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CAMPAIGN AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER NEWSLETTER



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FRASER OK'S PACIFIC N-WASTE DUMP 1-2 MILLION BARRELS A YEAR

Japan has plans to dump between one and two million drums of low level radioactive waste annually into the Pacific Ocean, according to a report compiled by Greenpeace Japan.

The Christian Conference of Asia (CCA) forwarded the report to Australia last month, along with the highlights of an interview with Dr Sadao Ichikawa, Professor, Laboratory of Genetics, Department of Regulation Biology, Saitama University, Japan.

Professor Ichikawa is a world authority on the biological effects of radiation and pioneered the work of detecting radiation and its effects through the use of the Spiderwort plant.

The Japanese proposed to spend about two and a half years on a safety assessment and evaluation of a trial dumping plan of 10,000 drums of waste.

EARTH QUAKE BELT

The area where the dumping is to take place — 900 km north of the Mariana Islands — has been described by Australian experts as being in one of the most active earthquake belts in the north-west Pacific.

In the interview on June 30, 1980, Professor Ichikawa made the following points.

1. Nobody knows the effects on concrete-steel drums at such depth and pressure and subject to ocean currents. His own work indicates the probability that concrete becomes porous under

pressure with time. The effects of earthquakes undersea are also unknown.

2. An adequate testing period for this process of dumping low-level nuclear waste would be a minimum of ten to fifteen years in his estimation. The effects of radio-activity leaking from waste dumped off the east coast of the US in the early fifties are now showing up.

spiderwort plants which he disperses over a wide area for monitoring purposes.

4. Low-level waste dumping is the precursor to high level dumping.

5. Japan wants to become independent of the USA in its nuclear technology. It therefore wants to "close" its nuclear fuel cycle. The end of the cycle is thus the disposal of waste in the

"I give up, dear.
What has
Spike found in
our yard?"



3. He made the obvious point that if it was really so safe then it would be acceptable to dump the waste off Japan's coast. However, his field work around coastal nuclear installations in Japan has revealed traces of radioactivity over a wide area including the sand on the beaches and mutations in the

Pacific Ocean. The parallel development of missile technology which is presently occurring in Japan will enable Japan to combine the two technologies with speed and ease anytime to build nuclear weapons. Hence also the importance of Australia as a uranium source.

Prof. Ichikawa believes that the nuclear industry is following its normal practice with nuclear dumping, that is, finding the quickest and cheapest solution to its problems.

Sydney University's professor in geology, Professor Gordon Packham, and senior lecturer in geophysics, Mr David Falvey, say the dump would violate practically all the criteria recommended by US scientists who have examined the plan's feasibility.

The scientists said dumping areas should be:

- REMOTE from earthquake zones, volcanoes and continental land masses.

- IN DEEP water near the centre of large ocean current, circulation patterns with sluggish bottom water movement and an adequate and consistent sediment cover.

The Mariana Trench is on the eastern side of one of the most active earthquake belts in the north-west Pacific, according to Professor Packham and Mr Falvey.

"West of the trench is a chain of active volcanoes," they said.

COMMENT

The Campaign Against Nuclear Power condemns the Australian Government for betraying the Pacific Island peoples by not bringing diplomatic and economic pressure to bear on Japan to stop the nuclear waste dumping plans.

The reason is evident considering last month's announcement

by the Deputy Prime Minister Mr Anthony of the sale of a large quantity of yellowcake from the Ranger mine to Japanese power utilities.

The deal has been finalised before talks on a bilateral nuclear safeguards treaty have been completed.

The Fraser Government is allowing the Japanese to use the Pacific Ocean as a nuclear toilet despite the harmful long term effects, without protest, because of the vested interests of its mining company friends.

The problems to Australia involved in the long term disposal of wastes from used uranium will not end once yellowcake leaves Australian soil.

The only solution is the withdrawal of uranium contracts and international planning to end the use of nuclear power in favour of the development of renewable energy resources.

Your support is requested in the form of a letter of protest to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Andrew Peacock, Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600.

