

wise

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KEEP IT IN THE GROUND INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER 2

JANUARY 1980

Dear Friends,

This is our second international anti uranium mining newsletter. There has been a lot of positive response to the first newsletter, and we know a lot of people are using the information as was originally intended at the Copenhagen meeting: to pass on to others, and to get in contact with others. We have a mailing list of 72 people in 18 countries, and this list is available on request for our friends who ask for it.

WORKING GROUP MEETING

At the Copenhagen meeting we decided to have a meeting of the working group at about the time of the International No Nukes strategy conference planning meeting in Amsterdam. That meeting will take place on March 15 and 16, and the WISE annual general meeting will be the weekend after that. Would the people in the working group agree to have our meeting between the other two: beginning Sunday 16 till 18th, in Amsterdam? If so, what planning needs to be done? What is the programme? What financial arrangements do we have to make. On your suggestions we will be able to publish in the next bulletin a proposed programme.

WISE

The main article in the next volume of WISE, now under production, is uranium enrichment. Anyone wishing to become a subscriber, the cost is f15 Dutch Guilders or US\$7.50 per 6 issues.

NEWS

RTZ SECRET URANIUM DEALS

South Africa: Journalists in Britain have uncovered startling new facts about the RTZ Rössing mine in Namibia. An article in the Sunday Times of Dec 30 1979 revealed the deals RTZ has with many countries.

Since Rössing opened in 1976, Rio Tinto Zinc has adamantly refused to reveal to whom and on what terms its uranium is being sold.

In 1971 the UN banned the extraction of uranium from Namibia by South Africa, which illegally occupies Namibia. RTZ now shelters behind the South African Atomic Energy Act which bans the disclosure of any information about South Africa's nuclear energy programme. South Africa's Industrial Development Corporation controls the largest single block of voting shares in it. The South African cabinet takes a close and detailed interest.

Britain has admitted to receiving uranium from Namibia: 42% of the domestic nuclear power programme needs. The West German and Japanese governments have repeatedly denied links. However, the journalists have discovered that Iran has 15% stake in the uranium and is a major buyer. The new Iran regime is trying to break the contract. West Germany is a major investor and buyer. Japan receives Rössing uranium. The USSR enriches some Namibian uranium, and about 50% of West Germany's current

uranium requirements. British Nuclear Fuels handles some Namibian uranium on behalf of Iran.

The uranium is flown from the Namibian capital, Windhoek, to Paris. 50% is shipped to Springfield near Preston in England, where it is made into hexafluoride. It is then sent by rail across Europe for enrichment in the Soviet Union by the Soviet company Technasexport. From there it goes to reactors in the Western world.

At the centre of this deal is a small house in a quiet street in the little town of ZUG, in Switzerland. Here the contracts are dealt with by a letter-box company (a Swiss phenomenon) and passed on to Zurich lawyers, Pestalozzi and Gmür.

Contact: Alun Roberts
54A Kenilworth Road
Lemington Spa.
England

THREE STATES CONTAMINATED BY CHURCH ROCK SPILL

New facts about the break in the dam of a tailingpond that has leaked 100 million gallons of radioactive water in the Rio Puerco River, have been brought out, (see WISE 6 and 7). Paul Robinson brought these out at a hearing on the causes of last July's accident at the uranium mine in Church Rock, New Mexico.

It seems that United Nuclear Corporation, the mine owner, knew in 1976 that the soil and bedrock the tailingpond was built on, were unsafe. At the time of the accident there was 50% more waste in the pond than was allowed. The added pressure on the weak structure caused one of the cracks in the damwall to give way.

Contaminated water has spread into Arizona and now affects California. One of Southern California's water supplies is Lake Meade in Arizona. It is possible that California will file a lawsuit against United N-clear.

The national media coverage on the accident has been almost nil. Most Americans do not know about the spill or the consequences of the widely spread contamination.

Contact: Paul Robinson, Southwest Research and Information Centre, PO Box 4524, New Mexico 87106
tel 242-4766

REQUEST FOR SUPPORT OF CHURCHROCK ACTION ON APRIL 26

The American Indian Environmental Council is asking organisations internationally to support a demonstration at Dalton Pass, in the Navajo area of New Mexico, against uranium mining. This demonstration will take place on April 26.

