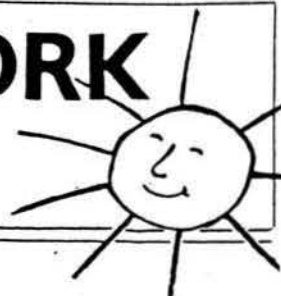


ANTI-NUCLEAR NETWORK NEWSLETTER

NO. 14 - Mar/Apr 1989



Israel, Norway and the Bomb



MILNER-SYGMA

Whistle-blower: Jailed worker Vanunu

Mordechai Vanunu, a former Israeli technician, is currently serving an eighteen year sentence for revealing the existence of Israel's bomb to the world. His brother, Meir, spoke at a workshop at the recent International Congress of Radical Anti-Nuclear Groups about the web of intrigue that surrounds Israel's bomb.

The Israeli nuclear programme started in 1959 with the construction of a supposedly "civil" nuclear reactor at Dimona with French assistance. Since that time the plant has been shrouded in secrecy. Neither the Israeli parliament nor public has discussed the subject. Yet today Israel is widely known to be the sixth largest nuclear power, with perhaps 100 - 200 warheads. Israel is not a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. The Israeli government neither confirms nor denies that it possesses nuclear weapons.

Recently the Norwegian government revealed the existence of a secret contract with Israel to supply "heavy water". The contract started in 1959 and was conditional on the peaceful use of material. However, according to Meir Vanunu, the heavy water was undoubtedly used in the production of thermonuclear bombs.

Mordechai Vanunu was convicted in Israel of treason, espionage grave, and breaking state secrets. In order to stand trial he was kidnapped from Italy by Israeli secret service men. One year was taken off his original twenty year sentence because of the kidnapping, and one year because he kept in strict solitary confinement. He spends all day in a cell measuring 3 metres by 3 metres, watched constantly by a video camera. Even visits from his priest are attended by secret serviceman. His relatives are only allowed one one-hour visit per month.

His appeal is due in May. It is the responsibility of the Anti-Nuclear Movement to campaign for his release.

Contact: The Campaign to Free Vanunu, PO Box 1328, London NW6.

Vanunu's address for letters of support in prison is:

Mordechai Vanunu, Ashkelon Prison, Ashkelon, ISRAEL.

Collection Laka foundation

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International Conference of Radical Anti-Nuclear Groups

The first international conference of the "Radical Anti-Nuclear Movement" was held in Ede-Wageningen in the Netherlands in early February. More than one hundred activists from the Netherlands, West Germany, Britain, France, Sweden, Finland, Switzerland and Spain attended the four day conference.

The first day was taken up mainly with talks on the situation in each country, looking at the strengths, tactics and main concerns of groups and national movements. The second day was spent on the wide issue of nuclear transport. Small groups met together to exchange information about the border-crossing routes of nuclear materials (eg. spent fuel shipped from the Netherlands via Immingham to sellafield and returned by same route after reprocessing). Tactics and ideas for action were discussed. Day 3 consisted of workshops on subjects such as Namibian uranium, US and Canadian uranium, nuclear waste storage, catastrophe plans, and one taken by the brother of Mordechai Vanunu (see separate article).

