

LETTRE D'INFORMATION
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EUROPEAN NEWSLETTER
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3



Congreso Internacional del Movimiento Anti Nuclear Radical
Internationaler Kongres der Radikalen Anti-AKW-Bewegung
Internationaal Kongres Radikale Anti-Kernenergie Beweging
Congrès International du Mouvement Radical Anti-Nucléaire
International Congress Radical Anti-Nuclear Power Movement



INTRODUCTION

Before your eyes lays another newsletter. I hope that you'll find it very interesting. So interesting in fact, that you, the reader will send us enough articles to produce another European newsletter. This is absolutly vital to us, the editors of the newsletter. It's vital because we're not planning to write it by ourselves. At this moment, we're practically doing that. Which was of course not our intention. The newsletter is a consequence of the decision made by the Anti-nuclearpower activistscongress (Feb'89) that we needed more information about each others activities, about the various developments in the nuclear power programmes of the European countries. Wich was, and still is of course, a good idea. But up till now that idea didn't work out that well. We would like to see that change. Or to put it stronger: if nobody sends us any articles then there will be no more Eur. newsletter at all! Wich would be a shame , wouldn't it? So pick up a paper and pen and tell everybody how you cleverly deceived the nuclear industry, about on how many 'nuclear' toes you stepped and what kind of ludicrous ideas the nuclear industry in your country have come up with. Oké? And now some deadlines. Articles for the next newsletter must arrive before 15 may
The other deadlines: 15 september and 15 january ('91)

At the Congress (february '89 in the Netherlands)it was decided that the Dutch would produce the Newsletter till the next Congress. The Newsletter was seen as a very important way of communication between the groups of the different countries. It was ment to be a regular Newsletter (bimonthly) and we, the productiongroup, made a scheme: 5 numbers a year: June (the report of the Congress), July, October, December and February. We didn't make it. Now, a year has passed and it is time to look back and tell about our plans and decisions we've made.

Because there were many participants of the Netherlands at the Congress and a great deal of them being enthousiastic about the Newsletter, we thought that it wouldn't be very difficult to make it till the next Congress. Besides, we had found a group of people who translated a lot for us until then and who did a wonderful job during the Congress. But a year later, the situation has changed. The cooperation of people who weren't already part of the organisatory-group of the Congress is minimal, people of the organisatory-group left and translation became more and more difficult. This is the most important reason why this is only the third Newsletter. In number 2 we briefly wrote about it, but now we've made the decision: the Newsletter will only be produced in an english version. The French, German, Spanish and Dutch versions won't be produced any longer. (Almost) everybody is able to read/write/speak english and there are a lot of pros for us, for example: we are much more capable to be up to date. Now it is possible to change something or make a contribution at the last moment. The information in the second Newsletter was absolutely too old at the time of printing. It had to be that way, but it has also consequences for you (and us): it is not interesting and it is not inviting to write an article or to react. We realize that such was an important reason why there is almost no copy send in. But there are more changes: we drop the demand that everything has to be typed on the computer first. Because that took a lot of time and frustations (not everybody is able or willing to work with a computer).

Included in this Newsletter
is a leaflet from the LAKA-
Foundation.

International Newsletter
for the radical anti-
nuclear power movement
Nr. 3, march 1990

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NETHERLANDS - WASTE STORAGE ACTIONS

Actions against storage plans of radioactive waste in the Netherlands.

The Dutch radioactive waste has been stored in Petten at the ECN (Energy Center Netherlands) since 1983. That was decided after a great number of actions against the waste-dumping in the sea. The municipality decided then that the storage-facility could by no means be used longer than ten years. In the mid '80's a famous Dutch nuclear power lobbyist (who once said that the antinuclear power movement got their money by bank-robbing) searched for a good place to store the waste. At Borssele (on one of the islands in Zeeland- southwest of the Netherlands) there was already a 450 MW-reactor (and plans for one or two others - cancelled in '86 after Chernobyl). The commission reported that that would be a good place for the storage. According to the plans, it has to be a temporary storage-facility (50-100years) till they were able to store it finally in the salt domes in the northeast of the country. But if the plans for the final deposition wouldn't come up to their expectations (which is likely to happen), the temporary storage could well become a final one. Meanwhile, a company was established which was responsible for the collecting, the handling and the storage of all the radioactive waste in the Netherlands. That company is called COVRA: Central Organisation for Radioactive Waste. The shareholders are the owners of the two nuclear reactors, industry and laboratories. Beside the waste which is already in Petten, there will be a great amount of radioactive waste coming from La Hague (France) and Sellafield (Britain) in the mid '90's, where our fuel-rods are being reprocessed. Especially this waste is very dangerous. Important technical objections towards the plans for waste storage are: the lack of experience with this kind of storage (air-cooled), the radiation-exposure for the surrounding areas, the burning of radioactive waste to reduce its volume, transports and a specific objection concerning that part of the country: the facility is planned outside the dikes. (for those who didn't pay attention at school: in february 1953 there was a big flood in Zeeland and 1500 were killed and the whole province was under water). The sea is still seen as an enemy who can't be trusted. For us, the antinuclear-power movement, the most important reason to oppose these plans is of course: as long as the production of nuclear waste continues, there must be no acceptance of any waste storage plan. This means: first put an end to nuclear power and then we take a look at the "best" way to handle the radioactive waste. For people willing to continue and promote nuclear power, it is very important to find a "solution" for the radioactive waste. If a "solution" finds public acceptance, many groups, political parties and individuals in the Netherlands will stop their opposition against nuclear power and new reactors will be inevitable. And that's the importance of the struggle against these plans: storage of nuclear waste is unacceptable, always and everywhere as long as nuclear power continues!

