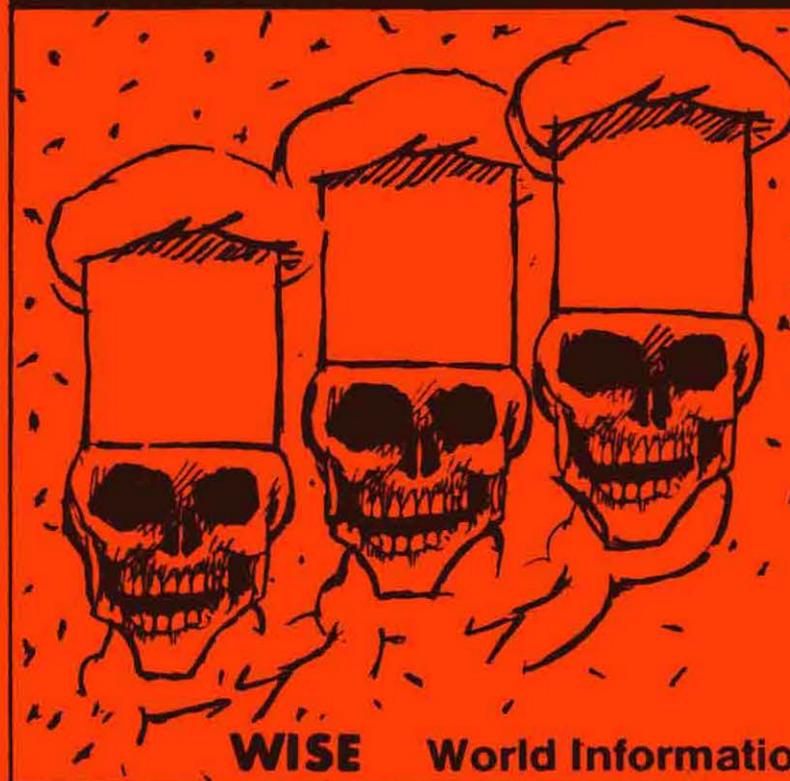


KEEP IT



keep it in the ground
international stop
uranium mining
newsletter august 1981
no 15

WISE World Information Service on Energy



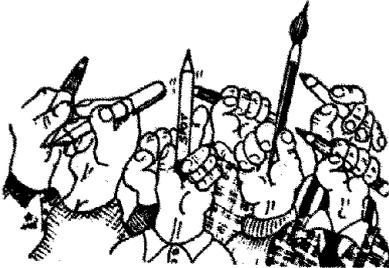
ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A subscription to Keep It In The Ground costs f20 dutch guilders per year. The various WISE relays, listed on the back of this newsletter, handle all their local subscriptions: and if you have no local relay, then subscribe via WISE Amsterdam.

- f20
- £4.00
- \$10.00
- f50 for institutions.

People who are able to donate money: we are always very grateful to receive gifts. This newsletter is sent to many native peoples communities and others who need the information but cannot afford even to pay the mailing costs.



This is a newsletter linking together people all round the world fighting to stop uranium mining and exploration. It was set up in 1979, at the request of a meeting of indigenous peoples fighting uranium mining.

All people involved are invited to share your news. The newsletter is also available in French and in Spanish.

Bulk issues are available to groups - just write and ask. We can give them to you at cost price, and you can distribute them at your actions.

This issue of Keep It In The Ground has been edited by Lin Pugh with participation of the WISE Amsterdam collective. Thankyou to readers and WISE relays who sent in stories. Everyone is invited to participate. On the industry section, we have the cooperation of Roger Moody of CIMRA in England.

Re-publication of this newsletter is encouraged, please quote source.
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THEME ARTICLES

Stop Uranium Mining Conference in Fichtelgebirge

In a far corner of Southern Germany, close to the Czech border, 100 Europeans from 8 countries met together for the Second European Stop Uranium Mining Conference, from June 12-14 1981. The area is known as the Fichtelgebirge, and is one of Germany's uranium areas since the '50's.

The idea of international cooperation against uranium mining, and coordinating actions together, is new for Europe. A series of meetings over the past years: Uranium Mining and People of the Third and Fourth World (Copenhagen 1979), First European Anti Uranium Mining Conference (Bessines, France, 1980) and now Fichtelgebirge are efforts at finding ways to cooperate.

The Conference had two fronts. One was clearly the education of German anti nuclear and anti uranium activists on why uranium mining is an issue. While this was interesting to activists from other countries, by far more important was the international exchange. One criticism of delegates was that too little time was available for this exchange, especially on strategy. Probably next years conference, to be held in Stockholm at the same time as the UN Environment Conference, will be almost exclusively concentrating on working together and exchange.

While these sorts of criticism remain, a lot of things happen as a result of such conferences. As a result of the Bessines conference last year French groups met together for the first time and Réseau Uranium was born, a national umbrella. Spanish and Portuguese groups now meet together several times per year to talk on cooperation and work together. It will be interesting to see if such a cooperation is born among German groups.

International Exchange

From a talk by Olov Holmström, scientist and activist in Sweden, we learned a lot about dealing with the mining companies. His most important conclusion was that uranium mining companies have many weak points, which, when found by local campaigners, can put barriers in the way of development. It seems from his experience that company officials do not know much about what they are doing, are slap dash in their methods and are often plain dumb. On the other hand, the Swedish public is

quite informed about the dangers of radioactivity, and when the plans of the waste disposal of the Swedish mines are looked at it is clear that the waste management programme is ineffective. It is not difficult to prove this to people in positions who will then reject mining plans. He said that mining companies will try and get away with everything, so keep alert and expose them. Papers were also prepared for the conference on the situation of the participating countries. This will be made into a document by the organising group, Arbeitsgruppe Uranabbau im Fichtelgebirge. Copies of last years conference papers are available also, in French and English, from the OOA, Rysgade 19, 2200 Copenhagen N, Denmark.

The conference participants discussed not only extraction; import was also an issue. In the well attended international cooperation workshop, the organisation of action against uranium transport was discussed. You will also read in other parts of this KIITG about transport actions. Some frustration was expressed that little was done on this so far, whereas there have been discussions on the subject quite often. The idea of a working group was mooted, perhaps this will develop. Further, a press statement was released condemning the unscrupulous exploitation of uranium from the third world, "To the severe detriment of the native populations who are not taken into account, European mining companies extract the highly dangerous uranium which is used in European power plants", the release stated.

Keep It In The Ground also came under discussion, as the tool of communication among anti uranium mining groups. Positive input was made: people need to have more background information on how local groups function and organise; people also need hard facts. For the first need, we call on groups to supply this news so we can print it; and for the second, you will see we have a new Science section. Participants at the workshop will make summaries of important reports and papers for inclusion in this section.

For more information, and for copies of papers, contact:

Gertrud Winkler
Bahnhofstr.37, 8664 Stammbach
West Germany

URANIUM: The most strategic mineral of all

by Stephen A. Zorn

The winners in the international nuclear power game are the large corporations such as Rio Tinto Zinc and Gulf Oil, which mine uranium; Westinghouse and Siemens, which manufacture reactors; and Commonwealth Edison and Pacific Gas and Electric, which sell nuclear power. The losers include workers in the industry who are exposed to continuing health hazards, consumers whose rising utility bills reflect the cost of plant failures and other company mistakes, and the general public, which is endangered by such events as the Three Mile Island near-melt-down, the unauthorized dumping of millions of gallons of radioactive water into New Mexico's Rio Puerco and other harbingers of environmental disaster.

To the list of losers must be added those Third World people and governments whose uranium resources are being mined. Under contracts reminiscent of the concession agreements of the colonial era, Third World countries receive little of the income generated by uranium mining, exercise virtually no control over the industry and see few multiplier effects or other social benefits.

