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KEEP IT IN THE GROUND

international stop uranium mining newsletter 4

March 1980

Dear Friends,

GOOD NEWS. There are many victories recorded in this newsletter. And many positive new developments.

Unfortunately, we had to postpone the Working Group Meeting: it was financially too difficult. Finances remain one of the strongest deterrents to full working together between groups fighting to stop uranium mining. Now we have decided to have the meeting in the Black Hills of South Dakota, at the same time as the Survival Gathering. We have to put our efforts into making that action enormously successful. Groups or individuals who are able to, PLEASE GIVE MONEY to help pay the costs at least of Working Group members to get to the Gathering. If you can help raise money, or if you can give money, please contact Leah Warn, 2e Weteringplantsoen 9, Amsterdam, Holland.

And all the people wanting to go to the Black Hills, also contact Leah (if you live in Europe, or at least not in the US or Canada).

One of the functions of the working group meeting was to be an evaluation of this newsletter. Please send in criticism/praise etc, and PLEASE send in news. This is a newsletter for communication, a tool. It is open for anyone wishing to communicate with others fighting uranium mining.

A French translation group or person is needed to translate this newsletter into French.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION \$7.50, DM 15, £3.50 for those who can afford it - we all know that means the people from the rich West. Donations are always welcome.

NEWS

SEVEN YEAR URANIUM MORATORIUM IN BC

Canada: Feb 27 1980. The Canadian Premier, Bill Bennett, imposed a seven year moratorium on the mining of uranium and uranium exploration in BC, Canada. The decision came before the end of the Bates Royal Commission Hearings into uranium mining in British Columbia.

Members of the Environmental Alliance Against Uranium mining in BC welcomed the moratorium, which was announced because "The fears expressed by the people in this province relating to uranium mining and the dangers involved in its exploration and mining are too real to ignore". The Alliance was, however, in principle opposed to declaring a moratorium before the hearings were over. The people of BC still have not had a chance to become really informed in the dangers related to uranium mining.

The Alliance has a lot of invaluable material available. It had received some C\$45,000 in public funds for the presentation of research and evidence before the Environmental Impact Phase of the Bates Inquiry.

A study on the environmental implications of uranium derived radionuclides in biological systems is now complete. Evidence and expert witnesses were prepared on:

1. Movement and behaviour of radioactive materials in biological pathways within marine, aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems

2. Somatic and genetic effects of radionuclides in biological organisms and biotic communities

3 Dispersion, distribution, and effect of radon release from mine dumps and tailings

4. Long term monitoring and security capabilities for abandoned mill sites

5. Behaviour and effects of associated toxic elements and heavy metals such as arsenic, selenium, cadmium, molybdenum, etc.

6. Effectiveness of reclamation and re-vegetation programs

7. Cumulative biological effects of low levels of ionising radiation

This material had not been heard. The Alliance has urged the Inquiry to report on the many problems and dangers associated with uranium mining in its report.

The Inquiry was not proceeding smoothly. For many it was a fiasco. The Alliance had grave reservations about the willingness of the Commissioners to continue the Inquiry in a fair and just manner. On February 15 a memorandum was issued by the commissioners, imposing unacceptable conditions on the Alliance, and others. Some witnesses would not have been able to be heard, because of severe time restrictions.

The moratorium has effectively evaporated Norcen's \$300 million deal to supply South Korea with 4 million pounds of yellowcake.

BC uranium reserves are estimated at 1.7% of the Canadian uranium resources.

Contact: EAAUM,
No 405, 207 West Hastings St
Vancouver BC
Canada

Resources: Energy File
No 307
402 West Pender
Vancouver BC tel 689 9629



APRIL 26 Anti uranium mining and anti nuclear conference in Vancouver, BC, Canada
Contact: NDP Energy Policy Committee - Nuclear Conference
517 East Broadway, Vancouver BC V5T 1X4 Canada.

MORE URANIUM WORKERS DYING, INQUIRY TOLD

Canada:Jan 30. Deaths from lung cancer probably caused by uranium mining are taking place almost monthly, according to a United Steel Workers of America Employee.

Homer Seguin, area representative of the union at Elliot Lake, Ontario, made this charge in a brief prepared for the BC Bates Inquiry. His report stated that in 1974 an Ontario Royal Commission concluded 81 deaths were probably attributable to uranium operations at Lake Elliot where Denison Mines Ltd has been operating since the 1950's. These figures are now in excess of 100 and are climbing steadily. It is also believed that there are many more uranium induced deaths which are not statistically recorded - the figures do not keep track of employees who were dispersed in the early 1960's.

