



## MINES NOT MAGNOX



Bradwell gets the message...see report page 3.

The crisis in the coal industry is part of a long term vendetta between the Tories and the miners going back to '72 and '74 strikes that brought down the Heath government. Lord Wakeham says that "it is our policy that coal should compete on a level playing field in the energy market". But if the coal industry had the £1.2 billion subsidy that the nuclear industry gets, it would be possible to give coal away - and in the process stop 40,000 people from dying of cold related illnesses this winter.

Back in October 1979 and the heady days of early Thatcherism a leaked cabinet minute stated that "a nuclear programme would have the advantage of removing a substantial portion of electricity production from the dangers of disruption by industrial action by coal miners or transport workers". Thirteen years later Mrs Thatcher's dream of nuclear expansion has almost entirely faded. Only Sizewell B out of the ten PWR's that were proposed has left the drawing board. Home consumption of coal for electricity production held up throughout the eighties decade.

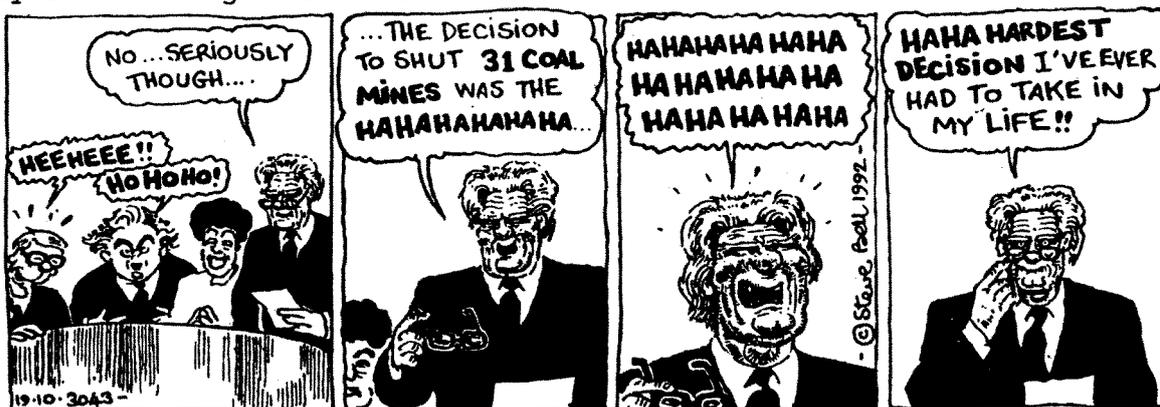
But the consequence of the privatisation of electricity supply has been the 'dash for gas', the headlong rush to build gas fired power stations. Apart from the fact that the building of gas fired stations will eventually mean dearer electricity, the new generating capacity will mean that by 1995/6 the new stations will produce 2/5 more electricity than is needed at times of peak demand. The 'dash for gas' also totally ignores the important fact that the electricity supply industry should be concentrating on energy conservation and looking towards a reduction in demand through energy efficiency measures. The security of supply of gas is also in question. Russia, for instance is not exactly a haven of stability and is unlikely to be in the near future.

Continued from page 1...

Micheal Heseltine, "El Presidente" at the DTI, whose political skills seem to have been anaethetised by a whiff of natural gas, not only believes that Britain should 'dash for gas', but that we should shut 31 pits and make 30,000 miners redundant in the process. Perhaps when Heseltine 'comes to' he will remember his words at the last Tory party conference where he vowed that he supported government intervention "before breakfast, before lunch, before tea..." He could then intervene by shutting down the decrepit and uneconomic Magnox nuclear power stations with the rest of the nuclear industry to follow. With the 'whirl of a mace' electricity consumers would be rid of the hated nuclear levy and 30,000 miners could keep their jobs. Is this all a fantasy? - not according to the Chief Executive of Powergen, Mr Wallis, who has called for the closure of Nuclear Electric's "thirty year old, geriatric, high cost Magnox stations". Going on to add that Magnox stations produced the equivalent of nine coal mines. With friends like Powergen does Nuclear Electric need enemies?