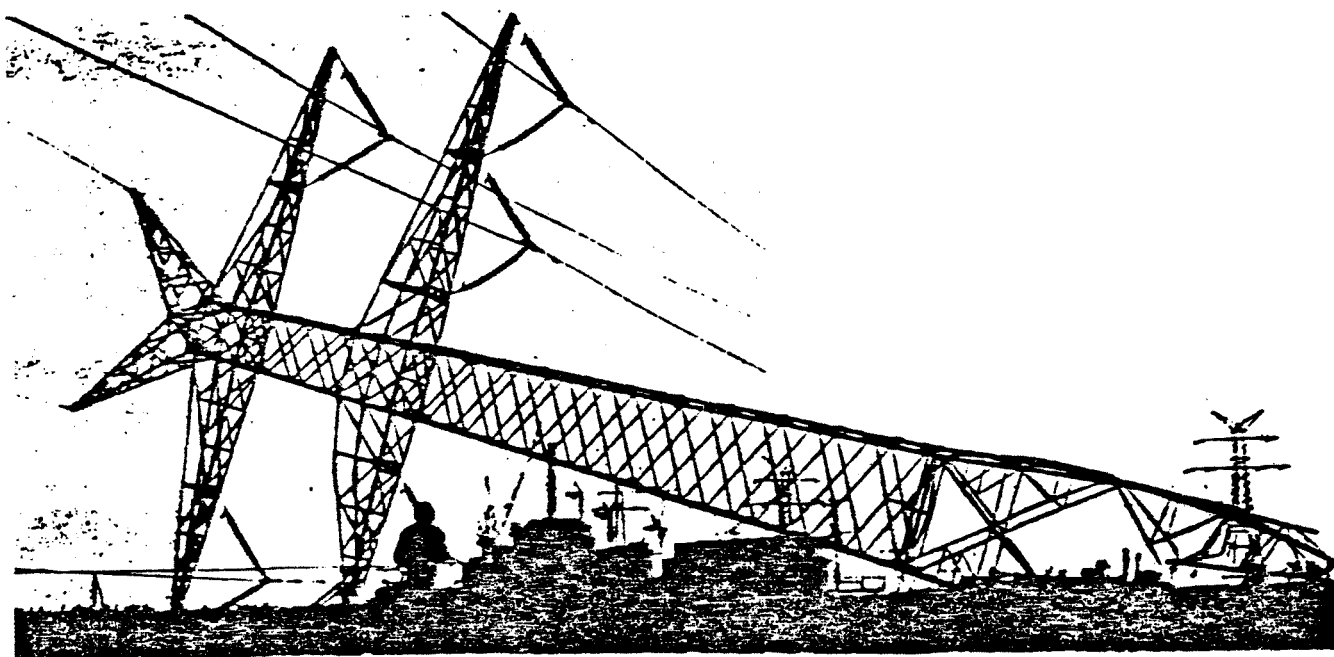
There were numerous chances to meet and talk informally with activist from other countries and share experiences. There were also videos from various countries shown each evening, including a film on the protests at the proposed Wackersdorf reprocessing plant in West Germany.

The historical and current situation in each country may vary; but the struggle between direct action and more conservative tactics and the increasing state repression (eg. long prison sentences in W. Germany) are common to the whole European movement. Increasing co-operation between governments and nuclear industries in Europe make closer international co-operation between the radical groups essential. The conference was an inspiring step in this direction.

On the last day it was decided to form an International Information Network, which will produce a bi-monthly newsletter based in the Netherlands. This will provide information on such issues as the international transport of nuclear material; state repression; actions; campaigns and calls for solidarity between countries.

Another international conference is planned for next year, probably in Sweden. Spanish groups are holding an international gathering at a nuclear plant in Valencia in June.

Contact: Congress Anti-Nuclear Power Movement, PO Box 8094, 6710 AB, Ede, Holland.
Tel (01031)



West German anti nuclear protesters destroy an electricity pylon near Wackersdorf.

NETWORK

BNFL intend to transport plutonium from Sellafield to Japan via Prestwick airport. Shipments will travel by road to Prestwick and by Boeing 747 freightliner non-stop to Japan. A local Campaign Against Plutonium Transportation has been set up to oppose the plans.



Contact: Carol George, 26 Morris Road, Prestwich.

Leeds Anti-Nuclear Group designs, makes and sells badges, stickers and other materials for the anti-nuclear cause. For a free catalog write to: John Blakey, 12 Kendal Lane, Leeds LS3 1AY.

The London Nuclear Information Unit is holding a series of meeting under the title "War and Peacetime disaster planning in London". The meetings are:

Tues 21 March - The next nuclear accident: Is London prepared?

Wed 7 June - The day before the bomb: London in crisis.

Tues 5 Sept - Business meeting of the South East Forum of NFZ local authorities.

Wed 22 Nov - War plan London: Protecting the public.

All meetings take place at The Council Chamber, Camden Town Hall, Euston Road (entrance in Judd Street), London NW1 2RU at 7.30 pm. Contact LNIU, Room 326a, Town Hall, Euston Road, London NW1 2RU. Tel 01-

News round

Jan 19 - The UK Atomic Energy Authority, Rolls Royce and US firms are planning to develop and build a small PWR at Winfrith in Dorset, within the next 10 years.

26th - In the last six months of 1988 ten percent of the American MX missiles were dismantled for repair after one of them fell from its moorings.

27th - The Swedish Atomic Energy Board said that radioactivity had leaked from the Asea Boveri nuclear fuel plant five times between Dec 28 and Jan 12.

