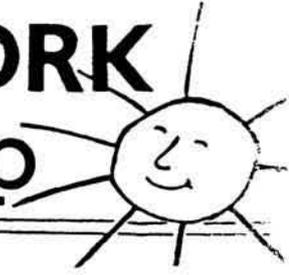


ANTI-NUCLEAR NETWORK NEWSLETTER

NO. 17 - Nov/Dec 1989

30p



DUNGENESS IN THE DOCK

The CEGB has been prosecuted for two breaches of safety regulations at Dungeness nuclear power station in Kent. It is the first time the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate has taken the CEGB to court for a breach of safety.

The two incidents are frightening. They both involved dropping nuclear components. In February, a complete nuclear fuel assembly was dropped into the core of the reactor putting it out of action, and it has still not been retrieved. Three weeks later, a CEGB inspection team managed to drop a 2.5 tonne component 27 feet. The maximum fine for each offence is only £2,000 although if the case went to Crown Court an unlimited fine could be imposed. The case will be heard at Folkestone Magistrates Court on 16th November and it is to be hoped that nuclear activists will attend to call for the maximum penalty and for the closure of this dangerous and geriatric AGR.

On 21st October, a group of dedicated activists braved rain and heavy winds to picket the main gate of Dungeness power station. The picket lasted over two hours and for part of that time both gates of the station were blocked, preventing traffic from entering or leaving. The picket was organised by Blockade Against Dungeness, and attended by anti-nuclear groups from different parts of the country. Its aim was to draw attention to the dangerous state of Dungeness and call for its immediate closure.



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NETWORK

Nuclear Trains Action

Two anti-nuclear campaigners, Bob Cole and Rod Stallard, from CND Cymru chained themselves to a nuclear waste flask at Llandudno Junction railway station in August. The two protesters walked unnoticed across tracks at the siding and had plenty of time to secure themselves to the flask and daub it with anti-nuclear slogans in Welsh and English. Firefighters who were called to the scene refused to cut the chains in support of the Fire Brigades Union's anti-nuclear policy.



Western Mail August 5, 1989

POLICE WATCHING the two campaigners who chained themselves to a nuclear-waste wagon yesterday.

Crewe Anti-Nuclear Network would like to hear from anyone in the area who would be interested in joining the group. We would also like to hear from anyone who is working on the transport of nuclear waste. Trains carrying nuclear waste travel through Crewe twice a week. We want to campaign on the issue locally, but would also like to be in touch with other groups, to exchange information and ideas, and maybe plan co-ordinated actions on this issue.

Contact: Crewe A.N.N., c/o Bottom Flat, 59 Walthall Street, Crewe, Cheshire CW2 7LA.

Sizewell C Campaign

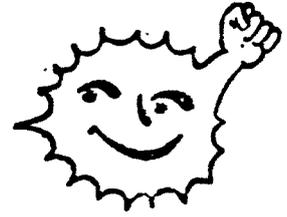
A record number of objections to Sizewell C (about 80,000) reached the Department of Energy by the deadline of 30th September. This will, of course, do nothing to dissuade the Government but it is an important indication of public feeling about nuclear power. We must draw on this to organise an effective fight. In view of the number of objections it seems likely that a public inquiry will be held. Although there are still people who place all their hopes in an inquiry (and almost behave as though the calling of an inquiry would in itself be a victory), there are many of us who feel that we need different tactics if we are to succeed.

Book Review: Eco-defence: A field guide to Monkeywrenching by Dave Forman and Bill Haywood (1988). Published by Ned Ludd Books, POB 5871, Tucson, AZ 85703, USA. (\$12.00)

This highly irresponsible book advocates a form of sabotage or "ecotage" to combat environmental pollution and ecological destruction. Called "monkeywrenching" - as the saboteur only needs basic household/ garage tools and equipment - it has been used against the US timber industry, industrial developments, hunters and nuclear power stations. In graphic detail (complete with illustrations) this pernicious book explains how to sabotage computers, disable vehicles (everything from bulldozers to helicopters), knock out power lines, make stink bombs, and much more. It also sets out the security measures needed to avoid detection and arrest.