Over the last two decades, Third World countries have made great efforts to achieve effective sovereignty over their natural resources, with uranium being a notable exception.

Gains have been made in achieving more equitable division of financial rewards, in government control, and in integrating the mining sector into the rest of the economy.

On fiscal issues, the old concession agreements' flat-rate royalties and low or nonexistent income taxes have been replaced by levies linked to the market price of the final product as with Jamaica's bauxite levy, and by income taxes that attempt to capture a large share of profits for the host country—Indonesia, Papua New Guinea and

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The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of the United Nations.



Tanzania all have excess-profits taxes.

On the question of state control, many countries have nationalized mines or purchased controlling interests in existing companies. For example, most new mining agreements are for relatively short periods—0-25 years, instead of the 80-100 year periods typical of old concessions. In some cases (Coloibia, Papua New Guinea) the state holds only a minority equity interest in a mining project, but reserves a veto power over key management decisions of the foreign company.

On the issue of economic linkages between mining enclaves and the rest of the economy, most new mining investment agreements also provide, within the limits inherent in the capital-intensive nature of mining, for training and employment of host-country nationals, for local preference in the purchase of goods and supplies for the mining project, and in a few cases for local processing of minerals.

Most current world uranium production comes from a few industrialized countries; the U.S., Canada, South Africa and France together account for 77 percent of current production capacity (excluding the USSR, China, and Eastern Europe, for which accurate data are difficult to obtain). The only significant uranium production in the Third World is in Niger, Gabon, and in Namibia which is under South African control. These three countries are major exporters, while Argentina, Brazil, India, Mexico and the Philippines produce small amounts for domestic use. Uranium exploration and production agreements have been signed with multinational companies, but mining has not begun in Bolivia, Chad, Colombia, Indonesia, Iraq, Tanzania and Zambia.

Significant proportions of uranium reserves and production in the U.S., Australia, and Canada are found on land belonging to indigenous peoples; the financial returns received and the amount of control exercised over uranium development by such peoples are frequently even less than in the case of Third World host countries.

The basic features of Third World uranium agreements, especially those in Niger, Gabon and Namibia, include:

- minimal financial returns to the host country;
- little host-country control over uranium development, including the pace at which mining can proceed and the markets in which uranium can be sold;
- few linkages with the rest of the host country's economy, and
- little or no effective control over the environmental and health effects of uranium mining and milling.

In Gabon, the government of President Bongo signed an agreement in 1978 with a foreign consortium that included Union Carbide Corporation, Leon Tempelman and Son, Inc. of the U.S.; and the Compagnie Generale des Matieres Nucleaires (COGEMA), a subsidiary of the French atomic energy agency, CEA. The agreement, for evaluation and development of the Booue uranium deposit, has the following provisions:

- a seven-year tax holiday;

- export duties and royalties limited to 50 percent of the value of production;
- a maximum tax rate of 42 percent, after expiration of the tax holiday; and
- Ten percent "free" equity in the project for the government.

These are, by current Third World mining industry standards, highly favorable conditions for the companies. The low royalty and tax holiday will mean little financial benefit will accrue to Gabon, and the agreement leaves effective control firmly in the hands of the foreign companies, provides little or no "spin-off" benefits for the rest of the economy, and neglects environmental and health issues.

A similar agreement is in effect in Gabon between the government and another foreign consortium, which includes the Rothschild group's Imetal, the French government agency CEA, and Minatome—itsself a joint venture among two French state-controlled oil companies, Elf-Aquitaine and CFP-Total, and the aluminum-steel company Pechiney Ugine Kuhlmann.

Government-backed corporations, seeking supplies of what is both a strategic mineral and a fuel, drive extremely hard bargains.

In Niger, which has the potential for becoming the largest uranium exporter among Third World countries, several foreign consortia control uranium mining. One includes COGEMA of France, the Spanish state enterprise ENUSA, and the Overseas Uranium Resources Development Corp. of Japan, a group that links the major Japanese trading and industrial companies with their government through subsidies and tax concessions.

A second mining group in Niger includes the French companies COGEMA, Minatome, and the Rothschild group's Mokta, together with the West German and Italian state-controlled enterprises Urangesellschaft and Agip Nucléaire.

A third agreement grants mining rights to a joint venture in which CEA of France and Conoco of the US are equal partners. Under the Conoco-CEA agreement of 1974 which is typical of Niger's uranium contracts, the two companies pay all exploration expenses, but the government must pay for its 30 percent share of development and operating expenses, either in cash or by borrowing from the companies,

at an interest rate equal to half the US prime rate plus 1 percent.

Conoco will pay income tax at a rate of 40.5 percent (the US corporate tax rate is 46 percent), but the company receives a depletion allowance of up to 10 percent of capital investment or 33 percent of taxable income. A particularly unusual clause, which is normally strongly resisted by Third World mining contract negotiators, guarantees the companies that, if any other uranium mining firms receive more favorable terms in the future, those new terms will also apply to Conoco-CEA. Similar terms, including the "most favored company" clause, are found in Niger's earlier (1968) uranium agreement with the CEA of France.

Namibia, currently under illegal South African occupation, is the most significant Third World producer of uranium. The Rossing mine, operated by Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation (RTZ) of the UK, is the world's largest, with output approaching 5,000 tons of yellowcake (uranium ore) annually—worth more than \$300 million at the current price of \$28 per pound. Under the South African-based legal system

which has been applied to the Rossing mine however, no tax at all was payable from the mine's start-up in 1976 through 1980, as a result of very liberal investment write-off provisions. Beginning in 1981, the mine will pay tax at a rate of 40 percent, but it is likely that profits will be lower than they should be, since a considerable part of Rossing's output goes to the U.K., France and South Africa under long-term, low-price contracts. In addition to RTZ, Rossing's shareholders include the South African government's Industrial Development Corporation and the General Mining group of South Africa.

At hearings sponsored by the United Nations Council for Namibia last summer, investigators described in detail the way in which UK, French and West German multinationals and the governments of those countries have co-operated in evading international organizations' calls for a ban on trading in Namibia's resources. (See chart.) As a result of the mining of uranium at Rossing since 1976, a substantial part of Namibia's resources have been forever lost to the country's own

people.

In a few developing countries—none of which are major uranium producers—the terms of agreements are somewhat more favorable to the host government than in Gabon, Niger and Namibia. In Tanzania, for example, a uranium exploration contract with Urangesellschaft of West Germany includes provision for excess profits taxes, up to a rate of 75 percent when profits are greater than a 25 percent rate of return on the company's investment.

Why are the terms of these uranium agreements, in general, so much worse than in the case of other minerals? Five factors, all of which relate to uranium's unique nature as a nuclear fuel for weapons and power plants, are worthy of discussion: (1) the involvement of industrialized countries' governments in Third World projects; (2) the history of the world uranium market; (3) the relatively small share of Third World countries in total world uranium supply; (4) the high company concentration in the industry; and (5) the dependent status of all the major Third World producer countries.

Government Involvement. Most foreign investment in Third World mining since World War II has been carried out by privately owned companies. In uranium, however, multinational enterprises owned by West European governments are major participants in worldwide exploration, development and production. COGEMA of France, as noted, is involved in Niger and Gabon, and has exploration projects in Bolivia, Indonesia, South Africa, Brazil, Iran and Iraq. Total, a subsidiary of the state-owned Compagnie Francaise des Petroles, has exploration agreements in Colombia and South Africa. Urangesellschaft is involved in Niger, Tanzania and Canada. And Agip of Italy has exploration rights in Bolivia and is involved in mining projects in Niger and the U.S.