At this moment, all legal permissions for building the facility are delivered by the State. There are still 2 juridical proceedings at the Raad van State (the State Council) for annihilation of the construction licence. The sentence is expected very soon (± APRIL) and for the moment, they're the last chance to stop it in court. There will be opportunities to continue the struggle in court even after that, but it will take a lot of time. The 5 farmers who are objecting against the plans in court are willing to continue but they need financial help. If the State Council decides that all the permissions are legal, we think that the construction will start four or five weeks later.

Resistance

The choice of Borssele had certainly something to do with the lack of opposition against the nuclear power plant over there and nuclear energy in general. But things changed. Opposition from the inhabitants of the villages was responsible for a big delay. So the authorities were forced to withdraw

the first proposed site (behind the reactor, 500 meters outside the village -92,3% was against)

Unfortunately, the opposition had more to do with the wish to keep the own backyard clean, then a resolute NO to nuclear power. But whatsoever there are signs that the opposition to nuclear power is increasing, even there (in the Netherlands 85-90% is against building new nuclear reactors, 60% is in favor of closing down immediately the existing installations). A new nuclear plant wouldn't be accepted that easily anymore. That should also be an strong argument against the storage of nuclear waste over there: The capacity of the facility is enough to receive the waste from new reactors too. Centralisation in Borssele seems by a possible decision to built nuclear reactors, a logical development.

Last year, several actions against the COVRA and her plans took place. In the first place, of course, the 3600 petitions (legal objections) against (which is very much for the Dutch situation, only in the '70's there were more petitions against the uranium enrichment facility in Almelo), but also blockades, occupations of buildings, disturbing official meetings, the production and distribution of posters, the personal approach of members of the city council and the mayor, etc. The actions didn't get very much national media coverage, but they were important to change the minds of the people in that part of the country. Most of these actions were initiated by Stop Borssele (a grass-roots organisation in the bigger cities of Zeeland) but also some inhabitants became rather active. Many of these people are busy to get nation-wide attention and support for their struggle and are willing to give practical help to realize the existing ideas for actions.

Plan for the occupation of the building-site.

We had a few national meetings to talk about possible actions against the waste-storage plans. One idea existed already quite a while and got a lot of good reactions: The occupation of the construction-site 10 days before the actual start of the construction (preparations). During those 10 days a lot of initiatives should be taken towards the inhabitants, also a nation-wide publicity is necessary to demonstrate the importance of resisting against the storageplans, and people must be mobilised for 'D-day', the day the construction really starts. The number of participants of the occupation should increase during those 10 days and will culminate in a massive presence on D-day. D-day is expected at the end of February-beginning of March, but the precise date is unknown. That makes the mobilisation very difficult and uncertain.

It is clear that we want a non-violent action. If there is any violence it must be obvious that the violence would have come from the police. We have no idea how the authorities will react to our site-occupation. Therefore it's important that everybody is aware of our non-violent intention. Another important matter is the following: there are a lot of differences between us and the inhabitants (in culture, tradition and also in argumentation, and so on...) There are also a lot of prejudices from them towards us and vice versa, they are afraid of riots, violence and the disturbance of their peace. (in '87, one year after Chernobyl, there was a big blockade; one night there were heavy riots: 52 policemen were injured, no arrests. People are still talking about it and are scared that they could become a victim too, if it happens again). So it is important that there will be no further widening between them and us. An important purpose of the action is a better understanding; to create a situation in which it will be easier for them to cooperate with us, take part in actions. We have to work together on the minimal concensus (No storage of radioactive waste in Borssele) and hope that more and more people will see the direct link between nuclear power and radioactive waste storage, and will therefore radicalize and oppose nuclear power. Good cooperation is absolutely necessary in having a chance of stopping the waste storage and resulting from that: stop nuclear power.

DOUNREAY- U.K.

Dear friends,

I have just read a friends' copy of your European Newsletter No1 and I would like to correct and add to your otherwise excellent article on UK.

I. There is already a reprocessing plant at Dounreay which is reprocessing fuel rods from the Prototype Fast Reactor (ONE's second, the first was Demonstration F.R.). Until recently a Materials Testing Reactor was also operating.

