

# wise

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## KEEP IT IN THE GROUND

international stop uranium mining newsletter 6  
june 1980

### ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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

The newsletter passes on information about people's struggles, and information useful in these struggles.

The initiative of this newsletter came at a meeting of mostly indigenous people in Copenhagen, October 1979. We realised a newsletter was an important way of keeping informed about, and informing others about, anti uranium mining struggles all over the world.

All readers are invited to participate, by writing articles, sending reports, requesting information etc.

Contributions can be sent in German, French, English, Dutch.

### SUBSCRIBING TO THIS NEWSLETTER

Subscription costs a minimum of f12 Dutch guilders a year. This is the cost to groups or individuals that can afford it. Many groups cannot afford it: we therefore ask those who can to give generously. Cheques can be made out to WISE AMSTERDAM, marked URANIUM. The WISE giro account is number 4088285.

PRODUCTION of this issue is the co-operative effort of WISE and CIMRA, a London based indigenous peoples support group.

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#### INDUSTRY NEWS

- snippets from around the world

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### INTERNATIONAL

#### FIRST EUROPEAN ANTI URANIUM MINING CONFERENCE, LIMOGES, FRANCE, July 4-6 1980

European anti uranium mining activists are invited to participate in the first anti uranium mining conference in Europe, to be held in Limoges, July 4-6. They will be in the care of CLAN (see Newsletter 4, page 9).

There will be participants from: Italy, France, Holland, England, Ireland, Scotland, Germany, Denmark, Greenland, Sweden and Finland.

The cost will be 100 French Francs for

food and bus travel.

All participants are asked to prepare a short report on the situation in their region in English or French. This report, written, will be used in the working meetings minutes.

The programme begins on the Friday evening, with region reports. On Saturday, there will be a tour of the local mining area, followed by a press meeting.

In the afternoon, the working meeting begins.

1. Consequences of U mining for the local environment. Working groups will discuss the effects on people and their environment, social, economic and cultural consequences, U mining and labour unions, uranium prospecting and local communities.

2. The international situation and the fight against uranium mining. Groups will discuss uranium companies and their policies, the uranium policy of the EEC, the situation of the third and fourth world, international information exchange, and the relation between the anti nuclear and anti uranium mining movements.

People have been invited to add to the agenda. Films will be shown in the evening.

Enrollment should happen as soon as possible.

Contact: OOA attn Peter Bøegh  
Skindergade 26'  
1159 Copenhagen  
Denmark

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1980 BLACK HILLS INTERNATIONAL SURVIVAL GATHERING

July 18-27 will see the International Survival Gathering in the Black Hills of South Dakota, USA. Participants will participate in 10 areas. The Gathering is an effort to loosen the corporate grip on our lives. There will, then be three simultaneous events and seven supporting work areas.

Simultaneous events

1. Citizens Review Commission on Energy Development Corporations. Information will form a base to plan effective means to neutralise corporate dangers and create life-sustaining alternatives. Participants will present testimony and documentation on practices and policies that threaten the survival of our communities: local, national, international.

2. An Alternative Technology/Land Self-Sufficiency Project. Participants will build a model self sufficient community with working alternative energy projects that can be applied to further decentralisation of energy and improved quality of life. Corresponding workshops will explain each demonstration project and instruct on its design and construction, as well as its application in local communities.

3. A Forum on Indian Genocide and the Planned Extinction of the Family Ranch and Farm. Methods that have been used against people worldwide in order to dominate their resources will be analysed and documented. With the knowledge gained through this forum we will work to save what remains of our various rural ways of life so as to build a more fertile environment.

Support Work Areas

- 1. National Coordinating office
- 2. Security/Peace keepers
- 3. Mobilisation/transportation
- 4. Fundraising
- 5. Education for survival: alternative education, also for younger people at the Gathering
- 6. Health for Survival: alternatives, removing dependence on institutions.
- 7. Communications/media.

The organisers would like to know about international people who are going. They would like to know what the needs of international participants are. MONEY is still needed to send representative

of uranium threatened communities in other countries to the Gathering. This should be sent to Leah Warn,  
1536 Sixteenth Street W  
Washington DC 20036

+ a charter flight from Europe has been organised: contact JEIO  
8, Henegouwenstr,  
Gent, Belgium  
tel (091) 230069

This charter leaves Brussels 14, 15 or 16 July, and returns from New York 14,15 or 16 August, costing \$US 630, with concession for children. The group DROITS, who is responsible for organising that charter, will also hold a festival in September to raise money for Native Americans. Their address is 221, chée d'Ixelles 1050 Bruxelles tel (2) 648 43 18

They have also prepared a pamphlet in French about the Gathering.

contact: Black Hills Alliance  
PO Box 2508  
Rapid City SD 57701  
tel (605) 342 5127

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

This Tribunal will be held in Rotterdam, November 24-30. At this conference there will be two activities: the actual Tribunal with cases being presented from members of the Native American communities, and the supplementary presentation by other indigenous minorities of their land rights and human rights struggles in other parts of the world.