The Mount Taylor Alliance is planning this demonstration in conjunction with the national demonstration in Washington on the same day.

Dalton Pass is near the United Nuclear uranium mill at Churchrock. There will be speeches and camping. In addition, it is quite possible that the native Americans will, for the first time, hold a civil disobedience action against uranium mining. The Navajo Chapter Indians are completely opposed to uranium mining. International support could be in the form of a telegram, sending a representative, sending banners from their organisation or organising a support-demonstration.

Contact: Craig Simpson, 201 Pine SE,
Albuquerque New Mexico 87106
USA

NABARLEK: JUST ANOTHER HOLE

A report commissioned by the Federal Miscellaneous Workers Union of Australia on the Nabarlek and Ranger uranium mines has just come out. One of the most important conclusions of the report is that procedures safeguarding health are almost ignored. The report states that at the Ranger uranium mine site the lack of concern or knowledge about the hazards of radiation constitute a real potential danger. Protective masks are provided but never worn, there is no supervision on the obeying of safety procedures. Workers have gamma protective badges but difficulties are experienced in auditing the programme. Signs are only in English, although not all workers can read this language. Safety advice in the washroom is appallingly simple: wash hands before eating, smoking or going to the toilet.

Contact: Campaign Against Nuclear Power,
PO Box 238, North Quay, Brisbane
Queensland 4000, Australia
tel. 2210188

UNION CONFERENCE ON URANIUM

The outcome of a special conference of unions involved in the mining and export of uranium, on November 30th was a decision to hold a meeting in the future to review the progress of the ACTU uranium bans.

According to the Newsletter of the Campaign Against Nuclear Power, this means that the leaders of the Australian Council of Trade Unions are taking no responsibility in implementing these bans, which were reinstated last September.

But research is being conducted into the supplies needed by the uranium mines. The mines are usually away from the cities, but the supplies are being handled by cityworkers. With the results of this research, targets for industrial action will be clearer.

The South Australia Trades and Labour Council has mapped out a strategy to oppose uranium mining and enrichment in that state. Unions in other states are preparing for action

Contact: Campaign Against Nuclear Power

BOTH WITH A BANG AND A WHIMPER

While many Australian trade unions are making strategies for implementing union bans on uranium mining, transport and enrichment, two European organisations have made public their plans for building uranium enrichment plants in Australia. The French Minatome was subtle, burying a notice in the Australian Building Construction News of October 1979. Their plant, in Queensland will cost an estimated Aus \$ 1000 million.

Urenco (a British, West-German, Dutch consortium) under much more controversy, will invest Aus \$ 500 million in an enrichment plant in South Australia. This last plant will only create 100 jobs.

South Australian trade unions have recently adopted a plan for selective industrial action, including lunchtime and stop work meetings and guerilla tactics.

Contact: Labour Against Uranium

Chris White,
Miscellaneous Workers Union
4 Victoria Street, Mile End,
South Australia

TENT VILLAGE AT URANIUM MINE

The Townsville Trades and Labour Council and the Townsville Movement Against Uranium Mining, plan to establish a tent-village at the site of the proposed Ben Lomond uranium mine. The mine, which is owned by the French Minatome, is very close to the rural city of Townsville, in North Queensland. The progress at the minesite is kept secret and anti nuclear activists are not permitted on the site.

Last year members of the Townsville anti uranium mining movement marched against the development, in spite of the Queensland ban on street marches.

Contact: Lyn Martinez, Townsville MAUM
PO Box 364 Townsville 4810
Queensland, Australia

URANIUM CONTRACT CONFUSES BATES INQUIRY

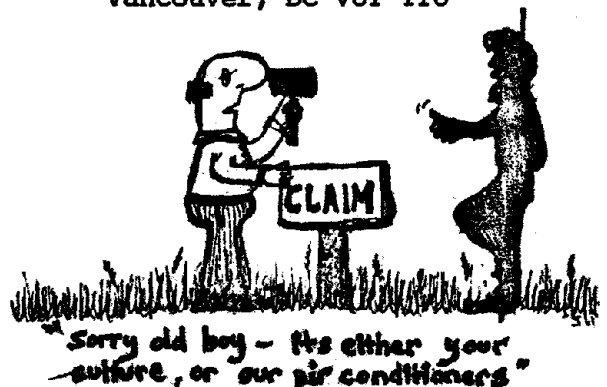
Canada: On November 23 Norcen Energy Resources interrupted the proceedings of the Bates Inquiry into uranium mining in British Columbia to announce that Korea had signed a contract for 7 million pounds of uranium from Norcen's BC deposits. The contract is worth US\$294 million and covers an 11 year period beginning in 1983.

