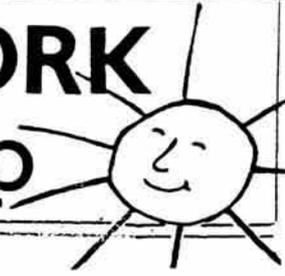


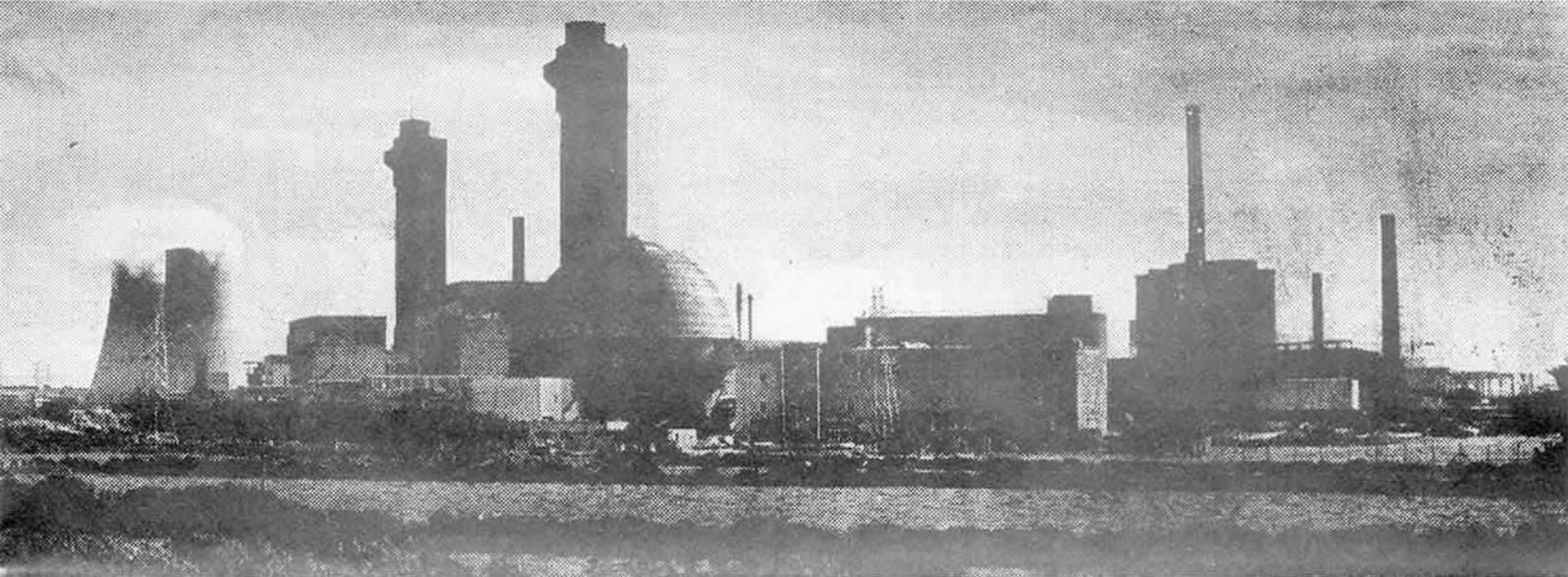
# ANTI-NUCLEAR NETWORK NEWSLETTER

No. 19 - April/May 1990

30p



## GOVERNMENT HEALTH WARNING



### IF YOU WORK HERE - DON'T HAVE KIDS!

The children of Sellafield workers are at risk - according to convincing evidence in a recent report. Fathers who have received doses of radiation from working at the nuclear plant can pass on leukaemia to their children through mutated sperm. This would explain the child leukaemia clusters previously counted around nuclear plants which were said at first by official sources to have little significance.

A spokesman for BNFL then caused uproar amongst plant workers by suggesting that if the report had made them anxious perhaps they should consider not having a family at all.

