exclusive interview. "It's an artificial oasis built completely on a colonial model. It has its own dormitory town with supermarkets, horse-racing, luxuries flown in from home. There's an amazing cultural clash with the nomadic workers."

According to Olgiati, the workforce comes to the company, rather than the other way around. Often the nomads stay no more than a week -- take their wages and leave. In some cases they quit after a day.

"It was the big French complaint", said Olgiati, "the workers just wandered off."

Inevitably, the French don't tell the indigenous people that they are operating in the most dangerous form of mining on earth, while radiation dose-counting is unheard of, and any form of health follow-up is unthinkable.

"A nice French manager in Arlit conceded to us that they were working in absolute ignorance of what might happen to people in

twenty or thirty years time."

There are big underground mines at Arlit, too, which the TV team visited:

"One day underground was more than enough", commented Olgiati. "Although there seemed to be adequate air flow, the noise of drilling was appalling. I saw no one wearing masks. The miners came up from the galleries at the end of the day absolutely covered from head to foot in radioactive dust."

Arlit isn't Niger's only uranium mine, but it was the country's first and it is still the second largest. Commercial production started in 1971 -- output in 1980 was 1,900 tons. Average grade of uranium is now around 0.25% but back in 1978 it was as high as 3%. Judging from the appalling death-

rate among uranium miners in the Kerr McGee mines in the 50's and 60's (and these miners probably laboured under better conditions), the French have been writing death warrants for thousands of Nigeriens for a decade.

Only a third of the Arlit consortium SOMAIR is held by the Nigerien government. COGEMA (subsidiary of the French atomic energy authority CEA) holds 27%, while IMETAL, through Compagnie Française de MOKTA, now holds 19%. The other French uranium giant MINATOME has 8% of the action.

Smaller interests are held by Urangesellschaft of West Germany (6.5%) and AGIP of Italy (6.5%).

But management is firmly in the hands of the French. "I got a feeling that I was in the very front line", says Olgati. "Arlit is very very important to the French. They've got a huge transmitter which communicates directly with France...and they absolutely hated the TV team being there."

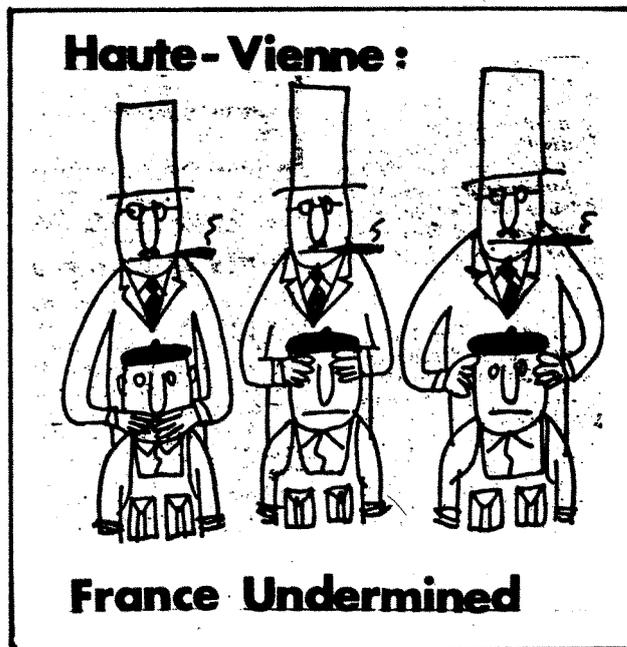
Nigerien uranium is not only crucial to France's aggressive nuclear power programme, but also its weapons production. It is also important to Libya's Colonel Gadaffi, with his express intention to be the uranium broker of the Islamic world. Although Niger officially supplies several hundred tons of uranium to Libya, Olgati reported a widespread fear, both among French and Nigeriens, that Gadaffi might be tempted to take Arlit by force.

Meanwhile, uranium is being trucked to the outside world through Benin, and to Libya through Agadez, 250 km southeast of Arlit, where it is transferred to aircraft. Each consignment is heavily guarded, but accidents and yellowcake spills are common. "There's all sorts of stories about uranium spilling out and contaminating water supplies," says Olgati.

The greatest danger, however, lies in the mine itself. Here, some of the poorest people on earth labour in one of the deadliest environments, to power the electric train sets and fuel the bombs of the world's richest nations. They are kept in total ignorance of the

consequences of their work -- and when they die their bodies won't even receive the formality of a postmortem examination. It would be difficult to think of a more potent example of rampant neo-colonialism.

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HAUTE-VIENNE: A STORY OF A CARELESS APPROACH TO THE ENVIRONMENT

By Els Duin and Dave van Ooyen

"The mining companies have to inform us which changes they will make to the environment and how they think they can deal with the radiation problems when they want to open up a uranium mine. These so-called "Effect Reports" are hardly worth the name studies. They are no longer than 20 pages. Hardly anything is said about testing and control. After the report is officially sanctioned, the company can do what it pleases." With these words Aline Biardeaud, of the nature protection organisation FLEPNA in Limoges, sums

up the "procedures" which must be followed in order to open a new uranium mine in France.

Aline Biardeaud is one of the people fighting uranium mining in the Haute-Vienne. In this area there are some 40-odd underground and open-pit uranium mines with a total area of 780 km². Next to the regions of Vendee and Herault, Haute Vienne is the largest uranium mining area in France. It produces 1,000 tons per year; the total national production is 2,500 tons. This is exactly half the amount France needs to keep its nuclear power plants functioning. France has an additional estimated uranium reserve totalling 350,000 tons: in principle mining can go on for a long time yet. Cogema, the most important of the mining companies, has plans to mine the Haute-Vienne at least until the year 2000.

Uranium mining results in the release of radioactive materials -- it certainly cannot be called a safe industry. Radium 226 (half life 1,620 years) and radon 222 (half life 3.8 days) provide the 1600 mineworkers and the 23,000 people living in the area with a radiation poisoning hazard which has already proved its efficiency in causing lung cancer and genetic damage.

