

CAMPAIGN AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER NEWSLETTER



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THE STRUGGLE FOR A NUCLEAR FREE AND INDEPENDENT PACIFIC

The anti-nuclear struggle is not confined to Europe. Vigorous campaigns have been launched in the Pacific against nuclear weapons testing by France in Polynesia, proposed dumping of nuclear waste by Japan in the north-west Pacific and against the continued colonial domination of Micronesia by the US, which allows the basing of American nuclear weapons there.

French Nuclear Weapons Testing

The Pacific has always been a favoured site for nuclear weapons testing. The UK carried out tests on Christmas Island in 1957-8. The US conducted 66 atmospheric tests in the Marshall Islands between 1946 and 1958. Fourteen islands were left uninhabitable and contaminated, with a legacy of cancer, leukaemia and thyroid problems.

France has tested more than 70 nuclear bombs on Mururoa atoll in the South Pacific since 1966. (Mururoa is part of the colony of French Polynesia.) From 1966 to 1975 much of the testing was above ground and contaminated many of the inhabited islands, as far away as Western Samoa (3500 km) with high levels of radioactivity.

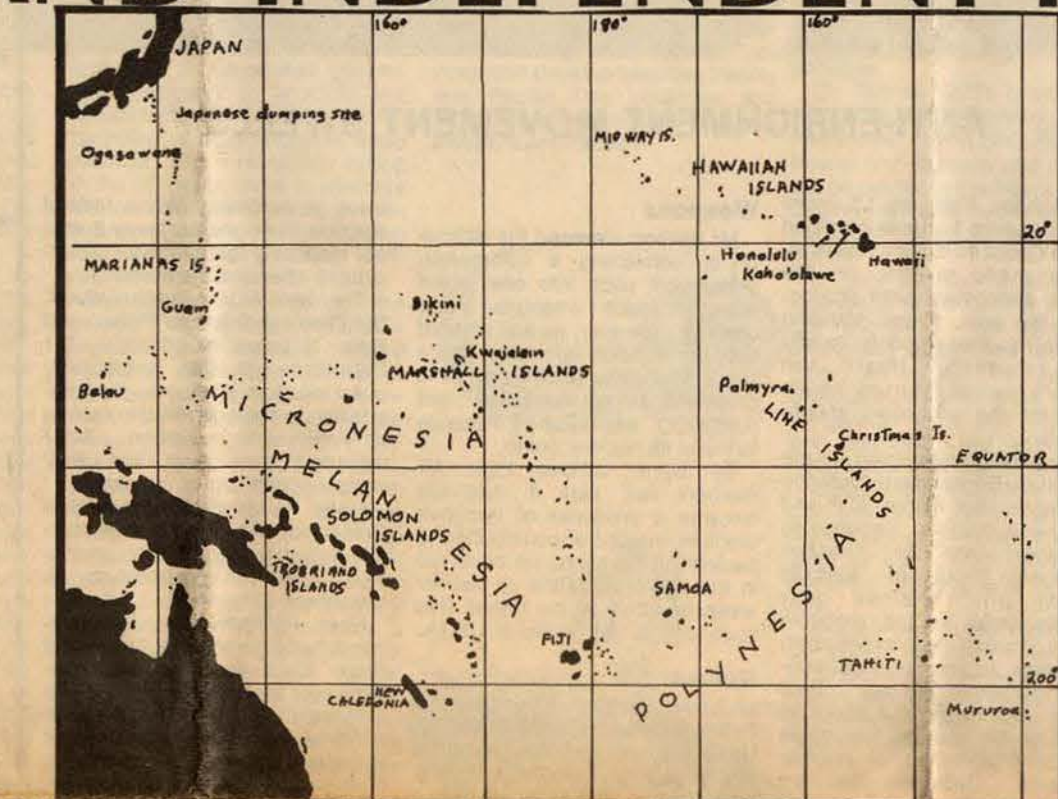
Health statistics have been suppressed by the French government since testing began. But it is estimated that 40-50 cancer deaths a year occur in Polynesia due to radioactive contamination.

The 1972 UN Conference on the Human Environment condemned the Mururoa test programme. In 1972 and 1973 various protesting ships sailed into the test zone, including the New Zealand navy frigate Otago and the Greenpeace yacht Vega — whose crew was attacked on the high seas (illegally) by the French navy. Diplomatic pressure came from Australia, New Zealand, Peru and Japan among other Pacific countries. Tests at Mururoa have been held underground since 1975.

However, underground testing, too, has its proven hazards. Such tests create pockets of intense radiation which enter the water-table or leak into the atmosphere. In the case of Mururoa, a crack 35 to 50 centimetres wide and a kilometre in length has developed in the atoll beneath sea level.

Radioactivity has been leaking into the ocean for several years.

Mururoa has sunk 1.5 metres since testing began. The substructure of the atoll is so severely damaged that it's often compared with a Swiss cheese. The French authorities are believed to be seeking an alternative site.



Politics of Nuclear Testing

Nuclear testing in Mururoa became a major political controversy in France itself with the 1981 elections. Mitterand promised both the anti-nuclear lobby in the left wing of the Socialist Party, and the environmental movement that the testing programme would be reviewed. The decision to continue testing came just four days after the "review" began.

Since 1978 France has been testing the neutron bomb at Mururoa to add to its independent nuclear arsenal. The latest test occurred in August 1982.

