

Hinkley INQUIRER

The only complete and clear account

Unbelievers Speak Out

Individual objectors continued to express strong views that the waste and decommissioning plans at Hinkley are dangerous and unacceptable.

Dickon Fell (DF2, Day 106), said he could find no expert account of how decommissioning is done. "The truth is that there are no experts because it has never been done. There are plenty of nuclear scientists who are ready to theorise about how it should be done. I feel about as safe in their hands as I would as a car passenger with a driver who understood the theory of car-driving, but who had never actually done it before, and who now proposed to give me a ride down a crowded motorway at 80 miles per hour."

Monstrous

Jacquetta Selley of the *Presteigne Green and Peace Group* (PGPG 2, Day 106), echoed the views of many other individuals when she said that "it is a monstrous stupidity to continue to create waste for which we have no safe means of disposal." Public opposition to waste dumping is unlikely to weaken, she commented, particularly in view of the "link between low levels of radiation and childhood leukaemia."

Insanity

Jo Fitzhugh (JF, Day 106) from near Taunton, called the *CEGB's* plans to build further PWRs "pure unadulterated insanity." She suggested that if even "the minutest quantity of moisture" gets to decomposing radio-

active waste material, "you can have the ideal situation for a massive explosion of volcanic calibre." Professor Simpson (one of the Inspector's Assessors) disagreed that there would be such an explosion, and the Inspector also questioned Fitzhugh.

Celia Hadow (CH 1, Day 107), speaking on behalf of her family, objected to both the risks and the costs of decommissioning and waste. The Flowers report of 1976 had set the policy objective "that waste management problems are dealt with before any large nuclear programme is undertaken." Yet in *Hadow's* view no safe solutions have yet been found.

Profligate

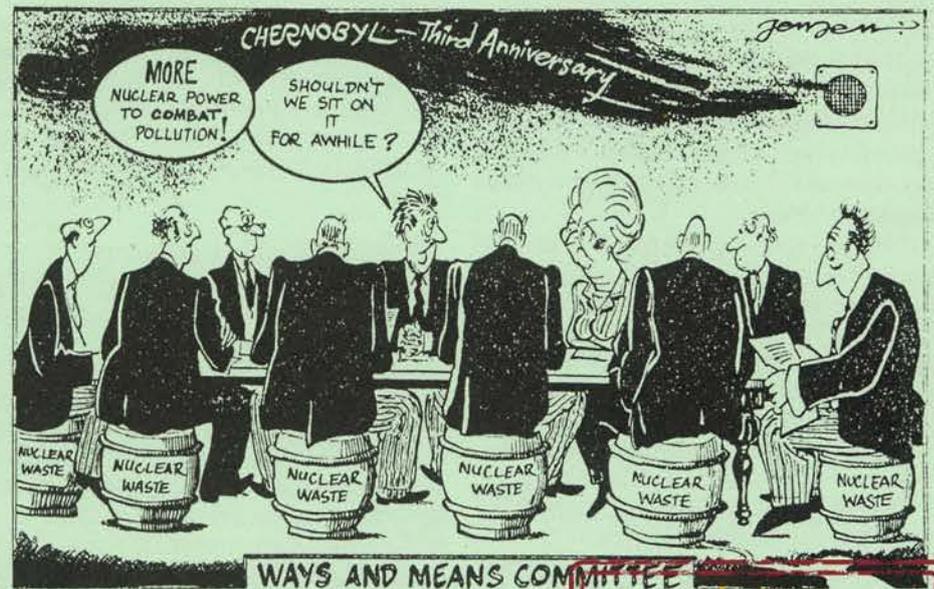
"What rights have we to hand this legacy down to future generations simply to gratify our profligate electricity use?" she asked. "We cannot

just hope that our children will develop the technology to deal with the problem of our making - if they do, then let them build Hinkley C."

Outrageous

Raymond Thomas (RVT 1, Day 107), the *Green Party* candidate for Frome Vale, said it was "outrageous that expansion of the nuclear power programme is continuing in the knowledge that no safe method of waste disposal is known... We have already gone too far along the road to self-destruction on this planet in the search for more and more energy, and now we must go no further."

Glen Vowles from *Bristol Green Party* (BGP 1, Day 107), asked the Inspector to consider the vested interests of so-called experts at the Inquiry, bearing in mind that "facts" were often tangled up in "beliefs". "There are those who love the science



IN THIS ISSUE

Emergency planning: views of NII, NRPB, DoE, DEN, MAFF, Police et al. Individuals on waste and decommissioning.

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involved, or who in some way have their lifestyle based on the nuclear industry," said Vowles. Any decision at the Inquiry "is as much a values decision as it is a factual one," he concluded.