While one might expect state-owned firms to be less insistent on high profits than private companies, and more concerned with political goals such as assuring the supply of critical raw materials, the available evidence in both uranium and oil suggests that the managers of state enterprises from the industrial countries are equally interested in profits, if only as a way of assuring their own independence from political control. This is particularly true for the French state enterprises. And government backed corporations

seeking supplies of what is both a strategic mineral and a fuel are willing and able to drive extremely hard bargains.

The uranium market. Before 1970, uranium was primarily used for military purposes, the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission being the chief purchaser. Between the late 1940s and 1960, the AEC bought not only from U.S. mines, but also from the then Belgian Congo, Australia and South Africa. But as the AEC stockpile grew, foreign purchases were cut back, in order to keep U.S. producers in business. Similarly, when France became a major

Third World market share. Since uranium has always been dealt with as a security-related resource, with exploration and production concentrated in the industrialized nations or their client states, the total Third World share of the market has remained small. In 1980, the U.S., Canada, South Africa, France and Australia together accounted for 77 percent of production outside the USSR, China and Eastern Europe; with new projects currently underway in Australia, South Africa and Canada, this figure will rise to 78 percent in 1982. All Third World

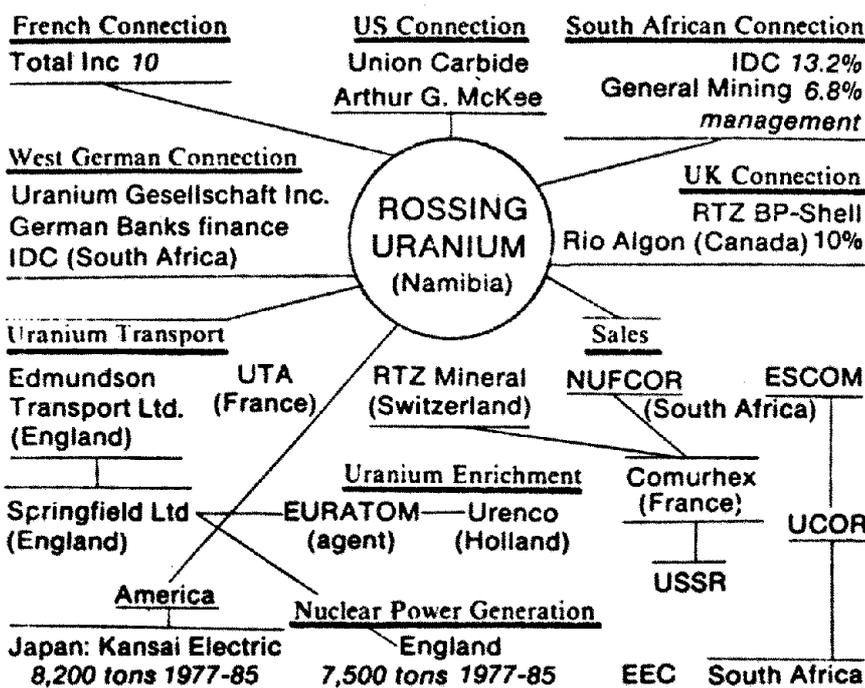
producers. In the uranium industry, however, the French, West German and Italian state enterprises, plus a few multinational companies—Rio Tinto Zinc, Gulf Oil, ARCO (through its Anaconda subsidiary), Kerr-McGee, Exxon, Mobile and the Rothschild Group of France—effectively control at least 80 percent of current production capacity.

The producers' cartel that formed in the 1970s, which was partially responsible for the increase in uranium's spot price from \$6.50 a pound in 1973 to \$43 in 1978, was principally an attempt by non-U.S. producers in the industrialized world to upgrade their income and their control within the industry relative to the U.S. Regardless of the immediate motives behind that cartelization, the mere fact of high concentration is a source of bargaining power for the companies in their dealings with any buyer.

Colonial dependence. Those Third World nations where uranium is being produced are among the least able to negotiate effective contracts. Namibia, of course, remains subject to South African control. The regimes which hold power in Niger and Gabon are heavily dependent on France for economic, technical, and military support. The situation is in sharp contrast to the cases of petroleum, bauxite, or copper, where major Third World producers have been willing and able to renegotiate unfair agreements or simply to act unilaterally to establish more reasonable terms. The success of Tanzania in negotiating an excess-profits tax in its agreement with Uranengesellschaft is an example of what a more politically and economically independent government might be able to achieve.

Behind all these considerations lies the fact that uranium is the most strategic mineral of them all, and one found in large quantities in the industrialized countries' own mines. With a powerful lobby now at work in the U.S. to get the Reagan administration behind a program to increase U.S. control of many other "strategic resources," wherever they may be found, the prospect looms that multinational mining companies could seek to use uranium agreement precedents to roll back gains made by host countries in other mining contracts. When 'nationals team up with governments of industrialized nations, Third World authorities are exceptionally vulnerable at the negotiating table. □

Business Interests in Namibia



uranium user in the 1970s, it concentrated its activity at home and in those few uranium-rich ex-colonies that were firmly under French influence—particularly Niger and Gabon. Rather than a world market in which all producing countries compete, the uranium market is actually a series of contracted producers supplying government corporations or corporations acting as agents for their national governments.

The strategic nature of uranium also has concentrated Western exploration in politically "safe" countries—the U.S., Canada and Australia. Partly as a result of this exploration bias, reported world reserves of uranium are concentrated in those countries as well.

countries together account for only 21 percent of current production, and almost all of that is in politically dependent Namibia and economically dependent Gabon and Niger.

The uranium producers and importers' "club" is both powerful and exclusive. The minor share of the market held by Third World producers, and the currently low level of worldwide demand, leave Third World producers in an extremely poor bargaining position.

Company concentration. In such industries as iron ore, copper, and even bauxite/aluminum, there has been an increase in worldwide competition over the past two decades, as new companies and Third World state enterprises have become important pro-

Trade Union Seminar on Namibian Uranium

West European Trade Unionists concerned with the plunder of Namibian uranium met June 29-30 to organise action against the transport of Namibian Uranium. The conference was organised by SWAPO of Namibia and the Namibia Support Group in London. Trade unions represented were the CGT and CFDT of France, the FNV of the Netherlands, National Union of Seamen, T&GWU, ASLEF of the United Kingdom.

The participants recognised that the illegal purchase, transportation and processing of Namibian uranium by governments, including those of France, Belgium, West Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom are a crucial element in South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia.

The participants called for practical and effective measures to bring about the total isolation economically of South Africa, to compel its withdrawal from Namibia, elimination of Apartheid and a halt to its attacks on other African states.

The participants described actions they had already taken to impede the traffic in Namibian uranium. They resolved to establish, nationally and internationally, effective co-ordination to monitor the route and to blockade shipments. It was recognised that with co-ordinated trade union action a blockade would be effective.

It was clear that basic trade union rights are being denied to workers in Namibia, particularly at the Rossing mine. It was agreed that the appalling conditions for black workers in and around Rossing, and the continued harassment of the National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW, the only black trade union representing black rights) are the result of South Africa's illegal occupation of Namibia.

There are, participants agreed, numerous violations of national laws, particularly on health and safety, largely as a result of the clandestine methods by which the governments and companies transport Namibian uranium.

It was recognised that there is a pressing need to expose this secrecy and the health hazards the uranium traffic creates, both for Namibians and for the people of Europe. The secrecy is a direct result of the companies awareness that the entire operation is in direct defiance of international law.

The union representatives agreed they would put pressure on their governments to end

imports of Namibian uranium and other natural resources. They will seek to educate and mobilise their members, and encourage other unions to adopt similar positions. A delegation will present a memorandum to the European Parliament.