In Polynesia itself, repressive colonial rule (including censorship of press and radio) and a widely scattered population have prevented the emergence of organised local opposition to the testing. However, a stronger independence movement is now appearing under the leadership of the Young Socialist Party.

After a long wrangle with the French government over the possibility of an independent scientific enquiry, Greenpeace has once more resorted to direct action against the test programme. In October 1982 the French navy again illegally boarded the Greenpeace yacht Vega in the test zone and is now holding it in Tahiti.

Japanese Nuclear Waste Dumping

Low-level radioactive waste is at present stored on mainland Japan against intense local opposition.

Some have come to call the Japanese nuclear industry "a mansion without toilets". The Japanese government have therefore decided to dump the radioactive waste in the sea 600 km from Tokyo.

The radioactive material is encased in concrete and steel. However, the steel gets corroded by sea water and the concrete broken by movement due to ocean currents.

The US dumped nuclear waste in the sea from 1946 to 1969. Recent studies of the waste containers used have shown that 30 percent of the steel barrels and 40 percent of the concrete blocks had broken. Fish caught off San Francisco in 1976 were clearly radioactive as a result. All the European countries have now stopped sea dumping except Britain, Belgium and Switzerland.

The Japanese Science and Technology Agency (STA), the government department responsible for their nuclear industry, plans an experimental dump of 5000 to 10,000 barrels per year. Full-scale dumping would involve between 20,000 and 60,000 barrels a year. The starting date for dumping has twice been postponed and is now open, but it is now thought that the STA wishes to start initial dumping this September, and full-scale dumping a year later.

The cost of producing containers which don't decay, break or allow radioactivity to seep out is likely to be prohibitive. So, radioactive leakage is bound to occur at the dump site.

Politics of Dumping

The present plan to dump low-level waste in the Pacific has to be viewed in the context of Japanese nuclear power politics.

Japan already has 24 functioning nuclear power reactors, with another 30 planned to come into

operation by 1990. The Japanese government has made the establishment of a complete nuclear fuel "cycle" a primary national task for

the 1980s. This includes control over uranium mining (including experimental extraction of uranium from the sea), enrichment and domestic reprocessing of spent nuclear fuel, as well as effective radioactive waste disposal.

High level waste generated by the reprocessing of Japanese spent nuclear fuel in the UK and France is at present stored in these countries. But it will be returned to Japan when reprocessing starts there. The STA is hoping either to dump the high-level waste in the Pacific, or to share an on-land dump with the US. Palmyra in the Line Islands or Midway in the Hawaiian chain have been proposed as possible sites. Japanese ocean dumping could lead to the US restarting low-level ocean dumping.

The Japanese government has pledged itself to "gain the understanding" of other Pacific states, before going ahead with the dumping plan. Little opposition is expected from Indonesia, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand or the US. New Zealand is already supporting the scheme, Indonesia and Malaysia are to buy nuclear reactors from Japan, Australia is supplying uranium to Japan, and the US has its own interests in dumping.

The Pacific Island states, however, have been quite firm in their resolve to oppose the plan. Opposition has come from the

governments of Belau, Guam, North Marianas, the Federation of Micronesia and Hawaii State (US) and from grassroots movements in these countries. The North Marianas, supported by various other island states, are threatening to deny Japanese fishermen access to their waters. This has caused the Japanese fishermen to turn against the dumping plan. Belau has adopted a resolution to ban Japanese imports and to prevent Japanese tourists visiting.

Within Japan itself, Jishu-Koza and Chiky-no-Tomo, supported by a number of environmental groups, citizens action committees and consumer campaigns, are extending the anti-nuclear movement beyond nuclear weapons to campaign against the whole nuclear cycle including civil nuclear power, reprocessing and waste disposal.

US militarism

Five "rim of the Pacific countries" (Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Japan and the US) assembled 60 warships, 120 aircraft and 29,000 troops in June 1982 to bombard the Hawaiian island of Kaho'olawe. Termed RIMPAC 82, these exercises lay the groundwork for a Pacific nuclear alliance equivalent to NATO. Kaho'olawe, which once played a crucial role in the South Pacific islander's migrations, contains 544 listed archeological and sacred sites, is an ancient burial ground and has become the focus of the aboriginal Hawaiian cultural liberation called Aloha Aina (Love of the Land).

To coincide with RIMPAC 82, the US held joint manoeuvres with the repressive South Korean regime, code-named "Team Spirit".

The US has separate military alliances with Australia and New Zealand, South Korea and most important, with Japan. The US-Japanese treaty (called AMPO) provides US bases on Japanese territory.

The Japanese government, and the peace movement, hold to three non-nuclear principles — no possession, production or deployment of nuclear weapons in Japan. However, the presence of US Polaris submarines off the coast of Japan and in Okinawa plus the fact that the nuclear-capable aircraft carrier, US Midway, is using Yokosuka as its home port, have caused widespread doubt that the three non-nuclear principles give adequate protection. (US nuclear weapons are already deployed in neighbouring South Korea.)