But this is not the end of the story. In 1993 Britain enters the single european market, which presents a perfectly timed opportunity for British coal to penetrate the less efficient and less productive coal markets of Europe. Coal exports will be helped by Ec directives giving transport subsidies to economic coal. 20 million tonnes of coal could be exported to the continent. Closing pits now would be just another addition to the cascade of 'cock-ups' surrounding this government.

But we can't expect to defeat the Government with arguments alone. The recent marches have shown the strength of public feeling over pit closures. Anti-nuclear activists should be making contact with local Miner's Support groups, making sure that the issues are firmly linked - together we can win!



**FINLAND**

The Finnish government, along with the main energy producer Imatran Voima (IVO), is preparing to build a fifth nuclear plant. At the moment Finland has two 500MW nuclear plants at Loviisa and two 700MW plants in Olkiluoto. Nuclear waste disposal is becoming a problem with the Russians threatening to stop taking spent fuel rods from the Soviet designed plant at Loviisa. The nuclear industry wants to build a dump for 1800 tonnes of spent fuel 70m below ground at Olkiluoto.

The fifth plant would increase the enormous overcapacity in Finland. During peak consumption last winter the energy surplus was 2100MW - twice what the oldest nuclear plant at Loviisa produces. But powerful business interests, including the important paper industry are pressing for the new plant to be

built, in spite of three serious malfunctions at Finnish nuclear plants last year. Four international power plant suppliers - the Anglo-Swedish Asea Brown Boveri, the Russian Atomenergo-export, the Franco-German company Nuclear Power International, and Siemens of Germany - are all bidding for the contract.

But the nuclear option offers few jobs, a further centralisation of political and economic power and a legacy of pollution. Our comrades from Finland say "Soft technology (energy efficient housing, biofuels, recycling equipment, factory filters, electric transport, etc) would be a much healthier form of trade for Finland than paper and icebreakers".

Contact: Ville Lähde, Kaiskonkatu 18, 37150 Nokia, Finland.



### BRADWELL DEMONSTRATION

The November 7th action at Bradwell is part of the Anti-Nuclear Network's campaign against Magnox. It was planned to stimulate some local feelings about the recommission of the second reactor at Bradwell.

The campaign has raised the press profile of the issue around Southend and Leigh, and on the day with the Maldon Gazette and Radio Essex. Leafletting took place over a wide area and in Southend there was a meeting with the local CND group.

Looking further forward we are working towards an action concerning the transport of nuclear waste through our communities. Radioactive waste travels by rail from Bradwell on a weekly basis, along a well used commuter line. This would fit into the national issue of THORP at Sellafield and the ANN itself gathering information about sea, air, rail and road transport. It was also agreed that letters should be written to the local authorities about their emergency evacuation plans, which will be needed for all local authorities when new EC regulations come into being.

So there were several spin-offs from the main action plus all the networking connections made on the day at the grass-roots level for London and East Anglia. It was good to see nearly 80 people come together in such an end of the road place, with its landscaped nuclear reactor hidden on the land approach by a rise and placed between two blocks of conifers.

There were a good array of banners and some people went on to the miners support rally at College Green in Southend which was on the same day.

All in all, a positive day of coming together, talking and acting to raise awareness of the issues involved with nuclear power.

Ron 0702-

### SHOSHONE PEOPLE FIGHT BACK

Two women from the Shoshone people, native Americans, Mary and Carrie Dann have been touring Britain, describing how their ancestral homeland in Nevada, USA is being violated and polluted by continuing nuclear bomb 'testing'. Altogether the US and British governments have detonation 100 atmospheric and 700 underground nuclear explosions at the site.

In April the women took part in a mass trespass at the Nevada test site, demanding an end to nuclear testing and recognition of Shoshone land rights. The Nevada district court has over-ruled Mary and Carrie's appeal based on the 1863 Treaty of Rudy Valley between the US government and the Western Shoshone Nation and ordered the Shoshone to remove their cattle and horses from the land.

