

# SCRAM ENERGY BULLETIN



THE SCOTTISH CAMPAIGN TO RESIST THE ATOMIC MENACE, 2 AINSLIE PLACE, EDINBURGH. 031-225 7752

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## TORNESS

It is practically certain that by the time you read this, Bruce Millan, Secretary of State for Scotland, will have turned down - or be just about to turn down - the request made by SCRAM and many others for a new public inquiry into the SSEB's plans to build a 1320MW Advanced Gas-Cooled Nuclear Station at Torness in East Lothian. There will then, theoretically, be nothing to stop the South of Scotland Electricity Board from starting work on the power station that they have coveted for so long. We will be all set to take a crucial step on the road to the nuclear future, at the start of a new reactor-building programme.

Or will we?

Another step in the same direction looks set for British Nuclear Fuels Ltd., following a public inquiry and Justice Parker's travesty of a report - i.e. the expansion of their reprocessing plant at Windscale in Cumbria. It's full speed ahead for the plutonium economy.

Or is it?

We believe that the verdicts of Bruce Millan and Justice Parker are the verdicts of last year's men. They have fundamentally misunderstood the nature of people's concern over nuclear power and drastically underestimated the groundswell of anti-nuclear feeling in this country. Their mistakes mark the beginning of a new and different phase in the nuclear debate.

For a wide range of reasons, embracing environmental, social and political causes (many of which are rehearsed inside - see "The Case Against Torness"), increasing numbers of people are simply not prepared to accept any more nuclear power stations. In order to give such feelings a focus, and to show the depth and breadth of public opposition to nuclear power, and to discuss future modes of action - we are co-ordinating a mass rally and march on the site of Torness over the weekend of May 6th and 7th.

In working towards the rally, we are experiencing an unprecedented degree of moral, financial and practical support. The number and range of the organisations that have already lent support to the rally - from the Scottish Miners to the Conservative Ecology Group (see "Who Supports Us?" inside) - is an indication of the broad base of the campaign. We are strong and growing.

We have prepared this special issue of the "Energy Bulletin" - with extra pages! - in order to inform people of the issues surrounding Torness and to describe plans for the rally. As explained elsewhere the Torness Protest is part of a week of action on nuclear power in the UK. We hope that you find it interesting, useful and amusing.

Your presence at Torness is vital.

*Collective Action Foundation*

# Together we can stop it! May 6 & 7

www.labo.org  
Digitized 2007

# The case against Torness



In the following article it is hoped that the reasons for our opposition to the building of a nuclear power station at Torness will be made clear.

labour intensive industries of capital and this in fact actually creates unemployment.

## LOCAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

At the 1974 Inquiry, East Lothian County Council, and particularly Berwickshire County Council, expressed reservations over the employment impact of Torness. Their fears have since been re-enforced by the publication last September of a report by Gwynedd County Planning Officer entitled "The Impact of a Power Station on Gwynedd". Drawing on evidence from the building of Trawsfynydd and Wylfa nuclear power stations, he observed :

"... The completion of large scale construction schemes in the County has often been followed by a rapid rise in unemployment... The situation is much worse in a period of economic depression since it is difficult to create new jobs for local workers and migrant workers tend to stay in the area, adding to the number of unemployed. The pattern of events is well illustrated by the recent employment history in Gwynedd... Thus, while it is difficult to prove conclusively, the evidence suggests that the long term effect of the major construction schemes in Gwynedd has been to help prevent the growth of employment in more stable industries as a result of the impact of large scale construction projects on local wage levels and labour supply."

In other words, past experience from elsewhere indicates that the long term employment impact of Torness on East Lothian could well be detrimental and increase unemployment.

## NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT IMPACT

Nuclear power is very capital intensive. The capital cost of Torness is estimated at about £600m. It will provide about 600 long term jobs for operating and administrative staff. So, excluding the construction period and the multiplier effect the Government is planning to invest £1m per job created. Almost any other investment would bring a better return in terms of job creation. If, for example, we embarked on a major national programme of energy conservation through domestic insulation (excluding the multiplier effect and other spin-offs) one long term job could be created for every \$6,000 invested. Many go on to argue that in an economy where capital is in short supply, to divert resources into capital intensive industry deprives



Hunterston

## ENERGY DEMAND

At the 1974 Inquiry, the SSEB based their case for Torness on a 6% p.a. compound growth in electricity demand until the end of the century. Objectors then were critical of the Board's methodology and suggested that such a growth rate was in fact unrealistic. Now, four years later, demand has in fact fallen, by 0.6% in 1976 and risen again only slightly to a 1977 level which is still less than demand in 1975. Furthermore, it should be pointed out that off-peak consumption of electricity - which nuclear power stations are designed to provide - actually fell by 17% between 1975 and 1977. In addition, studies produced at the Windscale Inquiry show why Electricity Board (and Department of Energy) energy forecasts show an unjustified enthusiasm for electricity and are calculated in such a way as to exaggerate electricity demand. The SSEB's past record on energy forecasts does not induce confidence. We suspect that they may well be making the same mistake now as they made in 1974.