II. The leukaemia excesses are "lies". They are certical in Sellafield, Aldwaster, West Borghfield and around Dounreay with an average raised incidence around all Brittain's nuclear power plants increasing with age of plant. The most recent general paper on this is P.S. Cooke-Mozaffaire et al Brit. Journal of Camer (1989) 51, 476-485 (?? newsletter group). The Dounreay excess which, depending on area and period of time chosen, raises from 2 to 10 times expected, continues and is the only raised incidence to be predicted in advance.

III. Since the general election there have been further developments in waste dumping policy and the gouvernment/industry agency NIREX have decided to bury waste at 500-1000m. depth at either Sellafield or Dounreay with Dounreay the likeliest site.

One further point: the gouvernment is not closing F.R. and reprocessing just withdrawing expenditure. Should the AEA (Atomic Energy Agency) spend the money elsewhere the F.R. would continue (?? nwsl.gr.).

Congratulations and good luck in your enterprise.

Nuclear Reprocessing Concern Group

Willow Wynd

Burn Road

Scarfskerry

Caithness

U.K.

INTERNATIONAL - EAST - WEST

East meets West, West meets East.

Walls come tumbling down, borders go open and the makers of barbed wire and fortified fences aren't that secure of their job anymore. The political landscape of Europe is rapidly changing. What hasn't changed is the nuclear power industry. Both in East and Western Europe they are still operating their nuclear powerplants and are planning new ones. But now, with so many changes in Eastern Europe the Western European nuclear industry see new opportunities to sell their knowledge and hardware. Claiming that their safety measures are so much better then in 'inferior' Easter Europe. Quite unbelievable if you look at their safety records!!! Wich are as bad as anywhere else. Therefore i think it is time that Anti nuclearpower-activists in East and West join hands. Exange information, undertake actions together, support each other. Radiation knows no borders and neither does the nuclear industry! But there is of course a problem. Because of the forced separation, groups and persons who agitate against nuclear power quite often hardly know anything about each other. But we could change that. To start i think it would be a good idea to introduce ourselves to others. I hereby invite all Anti nuclearpowergroups to write a short article about your own group. Wich will then be published in the next European newsletter. You could write about what you do, what kind of an idea you have about a non-nuclear future and of course what kind of contact you want with other groups in Europe. That is if you want any contact at all of course. If this idea works out the way i hope it does, we could produce some kind of Guide for Anti Nuclear Europeans.

Making contact when we need or want it.

INTERNATIONAL- NUCLEAR SUBMARINES

NAVYYYY? OR WOULD YOU RATHER STAY AT YOUR MOTHER???

Not only the land and the air are threatened by an ever increasing pollution, also the large surfaced waters, the oceans, are polluted and ruined on a large scale.

One of the main threats is that nuclear substances appear more often on the world seas.

In Holland, in the early eighties, succesfull actions were held against the dumpings on radioactive water into the sea. Now it is time to focus on the different ways and causes of nuclear pollutions.

More and more ships, especially those from the navy, are driven by nuclear reactors. Besides, more and more often a choice is made to station nuclear weapons, new systems at sea. Accidents with nuclear driven ships or with ships with nuclear weapons aboard, are frequently happening. The exact consequences for man and natural (sea)environment are mostly unknown, though it is not difficult to make a few predictions according to general results of research.

Only the question is; do we wait until the results manifest themselves clearly?

To understand why more and more ships are equipped with nuclear reactor drive, it is necessary to say something very comprehensive about the place of the navy within defension. The navy is relatively autonomous functioning within the whole military forces. This is not only valid for a country like Holland, but also for the navy of the NATO as a whole. By their autonomy and because they operate at sea, they have largely escaped for the greater part from the critical attention from the main public. It is much more difficult to protest against the stationing of new nuclear weapons at sea, then when they are gonna be stationed in your neighbourhood. With this in (the back of our) mind the continuacion is quite logic.

It is very important for navy vessels to be able to stay at full sea for a long period, to have al large radius of action, not to be dependent on harbour facilities.

In former times, every ship had to return to the harbour once in a while, to coal. Partly this problem has been solved, because each power-block provided itsself points of support all over the world and enlarged its possibility to choose. But, by changing to nuclear driven turbines the problem is completely solved.

Yet, food can be taken for a long period in dried and compressed form (or frozen) in many large quantities.

Notonly from the place political point of view but also from the ecological point of view, this development is reprehensible.

ACCIDENTS.

Every year tenfolds of accidents take place with navy vessels, in combination or not with merchant ships or fishing boats.

In several of these accidents at sea nuclear power driven ships were. In general we can distiguise three types of accidents at sea with nuclear substances;

- Accidents with nuclear power driven ships (submarines, navy vessels and merchant ships);
- accidents ships which have nuclear weapens aboard (submarines and surface ships);
- accidents with transports of nuclear materials.

In this article we concentrate entirely on the first possibility. Accidents that catch most attention on those involving submarines. As example we mention the accident with the Russian submarine in the brand new "Mike" class wich sank to the bottom 300 miles west of Norway,

the 7th of april 1989. As noticed it concerned a brandnew experimental type with a very expensive titanium cover and 2 reactors as propulsion. Only later the Russians would admit that there were also 2 nuclear warheads aboard.