There is public suspicion that the sale was promoted by the State government to hasten a pro mining inquiry decision. Certainly Norcen, through signing the contract, is putting maximum pressure on the inquiry.

Greenpeace, the environmental group, claims the sales are in contempt of the inquiry and that there will be undue pressure put on the government to adopt minimal health emission standards. Along with many other objectors, Greenpeace has withdrawn from the inquiry. The United Church has demanded a meeting with the government.

Contact: Jim Sinclair

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Vancouver, BC V6T 1T6



COORDINATION OF URANIUM OPPOSITION IN BRITAIN

England: During the inaugural meeting of the British Anti Nuclear campaign in London on November 24, English, Irish and Scottish groups decided to form an anti uranium mining working group, to coordinate the opposition to prospecting, which is now affecting Scotland, Cornwall and several parts of Ireland.

The first meeting of the working group is Saturday January 19th in Manchester.

Contact: Simon Taylor, SCRAM
2a Ainslie Place, Edinburgh,
Scotland
tel (31) 225 77 52

is contemplating using 15 year old air-planes to fly the yellowcake out of Nabarlek to Singapore. But the old planes can only cope with distances of 400 km, and are very expensive. Even the industry doubts this course is viable. Better quality planes are available, but union action would probably stop an ultimate lift-off. And if an Argosy (the old planes) were used to transport the yellowcake to other Australian wharves instead of Singapore, there is again threat of union act and anti-nuclear demonstrators blockading. Meanwhile Nabarlek is panicking: it has a very tight schedule, the mining process is almost complete, and they want to start with milling.
Source: The Bulletin, October 30, 1979.

OENPELLI RAISE LEGAL CHALLENGE TO NABARLEK MINES ACCESS ROAD

Australia: Eight Aboriginal Traditional Owners from the Nabarlek area of the Northern Territory will go to the state Supreme Court in February over the use of the only access road to Nabarlek.

The challenge is part of continuous action by the Arnhem Land Aborigines against the uranium mining companies since companies and government forced the Northern Land Council to sign the Ranger Agreement last year. If the challenge is successful, the traditional owners could prevent Queensland Mines from using the road (80 kilometres) from the main road to Darwin - for trucking yellowcake. The challenge is based on the provisions of the Land Rights Act (1976) which require consultations with local people affected by a proposed mining project. The eight Aborigines say they were not consulted about the use of the Cahills Crossing-Oenpelli Road, and were not signatories to the agreement.

Silas Maralugurra, chairperson of the Gunbalanya Council (in the area) says traditional owners have been voicing their opposition to the road being used by the company since it first came into the area nine years ago.

Queensland mines, with Japanese contracts,

DONEGAL: OPPOSITION TO THE PROSPECTING

Ireland: Local people from the Donegal village of Fintown, on Irelands windy west coast, met on November 11 to discuss the consequences of uranium mining in their area. Anglo United and Northgate have staked out 50 square miles of land for prospecting and boring in the area and announced that commercial deposits exist, 2 months ago.

The people of the area are mostly farmers, with poor holdings. Some are being interested in the concept of mining through stories of wealth and jobs. Most of the people at the meeting were opposed to uranium mining.

Contact: Fintown Development Association
Fintown
Donegal
Ireland

source: Rebel, December 1979

NO TO WARMAN URANIUM REFINERY

Canada: From January 8 to 23, Saskatchewan people voiced their opposition to the Warman uranium refinery and Hearings on that refinery, at the Hearing itself. Eldorado Nuclear is proposing to build a uranium refinery about five kilometres south east of Warman, in Saskatchewan.