Large amounts of the radon and radium get absorbed into the open air, via the ventilators

above the underground mine tunnels or directly from the open-pit mine. They are also absorbed into the drinking water and the aquifers via the mines and mills cooling water. The quantities released are more than likely highly in excess of internationally established "reasonable" levels. Because, as Christian Pénicaud, member of the Association des Monts d'Ambazac says: "France maintains norms which exceed by a large factor international norms. For release of radon in the air, French norms are 10 times higher and for the release of radium, French norms are 3 times as large."

This high amount of exposure to radioactive poisoning is the main reason the action groups are fighting the uranium mining.

Right in the middle of the uranium mines are three lakes, used as drinking water for the town of Limoges. Cogema has used these lakes as a dumping place for their used, polluted cooling waters for the past 25 years. Yet ordinary people aren't allowed to urinate in the lakes, let alone swim! Under pressure from the local people the Lord Mayor of Limoges spent 2 million francs on cleaning Lake Gartempe. The cleaning took a year. Cogema did tests on the mud drenched up for the "presence of still useable uranium", Mr Sauteraud of Cogema told us during an interview. The results of the research are strictly secret. Aline: "Noone knows what radioactive materials and in what quantities have found their way into the mud and the fish. We only know that the mud is not sold to the farmers but is dumped into a disused mine. What happens to the fish is totally unknown".

The sport fishers, and there are 35,000 of them in the Haute-Vienne, are beginning to stir into action against the increasing pollution. According to Jaques Bourra, chair of the largest fishing club in Haute-Vienne, the river which the Cogema uranium mill is connected to is badly polluted. This is the result of a large amount of sulphuric acid used to process the 1 million tons of earth annually into 1000 tons of yellowcake. Per hour 1,000 m³ water is brought up to the factory from the Gartempe, and returned.

Just like the fishers, Mr Levandier has recently become active after being directly confronted with the effects of uranium mining. For two months Cogema has been building a ventilator less than 60 metres from his home, which services the galley underneath his house. The radon-polluted air

is blasted out of the ventilator. Mr Levandier is sitting with his hands in his hair, and is trying all means possible to stop the ventilator. The first time he threatened to shoot the workers if they continued. Up until now the only shot released has been above their heads, in warning. He has also begun a legal case against Cogema. However, he has little hope of winning, as there is NO law forbidding ventilators blowing radioactive poisons onto one's home. The closest you come to such a law is in the Code Minier, created in 1956 to cover coal mining and later taken completely over for the uranium mining, in which it is stated that a ventilator may not be built less than 50 metres from a house.

Ironically enough, Cogema has put a solar energy powered filter on the ventilator, which metres the level of radon emitted (and to prove that the quantity does not exceed the norms). Whether Levandier will also be allowed to know these measures is another question entirely. He HAS demanded an independent study.

Despite this sad story the opposition does not number many people. The groups are still small. The reason, according to young farmer Gerard Mallet, is the conservatism of the farmers and their belief that many people are depending on the mines. They were seduced by the poor future outlook of agriculture compared with the high salaries at the mines. The draining of the population from the countryside over the past 15 years also plays an important role when trying to analyse why the movement remains so small. Then again, the aging population left behind is often overjoyed to be able to sell their stony farm for what they believe to be gold mine prices. For the Cogema, the deal is "attractive" -- they win the support of the local people. As Sauteraud told us: "Often we give people more

money than the original price we agreed on. A little something extra. The only drawback is that we always have to accept a drink from them during the sale."

A second reason why the resistance is not large has a lot to do with the position of the communist trade union, the CGT. Since the last elections, CGT organises 75% of the uranium mine workers. The union agrees that uranium mining is more dangerous than coal mining, but the fight is only for higher wages and shorter working hours. As with nuclear power plants, uranium mines are in the CGT's interests. It is frightening to see, in fact, just how closely the CGT identifies with the mining companies. Our attempts to have a talk with the CGT regional chairperson, Georges Huguet, were rejected with the words: "if you have already spoken with Cogema, you know everything."

The Socialist Trade Union CFDT, in contrast, has a national policy to oppose the opening of new uranium mines. But this policy has not been taken kindly to by the mine workers in Haute-Vienne. They just want to stay on mining. As Labiditre of the CFDT says: "The mine workers know that the work is dangerous, and that they are not allowed to see their own health statistics. Many of them know that friends have died at an early age from the mines, but that really does not interest the workers. They think of themselves as a breed apart, strong and invincible."

The CFDT doesn't get very far, even with its very limited anti-uranium position. This trade union only organises 7-12% of the votes.



Another reason the opposition groups remain so small is the magnificent way in which Cogema knows how to create goodwill in the community. Sauteraud of Cogema: "of course it is cheaper for us to leave the mines after use and do nothing more about them. Only when people ask do we fill them with tailings."

This they have done at Chanteloube. The metres deep crater, right next to the Paris-Limoges freeway, showed the damage to the environment only too clearly to many people. Cogema has now partially filled the mine with tailings from another mine and planted it full of grass and trees. The remainder is a dirty hole filled with greenish water pumped up from under the crater. Radioactive. But, if you don't know any better, it looks OK. Cogema has fantasies of it looking even better. They want to fill it right up with wastes and turn it into a recreation area, with a camping, and an area where the various sources of energy will be exhibited. With six windmills. After the metamorphoses you would hardly know you were standing on what used to be a uranium mine.

"Isn't it dangerous to fill it with tailings from uranium mines?"

"No, of course not. There is no uranium in the waste."

"But in the USA you have to cover this sort of waste with six metres of sand."

"That is not necessary. We have taken the useable uranium out of the tailings. There is no radioactivity to speak of."

Strangely enough, Mitterand's election as President is a fourth reason why the resistance remains so small. Mitterand promised in election platforms to critically review Giscard d'Estaing's nuclear programme. France has had a right wing government for 25 years now. Many people who are progressively inclined chose to help campaign for Mitterand's election. But as

soon as he took office, Mitterand gave Cogema permission to open one new mine, and lengthened two older permits. Cogema had received the green light on mining, researching and exploiting its other reserves. For many people this came as a slap in the face, and the last straw to break the camels back. The socialist government did ABSOLUTELY NOTHING to help the people in their struggle, despite election promises. With the disappearing in trust in the parliamentary struggle, many hard working activists have (temporarily?) retired from the struggle.