Unsolved remained the cause of the accident. There would have been a fire, after wich the crew, unable to fight the fire, left the ship in panic.

Later the Russian television showed a member of the crew, who told that he, just before leaving the ship, had "neutralized" the reactors. Of course there was "no danger for public health at all".

Meanwhile it is known that the Russians are going to attempt to salvage the wreck. A most difficult operation while the ship was sunk more than 2 kilometres. A dutch staff officer of material of the submarine department of the navy said, in reaccion on the accidents with the Russian submarines: "In case of fire aboard a nuclear driven submarine radiation will only release in the last resort. But therefore several accidents have to take place in succession."

Further Mr M.J. Versteeg said; "Atomic submarines will become much saver because of those accidents." Yes, very nice. That's the story we have been hearing for 20 years after each accident.

THE DUMPING IS CONTINUING.

Because nuclear submarines sink more often, the question arises how this is related to agreements which are made about dumping radio active waste into the sea. These agreements are made on the so called London Dumping Convention and recorded in the pact of London.

Dumping such material from nuclear reactors, research institutes and hospitals is already forbidden for years.

In a most direct way now dumpings take place again; with a submarine as protective cash, large quantities of nuclear substances, also with a high radiation level, straight down to the bottom of the sea.

An average ship reactor contains about 20 times the amount of radiation as released in the Tsjernobyl disaster.

With exceptions, it doesn't look like as if the US and the USSR are willing to salvage theis nuclear submarines. Because of a blanc in the treaties about waste dumping they also can't obliged to do so; in the agreed codes of behaviour in case of accidents all military nuclear substances are excluded.

Here countries have found a common interest and keep saying that it is not dangerous, that reactors (and nuclear arms) are well protected and can be left there. But according to Greenpeace there is only one uncertanty; when the reactor break down under presures underseas, by explosions or simply by corrosion and when the radio activity is entiring the food chain.

SMALL DUMPINGS.

But the greater accidents are not the only events that worries us. Because of stupidity, unwillingness, indifferencence,... small dumping take place regurlarly. Only a few examples have surfaced, but there is no single reason to assume that those incidents don't happen more often. Anyway the dreaming of cooling water just after the starting of a nuclear submarine do already belong to the normal procedure. In such a ship one has cut down on space, so much than there is no room left for several hundred of liters lightly radio active contaminated coolingwater. A reactor aboard of a submarine is started up several times a month, often in a Harbour. Also in cape of other navy activities in marine harbours, radio active waste is released. In the Scottisch Holy Loch, a British harbour, mainly for submarines, are basins for the storage of radio active contaminated water and waste

through ever proved, but there is a suspicion that in the past there has been a dumping in the Irish Sea, with the device; this sea is already so radio active, it doesn't matter anymore.

"Whenever possible a nuclear accident should be handled in the same way as an accident with heavy conventional explosives".

(W. Crowe, former commander in chief of the US Navy in the Pacific Ocean.
May 1984.)

There is another example. In 1975 in the Harbour of Guam, in the Pacific, a large quantity contaminated water was drained off by the submarine Proteus.

Only years later ex-crew members started talking; according to them measurements had shown that the radiation-level in the surroundings of the harbour was 50 times as high as, at that moment, legally permitted. The civil population at Guam never was warned. About the consequences of the natural sea environment, in case of accidents and incidents, far too little is known. Because mankind is still considered the highest form of creation, there has been research to the effects on mankind in case of a serious accident with a nuclear driven submarine in a harbour. An American inquiry still gives us the best sight on the possible consequences.

This inquiry, called "the consequences of an accident in which a nuclear fusion takes place in a ship reactor in the middle of San Francisco Bay", is based on the methods used by the American NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission) for calculation the consequences of a similar "melt down" in a civil reactor on land. The NRC is the overall control organization of the American Government for the nuclear industrie. The starting points they are using for the calculation of the possible number of victims are very conservative and are therefore rejected by environmental groups.

WOMEN AND DISEASED DON'T EXIST.

It was calculated what kind of substances in what quantities would be released during a period of four hours when there would appear a split in the reactor centre. Also for every substance the emission for different of weather was calculated.

The starting point were only the people who lived in that area, so no dockworkers or daytrippers. They also took no account of the fact that pregnant women, children and ill people are more vulnerable for the consequences contamination and they will definitely be present in the area. So the calculations are only valid for healthy grown-up/adults. So the calculations are only valid for healthy grown-ups/adults. There was measured up to a distance of 11 kilometres from the source, the distance from the port harbour to the ocean and the most likely wind, away from the land.

The radio active substances would be released in the form of aerosoles (steam and smoke) and gas.

It appeared that the quantities measured would rise high above the quantities the NRC thinks to be admissible. In the case of calcium 137-17 exceeds a million times the limit at 11 kilometres from the disaster.

The concentrations of iodine 131 in the air would be 2000 times higher than legally admitted. Proceeding these results the number of deadly victims one could expect was calculated.