## ECONOMIC ASPECTS

The history of the reactor type that has been proposed for Torness is not inspiring. Of the five AGRs ordered after 1965, three are between two and seven years late and half of the units of the two that are being brought on stream have recently suffered serious malfunctions. One of the Hinkley B units was put out of action in July last year, following a break in a 0.5m diameter cooling pipe. One of the Hunterston B

units in Ayrshire was closed last October following the leak of over 1000 gallons of sea water into the reactor pressure vessel. The eventual and overall costs due to the incident, as the SSEB have recently admitted, could be as much as £20m and will almost certainly add at least 2p in the pound onto electricity bills. In addition, corrosion problems meant that all AGRs had to be downrated by 9% before they started and subsequent experience suggests that they may well have to be downrated further. (Down-rating means that they are being operated at less than their design capacity.) The financial losses incurred by the delays to the programme and the poor operating record of reactors, are not known - but are likely to be very high. The former Chairman of the CEB, Sir Arthur Hawkins, once referred to the first AGR programme as "a catastrophe we must not repeat". It seems that the SSEB are about to repeat it.

#### SSEB OVERCAPACITY

In 1976/77 the maximum demand was for 4,307MW whereas the total available capacity was as much as 7,185MW. There is a further 1,320MW due to come on stream from Inverkip. Even allowing for the necessary safety margins and for export of electricity to the North of Scotland Electricity Board, this is too high by at least 20%. The exaggerated demand forecasts of the 1960s resulted in the construction of too much plant. This means that the SSEB are now compelled to actively stimulate markets for electricity which are neither efficient nor economic (eg space heating) - thereby distorting what are true electricity "needs". Will Howie, writing recently in 'New Civil Engineer', commented :

"...consulting engineer Howard Gott demonstrated to the Brussels branch of the Institute of Civil Engineers that there was now substantial over-capacity of electricity in Britain... It is quite likely that an immediate round of nuclear power station construction is not necessary."

Bearing in mind the remarks made above concerning future energy demand, and acknowledging the long and awkward lead times involved in commissioning new plant, we submit that in energy terms there is no need to start work on Torness now. We have time to stop and think.

#### LOW LEVEL WASTE

Although it seems that emissions from operating reactors and from other parts of their associated fuel cycle, do not

pose a radiological hazard in the short term, the long term effect of the build-up of radioactive isotopes is unknown. Thermal nuclear plants always produce emission of strontium-90, iodine-135 and krypton-85. These radio-isotopes become concentrated in food chains and can ultimately be absorbed by man in his food. We are concerned about the long term effects of the continuous emission of these isotopes to the sea and to the atmosphere.

#### HIGH LEVEL WASTES

No satisfactory method of the disposal of high level waste has been found. It seems irresponsible to expand the nuclear programme and thereby increase the volume of nuclear waste in existence.

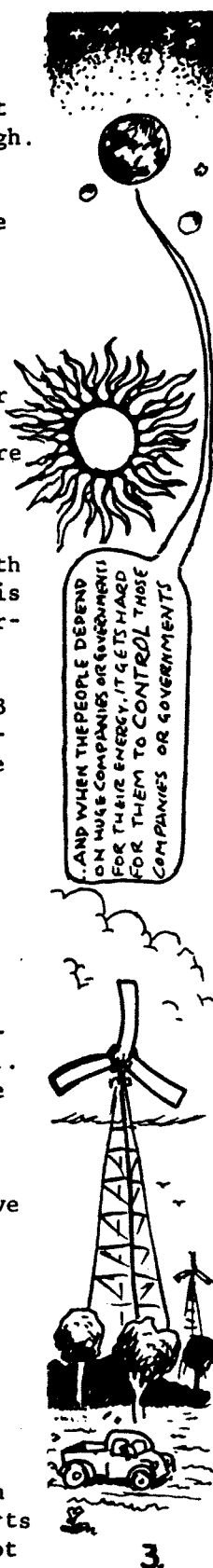
#### REACTOR SAFETY

The availability of information on reactor safety in this country is poor. The Nuclear Installations Inspectorate is only just beginning to publish some of the results of its work. Until the complete methodology and workings of their risk assessments are publically available, it is not possible to be satisfied or otherwise with regard to AGR safety. Some evidence suggests that previous AGR incidents have come close to serious accidents. "Electrical Review" reported an account of the Hinkley B accident and remarked : "...it is not clear by what margin a very dangerous situation was avoided."