Cogema probably can go on mining for a while to come.

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NEW EVIDENCE OF PELTIER FRAME-UP

Candy Hamilton, The Guardian

Documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) have revealed new evidence of a frame up in the case of Native American activist Leonard Peltier. Based on the 12,000 documents, Peltier's attorneys have filed a massive petition of habeas corpus on his behalf.

Peltier is serving two consecutive life sentences in Marion Federal Prison for being convicted in Fargo, N.D., of aiding and abetting the 1975 murders of two FBI agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The petition is the last possible legal recourse to gain his release.

The writ on Peltier's behalf shows that fabricated evidence was used at his trial and that the FBI and U.S. attorneys conspired to alter physical evidence in order to convict him.

The FOIA documents punch holes in most of the prosecution's case. For example:

- During Peltier's trial FBI agent Even Hodge introduced a badly damaged rifle he said had been Peltier's. The gun was then connected with a bullet casing found in the car of one of the dead agents, although Hodge testified that the weapon was too badly damaged to make a test. The bullet casing was cited as "critical" in denying Peltier a new trial in 1978.

However, the FOIA documents contain a report from the FBI lab on the test of the firing pin in question, saying the rifle linked to Peltier did not fire the casing.

- Peltier was extradited from Canada in 1976 on the basis of affidavits since proven to be false. At the appeal hearing U.S. Attorney Evan Hultman assured the judges that although he knew the affidavits were false when he saw them, he had not had them until after they were submitted to the Canadian government.

Among the FOIA documents, however, is an FBI memo to Hultman and fellow U.S. Attorney Robert Sikma, requesting their concurrence before the two affidavits were submitted to the Canadian court.

- During the trial Agent Fred Coward testified that looking through a rifle scope he saw Peltier carrying a rifle in the area where the agents' bodies were found.

Now, a log of radio transmissions from the scene indicates no one there even had a rifle scope and that an FBI letter to the U.S. prosecuting attorneys cited an "extreme mirage factor" in their

simulated tests using such a scope. Positive identification, they concluded, was virtually impossible.

The petition of habeas corpus is first filed with the original judge -- Paul Benson in Fargo -- and then proceeds through the regular appeals process.

The Leonard Peltier Defense Committee has launched a massive education and publicity campaign to inform the public about the case and the writ. Spokesperson Steve Robideau, travelling throughout the country speaking on Peltier's behalf, explains that the committee feels the courts will continue to deny Peltier justice if people do not speak out in large numbers demanding that he be given another trial.

For more information and to send contributions: Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1492, Rapid City, S.D. 57709.

AN OLD TIMER'S PROPHECY

George Blondon, Dene Nation Newsletter

This is George Blondon, and I want to tell a short story about Indian people long ago. Some of them had special powers -- "medicine" we call it -- and they used this medicine all sorts of ways, according to how strong the medicine they possessed.

To survive they used this medicine. Some could cure people, and some could kill animals. But, some people had strange medicine -- some could look a long way into the future. For example, this story I'm going to tell is about a medicine man with four songs about the future. And he was talking about Echo Bay Mines, that exists today. That area was on the shore of Great Bear Lake.

In the old days, people travelled on the lakeshore all the time. In birch bark canoes they headed for the barren land on the north shore of the Great Bear Lake, for caribou. The caribou's parts were used for sleds, thread, hides for blankets, tents, and for clothes they wore. They used caribou for many of their needs.

Every summer when the ice was gone, a whole flock of people would go to the barren land towards the timber line to get caribou. This was their cycle, every summer.

Some of these hunters were traveling back to the east side of Great Bear Lake where Echo Bay Mines is today, about seven or eight miles north of Echo Bay. There a big cut-bank of rock lies.

The Indians believed it was bad medicine to go in front of that rock. They said loud noises come from that rock, so people were forbidden to go in front of it. Whenever they travelled along that shore, they portaged their canoe inland to avoid the rock.

This story happened a long time ago. They were coming back from the barren land with their meat and were going to portage but, instead, they camped there. During the night everybody woke up: they could hear a medicine man singing and since no one could sleep they had to stay up. But, no one could disturb him, or talk to him while he sang and sang all night.

When he stopped singing in the morning, the old people went over and talked with him. "What is the matter? Did we do something wrong? Why did you sing all night and let no one sleep?"

"Oh," he said, "I foresaw a lot of things happening and I was disturbed, maybe it would harm my people."

They asked him what he had seen. He told them that "he saw people going into a big hole in the ground, strange people, not Indian, and their skin was white. They were going into this hole with all kinds of metal tools and machines and making a lot of noise, so I followed them. They were going back and forth into that hole. They were doing all kinds of things that made a lot of noise and they were digging and digging.

"On the surface where they lived were strange houses with smoke coming out all over the place. Another thing I saw were big boats with smoke coming out of them that went back and forth up the river. And I saw a flying bird -- a big

one -- they were loading it up. It didn't seem to harm anybody, but, they made a lot of noise.

"I watched them and finally saw what they were making -- something long just like a stick. I wanted to know what it was for. It was what they were digging out from the hole. I saw what harm it would do when the big bird dropped it on people -- they all died from this long stick that burned everyone.

"The people they dropped this long thing on looked like us, like Indians. But I saw more into the future, and I wondered if this happened on our land or if it would harm our people. But I saw no one harmed, only material which was taken out of our land. They were just living amongst us. That bothered me, but it isn't for now, it's a long time in the future. It will come after we are all dead."

.....

It was an old man who said this, way before the white people came to the North. I heard this story from an old man who is still living. All the old people talk about this man. People foresaw things a long time ago.

The place he was talking about is where Echo Bay Mines is today. What the old man saw in his vision was people mining radium, out of which was made the first atomic bomb in the 1940's. And what he saw also was the explosion of that bomb on the Japanese people, which happened in 1945.

U.S CORPORATE COWBOYS STILL FIGHTING INDIANS -- THIS TIME IN THE ARCTIC

Russel Lawrence Barsh

The people call themselves Innut and their land Ntesinan. In summer they rest along the Arctic coast, fishing and storytelling. When the eight-month-long winter begins to freeze rivers and bays, they break up and pursue the caribou inland across 150,000 square miles of rolling hills and pine

barrens. According to archaeologists, the Innut have been doing this for at least 9000 years. There have been a few conspicuous changes: rifles have taken the place of bows, iron axes, canvas tents for the old skin houses, and an occasional snowmobile. But the cycle of the days and seasons continues.