SWAPO's position on the contracts for Namibian uranium was spelt out in a paper. "SWAPO's opposition to the illegal contracts is fundamental to the Namibian liberation struggle and our people's quest for effective control of their own resources. As SWAPO stated in April 1981, mining of uranium in Namibia today is of no benefit to our people....We are gravely traumatised when we anticipate the immense health hazards and the dangers of radioactivity that threaten the well-being of our people and the environment." SWAPO's central concern is the fact that the uranium contracts serve to perpetuate the oppression of the whole Namibian nation. "Taxes paid to the illegal administration, together with profits accruing through its own share in Rossing mine, effectively finance the war against the Namibian People. In this way, the contracts fund a massive army of occupation".

For people wanting to participate in the trade union actions against Namibia, and people who want background material, contact the SWAPO and the Namibia Support Committee, 188 North Gower St, London NW1 2NB England.

SWAPO, Karduansmakargatan 4, 3tr, 1152 Stockholm, Sweden. tel 215585
Anti Apartheid Bewegung, c/- T Maars, Schildstr. 1 28 Bremen, BRD. These people can put you in reach of information on contracts and transportation.

There may be changes on the horizon of French contracts now that Mitterand is Prime Minister of France. Mitterand promised at the recent International Conference on Sanctions against South Africa that all trading links with Namibia would be severed. According to a reliable French source, this severance may take effect from the beginning of 1982. If this step is taken, there are many more hurdles to climb, only one of which is Euratom. Legal difficulties could arise from the fact that, according to the Euratom Charter, all uranium coming into the EEC is formally the property of Euratom. The supply department of Euratom must in fact approve all contracts and is the effective co-signatory.

NUCLEX Fair

From October 6-9 1981, the nuclear industry will hold its annual fair in Basel, the NUCLEX.

More than 250 exhibitors from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, West Germany, France, East Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Netherland, Poland, USSR, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States of America will come. The full scope of the nuclear field will be up on display, from mining to waste. It is complemented by "technical meetings" in which all those problems we know about will be discussed, and probably at the end the industry will tell us that techniques are great and the industry is as clean as untrodden snow in an unpolluted environment. A lot of contracts will be signed in Basel at this time. Not, however, if plans of the International Coordinating Committee of the anti nuclear movement are successful. The international workshop at the Fichtelgebirge Stop Uranium Mining Conference decided to participate in these actions: THE NUCLEX WILL NOT TAKE PLACE is the theme.

The NUCLEX is "a provocation for the people of Basel where a majority has expressed itself against atomic energy in a national referendum", the ICC says.

In September a broad information campaign, concluded by a Tribunal on September 26 in Basel, will deal with the atomic business, its international aspects and its local problems. In the week after this groups plan to prevent by blockade the construction of the fair. A working group based in Basel is preparing this. Saturday 3 October will see a manifestation against NUCLEX, and the next day the ICC will meet and hold a press conference. A meeting of the preparation groups in August will decide how anti uranium groups in other countries can best participate. Hopefully more on that in the next KIITG.

contact, for anti uranium mining groups:
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c/- R Flessner
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7800 Freiburg, West Germany
tel (0761) 203 2699 (daytime)

TRANSPORT

Union Bans in Australia

Union actions in Darwin, Brisbane, Sydney and Adelaide have effectively delayed several shipments of yellowcake in recent months. The delays have cost mining companies a lot of money and profit.

DARWIN

In Darwin 20 containers of yellowcake from Nabarlek and Ranger were held up for several months by bans from Waterside Workers Federation and Seaman's Union. As the government tried to organise a way around the bans, the Transport Workers Union and Merchant Services Guild joined the ban. The yellowcake eventually left in July on a barge bound for Singapore, loaded by non-union labour. Unionists and Friends of the Earth members in Darwin picketed the wharf for several days and eight were arrested.

BRISBANE

A ban by members of the Seamans Union (SUA) in Brisbane is making yellowcake exports through the port increasingly difficult. In late May, 12 containers of yellowcake escaped Brisbane on board the Parella after Waterside Workers Federation members loaded them and the ship moved off without tugs.

At this point Greenpeace stepped in with their telex links and helped organise a protest to greet the ship arriving in Canada.

The 149 tonne load was boycotted for a day by the British Columbia Federation of Labor.

However, longshoremen were forced to unload the material after a court injunction was filed by the Empire Shipping Company and government officials declared the uranium safe to handle. Greenpeace members and an independent scientist found the containers to be emitting between one and two hundred times the amount of radiation found in normal environmental conditions.

Protesters confronted the uranium train in more than six locations during the June 10 24 hours. One man was arrested in Vancouver after he attempted to throw himself in front of the Canadian Pacific Locomotive carrying the shipment. In Kamloops, British Columbia, one man narrowly escaped death when he was dragged off the tracks less than six metres from the oncoming locomotive.

The train met protest at five other places along its route to Port Hope, Ontario, where it will be refined.

State Trade Unions are discussing boycotting further radioactive shipments through British Columbia. This could directly affect Australian-Canadian trade in uranium - and Canadian export of processed uranium to France, the USSR, the United States and England.

Back in Brisbane, the SUA was informed that another seven containers of yellowcake were being loaded aboard the container vessel ACT 4, which was due to sail on Monday June 15.

SUA tug crews banned the ship and the Merchant Service Guild refused to supply a pilot. Later that day, 30 people held a wharveside picket in support of the SUA action.

By Friday morning several other vessels were laid up because of the dispute. At that stage the owners of the ACT 4 offered to unload the shipment if the sailors lifted their bans.

The Federal Government then stepped in, threatening the company with legal action and the SUA with damages. The shipping line quickly reversed its offer, and with the government lawyers preparing to take action the SUA lifted its bans on that one ship. The SUA immediately called a meeting of the Australian Confederation of Trade Unions (ACTU) who have had an anti uranium policy now for several years. The issue was, how to enforce the policy.

SYDNEY

Unions prevented a shipment of nuclear fuel leaving the Lucas Heights nuclear reactor for France.

ADELAIDE

The Parella was unable to enter the port of Adelaide after slipping away from Brisbane.

contact and source: CANP Newsletter July 1981, PO Box 238 North Quay, Brisbane, Australia, tel 229,7143

also: Greenpeace, Sydney

399 Pitt Street
Sydney, NSW 2000
Australia

ENRICHMENT

Demonstrators Blockade Enrichment Plant at Almelo

June 18 to 20 saw the Blockade of the Almelo uranium enrichment plant in the Netherlands.

800 Dutch anti nuclear activists started their three day non-violent blockade at the same time as the factory announced the opening of its new enlarged enrichment facility.

Demonstrators remained at all six entrances of the plant day and night. By the Friday 1000 people participated, when police removed them to let the workers in. At this time 6 people were seriously injured and three of them were taken to hospital. The chief of police came to the gates after this onslaught and apologised to the people on the blockade for the rough behaviour of his troops. (Very unusual for the Netherlands, to have a police chief apologising for police violence).

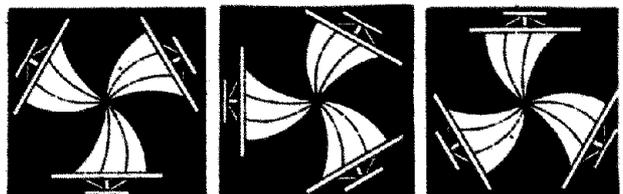
On Saturday 4,500 people blockaded the gates, then the blockade stopped and a demonstration was held.

Two weeks before the blockade the Almelo City Council voted to take a stand against nuclear power. The Council spent Hfl.50,000 to help make the demonstration go smoothly - they even had police at the

train stations directing people where to go.