One only hopes that the book does not fall into the hands of anti-nuclear or green extremists as they could cause untold damage to public and private property. Clearly the anti-nuclear movement should avoid the temptation to go monkeywrenching and concentrate our energies instead on the well tried formula of public inquiries, parliamentary debates, petitions and political lobbying.

B. Goode



DIG SAYS NO DUMP

The M.O.D has come up with one of its maddest proposals for a long time - a plan to build a nuclear submarine radioactive waste dump in Plymouth city centre.

It will now have an uphill struggle on its hands to persuade the reluctant townspeople to welcome this nuclear pile; not least because the proposed site is 50 yards from a viaduct carrying the Penzance to London express train. The fact that nine out of ten citizens opposed the dump in a newspaper poll conducted by the Plymouth Herald should also be taken into consideration.

The M.O.D however, seems determined to fly in the face of public opinion and is currently preparing a "safety" case. Apparently it can skip the stage of asking for planning permission from Plymouth City Council due to Crown Immunity and the DOE may therefore refer the case straight to a public inquiry.

Local residents fear that the dump may become a resting place for bits of decommissioned sub reactor although the M.O.D has denied this and has stated that the site will only be used to store intermediate level waste arising from the refitting and decontamination of nuclear submarines.

However, dockyard employees at Devonport say that a new system for the removal of radioactive contamination from submarine reactors has been installed there recently.

The new system will extract a radioactive slurry from the subs and store this waste in special resin catchment tanks ultimately designed for the proposed storage dump.

The city dump, which a council spokesperson said has: "scared the pants off the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate", has other purposes. It is possible that passing US submarines may wish to stop off at Devonport to be decontaminated without having to report to a US port, treating it as a sort of sail-in sub-wash. The result will be that contaminated waste resin will be stored in Plymouth.

This variation on the theme of 'Britain Nuclear Dustbin of the World', has not escaped the notice of the citizens of Plymouth who do not want a radioactive monument 400 years into the future.

The Plymouth nuclear Dump Information Group (DIG) has been formed to fight against these plans. The group says that unknown to the public the MOD has been storing growing quantities of nuclear waste within the city already. Its new proposed site is next to public housing, schools and close to public and tourist transport routes. There are already contingency plans for a second and possibly a third dump on the site. The proposals will be of no benefit to the people of Plymouth as it is not expected that any new jobs will be created.

If you live in the area and would like to join the fight against the dump, DIG holds its meetings on the third Monday of each month at the Committee Room of the Holy Family Church, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth at 7.30pm.

Contact numbers; Kevin Owen 0752

Dave Riggs 0752

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* ANTI-NUCLEAR NETWORK CONFERENCE
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* Sat 23 September 1989
* BRIGHTON
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The Anti-Nuclear Network Conference was hosted by the Brighton anti-nuclear network and was attended by groups from London, Bristol, Cambridge, Hastings and Crewe. Topics discussed were as follows.

Dungeness Blockade

It was decided that A.N.N would fully support the blockade at Dungeness organised by B.A.D (Blockade against Dungeness) for Sunday 22nd October at 12 noon. There was some discussion about raising money with a sponsored bike ride from London to Dungeness, similar to the ride from London to Sizewell two years ago. Haringey Direct Action Group and Dungeness Action Society Hastings, agreed to liase on this. There followed a discussion of activities and plans for the day.

P.W.Rs

Hinkley.C: Discussion of action to be taken following the announcement of the decision to go ahead with Hinkley.C. It was proposed that a national demonstration should be held at CEGB/National Power HQ in Bristol. It was also suggested that simultaneous demonstrations could be held at other CEGB focal points throughout the country. These demonstrations could also highlight the issue of privatisation.

Sizewell C: To wait for Inquiry dates before deciding on response.

Wylfa B: To make contact with Welsh groups and support their actions. Nick of H.D.A.G agreed to contact the groups.