(Continued on page 2)

C.A.N.P. BUSH DANCE

26th FEBRUARY, ST. ANDREWS HALL
VULTURE STREET, WEST END

with

BACKYARD BUSH BAND

7.30 pm — \$3.50 and \$2.50 concession
BRING YOUR FRIENDS

ENVIRONMENT RALLY & PICNIC

ON

- 1) Uranium mining
- 2) Damming of the Franklin
- 3) Sandmining of Moreton Island
- 4) Oil drilling of the Great Barrier Reef
- 5) Felling of rainforests

SUNDAY 27th FEBRUARY 11 a.m.
BOTANICAL GARDENS, ALICE STREET, CITY
COME ALONG AND LEARN ABOUT
THE POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

(... from page 1)

Nuclear-Free Constitution

Belau (Palau) is part of Micronesia, a UN Trust Territory administered by the US since World War II. The Belauans have formulated a nuclear-free constitution, and voted for it in four successive referenda. However, the US has refused to give independence to Belau unless it submits to a treaty termed the "Compact of Free Association". This, among other things, would give the US the right to use Belau as a base for nuclear weapons, nuclear-powered submarines and as a site for nuclear waste storage. The US hopes to station Trident submarines at Belau.

The Compact of Free Association was signed in August 1982, to be ratified by a further referendum in Belau on February 17 and by the US Congress in 1983.

Kwajalein Occupation

Kwajalein atoll in the Marshall Islands also falls under US trusteeship. In 1959 the 5000-8000 people living there were evacuated by the US military and placed on nearby 66 acre Ebeye Island, without proper health, sanitation or education facilities. Twelve times a year, missile tests are carried out. Intercontinental ballistic missiles are fired at Kwajalein from California. Anti-Ballistic missiles are then fired from Kwajalein to intercept the ICBMs. Kwajalein also hosts the world's strongest radar surveillance systems, monitoring the Soviet Union.

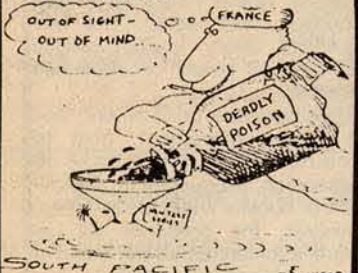
In May 1982 Kwajalein islanders began a re-occupation of their atoll; this continues with growing numbers. By October there were about 1100 people involved.

Campaign for a Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific

The first Nuclear Free Pacific Conference met in 1975 and adopted a People's Charter for a Nuclear Free Pacific. The purpose of the campaign is to coordinate anti-nuclear and anti-colonial struggles throughout the Pacific ocean. A resource centre has been established in Hawaii.

A major focus for campaigning at the moment is the London Convention on Ocean Waste Dumping in February 1983, at which Japan hopes to get support for its dumping plans. Sweden is to propose a resolution banning all ocean dumping of radioactive material, which may find many supporters among the 82 member countries, including two Pacific Island states which are to send delegates for the first time.

Another focal point is a world wide petition against French testing and Japanese dumping started by a Belau lawyer Roman Bedor. The petition has a deadline for March 1983.



JOIN C.A.N.P.'s THEATRE PARTY for the Premiere of Richard Attenborough's GANDHI

An almost overpowering British-Indian epic film CSM, Dec. 1982

Brisbane Premiere — MARCH 17 Programme

6.45 - 8.00pm Wine and Cheese
Brisbane Community Arts Centre, Edward Street
Then a short walk to
8pm GANDHI, Hoyts Cinemas, Elizabeth Street
Cost \$9.00

Children under 12 half price
Prices do not allow other concessions

Contact: Donna on 229 7143 to reserve your place.

Get your own theatre party together to see this widely acclaimed film with other peace and justice minded people.



ANTI-ENRICHMENT MOVEMENT SWELLS

On Sunday, February 13, more than six hundred people crowded into the Caboolture Shire Hall to attend a public meeting on the uranium enrichment plant proposal for the area. It was standing room only as these people, mostly local residents, heard ten speakers discuss the many issues raised by the proposed enrichment plant.

The meeting, sponsored by the Caboolture Environment Defence Association, the Fisher ALP and CANP, was called in response to the report from the Uranium Enrichment Group of Australia (UEGA) which named near Brisbane areas as the probable site of a uranium enrichment plant. The people present were obviously concerned not only about uranium enrichment but about all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle and the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Children carried balloons with the message "blow up balloons, not people". It was the overwhelming feeling of the meeting that Australia should not enter any further into the nuclear fuel cycle, nor provide enriched uranium which could later be used in the production of nuclear weapons.

First to address the meeting was Stewart West, Federal Labor MHR, shadow spokesperson on finance, but until recently spokesperson on the environment. He pledged that the ALP, if elected, would prohibit the construction of a uranium enrichment plant and stated that ALP policy was to oppose all stages of the nuclear fuel cycle.

Premature Claim

The chairperson of the Uranium Enrichment Group of Australia, Eugene Herbert, was the only person to speak in favor of the establishment of the plant. At the outset he stated that UEGA had not as yet selected a site, nor decided to build a plant nor to carry out a detailed study, and that no decision would be made before 1987 and hence a plant would not be operational until 1992. He described the concern of all present as "premature". It was evident the meeting felt this was an attempt to diffuse the issue and people refused to be placated by dates so far into the future. Clearly everyone felt that the time to act is now, before the plans go any further, and while the chances of stopping the plant are greater.