The refinery would take uranium oxide ore (yellowcake) mined and milled in Northern Saskatchewan and refine it to uranium hexafluoride. Powerful acids and other chemicals would be transported daily by rail to the refinery. Solid radioactive wastes would be stored at the site for at least 10 years.

In 1979, an Eldorado official stated that even if a majority of the residents of the town opposed the refinery, the project would probably still go ahead.

Warman is primarily an agricultural community. Highly toxic fluoride from the plant, as well as low level radiation, threaten to contaminate locally grown food. Send support to the Warman people for their hearings and the fight to come to Saskatchewan Citizens for a Non Nuclear Society
136 Ave F. South, Saskatoon
Sask, Canada tel 652 4962

ORKNEY FACES NEW THREAT

Scotland: After the Secretary of State for Scotland had neither accepted or rejected the Orkney Islands Council's ban on uranium mining Orkney Islanders discovered a new development in this area. The Secretary of State has been considering legislative proposals that uranium mining and related test-bores be designated "Permitted Developments". This means that Orkney Islands Council no longer has the power to withhold planning permission for test-bores or mining if this legislation goes through, and it could be passed very quickly.

Orkney Islands Council have protested against this. The Dunters (an anti uranium mining group) have circularised Scottish parliamentarians. The new Orkney Movement has written to the Secretary of State protesting under the Udal Law, which still applies in Orkney and Shetland, mineral rights are vested in the owners of the land, not the Crown, and therefore the Secretary of State cannot enact legislation in Orkney and Shetland with particular reference to minerals. So far no replies have been received.

Contact: Margaret Flaws
8, Old Scapa Road,
Kirkwall, Orkney, Scotland

(Margaret Flaws is a contact for the Orkney Movement. She writes "We would like Home Rule...we feel this is the only way we can hold our own against government and big business, but realise it is unlikely that we shall get it. However we keep on trying. I am quite convinced that small units like Orkney, being independent to some extent and therefore on a more equal footing with larger groups, would make for greater co-operation - it is NOT a way of dividing people, as some suggest... Perhaps our fight may encourage others")

LABRADOR INUIT ASSOCIATION VS BRINEX CORP

Labrador: The Labrador Inuit Association is fighting to stop uranium mining, and is asking for support.

In December 1979 they were given a hearing, while at the same time Brinex was pressing for approval of their C\$160 million dollar mining operation in the Happy Valley Goose Bay area of Labrador by January 1.

The Labrador Inuit Association and the Naskaupo- Montagnais Innu Association have protested to the Newfoundland government that the proposed mine site is on land to which the natives have not relinquished land rights.

The report of the Hearings will be published on February 1 1980. The groups have pressed for a full judicial inquiry into the Brinex proposal and uranium mining in Labrador.

High unemployment in Newfoundland and Labrador, coupled with almost no available information on the ecological or health implications of uranium mining, has fostered some support for the Brinex uranium mine. This is especially so in Goose Bay, where 1000 out of the 7,000 residents are unemployed. The Inuit are most concerned with the effect of mining on wildlife, their food supply.

Contact: John Merrit, Inuit Tapirist Of Can
176 Gloucester St, 3rd floor
Ottawa, Canada K2POA6 tel 2388181

William Edmunds
Labrador Inuit Association
PO Box 70, NAIN
Labrador AOP ILO

We would appreciate updates on all these stories, to help us keep in touch with the latest developments and struggles.

Roger Moody has sent information on uranium mining in Australia to supplement the information in the first newsletter:

AUSTRALIA

Mary Kathleen Uranium (Queensland), Australia's oldest operating mine, produced just over 500 tonnes U in 1978; its production has been somewhat higher in 1979. MKU is owned by Rio Tinto Zinc. Both Ranger (Peko Wallsend and EZ Industries and until recently the Federal government but now Energy Resources Australia) and Queensland Mines Nabarlek mines in the Northern Territory have been given the go-ahead, despite nation-wide and aboriginal protest. The full story of the Ranger Cheat can be read in several Australian publications, notably Chain Reaction (A summary in Natural Peoples News 2/3). Latest information is that Nabarlek has now been completely mined, and the 12,000 tonnes of ore is stockpiled awaiting treatment. Ranger is expected to reach full production of up to 3,000 tonnes U a year by the end of 1981.