The focus of the Tribunal is to play a part in having the rights of the discriminated indigenous population of the Americas recognised by the international community. Official participants will be: witnesses and experts, a jury, the accused party and a council of advice.

In addition, representatives of other

indigenous populations will be invited to participate in a programme in the evenings. There are plans to invite people from New Zealand, Australia, Greenland and Lapland and perhaps more. Participation by all groups, it is felt, will help the peoples struggles for recognition, and build toward a worldwide understanding of the survival difficulties of these people.

In both programmes documents testifying to the situations will be presented. Participation by other land rights struggles in Europe is welcome.

The people will also be available to speak at movement meetings in Europe.

Contact: Workgroup Indian Project  
Bloemgracht 90  
Amsterdam tel (2) 235984

For participants in the evening programme, contact: Govert de Groot  
Thorbecklaan 15  
2564BE Den Haag tel(70) 235671  
Netherlands

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COUNTRY BY COUNTRY NEWS

U.S.A.

WITH THEIR TAILINGS BETWEEN THEIR LEGS....

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has at last issued standards for the cleanup of "inactive" mill tailings - months after a date specified by the Department of the Environment.

The standards are part of a programme, established to cost about \$300 million, providing for so-called remedial action at about 25 sites - most of them the result of mining for nuclear weapons in the 1950's.

- The draft standards specify that:
- total radon daughters in a building (partly constructed from tailings) should not exceed 0.015 Working levels
  - remedial action to be taken should indoor gamma radiation exceed 0.02 millirem per hour above background radiation
  - clearance of any site where the level

of radiation in the material rises above 5 picocuries per gram of material.

contact: Black Hills Alliance  
PO Box 2508  
Rapid City, SD 57701  
USA

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MINERS FOR SAFE ENERGY OPPOSES URANIUM  
MINING IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Miners for Safe Energy are opposing uranium mining in the Black Hills and causing a controversy. They are a group of mineworkers, friends and families, which began to organise in the Black Hills last October. They say uranium is dangerous to workers, will destroy ranching livelihoods and recreation in the Black Hills, and as part of the capital-intensive nuclear fuel chain, will ultimately mean fewer jobs for everybody. They say that as many as two to four times as many jobs can be created through alternative energy industries. This is backed up in a US Congressional report on Technological assessment.

Now the group is organising at United Steelworkers Local 7044, which represents some 1700 miners at Homestake Gold Mine in Lead, S.D., the largest goldmine on the continent. Three requests which they made, and were granted, included being able to speak at monthly union meetings on uranium mining, setting up an energy committee within the local, and that the group be allowed to rent a hall for fundraising. They will mostly organise and educate within the union. Its strategy is to convince other area locals to oppose proposed nuclear development in South Dakota. A United Food and Commercial Workers local in Rapid City has publicly endorsed a call for a statewide moratorium on uranium mining. Miners for Safe Energy hopes its local will follow in the footsteps of Steelworkers Local 1010 near Chicago, which has officially adopted an anti nuclear stance.  
Contact: MFSE, PO Box 247, Lead SD 57754  
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CHURCHROCK: THE SPILL GETS WORSE

Radiation from the worst nuclear waste spill in the United States history is continuing to contaminate groundwater and making its way toward the Colorado River, a major source of drinking water for Southern California. That spill occurred in July 1979, when a dam holding radioactive tailings broke at United Nuclear Corporation's uranium mill near Churchrock, New Mexico. A muddy slurry of 100 million gallons of radioactive liquid and 1100 tons of radioactive solids spilled into a small stream that leads to the Rio Peurco River. Rains, flash floods and spring waterflows will continue transporting the radioactive debris. Meanwhile the mill has been given permission to start operating again. Dangerous water radiation levels 30 feet underground are continuing to rise and will contaminate drinking water wells. The debris released contains radium, which causes bone cancer, leukemia and genetic mutations in humans and animals. It also contains thorium, which, when inhaled, causes lung cancer. The cause of the accident, as with most accidents, was human negligence and laxity in structure design. The tailings wall, the company knew, began to crack in 1977, which they filled instead of repaired. Acid, not supposed even to be in the dam, aggravated the crack. The Navajo people, living nearby, may not slaughter and sell their cattle: their main source of income. They may not use their wells, for fear of contamination. Water has to be bought. Some people have to stay home to keep their animals away from the river. Children have been contaminated. The government is unable to protect the health and safety of its citizens, concludes the Women for Survival in an article in WIN, April 15 1980, from unsafe uranium mining and milling.