Mr Herbert stated that an enrichment plant could be profitable and could undercut current suppliers on the world market. He said the centrifuge technology proposed for the plant was "safe and environmentally benign". Both these statements were greeted with considerable scepticism in the light of massive government subsidies needed to support enrichment plants in other countries, and similar assurances about safety given habitually by all proponents of the nuclear industry, often despite evidence to the contrary.

Weapons

Mr Herbert stressed the difficulty of converting a commercial enrichment plant into one which could produce weapons grade uranium. However, as was pointed out by a later speaker, Bruce Doyle, the same technology as is proposed for an Australian plant (URENCO) was used by Pakistan to make its nuclear bomb.

By some curious logic Mr Herbert felt that if Australia became a producer of enriched uranium, instead of contributing to nuclear proliferation, we could aid in the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. It is to be hoped that such logic is not typical of UEGA.

Nuclear 1%

Ian Lowe, director of the Science Policy Research Centre at Griffith University, refuted Mr Herbert's argument. He pointed out that nuclear power provided only 1 per cent of the western world's energy requirements and hence most nuclear power production could be closed today with very little effect.

Dr Lowe illustrated the economic lunacy of the establishment of an enrichment plant in the current world market conditions, and pointed to the enormous subsidies which come ultimately from the tax payer to support these plants elsewhere. He adopted the quote "where uranium is enriched, the tax payer is impoverished".

Dr Lowe highlighted the effects which the establishment of an enrichment plant would have on local land values and also on the fruit, vegetable and dairy industries so vital to Caboolture.

Target

Dr Lowe stated that an enrichment plant would definitely be a target in any military conflict.

Finally he stressed that we must have faith in our power to change things. This point was taken up by Bruce Doyle of CANP who told the meeting that we are part of an enormous world wide movement which had had many successes. He illustrated this with the example of the enrichment plant proposed for Townsville which was not proceeded with after significant local opposition. He stated that now in south east Queensland we are "in the forefront of the anti-nuclear and peace movement" and have the potential to have a disproportionately large impact on the nuclear industry.

Well known poet, black activist and now candidate for the senate, Kath Walker, added her support to the anti-enrichment campaign. She spoke of the environmental effects such a plant would have and stated the nuclear industry must be wiped out now. She pledged her support as a "black greenie" to the people of Caboolture in their attempts to stop the enrichment plant.

Central Political Issue

The remaining speakers evidenced the fact that uranium enrichment is a central political

issue in Australia. With a federal election three weeks away it was not surprising that all the local candidates attended the meeting.

The two ALP representatives, Sol Theo candidate for Fisher, and Bob Wilson candidate for Caboolture in the forthcoming state election, obviously saw opposition to the enrichment plant as a vote-winning stance. They recorded their own and their party's opposition to the plant.

Mike West of the Australian Democrats also recorded his party's united opposition to an enrichment plant in Caboolture or elsewhere in Australia.

Evan Aderman the sitting National Party member for Fisher and Denis Caswell the Liberal candidate for the same seat, both expressed their willingness to listen to the views of the people present at the meeting, but neither clarified their own or their party's position on the issue.

March

Following this extensive and impressive list of speakers, most of those present joined in a march to the local park. In the park a festival atmosphere prevailed. Kath Walker presented members of the Caboolture Shire Council with a certificate of appreciation for their declaration of Caboolture as a nuclear free zone.

It was impossible to be present without feeling the tremendous positive energy and momentum of this large group of people united in their opposition to the nuclear industry.

By stopping enrichment in south east Queensland, it is likely that we will have stopped uranium enrichment in Australia.

Groundswell

The Caboolture meeting was an excellent start to the campaign. We must educate people on the issue of uranium enrichment and the nuclear fuel cycle and build on the groundswell that already exists.



IMPORTANT NOTICE MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If you have not paid a membership to CANP within the past four months then your 1983 membership fees are now due.

Please complete the form on the back of the Newsletter or send a covering letter with your membership to the CANP office.

WE ARE MOVING OFFICE

We will need more furniture desperately. If anyone can donate or make filing cabinets, desks, shelves or chairs of any description, the CANP office workers would be grateful. If you can offer anything or help us to move ring Donna on 229 7143.

HELP NEEDED FOR

1. Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Week - staff stalls in the Square 1st-6th March.
2. Working at the Bush Dance on February 26.

If you can offer assistance, please call Donna on 229 7143

It would be greatly appreciated.



More Nuclear Free Zones for Queensland

Brisbane was declared a Nuclear Free Zone in January, with Alderman John Campbell making every effort to stress the importance of this action by declaring his office nuclear free. Maroochy shire has this week also declared itself nuclear-free, bringing the total of nuclear-free shires and cities in south east Queensland to six including Ipswich, Caboolture, Pine Rivers and Noosa, with the Gold Coast already established as a peace zone which includes the same demands as a nuclear free zone. CANP extends its congratulations to all of these cities and shires and hopes that their actions will encourage other districts in Queensland to follow their lead. Perhaps this way the state government may begin to understand the local opposition to the nuclear fuel cycle and reconsider its stand on the establishment of a uranium enrichment plant in Queensland.

PACIFIC TRADE UNIONS SUPPORT NUCLEAR FREE PACIFIC

A declaration of support for the New Caledonian independence movement, and backing for the Independence Front's call for New Caledonia to be placed on the UN Committee of 24 list for decolonisation, were among the most important decisions reached by the Second Conference of the Pacific Trade Union Forum.