The report that caused all the fuss is a very respectable piece of research. It has been produced by a team of scientists from the Medical Research Council based at Southampton University headed by professor Martin Gardner. And the results were published in the British Medical Journal, a solid and worthy professional periodical. Both the Government and BNFL have had to take it seriously and look further at its findings.

The team studied all cases of leukaemia and cancers of the lymph system in children in the Sellafield area between 1950 and 1985 and compared these with a control group. The evidence showed that the most important factor was the father's occupation. All kinds of other possibilities were looked at and discounted. Children whose fathers worked at the plant were two and a half times more likely to develop leukaemia while the risk increased to six to eight times amongst men who had received a dose of more than 100 millisieverts.

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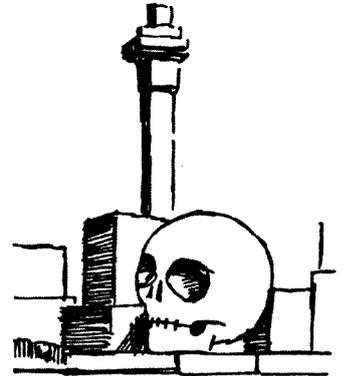


The report is another piece of the huge case against the nuclear industry. We have been told that workers are protected against radiation. Clearly this is not so and they and their families have suffered because of callous Government policies to prop up nuclear power at any cost. Even now that some plants may never be built because of City jitters over their economic viability, Sellafield continues to pollute the environment and to put future generations at risk.

Thirty families plan to sue BNFL for damages over children who have developed leukaemia and their case will be helped by the new evidence in this report. Sadly some of those children have already died.

Apathy in the anti-nuclear movement will not help those families. We all need to continue the fight against nuclear power and the terrible damage it causes.

The Anti-Nuclear Network is interested in setting up a campaign to Shut Down Sellafield. Any groups or individuals who are interested, please contact the address on the back page.



# News round **IN BRIEF**

## January

- 14: Six French nuclear reactors lying less than 150 miles from England are to be investigated because of serious faults, by Electricite de France. The EDF had admitted that serious faults have been found in all of its latest 1,300 megawatt PWRs. Quick action to repair a safety valve at the Gravelines nuclear plant narrowly averted a disaster last week.
- 18: 180 "nuclear free" authorities are to protest to the EC over Government plans to subsidise nuclear power after privatisation.

## February

- 2: Chatchai, Prime Minister of Thailand, has backed plans to build the country's first nuclear power station.
- 9: Komsomolskaya Pravada revealed that a Soviet nuclear submarine armed with intercontinental ballistic missiles suffered a major accident involving the release of radio-activity during a weapons test in December.
- 9: Satellite pictures have revealed that North Korea is expanding a nuclear facility that could enable the brutal dictatorship to build nuclear weapons.
- 17: A meltdown at Hinkley B nuclear power station was avoided last Sunday after the cooling system failed for 20 minutes. Fortunately the reactors at Hinkley Point were shut down at the time.
- 18: Following Dr Martin Gardner's report on leukaemia amongst children of Sellafield workers, BNFL is considering moving young workers from high radiation areas in the plant..
- 19: A solicitor representing 35 families of Sellafield leukaemia victims has urged BNFL to set up a compensation fund for the children suffering blood cancer as a result of their fathers working at the plant.
- 20: Philippino demonstrators fought police in Manila and demanded the closure of American Nuclear/military bases as US Secretary of Defence Richard Cheney arrived for talks.

...continued on page seven.

# LETTERS

- 3 -

## DIG

### Plymouth nuclear Dump Information Group

21st February 1990

Kevin Owen  
Chairman DIG  
71 Copse Road  
Drunken Bridge Hill  
Underwood  
Plympton  
Plymouth PL7 3QB  
Tel. Day 0752-  
Eve 0752-

Dear ANN.

DIG are celebrating a major victory in the campaign to fight the MoD's plans to build a massive nuclear waste dump in the city of Plymouth. A letter from the MoD was read out to a full city council meeting on Monday 19th February which stated that they had withdrawn their Notice of Proposed Development.