Total amounts of uranium also widely differ - according to whose figures you believe. The mining companies' figures reach an impressive 660,000 tonnes of reserves. Whereas the AAEC (Australian Atomic Energy Commission) 1977/78 report puts reasonably assured amounts and additional reserves (at an acceptable cost) as low as 337,000 tonnes.

CONTRACTS The Australian federal government in November signed its first overseas contracts since the Labor Party took power in 1972. EZ and Peko Wallsend, the Ranger partners, have signed separate agreements to supply 2,500 tonnes of U to South Korea from 1983-1993. During the past year, there has been some debate in Australia as to whether the uranium market could possibly fulfil the hopes which the industry has expressed about it two or three years before. In November 1978, for example, the AAEC cut its estimate of Australian exports of U from the previous 16,500 - 19,500 tonnes in 1985, to a mere 10,000 tonnes a year

by 1985.

SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENTS (a prerequisite to contracts) have been signed with Finland, the USA, the Phillipines, and South Korea - with Britain following soon. So far the Japanese - although the greatest hope for Australian sales - have not signed a safeguards agreement.

The Australian government recently tendered its 50% share of Ranger and received 14 offers from inside and outside the country. It seems Energy Resources Australia, controlled mostly by one of the present Ranger partners, will buy the government shares.

South Australia

After the Northern Territory, the biggest uranium hope in Australia. This year a Labor government fell and one of the first acts of the new Liberal government was to open the door to uranium explorers, particularly at Beverley, Lake Frome, and Roxby Downs. The latter deposit, possibly the largest highgrade deposit in Australia or indeed anywhere in the world, is being developed by Western Mining Corporation and British Petroleum (BP) (51% and 49% respectively). Other companies involved in South Australia include Phelps Dodge (USA).

Western Australia

Western Mining Corporation has received government clearance to develop the Yeelirrie Deposit - with Exxon (USA) and Urangesellschaft (West Germany).

Other Northern Territory Mines

Noranda Australia's deposit at Koongarra (which the Fox Report said should not be developed at least for the time being) may be soon under mining, since Noranda has submitted a draft environmental impact statement substituting a so-called (ha) "no release" water management system for its original acid tailings dam. Koongarra - on Aboriginal land - is about the same size as Nabarlek. Pancontinental's potentially huge Jabiluka deposit looks like getting underway in 1981 according to Tony Grey, the company's chair. The development of Pancon's deposit as an underground mine is according to the government, satisfying. They will, however, have difficulty getting approval from Jabiluka's traditional owners, the

Mudginberri people, who put in a land claim nearly two years ago. The land claim will prevent a rapid start at least, at most it can stop the project.

Trade Union Opposition to Mining

There are many stories about this opposition in WISE bulletins. In May 1978 three Australian trade unions announced they wouldn't supply labour to Ranger and Nabarlek: the Amalgamated Metal Workers and Shipwrights Union, the Australian Railways union, and the Electrical Trades Union. However several other key unions support mining. In September the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) council wanted to support the "reality" of mining at Ranger and Nabarlek, at the instigation of Bob Hawke, a contender now for the leadership of the Australian Labor Party. The ACTU policy of opposition to new mines was carried 512 to 318 votes.

Winona LaDuke, of the International Indian Treaty Council, asked that the following information be sent to as many people as possible. To participate would help the Indians very much politically. She would like people to write to Tina Hobson, Department of Energy, Washington DC, using own letterhead paper, and commenting on the following information. It is hoped you will also say the letter was prompted by Winona - and maybe then will something get done in all that bureaucracy.

On November 16 some people in the anti-nuclear movement attended a now monthly meeting with the department of energy. The regular meetings are a result of the "Radiation Victims" forum, sponsored by the Mobilisation for Survival held at the DoE in October. Tina Hobson, from the DoE, became excited about the uranium mining situation. After a discussion which revealed how little DoE knows about the front end of the nuclear chain, the woman requested a list of uranium mines and uranium mills in the Southwest and their problems.