#### THE PLUTONIUM ECONOMY

Potentially at least, the gravest threat that nuclear power poses lies in the production of plutonium. Plutonium will be part of the spent fuel produced by the reactors at Torness during their normal operation. If reprocessing is allowed to go on at Windscale, this plutonium will then be available for use - either in fast reactors or in bombs. As the Australian Fox Report stated "The nuclear power industry is unintentionally contributing to an increased risk of nuclear war".

It is clear that the use, or abuse, of plutonium poses an enormous threat to mankind. In addition, however, the mere possibility that plutonium might be stolen endangers our society. Already, in Germany and France, the state has used all legal and some illegal methods to stifle objections to their nuclear programmes. If we go into the plutonium society we will have to expect increasing state control on our lives. Applications for jobs will be vetted, police surveillance will be increased and phone tapping and opening of letters will be commonplace. Already, special constables at nuclear installations are allowed to carry automatic weapons.





# Torness Appeal

Since the last Bulletin we have managed to get a better idea of the money we need to hold the rally on May 6th & 7th. We have had to raise our target to £5,000. The money is needed to hire marquees, provide sanitation on site, hire transport, pay for prior publicity and also take our new audio-visual show on tour around Scotland.

The Appeal was launched publically on March 22nd in Edinburgh when about 50 people turned up to see the audio-visual show for the first time. The show puts our arguments against nuclear power in general and against Torness in particular. It is now on a tour around the country and venues booked at time of going to print are :

- |          |           |   |
|----------|-----------|---|
| March 23 | (7.30)    | Humbie Village Hall                           |
| "        | 28 (7.30) | Peebles Picture Gallery                       |
| "        | 29 (7.30) | East Linton Village Hall                      |
| "        | 30 (7.30) | Dunbar Corn Exchange                          |
| April 3  | (7.30)    | Haddington Town Hall                          |
| "        | 5 (7.30)  | N. Berwick Community Centre                   |
| "        | 6 (7.30)  | Dunfermline Netherton Inst.                   |
| "        | 13        | Stirling University<br>(lunchtime & evening)  |
| "        | 17        | Edinburgh College of Art<br>(lunchtime)       |
| "        | 18/19     | Edinburgh Univ. (at a<br>teach-in on Torness) |
| "        | 20/21/22  | Aberdeen                                      |
| "        | 27 (7.30) | Galashiels Youth Centre                       |

SCRAM Bulletin subscribers will be welcomed at any of these showings. For further information, or if you wish to arrange a showing in your area, please phone us at the office or at 031-225 1126 in the evenings.

Our own fundraising efforts so far have included a benefit concert in Leith Town Hall, when the Rezillos played for us. We also held a 3-day Jumble Sale during the last week in March and a second benefit concert is planned for April 6. At the time of going to print we have raised £625, about 1/10th of what we need. (Cash raised from the concert and Jumble Sale has still to be added to this figure.)

SCRAM would like to thank everyone who has donated money - especially those very generous, anonymous handouts! We would be pleased to hear from anyone able to raise money for us in their locality.

## ANTI-NUCLEAR ART COMPETITION

\*\*\*\*\*

Prize : a barrel of beer

Form : Poster design/Comic strip/  
Cartoon.

Closing date : April 25th

Theme : anti-nuclear/pro-alternative  
technology

The entries will be displayed in the Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh from April 26th - May 5th and thereafter at the Torness rally.

SCRAM TO TORNESS stickers, as reproduced here, are available from :

Tommy Shepphard,  
Aberdeen University FoE,  
c/o S.R.C.,  
151 King Street, Aberdeen.

cost: £1.50 per 100  
£7.00 per 500  
£12.00 per 1000.