Up to March 1975, 466 present or former

Elliot Lake mine and surface workers were identified as having lung disabilities in whole or in part as the direct result of dust exposure in the uranium industry. Seguin's brief is based on union records and on research by industry and government experts.

Since the Ontario Inquiry conditions at the mine have improved, but not usefully. Harmful radiation levels remain. Spills, breaks, and other accidents spew contaminants into the environment all too frequently. Now the Serpent River watershed is destroyed, and other lakes and streams are under threat of contamination.

Source: The Vancouver Sun
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CATTLE ALLEGEDLY DOSED WITH URANIUM

BC Canada: Jan 24 1980. Some Okanagan cattle may be drinking high concentrations of poisonous uranium - which could be passed along to humans in milk or meat.

Robin Luxmore of the South East Kelowna Irrigation District claimed a survey undertaken recently showed alarming concentrations of uranium in he Okanagan.

The report, undertaken by Leighton Associates, consultant geologists, was originally confidential because of uranium exploration competition in the area, but the royal commission insisted it become public.

The provincial director of the radiation protection branch had "no idea" if the cattle that drink in the area are used for milk or meat. The farmers have not, till the report was released, been informed.

The uranium in question is "young uranium" - toxic but not radioactive.

Source: Vancouver Province .
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PUBLIC SUPPORT NEED FOR BAKER LAKE INUIT

Canada: The Inuit Tapirist, the Inuit Eskimo organisation in Canada, seeks support for the Baker Lake Inuit. \$100,000 is needed to pay for their legal struggle against the federal government and six mining companies involved in uranium exploration and mining in the Keewatin.

Inuit Tapirist and the Inuit of Baker Lake were forced to go to court to stop uranium mining on several thousand square miles of caribou hunting grounds.

In a court case ending on Nov 15, 1979, the judge refused to order a stop in the exploration activities of the mining companies. However, the fact that Inuit do have aboriginal rights was established.

The deadline for appeals against the judge's decision was February 29th. A very active local committee in Baker Lake is working with the lawyers to lay the groundwork for a negotiated resettlement to gain whatever protection it can from the mining companies.

Funds to help the campaign can be sent to:
Save Baker Lake
c/- Inuit Tapirist of Canada
176 Gloucester St, 3rd Floor
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0A6

The mining companies involved are Pan Ocean Oil, Urangesellschaft Canada, Western mines, Noranda Exploration, Cominco, and Essex Minerals.

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Send now for NATURAL PEOPLES NEWS 4, available from and published by CIMRA 92 Plimsoll Rd London N4 ENGLAND

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Canadian Artic Resources Committee publishes Northern Perspectives 8 times a year, giving information on struggles facing native people.
46 Elgin Street, room 11, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5K6 (613) 236 7379 tel
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MINES FOR EGYPT

The daily paper Al Ahram reported in January that the first of three small uranium mines were due to come on stream in January. It is said to be "in the desert east of the Nile" and will have an annual output of 30-50 tonnes of U308 - Egypt's first production.

The third world does not need uranium, and is getting ripped off by nuclear power. This is the subject of the pamphlet 'Uranium Exports, Ultruism or Greed', available from Regina Group for a Non Nuclear Society 2138 McIntyre St Regina Saskatchewan, Canada

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JAPAN ORE IN ENRICHMENT PLANT

Japan's first enrichment plant has started production, using uranium from the country's only known mine, at Nigyo Toge.

Japan is also planning to collect uranium from the sea. An experimental plant will be finished in 1984, which collects uranium from sea water. The plant costs US\$6.3 million, and will collect 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of uranium per year. The uranium content of sea water is 3 parts per billion.

Contact: Revealing Japan
Central Building 9th Floor
1-1-5 Kyobashi, Chuo-ku
Tokyo, Japan
tel 3-272 3900

URANIUM MINING UNDER CONSIDERATION, FINLAND

In Kittilä, Lapland, uranium has been found. Although the quantity is very small, being only enough for one reactors supply for five to six years, mining may still take place.

The project will be undertaken by Finnish companies, who want practice in mining and enrichment. They have plans to build their own enrichment plant. The companies are asking for government subsidy. 200,000 to 300,000 tons of waste would be left on the site.