Contact: WWST'92, 82 Colston St, Bristol.

# Turn

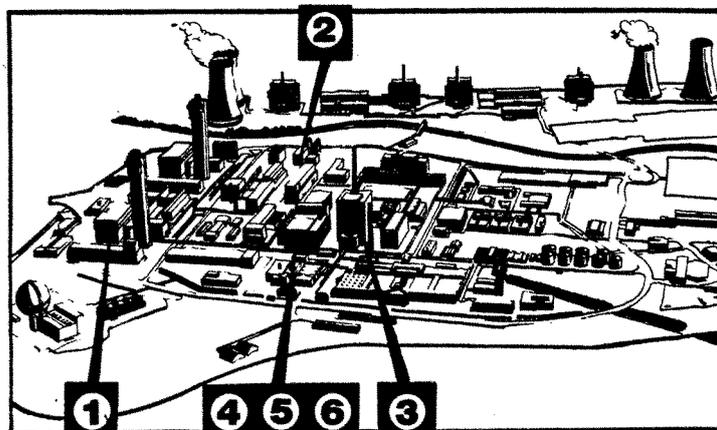
The first thing the visitor to Sellafield notices is the fierce wind coming in off the sea. The potential for a benign form of energy at the former Windscale (literally Windy cliff) seems enormous.

The coastline is scenic and near to the Lake District yet the tiny resort of Seascale, atrophied since the 1950's, is witness to one local industry, tourism, that has been decimated by the nuclear plant next door. The nuclear bosses at Sellafield like to paint a picture of a safe and economic industry producing electricity and jobs for the local area. Nothing could be further from the truth.

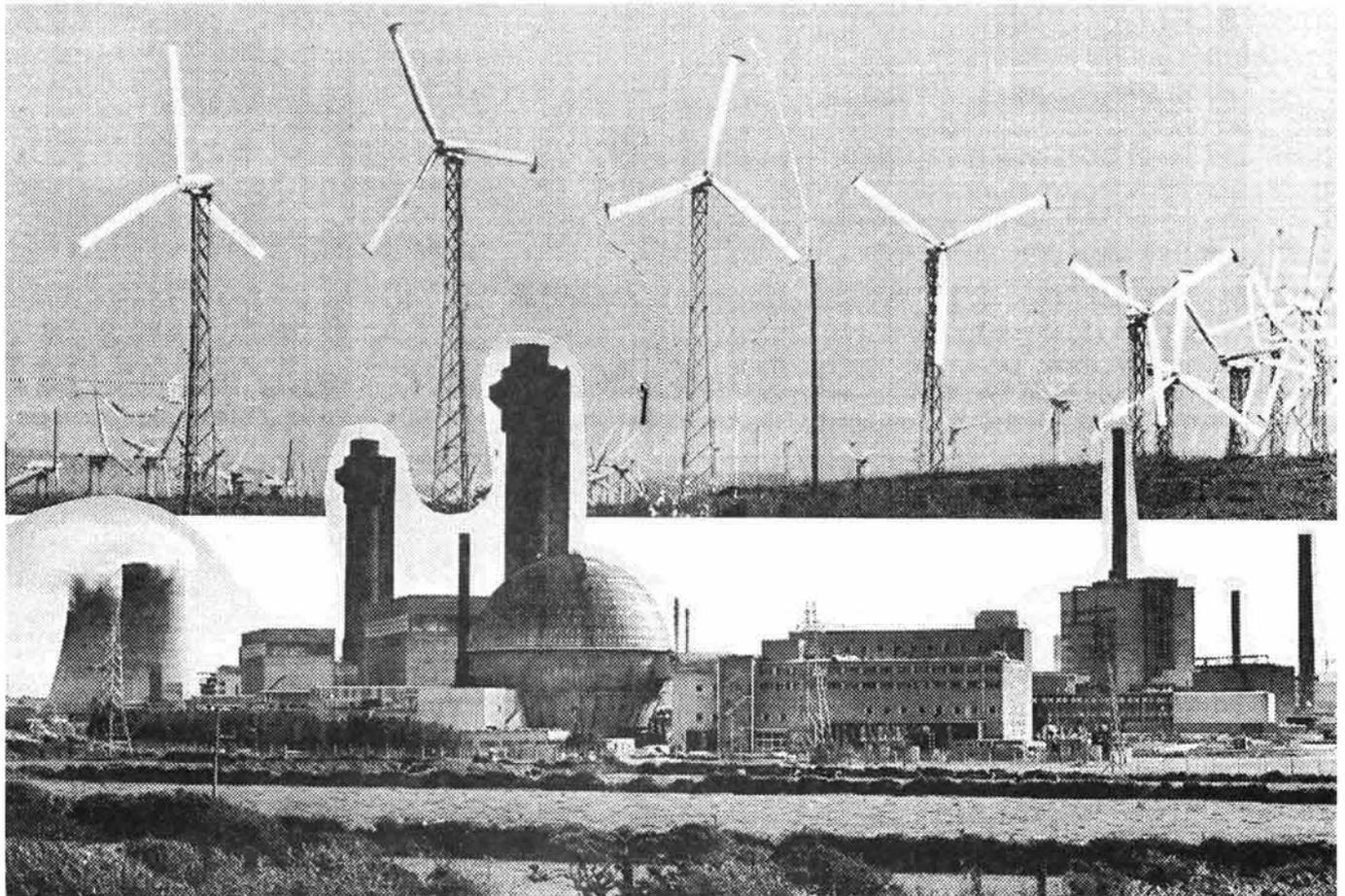
Ever since Windscale operations started in the early 1950's Cumbria has been made into a national sacrifice area for the nuclear maniacs in Whitehall. When the Queen opened the Calder Hall reactor at the site in October 1956 she claimed that "Today this new power which has proved such a terrifying weapon of destruction is harnessed for the first time for the common good of our community". Like the Queen's fake mediaeval palace at Windsor this was a complete con, and to prove equally expensive to maintain. Calder Hall was designed for maximum production of weapons plutonium, with heat for electricity very much a by-product. Even today, most of the electricity produced at Sellafield is used by Sellafield itself. The production of plutonium for nuclear warheads, such as Cruise, Polaris, Pershing and now Trident, continues.