Following intense pressure since Christmas by DIG, the city council and MP's, DIG discovered that the MoD would have to refer their scheme to the DoE and a Public Inquiry if they wished to continue. It was also revealed that the MoD had not declared any National Security considerations related to the project and could not therefore fall back on their Crown Immunity status.

The decision by the MoD marks a significant climb-down on their proposal and would make any further attempts to site a dump within Plymouth even more difficult. Of course waste is still building up in the Dockyard and the MoD have still to find a solution to this problem. However, if they try to introduce a similar proposal at Weston Mill it is likely to receive renewed opposition.

They have stated that they will now look at other options but may still return to their original site - albeit with a 'modified' design. We predict that any re-designed application will have to address the same concerns that has resulted in the present scheme being abandoned and would further fuel suspicion that has surrounded the proposal and has led to widespread mistrust of the MoD.

Early reports from the MoD confirm that they would follow the procedures laid down for government departments when introducing planning applications, which will mean submitting the plans to the local authority and public scrutiny. We fully expect that they may return to the existing site with ammended plans in the near future and we will continue to monitor the situation very closely and let you know of any further developments.

Until then, I hope you will share our jubilation in having won the first and a decisive round in this campaign.

DIG 1 MoD 0 !!

Best wishes.

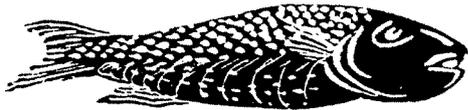
Kevin



# FOOD IRRADIATION



Food irradiation is neither safe nor necessary. It is claimed that massive doses of ionising radiation (about 100 million times the dose of an X-Ray) can extend the shelf life of foods, acting like a preservative, and kill bacteria. Food irradiation would allow the industry to sell older, stale and dirty food contaminated by food poisoning bacteria, as "clean" and "wholesome". Irradiation is no answer to the problem of food poisoning in fact it could make matters worse, as only some bacteria will be killed, leaving some of the more hazardous toxins caused by the bacteria to remain as a hidden poison.



Public Health agencies rely on measuring bacteria in food as an indicator of possible health hazards. If food is irradiated there will be no system of controls to ensure that food is safe and fit to eat.

The Government's Committee on irradiation has admitted that there are inadequate data on many issues. Worker safety and effects on communities living near the irradiation plants are ignored despite evidence of safety violations by plants in other countries.

A list of accidents is as follows:-

1974: Accidents at US irradiation facilities (Isomedia)

1975: Radiation leaks and worker exposure in accidents at irradiator facilities in USA (Radiation Technology) and Italy (Stimus).

1977: Worker exposed in accident at US irradiator facility (Radiation Technology)

1978: Japanese Baby Food Scandal - irradiated food for cattle feed had the labels changed to read "baby food".

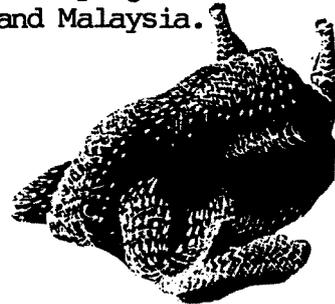
1982: A worker died in an irradiation accident in Norway.

1988: Caesium leak in US (Radiation Sterilisers). State investigator called for tighter regulations and controls.

1989: Three workers exposed in El Salvador.

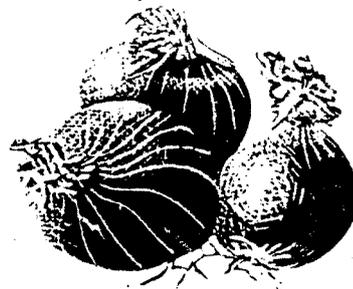
The money and pressure behind the promotion and public acceptance of food irradiation is international. In the USA the Department of Energy which runs a military re-processing plant, allocated five million dollars a year in 1986 and 1987 for the construction of food irradiation plants all using Caesium 137. Caesium 137 is a waste product from reactor plants. By finding a use for this deadly isotope it would legitimise reprocessing. Plutonium which is also produced from reprocessing would be fed back into a military arms programme.