Contact EVY
Valpurintie 6
SF-00270 Helsinki 27
Finland

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URANIUM IN CHINA

A "substantial" uranium deposit in South China, discovered in 1966, has only just been disclosed. The disclosure came just before an article in the Pe-king People's Daily urged the development of nuclear power (China has no civil nuclear plant at present). In typical Chinese rational fashion the People's Daily called for nuclear power in "...areas which are highly developed economically but which lack conventional energy sources" - in other words for heavy industry, constructed from plant supplied by Japan, Germany and other "advanced" nations.

Sources: Mining Journal December 1979
Financial Times, London, Feb 29 1980.

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URANIUM MINING POSTPONED IN GREENLAND

There is at least a temporary postponement of uranium mining in Greenland. This follows a declaration by the Home Rule Government's majority party leader that his party will not allow uranium mining in Greenland.

Lars Emil Johanson, leader of the Siumut party, which has 13 of the 21 seats in the Home Rule Government, stated this in mid February.

Until now the Riso Research laboratory in Denmark was mining 5000 tons of uranium in Narssaq. Their contract expires in 1982.

However, the Danish Government did not

immediately abandon plans to mine Greenlands uranium resources. On February 25 Denmark's Minister for Energy, Poul Nielson, applied to the Parliament's financial committee for extra money to map out the reserves in the South of Greenland.

He asked the equivalent of US\$570,000 for the investigations. These investigations are planned for the next two years and it is expected the European Economic Community will pay half the cost.

Known reserves could fuel 8 reactors all their life. Nielson uses this information as fuel to the argument that Denmark should go nuclear.

Denmark recently said NO to nuclear developments, one of the results of the strong Pro safe energy campaign in that country.

In early March the Siumut Party board declared opposition to any uranium mining in Greenland. This reflects the growing and strong opposition to uranium mining in Greenland.

On March 10 the Danish government withdrew the request for funds to explore new uranium reserves.

Contact: Jens Karlsen
Josefvej 526
DK 3921 Narssaq, Greenland

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UNIONISTS BAN STEEL FOR RANGER URANIUM MINE

Australia: Feb 11 1980. Workers at two Queensland steel companies are re-fusing to handle contracts for 4000 tons of fabricated steel for the Ranger Uranium project.

Some of the workers have already been laid off, one plant may have to close down because of the ban.

The workers are members of the Amalgamated Metal Workers and Shipwrights Union. This is the first union move to impose a ban in the uranium industry since the ACTU Congress in September last year passed a motion opposing uranium mining and nuclear power.

The bans are likely to continue up until the union's national congress in June. A spokesperson for the unionists said: "We hope the policy will be confirmed and strengthened then".

Contact:
Trade Union Anti Nuclear Lobby
PO Box 196
Broadway 4000 QLD AUSTRALIA

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SIX INDIAN NATIONS DEMONSTRATE AT LAKE PLACID

Feb 18, 1980, USA. Six Iruquois nations demonstrated at the winter village of the Olympic Games, Lake Placid. They protested the fact that the Olympic village will be turned into a prison, but this does not have Mohawk permission (it is Mohawk land). They also protested against the plans to mine uranium at Lake Placid and elsewhere on Indian territory. The whole area has been in military siege since last September, as a result of Indian opposition to a river port being built, also without their permission. The Indians denounced the US violation of treaties made between the US and the Indian Nations.

The demonstration took place outside Lake Placid, to avoid the opportunity for police to invite violence.

Contact: Herb Blatchford
American Indian Treaty Council
1503 Central NW
Alberquerque NM 57709 USA

NAVAJO INDIANS CALL FOR END TO
FEDERAL IRRESPONSIBILITY ON
URANIUM MINING

USA.Washington. Charging that federal policies have been causing widespread health damage to Indians from uranium mining in the United States, a delegation of widows and an ailing uranium miner demanded on February 14 that the government "be held responsible for failure to protect public health".

The five Navajo Indians met with officials of the departments of Health, Education and Welfare, and the Energy Department. They said the officials seemed insulated from the severe past and present effects of uranium mining. They also said the Indian Health service should be updated and upgraded to meet the health needs of Indian people. "We need to be concentrating on early detection of health problems. The genetic dangers for the children and grandchildren are of great concern to parents", Sarah Mae Harvey, a worker with the Navajo Community Health Representative program, said.

A doctor in the Shiprock area was not given renewed funding by the government after he became vocal about increased health problems suffered by people living near abandoned Kerr-McGee Corp. uranium mines in New Mexico. He was providing health care and is doing research into frequent reports of birth defects and respiratory illnesses. Ms Harvey demanded he be refunded to continue this work.