If the area wasn't evacuated in time (that is within 1 to 2 hours) the number would be in between - 5 and 1000, depending on the wind velocity. The longer the evacuation would last, the more people, sooner or later, would die. The economical damage of such a disaster was also calculated.

Tens of billions of guilders would be needed to make the surroundings habitable again. So far the results of the American inquiry. The question remains how to value it. Important in this context is that the NRC is a warm advocate for nuclear energy.

EMERGENCY STOPS.

At January 1988 it was almost so far that the results could be tested in reality; Aboard the British Submarine Resolution is panic. At that moment the submarine is in the harbour of Faslane, near Glasgow.

A technical fault in the cooling system of the reactor is the cause of the panic. Thanks to two crew members who didn't panic and reacted in time a meltdowner could be prevented.

Between 1973 and 1978 712 "incidents" took place by and in nuclear driven ships. That's an average of more than 2 a month.

Every incident was serious enough "to be reported, written down and analysed". This verdict of the British navy makes us suspect that incidents happen more often one doesn't think worth reporting.

In 5 years between 1973 and 1978 one had to start the so called SCRAM in 106 cases. This is a British naval expression to describe an emergency stop. This radical and reaching procedure, not exactly conducive to the durability of the reactor, is only applied when there is almost certain the risk of a meltdowner.

Nuclear reactors for ships, as they are for silence, compactness and speed, have even less safety systems as the "normal" civic reactors ashore.

We could continue for hours in this way. The list with alarming facts and events is endless. Gladly there is also resistance. Before talking about the world wide growing resistance against nuclear vessels, we want to tell about the situation in Holland.

HOLLAND, NAVYLAND.

Neither the Dutch navy, nor our mercantile marine or fishing fleet has any nuclear driven ships.

Dutch harbours are regularly visited by ships equipped with nuclear arms. For example Amsterdam is regularly visited by navy vessels equipped with nuclear arms from NATO squadrons. Funny enough it is forbidden for nuclear driven ships to visit the harbour of Amsterdam. An interdepartmental workgroup decided this in 1985. The harbours of Rotterdam, Vlissingen and Den Helder (as known, maybe there are more) in any case have free admission for these ships. And that they will know.

In October '85 the USS Archerfish, an American nuclear submarine, anchored at the RDM wharf in Rotterdam. Besides reactor drive, this ship had also nuclear warheads SUBROCK aboard.

In March '85 the sistership of the Archerfish, the Whale, had already visited the city on the Maas (Rotterdam). Finally a third ship in the same class followed in February 1987, the US Billfish. A small demonstration was organized against the visit of the whale. The city council knew no better than to hide behind the government after questions in the city council meeting, a very formal point of view.

Local government officially has got nothing to say about a.o. defence policy, under which the visits of ships resort. (On the other hand she is first responsible, in case of a disaster, for the safety of her citizens. In the first hours after the event she has to organize the evacuation). In spite of this handicap, it would be of great political importance if a city council, symbolically, declared the ships not wanted. Up till 1985 the submarines anchored "several times a year(!)" in the Margriet harbour. According to a civil servant it became "problematic to anchor the ships there, so we asked RDM whether they could anchor there."

The problems arising around the anchoring in the Margriet Harbour are not mentioned. In any case RDM was very willing.

With this larged arms factory in the Rijnmond area RDM added a new activity to a.o. the disputed building of the Dutch Walrus submarine and in the past, nuclear reactor containers. Not everything is know about such visiteds of such ships.

However the navy is proud about her achievements and material, and however willing to organize fleet days, she very well realizes that there is a large resistance in the public opinion against everything related to nuclear energy. In June '87, the surface ship Bainbridge, an American cruiser, driven by 2(!) nuclear reactors visited the Waalharbour in Rotterdam and the naval harbour in Den Helder.

"Navy's attractt less attention by their autonomous nature and are so far not subjected to the same open political attention the other armed forces are."

William M. Arkin, Institute for policy studies in Washington.

This is the same Bainbridge that suffered damage early this year wher she got stuck on a sand-bank near the harbour of Den Helder.

The ship was on its way to the harbour where it would be exposed for public, within the framework of the fleet-days.

The authorities, not very happy with the timing of the accident, stumbled over each other confirming the public that " there is no danger whatsoever for public health".

History makes it difficult to accept this without question.

RESISTENCE IS DIFFICULT.

In this article we tried to describe the developments and to give some facts in relation to the nuclearisation of the world seas.

Many more surveys are needed to look at the long term consequenses for the sea environment.

But also without more survey results there is enough ground to plead for a ban/prohibition on nuclear reactors at sea and for further decrease of the quantity of nuclear arms. To take steps in this direction it is necessary to get more grip on the developments and decissions made inside the navy. Not only on finance and armament but also on the claim the navy puts on the sea environment and on the dangers for people that stick to the activities by the navy. In more and more countries especially lower governements take decisions to forbid nuclear driven ships to visit their town or harbour. These descions hid the navy hard, her very much needing the acceptance and even adoration by the public. Isolation is very important but not enough. An added problem, while building up the resistance, is that a number of the same mechanisemes and arguments are used as in the discussion about one sided disarmament. "The enemy will get a lead if we (the western world, NATO) are not allowed to use nuclear driven vessels anymore".

