

ANTI-NUCLEAR NETWORK NEWSLETTER

No. 20 - June/July 1990

30p



NUCLEAR WASTE

A present
for our
children's
children's
children

NIREX

GET STUFFED!

Rifkind resign!



The Thatcher Government applauds the end of totalitarian regimes in Eastern Europe, and likes to pretend that freedom and democracy are the principles which govern Britain. Tell that to the people of Caithness who voted against nuclear waste dumping. Tell that to the people of Ross and Cromarty, Sutherland, Inverness, the Highland Region, Grampian Region, Lothian Region. We know it is lies!

We know we elected councillors to oppose dumping, to establish policy to prevent dumping. No depository, no test drilling, no nuclear waste. The district councils and regional councils have carried out our wishes. They have refused planning permission. End of story? It is if you believe in freedom and democracy.

But Malcolm Rifkind, Secretary of State for Scotland, on behalf of the Government, does not. He has betrayed the Scottish People and defiled the principles and he has instructed the Nuclear Industry Radio Active Waste Executive (N.I.R.E.X.) to ignore the decisions of the electorate and carry on drilling.

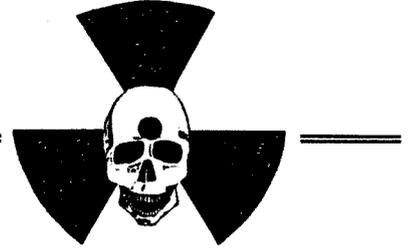
But he has reckoned without people power. If our legal rights are ignored we will take direct action and use civil disobedience if necessary. So says our Euro MP. So say our MPs and so say the scottish people.

But this is not an issue about Scotland; it is about nuclear waste dumping. Wherever it may be attempted we will oppose it. And there is an alternative, supported by all the environmental groups, of dry storage, above ground, at the place or origin, in monitorable and retrievable conditions. So we invite people everywhere to support our actions, with their bodies, their minds and their money.

Burying nuclear waste is a deliberate act of slow poisoning that will affect the land, the water, the food and the people for thousands of years to come. It must never happen. Chris Redfern - Convener, Highland Anti-Nuclear Group, Kirkness, Milton, Drumnadrochit, Inverness-shire.

will affect the
to come. It must
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News round



MARCH

- 15: Three sites at Druiridge Bay in Northumberland, Pembroke in Wales and Denver in Norfolk, have been earmarked by the DOE for new nuclear power stations.
- 20: The Royal Institute of British Architects has called for the closure of Heysham and Hartlepool nuclear power stations after their research showed that a nuclear accident at either location would lead to thousands of casualties.
- 24: The M.O.D has found that the radiation monitors worn by nuclear warhead workers at Coulport on the Clyde, do not work.
- 27: Towyn in North Wales has been contaminated by radioactivity ten times the government safety limit after last months floods deposited silt containing plutonium and Americium from Sellafield.
- 28: 500 Nuclear Electric Workers have been exposed to radiation levels over the limit which could trigger leukaemia in their future children. These limits were recently found in the Gardner report, based on studies of Sellafield workers.
- 29: Customs officials seized 40 nuclear bomb detonators from an international gang attempting to smuggle them from Heathrow to Iraq.

APRIL

- 2: A Greenpeace report has found that the abandoning of Sizewell B could save at least £2 billion. The stations ultimate cost if completed could be well over £4 billion.
- 2: Several thousand people held an anti-Nato march to the Torrejon US air base in Spain.
- 10: Sellafields radioactive pollution has now spread to Lancaster. FOE has found high levels of Caesium along eight miles of the river Lure. There is a serious danger that as the sediments dry out this summer Lancastrians will inhale contaminated dust.
- 20: Devonport fitters have gone on strike over the issue of radiation exposure. They are demanding a reduction in the current maximum dose from 50 to 10 milliseiverts a year and compensation for workers suffering from radiation induced illnesses.
- 24: The radioactive dust piled up around the Chernobyl 20 mile danger zone will take decades to remove according to Soviet experts.
- 24: British Nukiller Fools claim that two ageing 1950s reactors at Calder Hall and Chapel Cross could be kept working for another 20 years to provide plutonium for the British bomb programme. They plan to build two PWRs alongside them.
- 24: The Watt Committee on Energy has concluded after a year long study that wind power, burning waste and energy saving, should be given priority to lessen the greenhouse effect - NOT nuclear power.