Sellafield Campaign

The idea was presented that A.N.N should concentrate on Sellafield as a focal point for a campaign in 1990. At the heart of the nukiller industry in Britain, Sellafield is an obvious choice for a major initiative. It was decided that contact needs to be made with groups in the North West to gain their responses and ideas and the CREWE group agreed to do this.

It was also suggested that links should be made with our Irish and European contacts in order to try and co-ordinate actions in Dublin and another European city - maybe Amsterdam.

Privatisation

It was difficult to discuss plans for an anti-privatisation campaign as the government's plans appear to be in chaos. Flogging nuclear power seems to be more difficult than flogging a dead horse!

It was agreed however that if privatisation goes ahead and includes nuclear power, A.N.N will buy a minimum block of shares and co-ordinate with SANE (Shareholders against Nuclear Energy).

Other topics discussed were an anti-advertising campaign and an A.N.N information leaflet on privatisation.

A.N.N Statement of Aims

It was felt that A.N.N should produce a formal statement of aims so that groups which agree with them could affiliate and the new statement will appear in the newsletter.

Conference cont.....

Fundraising

The network is short of funds so a brainstorming session was held on fund raising. Any donations would of course be very welcome.

Resources

A.N.N has access to the following resources - Several duplicators, a badge making machine, radiation suits (for demos or street theatre), hand held Geiger Counter, display boards, videos, 10 years of nuclear waste cuttings.

We need other resources including megaphones, C.Bs and skills such as graphic design. Stephanie from Brighton agreed to co-ordinate a resource list. If anyone has anything to offer please contact her: C/O BANN, Peace Centre, Trafalgar St, Brighton. STOP PRESS..... A.N.N also needs the help of a German/English translator. Please contact the above address if you can help.



The delay in the privatisation of the electricity industry for six months has meant that most of the posters promoting the new company National Power have disappeared. However anti-nuclear activists used the opportunity provided to "bugger up" the nuclear company's bland image-making - as in the example above sent in from Cambridge.

Nuclear power is at the heart of the Government's current problems with the sale. Taking Magnox stations out of the sale, has led to the six month delay. But the City isn't too keen on the AGR stations either. The latest plans include proposals to underwrite the **running costs** of AGR's, as well as the previous commitment to fund decommissioning, disposal of nuclear waste and insurance claims out of public money. So much for capitalist risk taking! With the recent dramatic fall in share prices the whole exercise could be delayed for a long time.

The Radioactive House

So much for official assurances that radiation from nuclear power stations is no more dangerous than "average" background radiation.

Christopher and Christine Merlin are taking BNFL through the High Court for damages to their property in Ravenglass, Cumbria. They sold the property for less than half what they paid for it after tests showed massive contamination from radioactive substances including Plutonium 239 and Americium 241. The inside of the house was found to be contaminated following tests in the area in 1976. The Merlins have two young children who at that time were babies growing up in the house. Both were conceived and carried in the village.

Their concern has not been the money lost but the fact that they have had to move and possible health risks to their family.

Their case is the first to have been brought against BNFL for radioactive discharges from Sellafield.

When I spoke to Mr Merlin he expressed a determination to fight the case through. Official re-assurances given by BNFL since the testing have not in any way lessened his resolve.

Families of child leukaemia victims are also in the process of suing BNFL. A report by scientists sponsored by the DHSS stated that children born near Sellafield run a significantly increased risk of dying of leukaemia and other cancers. The leukaemia rate is about ten times the average. (Guardian, October 87)

Mordecai Vanunu



30th September 1989 was the third anniversary of the abduction of Mordecai Vanunu. He was kidnapped by Israeli agents after giving details of Israel's nuclear weapons capability to the Sunday Times. He has been held in solitary confinement ever since. His appeal against a sentence of 18 years in solitary confinement was heard in May. The result may not be known until the end of the year. The outlook is not hopeful, especially in view of a 3 page statement put out by the Israeli "Department of Justice" which includes the absurd allegation that information supplied by Vanunu assisted the hijacking of a bus in March 1988 and the murder of some passengers. For Vanunu, living in a tiny cell with no natural light and no human contact, his Christian faith has become the focal point of his life.