In this theme lies clearly the common interest for the peace and environment movement.

We hope this interest is seen and new coalitions will be made.

GRAM,
Postbox 18640
Amsterdam.

SPAIN

How do you do ?

We are a group of people in Spain. We would like to know you because we are interested in having contact with different groups all over the world. Groups of pacifists, ecologists, anarchists, squatters, feminist women, political prisoners, communal communities, conscientious objectors... in general, people who are working in radical and alternative projects. We have worked for many years in this project in Spain. This project consists of sending information we received to different groups all over the world. In exchange these groups send us their information.

This project is a work of exchange of information and its purpose is to know different groups and their activities. So we would like to help them and do as much as possible so that the people who are fighting against these capitalists and oppressive systems can have solidarity and support from all over the world and can have better and bigger campaigns where the people of all the countries will have the mutual support of everybody who is working and fighting in the same affairs. We ask you for some addresses of different radical groups and information about your activities and the activities of the groups you know in your country.

We aren't interested in any political organisation. We don't like any of them and we don't agree with one of them. We think that international solidarity is very important to all people. So we are working in this because it is necessary for all of us to get support to fight against capitalism and oppression with more strength. All of this is important because of the new situation in Europe. The economical european community will be reality so soon and the police, syndical, social...control so.

We say pardon for our bad english.

You can write to:

S.P.A.L. (Servicio Postal de Informaciones Alternativas y Libertarias)
Calle Baja No 8 pta 1a
46003 Valencia
Spain

NETHERLANDS - NEW DEVELOPMENTS

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN THE NETHERLANDS

Because of the accident in Chernobyl, the already planned new nuclear power plants in the Netherlands were cancelled (for more information about the history of nuclear power in the Netherlands and the resistance against it, you can read the reader made before the congress and/or the report of the congress).

There is a new government consisting of christian-democrats and labourparty since autumn '89. The new minister of Economical Affairs (nuclear energy is part of that ministry) comes from the (christian) trade and industry business and is a notorious supporter of nuclear energy. At this moment he has statements such as: "we should not exclude nuclear power", "knowledge about nuclear power must not be lost." and "in the nearby future there 'll be safe nuclear power plants and then nuclear energy is a good way of generating power". He thinks (and he probably is right) that at this moment the anti-nuclear power movement in the Netherlands is so weak and it may be time to start talking again about new nuclear power plants.

His plan is to set up a research committee. During the next governmental period (1993), the decision will be taken about new nuclear power plants. The political parties in this government agree and so does the liberal party, together about 80% of the parliament.

More than 90% of the population is, according to opinion polls, against the construction of new nuclear power plants and about 50% is in favor of closing down the existing ones (2 nuclear power plants: Dodewaard and Borssele, and the ultracentrifuge UCN).

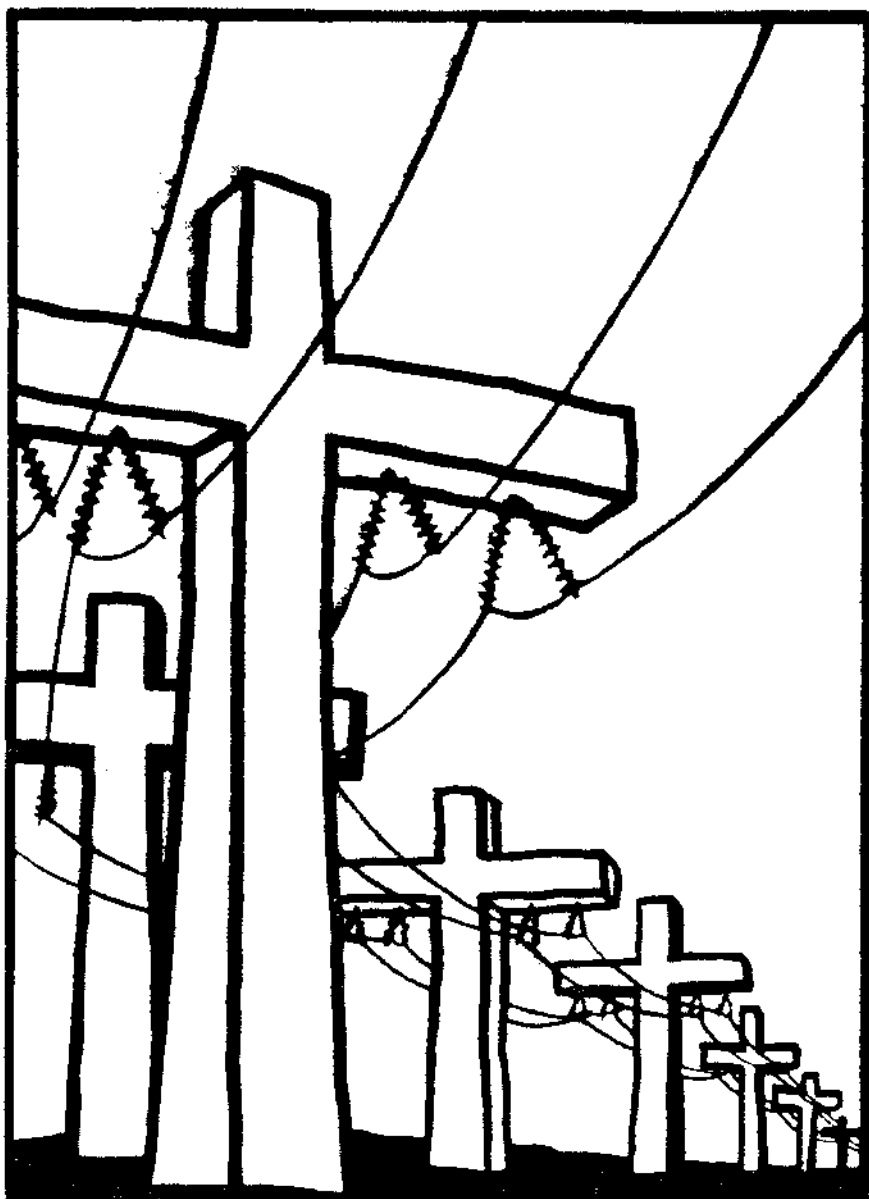
But the past years there has been hardly any real resistance against nuclear power. Now and then there are some actions; but these are always done by small groups.