Fan Mail

*Gwaelod-y-Garth Peace Group
nr. Cardiff*

Dear Hinkley Inquirer,

Congratulations on the excellence of your publication. The Peace Group has never spent its funds more wisely than when we decided to subscribe to the Inquirer. We are constantly amazed by the standards you manage to achieve with what must be limited human and financial resources. We have given evidence twice at the informal sessions at Cardiff and are therefore very glad of the wider picture that your coverage of the main Inquiry gives us. The format, style and tone of your paper seem just right to us and the excellent cartoons are an added bonus.

Please keep on the very good work and may success be ours!

Best wishes to you all,

Yours in peace,

Theresa Rees.

Counting Angels

For the past fortnight the Inquiry has been hearing the views of the CEBG and government departments about what plans they have to cope with an emergency at Hinkley Point.

Under questioning from a small band of stalwarts, the same answers have been emerging again and again.

Roughly, this seems to be the official picture:

- Large-scale accidents on the scale of Chernobyl could not happen here (although arrangements have been reviewed in the light of Chernobyl).
- Therefore there is no point in planning for a major accident.
- Instead contingency plans have been made for the relatively minor "Reference Accident".

It has been rather like debating how many angels can fit on the head of a pin.

"It Couldn't Happen Here"

On Day 108 Jonathon Milner for COLA was the first in line to question the CEBG's David Western about his views on emergency plans.

Questioned on the "Reference Accident" (the worst accident the CEBG say has a practical possibility of occurring), Western said that plans had to be able to support "a response to events which might in all sorts of ways be quite different from the precise Reference Accident described and documented."

In view of Layfield's recommendations at Sizewell on extending the area of detailed emergency plans, "how," asked Milner, "do you see the concept of extendability in relation to the Reference Accident?"

"The nature of accidents is that they may not correspond precisely to your theoretical calculation", was Western's reply. "We are confident that the eventuality is very unlikely but nevertheless we also know that the emergency arrangements would not break down completely if we were to have a release that was larger than our Reference Accident."

Evacuation

The maximum evacuation zone for the Magnox would be around 1km. "Not much when put alongside accidents such as Chernobyl", said Milner. "Such accidents, in the Board's view, are simply intolerable. One does not seek to make them tolerable by trying to prepare plans for them," retorted Western. "One designs them so that they cannot happen."

But Milner wasn't satisfied: "That is the point, isn't it? Your emergency plans rely entirely upon the view of Mr. George and others in Topic 2, that such accidents will not happen and cannot happen in the United Kingdom."

Slow and cumbersome

Danielle Grunberg of *Stop Hinkley Expansion* was next to question Western.

Grunberg referred him to an exercise conducted by SHE two years ago. The aim of the exercise was to test the time it took to issue warning letters to every resident within the power station's evacuation zone. The total time was 133 minutes.

"Was this not an extremely slow and cumbersome way of informing people?" she asked.

"It is not a matter of acting instantly or within a certain time or you suffer some dreadful fate. The

emphasis is on doing the right things in the right areas." Western replied.

Scary

Brian Rome (*CONSOC*) quoted details of the 1979 US Three Mile Island emergency, in which over half of those who evacuated themselves had fled to more than 90 miles away. He also listed some of the "unmet needs" to deal with such an accident, which included 440 ambulances and 40 incubators for new-born babies.

"There you had a population who were very stressed, reading scary newspaper speculation," Western replied, "first told to stand by for evacuation then told not to evacuate, and then told that pregnant women and pre-school children should leave. That demonstrates a major flaw in the capability... and it led to chaos..."



Bristol chaos

Rome also raised the possibility of chaos around Bristol, which was in the direction of the prevailing wind from an accident at Hinkley C. Western replied that there was "no realistic probability whatsoever of a plume affecting areas as far away as Bristol."

We can't cope

Western came under heavy fire on Day 109 from James Cameron representing *Greenpeace*.

"It is alarming," said Cameron, "that the proof you have presented pretends that there is no need to cope with an intolerable accident. That tone goes all the way through your proof and that is what is unacceptable."

"It is our view," Western replied, "that the approach we have adopted has the flexibility of response to events both smaller and larger."

"How can you claim to have real flexibility in your plan when you have foreseen no problems at all with the PWR?", Cameron went on. "Your

'focused approach' appears to be a euphemism for unpreparedness for the kind of accident that the public now knows about because of Chernobyl and Three Mile Island."

On emergency services Cameron summed up his thoughts: "The real situation is that the hospitals will not be able to cope with numbers. We may have advanced as a society, far enough to create energy from nuclear reactors, but not far enough to cope with the consequences of its failure."

Watchdog On Emergencies

Michael Turner, Deputy Chief Inspector at the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, outlined arrangements for dealing with an emergency at Hinkley Point (HSE (NII) 4, Day 111).

Each nuclear power station must have an approved Emergency Plan and an Emergency Handbook as a condition of its site licence, said Turner.