The anti nuclear movement is pressing two major political parties D-66 (Progressive Liberals) and PvdA (Social Democrats), who have anti-nuclear platforms, to also take a stand against the Ultra-centrifuge at Almelo. The new expansion is particularly to meet the needs of a Brazil contract, and the movement argues that a party can only be consistent with its anti weapons and anti nuclear power policy when it also opposes the Urenco enrichment plant at Almelo.

contact: Press-group c/- Joop Oude Olhuis, Molukkenstraat 148, Groningen, The Netherlands, tel: (050) 711417.



Uranium Hexafluoride Plant in Pt. Pirie

The conservative government of South Australia is doing its utmost to bring the state to the forefront of the Australian uranium industry. The go-ahead has been given for the in-situ chemical leach uranium mine at Honeymoon and Western Mining and British Petroleum are heavily involved with exploration drilling at the huge uranium deposits at Olympic Dam (Roxby Downs). (see map in Industry section) The mineral deposits at Olympic Dam is mixed with copper and gold and there is great anticipation on the part of the government and mining industry of the riches to be gained there.

The latest move by this pro-nuclear government has been to make the announcement of an 18 month feasibility study for a uranium hexafluoride plant at Pt. Pirie. Pt. Pirie has already experienced an uranium milling plant which was operated in the town for seven years in the 1950's and 1960's. That plant left a legacy of 200,000 tonnes of tailings - the maintenance of which has become a local scandal.

The town of Pt. Pirie has one large industry and that is a vast lead and zinc smelter. The smelter is owned by Broken Hill Associated Smelters (BHAS) which in turn is 70% owned by CRA, the Australian subsidiary of RTZ. BHAS is putting up 35% of

the funding for the feasibility study, the other partners being Western Mining, British Petroleum, British Nuclear Fuels and the South Australian government.

Mayor of Pt. Pirie, Bill Jones, heads an aggressively pro-nuclear City Council. Jones is also publicity officer for BHAS and through this dual role has enormous control over local media. The mining industry thus has a direct mouthpiece via Jones and his Council.

The one opinion poll taken in the town 18 months ago indicated 44% of people opposed to an enrichment plant, 37% in favour and 19% not certain. Therefore the town reflects the same division on the issue that is found in the Australian community generally.

Pt. Pirie Friends of the Earth had organised a public meeting which coincidentally was three days after the feasibility announcement. Cliff Dolan, president of the Australian Council of Trade Unions addressed a very well attended and lively meeting, which overwhelmingly rejects the proposed plant.

Contact: Pt. Pirie Friends of the Earth
P.O. Box 7
5540 S.A.
AUSTRALIA

MINING

Standard Oil of Ohio Mill Shuts Down

A depressed uranium market and increased costs and governmental regulation are given the blame for the temporary closure of Sohio Western Mining Company's mill at Seboyeta, New Mexico. The company announced the closure in May.

47 people will be laid off work, bringing the total to nearly 2000 people retrenched from the mining industry in the area over the past two years.

The mill is expected to be reopened in 1982, and meanwhile the mine will continue production. With the stockpiles of ore, the management expects milling to become economically feasible, if the market conditions permit, they add.

source: Grants Daily Beacon 18.5.81
story supplied by WISE Washington.

Sohio stakes 200 Uranium Claims in National Forest

Standard Oil of Ohio has staked 200 uranium mining claims on 4000 acres of the Sante Fe National Forest, next to the San Pedro Parks wilderness area in New Mexico. This was announced in May this year. Public relations claim that this is all strictly speculation.

All 50 residents of La Mesa de la Poleo, where the claims are staked, have signed a petition stating they do not want the company to conduct mineral exploration. One of the residents major concerns is that the claims are "above where the people get all their water, and its in a watershed area", says Mesa resident Paul Bruce. The claims are within 1/8th of a mile of the wilderness boundary. The public relations man cannot work out what all the worry is about. "Mining is a very common industry through New Mexico", he complained. source: Alberquerque Journal, 20 May 81 sent through WISE Washington.

Study of Uranium Impact Sought in Saskatchewan

A major study into Canadian province's Saskatchewan uranium industry recommends significant widening of existing environmental monitoring programmes and an investigation into the social implications of the uranium industry in the northern portion of the province.

The R.J. Woods report, commissioned in mid 1980 by Saskatchewan Environment, also said studies should be undertaken in the areas of occupational health, exploration techniques should be further researched and a scientific directory should be assembled of consultants and facilities now available in Saskatchewan to better co-ordinate future research.

Woods study, an overview of the entire uranium industry and research programmes now being carried out into revegetation of mine tailings and that studies also be initiated on the release of radon gas from open pit mines and tailings.

It also recommends research into specific technical aspects of mining and milling be funded jointly with uranium companies and the province.

Do we have a Saskatchewan group who can tell KIITG readers more on the study?

source: Star Phoenix, 12 June 1981

Uranium Activists Have the Companies Shaking in Nova Scotia, Canada

Nova Scotia is the new home for the passions which flared up around the subject of uranium mining in British Columbia and Saskatchewan. Nova Scotia has a large deposit of uranium, and has politicians eager for mining development of any kind. About 10 companies are exploring in the province. The immediate event around which the battle is being waged is a discovery at Vaughan, near Windsor, by Aquitane of Canada Ltd, working in partnership with Dome Petroleum. Uranium mining is only a couple of years away at the site, and that has alarmed citizens groups and environmentalists. Public meetings have been held in various areas, especially in the Annapolis Valley where the richest deposits are believed to be, by such groups as Citizens Action Group to Protect the Environment (CAPE), the Fundy Area Citizens Committee and the Uranium Committee of the Ecology Action Centre in Halifax.

Fearing a moratorium, the mining companies have launched a public relations campaign. Companies even fear that a moratorium could influence the creation of a moratorium in the Northwest territories and may even tie up uranium production in Canada.

source: The Globe and Mail, July 4 1981

TAILINGS

Tailings Dam Flooded in South Australia

Australia: On May 31 and June 1 South Australia experienced an intense low which caused gale force winds. In the northern Spencer Gulf region high tides in combination with strong winds caused flooding along the Gulf's shores and lapped menacingly 8cm. from the top of the wharves of Port Pirie. On the second day the winds dropped and saved the town from flooding ...but it did not save the radioactive tailings which lie in a series of shallow dams on the western edge of the town. The tidal waters poured over the clay embankment, flooding four dams containing Thorium 232 and its breakdown products and causing a break in the north-eastern section of the wall. By late the following day the breach had been repaired, water samples taken and the usual official announcements made and even the local press did not take an interest.

The tailings are the remains from two milling operations which treated uranium ore and monozite sands in the 50's and

60's. Since November 1976 Port Pirie Friends of the Earth have demanded responsible government action. They believe the only long term solution to protect the Gulf waters is to remove the tailings from the tidal swamp where they now lie. Friends of the Earth have repeated warnings that sooner or later the tidal action and flooding would breach the dam walls and radioactively pollute the Gulf Waters.

The tailings are now 20 years old, and will remain radioactive for thousands of years to come. The short history is one of government negligence and deception. The present state government, as you will read in other stories in this issue, is hell bent on getting the state back into mining and processing uranium. A bad omen for the future, as the uranium deposits are quite large and their tailings even larger.

contact: Ally Fricker/ PPFEO
PO Box 7, Pt Pirie 5540
South Australia, Australia

REPRESSION

Film Banned - On Sacred Ground

Remember the struggle of Noonkanbah, in Western Australia? How the state government provided Amax Oil corporation with police to break through aboriginal opposition to that company's test drilling plans. And how that was on aboriginal owned and administered land? How, just like when the Ranger Agreement was made two years earlier, the government was prepared to break the aborigines backs to prove they had power in the state? And how there was no oil worth drilling found at Noonkanbah after all...?