The nuclear lobby insists on a fast decision about the new plants. And the lobby is getting stronger. A striking example: the city council of Rotterdam has to make an allotment plan for the area of the Maasvlakte. This area was chosen years ago, for a possible building site for new nuclear power plants. Rotterdam tried to exclude a new plant from the allotment plan. The central government prevented this.

In Belgium, the government is planning to distribute iodine tablets in advance in case of a nuclear accident; so people hold these tablets by the hand. Right after this announcement of the Belgian government, the Dutch government decided to do the same.

Another thing which seems to conduct to those plans for new nuclear plants, is the new, not yet built, storage site for nuclear waste in Borssele and its big size. (see for more information about this storage site else in this newsletter).

On the other hand, there are guesses that new nuclear power plants are more likely to be built in countries where there is no or hardly any resistance. With the coming of Europe '92 it will be much easier to import nuclear power from France or the BRD.



Yellowcake Roads

The world's uranium industry has undergone important transformations in the last decade, as nuclear power programmes have stalled or been cancelled in several countries. However, uranium mining will certainly continue for many years. This MINEWATCH Action Briefing looks at the world market in uranium, current regions of production and the likely new areas of development. It concludes that long-term supplies of nuclear fuel will continue to derive from areas where indigenous people, in particular, are under threat.

Three companies now control over half the entire world's uranium oxide ("yellowcake") production and more than two-thirds of all uranium reserves. Two of these are government-controlled (France's Cogema and Cameco owned jointly by the Federal Canadian and Saskatchewan governments). The third is the privately-owned British conglomerate RTZ which, since it bought up most of British Petroleum (BP)'s mineral assets last year, is now the world's biggest mining company.

Ironically, today's situation among producers is remarkably similar to that prevailing fifteen years ago, when RTZ together with the French, Canadian, Australian and South African governments engineered a massive uranium cartel. Part of the effect of this cartel was to drive up the price of uranium five-fold in three years. The aim of the cartel was to pull the rug from under US producers who then dominated the world output.

Today again it is US producers who are "suffering". According to Gerald Grandey, president of the Uranium Producers of America (UPA), only four of the country's 26 uranium mills are currently operating and all but five US underground mines have been closed. More than one billion dollars investment has been written off. Although no new nuclear reactors have come on-line since the Three Mile Island disaster a decade ago, the

countries operating nuclear plant require around 40 million lbs. of uranium each year. Less than thirty percent of this is currently being provided by US mines.

Mr Grandey puts the bulk of the blame for this perilous state of affairs on the USSR and China - both of whom have been supplying "heavily subsidised" uranium to US utilities and undercutting national producers. China made its first uranium sale to the US in 1989.

However, the world picture is somewhat more complex than Grandey's analysis might suggest. US uranium producers are among the highest cost in the world, while grades at most mines have been falling for many years. Because the world is still awash with excess uranium (being sold off by consumers who don't want it) the market price has now toppled to its lowest ever, at less than US\$10 /lb. This is hardly an incentive to the industry to explore for new deposits with the result that, in the USA and Canada (where exploration costs are ten times what they are in Australia) companies are concentrating on expanding older deposits, rather than going after new ones.

Another long term factor bound to reduce the viability of the US uranium industry is the recently agreed Free Trade Act between Canada and the US. This will enable long-term contracts to be sealed between US utilities and the

country with the world's largest and most reliable uranium output.

Strangely enough, none of this means that demand for uranium is lagging behind production; on the contrary, for some years now demand has been running slightly ahead of production. Mr Grandey says it will grow by at least 2% every year for the next 10 years. It seems that world-wide credibility in nuclear power is suffering less than confidence in the uranium industry.