Send also a letter of protest to the Consulate-General of Japan, 26th Level, Brisbane Plaza, 68 Queen Street, Brisbane, Qld. 4000.

Workingbee

Every Sat. 1-5

147 Ann St., BRISBANE.



NUCLEAR VETERANS CANCERS REVEALED

A national register of Nuclear Veterans is revealing an alarming level of health problems.

Between three and four hundred names of prisoners of war, occupation force veterans and atomic test veterans are already on the register being established by the Australian Nuclear Veterans' Association.

The raw data shows cancers, sterility, nervous disorders, tumors, blood diseases, skin disorders of unusual nature, premature ageing and problems in children. From the test

veterans' reports, there are 90 cases of cancer, 77 of these

Collected in 1970-1971. The last ten years.

AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR VETERANS' ASSOCIATION
President's Report, September 1980

PACIFIC DELEGATES TO VISIT BRISBANE

Two delegates to the Nuclear Free Pacific Forum in Sydney will visit Queensland from Thursday, October 2 to Saturday, October 4.

They are Mr. Roman Bedor from Palau and Mr Mark Pomare from Tahiti.

Mr Bedor is an activist in the Palauan People's Committee which sponsored a successful campaign to achieve a nuclear free constitution for the Pacific Island country.

Palau is in the Caroline Islands of Micronesia, a U.S. trust territory and the location preferred by U.S. military for a

Trident nuclear submarine base

Mr Pomare is a member of the Polynesian Liberation Front and was a delegate to the Nuclear Free Pacific Conference in Hawaii in May.

Both delegates are well informed on the present situation regarding the intrusion of nuclear weapons, submarines and military bases in the South Pacific area.

As well both speakers will be able to detail plans by Japan, U.S.A. and other countries for using the Pacific for nuclear waste storage and 'disposal'.

PUBLIC MEETING

WITH

Mr Bedor and Mr Pomare is to be held on

Thursday 2nd October

7.30 p.m.

City Hall

Brisbane

All campaigners are urged to attend and bring your wavering friends to this important informative session. Supper will be served.

BUSH DANCE

WITH



BALE EM UP BUSH BAND

AT

Caxton Street
Community Club
17 Caxton St.
Petrie Terrace
ON

FRIDAY
SEPTEMBER 19

COME TO THE GENERAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 16

AND

OCTOBER 14

AT

7.30 P.M. FLOOR 9

CANBERRA HOTEL

ELECTION ACTION

Many candidates have returned completed questionnaires to our office.

In order to effectively analyse and publicise the results an election action working group is being formed in Brisbane.

As the federal election is to be held soon there is some urgency in preparing this information.

Anyone who is interested in being involved in such a short term project is asked to contact Ron Leeks or Joan Shears on 221 0188.

NUCLEAR POWER AND WEAPONS CONNECTION

Although supposedly tough measures exist to try to contain the proliferation of nuclear weapons, physicist Amory B. Lovins has exposed further links between "peaceful" nuclear power and atomic bombs.

U.S. policy has lately rested on a distinction between "proliferation prone fuel cycles" (using highly enriched uranium (HEU)) and "proliferation resistant cycles" (using low enriched uranium (LEU)).

It is considered that plutonium (bomb material) is very difficult to obtain from LEU cycles (which is the dominant type in electricity generating nuclear reactors overseas) without complicated, expensive technology and a great risk of detection by international authorities.

This reasoning is false. The fact is that any grade of plutonium can be made into bombs. An LEU power station can be modified to produce moderate amounts of weapons grade plutonium, without being detected, at no extra cost.

One hundred bombs per reactor per year could be made in an covert operation, but significantly, theft of a few bombs' worth of plutonium per year in a clandestine operation would be within statistical error under current accounting procedures. Such a reactor would have an innocent "civilian cover" instead of being an obvious military factory.

