

# AMBUSHED!

DAVID MURRAY



■ Above; SNP organiser Mr Fred Sheriff (69), talks to the driver of the lorry carrying the nuclear waste flasks at the approach to the Kessock Bridge.

■ Left: Highland Regional Councillor Roger Winter is carried off by police after his sit-down protest

Protestors in Scotland are planning further "ambushes" of nuclear convoys after a juggernaut carrying nuclear waste was stopped at Kessock bridge, Inverness on 2nd October.

The load, escorted by police cars, ground to halt as two cars drove into its path from a lay-by and then braked, hazard lights flashing. Other demonstrators then lay in the path of the large low-loader carrying two flasks of nuclear waste bound for reprocessing at Dounreay in Caithness.

Elliot Blaauw, of the Highland Green Party, was one of those dragged from the road by the cops. He said afterwards "We've stopped it once and we'll stop it again and again ...The government call us irresponsible for halting this deadly cargo. But we say it is the government who are acting in a criminally irresponsible way, producing tonnes of toxic waste with no idea how to handle it safely, and importing waste from other countries. We want to ensure a safe future for the Highlands, and that means making it nuclear free".

The nuclear waste came from a reactor in Germany. Earlier this year Dutch dockers at the port of Rotterdam stopped the consignment and forced it to be sent back to Germany. This time it has been tracked across Europe to Dunkirk, and then to Dover. It then went by rail to Winfrith in Dorset and then 800 miles by road to Dounreay.

A second load was slipped past demonstrators when it was brought up by night a day earlier than expected. Lynn Kropp, from Highland Anti-Nuclear Group has written to us saying "Please emphasise that we could use support and information from our anti-nuclear supporters in the South! If they have any information or want to come up for the next demonstration please call either Lynn 04562- or Chris 09973- . We have a good telephone system involving Greens, Scots Nationalists, anti-nukers, everyone!"

Contact Highland Anti-Nuclear Group, Kirkness, Milton, Drumnadrochit, Inverness-shire.

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# NEWS ROUND-UP

## June

- 13: USAF personnel fled from an erupting volcano abandoning nuclear weapons, at the Clark airbase in the Phillipines.
- 17: The US government, despite warnings that an underground cavern in New Mexico is in danger of collapse, has decided to use it as a dump for 4,250 barrels of radioactive waste.
- 24: British Aerospace is working with Chile and Egypt to develop rockets for the world's missile market.
- 25: In an attempt to hide the true cost of nuclear energy, Nuclear Electric plans to delay dismantling defunct reactors for at least 30 years, thus saving over £1 billion.
- 25: French nuclear tests in the last two years have seriously contaminated plankton at Muroa in the Pacific.
- 29: Major defects at Bulgaria's only nuclear plant mean that it has been operating unsafely, according to an IAEA report.

## July

- 8: A leaked CEGB report has revealed that radiation levels in the lake at Trawsfynydd nuclear power station in Wales, are higher than anywhere else in Britain apart from Sellafield.
- 9: A radioactive goat infected with a sexually transmitted disease escaped from Albuquerque in New Mexico during an experiment. (Surely shome mishtake!! Ed)
- 10: The US Dept of Energy has decided to reopen its own uranium reprocessing facilities, spoiling Douneray's chances of getting this lucrative contrct.
- 11: Neil and Glenys Kinnochio have decided not to renew their 30 years old membership of CND - Surprise!
- 11: M.Ps have attacked the MOD for ignoring the serious dangers posed by the Trident missile system exposed by the U.S Drell report. These include the accidental scattering of plutonium or even nuclear detonation during handling.
- 18: The International Atomic Energy Authority has expressed concern that the British nuclear industry is airlifting plutonium in old and inadequately tested containers.
- 21: The massive reactor dome was placed on the roof of Sizewell B. Britain's first Harrisburg style Pressurised Water Reactor.
- 24: Nirex have confirmed reports that Sellafield will be the site for a massive new nuclear waste dump.
- 25: Technicians at the rapidly disintegrating Kozloduy nuclear plant in Bulgaria have found a radioactive hotspot only a week after a fire in a nuclear waste deposit.
- 28: A NUPE report has found that 750 organisations and firms are dumping radioactive waste in the sewers and water supplies of Thames region.
- 31: In an attempt to fiddle the figures and get the Tories to re-launch the nuclear power programme, Nuclear Electric has decided to extend the life of two of its AGRs from 25 to 30 years.