The 1957 Windscale fire is the most notorious incident at the plant. The chimney where the fire took place has yet to be dismantled. BNFL now admit that from 1953 to 1955 the chimney scattered more radiation over over Cumbria due to

## A CHAPTER OF ACCIDENTS



# Sellafield into a



inadequate filters than was released in the 1957 fire. Nearby is the B204 reprocessing plant building which was abandoned after a fire in 1979. The whole building is described as "at the very least low level radioactive waste". The building is being dismantled piece by piece for burial. Out to sea Sellafield has dumped half a tonne of plutonium onto the seabed, with a radioactive half-life of 24,000 years. The new THORP plant plans to release up to 15 million curies of Krypton 85 into the atmosphere, a known cancer agent.

Sellafield is already one of the largest sources of radioactive discharge in the world. The incidence of childhood leukemia around Sellafield is up to 10 times higher than the UK average - radiation is the only established environmental cause of leukemia in children. Adult leukemia rates along the north Lancashire coastline are 3 times the national average. Contamination from Sellafield has been found on coastlines as far away as Iceland, Denmark and Germany, as well as around the coast of the Irish sea.

**1. Plutonium Production Fire 1957** Fire in plutonium production reactor 1 when physicist threw switch too soon. Unnoticed for 42 hours, then sprayed with carbon dioxide which only fed the flames. Raged for another 24 hours before being put out. Massive amounts of radioactivity escaped to the air. Full catastrophe only averted by safety filters installed at insistence of Sir John Cockcroft to derision of some colleagues. Government ordered destruction of two million litres of local milk. Report of inquiry into accident never published.

**2. Undetected Waste Leaks 1970 ?-1979** Leak of radioactive caesium and strontium from silo B38 found by chance during building work. Leak probably unnoticed for four years. During investigation, a different and huge leak, discovered from an adjacent building, that had probably been going on for seven years. Series of blunders to blame. BNFL seriously criticised.