Contact: Women for Survival  
PO Box 109, East St  
Goshen, MA 01032  
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MONTANA: ON BRINK OF U BOOM

Apparently teetering on the brink of a uranium boom, Montana is taking steps at several levels to forestall the possibility of a runaway development. Friends of the Earth and Headwaters Alliance are collecting signatures for a voter initiative which would impose a state wide ban on the disposal of radioactive wastes, including mill tailings. If the initiative is placed on the ballot and passes in the general election, the costs of transporting tailings out of state for disposal would effectively discourage companies from mining uranium in Montana.

Contact: Headwaters Alliance  
Box 7942  
502 Hill St. Missoula, MT 59807.

Friends of the Earth and two other groups have filed suit against Kerr McGee and the State of Montana, asking that the State prepare an environmental impact statement on the effects of uranium exploration.

(article taken from Groundswell, April 1980, c/- 1536 Sixteenth Street W, Washington DC 20036 USA).

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URANIUM IN MINNESOTA: BOOK REVIEW

A substantial amount of uranium was found on private land in Minnesota, recently. In 1978, the All-University Council on Environmental Quality began receiving requests for information about the possible environmental impact of uranium exploration, mining and milling.

As a result, the Council prepared a summary of some of the issues.

This document hopes to provide, in non-specialist language, an introduction to uranium mining and milling, stressing the environmental hazards.

This booklet emphasizes the radiological hazards: the possibility of ground and surface water contamination, airborne emissions of radioactive materials, occupational exposures to radiation in mining

and milling, and the long term effects of radioactive tailings.

The question of the acceptability of atomic power is avoided.

Published January 1980, available from: Centre for Urban and Regional Affairs

311 Walter Library  
117 Pleasant Street SE  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minn 55455 USA

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CANADA

BRITISH COLUMBIA: AFTER THE BAN IS OVER...

One of the most dramatic victories of the anti nuclear movement must be the seven-year ban on uranium mining announced last February by the government of British Columbia, Canada.

Opposition to mining had been expressed in many ways, from civil disobedience to a threatened mass demonstration, and by many bodies. These included the BC Medical Association, the United Church and the BC Federation of Labour, and some two hundred local groups. Some groups, between the jubilation, have expressed strong reservations about the way in which the ban was reached, and the qualifications surrounding it. According to lawyer Craig Paterson, "the moratorium has no more legal force than moral persuasion since the order-in-council is actually a statement of intent. We need a political commitment from the government that it will fight the moratorium through". As we go to press, no such political statement has been made by Cabinet. The BC Medical Association also points out that the ban does not solve many problems associated with low-level radiation hazards connected with other mining. A proposed molybdenum mine near Atlin would involve the removal and storage of uranium as well: the Kootenay Nuclear Study Group have already bought their own radon detector to follow up on such problems. Because the ban came before the end of

the Bates Inquiry, the chances are that the final report will say nothing about the social impact and too little about the health or environmental aspects of uranium.

The next step in the battle is to fight the massive plans of BC Hydro for developing hydro-electric power in the province. Such a development is perhaps even more threatening to the land claims and livelihood of Indians.

Premier Bennett has assured the mining companies that they will not lose their rights to uranium deposits: he expressed the hope that new ways of handling uranium will soften anti-nuclear opposition in a few years time.

Contact: Alliance against Uranium Mining  
in BC  
No 405, 207 West Hastings St  
Vancouver BC, CANADA

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FIVE GROUPS BOYCOTT KEY LAKE HEARINGS

Five Saskatchewan anti nuclear groups have announced they are boycotting the hearings into the Key Lake uranium mine. The hearings begin June 16th.

In their statement the groups say they object to the terms of reference which allow the inquiry to examine only how the mine will proceed, not whether the mine is in the public interest. They say the Key Lake hearings are prejudiced by the provincial government's spending of millions of public money on uranium exploration and mining and by their allowing the Key LAke chain to be drained before the Key Lake Board was even appointed.