ANACONDA STRIP MINE - Laguna Pueblo

Largest uranium mine in the world, surpassing the Rössing mine. After 25 years of operation, the company estimates that only two or three years are left in the "productivity of the

mine". Five square miles of land area has been consumed by Anaconda, a subsidiary of ARCO petroleum company, with numerous impacts on the local population.

*In 1973, the Environmental Protection Agency found widespread water contamination in the area: the community drinking water was radioactive. Nothing was done

*In 1975, the EPA returned to find the same, except contamination had spread throughout the Grants Mineral Belt.

*In 1978, the EPA returned again and determined that the company had been using low grade ore for road repairs, building construction and the like. No citations were issued, and the EPA left.

*In 1979, there is a debate going on, as to whether or not there have been 100 birth defects in the past five years at Laguna Pueblo. Some doctors say there have been, others swear the opposite. However, Laguna is building a school for handicapped children

UNITED NUCLEAR - Churchrock Mines

Numerous safety violation have occurred at this mine, resulting in worker accidents, and significant overexposure of miners to radiation.

GULF OIL - Mt Taylor Mine

Expected to be the largest uranium mine in the United States, \$146 million has been invested by the company, with an anticipated 100 million pounds of uranium to be removed during the 25 years of operation. In July of this year (1979) the water for the local residents went bad, drinking water was trucked in by the National Guard, and unusually enough, the Kerr McGee Corporation, Gulf later participated in the water transportation, however maintains that the problem was not caused by the company.

KERR MCGEE - Ambrosia Lake Mines

Company is currently operating a uranium miner training programme, with 100 Navajo uranium miners being turned out annually from the operations. The programme is financed by the Labor Department of the US government, to the tune of \$2 million annually in taxpayers money. Company is the owner of 33% of "domestic uranium", known to have done a job on Karen Silkwood,

numerous Navajo uranium miners and according to the Oil Chemical and Atomic Workers Union, is responsible for subjecting workers to radiation doses 6 times the "recommended" exposure.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY, MOBIL OIL, UNITED NUCLEAR

Plans for the Crownpoint and Dalton Pass area of the Navajo reservation are now being implemented with an undetermined amount of uranium mines underway. The mining operations have already affected water in the area, brought in numerous outsiders, and are also in conflict with all local authority. In 1978, the Crownpoint Chapter of the Navajo Reservation demanded an immediate halt to all uranium exploration activities in the area. The Navajo Tribal Council proceeded with the plans, and a lawsuit resulted. Peshlakai versus Slessinger was the lawsuit filed by 92 Navajos and 1 Acoma Indian against seven branches of the federal government. The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA, a federal corporate utility) was one of them. The paperwork on the lawsuit continued, until this fall when it was announced that the lawsuit had been dismissed. The judge declared that if the lawsuit were allowed to proceed one fifth of the nations uranium would be under contention. The lawsuit has charged that all of the progress in uranium mining in the area had been initiated without environmental impact statements, without local approval, without full knowledge of what the leases were for, and without citizen approval for the national impact of uranium mining.

URANIUM MILLS

Anaconda: Grants, New Mexico, "the Uranium Capital of the World". Workers at this uranium mill frequently pass out due to toxic emissions from the acidic solutions in which the uranium is processed. Kerr McGee: Same charge, in addition to having seriously contaminated the Ambrosia Lake with radiation from mill discharge. The mill is the largest of its kind within the United States.

United Nuclear: 100 million gallons of uranium mill tailings water spilling is enough to justify looking at this mill. PLEASE WRITE TO DOE AND PROTEST.

RESOURCES

A BOOKLET ABOUT URANIUM
- a booklet with WISE and CIMRA participation

"Much is spoken about nuclear energy, though little is known about the fuel, uranium. This is the main reason why we are trying to make a booklet about uranium mining, milling, etc: to fill in this information gap.

But we do not have all the information, of course. If you have information on the things we want to write about, please send it to us.

1. In the first chapter we will give the necessary technical information about the nuclear fuel chain.

2. In the next chapter we will consider why it is necessary - according to the industry - to mine uranium. Here we will look at the whole energy problem: the depletion of fossil fuels, rising prices, more energy consumption: the solution according to the industry is Atomic, and uranium is the fuel. We will also try to point out that the so-called energy crisis is also caused by political and economic choices - the underlying meanings of ENERGY.