**3. Fire Fiasco 1979** Fire broke out in B204 building during cutting of obsolete pipework. Workers tried to call fire-brigade, but fire alarm removed and only line to fire station was engaged. When firemen finally arrived, their training and equipment found to be defective.

**4. Iodine Release 1981** Radioactive iodine released from Building 205 after six fuel rods reprocessed which had not been stored long enough before reprocessing. Central Electricity Generating Board to blame for not keeping rods long enough before sending them to Sellafield and for providing inadequate documentation. But BNFL failed to inform NII and Ministers before deciding to restart the plant.

**5. Beach Contamination 1983** Radioactive crud and solvent deliberately discharged to sea, after accidental release from Building 205 during maintenance. Ministers not informed of incident until a week later. Gross managerial incompetence discovered. Company prosecuted and found guilty on four charges. Fined £10,000 with £60,000 costs.

**6. Plutonium Mist, 5 Feb 1986** Amber alert after plutonium nitrate escaped during repair of pump in B205. Fifteen men possibly contaminated. NII investigation found there must have been three simultaneous failures in the pump. Compressed air system failed; contaminated liquid got into clean water system; and water tank leaked.

from "The Observer" 23/2/86

# windfarm!

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By the end of the century Sellafield will be storing more than half the world's stocks of plutonium (nearly 100 tons) if THORP goes ahead - enough to make over 16,000 atomic bombs of the type that destroyed Nagasaki. The dictatorship of South Korea, which wants to get the bomb, is said to be an important new export market, according to British Nukiller Fools chief executive, the unfortunately named Neville Chamberlain. Japan and Germany are other major customers.

But BNFL's plans for Sellafield don't end with THORP. They are already planning to build a £250 million plant producing mixed-oxide (MOX) uranium fuel cells at the site, with the German company Siemens. Siemens have been halted in their plans to build the plant at Hanau near Frankfurt by the strength of the German anti-nuclear movement (see ANN news no 26). Once again, their gain will be our loss unless we learn the lessons.

The local economy has been devastated by Sellafield. A large workforce has been brought in, mainly from outside, to work at the plant. But local industries such as tourism and fishing have been virtually destroyed. Every job at Sellafield costs £68,000 to create compared to £5000 to create jobs in light engineering (making wind generators for example). Sellafield has taken 98 per cent of the industrial grants available to Cumbria - the area no longer qualifies for such grants because of the amount taken. A program of alternative energy production at Sellafield could create more work, more electricity and cost a lot less financially and in terms of the environment. And someone will still have to monitor Sellafield's nuclear waste for the next 12,000 human generations.

And by the way, there are some pretty strong waves that could be harnessed - but don't swim in them, or get too much sand in your shoes.

Thanks to Sellafield Women's Peace Camp for some of the information. The Camp takes place each month. Contact 13 Paton St, Manchester M1 2BA or phone 061-434 7484 for details.

Sellafield will be a major focus of the Anti-Nuclear Network's campaign in the coming year - contact us if you want to get involved.

### NUKILLERS TRY TO HIJACK SAFE ENERGY

In a move of amazing cynicism, both Nuclear Electric and Scottish Nuclear are trying to build an alliance with the alternative energy sector.

According to a report in the Times (28 August) John Collier, chair of Nukiller Electric, proposes a 50/50 split between nuclear power and renewables over the next few decades.

Needless to say, most people involved in alternative energy are not happy about this. They want to establish themselves on their own merits, especially as 98% of the money allocated by the Non-Fossil Fuels Obligation has gone to nuclear power, and only 2% to renewables.

The UK negotiators at the European Commission want an extension of nuclear energy as part of the NFFO, which is due to be cut off in 1998. There are already rumours that the NFFO funding for renewables being abandoned or not set until next year. The Association of Independent Electricity Producers, in a letter dated 27 Sept, has asked Tim Egger, DTI Minister of Energy, whether the delay in getting EC clearance for the extension of renewables NFFO funding is because the government is seeking approval for further support of nuclear power as part of the same submission.