## August

- 1: The EEC is to bail out Bulgaria's troubled Kozloduy nuclear power plant with £13.5 billion to "improve security".
- 2: Cuba has agreed to allow the International Atomic Energy Authority to inspect its Soviet designed Cienfuegos nuclear complex.
- 3: One of two reactors at Hinkley point was shut down due to a fire.
- 4: 430,000 deaths from cancer due to nuclear weapons testing can be expected by the end of this century, according to the International Physicians for the prevention of nuclear war.



# NUCLEAR —POWER—

On 13th November about thirty people from London, Sizewell, Cambridge, Kent, Bristol and elsewhere turned up early outside the London Marriot Hotel in Grosvenor Square to show our angry opposition to a pro-nuclear conference called "Nuclear Power - a fresh start" that was being held inside.

The two-day conference was organised and promoted by Nuclear Electric and other greedy nuclear bastards like Westinghouse, Mitsubishi and Asea Brown Boveri. With the British government's review of nuclear policy due in 1994, the nuclear barons are keen to paint a pretty picture of the economic and safety aspects of current nukiller technology, with future deals in mind. The select audience consisted of 'policy makers, industrialists and politicians'.

At £465 a go, the cost of the conference inside was a bit beyond the average person's pocket, but we had more fun outside. Heckling John Collier (head of Nukiller Electric) and other nuclear bosses as they entered the hotel and chanting some lively slogans made the time pass quickly. A couple of us also managed a brief incursion, past the cops on the door when they weren't looking, and gave the whole conference some slogans and some verbal abuse before being bundled out by the embarrassed hotel security.

We leafletted passers-by and made a big impact with a huge banner brought over from India which said "Nuclear Power - a dead end" attached to the railings opposite. All in all a well worthwhile day out (but where were Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace or the media?). With protestors blocking nuclear waste transports in Scotland and a good network built up around this picket the anti-nuclear movement is looking livelier than for a while. Straws in the wind maybe, but lets make 1992 the year when a direct action anti-nuclear movement really gets off the ground.

# NO *fresh start!*



# .....tales from the sarcophagus

## Hot spot watersports

What do you do with Trawsfynydd, Europe's most radioactive lake? It contains 1.5 million cubic metres of nuclear waste. Those nutters at Nukiller Electric have come up with an answer - turn it into a watersport centre with yatching, canoeing, fishing and windsurfing. Where you can end the day with a warm afterglow.

Demon Strater.

## Down the drains

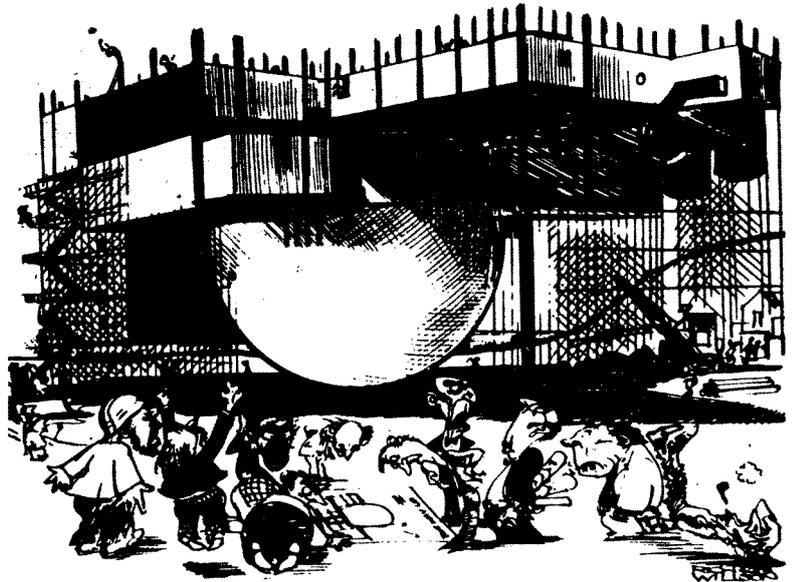
Hospitals, research institutes and some large companies are routinely emptying radioactive waste into the sewage system, often on a daily basis. Radioactive material such as depleted uranium, tritium and iodine 125 will pass through water treatment plants and then into rivers and water courses. Medical research carried out at Bart's hospital in London has shown that Iodine 125 is present in drinking water.

Documents leaked to the public employees union NUPE show that in one water company area alone there are 750 organisations listed as having authority to discharge radioactive waste. Both the water companies and HM Inspectorate of Pollution are reluctant to reveal who is discharging waste and what is being discharged. But one inspector admitted (off the record) that there were between one and two thousand sites in England and Wales and that the level of radioactivity in the sewage being discharged was only checked "very rarely".