He explained that although the radius of the evacuation planning zone on reactors was originally set at 1km, Hinkley Point now has a zone of 3.5km radius to include Stogursey.

Consequences

He separated emergency incidents into three categories:

- No possible off-site consequences (Site Incident Standby or Alert)
- With potential for off-site consequences (Emergency Standby)
- With significant off-site consequences (Emergency Alert).

The first type of incident (SIC or A) would be dealt with by the Site Emergency Controller (SEC), the second by the SEC and an Operational Support Centre (OSC) at Bedminster Down and the third by the Government Technical Adviser (GTA) and Nuclear Emergency Briefing Room (NEBR) in London.

Turner assured the Inquiry that liaison between the OSC and the NEBR would ensure "consistent and unambiguous advice to the public."

Restrictions

In an Emergency Alert the *Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food* would restrict movement of foodstuffs, milk and livestock, the *Inspectorate of Pollution* would deal with water contamination, the *National Radiological Protection Board* would monitor radioactivity and give advice to Government Departments, and to the *NII* and

GTA. The County, District and Local Authorities would deal with shelter, evacuation and feeding with help from the police.

The police would also co-ordinate emergency services, the taking of iodine tablets, decontamination of skin and clothing, restriction of consumption of foodstuffs and water supplies, and protection of the public. Mr. Turner felt strongly that these countermeasures could "be very effective in reducing doses".

NII Questions

James Cameron, a barrister representing Greenpeace, quizzed Turner on various points of European law.

He got Turner's agreement that the *NII*, as the "enforcing authority", is responsible for ensuring that emergency plans conform with European Community law.

Turner also agreed that the *NII* "would certainly take note" if the European Community took a different view of the risks of accident from the "Reference Accident" which is the basis of the existing emergency plan approved by the *NII*.

Cameron also raised the issue of sabotage, suggesting that the *NIP*'s view of the probability of accidents would be "greatly re-arranged" if they included the chances of terrorist attack. Turner answered that the possibility of sabotage "is taken account of by trying to prevent it occurring."

Unimagined accidents

Dr. Kitty Little challenged Turner with several examples of accidents at

nuclear plants "that nobody had thought of", and that were potentially far worse than the "Reference Accident", and she suggested that under privatisation there would be greater pressure to prolong the lives of old reactors in order to cut costs.

Turner responded that privatisation wouldn't change the *NIP*'s powers and that nuclear safety has been "improving all the time".

Little also put her view about the "low dose causing cancer mythology" She believes the *NRPB*'s ideas on health damage from radiation risks are far too pessimistic, but Turner was not impressed.

Extended plans

During questioning by Jonathan Milner (*COLA*), Turner accepted that the emergency teams might have to deal with a "beyond design basis" accident, but supported the *CEGB* view that the plans could be "extended" to cope. "My view is that the response would be made appropriate on the day," he said, "up to the national level if required."

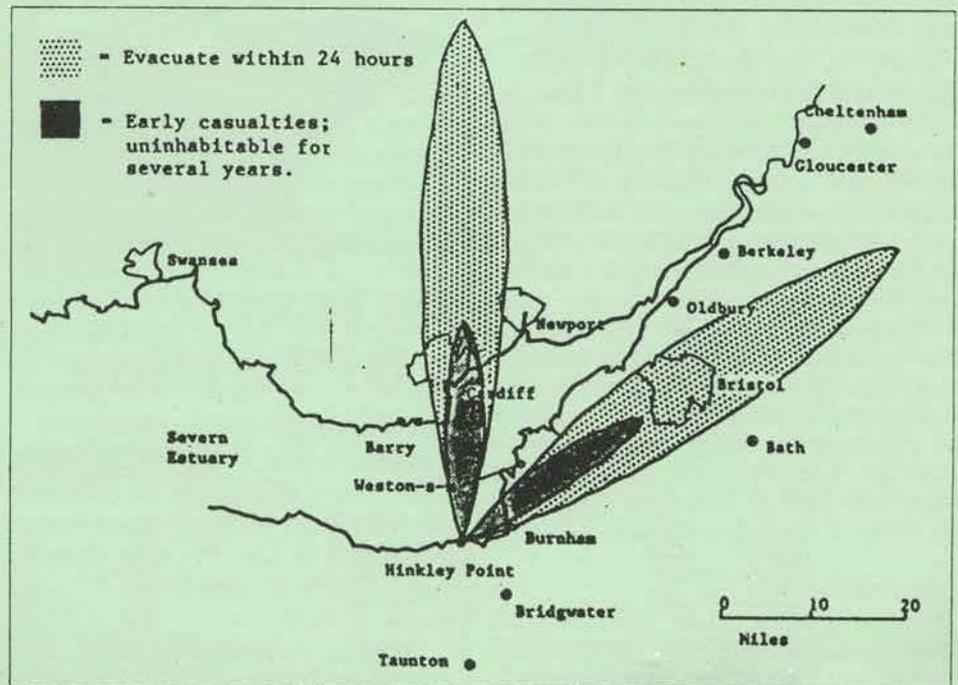
Milner also pressed Turner on the need to have one single organisation in overall control of an emergency.