One of the most shocking aspects of his case is the failure of Amnesty International to take up his case and adopt Vanunu as a prisoner of conscience. The long winded attempts of AI to justify their position - that Vanunu breached a "legitimate criminal law" - are far from convincing and indicate, sadly, how far AI has become part of the establishment and is unwilling to upset the Zionist lobby.

Over the past year or so, a small group in Cambridge has been trying to publicise his case in various ways, put pressure on AI, and protest to the Israeli Embassy and the Israeli Government. Our experience is that there is much potential support for Vanunu amongst the public but there is no organisation to channel that support. Mordecai's brother Meir has been campaigning almost single handed and faces prosecution himself if he returns to Israel.

Vanunu had hoped that his action would open up a debate in Israel about nuclear weapons. But the silence remains: the subject is taboo in Israel. The Israeli Government, having sentenced Vanunu for treason, still deny the possession of nuclear weapons. It suits America also to be silent. No doubt this is because Israel has the capability to strike into the Soviet Union.

Repression, secrecy and deception are the hallmarks of the nuclear industry everywhere. Israel's nuclear programme and the case of Vanunu are particularly vivid and important examples. Vanunu's case brings together and highlights all the evils of the nuclear industry, in particular the links between nuclear power and nuclear weapons, and the suppression of democracy. Vanunu acted with great courage. We must support him and continue his struggle.

Enquiries to the Cambridge group can be forwarded via the London address - see back page.

News round **IN BRIEF**

AUGUST

- 14: Greenpeace has urged BNFL to recover radioactive sediment from the Irish Sea to prevent the tides and winds bringing plutonium on to the Cumbrian coast.
- 25: A verdict of death by natural causes has been brought on Derek Ramsden, a nuclear test veteran, who died aged 52 of cancer of the gullet.
- 25: People from Leningrad have been warned not to pick wild mushrooms contaminated in the Chernobyl disaster.
- 27: Bankruptcy threatens the Soviet Republic of Byelorussia which is still highly contaminated after Chernobyl. Another 1,000 people still have to be relocated.
- 28: The French PM stated that France intends to stage six nuclear tests at Mururoa Atoll next year.

SEPTEMBER

- 5: Australian veterans of Britain's atomic tests in the 1950s have won the right to compensation.
- 6: BNFL admits that instrument failure at Sellafield caused "too much" nuclear waste to be discharged into the Irish sea.
- 6: Consultant engineers Large and Associates report that the water authorities are ill prepared to deal with radioactive contamination after nuclear accidents.
- 7: To revive the dormant US nuclear power industry, the Dept of Energy has given the Westinghouse Corporation 50 million dollars to develop a new generation of "cheaper, safer, standardised reactors".
- 8: Arthur Scargill asks the TUC conference to call for the phasing out of all nuclear power stations within 15 years.
- 14: A strike closed the re-processing plant and four reactors at Sellafield yesterday.
- 15: M.Ps condemn BNFL for the soaring costs and delays at the £1.57 billion Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant.
- 22: Building work at Aldermaston has been delayed by a strike over subsistence payments.
- 28: The CEBG has taken a 20 percent stake in a £270 million uranium mining and processing plant in the Canadian Arctic. The project could lead to the production of 2.1 million tons of radioactive waste and is fiercely opposed by the native Inuit people.
- 30: Energy Secretary John Wakefield announces that electricity privatisation is to be delayed by six months.

OCTOBER

- 4: Dangerous radiation levels from Chernobyl have been found in Welsh deep mining.
- 5: CEBG faces prosecution after two safety breaches at Dungeness.
- 5: BNFL has been taken to court by Christopher and Christine Merlin after high levels of radioactive contamination forced them to move from their Cumbrian home.
- 9: FOE has found radioactive poisoning on the river Esk, 13 times safety limits.
- 10: The Czech government intends to expand its nuclear energy programme from 6 percent in 1980 to 27 percent of total power needs in 1990.