The Noumea PTUF Conference was attended by 76 trade unionists, representing 12 countries, a drop from the 113 delegates representing 13 countries at the May 1981 inaugural conference in Vila, Vanuatu. Of the founding countries, only Hawaii was not represented at Noumea, and Tahiti was not represented at either conference. The absence of trade union representation from French Polynesia was all the more conspicuous at Noumea, considering the struggles for independence from French colonialism taking place in both countries. The countries represented were Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Island, Vanuatu, Fiji, Western Samoa, Kiribati, New Caledonia, Guam and Belau.

Conducted in a context of increasing polarisation of the political forces in New Caledonia, the second PTUF Conference differed markedly in character from the May 1981 inaugural conference in newly-independent Vanuatu. The Vila conference was held in an atmosphere of excitement and optimism, following the success of the independence struggle in Vanuatu. The Noumea conference was held in an atmosphere of growing tension and uncertainty, as levels of violence and reaction increase, and the Mitterrand government refuses to disclose its ultimate intentions for New Caledonia.

In this context, the PTUF declaration of support for the Kanak independence struggle was an important and valued contribution to the Independence Front's international campaign to induce France to set a timetable for granting independence. The front itself has set September 24, 1984 — when New Caledonia will host the next South Pacific Festival — as

the target date for independence.

Conference decided that the PTUF would continue to have a dual emphasis on striving to coordinate an international trade union campaign for a nuclear free Pacific, and on developing co-operation among trade unions and workers in the Pacific, complementing the work of existing international trade union organisations.

Conference also passed a number of action resolutions covering support for Kwajalein Islanders engaged in 'operation Homecoming', the reclamation of their ancestral lands now used by the US as a missile testing range; support for an education program in opposition to the proposed 'Compact of Free Association' between the US and Belau, protests against changes to school textbooks by the Japanese government designed to promote the remilitarisation of Japan, and over the jailing of 33 Philippines trade unionists; and a resolution calling on the US government to eliminate economic and trade restrictions on Guam which prevent Guam from developing a more self-sufficient economy.

Outlining progress since the Vanuatu Conference, Conference Convenor Bill Richardson outlined the range of actions initiated or stimulated by the forum. They included a PTUF deputation to the French government at which PTUF president Jim Knox of the NZFOL registered the PTUF's protest at continued testing at Mururoa; preparation and international distribution of a trilingual leaflet and poster in support of a nuclear free Pacific; assistance to two Vanuatu trade unionists to undertake a training program in the Solomon Islands; participation of Pacific trade unionists in the United Nations Second Special Session in Disarmament; convening of a special trade unions conference on disarmament.

Together with the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, established at the Third 1980 Regional Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Conference, the PTUF remains one of the most important non-government regional organisations

capable of functioning as a counterbalance to the nuclear and economic strategies of the nuclear powers and transnational corporations in the region. Its relationship to the PCRC is especially important in that whereas trade union democracy institutionalises the numerical preponderance of Pacific Rim trade unions in the PTUF, the PCRC is based on indigenous interests, and incorporates a formula for representation that responds to Pacific fears of Rim country domination. And inasmuch as the peace and disarmament and nuclear free Pacific movements in the Rim countries work closely with the trade union movements (as well as the Australian Aborigines), the more closely the PTUF and the PCRC can work together the better understanding and effective co-operation develop between Pacific and Pacific Rim countries and movements for a nuclear free and independent Pacific.



NFIP CONFERENCE

The first NFIP meeting for 1983 was held in Melbourne on Friday 4th February. It was attended by activists from all states except the N.T. Those present also took part in the joint two day Coalition for a Nuclear Free Australia/Australian Coalition for Disarmament and Peace Conference held on 5th-6th February.

March 1st is Nuclear Free Pacific (Bikini) Day, observed by people around the world.

In Australia, from Tuesday 1st to Sunday 6th, nationwide NFIP programmes will be held. Activities will vary from state to state. In Brisbane, displays and stalls offering information and resources will be set up in the City Square — and regional groups in Queensland will put out media releases, conduct stalls and be involved in other NFIP activities.

On Sunday 27th March NFIP resources and information will be distributed during the Rally For Peace and banners and placards will be carried in the Peace March. Displays will also be set up during the festival which is to follow the march.

In July the fourth NFIP Conference is to be held in Vanuatu. Six delegates, including three aboriginal people will be going from Australia. As yet, the delegates have not been chosen. Discussion intra and inter-state and nationally will take place before final selection is made.

Immediately after the Vanuatu Conference a small group of Pacific delegates there will be invited to come to Australia for a speaking tour lasting till Hiroshima day.

Much follow up work will need to be done. Among the resources available are some excellent slide shows and films etc. Plans are being formed to take some of them on tour through the state.

N-ARMS VOTE

PALAU (AAP-AP) — Inhabitants of a string of Western Pacific islands yesterday voted against allowing United States nuclear weapons on their territory when they cast ballots on a related question of home rule.

Palau is the first of three Micronesian territories to vote on a compact of free association, a form of self-government.

With an estimated ten percent of the vote counted, there were 296 votes in favor of allowing nuclear materials in the territory, and 509 votes against.

It was too early to tell whether the voters would approve the rest of the compact.