Pills for the public

Asked by Danielle Grunberg (*Stop Hinkley Expansion*) about the distribution of iodate tablets to the general public, Turner admitted that there was doubt about whether the police were the best people to give them out.

"We are investigating with the *Department of Energy* whether we could find better methods of distribution; health authorities for example."

Affected areas showing two possible wind directions



Grunberg also mentioned the Shoreham nuclear plant in Long Island, USA. State and local officials argued that Long Island could not be safely evacuated during a nuclear accident, prompting the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission to refuse an operating licence initially.

Bitter Pill

The subject of iodine tablets has much preoccupied the Inquiry during the discussion of emergency arrangements.

Technically, these are small pills of potassium iodate which would flood the thyroid gland with non-radioactive iodine - and thus keep out the nasty type which comes from nuclear accidents.

Brian Rome elicited on Day 109 that there were a million tablets held in stock in Britain, half at nuclear sites. They have to be replaced with new supplies roughly every three years.

The CEGB's Jeremy Western revealed (also Day 109) that he and Lord Silsoe had tested a tablet each the night before - and survived to tell the tale. This was perhaps surprising, because on Day 113 Crispin Aubrey (SHE) said that many of the 500 workers who took the tablets at Hinkley Point during a 1985 emergency had got stomach aches. "Whether this was connected with the tablets, or their worry about the situation, I am not sure," he commented.

How To Survive

Geoffrey Webb, Secretary of the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB 2), gave evidence on Day 113.

In the event of an emergency situation at a nuclear site, the NRPB would have two primary roles, he said: first, a provision of advice on radiological hazards and, second, co-ordination of monitoring for radioactivity.

The advice of the NRPB is based on the amounts of dosage it is safe for the public to receive in the event of an accident. They have specified a series of Emergency Reference Levels of dose (ERLs) relating to radiation exposure and radioactive materials in the public environment.

Measures

Following an accident, ERLs would be used to indicate whether countermeasures should be implemented.

The three countermeasures are evacuation, sheltering and distribution of stable iodine tablets. The countermeasures would be employed to ensure that serious non-stochastic effects (for example skin damage and radiation induced cataract) should be avoided while the risk from stochastic effects (cancer) should be limited.

"Sheltering refers to staying inside, with doors and windows closed and ventilation systems turned off", said Webb. In cases of relatively small, short releases sheltering may be the only countermeasure which needs to be considered. For larger releases it may be used in conjunction with evacuation.

Countermeasures

"If carried out at a sufficiently early stage, evacuation is potentially a very effective means of reducing doses in the event of an accident". As well as the radiological benefits of evacuation, there are psychological benefits in terms of reassurance. For some people these benefits "are likely to be so great that they will evacuate themselves, regardless of official advice", according to Webb.

The administration of stable iodine "is a countermeasure which should only be considered when radioisotopes of iodine have been inhaled" argued Webb. To be effective the tablets "must be taken during or shortly after inhalation of radioiodine".



To Run - Or To Hide

Differences of opinion between the NRPB and the CEGB on whether to shelter or whether to evacuate were brought to the fore as the NRPB's witness was questioned.

Under cross-examination from Jonathon Milner (COLA), Geoffrey

Webb (NRPB) said that "sheltering as a useful countermeasure has perhaps not been adopted as thoroughly as it might have been in all the circumstances". His point was directed at the CEGB who have tended to prefer evacuation as a countermeasure. The NRPB are currently in discussion with the CEGB, the NII and the Department of Energy to try and sort out which are the best countermeasures to take in the event of an accident.

No decontamination facilities

Webb acknowledged that there is no provision made for decontamination or monitoring facilities at emergency reception centres but, not altogether reassuringly, mentioned that Health Departments are "taking more interest in these aspects".

More information required

Webb agreed with Milner that the emergency services have not had enough training and information about the nature of nuclear emergencies, the possible health effects and the necessary precautions that should be taken.

Limited resources

Crispin Aubrey (*Stop Hinkley Expansion*) gained Webb's agreement that a number of emergency measures listed in his evidence, including evacuation of people, were not considered likely by the CEGB as a result of their "Reference Accident". "Our advice is intended to apply to all kinds of sites, all kinds of scenarios," Webb replied.

Questioned about the response of the British authorities to Chernobyl Webb replied: "I am not sure it was physically possible for us to have done more than we did at the time. Our resources are not unlimited."

Webb was also questioned by Brian Rome (CONSOC) and Francis Stoner.