Continues -- but the fires of industrial "civilisation" are hard by Ntesinan's borders. The governments of Quebec and Newfoundland, both of which claim parts of the Innut homeland, are leasing thousands of square miles of timber and mineral lands to U.S. and Canadian corporations. Hydroelectric dams are under construction where Ntesinan's rivers meet the Arctic Sea and the St Lawrence. Here and there along the Innut's south and west frontiers, the prefabricated towns and cast off machinery of corporate empire have sprung up within the past twenty years. And in the past few seasons the Mounties have begun a campaign to arrest Innut hunters -- not only to eject them from the corporate leaseholds, but to prevent them from competing with sport hunters from the new border settlements. The punishment is jail, or what

is worse, suspension of all hunting rights.

Of course, the Innut continue to follow the herds, sometimes dodging RCMP (Royal Canadian Mounted Police) helicopter patrols. They must hunt to live. They do not recognise the laws of Canada, Quebec, or Newfoundland, which they see only rarely in the guise of a Mountie, missionary or government storekeeper in some border town. For them, this is still Ntesinan, an autonomous Arctic state which they never sold and never will abandon.

The Innut are victims of a far-reaching collusion of businesses and government with roots in the financial districts of New York and Toronto, and branches that join foundries in Quebec,

Ontario, Ohio and Pennsylvania with steel consumers in Canada, the United States, Italy, the Netherlands, and West Germany. The total value of minerals, timber, and hydroelectric power drained from Ntesinan already exceeds \$2 billion yearly and is growing. The caribou and other Innut subsistence resources are being depleted by railway construction, open pit mining, deforestation, stream diversions and pollution from ore-pelleting mills, while the area's non-renewable mineral wealth may be exhausted in 50 years. Then, perhaps, the intruders will leave these frozen shores and bequeath the Innut a true waste-land -- no caribou, no timber, and a tundra pockmarked with mining craters like the cold surface of the moon.

The Innut controlled all of Ntesinan but for a few miserable coastal fishermen's huts until 1941, when Canada, Newfoundland (until 1949 Newfoundland was a separate colony), and Britain secretly agreed to lease a sandy hill at Goose Bay to the RCAF (Royal Canadian Air Force) for construction of a military airfield. The Innut were not consulted. Goose Bay attracted the first "settlers" and supported the region's entire non-Innut economy until post-war aerial surveys detected massive iron ore deposits in the mountainous spine of Ntesinan's interior. This prompted a consortium of U.S. steel producers led by Hanna Mining and Bethlehem steel to form the Iron Ore Company of Canada in 1949 to develop the area. US Steel's Quebec Cartier Mining subsidiary opened an iron ore operation near Gagnon in 1957, and a generous 1964 lease from the governments of Quebec and Newfoundland gave Hollinger-Argus Ltd of Canada 1000 square miles of mineral lands in the Schefferville-Wabush area for 90 years, and an additional 300 square miles for 60 years. Both were sub-leased to the US consortium IOC.

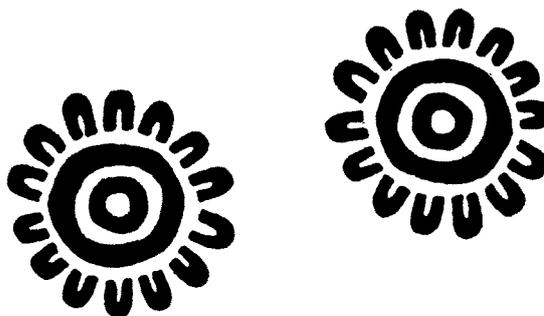
Wabush Mines, controlled by a

U.S. consortium led by LTV Corporation, parent of the Jones and Laughlin and Youngstown Sheet and Tube steel companies, joined the boom in 1965, followed by Sidbec, owned by the government of Quebec, and QIT-Fer et Titance, owned by subsidiaries of the Kennecott Corp and Gulf and Western Industries, both of the U.S. From 1975-1980 alone these companies removed an estimated \$4 billion in ore from Ntesinan without even condescending to meet with Innut representatives. Waiting in the wings is Rio Tinto Zinc (UK), already the object of international criticism because of its role in mining Namibian uranium in defiance of a UN mandate freeing that country from South African Colonial rule. Rio Tinto hopes to develop uranium mines in north-eastern Ntesinan.

Even bigger than iron is the region's hydro-electric potential. Scores of raging pristine rivers break Ntesinan's coasts, a reservoir of millions of megawatts that can be captured only by disrupting fragile Arctic wildlife ecosystems on which the Innut depend. Built 1967-1974 by Brinco, a subsidiary of RTZ, and later sold to the Newfoundland and Quebec governments for a modest \$160 million (Can), the Churchill Falls power station is the region's first and one of the world's largest. With a capacity of 5,225 megawatts, Churchill Falls serves residential and industrial consumers in the Montreal area at about one-tenth the cost of other Canadian hydro projects under a subsidy arrangement with Newfoundland. The government of Quebec also owns eight other major hydro-electric power stations in Ntesinan with a capacity of 6,630 megawatts, and the governments of Newfoundland and Canada are planning the development of 2,300 additional megawatts in southern Ntesinan. Canadian officials have encouraged Anaconda, an ARCO subsidiary, and several Swedish aluminium producers to relocate

in Ntesinan to take advantage of enormous surplusses of cheap electricity.

In 1971 the government of Quebec leased 26,000 square miles of Ntesinan to a subsidiary of ITT-Rayonier, the US pulp and paper manufacturer, and additional wood products developments are planned. Thus far the extreme cold and consequently long growing cycle of Ntesinan have frustrated investment. But while production of sawn lumber and long-term reforestation and silviculture may never be feasible here, lower-cost "mining" of vast tracts -- clearcutting without replanting -- for pulp and particleboard could be profitable if Quebec relaxes environmental safeguards. In that case,



of course, Ntesinan would be reduced to a frozen desert.