MAY

- 13: Calls have been made for an investigation into the Property Services Agency and its contractors after serious faults have been uncovered at the new Trident warhead plant.
- 15: East German environmental experts have called for the closure of Greifswald nuclear power station because of imminent danger from fire and reactor failure.
- 15: Whitehall plans to base a joint force of British, American and German aircraft armed with tactical nuclear missiles in Britain, are now being discussed by senior Pentagon and Nato officials.
- 16: Six years old leukaemia victim Gemma D'arcy has successfully received a bone marrow transplant from her father, two having previously failed. Gemma's parents are suing BNFL for their daughter's illness.
- 16: Rifkind has given the nuclear industry permission to start test drilling in July for a waste dump at Dounreay in Scotland.

POLEMIC

Nuclear power has been taking a battering recently. The proposed plants at Hinkley Point C, Wylfa B and Sizewell C have been cancelled and all the nuclear stations have been taken out of the electricity industry privatisation. Time for the ecology movement to put the boot in, you might think? But Friends of the Earth's latest policy document on energy "Getting out the Greenhouse" eases up on the nukiller industry. Looking at the issue from a "value for money" angle it decides that new nuclear plant is not worth investing in. Nowhere in all the bumph about this policy document can we see a clear call for the closure of all nuclear plants.

The article on our centre pages shows that the argument against nuclear power isn't about the economic rationalisations of the City of London. **We don't need any more evidence against nuclear power - we have all seen Chernobyl!**

Chernobyl has resulted (so far) in:
31 people killed outright;
160,000 children with high levels of radiation in their thyroid glands;
Scores of children born deformed;
Two million people at risk from excess radiation and an immunity deficiency similar to AIDS, known as 'Chernobyl AIDS'. (Sunday Times 29/4/90)

These figures reveal only a part of the human misery involved in nuclear power. By putting a price on the priceless (our environment and our health) FOE is accepting the rationalisations of governments and nuclear industries the world over. This may make them more welcome in the corridors of power, but it won't stop nuclear power.

In 1977 Friends of the Earth contested the inquiry into the building of a nuclear reprocessing plant at Windscale (now called Sellafield). In 1984 the West German anti-nuclear movement started to oppose the building of a nuclear reprocessing plant at Wackersdorf. The nature of the anti-nuclear movement in Britain and West Germany couldn't be more sharply contrasted: one is small, passive, legalistic and believes in lobbying politicians and businessmen; the other is large, militant, unruly and believes in direct action. **Wackersdorf was stopped, Sellafield got the nuclear waste.**

Food



Irradiation

The bill to legalise the irradiation of food is going through Parliament at the moment and is expected to become law by the end of the year. The bill is part of a massive con by the Government and the nuclear industry to convince the public that there are 'safe' uses for nuclear waste.

There are already ten plants in Britain which irradiate medical supplies (burn-dressings, pace makers, surgical gloves) - only one firm Isotron, with plants in Bradford, Reading and Swindon (2), is known to have plans to irradiate food if the legislation goes through.

Black pepper is apparently one of the products which is likely to be irradiated. At present it is fumigated by a chemical which has recently been banned by the EEC.

When the bill becomes law regulations will then be drafted to define the conditions under which irradiation can take place, licensing, etc. Contact Ministry of Agribusiness 071-238 6380 for copies of regulations etc. Also worth hassling: Ministry of Fucked Up Food & Fish 071-270 3000.

Meanwhile your friendly 'ecological' supermarket Safeway has written to tell us "as with everything else we sell, it all depends on customer demand. If irradiated products are not in demand, we will not sell them. Obviously, if there is a demand ... we will endeavour to supply those products our customers wish to purchase." What this means is they will put irradiated products on the shelves when it becomes legal. The mythical consumer who is 'demanding' to eat irradiated food I have yet to see.