Thousands Of Disabled People

Ron Preddy, the first individual with a disability to appear at the Inquiry, asked questions of the CEGB's David Western. He wanted to know how disabled people would be contacted and evacuated after a nuclear accident: "we are looking at thousands of lives that would be affected,"

said Preddy.

Western told him that the *CEGB* have a "very robust system" of communicating with both emergency services and the public, including radio, telephone, fax and media channels.

Deaf people

Preddy pointed out that "many people who are deaf or have tinnitus cannot hear a siren" or a TV news flash. Western said that the police have a positive system of making sure that people are contacted in emergencies.

Preddy also took Western to task for using the term "handicapped" rather than "disabled". Western apologised and also promised to bring up the matter of wording at a future emergency planning meeting.

Preddy later questioned the *NIP*'s Michael Turner on provision for disabled people. "You have certainly made me more conscious of the needs of disabled people" Turner told him.

Preddy also quizzed Geoffrey Webb of the *NRPB* about the effects of accident countermeasures, of iodine tablets and of evacuation procedures on people with breathing problems, people taking other medication and people with disabilities.

Testing The Water

Brian Ponsford, Under Secretary in the Department of the Environment, explained his Department's view of the emergency arrangements for Hinkley C.

After an accident, *DoE* would advise water authorities about contamination. The Water Authorities would set up a water sampling programme to assess the risks to the public. *DoE* would also assess the general levels of radioactive contamination, particularly in public places.

RIMNET

The *DoE* also deals with nuclear accidents abroad, said Ponsford, and is setting up a national radiation monitoring network called *RIMNET* to detect how the UK has been affected by such accidents.

RIMNET - to be completed in a year from now - is part of the National Response Plan announced by Mrs. Thatcher in 1987. It should "provide information on any spread of radioactivity across the UK" said Ponsford. The *RIMNET* system will have some 80 monitoring sites, said

Ponsford, carrying out routine monitoring. Its results will form the basis of advice bulletins to the public, media and other groups from an Information Centre.

However, said Ponsford, the *RIMNET* system would "not be suitable" for detailed monitoring of radioactivity close to an accident at a UK nuclear plant. This would be up to the operator and other authorities.

© 1979, Sidney Harris.



"First we have to convince the people that good health isn't everything."

Environment Queries

Brian Ponsford, DoE, was questioned by Danielle Grunberg of Stop Hinkley Expansion. Grunberg took up the issue of aerial monitoring, making the point that it provided the best method of detailed spacial information over large areas in a short time.

Ponsford replied that the Radioactive Incident Monitoring Network (*RIMNET*), was intended as an early warning system. The attitude of *DoE* to the work of the Scottish Universities Research and Reactor Centre (*SURRC*), who developed the aerial survey in Britain, was that: "It could be of some utility but that there were differences of perception about how it could best be used."

Grunberg also asked Ponsford

why erroneous information about *SURRC*'s work had been given by his department to the House of Commons Select Committee on Agriculture. She produced an addendum to the Select Committee report, a letter from Professor Baxter, the Centre's director, putting the record straight. But Ponsford claimed he had never seen it.

Superficial

Ponsford represents the lead government department (answerable to Parliament) in the event of nuclear accidents abroad. Brian Rome (*CONSOC*) asked him:

"Isn't your putting your whole case into three pages a very superficial way of dealing with what may be an extremely major catastrophe abroad with major impacts on the UK?"

Ponsford was also questioned by *Kitty Little*, Jonathon Milner (*COLA*) and the Inspector.

Inspector Tours Hinkley

The Inspector and two of his Assessors - Professor Simpson and Dr. Duncan - made an official visit to the site of the proposed C station on the evening of Day 116.

The party, which included a handful of objectors, walked straight to the top of the sheep-grazed grassy mound (formed by spoil from the A station excavations) at the centre of the C station site. From there they had an excellent view of the many acres of fields which would be flattened and bulldozed to make way for the vast work camp - and of the mist-covered Bristol Channel which separates the power station from Welsh opponents.

Afterwards, the group was given a guided tour of both the A and B stations. This enabled them to compare the hand-operated knobs and switches in the *Magnox* control room with the computerised version in the *AGR*. They were also given an overload of statistics by the station tour guides (along the lines of "enough electricity is produced by one of the reactors to power four cities the size of Bristol").

High above the B station pile cap, a



special display of geiger counters crackled briskly up to 200 units on meeting a sample of Cornish rock, but didn't bother a bit about the radiation in the station itself.

In the reception area, a small packet of potassium iodate tablets was attached comfortingly to the wall, and the name of this week's Emergency Controller prominently displayed. In the emergency room itself, however, there was a distinctly musty smell of little use.

Since photography was forbidden, we are unable to bring you a picture of the Inspector and friends wearing the distinctive white CEGB safety helmets issued to protect visitors against (extremely improbable) accidents.