Film Australia made a documentary on the Noonkanbah struggle, "On Sacred Ground". The Department of Foreign Affairs has banned the film being shown or distributed in any Australian embassy. The Foreign Minister, Mr Tony Street, demanded the ban as the film "could cause considerable harm to Australia's image". A land rights activist in West Germany ordered the film last year, and although it was sent to him through the Australian Embassy in Bonn he was unable to take it with him. The Embassy said it had to go back to Australia to be changed. Similarly, the Australian Embassy in Jakarta was refused a copy of the film.

Australia's image on race affairs is not at all clean at the moment. However, to suppress a film seems a strange way of cleaning the image up. Instead some policies should be changed. The Federal Government has just taken aboriginal health care out of its own hands and given that to state governments. This means for example an end to the national Trachoma project. Trachoma is a disease caused through malnutrition and produces blindness in one quarter of Australia's aborigine population over the age of 60. It is practically non-existent in all developed countries, and the Australian government has been criticised for many years by national and overseas organisations for allowing the disease to continue.

In Queensland, the State Government is introducing legislation to abolish aborigine reserves. Aborigines will now have no land rights whatever. Aborigines all over Australia are protesting the legislation and have called for all sporting bodies to participate in the boycott of next years Commonwealth games,

to be held in Queensland. The Australian government has not intervened in this legislation, although it has the constitutional power to do so. The Federal Government is also aware that its passing over of control of the Kakadu National Park to the State of the Northern Territory is bad for its image as racist. The Kakadu Park is the world wilderness area in Arnhem Land which is recognised as sacred land for the Aborigine people. Ranger uranium mine borders the Park. Now the state government has moved the Park borders again and opened an area at Koongarra, where Denison Mines (Canada) plans to start uranium mining.



What is in the film that the government is so worried about? Peter Yu, then Field Officer with the Kimberley Land Council and involved in the Noonkanbah struggle, brought the film with him last year on his European tour. The film let the elders of the station talk to the audiences. It showed the process of the government in forcing Noonkanbah open, it showed the culture of the people, the power of the land, and the opposition to the oil company. In the final scene it shows the state government confronting the people. In fact the film shows that race relations in Australia can well be equated with South Africa. Little wonder the Australian government is getting worried.

For information on ordering the film, write to
Oliver Howes
Film Australia
PO Box 46 Lindfields NSW 2070
Australia

(The film costs Aust\$1000)

Richard Marshall Denied New Trial

The South Dakota Supreme Court has denied American Indian leader Richard Marshall his bid for a new trial. Marshall, an Oglala from Pine Ridge Reservation, was convicted of murder in 1976 in connection with the death of Martin Montileaux in an off-reservation bar. His co-defendant Russel Means, also an American Indian leader, was acquitted. The crucial evidence was that of Pearl Bear, who later recanted her testimony and said that FBI agents had threatened to kill her and her daughter if she did not cooperate. The Judge stated, however, that "recanted testimony is exceedingly unreliable and is to be regarded with suspicion". These are the grounds for not allowing re-trial. The issue is political - Marshall is a political prisoner in the continuing war of the United States Government against the Native American people. Marshall comes from an uranium and coal rich area, and his people continue to fight energy development on their sacred lands: the government is trying to deprive the people of leadership.

contact: Black Hills Alliance
PO Box 2508, Rapid City
South Dakota 57709 USA

United Nations Conference on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

From 15-18 September United Nations non-governmental organisations will hold a conference on "Indigenous Peoples and their Lands" in Geneva, Switzerland. The 7th International Indian Treaty Conference was held in Minnesota, USA, from June 4-11. 2000 delegates from 60 Indian nations attended, among other international participants, to prepare for the Geneva Conference.

The Treaty Conference assigned seven planning commissions to submit evidence against transnational corporations, governments and militaries, the right to self government, hunting and fishing, religion, and culture. Delegates at the Treaty Conference also drew up a Treaty of Cooperation between Indian Nations of the Americas.

source : Zoltan Grossman

contact: International Indian Treaty Council, 777 United Nations Plaza, New York, NY 10017 USA



RESOURCES

Keystone to Survival: The Multinational Corporations and the Struggle for Control of Land, Black Hills Alliance, P.O. Box 2508, Rapid City, South Dakota, USA 57709 \$4.00

This book contains the findings and partial proceedings from the Black Hills International Survival Gathering, held in South Dakota USA on July 18-27, 1980. The reports compiled in this book are taken

from the testimony and findings presented during the nine meetings of the Citizens Review Commission on the Energy-Developing Corporations. An excellent resource for all those concerned with energy development (from health problems to Native land struggles to multinational corporations) and grassroots activity.

Australian Mining, Minerals and Oil

This book is especially designed to inform multinational and smaller companies, businessmen and shareholders of the actual situation in the natural resources sector of the Australian economy.

The first section describes the economics of all minerals and oil from aluminium to zinc and their occurrence in Australia; maps showing mines, prospects and associates are included. You'll find world production tables, world demand/supply projections, Australian production (exports and imports) and world scene and market outlook.

Section two shows more than 450 mining and exploration companies working in Australia. Most groups are described this way: brief history of the company, current major activities, exploration activities, other interests and investments,

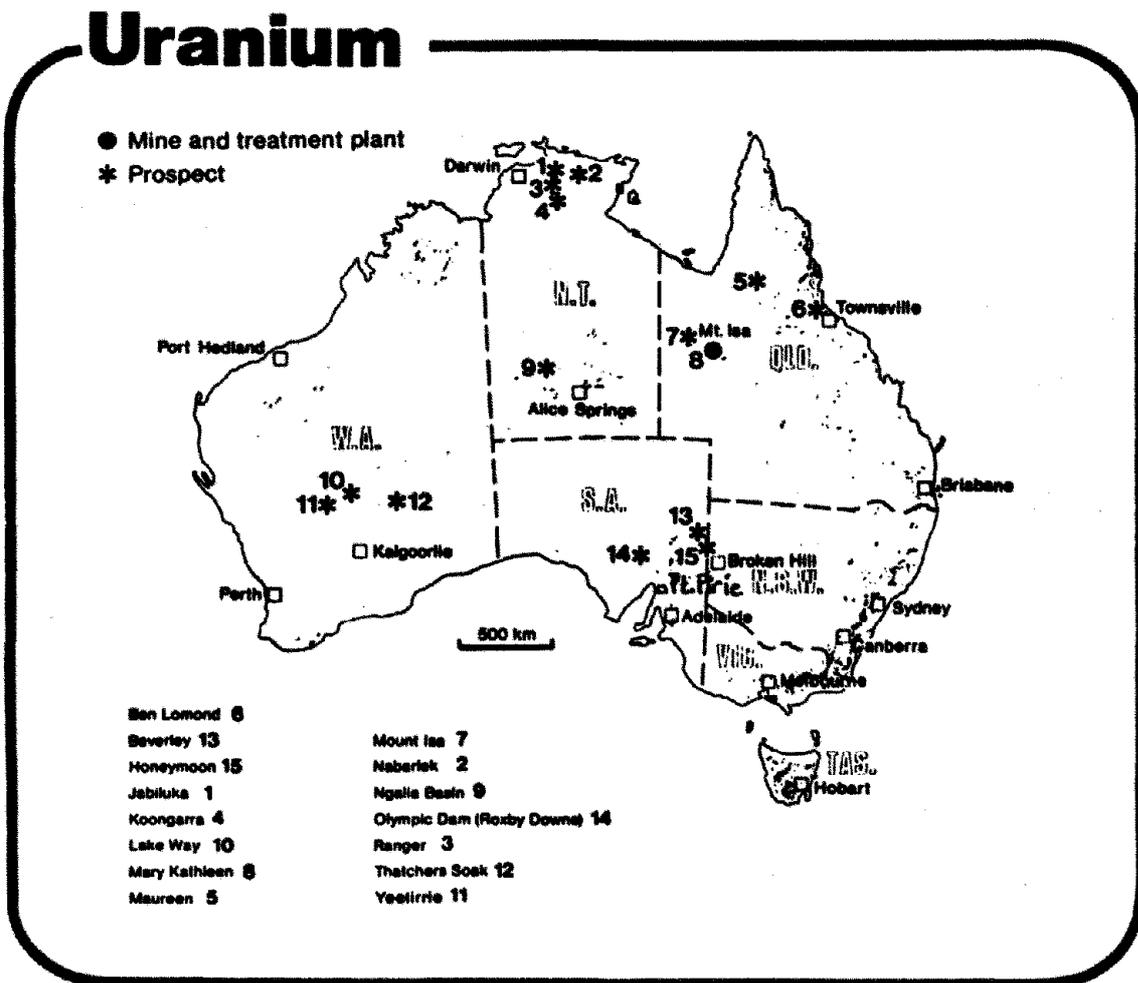
recent capital changes, issued capital as of 31 December 1980 and substantial shareholders.