CM — 12/2/83

NEW YORK, 25 Jan. — The builders and operators of the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant have agreed not to blame each other for the worst commercial nuclear accident in American history.

A \$4000 million negligence suit brought by the operators was dropped yesterday in the middle of a trial.

Under the terms of the settlement, the builders, Babcock and Wilcox Co., will pay General Public Utilities Corp rebates of as much as \$37 million. The rebates will be in proportion to purchases by the utility from Babcock and Wilcox and will be applied to the plant's decontamination and cleaning programmes.

The cleaning, which is scheduled to be completed in 1988, is expected to cost more than \$1000 million.

During the civil trial in Manhattan, each side had charged that the other was at fault in the March 28, 1979 accident at Three Mile Island's unit No. 2, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Lawyers for General Public Utilities accused Babcock and Wilcox of not providing enough safety information for the reactor. They charged that the accident would not have taken place if Babcock and Wilcox had issued revised operating procedures after a similar but far less serious accident at an Ohio nuclear power plant in 1977.

Lawyers for the reactor's manufacturer countered that the utility had all the necessary information, but ran the plant so ineptly that its workers were not trained to handle the crisis.

"GPU and B and W have agreed that neither party has established that the other was the cause of the TMI-2 accident and that it would be counter-productive to incur substantial costs of further litigation in an effort to resolve that issue," the settlement said.

General Public Utilities said that it had a continuing need to procure goods and services from Babcock and Wilcox, both for the decontamination and clean-up of Three Mile Island and for other operations.

The Age, Wed, 26/1/83

NUCLEAR DEBATE

The international debate on nuclear power and nuclear war has involved Australia since 1977, when uranium mining was given the go ahead by the current Fraser government.

Through uranium export, Australia is now directly implicated in the growing health and safety problems of nuclear reactors.

"Worse than this, it is possible that Australian uranium will be used in the construction of nuclear weapons, France, Britain and the USA being major customers.

Large movements of people around the world have for years protested, in favour of safer alternative energy forces and for reduction and eventually abolition of nuclear weapons.

Australian political parties offer distinct viewpoints on these issues:

Liberal/National Party

The Liberal and National parties have policies favouring uranium mining and nuclear development

generally and these have been implemented quite aggressively by the Fraser government since 1975. Uranium mining was agreed to in 1977 after only brief notice was taken of the detailed Ranger Inquiry, which gave no unequivocal direction on the issue. While Liberal party policy has emphasised "safeguards" on uranium export, in practice these have either been watered down or abolished entirely to ensure sales of the export product. Liberal/National state governments have actively pressed for uranium enrichment and nuclear power stations.

Australian Labor Party

Despite a recent softening, Labor party policy is generally against uranium mining. Since 1977, policy had been to close all uranium mines upon election to government. This stern opposition was reinforced by the union movement which has conducted a wide ranging campaign against uranium export. However in 1982

"pragmatists" narrowly secured a change in ALP policy which allowed existing mines to remain. No new prospects are to be developed, however, and uranium enrichment, nuclear power and nuclear weapons are strongly opposed. Many Labor councils, including Brisbane are declared "nuclear free zones", and Victoria is a nuclear free state.

Australian Democrats

This party has the toughest anti-nuclear policy, absolutely opposing nuclear development of all kinds. As the policy was formulated by national ballot of party members, there seems little chance of their stand being weakened as Labor's has been. The Australian Democrats' vote has been crucial in deciding several federal seats and the strong policy may have some effect in this way.



PANCONTINENTAL CALLS TENDERS FOR JABILUKA

Pancontinental Mining Ltd said yesterday it had invited tenders for the construction of the \$600 million Jabiluka uranium mine in the Northern Territory.

The tenders, from selected companies, were for the engineering procurement and construction management of the project, which Pancontinental hopes to get under

way during the 1983 dry season beginning in March or April.

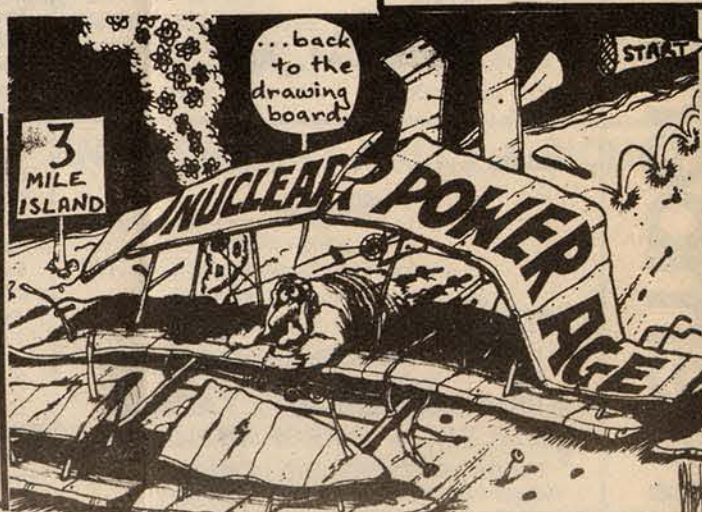
Pancontinental also announced it had invited and received tenders for the construction of the main access road from the Arnhem Highway to the project area and for a bridge across the Magela Creek.

Pancontinental is on the verge of

signing a \$130 million contract with the Central Electricity Generating Board of the UK.