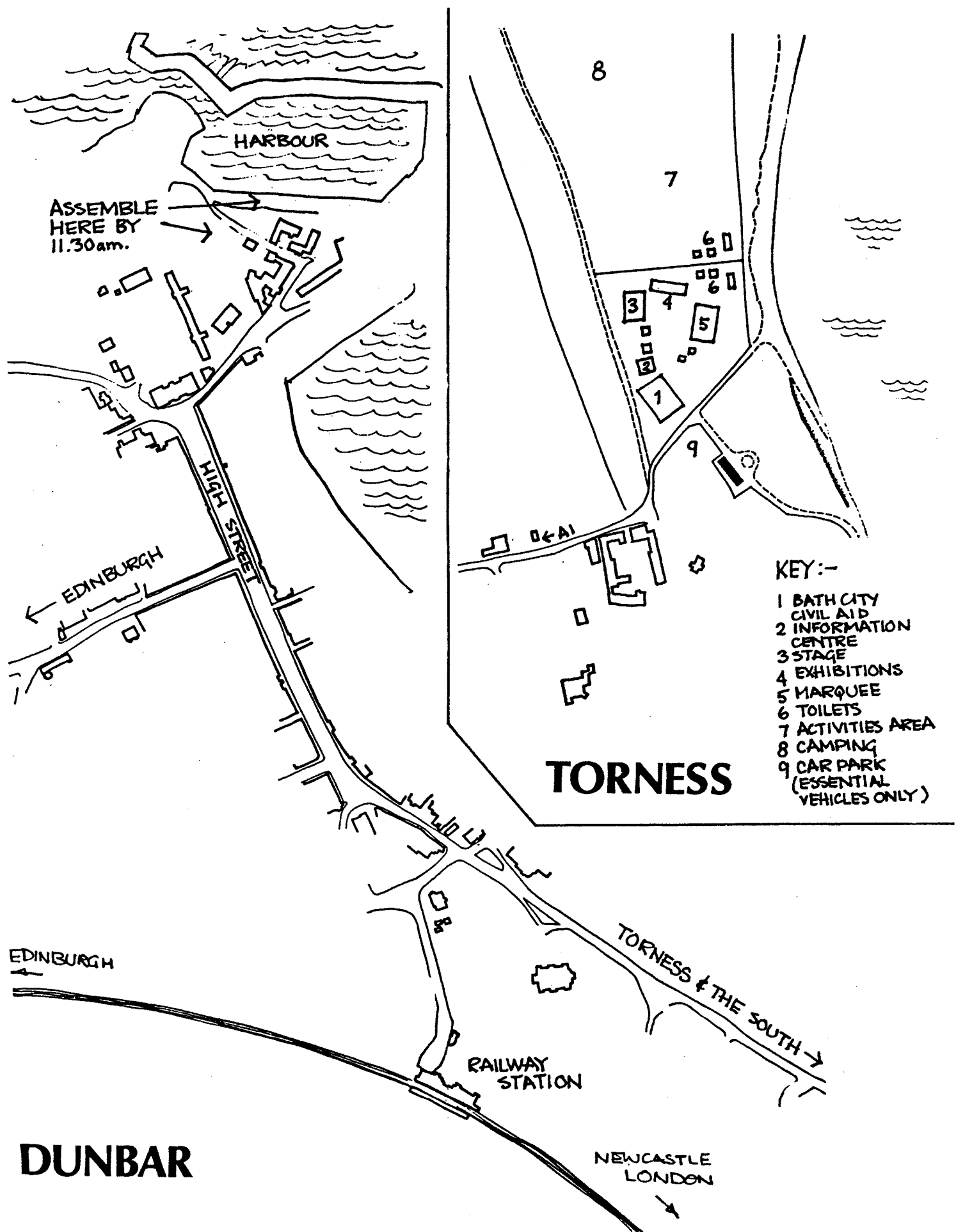
If you want to cover your town, order some now! All profits help to support the rally.



As an interesting form of publicity for the Torness rally, SCRAM are producing posters specially designed to fit in BIKE FRAMES. If anyone is interested in having one, please contact us.

### Another SCRAM Bargain !!!

A large (16" x 23") colour poster has been produced specially to help raise money for the Torness Appeal. It features Tony Benn as Dennis the Menace and Sir John Hill as his dog, Gnasher, hurtling towards the nuclear future. A splash above and beneath proclaims "Resist the Atomic Menace". Clearly this is the poster for your wall! Available from SCRAM for a mere 50p + 15p for p.&p. Send for yours today!



# This is it!

## Torness

The "Stop Windscale" demonstration planned for March 19 was one of the half-dozen victims of the 2-month ban on all public assemblies, as decreed by the Home Office. Consequently, the demo was postponed till April 29, just one week before "SCRAM to TORNESS".