The companies involved in Food irradiation are also aggressively marketing it to developing countries, for example Canada's Nordion is trying to sell to Thailand, Jamaica and Malaysia.



However, Trades Unions, consumer pressure groups and a massive 84 percent of consumers (Marplan poll 87) have said they do not want food irradiation. Many stores including ASDA, Co-Op, Londis, Marks & Spencer, and Tesco, have stated they will not stock irradiated food. Sainsburys has said it will, Safeways and Kwiksave have not yet stated a position. We would suggest that concerned consumers write to their local store and state their objections.

The London Food Commission is running a Food Irradiation Campaign. Contact them for more details at London Food Commission, 88 Old St, London EC1V 9AR.



DEBATE:

# Friend or FOE ?

In response to the latest changes in the nuclear industry Friends of the Earth has launched a campaign for Energy Efficiency. But is this the best way to stop nuclear power? Janet from Cambridge disagrees....

"In spite of the majority of people being opposed to nuclear power, the movement against nuclear power has declined in recent years. Lets face it - very few people these days are committed and active in this cause. No doubt the movement will decline even more now that people are becoming more complacent since the recent scrapping of the new PWRs. It is to be noted that this had nothing to do with public opposition so there is no cause for congratulation. Nor does it signal the end of the industry.

Friends of the Earth holds some responsibility for the decline of the movement. This fact is illustrated by its failure to update its nuclear power leaflet which was published before the Chernobyl disaster! FOE has failed to recognise that the threat of nuclear power is in a category of its own and it is not sufficient to indulge in what John Gofman (American anti-nuclear campaigner), calls "widget fixing", e.g: campaigning for a reduction in radiation standard levels, supporting public enquiries, becoming involved in arguments about the merits of various dumping and storage methods for nuclear waste. Now FOE is blurring the issues by bringing together the fight against nuclear power with a campaign to promote energy efficiency. These issues are not related and to encourage this view does harm to the anti-nuclear movement because it is misleading. The two issues are unrelated because:

- 1) Nuclear power is a front for the production of plutonium for nuclear weapons. To talk of it as if it was merely connected with the production of electricity is to play into the hands of the Government and the nuclear industry.
- 2) Nuclear power is about the centralisation of state power. It is about smashing the miner's union.
- 3) Nuclear power is about the unique and horrifying threat of radiation. The enormity of this threat and its implications for the continuity of life appears unfortunately to be beyond the imagination and understanding of many people. Even some who are active in FOE. Nowadays FOE believes that global warming is "the most serious threat to our existence on this planet".

Has the threat of radiation and nuclear holocaust suddenly evaporated over night? Or is it that the fight against nuclear power is no longer fashionable and the "greenhouse effect" is? As Johnathan Porritt says in the leaflet just quoted: "suddenly the greenhouse effect is in the news." He does not say the reason for this is that the Government is trying to use it as an argument in favour of nuclear power.

- 4) Nuclear power is about the commercialisation of nuclear waste e.g: in food irradiation and smoke detectors. I do not know of anything that FOE is doing along these lines.
- 5) Energy efficiency on the other hand is about conserving resources and reducing the atmospheric pollution caused by CO2 and sulphur and thereby slowing down the greenhouse effect.

No amount of energy efficiency will get rid of nuclear power.

What we need is a national anti-nuclear campaign which is clear in its objective: the immediate closure of all nuclear power stations and reprocessing plants, a ban on importation and transportation of nuclear waste, closure of all uranium mines and compensation to the many who have been damaged by the nuclear industry. Now is the time to press our advantage before the nuclear industry makes a comeback in a few years time as it is trying to do in the USA."

# Nuclear India

"India Week" has uncovered a new scandal involving India's shambolic nuclear industry.