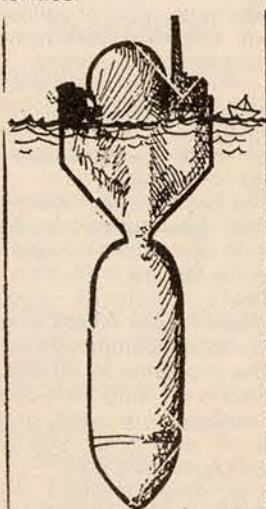
The U.S. under President Carter has tried to prevent highly enriched uranium technology ("breeder" reactors etc) from being developed.

This means, says Lovins, that all nuclear fission technology is unsafeguardable in principle.

Many Governments assume that the spread of nuclear energy is economically essential, and efforts to inhibit spread of bombs should not interfere with this. But Non-Proliferation, an ideal so often quoted to us by the Australian Government, is inconsistent with a commitment to nuclear electricity generation.

Situation grave, but as Wallace Stevens said:

"After the final no there comes a yes and on that yes the future of the world depends."
NOT MAN APART, August 1980



In a series of confusing manoeuvres, the Federal Government, two Australian mining companies, an international consortium of banks and several nuclear power companies have worked out a way to finance the mining, processing and sale of about a third of the yellowcake contained in the Ranger uranium deposit.



FINANCIAL DETAILS

The price for yellowcake has declined from a peak of \$40 U.S. per lb in 1976-77 to an equivalent price of \$22 U.S. (in 1976 dollars) at which the deal was concluded.

To attract share buyers into

a company Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) which will own the Ranger mine, the sales were proclaimed as being 'worth' \$2 billion.

This figure is artificially high since it represents a total taken over a future 15 years assuming 'average market prices'.

The actual present value of the deal at current rates of inflation is in the order of \$600-\$700 million. Although sufficient to cover the \$408 million initial capital of ERA, it does not represent the bonanza prospective share buyers have been led to believe.

Moreover, even these profits are likely to be eroded, or disappear altogether if the price of yellowcake continues to drop, production quotas are not met, or altered Government policy in response to the grow-

ing anti-nuclear movement, stops export altogether.

SAFEGUARDS LOSE OUT

The Fraser Government has welcomed the trade deals with Japan and West Germany finalised before necessary bilateral nuclear safeguard agreements have been completed.

This will inevitably put pressure on the government to compromise on important points in the safeguards negotiations.

One such point is whether or not West Germany and Japan will reprocess used uranium to derive plutonium for their countries' stockpiles.

Another concerns the transfer of new and used uranium within the European Economic Community.

Uranium to West Germany may ultimately aid the development of French or English bombs.

A third point concerns the methods to be used in the final storage of nuclear waste products.

SOVIET CONNECTION

Much of the Australian uranium sold to West Germany is likely to be enriched in Soviet Union military enrichment plants.

Western Europe relies heavily on the Soviet plants and West Germany is expected to use Soviet facilities to enrich 31% of their uranium requirements in the period from 1986 to 1990.

The shadow Minister for Urban and Regional Affairs Mr Tom Uren has criticised the government for permitting Australian uranium to enter Soviet nuclear facilities.

Mr Uren said that to allow Australian uranium to pass into the Soviet Union would be wholly inconsistent with the Government's policy towards the Soviet Union and the Prime Minister's statement that its action in Afghanistan represented the greatest threat to world peace since the Second World War.

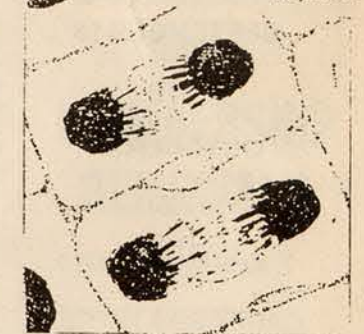
Events surrounding the deal clearly signify the depressed state of the world nuclear industry and the extent to which the Fraser government will go to accommodate Australian and foreign commercial interests.