As if these industrial encroachments were not enough, Canada two years ago opened thousands of square miles of northern Ntesinan for a West German military airfield and firing range. Low-flying German jets now scatter the caribou herds, interfering with the sensitive animals' feeding and reproductive cycles, and the recent crash of one Luftwaffe warplane narrowly missed the Innut village of Sheshashit near Goose Bay.

The Innut, who have had no say in these projects and have not received a penny from the US or Canadian companies' more than \$1 billion in profit-taking, bitterly regard the "settlers", whose number have grown since 1950 from a few thousand to more than 40,000, as invaders

from a foreign country, not -- as Ottawa urges -- as the vanguard of a progressive effort to make the Innut "just like other Canadians". All the Innut see is that, as the settlers increase and occupy more of the land, Innut are herded into unhealthy coastal settlements where they have no freedom and nothing to eat but stove bread and tea, and politicians' words.

If this sounds a little like Namibia, or Ian Smith's Rhodesia, or the Brazilian Amazon, the similarity is not coincidental. The principals are the same. Besides Rio Tinto, with its extensive mineral interests in South Africa, Namibia, Zimbabwe, and Papua New Guinea, IOC's Hanna Mining Co controls orefields in Brazil, Colombia and Guatemala. The United States' largest steel producers, US Steel and Bethlehem Steel, mine ores in Brazil and South Africa. Until 1976, when the Federal Trade Commission ordered divestiture, Kennecott owned the Peabody Coal Company, which was the target of national controversy a decade ago for its



strip-mining of Indian lands in Montana and the Navajo-Hopi Black Mesa formation.

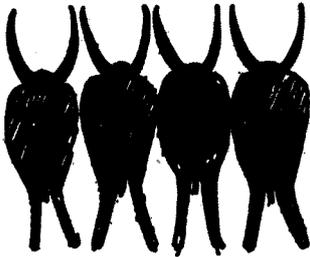
US influence in Ntesinan is striking. IOC and Quebec Cartier, which dominate Ntesinan mining, are controlled by the largest U.S. steelmakers. Even third-ranking Wabush mines, which is ostensibly Canadian, is controlled by a consortium of U.S. steel producers. In terms of sheer economic power Canada's two largest steel firms, DOFASCO and Stelco, with annual sales of about \$3.7 bil (Can) from Ntesinan, Quebec and Ontario operations, cannot hold a candle to the more than \$40 billion output of their competitors. Gulf and Western,

the only diversified company in the Ntesinan picture with its empire extending to Paramount Pictures, the Western International Hotels, Madison Square Garden and Schraffts candies, alone has nearly double the income of Stelco and DAFASCO combined.

Ottawa's claim to Ntesinan based on 18th century British charters granting the "coasts of Labrador" to Newfoundland and the interior to Lower Canada (Quebec). But Britain never dealt with the Innut before generously conceding away their country to Eurocanadian settlers. Indeed, Innut contact with Europeans was limited to a few isolated and transient coastal fishing stations ("outports") and mission schools until the past 30 years. Central Ntesinan was mapped out only within the past two decades, at about the time the southern Innut were first displaced by frontier mining and hydroelectric projects and the northern bands saw their first missionaries and policemen. The absurdity of foreign claims is illustrated by the British Privy Council's 1927 decision to divide the as yet unexplored Ntesinan into Quebec and Newfoundland sectors. The location of the dividing line was based on the etymology of the word "coasts". No consideration was given to the inhabitants, who were all Innut. The boundary had little practical meaning to most Innut, moreover, until the 1960's, when the two Canadian provinces began leasing land and attempting to enforce their laws in border settlements. Recently, Newfoundland has classified Quebec-side Innut as non-residents and forbidden them to hunt on the Newfoundland side.

In 1926 the first mission school opened its doors at North West River, but it was not until the 1950's that a major Canadian effort at resettling, schooling and assimilating the Innut began. The new policy's most conspicuous feature was restriction of

hunting to force Innut to spend the entire year in the new frontier towns, dependent on public and private relief. This has entailed a higher ratio of Mounties to residents than in any of the Canadian provinces or Territories. Recruitment of Innut into Canadian police forces also has been a major goal, echoing the use of Indian Police in the U.S. a century ago to break up tribal governments and religious practices. Thus far, Canada's version has had little success.

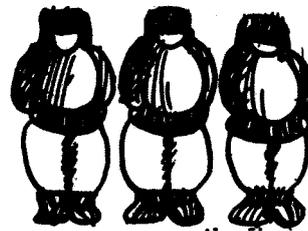


Canada first articulated its policy for Ntesinan in 1957. Although "the Indians of Labrador are still more primitive than the Eskimos", a government memorandum explained, "this is probably not because of any inherent quality of the race but rather unwittingly or otherwise because of less intimate contact with our civilisation...Civilisation is on the northward march and for the Eskimo and Indian there is no escape. The only course now open, for there can be no turning back, is to fit him as soon as may be to take his full place as a citizen of our country." For the U.S. a hundred years ago, this racist logic of "manifest destiny" drove settlement and coercive assimilation westward. For Canada this century, the same racist logic turns to the north. Ntesinan's "Indians" -- the Innut-- stand in the way of Canada's "northern imperative".

Ottawa is not entirely out of touch with law. A vociferous advocate of decolonisation and human rights for African nations, Canada implicitly recognises the 1975 International Court of Justice ruling that purchase from the

original inhabitants is the only lawful source of title to an undeveloped territory. Since 1977, Canadian officials have urged the Innut to sell Ntesinan for a cash settlement. But Innut leaders insist on Canadian recognition of their political autonomy and withdrawal from their territory. And with good cause, judging from the recent experience of the Innut's western neighbours, the "Creeps", who sold most of their James Bay lands to Canada less than a decade ago for mining and hydroelectric development. Last year Cree representatives told a United Nations conference in Geneva that Canada already had broken this latter-day treaty.

In a November, 1977 statement, Innut spokespersons conditioned talks on Canadian recognition of their rights as a Nation "...to retain ownership of their national territory," and to "develop their own institutions" of self-government.