The union is concerned about the effect on water workers in particular and the environment in general - especially since there doesn't seem to be any real monitoring of the discharges. For more information contact: Peter Pledger, NUPE London Division, 273 The Vale, Acton, London W3 7QA.

## SIZE-UNWELL

When Nuclear Electric put the dome on top of the Sizewell B reactor building, there was a blaze of publicity. According to the New Scientist however, things went spectacularly wrong. The welds on the dome failed because the panels had been mismatched and the welding all had to be done again. Now we are all supposed to be reassured when Nuclear Electric claim that the fault was found because of the efficiency of their quality control! As if that was not enough, the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate the atomic energy lapdog, sorry watchdog, has expressed concern that the computer controlled safety system at Sizewell is too complex to determine whether it will work or not. Nuclear Electric is resisting demands that this un-manageable software system be replaced despite the fact that millions of lives will have to depend on it.



"OK, which clever bastard put 'This Way Up' at the top of the drawings?"

Consternation was caused at the London Hilton hotel on 26th June when an anti-nuclear protestor got inside and daubed a message against Sizewell B in the gents toilet. Nuclear bosses attending a conference called "Nuclear Power; clean, safe energy for the future" apparently had to cross their legs until the offending graffiti was erased by hotel staff. Probably the only time they've ever been able to control a leak.

## Long march

Anti-nuclear protestors in Czechoslovakia got into the Guinness Book of Records when they unfurled the longest banner in the world on a recent march - it is 10 kilometres (over 6 miles) long. Eight thousand people were protesting at the construction site of the Temelin nuclear power plant.

## Green con

This years "Green Show" at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham in June was an example of green commercialism at its worst. Amongst other stall holders were such well known friends of the environment as British Nuclear Fools, Rover cars, the Department of Energy and Powergen. The organisers of the Show apparently believe in "the Green principles of openness and freedom of debate" - they also believe in the big bucks that come from the big companies and which help subsidise the smaller stalls. We hope that all real environmentalists will draw their own conclusions and boycott future displays of green capitalism. Our own fairs, like the London Greenpeace one in November, may be smaller but they are more use to the movement and the planet.

$E = mc^2$  for Effort



Readers will be disappointed to learn that the Anti-Nuclear Network only rated 5 out of 10 for extremism in an article called "Environ - mental" in Bristol's "Venue" listings magazine. We must try harder!

## Saddam's bomb

Documents seized from the Iraqi's by UN investigators apparently name many large foreign firms, including 20 British. Jaffa de Jaffa (?) head of the Iraqi atomic energy agency says British training was essential to setting up the Iraqi nuclear program. Firms such as Matrix Churchill supplied precision machine tools needed for the program.

Source - Channel 4 news 17/10

## The Anti-Nuclear Network - a brief explanation...

The idea for a national federation of local anti-nuclear groups came out of a conference in March 1987 organised by the North London group. The aim of the Network is to:

- \* link together independent anti-nuclear power 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.

Since 1987 Network groups have organised demonstrations and blockades at Sizewell, Capenhurst, Hinkley and Dungeness nuclear plants as well as pickets of nuclear industry offices and conferences.

The Network has a decentralised structure and relies on the activity of autonomous local groups. We co-ordinate activities through the Newsletter and conferences. We are an independent movement not tied to any political party or group.

The Newsletter is produced quarterly by the North London group. We welcome articles about the nuclear industry and campaigns, events and strategy aimed at closing it down.

## **TOGETHER WE CAN STOP NUCLEAR POWER!**

Contact: Anti-Nuclear Network,  
c/o 265 Seven Sisters Rd,  
London N4 2DE.

or at annex on Green-Net.

## **affiliate/subscribe**

I/We support the aims of the Anti-Nuclear Network and wish to affiliate to the campaign

I wish to subscribe to the Anti-Nuclear Network Newsletter

I wish to get involved with a local group

Name.....

Organisation.....

Address.....

.....Tel.....

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.

# The Sampson Option



Seymour Hersh: 'More to tell on technician's abduction'



Mordechai Vanunu: serving 18 years in Jerusalem

by Seymour Hersh (Faber & Faber)

When Mordecai Vananunu blew the whistle on Israel's nuclear weapons production (and was allegedly 'shopped' by Maxwell et al) their nuclear capability was already something of an open secret to the rest of the world but the rest of the world didn't know that a 'civil' nuclear reactor in the Negev desert was entirely devoted to nuclear weapons production.