The groups criticise the Board's refusal to translate proceedings into Chee and Chipewyan, the language of the people living in the area of the proposed mine.

The groups call for a moratorium into uranium mining until a full and complete discussion is held on development in the North of Canada.

Contact: Saskatchewan Environmental Society, PO Box 1372, Saskatoon, Sask. S7K 3N9, CANADA

WHY PEOPLE SAY NO  
BOOK REVIEW

This new book documents the reasons why people oppose the Eldorado Nuclear uranium refinery proposed for Warman, Saskatchewan. The book is a compilation of parts of presentations at hearings held in January 1980. Staements are from farmers, Indians, workers, mothers, grandmothers, children, academics and activists, rural and urban. Produced cooperatively by Warman and District Concerned Citizens Group, the Saskatoon Citizens for a Non nuclear Society, and the Regina Group for a non-Nuclear Society, it has 125 pages and costs \$3.50 plus postage.

Contact: RGNNS publishing  
2230 Smith St  
Regina S4P 2P4 Canada

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URANIUM FROM ALBERTA PHOSPHATES

a \$10 million plant to extract uranium from phosphates is nearly completed in Alberta, Canada. Owned by Earth Sciences of Colorado, USA, it will extract an estimated 2 million pounds of uranium over twenty years. Most of the product will apparently go to US utilities.

The Development Appeal Board of Canada had originally rejected an application for the plant after citizens opposed it. However, the courts reversed this decision after Earth Sciences lodged an appeal.

Contact: Energy File  
No 307, 402 West Pender  
Vancouver,  
BC, CANADA tel 684 9629

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NEWBOYNE URANIUM PREVENTED

The Canadian energy company Gulf Minerals has been prevented from continuing uranium exploration in the eastern Ontario village of Newboyne after opposition by local people. Although Gulf stated that they were already abandoning the project "because there is no ore to mine" it is clear that, without the opposition, Gulf

(and the government owned Eldorado Nuclear) would have continued explorations.

In February, the London Mining Journal reported more opposition by farmers 100 km. from Ottawa to a Gulf exploration programme. Thanks to the farmers efforts, Gulf has received permission to drill in only one of twelve prospects.

Resources: Birch Bark Alliance  
c/o OPIRG  
Trent University  
Peterborough, Ontario, Can.  
tel 748 1544

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GREENLAND

GREENLAND URANIUM GOES TO DENMARK

Although there is a temporary postponement of uranium mining in Greenland - thanks to the opposition of groups such as the majority party Siumut - 5000 tonnes of ore is expected in Denmark this August.

In June a joint committee of Greenlanders and Danish members of parliament will meet to decide the future of the Narssaq mine. While the Greenlanders are opposed to any further developments, the Danish parliamentarians are expected to adopt a pro-nuclear stance.

Contact: Jens Karlsen  
Josefvej 526  
DK 3921 Narssaq Greenland

and COA Udlandsgruppe  
Skindergade 26'  
1159 Copenhagen, Denmark

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AUSTRALIA

NOONKANBAH: STRUGGLE CONTINUES

The Yungngora community is desperately and steadfastly fighting the intrusion of thirty different mining companies and individual prospectors on their land. (The resistance to AMAX can be read in Newsletter no 5).

A total of 600 mining tenements have been pegged out. Preliminary mining operations have seen sacred boards destroyed or stolen, and burial sites bulldozed.

The Yungngora community established itself in 1976, after a long history of struggle against European control and the demoralising effects of fringe dwelling in the nearby town of Fitzroy Crossing.

The community managed to temporarily avert AMAX on a significant sacred site. The community called for a three year moratorium on mining to allow them time to establish themselves independent of the destructive influence of mining on their land. This was officially supported by representatives of aboriginal communities across Australia at the national Land Rights conference, May 17 and 18 1980.

The Western Australia government insists on allowing the miners to go ahead. Conzinc Rio Tinto, a subsidiary of Rio Tinto Zinc, has found an enormous Diamond deposit in the area. There is also significant amounts of uranium.

In Yungngora people make no distinction between land and people. The government believes land is for exploitation, and people too it seems.

Contact: Kimberley Land Council  
PO Box 332  
Derby, WA 6728  
Please subscribe to their newsletter.

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SPECIAL SPECIAL

A MORATORIUM ON URANIUM MINING HAS BEEN DECLARED IN THE CANADIAN PROVINCES OF LABRADOR AND NEW FOUNDLAND. THIS HAPPENED AT THE BEGINNING OF JUNE. WHICH PROVINCES WILL FOLLOW?