Settlement and development of Ntesinan would have to be suspended pending negotiation of equitable compensation for past encroachments. Ntesinan was prepared to join the Canadian confederation on an equal footing, however, and to offer non-Innut already settled in the region a choice between Innut citizenship and compensated relocation.

Canada's Minister of Indian Affairs, Hugh Faulkner, responded to the Innut proposals on July 18 1978. They were, Faulkner argued, "For the most part, political in nature, and to that extent...not appropriate for the purposes of negotiation towards a settlement. The government recognises your desires for 'self determination' and I am

certainly willing to examine ways and means of altering local political and administrative institutions to better reflect the 'interests' of native people. However, it must be clear that this concept cannot be translated into any form of political sovereignty" separate from Quebec and Newfoundland. "All cultural groups must be willing to participate in the Canadian society and system of government," Faulkner warned, adding in an August 9, 1978 letter the admonition to avoid "the rhetoric and posturing of politics" and to "be honest" with Canada.

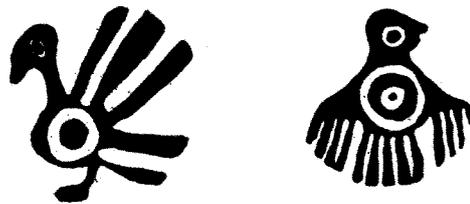
This provoked the Innut spokesperson Penote Michel to remind Faulkner, in an April 25 1979 note, that Canada was a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which guaranteed the right of all people "to freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development." Canada also voted for U.N. resolutions declaring and defining the right of political self-determination. "In the light of these instruments of international justice," Michel wrote, "we are sure that you will agree that Canada cannot unilaterally dictate that political sovereignty is non-negotiable." Canada's chief native claims negotiator, J.R. Goudie, promptly wrote Michel to "clear the air" on the matter. There would be no further discussions until the Innut acknowledged Canadian sovereignty over Ntesinan.

"Sovereignty can only be established with the consent of the aboriginal nations concerned," Michel replied. Canadian officials were "deluding themselves if they think we can be prevented with a fait accompli vis-a-vis the extinguishment of Innut sovereignty over Ntesinan."

Canada's final position was stated by Newfoundland Premier Brien Peckford in a July 24, 1980 note. "We do not accept the premise that your people constitute a sovereign nation

as defined by international law", Peckford wrote. "This is an unrealistic stance on your part and one which can serve no purpose other than perhaps impeding meaningful discussion and communication with Government". Canada's notion of justice in regard to native peoples apparently is to force them to accept money for rights they never surrendered -- to sell, in effect, what was never sold. As stated in an April 5 1973 Cabinet memorandum on "Indian and Eskimo Claims Policy", "the fundamental nature of Canadian federalism cannot be disturbed." "Native title, to the extent that it exists, cannot be allowed to prevent the utilisation of resources that belong to all of the people of the provinces and Canada generally".

The irony is that Canada does all this simply to turn over Ntesinan and its vast mineral and hydroelectric wealth to U.S. corporations, to make steel and aluminium for U.S. and western European markets. Canadians are rapidly becoming the world's greatest hypocrites on human rights and political freedom, just to make Americans rich. A leading critic of colonialism in Africa and the Pacific and defender of the developing Third World, Canada is carving an Arctic Empire --for Wall Street. Who really is in charge here, and when will Canadians themselves realise the contradictions? The problem is highlighted by a passage in the 1974 reissue of The Desperate People by Canada's distinguished and popular author Farley Mowat,



pointedly quoted by Innut representatives Penote Michel and Kanikuen Penashue. "We have long prided ourselves on being a democratic nation, dedicated to the alter of freedom," Mowat writes. "Freedom for whom?"

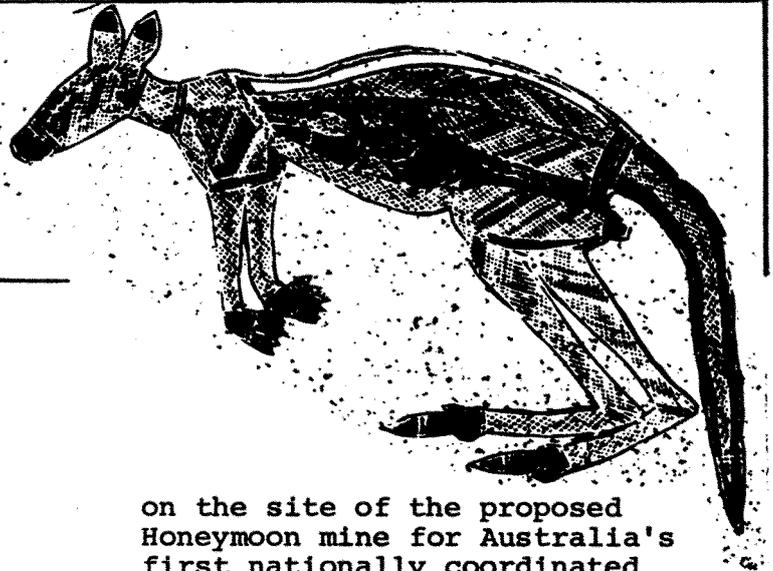
If it is only freedom for ourselves to do what we please at the expense of others, then our pious stance is even more abhorrent than that of any overt tyrant."

"To have freedom one must give freedom," Canada's Mowat concludes. "Let us put our vaunted belief in freedom to the test. Let us give back the freedom that we have taken from the native peoples of this land."

In Ntesinan the Innut hunt, close their ears to the railings of the Mounties and Ottawa's civil servants, and wait.

● Moravian missionaries were at work along Ntesinan's northern frontiers among the Eskimos as early as the 1760's, but their efforts never penetrated the interior. No active missions were established outside the North West River until the late 1960's.

Union Bans



WORKERS UNION OPPOSES HONEYMOON

by Lin Pugh

The Australian Workers Union (AWU) South Australia branch decided in April to continue opposition to uranium mining in their state. This is specifically directed at the Roxby Downs and Honeymoon projects. The union was under a lot of pressure from outside to favour uranium mining and not to implement the ACTU (Australian Council of Trade Unions) bans threatened in March this year. The straight press even managed to contort the conclusions of the state meeting to such an extent that headlines pronounced the AWU voted in favour of the mining projects! This, said John Dunnery, acting state secretary of the AWU, was "extremely disturbing" and a "gross distortion of proceedings at a recent meeting of the South Australian state branch". The report was "leaked" to the straight press by someone purporting to have been at that meeting.