SUMMARY

The essential elements of the deal are:-

1. The Federal Government will change the Atomic Energy Act to enable it to divest itself of its 50% share in the Ranger deposit.
2. The Ranger uranium partners, Peko Wallsend Ltd. and EZ Industries Ltd. will acquire the Government share and establish a new company called Energy Resources of Australia Ltd. (ERA) with initial share value of approximately \$408 million. Each Company will hold a 30% share.
3. Contracts for 34,000 tons of yellowcake over 15 years have been made with West German and Japanese power utilities who will also take 25% of ERA.
4. In Australia, 15%, or 60 million one dollar shares will be issued to the public.

COURIER MAIL, August 11, 1980
FINANCIAL REVIEW, August 19, 1980



RANGER SALE NO BIG DEAL



WILD BUSH FUEL SOURCE

A bush which grows wild in South Australia could power the cars of the future.

A research team is looking into ways of extracting fuel from *Asclepias rotundifolia*, a yellow flowering plant commonly known as the broad-leaf cotton bush.

It has a sticky white latex sap which yields hydrocarbons.

These can be converted into either alcohol or volatile fatty acids, for processing into synthetic fuel.

The research team is headed by Dr S. Andrews, of the South Australian Institute of Technology.

He said the project was in-

spired by similar work in California.

A trial plantation of a scrub plant species called *Euphorbia lathyris* had been established there.

"They have estimated they will be able to gain 10 to 50 barrels of oil an acre annually, at a cost of between \$3 and \$10 a barrel," Dr Reynolds, a team member said.

"We believe research should be done in Australia with related plant species."

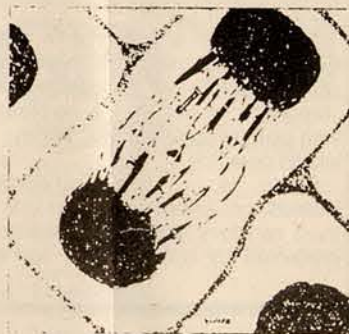
He said the major advantage of *Asclepias rotundifolia* was that it could be grown in semi-arid areas where it would not interfere with food production.

WORLD DISARMAMENT WEEK

In line with a United Nations special session resolution to set aside a week of observance for Nuclear Disarmament a number of Brisbane groups have joined to organise WORLD DISARMAMENT WEEK from October 18 to 25.

Proposals include a series of events which will raise public awareness of five areas of action required to alter Australian involvement in the nuclear arms race. These are:

1. Closure or opposition to existing and proposed U.S. bases in Australia related to nuclear weapons strategy.
2. The assumption by Australia of a role in support of the Pacific Island People in their quest for a nuclear free Pacific.
3. The need for the Australian Government to commence an active program of international diplomacy aimed at urgently securing world nuclear disarmament.
4. Cessation of Australia's role as a major arms importer and the resulting contribution to the world arms race.



5. Acknowledging the direct connection between the spread of nuclear technology and nuclear weapons we call for a cessation of uranium mining and international planning to end the use of nuclear power in favor of the development of renewable energy resources.

In order to make World Disarmament Week a success we are inviting all concerned people to be involved.

If you would like more information please contact Ron Leeks at 221 0188.

UNION VOTE CALLED

The Queensland Railway Station Officers' Union will conduct a state-wide ballot next month to determine its attitude to the transport of uranium.

The ballot will determine whether the station masters will accept the transit of uranium yellowcake through their stations.

The ballot comes at a time when many Queensland unions are enforcing their anti-uranium policies despite opposition from some sectors of the workforce.

REPORT CALLS FOR URANIUM MINING HALT

A report recommending a halt to further mining development in the Northern Territory's uranium province has been prepared by the Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies.

The report, on the impact of uranium mining on aborigines has been submitted to the Federal Government.



SOVIETS GIVE N-PLEDGE

The Soviet leader, Mr Brezhnev, has pledged that the Soviet Union would never use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear countries.

Mr Brezhnev made the pledge in a message to a conference in Geneva to review the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. He said Moscow was prepared to sign treaties with nations renouncing nuclear weapons or refusing to have them based on their territory.

The Australian, August 13, 1980

It said people in the Alligator Rivers region must be given time to adjust to the enormous social changes brought about by the mining industry.