Hersh's book provides a detailed description of the scientific double standards concerning nuclear power that operate not just in Israel but throughout the developed world.

In 1981 when Israel bombed the Osirak reactor in Iraq Menachem Begin was apparently so jubilant that he got 'confused'. At a British diplomatic reception after the incident Begin boasted that his jets had also destroyed a secret facility 130ft below the Osirak reactor-horrified Israeli officials immediately realised that no such facility existed at Osirak but Begin had accidentally described the underground reprocessing facility at Dimona.

The reprocessing facility at Dimona besides being a great secret was ironically a source of pride to the Israeli's being an outstanding example of underground engineering.

Besides the reactor itself there are eight other buildings or Machons involved in plutonium production.

Machon 1 vents steam created by the reactors heat exchangers into the atmosphere- no electricity is produced there are therefore no turbines for the steam to drive- but the steam that is vented is a radioactive cloud!

Machon 2 is the extremely important underground reprocessing facility known as the 'Tunnel' where Vanunu worked. The production hall there extends over several levels and is dominated by a control and observation area known as 'Golda's balcony' as Golda Meir when she was P.M. made frequent visits to the site. This particular production line produces an average of nine 'buttons' or 1.2 kilograms of plutonium per week.

Machon 3 is plant to solidify Lithium 6 for insertion into nuclear warheads.

The other seven Machons are also intimately connected with weapons grade plutonium production.

Ironically enough the underground facility at Dimona was first built by the Haganah, the Israeli resistance when Israel was under British Mandatory rule. The tunnel then was used as an underground assembly area for sten gun bullets. Hersh and Vanunu have both since effectively illustrated that Dimona's real military purpose continues up to the present day.

# NEWS ROUND-UP

## August cont....

- 10: British Nuclear Fuels plans to release large quantities of the radioactive gas Krypton 85 from a new plant at Sellafield despite fears that it will cause a vast increase in skin cancer and even changes in the weather
- 14: A state of emergency was declared when a malfunction at Nine Mile Point nuclear plant in New York state set off an alarm.
- 17: Austrian scientists are predicting a Chernobyl style disaster at Czechoslovakia's shambolic nuclear power station only 35 miles from the Austrian border.
- 29: The newly independent Ukrainian state has declared that it will not allow the storage or production of nuclear weapons.
- 30: Kazakhstan has banned nuclear weapons testing at Semipalatinsk.
- 31: The UK Government is considering using Sellafield to store its highly contaminated nuclear submarine fleet.

## September

- 3: Amnesty International has protested to Israel about the treatment of Mordecai Vanunu who was jailed for exposing the Israeli nuclear weapons programme.
- 10: Tools and a lamp were accidentally dropped into a nuclear reactor tank in Sweden.
- 12: The clapped out Magnox reactor at Hinkley Point must be extensively modified before approval for five more years operation.
- 13: North Korea has refused to allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities.
- 18: Kuwait's environment has been contaminated by radioactive debris as a result of US and UK forces using uranium tipped shells during the Gulf war.
- 18: Britain's Polaris fleet is now in such danger of an accident that they can no longer visit foreign ports without approval. This does not apply to Scotland.
- 18: BNFL has been fined £7,500 with £6,194 costs after radioactive dust escaped from a metal box in Harwell and ended up in Liverpool.
- 23: Soviet scientists are planning to raise a nuclear submarine which sank off Norway in 1989. They fear it could start leaking.
- 23: The International Atomic Energy Agency has confirmed that a nuclear weapon was lost by a British ship in the South Atlantic during the Falklands war.
- 24: Soviet emergency plans estimate that a nuclear accident at the Murmansk naval base would result in 50 - 60 immediate deaths and 26,000 subsequent fatalities. British contingency plans for Faslane include a "worst case" scenario in which a "health Hazard" of 550 yards around an accident site is predicted.

## Resources

The Anti-Nuclear Network has access to newscuttings on nuclear power going back to 1979 as well as books, pamphlets, leaflets & videos on the subject. Please direct specific requests to the mailing address

Periodicals: "SCANNER" - lots of useful info about what British & US navies are up to with their nuclear weapons. From South Coast Against Nuclear Navies, 9 Trafalgar Place, Fratton, Portsmouth, Hants PO1 5JJ. 0705-811603.