How much and what sort of energy we will need in the future is affected by these political-economic decisions, and the feared energy crisis is not only caused by a shortage of the world's energy potential, because the demand of energy is not an absolute one. It is a question strongly connected with our capitalistic system and the choices this brings.

3. The next point we want to consider is where the uranium is being mined and what criteria are used in mining by the companies.

Making an inventory of the world's main uranium reserves, we find that most uranium is mined in the poorer, less developed regions of a number of industrialised (sometimes rich) countries. We can see that mining very often proceeds in regions where native peoples live (the so-called fourth world). We can see this for instance in Australia, in the regions where aborigines live, and in the USA on Indian reservations. Nature reservations are attractive sites for the

uranium miners. We will give data on countries with uranium deposits, which export uranium and which are mostly involved in the uranium mining industry.

Roughly stated the uranium deposits are situated as follows:

USA	40%
Canada	20%
South Africa	10%
Australia	8%
Sweden	7%
Niger	5%
France	2%
Rest of western world	8%

Australia's 8% is more important than seems at first sight as it represented something like 70% of the worlds not yet contracted uranium.

4. The next point is the most difficult: the contracts between producers and buyers of uranium. It is difficult because the data is scattered and secretive (often). To be able to give complete as possible a picture of the most important tendencies of concluding uranium contracts we need detailed figures from all over the world. Please send any you have. A very important question here is: who has the power in the contracts and how are the contracts made. There is a tendency visible of growing power of well-known oil companies in the field of uranium mining. These companies become more and more "energy companies" with interests (and the power in) all sorts of energy: solar, fossil, nuclear etc).

The role of US multinationals appear the most important and they are steadily taking control over more mines, large and small.

It is commonly known that a uranium cartel once existed, and probably still does. According to Westinghouse documents and documents published by Sydney Friends of the Earth (1976) from RTZ (Australia) and Mary Kathleen there is proof of the existence of an international uranium cartel operating in the early 70's. The main reasons for the foundation of the cartel were:

1. the expected oversupply of uranium until the end of the 70's made it attractive to protect the markets of the uranium suppliers
2. the low uranium prices in the early seventies made a high price increase possible

3. the exploration of very expensive uranium findings made very high investments necessary which could be paid out of higher profits realised through higher uranium prices

The five uranium suppliers agreed to fix shares on the market, which were (according to the documents) as follows:

Countries	Market Share	
	72-77	'78-80
Canada	33.5%	23.22%
France	23.75%	19.66%
South Africa	21.75%	19.26%
Australia	17%	24.44%
RTZ*	4%	13.82%

*Rio Tinto Zinc was the initiator of the cartel and was given a share in all deliveries because of its world wide dominance in uranium mining and its major role in the foundation of the cartel. It is not sure that the cartel still exists. Probably it has been replaced by another industry oriented influential organisation: the London Uranium Institute.

5. The New Dependency. Following the tendencies on the energy market we find little by little the uranium consuming part of the world is manouvring itself into a situation which could be as vulnerable and dependant as what now exists with oil. This New Dependency (this time of the delivery of the uranium, an irreplaceable fuel for nuclear reactors) is becoming clearer. A first analysis of the uranium market shows that energy producers rarely are uranium possessors. This means that companies and countries again are faced with the power of fuel suppliers, which again (as with oil) can formulate their demands. These demands can vary from financial to political prices.

Considering uranium mining in further detail we will try to give as fully detailed as possible inventory of where the uranium mines are and who owns them. We will also try to give some recent information on low-level radiation dangers which are known to exist for miners and people living near uranium mines. Research shows low level radiation is a real, and often underestimated, danger.

WHAT IS STILL NEEDED:

Contacts: in countries which do not appear to have a movement against uranium mining. (South Africa, Gabon, Niger, Mexico, Chile, Tunisia, Egypt, China, Guyana,

Libya, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Tanzania, Argentina).
Information: on transport routes for uranium, especially into Europe. (We know about Namibia, but little else). What companies are involved? How frequent are the shipments? How much goes by sea and how much by air and land?