At present 80-90% of uranium miners can expect to die of lung cancer.

Ms Harvey was accompanied to Washington by 4 victims of the mines. They were sponsored by Citizens Hearings For Radiation Victims. Citizens commission hearings will be held from April 11-14 in Washington for testimony from Americans suffering from radiation linked diseases.

Contact: Citizens Hearings For Radiation Victims
317 Pennsylvania Avenue SE
Washington DC 20003 tel
202 543 0222

DEMAND FOR FULL PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO
THE EXTRADITION OF LEONARD PELTIER

USA A full PUBLIC inquiry is being demanded into the extradition of Leonard Peltier from Canada on dec 20 1976.

The fact is, Leonard Peltier is one of the scapegoats the United States government has chosen in its continuing Indian war.

Leonard Peltier was charged with killing a FBI agent at Pine Ridge, June 26 1975. The US military attacked a spiritual camp. One Indian man died, and 2 FBI agents.

At the same time one eighth of the reservation was secretly transferred from the tribe to the US government. This piece of land contains a large uranium deposit.

Peltier fled to Canada in fear of his life, as the FBI was seeking American Indian Movement leaders as frame ups. He asked for political asylum from the Canadian government and was refused.

Two years later the judge confirmed false evidence was used to effect the extradition. The evidence was proven to be false before Peltier left Canada. Now he is serving the second year of his prison term. He is serving two consecutive life terms in a US prison, after a trial which was notable for the suppression of 80% of the defence case, and witnesses testifying to coercion and perjury by the FBI.

On March 5 1979 the Supreme Court denied Leonard a new trial.

The defence is still working for a re-opening of the case and for making the case internationally known. He is one of the Prima Facie cases mentioned in the petition to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights Violations in the United States (December 1978).

Contact: Leonard Peltier Defence Committee
PO Box 3936
Los Angeles CA 90051 USA
tel (213) 665 9481

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RUSSELL TRIBUNAL ON THE RIGHTS OF THE INDIANS OF NORTH AND LATIN AMERICA

Netherlands: On November 24-30 1980 the fourth Russell Tribunal will be held in Rotterdam. This Tribunal focusses on the problems of Indians on the American continent.

The main objective of the Tribunal is to raise the matter of human rights and discrimination, in its broadest sense. Secondly, it will try to demystify the western image of Indians. Also, it will be a meeting place of the Indians themselves. The term "ethnocide" will be developed in the hope that it will become a well-known notion in international law. The results of the Tribunal will be passed on to the United Nations and to the governments concerned. The Russell Peace Foundation will appoint jury members.

Other international groups cooperating are IWGIA in Copenhagen, Survival International in London, Incomindios in Switzerland, and the Gesellschaft für Bedrohte Völker in West Germany.

Contact: Indianen Project
Postbus 51.322
1007 EH Amsterdam, Netherlands
tel(020)766242

URANIUM INFORMATION FOR WEST GERMANY

On April 30 the anti nuclear group in Bremen, West Germany, is holding an exhibition about the export of atomic energy plants to countries in the "third world" and the involvement of the German industry. The Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker will be there to give information about the situation relating to uranium mining and milling.

The group wishes to have an exhibition with photos, posters and leaflets. They themselves will produce a pamphlet. Especially need is information relating to American Indians, Inuits and Australian Aborigines. Please send visual

materials to
Ulla Schacht
Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker
Horner Str. 45
2800 Bremen
West Germany.

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LOCALS FORCE WITHDRAWAL OF URANIUM EXPLORERS

Donegal, Ireland Feb 23 1980. Residents may have been successful in the Fintown area of Donegal in stopping a mining company exploring for uranium.

This is the opinion of the people, as expressed in the local newspaper, the Donegal Democrat.

This follows confrontations between local people and operatives, resulting in organised protest against the drilling.

The Munster Base Mining Company wants to drill very close to the only water supply of the village of Glenleighan. The company refused to make an alternative water supply. The village people then physically occupied the site - in the area 25 was described as "a mob" by the mining interest.

The following Monday drilling equipment was removed by the company.

South West Donegal Anti Nuclear Group is preparing for a rally and protest march March 30 in Fintown. Please send any information about uranium mining also to them, as they have requested it.