The report also highlighted a lack of understanding on the part of Europeans, lack of guidelines for Aborigines handling royalty money and a growing hostility towards outsiders by local Aborigines.

The Northern Territory News, August 27, 1980



Everything is under control

(Elephant - The Washington Star)

AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR LAWS REVIEW

The Fraser Government has embarked on a full review of the laws governing nuclear development in Australia.

This is required for two reasons.

Firstly, in order to secure sales contracts for uranium present laws are being changed to enable commercial interests to operate with relative freedom of government control.

Secondly, in line with other governments and international organisations, increased intelligence and security operations are being contemplated. These can already be backed up by the oppressive legislation embodied in the Atomic Energy and associated Acts. It is unlikely that these terms will be significantly altered.

Thus the government, at taxpayers expense will provide the police and legal base required to 'protect' society from the dangerous materials in which the nuclear industry deals.

BACKGROUND

Events behind the proposed review include.

1. The introduction of amendments to the Atomic Energy Act forced by overseas commercial interests as a prerequisite to the purchase of the Government's 50% share in Ranger.

Some of the commercial parties involved had queried whether once the Government had assigned its Ranger interests to Energy Resources of Australia Ltd. (ERA) future

operations at Ranger would be "on behalf of the Commonwealth" as required by the existing authority issued in accordance with Section 41 of the Atomic Energy Act.

Overseas investors had shown reluctance to arrange finance for the project because they were unsure of the Government's role.

The Government examined the matter and decided that legislation would be prepared

to amend the Atomic Energy Act to put the matter beyond doubt.

2. Both the Federal and some State Governments fear that a future Federal Labor government may be able to use the Act to regulate uranium mining in ways that were against the miners' interests.

Thus changes are being considered which will give the States more power and the central government less.

3. The Federal Government

has so far ignored the recommendations of the National Energy Research Development and Demonstration Council report on the AAEC research establishment at Lucas Heights released late last year.

The NERDDC recommended a major Lucas Heights shakeup saying a large proportion of the work being done there was unimportant and new emphasis on non nuclear energy research should be made.

4. The theft of 6 drums of yellowcake from Mary Kathleen Uranium has highlighted the dangers of diversion of nuclear materials. The Federal government has tried to play down the significance of this theft saying the production process comes under the jurisdiction of the States.

Senator Carrick, the minister for Minerals and Energy said federal legislation would be introduced "if necessary" and staff of the Australian Safeguards Office (ASO) may be increased.

5. A Foreign Affairs Department official revealed that Australia was expected to sign the International Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials.

The convention sets up an international network for co-operation in co-ordinating recovery of stolen material, as well as establishing eight classes of international crime involving nuclear materials.

The possible effects on civil liberties have been described in

our C.A.N.P. June Newsletter.

6. Continued pressure has come on the Government from Anti-Nuclear Groups over the extremely repressive legislation contained in the Atomic Energy and associated Acts.

Friends of the Earth (Canberra) have begun a national campaign to alert people to the implications of the Acts.

The Federal Government's review of the Atomic Energy Act is a "desperate attempt" to overcome problems hindering uranium development according to Labor's Urban and Regional Affairs spokesman Mr Tom Uren.

Mr Uren said the terms of reference covered 10 Acts of Parliament, and related to nuclear safeguards, environment protection, security, defence and the effects of uranium mining on Aboriginal communities.

"Yet the review is to be completed in only four months and at the time of a federal election," Mr Uren said.

"There is no indication that it will be open to public comment nor that the views expressed by mining companies, international financiers and the bureaucracy will be open to public scrutiny."

Anyone interested in being involved in a campaign to alert people to the implications of the laws governing uranium mining are asked to contact Ron or Joan at the C.A.N.P. office for further information.

COURIER MAIL, August 25, 1980

THE AGE, August 28, 1980



U.S. BASES IN AUSTRALIA

MORE TARGETS FOR AUSTRALIA

If current proposals to make Australia a more intimate part of the U.S. military network are carried out, Australia's vulnerability in the event of nuclear war will be increased.