Under NFFO progress for renewables has been extremely slow. Only 200 renewable energy projects have been accepted for support under the UK's NFFO cross-subsidy scheme. The bulk of these are waste combustion and landfill gas projects. Only 7 wind projects were actually generating by March '92, and only 22 have gained planning permission - mainly in Cornwall and Wales.

Renewables should resist any partnership with nuclear power, and continue to press for the eventual takeover of supplying energy to the UK, and the rapid decline of nukillers. All activists should support the alternative energy sector in achieving this, and ensuring safe energy for our future.

PAUL.



### HOW TO MAKE AN ACTIVIST

What changes somebody from the occasional subscriber to Greenpeace into an activist? Its possible to meet a lot of people who share your ideas but who never swell the numbers at a blockade, demonstration or whatever, when they're most needed. It does not work to exhort them, or insult them, and even encouragement only works occasionally. So what does? I think there are ways of involving people and it is at least worth trying.

Most people don't know what is expected when you ask them to help in a political campaign. They have probably never done it before and may not be familiar with basic skills like putting a leaflet together. They may never have attended a meeting and feel worried about finding a lot of "nutters" when they get there. If they are women, they may be put off by the fact that quite often it seems to be the men who are doing all the talking and the organising. Perhaps most important, they may feel that their efforts will count for little anyway - what is going to change in this bloody awful capitalist society, even if they do make an effort and come along? Most people, especially those with young children, are busy - how can we help make it a priority and a possibility for them to do something rather than just reading the papers and thinking how awful everything is?

So one of the things to do is explain what your group is doing and why. We need to explain why nuclear power affects everyone. People don't have to be technical to understand the issues. If you get someone interested enough to attend a meeting, welcome them, avoid making "in-jokes". Don't just dump them with a job, try and get them working with someone else so that you can get to know each other. Pass on the skills your group has and welcome their skills as a valid contribution. Tell them about actions which have worked - but not in boring detail! If you do things in the day, try and provide a creche or maybe babysitting in the evening.

The poll tax campaign must have persuaded a lot of previously 'non-political' people that direct action works. Some of these people disagree with nuclear power. Perhaps the '90s will mark a new era when no-one will believe that all you can do is write a letter to your MP. Forget the politicians and take power into your own hands - in the end its the only way which works.

SUE.

# NEWS ROUND-UP

## November

- 7: Two Greenpeace activists were injured and their boat seized after they failed to prevent the Japanese plutonium carrier the Akatsuki Maru being loaded at Cherbourg.
- 8: The Japanese warship rammed the Greenpeace ship Solo off the Brittany coast.
- 9: David MacLean, Environment Minister, has delayed the start up of THORP until March.
- 11: A Russian was detained at the border with 5.5lbs of uranium.
- 12: Manchester is set to be the venue for another totally useless Earth Summit next September. Activists are planning to disrupt this tasteless bourgeois jamboree.
- 13: The Japanese government are rethinking their plans for a plutonium economy after the outcry over the Akatsuki Maru.

## October

- 1: A meltdown at a nukiller power station 70 miles from Tokyo was narrowly averted after a worker mistakenly turned off three pumps cooling the reactor.
- 12: Five Polish smugglers were arrested after the discovery of a bucket full of caesium in a left luggage locker at Frankfurt station.
- 14: France has suspended its genocidal nuclear testing programme in the Pacific.
- 17: Seven people were arrested with 2.2kg of ex-Soviet uranium in a Munich car-park.
- 17: Welsh anti-nukers staged a demo in Caernarvon against the restart of Trawsfynydd.
- 19: Russia seized a Greenpeace ship monitoring radioactivity in the Arctic.
- 22: Winston Churchill and his Tory cronies bottle out and support the Government over plans to close 31 pits. Thousands march in London.
- 23: The Nuclear Inspectorate has received 15,000 letters objecting to THORP.
- 27: Columbia, Chile, Ecuador, Panama and Peru have banned the Akatsuki Maru from their territorial waters. Demonstrators march through Tokyo against the plutonium shipment.
- 29: Highly subsidised imports of French nukiller electricity are threatening 6 pits.
- 30: John Minor has invested £3.4 M of taxpayers money in the Columbian coal industry.