28th - Aerial monitoring by the Scottish Research and Reactor Centre (East Kilbride) has found radioactive contamination from Chernobyl 40 times higher than Government estimates.

Feb 1 - The CEBG has said it intends to build a third nuclear reactor at Sizewell.

4th - Heysham, Hartlepool and Dungeness AGR's are suffering from corrosion and cracking problems.

4th - Two Japanese reactors were shut down after a defect in a water recycling pump was found.

6th - A Friends of the Earth survey discovered radioactive contamination five times the official safety limit around the river Esk near Sellafield.

6th - A reactor at Dungeness had to be shut down due to an accident during loading.

Continued on page 7.

Anti-Nuclear Network Conference - 18th February 1989

Present: Hinkley Action Group, Merseyside NVDA group, Haringey DA group, CANUC, Lancashire Against Nuclear Dumping, Camden ALarm, Crewe A.N.G., Brighton A.N.G., Exeter @s, Direct Action, London Greenpeace, S.H.E.

After introductions, groups reported on present anti-nuclear activities. Some salient points were:

LAND - set up to oppose nuclear dump at Heysham. Had held demonstrations, camps on the site, blockades, lobbying, public meetings and mass leafletting.

Merseyside - actions around Capenhurst. Links with Faslane.

Hinkley Action Group - set up to oppose plans for Hinkley C. Have held pickets of L.E.B. offices, hung banners on motorway bridges, graffitti etc. Also concentrating on nuclear trains.

Haringey DA group - involved in producing ANN newsletter. Held alternative meeting at opening of Hinkley inquiry. Went to Upper Heyford demo.

There was a report from the International Conference of Radical Anti-Nuclear Groups (see article).

There was then a general discussion on the state of the anti-nuclear power movement in Britain, focussing on four main areas: Privatisation, PWR programme, Nuclear Dumping and Direct Action. Workshops were held on the last three during the afternoon.

Privatisation

The Government is being hypocritical over the power sell off. The consumer will have to pay a 'nuclear tax' to cover the cost of the PWR programme, decommissioning and nuclear waste disposal. The Boards will be forced to take 20% of power from nuclear stations.

What can we do?

- * Disrupt shareholders meetings as in present PARTIZANS campaign against RTZ. Suggest CANE might do a feasibility study for the movement to see if buying a block of shares would be worth it. HDAG will contact them.
- * The sell-off gives us a good opportunity to raise awareness of dangers of n.p. Posters - HAG to convert previous artwork. Graffitti on advert billboards.
- * A leaflet linking privatisation with fuel poverty - Brighton.
- * Harrassment of local boards to research and fund alternative energy.
- * Gathering info on companies who are buying into the electricity generating industry - Camden ALarm to investigate with FOE.

PWR programme

Hinkley inquiry is due to end in the Summer. Barnes is rushing through final stages. "Hinkley Inquirer" produced by SHE gives the protesters point of view. A demonstration has been called by a group called BLOCKADE Against Hinkley for Sat 24th June. Agreed to support this. The main activity will be a blockade of the site on Saturday at 10am. However other activities are planned on the Friday. The emphasis will be on Direct Action now that the inquiry is coming to an end. HAG will send a map of the site to the newsletter.

Nuclear dumping

There was a discussion of the ANN position on dumping (see letters). LAND put forward their view. Voted to continue to argue for opposition to all dumping whilst working with groups such as LAND who take a more moderate position.

Heysham dump - the CEGB says it will be spent fuel waiting to be reprocessed, but it is likely to become a long term dump for high level nuclear waste. The costs of reprocessing are likely to become prohibitive.

Planning permission is to be put to the council in June. There may be a public inquiry. There is lots of public support for the campaign against the dump.

What we can do:

- * Ensure that the message that spent fuel is high level waste gets through.
- * Publicise the campaign
- * Be prepared to build support for a mass demonstration at short notice - possibly when the plans are submitted in June.
- * Links to waste transport.

LAND are producing an info pack in which they hope to broaden the issue. They want to build links with other groups. Contact LAND, c/o 61 Regent Street, Lancaster.

Direct Action

This workshop was based around the demo at Capenhurst to be held on Sat 22nd April. There will be speakers, vigils, music, a women's gate and non-violent direct action. Contact Merseyside CND, 24 Hardman Street, Liverpool L1 9AX. Tel 051- 708 7764.