This contract would provide for the delivery of 4.3 million pounds of uranium oxide (1950 tonnes) over 10 years from 1987.

This represents only about half of Jabiluka's designated initial production rate of 3500 tonnes of uranium oxide a year.



COALITION FOR A NUCLEAR FREE AUSTRALIA CONFERENCE

The Coalition for a Nuclear Free Australia met in Melbourne on the weekend of the 5th and 6th February. Several national actions were agreed upon. The conference discussed issues such as land rights, the No Dams campaign in south west Tasmania, the positions of various political parties on the uranium industry in the context of the coming federal elections, and the current approach of the trade union movement to the uranium industry. Discussions of the situation in each state produced many of the proposals for national action.

Land Rights

The conference passed a motion which recognized that: "Any meaningful anti-uranium campaign must give the land rights struggle maximum priority and support."

This motion relates directly to the situation in the Northern Territory, where the Kakadu National Park, presently under the control of the traditional owners, is under threat of mining at the Koongarra site. The traditional owners have been heavily pressed to give up their land by the Denison company, the Canadian multi-national who owns the mine, as well as by Ian Wilson, the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. Some traditional owners have so far been able to hold up the negotiations for the mine, but pressure is increasing daily. The conference decided that it must take some direct action in support of these traditional owners and against the Denison company in the coming year.

South West Coalition

The Kakadu National Park is a world heritage area and as such is included in the South West Coalition's campaign to preserve these

areas. The conference gave in principle support to the South West Coalition's campaign to save the Franklin below Gordon River, but had to withhold active support because their election strategy involves support for the Australian Labor Party, and the conference could not support the Labor Party because of its lack of a strong anti-uranium policy.

ALP Uranium Policy

In the light of the ALP's inadequate policy, a set of proposals was adopted to urge the party to return to its position of unqualified opposition to the mining and export of uranium. These involved beginning a campaign of lobbying within the ALP at every level, a process which will become important in the event of an ALP win in the federal election.

Nuclear Free States

In Victoria this process is well underway, and it is possible that Victoria may soon be declared a nuclear free state. The conference decided to also try to persuade governments in all states to declare their states nuclear free. (A task which is more than a little daunting in Queensland.)

South Australian Uranium

In South Australia, however, the position is different. The South Australian government is currently considering whether to allow the Honeymoon mine to proceed but the final decision will not be made until after the federal election. The Roxley Downs mine is certain to go ahead. In the light of these events, the conference decided to hold national actions in Adelaide if Honeymoon is approved. If the mine is not approved, then a blockade of the Roxley Downs site is proposed as a rolling blockade similar to the non-violent action at the Franklin Dam site.

Nuclear Warships

A joint decision was also taken by the Coalition for a Nuclear Free Australia and the Australian Coalition for Disarmament and Peace to take national action wherever nuclear powered or nuclear armed ships berth in any port in Australia. This involves support action for other states which suffer these visits as well as action when warships visit Brisbane. The two groups called on the ALP in the event of a federal election win to revise the current legislation on visits by nuclear warships.

Trade Unions

The Coalition for a Nuclear Free Australia also saw the need to develop closer links with the trade union movement with the aim of strengthening ACTU policy to work for a Nuclear Free Australia. It was decided that all of the affiliates of the Coalition needed to exchange information so that they could more readily supply information to trade unions. The Coalition agreed that it was necessary to try to involve trade unions in all of the proposed national actions so as to increase the efficacy of these actions.



Solar Power is People Power!

A.C.D.P. CONFERENCE

In Melbourne on February 5, CANP became part of the Australian Coalition for Disarmament and Peace (ACDP) — a national coalition of organizations working for disarmament and peace.

The conference made short and long term plans for the development of the peace movement in Australia.

Short term plans centred on March 5 federal election, the March 27 Rally for Peace, and visits by two prominent members

of the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and representatives of socialist parties attending the Socialist International in Sydney in late March. A list of suggested questions on peace and disarmament for candidates was prepared, and the need to make peace an issue at every election rally was agreed upon.

Big Marches Planned

Delegates heard of the impressive range of means of promoting peace and disarmament throughout the country at the rallies on March 27. A declaration for nuclear disarmament to be signed by thousands of Australians was also prepared.

Long term proposals involved action against foreign military bases in Australia. A Disarmament Activists Conference in May or June will examine proposals to advance the cause of peace next year.

BRUCE DOYLE



1981 — BEN LOMOND PROJECT SHOT 1982 — BEN LOMOND PROJECT STAGGERS 1983 — BEN LOMOND PROJECT DIES

The wholly owned French uranium and mining and explorations company, Minatome, has been forced to undertake a major reappraisal of their Ben Lomond project, 70km west of Townsville.

The world wide slump in the uranium market and the adverse recommendations of the Charters Towers Mining Warden in April 1981 have left the project with vastly reduced prospects for miners and there are strong indications that the company may pull out altogether.

Events started to go sour for Minatome when their applications for a second mining lease at Ben Lomond was opposed in the Charters Towers Mining Warden's Court by the Townsville Regional Conservation Council after ten days of rigorous cross-examination, a strong objector's case and embarrassing subpoenaed documents, the Wardens determined that the lease area covering military and waste disposal facilities should not be granted on environmental grounds.