This is very important if it's true. For, in the absence of widespread adoption of Fast Breeder technology, more efficient throughput of uranium fuel and a considerable drop in the price of enrichment services, new uranium supplies will continue to be the life blood of nuclear power.

Where will such supplies come from? South Africa's primary uranium production has almost ceased, while its secondary production (from gold mines) has fallen drastically, under the impact of sanctions (specifically the US sanctions of 1987). Namibia's has also been dropping in recent years - though the advent of a SWAPO-controlled government might bring badly needed new contracts during the 1990s. For a long time France has been trying to scale down its commitment to its African producers in Gabon and Niger, while virtually all domestic French production is absorbed in the country's civil/military programme. In the near future eastern Europe output, never that large, might cease altogether for both political and economic reasons. Hungary stopped producing in 1989. The future for small producers in the rest of Europe and south America cannot be said to be encouraging.

That leaves Canada, Australia, what remains of the US uranium industry, and the USSR and China. Canada's uranium sector is the most viable in the

world. It's huge, enormously rich, Saskatchewan deposits are only just being exploited to their potential. However, Canadian regulations stipulate that no exports are permitted until domestic state-owned utilities have purchased 50 years of their requirements. A collapse of confidence in the country's nuclear industry or a melt down in one of its Candu reactors, could result in generous supplies of uranium being available on the market. It is also possible, taking into account the Federal non-proliferation rules (continually breached over the past 20 years) that such an occurrence could knock out Canadian yellowcake, once and for all.

Next to Canada, Australia continues to be the "great white hope" of uranium production. Exploration expenditures are not only relatively very low, but several major deposits located and "proven" in the 1970s could be brought into production within a few years if the price rallied. Considerable confusion surrounds Federal Australian government policy. Three mines are permitted under ruling Australian Labour Party policy; but are these the three mines opened up in the last few years or any three mines? Last year Prime Minister Hawke ostensibly swung to the Greens and promised not to sanction further uranium exploration, at least until 1992. Exploration continues on a modest scale, specifically in Martu country. Here, on Aboriginal traditional land in the Western Desert, RTZ's Australian associate company, CRA is determined to dig up a new "uranium province" on a par with the huge Arnhemland deposits in the Northern Territory.

Any development planned in the US will probably concentrate on Arizona breccia pipes. This is a region of great ecological and spiritual importance to the Havasupai people; opposition to mining is strong and it will not be easy

for the companies to gain approval. If expansion in the Grand Canyon region gets vetoed, Rio Algom (RTZ's Canadian subsidiary) might still make up some of the domestic shortfall by re-working Kerr McGee's extensive uranium holdings in the south west - where indigenous lands are also affected. Nor should we forget the far from negligible contribution made to US uranium output from phosphates/phosphoric acid production, solution mining and the potential to be gained from re-cycling gargantuan tailings piles. But even if all these sources were used in the next ten years, it is difficult not to agree with the US Secretary of Energy who for five years has held that the US uranium industry is "non-viable".

That the Soviet Union is an important supplier of the raw material for western nuclear programmes may come as a surprise to many. On the other hand, it has been enriching a significant proportion of European and US uranium hexafluoride for some years. Just how big a contribution it is now making to US imports is difficult to determine. Without precise data on the Soviet uranium industry (and how far it depends on other eastern Europe mines) we cannot know whether the heavily-subsidised material now reaching the market has been made superfluous, thanks to nuclear cutbacks after Chernobyl, or would have been available in any event.

MINEWATCH is a network of people concerned about the impact of mining primarily on the environment and indigenous peoples. Please contact us for details of our other publications and consultancy service.

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We have bad news for everybody who's waiting to travel to Sweden for the Second International Congress. We heard that there will be NO, repeat NO Congress in Sweden this or next year. We're trying to find a group who is willing and able to organize it instead. If you have any ideas, please contact us. One thing for sure, the dutch group is not willing to organize it once again. And it will be very frustrating if this project ends this soon.

China remains a big conundrum. What is publicly known about its uranium mines could be written large on a fairly small scrap of paper. A year ago, Tibetan exiles in Europe released details of strategic minerals in their occupied country, which the Chinese regime has earmarked for possible exploitation; these include huge uranium deposits which could conceivably be mined, by imported technicians and dragooned Tibetan labour, both for home use and export.

As for the remainder of the world, it could fairly safely be concluded that no major uranium deposit will be opened so long as current market conditions persist and nuclear power continues to lose confidence among a large part of the world's communities. There will never be a mine in Greenland, nor in Scandinavia, nor Algeria. It is highly doubtful if any new mines will open in Africa or southern Asia. The possibilities are still there in south America and quite real in Tibet. Otherwise the field for concern is pretty well defined in north America and Australia - on native American and Aboriginal claimed land.

Sources Mining Annual Review 1989, Mining Journal 3/11/89 and 15/12/89, Press release from Assembly of Tibetan Peoples Deputies, India 22/11/88.

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