Some points from the discussion on direct action:

Leaflets before events.

Get support from those not involved in direct action.

Training sessions/ Guidelines

Join up with others - avoid isolation.

Publicity afterwards to say what was achieved.

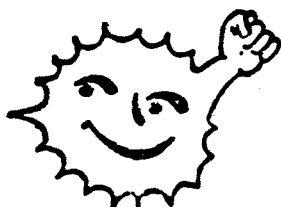
Feedback on conference

It was generally felt that this conference had seen us develop a much clearer identity as the 'direct action' or 'radical' wing of the movement. It was good to find out what other groups were doing and to come away with some specific actions that could be followed up. One person felt that the conference should be two-day in future.

Next conference

The next conference of the Anti-Nuclear Network is being organised by Hinkley Action Group and will be held on Sat 27th May from 10am to 5pm at St. Werburgh's Community Centre, Horley Road, Bristol. For more info and to send donations write to Hinkley Action Group, c/o Unit G, Amos Castle Trading Estate, Junction Road, Bristol BS4 3JP.

To contact the Anti-Nuclear Network Newsletter write to Box 30, 187 High Road, Wood Green, London N22. Please make all donations out to "Haringey Direct Action Group".



Letters

From

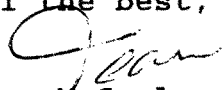
CORE

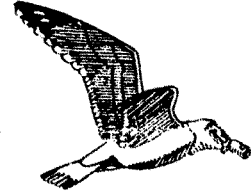
Cumbrians Opposed to a Radioactive Environment,
98 Church Street,
Barrow in Furness,
Cumbria. Tel (0229)33851
28/1/89

Dear ANN,

Reading your Jan\Feb newsletter I felt I had to write in response to the article on the proposed Heysham above-ground dry store. CORE, along with Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and many other anti-nuclear/anti-dumping groups agreed a policy of above-ground dry storage at the site of origin for nuclear waste in December 1987. This policy has met with approval by those who live around Heysham and in North Lancashire who accept storage of what will be produced by Heysham reactors. What the people of Heysham and Morecambe object to (like many Cumbrians) is that they should become a national dumping ground - thus increasing transport risks and making a scape-goat out of one area. Greenpeace, CORE and Friends of the Earth share that view. Although LAND is only opposed to the dump itself FoE, Greenpeace and CORE (all of whom are completely anti-nuclear) will continue to support the protest the group is making. Therefore you were quite wrong to suggest that the anti-nuclear group has hoisted itself by its own petard. I don't object to anybody having a side-swipe at CORE and I am sure FoE and Greenpeace can take the flak. However, if you are going to do this sort of thing make sure you get your facts straight.

all the best,


Jean McSorley (Campaign Secretary)



P.S. Whoever wrote the country diary must know more than the rest of Cumbria does. All the black-headed gulls left the Ravenglass estuary - for good - some two years ago. The discharges from Drigg are still miniscule compared to those coming directly from Sellafield's pipeline.

OUR REPLY to CORE

Dear Jean,

Firstly - thankyou for your letter. This is an important issue for the anti-nuclear movement and we welcome the opportunity to debate it with you. We realise from comments we have received that many anti-nuclear groups, including LAND, support the point of view you have expressed. However the Anti-Nuclear Network does not agree with the position that FOE, Greenpeace and yourselves take on the issue of nuclear dumping. We, like you, are totally opposed to nuclear power. The issue is a question of tactics.

You say that you object to the area becoming a "national dumping ground" for nuclear waste, but that you don't object to it being a dump for waste which is locally produced. So your argument with the CEBG is not over the principle of a nuclear dump at Heysham, but purely over the quantity and place of origin of the waste. We, on the other hand, are totally opposed to any dumping of nuclear waste. We would support any group, no matter how NIMBY, in character, who opposed this dump.

The argument that comes back is "The waste has been produced - it has to be dumped/ stored somewhere". But this is simply the point of view of the Government. Our argument is that there is no solution to the problem of nuclear waste. Our aim is to close down the nuclear industry as soon as possible, and stop this waste being created. Part of this process is to make it politically impossible for the Government to dump or store nuclear waste at any site. We stopped them at Elstow, Fulbeck, Killingholme and Bradwell in 1987. We can stop them at Heysham. Every time they try a new site they politicise more people against nuclear power.

continued next page....