The Minister for Mines, Mr Ivan Gibbs, has the power to overrule the warden but he has yet to do so and an export permit before it can

20 months after the April 1981 finding. He has requested additional information from Minatome which may satisfy the warden's concerns but Minatome has not provided it. There is a strong possibility that they never will.

In response to the adverse warden's finding, Minatome embarked on a research effort to find alternatives to their proposals put to the warden's court. This included the construction of a pilot diesel driven liquid tailings evaporator. The success of such a device, both practically and economically, is highly questionable.

Shortly after the warden's finding was made public, national publicity was given to a confirmed radiation leak at the site and shocking conditions faced by company workers. Minatome attempted to counter this with an intensive public relations campaign, but with little success. It then did a complete turn around and, since November, 1981, has made few public statements.

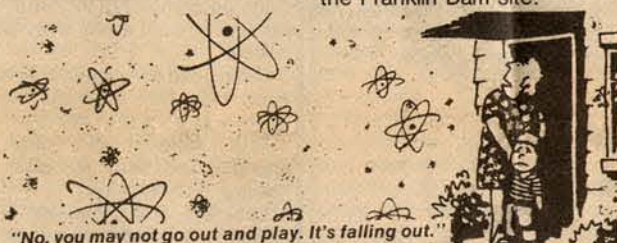
Minatome has still to admit a Federal Environmental Impact Study, satisfy Australia's equity requirements, obtain a mining lease and an export permit before it can

mine at Ben Lomond. The delay in achieving these approvals may well indicate fatal problems with the project.

In line with the downturn in activities over Ben Lomond approvals, opposition to the project has been generally low key throughout 1982. Townsville Environmental groups have sustained their stand against the proposal for over six years and, while keeping an eagle eye on Ben Lomond, are now turning their attentions to pressing needs in other parts of North Queensland.

An important action was the visit by the World Bike Ride Against Uranium. The group injected much needed enthusiasm into the campaign by, amongst many other things, establishing, for a few weeks, an atomic free embassy outside Minatome's Townsville office.

The logical conclusion of Minatome's declining fortunes would be the dropping of the Ben Lomond project. If this occurs, there would be few North Queenslanders that would miss them.



"No, you may not go out and play. It's falling out."

DIARY OF EVENTS

26th FEBRUARY	CANP Bush Dance, 7.30 pm St Andrews Hall, 160 Vulture St, West End. \$3.50 and \$2.50 concession. Ring office for details.
27th FEBRUARY	Environment Rally & Picnic Botanical Gardens, City. 11.00 am.
1st-6th MARCH	Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Week. Stalls in the square. Help will be needed.
8th MARCH	International Women's Day.
15th MARCH	CANP General Meeting, 147 Ann St, 7.30.
17th MARCH	Ghandi Film Night and Wine & Cheese \$9.00. 6.45 pm start at Brisbane Community Arts Centre.

MEMBERSHIPS FOR 1982 ARE NOW DUE.

HELP THE MOVEMENT FOR A NUCLEAR FREE WORLD.

membership

MEMBERSHIP & DONATION FORM

To: CANP,
P.O. Box 238,
NORTH QUAY. 4000

Name.....

Address.....

..... Postcode.....

Ph: (H) (W)

Herewith:

| | \$3.50 student/pensioner/unemployed

| | \$7 individual

| | \$25 organisational

\$..... donation

YOUR GROUP

BEAUDESERT
Beaudesert Anti-Nuclear Group (Qld)
c/- Janice Drynan
Mt. Gipps
Lamington, 4285

BROWNS PLAINS
Phone Barbara Robson 200.1021

BUNDABERG
Bundaberg Nuclear Concern Group
c/- Harry Akers
Electra Court
Electra St.,
Bundaberg 4670

CABOOLTURE
CANP (Caboolture)
c/- Pat Moran
P.O. Box 109
Caboolture 4510

CAIRNS
People for Peace and a Nuclear Free World
c/- Marjorie Cockburn
P.O. Box 291
Cairns 4870

UNIVERSITY OF QLD.
Campus Movement Against Uranium Mining
Bruce Doyle 371.1611; 44.8478 (H)

FASSIFERN/BOONAH
C.A.N.P.
c/- Phil Prickett
MS 461
Kalbar 4309
Ph. (075) 63 7344

GRIFFITH UNIVERSITY
S.A.N.E. (Students Against Nuclear Energy)

c/- Christina Vogelsang
Students Union

JAMES COOK UNIVERSITY
S.A.N.E.
c/- R. McGregor
Students Union
James Cook University
Townsville 4810

KINGARROY
S.S.A.N.E. (Society for Sane Alternatives to Nuclear Energy)

c/- M. Langford
95 Markwell Street
Kingaroy 4610

MACKAY
C.A.N.P. (Mackay)
c/- L. Bird
Hassam Court
North Mackay 4740

F.O.E. (Friends of the Environment)
P.O. Box 136,
Mackay 4740

MT ISA
C.A.N.P. (Mt Isa)
P.O. Box 1473
Mt Isa 4825

PINE RIVERS
C.A.N.P. (Pine Rivers)
Grace Duffield
Phone 285.3381

ROCKHAMPTON
C.A.N.P. (Central Qld.)
P.O. Box 1532
Rockhampton 4700

SUNSHINE COAST
C.A.N.P. (Sunshine Coast)
P.O. Box 520
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