RADIUM HILL: HIGH CANCER RATES

A July 1979 New South Wales government report on workers at Radium Hill uranium mine in South Australia, shows a cancer related death rate which is four times higher than the national average.

The report shows that since 1960, 59% of the miners who worked underground at Radium Hill over a period of two years have died of cancer.

In October 1979 the Health ministry was unable to confirm or deny this, with statistics available to them. The department is able to trace 600 of the 3000 employess. 40% of these people have dies of cancer. This figure is rising, as new people are traced.

It is expected, sadly, that the high statistics of death due to cancer and fibrosis in Navajo uranium miners will be mirrored at Radium Hill-

Contact: CANE  
320 Angus St  
Adelaide, 5000 SA  
Australia

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BEN LOMOND: LEASE IGNORES DANGERS

The Queensland government secretly granted the French based company Minatome (subsidiary of PUK) a uranium mining lease for the Ben Lomond uranium deposit, 50 km west of Townsville, March 27th.

The lease was granted 5 days before the Impact Assessment Study (IAS) was tabled in State Parliament. This is not an Environmental Impact statement and would not satisfy even federal standards. The Queensland State does not even demand such a statement: it was only made public on request.

The Ben Lomond mine site drains into the Keel Bottom Creek which lies

within the catchment area of the Burdekin River, an important river for agricultural purposes and possibly in the future drinking water.

The IAS did not consider the possibility of a tailings dam failure, or accidental spillage. The IAS does not consider workers health or that of the people of Townsville.

According to Queensland law, there is no way the public can comment.

Contact: Campaign against Nuclear Power  
PO Box 238  
North Quay, Brisbane 4000 Qld  
tel 221 0188

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AGAINST AUSTRALIA'S ENRICHMENT PLANS

On MAY 17th and 18th 150 anti-nuclear activists gathered in the Adelaide area for a weekend of protest against South Australian uranium plans. Their car cavalcade travelled from Adelaide to the industrial wasteland of Port Pirie. At Port Pirie lies the legacy of uranium mining in the 1950's, a tailings dump, for years not fenced off from the public. Port Pirie has an extremely high rate of still births, which studies are attributing to the radioactive tailings and lead from factories.

From Port Pirie the cavalcade went further on to Redcliff, the expected site of an uranium enrichment plant. This plant has been hitting the public light more and more recently. Urenco Centec (presently operation in England and Holland with plans for Germany) has had extensive talks with uranium producers in Australia, the consortium of Broken Hill Propriety, Peko Wallsend, Western Mining Corp., and CSR. On MAY 8 the US government announced it would support Australian enrichment plans.

Contact: Campaign against nuclear energy  
320 Angus St  
Adelaide 5000 SA

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THE TRACK TO BRALGU

This is probably the first book in the very short history of aboriginal written culture which deals with the effects of mining on aboriginal people.

The Track To Bralgu explores in a desperate story form white intrusion and white values.

Uranium exploration and mining has brought many tribal people to the verge of extinction. Wongar, the teller of the story and one of the last survivors, talks about the land and sacred places, a deep and ironic contrast to how the whites look at - and destroy - these same places.

This should be made available in book shops.

Picador, 1978, first published in Great Britain by Jonathan Cape Ltd.

ISBN 0 330 25919 9

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JABILUKA URANIUM DEALS LOOKING SHADY

Pancontinental Ltd has denied entering into contracts to sell uranium to Japan from its huge Jabiluka deposit in Australia's Northern Territory. Since Pancon has still not obtained government or aboriginal approval to go ahead with the mine, the original announcement that Nichimen (Pancon's Japanese agent) would import 500 tonnes from the mine, starting in 1985, was outrageously premature. Pancon's Chairperson Tony Grey denied the deal one week before the London Mining Journal announced that agreement had been reached.....

Pancon's original EIS has been substantially altered and the latest version is awaiting ministerial approval. This will almost certainly be given before the next dry season.

The Northern Land Council has not yet given approval of the project. Their land claim is due to be heard later this year, and if successful, could hold up the whole Jabiluka scheme.

In the final event, the Australian government can waive aboriginal consent "in the national interest". But, as aboriginal resistance to the Ranger mine demonstrated, the recently expressed optimism of Tony Grey could be misplaced.