Safeways 0622-712546/7.

For more useful information about the dangers of food irradiation see 'Food Irradiation - myth and reality' by Tony Webb & Tim Lang. (London Food Commission, £6) LFC: 071-253 9513.



Novosti/Science Photo Library

Scientists wearing protective clothing monitor fallout from Chernobyl.

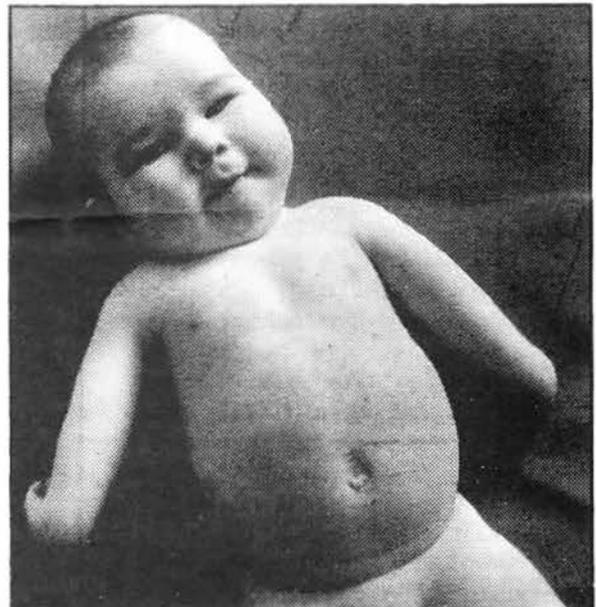
THE DEAD ZONE

Thousands of empty villages ringed with barbed wire and deaths head warning signs - a land of invisible and deadly poisons: Strontium, Caesium 137 and Plutonium. Nature itself is deranged - no birds sing, the trees are either dead or freakishly large and stunted, animals abort grossly deformed mutations. It is forbidden to pick mushrooms, eat local fish or collect berries from the forests. This is not a nightmare or some science fiction horror story - this is the Ukraine, four years after Chernobyl spewed its radioactive filth over the countryside.

Despite the attempts of the Kremlin and its friends in the Western nuclear power industry to first cover up and then play down the appalling truth about the Chernobyl disaster, the facts are beginning to emerge:-

- * Fallout from Chernobyl is 50 times higher than that from the Hiroshima atom bomb.
- * Radiation levels in hundreds of villages exceeds 60 curies per km², In Noyelna village a count of 190 was found.

- * Three million more people living in the contaminated areas have still not been evacuated.
- * Five million hectares of farmland and 1.5 million hectares of forest have been contaminated in the Ukraine.
- * Byelorussia has lost a fifth of its farmland through the Chernobyl disaster.



VICTIM: Chernobyl's legacy for a Russian child

The human cost of the disaster is seen particularly amongst the children. Roma Romaniuk was born three years after the accident. She is so horribly handicapped that Soviet scientists have called her condition "Chernobyl AIDS". Katya Starovoitova was born with a deformed hand and without a left leg. Another three year old girl Irina is now riddled with cancer. Her medical treatment has made her bald and overweight.

Nightmare at Semipalatinsk

A recent article by Ian Mather in the "European" describes the horrifying experiences of the people of Semipalatinsk in Soviet Central Asia, a place nicknamed "radiation city" after the detonation of more than 700 nuclear weapons in 40 years at the USSR's main test site nearby.

Semipalatinsk is the town where:

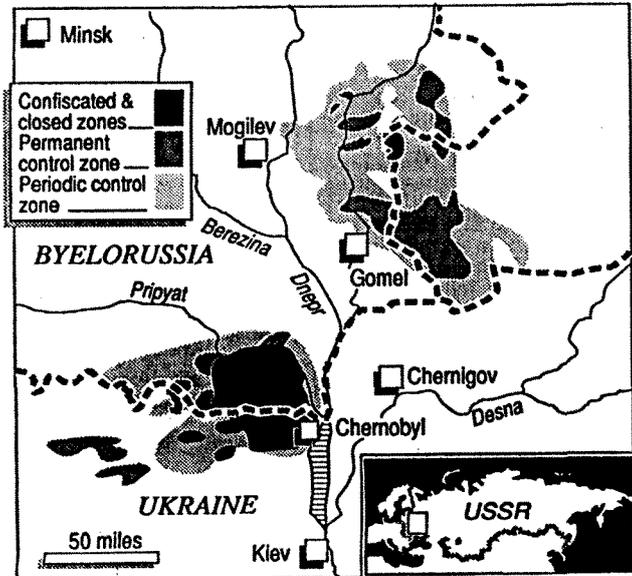
- 1) All pharmacists are obliged to provide Geiger counters because the residents have to regularly check their radiation levels.
- 2) Every family has a member who is sick because of the nuclear tests.
- 3) Many young people have committed suicide and many people are dying from cancer.

The test area itself is centred in a hill known as the Polygon which by some incredible oversight has no security fence! When tests are about to be carried out, inhabitants are driven from their homes, even at night, and told to push wool into their ears. One blast blew in the roof of the local house of culture and a young woman died when the roof of her house fell in.

Despite pressure from Moscow the local anti-nuclear movement is thriving headed by Olzas Suleimanov, a local poet and orator, who has made links with his American anti-nuclear counterparts in Nevada and established an anti-nuclear group known as Nevada-Semipalatinsk.

The territory of Kazakstan is four times the size of France and, like the Ukraine, may turn into another no-go area of the Soviet Union.

Contact: Olzas Suleimanov,
Nevada-Semipalatinsk Anti-Nuclear Group,
Semipalatinsk, Kazakstan, U.S.S.R.



These are just three of the one million Soviet children who are suffering from radiation induced ailments such as failing eyesight, cancer, anaemia and mental disorders. Eight hundred thousand children are thought to stand a high risk of developing leukaemia. According to Boris Goudima, the Ukrainian foreign affairs spokesman "all the children have swollen thyroids - they do not laugh and play - they sit around like old men". The situation remains desperate - medical resources are inadequate and distraught mothers cannot even buy clean baby food in the contaminated areas. Many more children will suffer short miserable lives as they pay the price of nuclear power.



6th Standing Conference on Low-Level Radiation and Health



University College of North Wales
Bangor, July 7th/8th 1990

Experts from Eire, Ukraine, USA and Britain describe the biological data and exposure pathways. Leading campaigners from FoE and Trades Unions call for reduced dose limits. Workshops for campaigners & those interested allow detailed discussion. All welcome. Individuals £20 (concessionary- £10). Details: send S.A.E to Delliwen Evans, Cae'n Cefn, Trawsfynydd, Gwynedd. Tel: 076 687 408.

Australia

Protesters against BP's controversial uranium mine at Roxby Downs/Olympic Dam in South Australia reported their "best demonstration yet" on 25th January. Over a hundred people blockaded the path of 24 ore-carrying trailers as they entered Port Adelaide at 2 o'clock in the morning.

Part of the shipment was on its way to the UK. British and Japanese uranium ore travels to Felixstowe via Rotterdam before going to the enrichment plant at Springfields, Cheshire owned by BNFL.

Concern about the safety of the mine continues with the resignation of a scientist from the State's Radiation Protection Committee over unacceptable levels of radiation exposure. The recent Gardner report into the workforce at Sellafield, has led to fears that some underground workers face unacceptable risks of causing cancer in their children.

The mining lobby is pressurising the Federal government to allow more uranium mines (there are 3 at present) and to build an enrichment plant. There are also threats to dispose of nuclear waste in parts of central Australia using a newly patented method called 'Synroc'.

BP was not able to sell off its part in Roxby Downs in the recent sale of BP Minerals to the British mining group Rio Tinto Zinc because the joint venturers WMC objected. BP still refuses to compensate the native Kokotha people for the destruction of their sacred sites by the mine development.

Thanks to Bristol NFIP, c/o 82 Colston Street, Bristol BS1. 0272-631162.



Meanwhile Rio Tinto Zinc are nursing a defeat by the native Mardu people of Western Australia. In his first speech to the nation after winning the March federal elections, Australian Prime Minister Hawke has promised "There will be no uranium mine at Rudall River". Western Australia's State Premier, Carmen Lawrence has promised their won't be any uranium mine in WA.