Letters - continued...

Also we are not concerned about the FOE/ Greenpeace arguments about the merits of various dumping or storage options, we want the nuclear programme halted as our first priority.

The position of the Anti-Nuclear Network does not prevent us from supporting protests organised by LAND. We are opposed to the dump and so are they. People, many of whom were not at all opposed to the nuclear programme, are very angry and rightly so. We hope to work alongside them and persuade them to oppose all nuclear power stations and all nuclear dumps.

Yours for a nuclear free future,

HDAG, on behalf of the Anti-Nuclear Network

NEWS ||||| ROUND

continued from page 3.

February

6th - Pakistan has successfully tested a long range missile. Pakistan is accused by India of having developed nuclear warheads.

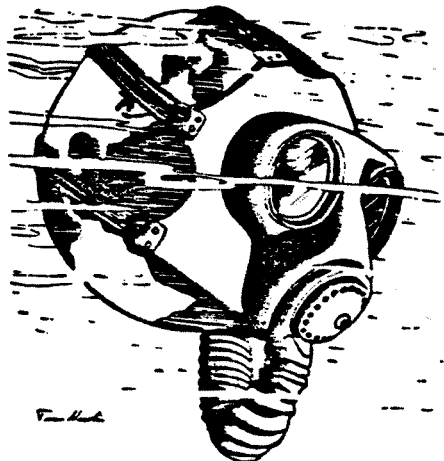
7th - The South of Scotland Electricity Board was fined £1500 for a breach of safety at Hunterston nuclear power station on the Clyde, for failing to keep on an emergency back up diesel generator.

8th - The Australian Supreme Court has awarded £300,000 compensation to an Australian who was present at the British A-bomb test site in the 1950's.

10th - The Government conceded that nuclear electricity cost 10% more than conventionally generated power.

10th - The Soviet news agency TASS said that a fifth of Byelorussia is still contaminated by Chernobyl fallout, and that health monitoring of more than 300,000 residents is continuing.

16th - Deformed animals born on a farm 30 miles from Chernobyl have increased fears about the lasting environmental damage from the 1986 disaster.



Diary

- Wed 22 March - Picket of Tokyo Electric Power Company. Lunchtime 12 - 2pm. TEPCO is the only Japanese power company still buying uranium from South Africa and Namibia. Organised by the Campaign Against the Namibian Uranium Contract. The address for the picket is 30 Charles the Second Street, SW1. Contact CANUC 01-267 1941 for more details.
- Sun 2 April - CND demonstration. Symbolic action passing resources along human chains from the Ministry of Defence, Whitehall to the DHSS, Elephant & Castle. Assemble 12 noon for rally at Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park, St Georges Rd, SE1 (Lambeth North and Elephant & Castle tubes). Is this CND's attempt to confuse everyone??
- Sat 22 April - Capenhurst demonstration. (see ANN conference report for details)
- Sat 27 May - Anti Nuclear Network conference, Bristol.(ditto)
- 16,17,18 Jun - Glastonbury festival. Advance tickets cost £28 from: CND(Festival), 22 - 24 Underwood Street, London N1 7JG. Infoline - Tel. 01-251 0028.
- Fri 23 June - Pre-demonstration meeting organised by Blockade Against Hinkley. 2pm at Otter Hampton Village Hall, Combwich, Somerset. There may also be events taking place earlier in the day.
- Sat 24 June - Demonstration at proposed Hinkley C PWR site. Organised by BLAH. Blockade of main site gate 10am. Groups are asked to organise their own autonomous actions around this event.

Anti Nuclear Network Newsletter No 15

The next Newsletter will come out in early May, barring (nuclear) accidents. As usual we are short of cash. Please help us by taking out a subscription if you haven't already done so, or sending a donation if you have. Also keep sending the info. - we welcome letters or articles about the nuclear industry or anti-nuclear campaigns.

Please note our new address.



Anti-Nuclear Network, Box 30, 187 High Road, Wood Green, London N22.

subscribe

Please make cheques out to Haringey Direct Action Group.

Name.....Tel.....

Address.....

Organisation (if any).....

I enclose a donation of £..... towards the production costs of the ANN newsletter. (£3 would be a normal yearly subscription, unwaged free, if you want bulk copies for distribution to your organisation please contact us).