Contact: Land Rights News  
PO box 3046  
Darwin NT 5794

Uranium Action Group  
PO Box 2120  
Darwin 5794

Action for Aboriginal Rights  
250 George St  
Fitzroy 3065 Vic  
tel (3) 416 266

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IRELAND

NINE PEOPLE GET ONE YEAR SENTENCE, SUSPENDED FOR TWO YEARS, FOR ANTI URANIUM ACTION

On May 19 nine activists in Ireland were given a one year jail sentence, suspended for two years. They were arrested in November 1979 for occupying the EEC building in Dublin, in protest against the Euratom Treaty. According to this treaty, Ireland is committed to developing a nuclear programme and making available to the EEC all fossil fuel, including uranium. The EEC covers 70% of the cost of developing the Irish uranium industry.

In an effort to diffuse publicity about the nuclear issue, the government offered the nine a deal: if they would plead guilty to the 'forcible occupation' charge, the 'malicious damage' charge would be dropped. The nine say in their statement "we found ourselves in a legal quandary. We had no legal defence against the forcible occupation charge. (They had occupied a room in the EEC building, and locked the door. In the time between entry and

arrest, the police did considerable damage to the antique furniture in the room, an act which the police claimed to be the fault of the demonstrators). If we tried to fight the case to focus attention on the EEC machinations it would merely have provoked a tougher sentence".

The nine were also protesting at uranium exploration by the minatom subsidiary Maugh, prospecting secretly in Carlow for four years.

The nine reaffirm that they feel they did nothing wrong and will continue to fight the uranium mining policy of the Irish government and the EEC. But the sentence means that failure to behave according to Irish law over the next 2 years would result in one years imprisonment.

Contact: EEC 9 Defence Collective  
60 Marlborough Road  
Dublin 7, Ireland

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THE URANIUM GRABBERS is the title of a pamphlet made and distributed by the Cork City anti nuclear groups, in Ireland. It presents information on the uranium mining and exploration companies active in Ireland, and a brief history of mining in other parts of the world. The pamphlet is used to help people in the uranium areas discuss and understand implications of mining.

Contact: Cork Anti nuclear Groups  
40 Paul St  
Cork, Ireland.

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MORE SABOTAGE IN DONEGAL

On the last weekend in May more uranium exploration equipment was sabotaged in Donegal.

The campaign in Donegal is becoming very strong, and the weekend of 27 and 28 June will see a national gathering of anti uranium mining activists in Fintona, Donegal. This will be primarily a strategy meeting.

A campaign is now beginning in Carlow, in the South, and at Newry Granite in Ulster, where Ulster Base Metals has just been granted permission to explore.

Contact: Donegal Uranium Committee  
c/o Ralph Sheppard  
Carnowen House, Raphoe  
Co Donegal, Ireland

Just Books  
7 Winetavern St  
Belfast BT1 1JQ

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GERMANY

GROUP FIGHTING URANIUM PROPOSALS IN NORTH EAST BAVARIA

EXXON has carried out test drillings in the Fichtelgebirge, north-east Bavaria, for a long time. Now a "uranium fever" has begun, and there are 80 potential uranium mining sites in the area.

Opposition began in 1978, when a farmer was given five days warning that Exxon would do test drillings on his land. The Arbeitskreis Uranabbau im Fichtelgebirge, a uranium mining working group in opposition to the developments, was formed in November 1978.

Contact: Gertrude Winkler  
Bahnhofstr. 37  
8664 Stambach tel 9256/1387  
West Germany



NETHERLANDS

NAMIBIAN URANIUM IN BORSSELE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT?

In a remarkable piece of research published in The Groene Amsterdammer, 23 April 1980, it's clear that not only uranium being enriched in Almelo, Holland, but also uranium fuelling the country's first nuclear power plant in Borssele, comes in part from Namibia.

The article traces the Namibian uranium starting from the biggest consumer of the Borssele electricity, Pechiney Aluminium. Pechiney gets very low, cut rate prices on the electricity. It also supplies the uranium, via its subsidiary Comurex, at Malwesi in France. Officially the uranium used in the Netherlands comes from Gabon and Niger, but at Malwesi all the uranium is piled on to one heap before the hexafluoride process - at which time it loses any nationality it ever may have had.

The article goes into extensive detail about the whole Pechiney fabric of companies. This giant multinational has a finger in every nuclear pie except waste dumping and weapons. The Cap La Hague reprocessing plant is also directly linked, through directorship places.

Pechiney has enormous aluminium mining interests in the world, including Australia.