This victory follows protests by two Mardu leaders, Teddy Biljabu and Brian Samson at RTZ's annual general meeting in 1988 and a visit by Roger Moody from the British group People Against RTZ And its Subsidiaries to the Western Desert Land Council in 1989 which confirmed Mardu opposition to RTZ's plans for a uranium mine.

For more info contact PARTIZANS, 218 Liverpool Rd, London N1 1LE.

U.S.A.

The Rancho Seco nuclear power plant in California may be converted into a giant solar plant, after residents voted to close the nuclear station last June.

Shut Down Sizewell News.

Gabon

French troops who recently put down a rebellion in the former colony of Gabon were protecting strategic interests, including the supply of uranium to the French nuclear program. Gabon is France's biggest supplier of uranium and last year France took all of the country's 1000 tonne output. The mines are also controlled by France, which owns a 75% stake in the only company allowed to mine the deposit.

The rebellion was sparked by the death in mysterious circumstances of leading opposition figure Joseph Rendjambe and was aimed at overthrowing the dictator General Omar Bongo who has ruled the country since the French put him into power in 1967.

Brum not chuffed



On April 21st, two hundred people took part in a demonstration from Kings Heath to Balsall Heath in Birmingham to oppose the transit of nuclear trains through the city. The demonstration also marked the fourth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster.

The demonstration was lively, with many banners and placards and it attracted a great deal of interest and support from local people. At the rally at the end of the march speakers emphasised the dangers of an accident involving a nuclear flask and the end use of the spent fuel in the production of plutonium for nuclear weapons at Sellafield.

The nuclear trains travel through many cities with no regard for the safety of millions of ordinary people. Public awareness and concern is on the increase and there is a growing movement against this link in the nuclear chain.

For more information contact:
South Birmingham Nuclear Train Action Group, 224 Tiverton Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6BU.

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!

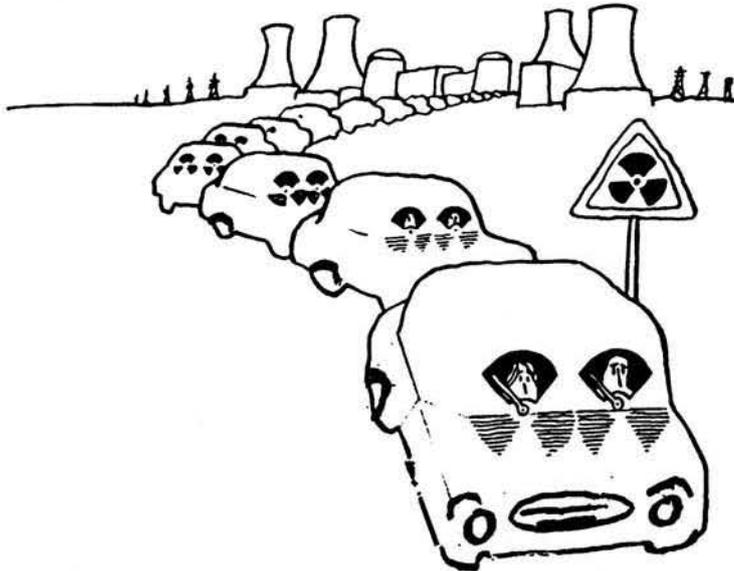
SKODA REACTOR STOPS AT GDANSK

Parts for a nuclear reactor destined to be built at Zamovitz in Poland have been successfully immobilised at Gdynia harbour (near Gdansk) as a result of action by Polish environmental groups.

The reactor parts were imported from the Skoda works in Pilsen, Czechoslovakia and transported to Gdynia harbour by a Yugoslav ship.

However, an open ended fast by students against the construction of the reactor at Zamovitz, and support from other environmental groups meant that the ill fated Skoda reactor parts have been languishing in the scrapyards - sorry dockyard - since last December according to recent reports.

For more information: EAAANP, 12 Groveside, Yoxford, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 3HT.



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.....

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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.