On May 14 and 15, stop uranium mining activists from all over Australia will converge

on the site of the proposed Honeymoon mine for Australia's first nationally coordinated demonstration at the site of a uranium mine. There is also a plan to occupy the site.

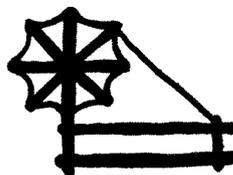
The Honeymoon Uranium Project was given Federal Government approval on October 27 last year. On March 12 the ACTU warned that trade unionists would block development at Roxby Downs, the state's other large uranium development. State Premier, Dr Tonkin, describes the Roxby Downs copper, gold and uranium project as likely to become one of the world's largest mines. This mine is anticipated to supply the material for the enrichment plant South

Australia plans to make together with, probably, Urenco of Europe.

The South Australia Labour Party, the opposition party, opposes the Roxby Downs plans.

contact: Campaign for a Nuclear Free Australia,
530 Argent Street,
Broken Hill, NSW 2880, Australia.

Uranium Traffic Action



URANIUM TRANSPORT PROTESTED

Uranium Traffic Network

People in Canada wanting a halt to uranium mining and nuclear proliferation have begun a unique campaign to stop uranium transport. As one part of an over-all strategy, concerned citizens across the country have singled out the Reimer Express Lines, Ltd., a large national trucking firm that transports most uranium out of Saskatchewan (a province in central Canada). The Uranium Traffic Network, which is coordinating the campaign, has vowed to tie up Reimer's telephone lines and protest at Reimer offices until the company drops its uranium transport contract or the world ends, whichever comes first.

To carry out its resolve, members of the network have distributed information packets on their campaign to groups all over Canada. Included in the packets are "Stop Uranium Transport" posters carrying a picture of a Reimer Express truck and saying "Give Reimer a Call". Underneath the picture is a list of phone numbers for Reimer's offices across the country. Groups receiving the packet were asked to hold the posters until April 18, at which time they were to be simultaneously put up in cities all across Canada. In addition, the groups were asked to deliver press releases on the campaign to local media on the following day, at which time simultaneous press conferences were to be held coast to coast. The immediate goal of the campaign is to convince Reimer to drop its uranium transport contract. It is hoped that this will be achieved by putting on pressure through tying up their business phone lines and publicizing their connection to the nuclear industry. The Network planned to exert maximum pressure by having postering and phoning begin across the country at the same time.

Already the Network has received calls from groups from Vancouver in the west of Canada to Toronto in the east, where postering and press conferences took place as scheduled. In addition, groups are planning for demonstrations, including direct actions, which were scheduled for April 24 at the various Reimer offices around the country. When Uranium Traffic Network members reached Gerald Reimer, president of the company, in Winnipeg, they were asked not to use the company logo in their publicity. Reimer also said he was willing to meet with members of the campaign to

hear their position, but only on the pre-condition that they stop using Reimer's name. The Network is open to a meeting, but refused to drop the Reimer name, saying members stand firm in their resolve to continue the campaign until Reimer stops trucking the uranium. (Reimer, when asked later by WISE why he transported uranium, said "because it's legal traffic" and his company has a "legal obligation as a public company" to transport it. When asked if it would be fair to say, then, that his company would "be willing to transport anything as long as it was legal", he initially hedged at the wording, but agreed with the content of that statement.)

Reimer Express Lines transports over 200 truckloads a year of yellowcake, or milled uranium, from Saskatoon in southern Saskatchewan, to the province of Ontario and to the U.S. Most of the uranium is taken to the Port Hope, Ontario refinery. From Port Hope, it goes to Argentina, Belgium, Finland, France, India, Italy, Japan, Pakistan, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, United States, and West Germany.

Uranium from the producing mines in northern Saskatchewan (Cluff Lake,

Rabbit Lake, and Uranium City) is transported to Saskatoon. From there, the uranium from both Cluff Lake and Rabbit Lake is trucked out by Reimer Express Lines. The trucks travel from the Reimer terminal in the north end of Saskatoon, through the center of the city on their way out of town.

The amount of yellowcake now passing through Saskatoon is approximately 10 million pounds per year. That amount is expected to double when the Key Lake Mine comes on stream early in 1983. Ten million pounds of uranium represents about 300 truckloads per year, or about 10,000 forty-five gallon barrels. Each truckload contains enough uranium to make about a half-dozen Hiroshima-size bombs.

Although the Network is concerned with the dangers of uranium transportation, members are also concerned with the even "greater hazards where the uranium comes from and where the uranium is going", as a spokesperson for the Uranium Traffic Network put it. The Network sees the present focus on Reimer as a part of an over-all strategy to strengthen activities within the Saskatchewan and Canadian anti-nuclear movement -- a strategy in the context of a much broader movement.

Contact: Uranium Traffic Network
P.O. Box 7192
Saskatoon, Sask.
Canada S7K 4J2
Tel: 306/665-0499 or
306/652-4143

Mitsubishi International Corp has an import license to the U.S. for South African yellowcake. Their license runs from January 1982 to December 1984 for a grand total of 1.3 million kilograms of uranium. The yellowcake will be shipped by rail from Baltimore, Md, to U.S. enrichment facilities. The material will eventually be used for reactors by Kansai Electric Co of Osaka, Japan.

*The Waste Paper, Vol 4 no 2
winter/spring 1982*

South Africa:

Getting Uranium

U.S. FIRMS HELP SOUTH AFRICA GET URANIUM

Washington Post

Two American firms played a key role in South Africa's acquiring almost 100 tons of enriched uranium in contradiction to the U.S. government's policy of opposing the acquisition because South Africa refuses to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

The two firms are Edlow International of Washington, D.C., and SWUCO, Inc. of Rockville, Md., which acted as brokers between South Africa and uranium suppliers and enrichers in Switzerland, Belgium and France.