For the full report, in English or Dutch, contact

Dave van Ooyen  
Milieudefensie  
2e Weteringplantsoen 9  
Amsterdam tel 221366

SPAIN

URANIUM IN EXTREMADURA

In El Ecologista of January, 1980 an article was printed about the visit of two people to the Extremadura uranium mine. They found the subject of uranium taboo: no-one talked, were scared, or there was no information. They were scared of getting ill, or were dying. The place was in fact the nightmare of the atomic state. Through detective methods, the visitors discovered what the company Junta de Energia Nuclear (JEN) was trying to hide: mine workers were dying like rats.

Uranium mining begun in la Habla in 1965/66. The first mine is now finished. There are plans to make that mine a dump for radioactive waste. In 1976 a mill was established. Exploration has indicated that there is more uranium in the area.

Uranium is killing the mineworkers.

The following statistics cover 50% of the mineworkers.

The average lifespan of a la Habla worker is 54; they begin employment at about 27 and work for about 22 years. If they started when they were 20, they would probably die at 42, because after 15 or 20 years the effects of radiation become evident. All mineworkers are pensioned off because of sickness. Not one gets the pension because of age. They die after one or two years.

If a mineworker becomes sick, he is taken to another city or town, so that his comrades do not find out what has happened.

These are the facts about the health of mineworkers:

- chronic tiredness 54.1%
- lung and bronchial defects 25%
- low blood pressure 54.1%
- heart problems 9%
- urinary canal diseases 17%
- eye disease 9%
- digestive system disease 13%
- Internal bleeding 12%
- 30% of all the women have had a miscarriage.



A uranium mine weakens and degenerates normal organs. A mineworker therefore can die of a slight infection or wound. This is only one aspect of the anxiety producing results of a uranium mine. This article is an excerpt from a book which is soon to be published: it explores the situation in la Serena, la Siberia and Las Vegas Altas, areas in Extremadura.

Contact: El Ecologista  
c/- Segovia 24-60  
Madrid 5  
Spain

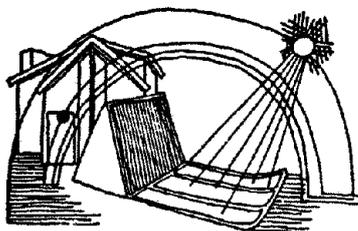
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A Spanish collection of information on uranium mining can be obtained through Josef Puig Boix  
c/- Biscaia no 340, apartment 186  
Barcelona 27  
Spain.

This report was urged by CAMON, (Coordination d'Ajustaments per a la Morotoria Nuclear). This groups 20 city councils opposing uranium exploration and uranium exploitation in Catalonia. The object of the report is to supply city councils and ordinary people with information, as this has never been done by the mining companies.

ITALY

We wish to tell interested groups of the existence of a Italian group interested in the struggle against uranium mining. Geologia Democratica (Democratic Geology) is a publication which can be obtained through  
CLUED  
via Celoria 20  
20133 Milano  
Italy



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FRANCE

The Comité de Défence et d'Information sur les Mines en Savoie will occupy the site of a planned uranium mine at La Lansière (Savoie) on June 29 1980. The municipalities, Conseil General, local associations and the local population has opposed the mining development, yet MINATOME (a Pechiney subsidiary) has received three mining permits in the area.

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INDUSTRY NEWS

MINES FEAR KEEWATIN URANIUM MOROTORIUM

News of the North, May 2 1980 reports Northern Minerals Advisory Committee is afraid that a morotorium on all uranium activity in the Canadian NorthWest Territories may be called. The NMAC estimates that as many as four uranium properties have the potential of becoming \$100 million producers. The mines are at Coppermine (British Petroleum), Baker Lake (Western Mines), and Highwood Resources, 60 miles Southwest of Yellowknife.

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Nucleonics week of June 5 reports a discovery of 20,000 tonne uranium deposit in France's Coutras region, raising Frances current estimated reserves by 20% to 120,000 tonnes. This was announced by COGEMA. Cogema's profits for its whole nuclear chain last year was \$1.61 billion - 33% higher than last year.

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In Revealing Japan, June 1980, that DONEN, the Japanese Atomic reactor and nuclear fuel company, will undertake uranium mining in Zambia, near the Zimbabwe border.

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Randfontein Estates Gold Mining Company, Witwatersrand, Limited, had a netprofit of 14,932 thousand R's in the year ending 1979 from its uranium mines, 6 times that of the year before. This was reported in the International Herald Tribune, 25.4.80.

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An estimated 10.7 million tons of high grade uranium ore has been discovered in South Korea, near Seoul, according to the Korean Resources Development Institute, it was reported in the Wall Street Journal.

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Australia is expected to be the long-term supplier of uranium for a nuclear reactor which the United States has agreed to sell to the Philippines. The plant will consume 150 tonnes of uranium per year. This was reported in Radio Australia News.