India exploded a nuclear bomb in May 1974 and has since refused to sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and does not allow the UN Atomic Energy Commission to inspect its nuclear installations. It also holds the dubious distinction of having the world's most contaminated atomic power station at Tarapur.

At the Uranium mine at Jadugoda in the depressed state of Bihar, "India Week" found that the Uranium Corporation of India (UCIL):

- \* allowed a tailings pond (the residue after the purification of uranium) to dry out and contaminate nearby villages with uranium dust.
- \* Claimed that the pond was fenced off despite the fact that women had been seen bathing in it.
- \* Provided only 437 respirators for 1,500 miners in 1985.
- \* Refuses to reveal how much radiation its workers receive and suppresses medical records.

UCIL's criminal behaviour has led to widespread incidents of respiratory diseases miscarriages, cancers, fevers, neural disorders and deformed children among local villagers.

Meanwhile the paper reveals a similar appalling situation at the nuclear fuel complex at Hyderabad where:

- \* Workers handle uranium oxide and uranium hexafluoride pellets wearing only cloth gloves.
- \* Buffaloes have died after drinking contaminated well water.
- \* Solid waste consisting of the sulphurous yellowcake coating has been dumped in the local town of Nacharam leading to increased levels of skin disease, asthma and blindness.
- \* Radiation monitoring devices don't work
- \* Families living near the complex have reported rampant leukaemia, bone disease and increased childhood deformities.

# Argentina

Some information from "Anti-Atom Aktuell" (West Germany):

- \* Dr Manuel Vondora who headed the atomic energy department under the military dictatorship, is advising the Argentine Government to build a nuclear bomb and a nuclear submarine.
- \* West German company Siemens/KWV is closely involved with Argentina's nuclear programme.
- \* Argentina intends to privatise nuclear power.
- \* Patagonia may be developed as the world's nuclear waste dump.
- \* The re-processing plant in Ezeira near Buenos Aires airport produces plutonium which could be used in nuclear bombs.
- \* The nuclear reactor Hucha II is due to be completed in 1994 and will cost 2.7 billion US dollars

NEWSROUND cont from page two...

- 21: Energy Secretary John Wakeham admitted that he is considering abandoning a £2 billion programme to reduce acid rain emissions.
- 22: President Mitterand has approved the sale of a nuclear plant to Pakistan ending a 14 years ban.
- 22: Mr Dromey, a TGWU official at Aldermaston, has claimed that workers making Trident warheads faced similar leukaemia risks to those disclosed by the Gardner report at Sellafield.
- 22: Roger Berry the BNFL director of health and environmental protection has suggested that Sellafield workers worried about fathering children with leukaemia should not have families.
- 23: BNFL contradicts Dr Berry's advice as it is bad for public relations.
- 23: Radiation dose records of 2,400 civilian workers at Devonport dockyard are being studied after an excessively high childhood leukaemia rate has been found in the Plymouth area.
- 23: Half of EC citizens are opposed to nuclear power according to a survey of 11,819 people carried out by the EC commissions.
- 24: BNFL is to undertake two studies of leukaemia amongst children of Sellafield workers.
- 26: BNFL is to investigate the death of the three years old son of Harold Byers, a Sellafield worker. The child died from a rare brain disease.

### March

- 7: Three families have served a £500,000 compensation claim over leukaemia suffered by children whose fathers worked at Sellafield.
- 7: The Doomsday Clock in Chicago has been reset to ten minutes before midnight, four minutes back from the previous position.
- 8: The Scottish Universities Research and Reactor Centre while investigating the cluster of childhood cancers around the Copper Pass smelting plant in Humberside has found that workers in heavy industry face radiation levels hundreds of times higher than the safety limit in nuclear plants.
- 10: Trade Unions in the nuclear industry have demanded that British Nuclear Fuels reduce radiation dose levels to one fifth of the current level.
- 10: A reactor at East Germany's Greifswald nuclear complex has been shut down following a safety inspection by East - West German and Soviet experts.
- 10: Bulgarian authorities have halted work on Belene nuclear power plant on the Danube after protests by local people. The area is prone to earthquakes.