Steps being contemplated include stationing of more than 10,000 U.S. military personnel and dependents on Australian soil. At present 700 U.S. military personnel are stationed here.

The new Australian policy includes an offer to the U.S. to base an Indian Ocean fleet at Cockburn Sound, near Perth. The project would take 5 to 7 years to complete.

American nuclear armed B52 bombers could also be placed on Australian airfields. In July, a high level U.S. Air Force team visited Australia to inspect possible staging posts for the giant bombers. Areas inspected included Darwin, Learmouth, Tindal and Townsville. If developed, these fields could launch the bombers toward the Indian or Pacific Oceans with a range that could include Vietnam and China.

So far it has been assumed that only a small number of Soviet missiles are targeted for Australia. These proposals may change that.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, August 18, 1980.

PINE GAP AND U.S. NUCLEAR STRATEGY

Australia is considering a United States request to boost the Defence Early Warning communications base at Pine Gap, near Alice Springs.

A revised United States defence budget, to be released later this year, includes a huge new allocation for the Australian operation, and reflects the central role Pine Gap plays in Mr Carter's new strategy for nuclear war.

The budget includes plans to modify Pine Gap's sensors during an exhaustive overhaul program which will involve "substantial enlargement of the site," a Pentagon source said.

The new US strategy for nuclear war, which calls for strategic targeting of Soviet military sites, places great importance on Pine Gap.

Little is officially known about the Pine Gap base, which helps relay signals from US early warning satellites to the Pentagon. Successive Australian Governments have acknowledged that the Pine Gap Base and another communications system, at Exmouth on the North West Cape, would be Soviet targets in a nuclear war.

The North West Cape base communicates with US nuclear submarines around the world.

Anti-nuclear groups have protested against the continued presence on Australian soil of bases related to nuclear military strategies.

THE AGE, August 28, 1980
THE AUSTRALIAN, August 27, 1980.

HAYDEN ON U.S. NUKES

The Leader of the Federal Opposition, Mr Hayden, set the stage for a "khaki election" by declaring a Labor government would repudiate any agreement which allowed US nuclear missile-carriers to use home or base ports in Western Australia.

Mr Hayden said a Labor government would also demand control over the movement of nuclear-weaponed US aircraft — such as B-52s — over Australian air space and demand to be given details of the reasons for their movement.

Mr Hayden's statements — made in Perth — will ensure that there is a major fight between the Government and the Labor Party on the defence question.

AUSTRALIAN, AUGUST 23, 1980.

SAFEGUARDS INADEQUATE

Much store is set on safeguards, which supposedly ensure that naughty people don't make atomic bombs out of our peacefully exported uranium.

But the Nuclear Non Proliferation Treaty has many faults: for a start the non-adherence of France, China, India, Israel and Mexico. Countries which are signatories can renounce at any time.

As pointed out by Lovins, one can never be sure if plutonium is being removed. Well equipped groups, senior insiders or even government factions could organise mild thefts which would be unnoticed.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has noted many suspicious events — but no action has ever been taken. But even the resources of the whole U.S. cannot be sure if thefts are occurring in the U.S. When large amounts of highly enriched uranium went missing at Erwin, Tennessee, the authorities simply relaxed accounting standards to make the losses acceptable.

With this in mind how could thefts in foreign countries be adequately or honestly investigated?

NOT MAN APART, August 1980



URANIUM BAN BY DARWIN WHARFIES

Waterside workers have voted to ban the export of uranium yellowcake through the Port of Darwin.

The Waterside Workers' Federation Darwin branch secretary, Mr Brian Manning, said there was a "very strong" vote for the ban.

The unionists also voted to seek the support of the Northern Territory Trades and

Labor Council and to ask Darwin City Council to declare Darwin a nuclear free zone.

Queensland mines recently began moving yellowcake from its Nabarlek mine in the Northern Territory uranium province, but it has not revealed where it was being taken or if and how it would be exported.

Courier Mail, August 15, 1980