Tour Rating: Two stars, dull, needs to inject a sense of drama (danger?). Could learn a few tricks from Sellafield.

Milk Monitor

Grant Meekings from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food gave his evidence on food protection in a nuclear emergency (MAFF 2, Day 115).

MAFF's job, said Meekings, is to protect the public from contaminated food and to provide alternative food, to protect the food industries from effects of an accident and to inform and advise farmers and the public alike.

Emergency centres

Meekings described how MAFF would respond to an emergency at Hinkley Point - by sending its experts to the local Off-Site Centre and to the Nuclear Emergency Briefing Room in Whitehall, as well as setting up its own regional centre. MAFF's monitoring teams would also analyse samples of milk and other agricultural products.

Contaminated produce would be disposed of, said Meekings. A ban on selling local produce could lead to redistribution of national supplies. "The critical commodity in this respect would probably be milk,"

.. Comment ..

Infernal Word Games

Charlotte Webster describes her descent into the Inquiry.

Walking into the Hinkley C Inquiry was like walking into a church hushed, whispering, tiptoeing, somnolent boredom, shuffling papers, droning voice, high altar beneath the only window. One forlorn little Christmas tree accentuated rather than dispelled the lifeless air.

One expert was reading out his statement extremely fast without expression. Good stuff when I could snatch a few sentences and concentrate on them, but impossible to take in more than a few minutes at a time. The only movement was the constant procession of shorthand writers out to their typewriters. Hundreds of reams of paper.

It didn't take long to work out who all the players were: Inspectors and Assessors sitting three feet up on a stage, a person giving evidence at their feet, dark suited CEGB camp at huge desks to the right, and serious and determined opponents on the table to the left. At last it came to some cross-examination by the CEGB. Just like the court dramas on

the telly. It all seemed to be a clever game of words and tricks: games lawyers play.

This was not what I had expected a "Public Inquiry" to be. It seemed so far removed from normal life. I had somehow expected there to be local people standing up and making speeches, children in the gallery, emotions being shown, feelings running high, a battle of facts, a fight in the air! Was this dead place really where we had a hope of stopping a future disaster? Was this "their" game or ours? Was it real or a charade? Had we simply walked into their sterile, life-sucking, mind exhausting, humanless trap? Was this what protest should be about at such a crucial time?

I didn't stay very long, bursting out into the fresh air and a drink at the pub, back into the real world.

Suddenly everything seemed more urgent. I know there are days when local people are having their say and what the Inquiry is crying out for is more of that. I can no longer sit back and let our future be decided by a high chief's gathering.

said Meekings, "both because of its perishable nature and its importance in the diet of infants and young children."

Meekings outlined the many routes that MAFF would use to give "wide and urgent publicity to any restrictions" on foodstuffs.

Outstanding In His Field

A wide variety of questions were answered by the person from the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries & Food - Grant Meekings - on Day 115.

The pro-nuclear objector *Kitty Little* raised her argument that low doses of radiation are not as harmful as the official agencies make out. The Inspector said to her that "we come again and again back to that point... that reliance is placed for matters of this sort on the advice given by the NRPB."

Little retorted that this reflected "blind reliance" on the NRPB. This could lead MAFF to "blindly destroy milk and food without considering the consequences."

Rapid response?

Jonathon Milner, the lawyer for COLA, asked Meekings for details of MAFF's emergency arrangements -

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such as their London Operations Room, MAFF's warnings to milk producers, and operations of its monitoring teams, laboratories and enforcement officers.

Meekings told him that in the first week after Chernobyl "we had results (of milk analysis) available to us in London within 24 hours of the milk coming out of the cow." MAFF experts could be at a CEBG site within four hours, said Meekings - or if traffic was disrupted - could be flown in by helicopter. Sampling for radioactivity would take place over "a very wide area".

Garden fresh

Meekings also told Milner that fresh vegetables have priority for monitoring because "they can be out of the garden and on the plate for lunch that day." Next in urgency is milk: radio-active iodine would peak in milk two to three days after pasture had been contaminated.

Milner also challenged Meekings on the inadequacies of MAFF's response to Chernobyl. Meekings admitted that the Ministry's communications with the public had not been good enough.

Farmers' disquiet

Brendan Butler from the Devon-based *Farmers for a Nuclear Free Future* accused MAFF of "towing the line far too over-zealously with the CEBG" instead of protecting the environment.

Butler wanted to know exactly how MAFF are protecting farmers' interests and was not satisfied that the Ministry's leaflet for farmers had reached enough farmers. In a 25-mile radius of a nuclear accident there could be "1,700 farmers wondering what on earth is happening", said Butler.

He wanted MAFF to provide "farm wardens" to liaise with individual farmers, but Meekings said the warden scheme was intended for war-time - not civil - emergencies.

Butler also pressed MAFF to use aerial surveying in detecting "hot spots" of radioactivity, as the Swedes and Americans have already done.