Not all companies provided adequate information to the publishers, so if you look for very special information, facts and numbers, you may be disappointed.

Needless to mention, the effect of the work of these 450 companies on the aboriginal landowners and the destructive exploitation of their land is not addressed.

Accompanying the book is a booklet containing all information necessary in contacting each company. Price: Aus. \$79.

Publishers: David Ell Press Pty. Ltd.
 P.O. Box 353
 Darlinghurst 2010, NSW
 Australia



Location map, Australian uranium industry, 1981.

The International Atomic Energy Agency Bulletin, vol 23 no 2 June 1981 has a series of articles on uranium mining. The titles do not promise as much as you would think, but at least you can read what the IAEA is publishing at this time on uranium mining.

- o The Economy of uranium supply and demand
- o Estimated natural uranium requirements to the year 2000
- o World uranium resources
- o Recent developments in uranium exploration and the Agency's activities in the field of nuclear materials
- o Extracting uranium from its ores
- o Occupational radiological safety in uranium mines and mills.

This bulletin is free, available from IAEA

Wagramerstrasse 5
PO Box 100
A-1400 Vienna, Austria

The Comité d'Information et de la Soutien aux Indiens d'Amerique publish a French language translation of Akwesasne Notes Emergency Network. This network concentrates on bringing news of struggle to international supporters of the American Indian Rights movement, and is a tool for action.

CISIA
Association 1501
2A Bd. Sourdille
44000-Nante-, France

ERIN
Mohawk Nation
via Roosevelttown, NY 13683 USA



SCIENCE

Research Request

The Center for Alternative Mining Development Policy is conducting research on the use of granite for high level radioactive waste disposal and uranium by-product extraction from copper or other minerals.

If the readers of KITTG have information on any of these issues, please send it to the Center: suitability of granite for HLW disposal; any research and development or test drilling programs the government of your nation is carrying out on granite and the evidence they have come up with so far; use of abandoned mines for radioactive wastes; and uranium by-product extraction - how are the wastes disposed of, what are the environmental and occupational hazards?

The Center is also beginning an educational outreach program to the tourist, recreation, and dairy farming industries of Wisconsin on the hazards of uranium and other mining and rad waste disposal. If tourism or agricultural have been threatened by mining in your area, please send us documentation.

Send information to: David Weiss
The Mining Center
1121 University Ave.
Madison, WI 53715 USA
TEL:(608) 251-7246

"Typology and Geographic/Geotectonic Distribution of Uranium Deposits".

This article appeared in the May June 1980 volume of the Revue de l'Institut Français de Petrole, written by F.J. Dahlkamp of Liessem, West Germany.

The article is a detailed study, with bibliography, of uranium occurrences throughout the world. A copy of the study was sent to WISE from a researcher/activist in Spain. He writes that it is an interesting article because it explains the different pattern of various deposits now in exploration. "It will be useful to all groups involved in the fight against uranium exploration and exploitation".

The article is written in very scientific language - my own unscientific background has left me ill-equipped with the tools for digging out the important facts and writing them in this article. Yet this is needed, and I ask any reader who would be able to summarise the article and send it back so we can print more detail in a future issue of KITTG. I would be more than pleased to send you the copy for review.

"Implications of Energy Analysis for Uranium Resource Assessment"
Dr N.D. Mortimer 1981

"Uranium Resource Assessment - The Role of Energy Analysis"
Dr N.D. Mortimer Nov 1977

"Uranium Resource Economics. An Application of Energy Analysis"
Dr Nigel Mortimer, 1980.

Nigel Mortimer sent these articles in to WISE, and writes:

"The conclusion of the papers can be summarised in the following manner: the costs of low grade resources have been underestimated and consequently resources available for rapidly-expanding nuclear

power programmes have been overestimated. With current mining and processing technology large thermal reactor power programmes cannot be supported unless new high-grade resources are discovered soon. Technological improvements in mining and processing seem limited and the only single solution would be to use breeder reactors. However, technical problems could reduce this option.

These papers are available from the author

Dr Nigel Mortimer
Department of Physical Sciences
Sunderland Polytechnic
Edinburgh Building
Chester Rd, Sunderland SR1 3SD
UK. tel (0783) 76191.

also available from WISE at copying cost

INDUSTRY

Uranium Market Still Weak
Financial Times (London) 7.7.81

The world uranium market is getting very sticky.

Mr R.S. Lawrence, in his recent presidential address to the Chamber of Mines of South Africa, commented on a "mounting over-supply situation with a consequent adverse effect on uranium prices... There are no indications of early improvements in demand or price levels".

Further, a substantial proportion of the world's uranium production already costs more to produce than can be realised on the current spot market, according to East Rand Gold and Uranium's, Mr Harry Oppenheimer. Which is the reason West Rand Consolidated is forced to close its uranium mine.

Sea Uranium Absorbent

The Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry has developed the world's most sophisticated absorbent to extract uranium from sea waters. This new technology was reported at a meeting of the Japanese Society of Sea Water Science on June 10, 1981.

The absorbent, made from acrylic fibre, can extract four milligrams of uranium per one gram absorbent when immersed in the sea for 10 days. This is ten times the ability of technology to date in the area.



The scientists have introduced this substance as a life saver for the nuclear industry, as land reserves of uranium are expected to be exhausted by the year 2000. source: Mainichi Daily News, Japan
June 10 1981

Uranium Workers Strike Over Health Issues

Workers at the TNS Corporation in Jonesboro, Tennessee went on strike June 9th for better health conditions at their plant. The workers fabricate armor-piercing artillery shells out of depleted uranium.

When the contract between the company and the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers International Union expired last April 21, the company offered a 25% wage increase over one year, plus increased benefits that included an additional holiday.

The plant's 100 workers, worried that they were not being adequately protected from uranium contamination, turned it down and went on strike. They have refused to return to work until the company takes what they consider to be adequate steps to protect their health and safety.

Analysis of workers' urine has found relatively high levels of uranium, according to union officials. The officials said that union doctors told them that the uranium was collecting in the workers' kidneys, causing renal deterioration.

In addition the workers contended that radioactive uranium oxide was allowed to pollute the air around the plant and that contaminated water was probably seeping into the ground water.

"I don't care if they offer us \$20 an hour," said John Bettis, a maintenance man in the plant and president of the union local. "We're not going back until they clean that place up."

Union officials said they believed this was the first strike in recent times in which the the major issue was the workers' health and safety.

Source: New York Times
Contact: OCAW International Union
1636 Champa Street
P.O. Box 2812
Denver, CO 80201 USA

Uranium Production in the Negev Desert

According to the Jerusalem Post of 16 July, Israel is planning to mine uranium from phosphates in the Negev Desert in the near future. This uranium will supply half the necessary yellowcake for the nuclear power plant south of Beersheba.
Source: Taz. 17.7.81



Uranium Bans Lifted in Northern Territory, Australia.