Contact: S.W. Donegal Anti Nuclear Group
c/- D.J. Stockdale
Drim, Glencolumcille,
County Donegal, Ireland



A FRENCH URANIUM INQUIRY

In October 1977, COGEMA (Compagnie Generale des Matieres Nucléaires) applied for sole rights to drill for uranium in the Val de Ville in central Alsace. The public enquiry opened in Strasborg without the local inhabitants being informed. It was the Association Vie et Vallee which drew public attention to the enquiry, by holding meetings in the villages concerned to inform the public and their elected representatives.

Drilling continued until December 1977 and started again in Autumn 1979, concentrating on sites in Neuve-Eglise and Howarth. A petition by the inhabitants of Neuve-Eglise resulted in a meeting on 13 December 1979 between Cogema and its opponents, which was very well attended and demonstrated the village's opposition to the mining. Many of the owners who had given Cogema permission to drill on their land withdrew their permission as a result of the meeting.

Early in 1980, the Conseil d'etat declared the 1977 public enquiry invalid on a technicality (the application field at the Strasbourg prefecture was incomplete). A new enquiry is now being held (mid February to mid March). It opened with a big information meeting on 18 February organised by the sub Prefect of the area, Cogema, and the Deputy Jean-Marie Caro.

Vie et Vallee objected to the biased nature of such a meeting and asked scientists of opposing views to attend, as well as a speaker from Limousin who described the situation in Limousin. Once again, the meeting demonstrated the strength of local opposition to uranium mining.

Vie et Vallee is holding a series of meetings in the villages concerned on focussing on three main themes

- the dangers of U mining and the nuclear industry
- alternative energy, renewable resources
- energy options and their relation to the kind of society we will have in

in the future

contact: Jean-Pierre Piela
route du Col
Noirceux-Fouchy
67220 Ville
France tel(88) 57 1712

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BACKGROUND: AVEYRON ANTI U GROUP

France: The Aveyron liaison committee against uranium mining and nuclear power is now one year old, It was set up to alert the people in their area of the secretive uranium mining and milling operations in their area. The 12 groups involved have held press conferences, made press communiques, held public information meetings and publish pamphlets on the dangers of uranium mining.

For years the CEA (National Energy Commission) and private companies have explored the region for uranium deposits. The first mining permit was given in 1963.

Now 840 km² (9% of the surface of the region) has been explored.

From September 1978 till November 1979, 4 different companies asked for exploration permits.

SCUMRA, a Minatome company, is the major exploiter in the area:

- 3 search permits granted
- 3 search permits requested,
- 2 exploitation permits.

SCUMRA plans to construct a uranium milling plant at Bertholène, with a capacity of 200-250 tons per year. They expect to start mining at Bartholène in 1983.

Contact: Jean Louis Bugarel
Comité de Liaison Uranium-
Nucléaire de l'Aveyron
9 rue de l'Embergue
12000 RODEZ
France tel (65) 68 5262

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C.L.A.N. AGAINST URANIUM MINING

In Limousin, France, the drinking water has been polluted as a result of uranium mining. Other pollution, directly stemming from the uranium mines, is also evident. Collectif Limousin pour une Alternative au Nucleaire (C.L.A.N) collects and distributes information and organises in the area, against uranium mining.

CLAN
56 rue Hoche
87000 Limoges
France
(tel Aline Biardeaud
(55) 303040
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QUICK SNIPS FROM THE INDUSTRY

- %% British Columbia companies lose \$25 million from U Moratorium
- %% The US House of Representatives decided to delay for 42 months the application of new Environmental Protection Agency regulations on uranium wastes. If the regulations were applied, uranium costs would rise \$1.80 per pound.
- %% The entire 3,000 tonne/year uranium oxide output from Australia's Ranger deposit will be committed to signed contracts by year-end. 75% of annual output, or 4.5 million pounds will be contracted to Japanese, West German and British coventurers, who plan to take up 25% equity in Ranger. If the British drop out, South Korea and France are waiting to jump in. The Australian government wants 35% exported as enriched uranium - to promote enrichment facilities in the land. But the companies are not completely agreeing
- %% NUMCO is the name of the new Nigerian Uranium Company. It will begin mining within the next two years. It will mine in Gombe, Bauchi State.

WANTED: An article for the next newsletter on the uranium cartel controversy, what it means for us, etc, in PLAIN LANGUAGE for those of us who were never comfortable reading legal language.

PLEASE SEND ALL INFORMATION FOR THE NEXT NEWSLETTER IN BY APRIL 14 1980.
(Deadline is the 14th of every month).

Address all uranium letters to Lin Pugh
WISE
2e Weteringplantsoen 9
Amsterdam Netherlands
tel (20) 255064

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