## September

- 8: The Atomic Energy Authority is to be privatised.
- 10: US scientists are developing a new generation of mini-nuclear weapons.
- 10: Fire broke out in a boiler room at Dungeness nuclear power station.
- 16: The Daily Mirror revealed that a spill of six gallons of liquid plutonium at Sellafield caused a month long shutdown of the reprocessing plant.
- 18: Two crew died when a US F1-11 nuclear capable bomber crashed at Upper Heyford.
- 23: Britain and France have reluctantly agreed to extend the ban on sea dumping of nuclear waste for another 15 years.

## August

- 1: The EC has found Dounreay guilty of six breaches of Euratom rules when the dozy sods lost 20kg of uranium last November.
- 3: Damage to the ozone layer means British children will have a 10-15% greater chance of contracting skin cancer.
- 6: The Government has rejected a nuclear industry plan to save the fast breeder programme. Dounreay fast breeder will close in March '94.
- 11: The Nuclear Inspectorate granted a life extension to the ageing Bradwell reactor.
- 17: Scottish Nuclear is studying proposals from Mitsubishi for new reactors.
- 19: German Greenpeace members have found high levels of radioactivity in sand samples around Sellafield.
- 26: The US is to cease nuclear weapons testing for nine months.

## July

- 22: 40 families are to sue BNFL over cancers caused by the Sellafield plant.
- 24: The AEA paid out £176,000 to 3 nuclear workers who contracted cancer.
- 29: Nuclear Electric is to axe 3000 jobs in a desperate bid to break even by 1995.
- 29: UN nuclear inspectors searched the Agriculture Ministry in Baghdad after a showdown between Iraq and the US. They didn't find any documents.
- 8: The G7 summit committed \$700M to retrofit 57 Soviet-designed reactors in E. Europe.
- 6: The Tories have ordered a fourth Trident submarine from Vickers.
- 9: The French will not restart their fast breeder Superphenix because for safety reasons.



**IRAQGATE SCANDAL**

Only months after 'our boys' were risking their lives and massacring Iraqi civilians in the name of 'democracy', the extent of British collaboration in the build-up of Saddam's military is becoming apparent. After being urged to support the slaughter in the name of 'preventing the Iraqis from developing weapons of mass destruction' we now find a smoking gun pointing to the British government and British firms.

Machine tools supplied to weapons factories in Iraq by the British firm Matrix Churchill were "essential for the production of nuclear weapons" according to a memo from civil servants to William Waldegrave in February 1989, and only released because of the recent trial. Nevertheless they still recommended that export licences for two new Matrix contracts should be granted. Waldegrave

scrawled in the margin "Yes, I agree - screwdrivers are also required to make H-bombs".

The chief of the United Nations Inspection team, David Kay, discovered Matrix machines making Scud parts and centrifuges for the nuclear programme. "The number and quality of machines was impressive", he said. The centrifuges were vital to separate weapons grade Uranium 235 from Uranium 238.

The Iraqis were using the most advanced centrifuges, which use carbon fibre rotors instead of steel ones to separate the Uranium more rapidly. The rotors were supplied by a firm owned by Karl-Heinz Schaap, a former employee of MAN Technologiien in Munich - the firm that developed the centrifuge rotors for Urenco. Urenco is an Anglo/Dutch/German company, part owned by BNFL which specialises in uranium enrichment and runs the Capenhurst enrichment plant.

**The Anti-Nuclear Network**

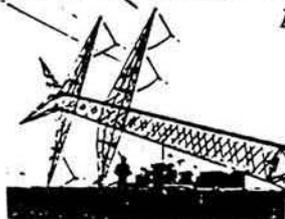
The ANN is a federation of autonomous local groups opposed to nuclear power. We support effective direct action.

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