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# ANTI-NUCLEAR NETWORK

The Anti-Nuclear Network campaigns for the immediate closure of all nuclear power stations, reprocessing plants and fuel fabrication facilities and an end to uranium mining.

The Anti-Nuclear Network supports an alternative energy strategy based on conservation, and the development of renewable energy sources (such as wind, wave and solar power) under community control. In the interim this policy will include the clean burning of fossil fuels.

The Network aims to:

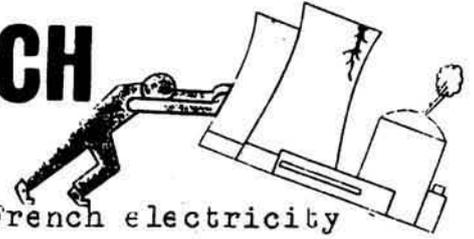
- \* Link together independent anti-nuclear groups and individuals.
- \* Co-ordinate activities and promote campaigns within the anti-nuclear movement.
- \* Support effective direct action and campaign for this in the British anti-nuclear movement.

Nuclear power is part of a world wide nuclear chain. The Anti-Nuclear Network seeks to make links with anti-nuclear groups in other countries. To this end we are affiliated to the International Congress of the Radical Anti-Nuclear Power Movement, which is based in Holland.

The Anti-Nuclear Network is a grass-roots national campaign against nuclear power. We are an independent movement not tied to any political party or group. The Network has a decentralised structure and relies on the activity of autonomous local groups.

We invite any group or individual who shares these ideas to join us. TOGETHER WE CAN STOP NUCLEAR POWER!

# 1:50 CHANCE OF FRENCH CHERNOBYL



The chief Safety Inspector for the F.D.F., the French electricity board, has stated that over the next ten years the chance of a 'Chernobyl type' accident happening at a french reactor is now less than 1:50

The inspector Pierre Tanguy catalogues a long list of design and operational faults at reactor sites all over France. Another separate report on the French nuclear programme has been kept secret by the government since last May. This 'secret' report recently leaked to the press by the CFDT union says that France has overcapacity in nuclear power and is not doing enough about the problem of nuclear waste.

The Tanguy report indicates that there are generic faults in 1300MW reactors of which there are 14 in France all built to a common design. These include the reactors at Golfech and Nogent Sur Seine.

## No Eau at Golfech/ Tilting Nogent

There is a water shortage at Golfech to cool the reactor. It is now predicted that the total amount of water evaporated by the Golfech reactors annually will exceed the total amount of water used for domestic and irrigation purposes in the local Dept. of Lot and Garonne

To put these figures in perspective, in the last five years the level of the Garonne river (which will supply the reactors) has dropped progressively; and the last years rainfall was 40% below the norm for the area with temperatures the highest for 40 years.

And if Ferrier thought they had problems the F.D.F. are certainly losing their bottle.

In addition to Golfech the 'Stop Nogent Committee' recently disclosed that in 1986 Nogents No I reactor had sunk 16 centimetres on one side! The F.D.F.'s high tech. solution was to counterbalance the reactor with a 2,600 ton weight. Contact: Vivre Sans Le Danger Nucleaire De Golfech, B.P 343, 47008 Agen Cadex, France.

Please return the slip below to:

Anti-Nuclear Network, Box 30, 187 High Road, Wood Green, London N22.

## affiliate/subscribe

I/We support the aims of the Anti-Nuclear Network and wish to affiliate to the campaign  (See previous page)

I wish to subscribe to the Anti-Nuclear Network Newsletter

I wish to get involved with a local group

Name.....Tel.....

Organisation.....

Address.....

Please indicate by circling if any of the above information is private and not to be published.

I/We enclose a donation of £..... towards producing the Anti-Nuclear Network Newsletter. Please make all cheques out to HARINGEY DIRECT ACTION GROUP who produce the Newsletter.