The uranium now is in France being made into fuel rods for South Africa's first nuclear power plant. It is to be shipped there later this year when the South African Electric Supply Commission is scheduled to turn the key on the first of its two huge nuclear power plants at Koeberg near Cape Town. Together, the two plants will generate two million kilowatts of electricity.

The story of the uranium has almost as many twists and turns as a suspense novel. Reports published last November said that China was the supplier of the uranium. Canada also was mentioned in nuclear circles as the source.

American officials were concerned that the sale was undercutting U.S. attempts to get South Africa to participate in the non-proliferation treaty and agree to international inspection of all its nuclear installations, including a uranium enrichment plant that is under construction.

The story begins in 1974, when the United States contracted to supply South Africa with enough enriched uranium to run the two plants at Koeberg from 1981 to 2010.

That was before South Africa refused to sign the non-proliferation treaty, which bans the spread of nuclear weapons, and to put all its nuclear installations under the "full-scope safeguards" required by the Non Proliferation Act passed by Congress in 1978.

As a result, the United States held up the uranium shipments to South Africa, which left it unable to start up either of its two Koeberg reactors.

Then, the rush to build nuclear power plants slowed, which with the worldwide business slowdown left the industrialized nations with an excess of uranium.

The Swiss and Belgians held some of the excess uranium because they had overbought for nuclear power plants whose construction was being delayed. About a year ago, the South African Electric Supply Commission made it know that it was desperate enough to pay a premium price for uranium to start up at least one of its Koeberg reactors.

Edlow and SWUCO bought the excess uranium from Switzerland and Belgium. They then turned it over to two European enrichers, one a European consortium called Eurodif; the other they refuse to name, to be enriched into usable fuel, and sold title to it to South Africa.

Edlow and SWUCO are doing nothing illegal. There are no U.S. laws that even require them to report the deal to the State Department.

"All we did was act as broker, buying the uranium as excess stock in Belgium and Switzerland," Jack Edlow, president of Edlow International, told The Washington Post. "Our business is to match buyers and sellers and since everybody is sitting on extra uranium that wasn't too hard to do."

Senator John Glenn (D-Ohio), co-author of the Non Proliferation Act and ranking minority member of the Senate subcommittee on energy and nuclear proliferation, doesn't see it that way. In a letter to Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig, Jr., Glenn demanded to know how an American firm like Edlow could be allowed to act as middleman in the sale of uranium to South Africa

when the U.S. government by law is prohibited from making the sale. All enriched uranium in the United States is owned by the government.

"That a U.S. firm may have contributed to defeating the non-proliferation policies of its own government is deeply disturbing," Glenn told Haig, "particularly when the firm is the beneficiary of numerous government-granted licenses covering the shipment and export of nuclear materials."

France has no law requiring "full-scope" safeguards under which international teams inspect all its nuclear installations. France only requires that reactors using French

fuel be inspected to make sure none is diverted to make weapons.

"France does not believe the Koeberg reactor plays any part in any South African weapons program," a high-ranking French diplomat told The Washington Post. "We think the Koeberg reactor will be fully safeguarded after it gets its fuel from France."

To complete the circle, South Africa has just arranged to sell 3,000 pounds of the uranium it is buying through Edlow to the United States, which will enrich it here and sell it to Japan. South Africa doesn't need all that uranium because its own unsafeguarded uranium enrichment plant is scheduled to start producing enriched fuel for South Africa soon.

A letter from Gert Hensel

I'm enclosing a paper about the work I would like to begin in Autumn this year. I'm really searching for sponsors and people with good ideas to publish this forthcoming documentary about keeping uranium in the ground.

Question: is it possible via WISE to get the video "uranium mining in the US" and if not why not? It would be good to know WISE as a place where people could get such things. Would like to use it here in the Frankfurt area but cannot afford to buy it.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

"Uranium: the Nucleus"

Including a listing of research, inquiries and investigations on the subject up to 1982.

As a freelance journalist my central aim is to concentrate on survival - and the struggle to survive of Indians in North America. Uranium mining has surfaced as being a central question to their survival -- not only theirs, but of all living things.

I am now working on a documentation of uranium, its origins and early history, where it is discovered in North America and Canada, the participation of German firms in uranium exploration and exploitation and their American partners, the places where uranium is processed, transport to the Federal Republic, the West German business concerns and then following the uranium through enrichment and fuel rod manufacture.

I will begin the research at the end of 1982 and it will be finished in the middle of 1983. For the research I will continuously use a cassette recorder for documentation as well as recording events and interviews.

75% of my time will be spent in Europe, but the expensive part comes in the other time, when I will be in the USA. There I will need a car, and probably some hotel expenses. As I will not be earning money during this time, I will need financial support. I am looking for that money now

--between 15,000DM and 20,000 DM. I will use 5000 DM of my own as part of this sum.

So, this is my project and the budget.

Gert.

III Conferència de la Península Ibèrica contra les Mines d'Urani

III Conferencia de la Península Ibérica contra las Minas de Uranio
Uranioaren Mehagintzaren Aurkako Penintsula Iberikoaren Hirugarren Itzaldia
Terzera Conferencia d'a Península Iberica contra ras Minas d'Uranio
III Encontro Ibérico contra as Minas d'Uranio.

Organitzen:
Comitè Antiurani de Vic
Comitè Antinuclear de Catalunya

Vic, 10 al 13 de Juny de 1.982

28 de Març de 1.982

D'acord amb el que es decidí a la II Conferència de la Península Ibèrica contra les Mines d'Urani, celebrada a Caldas de Rainha, Portugal, els dies 10 i 11 d'Octubre de l'any 1.981, el Comitè Antiurani de Vic i el Comitè Antinuclear de Catalunya han preparat la III Conferència, que es farà a Vic (Barcelona), Catalunya, del dia 10 al 13 de Juny d'aquest any 1.982.

Informació sobre la Conferència

Tenim la intenció que aquesta III Conferència es centri en tres temes fonamentals:

- 1) Cooperació internacional en la lluita contra les mines
- 2) Informació general sobre la mineria d'urani
- 3) Informació sobre la situació a la zona on es celebra la Conferència.

CAUV; Sant Just 1, 3r; Vic (Barcelona); Catalunya