For the birds

Brian Rome asked Meekings for information about the lethal dose of radiation to wader birds which frequent Bridgwater flats, and Meekings promised to supply this - although it was not really his "pigeon".

Rome also quizzed him on the tactic of "deep ploughing" to disperse radioactivity after an accident, and on MAFF's restrictions on sheep after Chernobyl - which Rome thought was quite inadequate.

In Charge

Bryan Hampton from the Department of Energy's Atomic Energy division described DEN's role and responsibilities in the event of a nuclear accident at the Hinkley site, plus DEN's response to the lessons of Chernobyl.

DEN as the lead government department would be the focal point for co-ordinating a national response to an accident, briefing the Secretary of State for Energy and acting as main government source of information to the media and public.

Public enquiries

DEN would set up the National Emergency Briefing Room in London, said Hampton, which would be staffed by DEN officials and representatives from the NII and NRPB. A Public Enquiry room would also be established at DEN to deal with telephone enquiries.

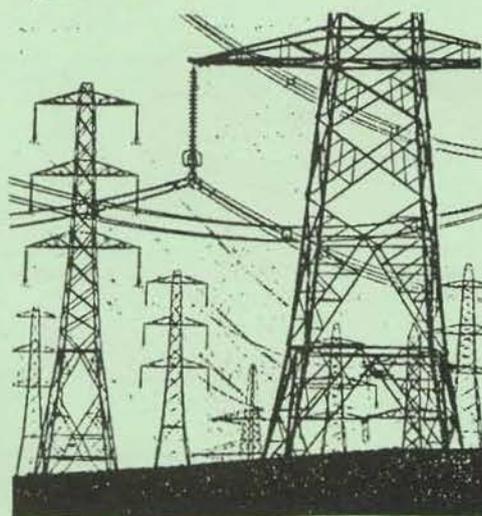
DEN takes part in five or six "level 2" exercises each year to test emergency arrangements.

After Chernobyl, according to Hampton, the "expert consensus" was that such an accident "could not happen in the UK". Nevertheless DEN has reviewed emergency plans to ensure that these could be extended in case a "larger than design basis accident should occur."

Improvements

DEN has set up a Nuclear Emergency Planning Liaison Group which is now considering

- how to improve information to the public about emergency plans
- "sheltering" (staying indoors) as a form of protection
- distribution of stable iodine tablets
- methods of alerting the public
- the need for improved Press Briefing Centres.



Captain's Log, Stardate 15

These are the adventures of the *Stop Hinkley Centre*, its year-long mission to explore strange new evidence, to seek out new objectors, to boldly go where no Public Inquiry has gone before.

With Captain Stuart (James T.) Purves and First Officer Jo (Spock) Balcombe recently installed at the helm, the SHC is currently orbiting the planet Inquiry. Preparations are underway for a SHC stall at the cosmic Glastonbury Festival. For anybody beaming down, look out for us in the *CND* marquee.

We are on the lookout for yet more stark-trekkers to beam aboard for the final voyages through the uncharted constellations of Topic 5 and, hopefully, galaxies beyond.

With the aid of Lieutenant Jamie (Zulu) Gill, who has written over 800 letters, we have so far contacted over 900 trekkers. So if you know of anyone wanting to give evidence or who may be thinking about it, please let me know. We are looking to make the Klingons in the battle cruiser shoe boxes fight right up to the last photon torpedo!

With regard to what happens after Topic 5, the Lord of the Universe, Inspector Sir, will be letting us know on all frequencies whether star-trekkers will be allowed to make statements of an overall or general nature, within the next week or so.

Back down on the planet Inquiry, Dr. Brian (McCoy) Rome has got the starting time on Fridays put back to 9.15 am to allow for the new British Rail timetable (warp drive is not what it used to be!).

On the subject of transport, Nicola Ramsden, Jamie Gill and Kathy Boyd came down to the Inquiry to present a petition to the Inspector asking for a Bristol session. One argument being the difficulties of travelling between Bristol and Cannington. Ironically, they arrived late for the procedural matters at 9.30 am due to traffic.

Beam me up Scotty!

Stuart Purves

Working Out The Inquiry

- There will be an informal session at Cannington. Date to be announced.

Facilities For Objectors

TRANSPORT

There is a free bus service to and from Cannington, as below.
Use it or lose it!

Tuesday - Thursday
9.00 am Taunton BR Station 5.55 pm
9.30 Bridgwater BR Station 5.25
9.40 Inquiry Venue 5.15
9.45 Creche 5.10
N.B. When the Inquiry starts at 9.30 am, all morning bus times are half an hour earlier.

Friday
8.00 am Taunton 4.25 pm
8.30 Bridgwater 3.55
8.40 Inquiry Venue 3.45
8.45 Creche 3.40
Creche on Fridays 8.30 am - 4 pm.