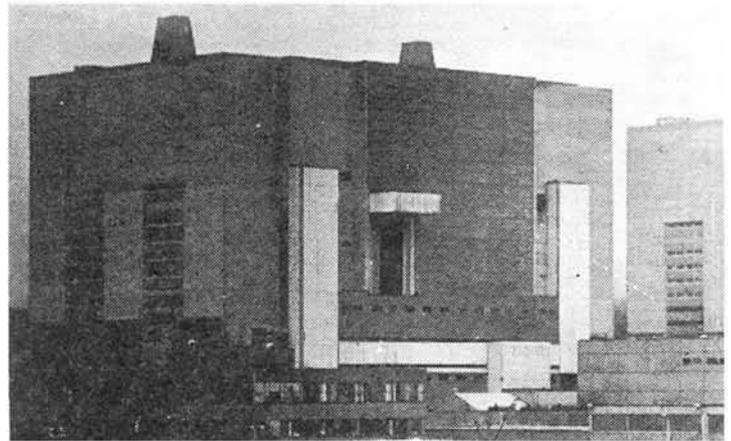
"Soft Energy Europe" - issue 4 contains articles on the Baltics, Czechoslovakia & sustainable energy. From "SEE", c/o OOA, Kallargatan 7C-1, 212 19 Malmo, Sweden.

Books: "Plunder" by Roger Moody. The struggle against the multinational mining giants like RTZ. £6 inc p&p from PARTIZANS, 218 Liverpool Rd, London N1 1LE.

"The International Politics of Nuclear Waste" by David Lowry & Andrew Blowers, MacMillan £17.50. Also a paper called "The politics of Plutonium in the UK" from IC Environmental, 156 Caledonian Rd, London N1 9UU.

Videos/Tape-slides: "The Nuclear Pacific". Two programs looking at nuclear colonialism in the region. Details from Lynda Medwell, Birchwood Hall, Storridge, Malvern, Worcs. Videos £15 each. T-S £30 each.

Bradwell  
Dungeness A  
Hinkley Point A  
Sizewell A  
Trawsfynydd



# Shut Them Down!

Five Magnox nuclear power stations are dangerously close to disaster. Even the government's nuclear safety lapdog, the Nuclear Installations (NII) is worried about how safe they are.

A recent safety review of Hinkley A reactor in Somerset indicates that there may be dangerous welds near the reactor pressure vessel. The NII now admit that they are worried by the same 'generic' welding weakness occurring in a whole generation of Magnox reactors which include Bradwell, Sizewell A and Dungeness A. Trawsfynydd in Wales has even more serious problems than the other four Magnox reactors.

The welds in question on all the reactors are located in critical positions around the reactor vessels and in particular around the hot gas cooling duct outlets. The particular concern of the N.I.I is "embrittlement" which is a weakening of the weld material due to prolonged exposure to radiation. A fracture in this part of the reactor gas outlet would cause a "loss of coolant" which is one of the most serious reactor accidents and could cause a meltdown.

The Magnox type of reactor design is over 20 years old and has long since been abandoned by the nuclear industry. At present the reactors are kept running by a "make, do or mend" policy of Nuclear Electric and numerous safety reviews by the N.I.I. At present however, the N.I.I looks as if it may not license the use of Magnox reactors much beyond the end of 1991. Besides the welds there are many other problems because the reactors are so old.

The patching up process cannot continue forever. Now is the time to shut these ancient reactors down. A coalition of local anti-nuclear groups has been formed to call for their immediate closure. In their present state they threaten the lives of thousands of people.

Greenpeace  
Bridget Woodman  
Rick Le Coyte  
071-354 5100

Colchester CND/  
Shut Down  
Bradwell Campaign  
Val Mainwood  
0206 825052

Shut Down  
Sizewell Campaign  
Charles Barneu  
072 873300

Dungeness Action  
Society of Hastings  
(DASH)  
Michael Sandaver  
0424 450590

Cymdeithas Atal  
Distryw Niweliar Oesol  
(CADNO)  
Paula Williams  
0766 85281

Stop Hinkley  
Expansion (SHE)  
Danielle Grunberg  
0278 422632

Shepway FOE  
David Horsley  
0303 52920

East Anglian Alliance  
Against Nuclear Power  
(EAAANP)  
Ann Stringer  
0728 778105

Maidstone  
Environmental  
Concern  
Carol Cundy  
0622 679902

Welsh  
Anti-Nuclear Alliance  
Hugh Richards  
0982 570362

## Stop Trident!

Latest information suggests that that the first British Trident submarine is likely to be launched at Barrow in Cumbria on Friday 31st January 1992, although this date may slip if there are major problems in the final stage of construction. The launch is to be followed by a naming ceremony on April 7th.

For details of actions planned phone:

Faslane Peace Camp 0436- 820901 or CND 071- 700 2393.