The Northern Territory Government has thrown open Arnhem Land and other Aboriginal reserves to prospectors - thus ending a freeze the ex-Labor government enforced nine years ago.

The Northern Territory Minister for Mines and Energy, Ian Tuxworth, has made offers of 55 exploration licences on Aboriginal lands to 14 different companies or individuals. The offers were announced at the end of June together with a planned massive increase in mining royalties. The area offered covers 25 percent of Arnhem Land, the Northern section of the Northern Territory.

Other areas are under consideration for further prospecting grants and the remaining areas on Aboriginal lands will remain open for prospecting applications until September 30, 1981.

Concession holders include: CRA explorations (RTZ subsidiary) Australia and New Zealand Exploration Company, IMC Development Corporation, Union Carbide, Queensland Mines, John Bryan Crawford, Kerr McGee Corporation, Secured Loans and Development Ltd, Comalco, Broken Hill Propriety, De Beers Mining and Explorations Ltd, United Uranium NL, Planet Mining Company Pty Ltd (now dormant) and Yuendumu Mining Co Ltd.

Source: The Bulletin (Aust) June 30 1981

Belgium Buys Up Aboriginal Land Rights

On June 4, 1981, Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) concluded sales deals for almost all the capacity of its Ranger mine in the Northern Territory of Australia. The Ranger mine site was stolen from the Aboriginal people through the Ranger Agreement of 1978.

The deal was for the export of 1,429 tonnes of uranium oxide to Synatom of Belgium. The contract is estimated to have a value of £50 million sterling.

ERA stated that this latest contract brings the amount of Ranger's initial designed production capacity already sold to 3000 tonnes a year over the next 10 years. The company plans to lift annual capacity to 6000 in the future.

This year ERA made a 3150 tonnes contract with the Swedish utility, OKG. West Germany, Japan, Korea and the USA also have contracts.

source: Financial Times (London) 5.6.81

Mexico: Prospecting for Uranium

Mexico expects to complete a mammoth uranium prospecting operation to provide fuel for the country's expanding nuclear industry by the end of 1982, according to officials in Mexico City in an announcement on July 6.

Mexican scientists believe 56 percent of the land may have uranium deposits, the Uramex, the state uranium company, is investigating 40 per cent of that land with the help of numerous technicians working with eleven helicopters and an airplane.

Mexico's uranium reserves are estimated to be between 10 and 16 million tonnes. Uramex, which is responsible for the future installation of all the different stages in the nuclear fuel cycle, now administers four uranium processing plant and a plant for extracting uranium ore from phosphoric acid. The largest of these plants annually produces concentrates equivalent to 245 tonnes of uranium. Two of the other units are mobile processing plants bought from Spain.

Uramex is one of four state companies involved in Mexico's nuclear industry. It is primarily responsible for supplying the fuel necessary for Mexico's ambitious nuclear energy programme.

Mexico hopes to use nuclear energy to generate most of its electrical power plants, leaving its oil for the petrochemical industry and as fuel for airplanes and ground vehicles.

source: telex recieved from NIO, August 1981

Portugal sets its sights on uranium bonanza

The Portuguese state-owned National Uranium Company (ENU) is about to conclude agreements with French, German and British mining interests as part of an expansion programme that will make Portugal Europe's second biggest producer of uranium in the mid 1980's. The foreign participation will be the first in this mining sector since the British owned Portuguese Radium Company withdrew over 20 years ago from the production of radioactive materials at Urgeirica in Portugal's northern-central region.

Joint venture agreements, made possible by a recent liberalisation of ENU's constitution, are likely to be directed at exploring several areas in which promising radioactive deposits have been found. The company is also going ahead with plans to develop mines and a mill at Nisa and new mines at Guarda, both in the interior of the country. The most recent figure for uranium production in Portugal gives the figure for the first half of 1980: 48 tonnes of 89.5 per cent pure uranium oxide. The company hopes to produce 130 tonnes this year.

Portugal's uranium stocks are variously estimated by national and international organisations at levels between 600 and 800 tonnes. Sales to Japan, Brazil, France and Britain have been measured in tens of tonnes. Last year the country concluded an exceptionally big deal - 130 tonnes - with Iraq. In return, the Iraqis will guarantee oil supply.

source: New Scientist 23.4.81



UAS 9.77-AC

BACK PAGE

LETTER FROM THE DUNTERS

Dear All,

Remember us? Uranium mining appears to be a dead issue here, no government moves visible. We remain vigilant and are suspicious of the HYDRO's plans to lay an undersea cable to give us atomic generated electricity from Dounreay in Caithness, Scotland.

Best wishes,

Alistair Macleod, Chair,

The Dunters

3 King Street

Kirkwall, KW15 1Jf

Orkney.

The Anti Uranium Battle in Osona, Catalonia

A Background Paper on the Movement

Prepared for the Fichtelgebirge Conference

"La Comarca d'Osona" is situated in the north of the Catalan countries, in Catalan, in Catalonia, which is administered by the Spanish state. It extends 1,192 Km² and has 105,000 inhabitants. Agriculture and animal husbandry are economically very important. The city of Vic is the industrial center of this region .

The history of uranium development in this area began in 1963, when signs of radio-activity were found by Energy Junta engineers. Nothing much happened until 1978, when the Junta (JEN) confirmed the importance of fields of the region. In January 1979, two months later, the first anti uranium groups were created, and they published their first report on uranium mining.

In MARCH of that year the Spanish government created a partnership with Standard Oil of California (Chevron)-40% participation, Bilbao Bank and Westinghouse combined - 20% and the Spanish state having 40%.

By this stage 20 villages in the region had their own anti uranium groups.

In May the Osona Anti Uranium Committee, acting as umbrella organisation for all the committees, presented a public manifesto against uranium mining in the region. They invited wide participation in their movement by other organisations.

In June 1979 three JEN technicians were discovered working on a farmers property, without his knowledge or permission.

A letter from friends in the Stop Uranium Mining Committee in Melbourne Australia asked to have the following information included in KIITG:

Conzinc Rio Tinto (CRA, Australian form of RTZ) Pty Ltd has applied for an exploration licence to seek uranium, gold and diamonds in an area just north of Melbourne, in fact on the fringes of this city with 2½ million inhabitants. The area applied for covers 1584 sq km extending from the outer suburbs.

This will have serious effects on Melbourne's drinking water and air pollution, if uranium is found.

Action groups are forming to oppose this development.

contact: SUMC, 366 Smith Street,
Collingwood, 3066 Victoria
Australia

He was removed, and that same month 3000 people attended a public meeting to expose the dangers of uranium mining and exploration. More than 5000 people participated in the demonstration connected with this meeting, and were dispersed with brutal police force. In July, 6000 people came to the "Long Live the Land" festival organised by the village of l'Esquirol, in the heart of the uranium district. Townhalls also participated in the movement.

Chevron stopped its activities in the area in August, and while the immediacy is no longer there, many groups still exist, keeping watchful vigilance. The main work now is done by Vic's Antiuranium Committee, which has a lot of difficulty finding information on the present plans and state of affairs.

There appears to be no work going on in the reserved uranium exploration areas, and this has been the case now for over a year.

This must be understood as a clear success of the anti uranium mining movement in the sense that popular influence has had a clear influence in stopping the exploration and causing the consortium to melt away. But this does not mean that the danger has disappeared. The region continues to be zoned for exploration and exploitation of uranium.

Comite Antiuranium de Vic
Carrer de Sant Just,1,3r
Vic (Barcelona)
Catalonia