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Whether or not the uranium market will collapse in a few years time, as suggested by a recent report from the Science Policy Research unit of Sussex University, some American mines are facing real difficulties in the face of a decreasing price for uranium. In April, Pathfinders Mines (of Utah International) declared it would cut production at two U mines from May 1980. 200 workers would be laid off at its Lucky Mac mine, and another 40 workers at its Big Eagle mine. Utah blamed also "excessive government regulations". Union Carbide announced two weeks later it would close down its U leaching operations at Palagana in Texas. A week after that, the Pennsylvania Light and Power company stated it would abandon an exploration and development programme in Utah and Colorado - due to increasing costs for decreasing returns.

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Yugoslavia's first uranium mine, currently being constructed by Fluor (USA) near Ljubljana, will dry the tailings and recycle water within the mine. The mine is in an area with a high population, large rainfall, permeable geology and subject to Seismic action. The mine sits on a river which is a part of the potential domestic water supply in Ljubljana.

Yugoslavia is currently developing three plants for the extraction of uranium from phosphoric acid, and is building its first nuclear power plant near Krsko, in Slovenia. Source: London Mining Journal, April 18 1980.

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After securing Australia's first overseas contract last year - and narrowly failing to get the first of British Columbia's supplies, Korea has now entered a joint venture to mine U in Gabon. Korean state KECO will hold 41% shares, with COGEMA of France holding 49%, and the Gabonese government 10%.

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#### RIO TINTO SLINKS

Rio Tinto Zinc - the largest single producer of uranium and the worst corporate exploiter of native peoples in the world, seems about to grab Cerro Colorado in Panama. Site of the country's largest copper deposit, Cerro Colorado is also at the heart of the Guaymi Indian lands. Both the Catholic Bishop of David (Chiriqui) and the Latin American Working group have expressed fears that mining would mean an end to Guaymi culture, thanks to pollution, relocation, social disruption and disease. The Canadian company Texasgulf originally entered a partnership with the government agency CODEMIN to do a feasibility study on Cerro Colorado. Texasgulf now appear to have withdrawn, but mining sources in Panama state that Rio Tinto Zinc recently paid \$2 million to take over

Texasgulf's role.  
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More uranium news to be read in Nuclear Fuel, a biweekly report from the editors of Nucleonics Week.

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URANIALISM IN THE EIGHTIES AND BEYOND

200,000 tonnes of reasonably assured uranium reserves (available at below \$80/kilo) have been "discovered" in the last two years, according to the OECD and IAEA in its latest report on uranium supply. The so-called uranium red-book attributes these new resources to discoveries in Brazil, Canada, Greenland, South Africa and the USA. However, the report concludes that even under the International Nuclear Fuel Cycle Evaluation (INFCE) forecasts of low nuclear growth, annual requirements could reach 100,000 tonnes per annum in 200AD. This is taking into account the recycling of uranium, and plutonium and their use in Fast Breeder Reactors. Such a production level would be three times what it is now. The report envisages a surplus of uranium through the eighties, thanks to the opening up of major new mines and expansions among the traditional suppliers of north America. Until the turn of the century, the OECD/IAEA working group is happy that known resources will be adequate to support anticipated growth of nuclear power. At that point, however, "uranium supply will come to depend more and more on resources which will have to be explored for, discovered and brought into production between now and then." Reading between the lines of the report

it is clear that the working group envisages a majority of these new resources coming from third world countries, where technological and environmental restraints (and a lowering in ore grade) are not such important factors. Brazil and the Central African Republic would appear to be eminent candidates for such uranium "imperialism". But not only does the uranium industry depend on consistent growth in nuclear power around the world, it also faces the prospect of decreasing prices for its product, and the growth of opposition also in those areas. The market is slipping away from the boom of the mid seventies. There are many examples of uranium mines closing down or cutting back... A swallow doesn't make a summer - but it can certainly cause a flap or two!

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This newsletter is on<sup>e</sup> of the World Information Service on Energy's services to the anti nuclear and soft energy movements. WISE also publishes a two-monthly bulletin, 20 pages of news, events and resources on the anti nuclear and alternative energy movement around the world. SUBSCRIPTION to the bulletin costs \$7.50 per year. MEMBERSHIP of WISE, which includes a bulletin subscription, is f30 Dutch guilders (US\$15) per year.

WISE also produces every two weeks a news communique service, for movement press.

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Deadline for next Newsletter: 14 July  
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