Information on contracts: concluded between mining companies and power utilities.

We have a lot of information on Canada, Australia, quite a bit on the USA, not very much from elsewhere - especially France and French colonies, and South Africa.

Unhealth of Mining: We know of the invaluable research done into the effects of mining in New Mexico; the results of the HSAM (Health and Safety of Miners) report in Canada, and conclusions of the Fox Report, Bayda Enquiry and NRC(USA).

Have we missed any major reports done in other countries - EEC countries, for example, of French colonies or South Africa (excluding Namibia)?

Actions Against Uranium Mining. Australian, US and Canadian, Spanish actions are fairly well known. Have there been other actions, in Europe - or South America? Or anywhere else, that we should know about?

Contact: Cor de Koning
 Bart Verest
 Roger Moody
 C/- WISE
 2e Weteringplantsoen 9
 Amsterdam.

WISE will shortly receive a film, Ride Against Uranium Mining, by Friends of the Earth (Australia). It is (I think) about 15 minutes long, about the 1977 national ride against uranium mining converging on Canberra in May. FoE (it seems) is providing it to the WISE library, to be lent out to groups in Europe for return freight costs.

INBOORLINGENKRANT

This is a new publication. It is published by the Werkgroep Aborigines Australie, a group which has also published a Dutch version of the Mapoon Story of northern Queensland.

Inboorlingenkrant is a collection of newspaper clippings in Dutch about Australian Aborigines and their struggle.

Contact: Werkgroep Aborigines Australie
 p/a Gasthuisstraat 19
 6411 KD Heerlen
 Netherlands
 tel (045) 21 13 04

and the government of the U.S. Further work needs to be done in Europe and Japan, to make a fully detailed chart of the Trilateral Commission. The Alliance calls on people to help fill in these details so that an overall, international chart can be made.

People with information on principle occupation, past positions, bank and government connections, the corporations and that they represent etc of Trilateral Commission members please send it to Lynn Lahr c/- Winona LaDuke
 610 Longway, Ashland, Oregon 97520 USA

The chart of North American members is available for \$5- from
 Black Hills Alliance
 PO Box 2508 Rapid City
 S.D. 57701 USA

NEWS EXTRAS

TRACING THE TRILATERAL COMMISSION

USA: "Exactly who is running this world insane?" The Black Hills Alliance intends finding the answer to this question. They will present the various aspects of their answer in a series of forums at the Rapid City SURVIVAL GATHERING 18-26 July 1980. One of the forums will concern "a citizens review Commission on the Energy Developing corporations and for Genocide Policies against Indians and Ranger/farmers".

The Black Hills Alliance has a survey of Trilateral Commission members from Northern America and their connections with banks, energy corporations, industry

CALL FOR HELP FROM NARSAQ

Greenland: The newly formed Narsaq stop uranium mining movement needs information about uranium mining in all parts of the world: in a letter from Jens Karlsen he says it is an emergency situation and need at once to get information to the people of Greenland about the dangerous nature of uranium mining.

Temporary investigations around Narsaq have established uranium deposits at 43,000 tons. The nuclear research laboratory in Risø, Denmark, will test 5000 tons of the Narsaq uranium, if the plan is continued, to determine whether the uranium can profitably be mined.

A 500 metre tunnel has already been made under Kvanefjeldet, and a further 500 metres will be dug. The work is stopped until APRIL 1980 due to winter frosts.

But the Greenland people, as well as the Home Rule government in Greenland and the Danish government and people have not yet taken a decision on the use of nuclear power.

Meanwhile, the "experts" are treating the people of Narsaq as "unknowing human beings without brain". Their information is partial: milk and honey, economic expansion, more jobs, and prosperity.

The situation is alarming.

Contact: Jens Karlsen
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Greenland

IF YOU CAN FINANCIALLY HELP,
PLEASE SEND DONATIONS TOWARDS
THE COST OF THIS INTERNATIONAL
STOP URANIUM MINING NEWS-
LETTER TO

WISE
post account 4088285

OR STRAIGHT TO US AT THE OFFICE
ADDRESS

Please send us letters, articles,
information to pass on to other
people in other parts of the world
fighting to stop uranium mining.

Address your correspondence to
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