The Hinkley Point C Public Inquiry Secretariat, Cannington Court, Church Street, Cannington, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 2HA. Telephone: 0278 444005.

CRECHE

People with children under five are welcome to use the excellent creche at Cannington. Open each day of the Inquiry from half-an-hour before proceedings begin. Telephone in advance to book your place: (0278) 653081.

LIBRARY

The Public Office at Cannington Court dealing with the Public Inquiry contains the whole gamut of documents being prepared in connection with the PWR proposals.

TRANSCRIPTS

These can be obtained from the Secretariat, cost of weekly posting for four issues £2.00.

STOP HINKLEY CENTRE,
CANNINGTON COURT, CHURCH STREET,
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SOMERSET TA5 2HA
Tel: Bridgwater 652408 Fax: 652459

- The Inspector will be making a formal visit to Combwich during or at the end of the Combwich Inquiry. The Inspector made an informal visit to Combwich on Sunday May 14.
- On Monday June 5, the Inspector will view the footpaths subject to the proposed Closure Order. Anybody wanting to go along should meet at the Hinkley Point C Station Visitors' Centre at 5 pm.
- The Friday starting time is now 9.15 am due to the new British Rail summer timetable. Lunches on Friday will be curtailed by 15 minutes.
- On the first day of the Cannington Bypass Inquiry, Tuesday June 27, there will be an evening session starting at 6.30 pm.
- Kathy Boyd from *Bristol FoE* presented a petition of 2,000 signatures, asking for a session in Bristol, to the Inspector. The Inspector said he would reconsider his decision.

DIARY

The programme is provisional and subject to change, so keep in touch with Keith Parker (0278 444005 ext. 128) for up-to-date information.

Weeks 31,32,33.

N.B. Starting time 9.30am unless otherwise stated and finishing about 5pm. Fridays now start at 9.15am and finish about 3.30pm. After the Bank Holiday, start is at 1.30pm on Tuesday 30th May.

Wednesday 24 May.

10am start. Procedural matters. Dr A Jones (COLA 44) evidence and cross-examination followed by Mr M Davis (COLA 45) evidence and cross-examination.

Thursday 25 May.

10am start. Mr M Ferguson (COLA 46) evidence and cross-examination and Mr N Musselwhite (COLA 47) evidence and cross-examination. Followed by Mr P Sands (Greenpeace 6), Pam Tatlow, Brian Clark and Jan Jones.

Friday 26 May.

Mr D Blackman (Department of Transport) to be cross-examined on topic 4 followed by Dr K Little, Lesley Morrison, Mr F Horseman (Farmers for a Nuclear Free Future), Dr P Godfrey, Ian Dixon (Exeter CND), Mr R Thomas (Camborne Anti-Nuclear Group), Jude Pring and Mr R Poole (National Union of Public Employees).

Tuesday 30 May.

Procedural matters. Evidence and cross-examination of Mr P Morris, Mrs M Thyne (Stogursey Emergency Planning Committee), Dickon Fell, Rod Terry, Sue Martin, Patricia West, Ms M O'Donnell (SHE), Mr R Barker (Taunton Labour Party), Mr G Bright (Cwmbran Anti-Nuclear Group) and Ms S Gibb (Tiverton Branch Labour Party).

Wednesday 31 May.

Evidence and cross-examination of May Morris, Rachel Baird, William Pritchard, Ron Preddy, Ms S Deere-Jones (Irish Sea Project), Mr T Deere-Jones (Irish Sea Project), Mr P F Addie (Avon County Fire Brigades Union), Mr D Hudson (Bristol University Green Group), Ms J Mitchell (SHE), Mr T Ambrose (Avon County NALGO), Mr D Wall (Bath Green Party), R E Stone and Paul Smith.

Thursday 1 June.

Evidence and cross-examination of Dr M Harper (Bristol General Practitioners), Mr H Horrobin (Roadwater and District Peace Group), Susan Nicholls, Ann White, Mr B Rome, Katherine East, Michael Bird, Frances Carlson, Nicola Ramsden and Mr R Matthews (Fire Brigades Union).

Friday 2 June.

Start of Topic 5. Mr K M Gammon (CEGB) evidence and cross-examination.

Tuesday 6 June.

Procedural matters. Mr K M Gammon cross-examination continued. Followed by Mr T R Worthington (CEGB 14) evidence and cross-examination.

Wednesday 7 June.

Mr T R Worthington cross-examination continued. Followed by Mr A Lisney and Mr I D Owen (CEGB 15) evidence and cross-examination.

Thursday 8 June.

Evidence and cross-examination of Mr J N Darby (MAFF), Mr B Tinkler (Wessex Water Authority) and Mr M A Hillyer (Wessex Water Authority).

Friday 9 June.

COLA Topic 5 witnesses to be named. Evidence and cross-examination.

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