This may turn out to be a blessing in disguise as we now have a week of action on nuclear energy and alternatives :

"NO NUKES WEEK" from April 29 - May 7

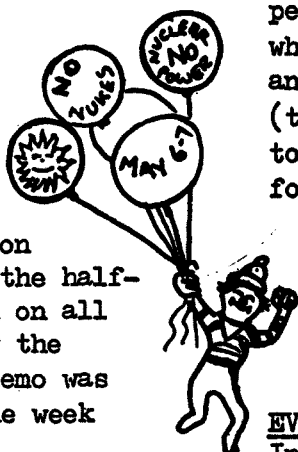
After the London march, there is SUN!DAY on May 3, organised by Friends in the USA as a day to celebrate our only source of energy - the sun. On this same day, the Greenpeace trawler will be setting off from the Thames with a windmill on board, bound for Dunbar and the rally. During the week a group of cyclists will be making the same journey (by road!) - all hoping to reach Dunbar in time for a mass gathering at the harbour when the boat lands about 11.30 am on May 6 for off-loading of the windmill and its transportation to the festival site.

We are hoping that everyone will be ready to move from Dunbar by noon. There will be transport laid on for those who can't make the 6 miles to the site on foot. Details of trains and buses are shown below. This is public transport which may be augmented for us on the day. For more transport details, contact us or look for the contacts list elsewhere in the Bulletin. We hope to have a pipe band accompany us along the route.

THE SITE consists of a beautiful field by the sea at Thorntonloch, 5 miles S.E. of Dunbar. The site will be prepared by an International Voluntary Service team, with some assistance from FoE Colne.

We are planning to open the festival with speakers from SCRAM, Greenpeace, the anti-nuclear movement in Germany and France, as well as some words from Robin Cooke MP.

There is enough room for several thousand people and camping space for as many as want to stay overnight, Friday and/or Saturday - which we urge you to do. We ask people to take care of this beautiful site which, incidentally, has been designated an area of outstanding scientific interest (they certainly know how to pick \*em) due to rare flowers and extraordinary rock formations on the shore.



## May 6 & 7

### EVENTS \*\*\*

Indoor events can be staged in a large marquee; speakers and bands will be able to use a specially constructed stage and powerful p.a. system.

We need to show our determined opposition to nuclear power and have a good time, so we have a wide range of events scheduled for the 2 days, up to the time we formally depart - leaving the least trace of disruption possible - at 6 pm on Sunday.

### EXHIBITIONS \*\*\*

Details yet to be finalised but we do have two windmills (1 from Greenpeace and 1 from the Centre for Alternative Technology in Wales) plus unspecified AT hardware from New Age Access and an exhibition/information centre from the anti-nuclear movement in Germany. We are also hoping to demonstrate the possibilities of wave power and solar energy.

### FILMS \*\*\*

So far we have 4 films - from the French and the German anti-nuclear movements; from Peace News here in Britain; and from the US "Sam Lovejoy's Nuclear War" which is about the formation of the Clamshell Alliance at Seabrook, US.

### INFORMATION \*\*\*

The First of May bookshop will co-operate with York Community Books to provide extensive related reading matter, posters, badges etc.

### MUSIC \*\*\*

There will be a rock concert on Saturday evening, folk music on Sunday. Possible bands so far include the Monos, Veranda Boys, Railway Pudding Hill Runners, Mowgli and the Donuts. Plenty of people are bringing drums, whistles and so on.

### WORKSHOPS \*\*\*

People from Peace News will be organising workshops on non-violent direct action during the weekend with films, discussion and group activity. Student Environmental Network want to do workshops related to their activities. Other possibilities could be discussion on "What next after Torness?", "Nuclear Power and the Labour Movement", "Beginners' Guide to Nuclear Technology" - people are welcome to plan workshops etc if they wish.

### DECLARATION OF RESISTANCE

All the events will lead up to the adoption by the rally of a "declaration of resistance" to nuclear power which we hope will be a guide and a focus to our continuing movement.

### DRAMA \*\*\*

At least two drama groups are interested (Aberdeen Univ. and Theatre Workshop, Edinburgh) plus Davey King's one-man show against the nuclear Goliath. Again, more would be welcomed.

### BRING THE KIDS \*\*\*

A creche will be provided plus games, rides, fair, Punch & Judy...

### FOOD \*\*\*

Catering facilities by the excellent Bath Civil Aid. Wholefood at reasonable prices, as enjoyed at Knebworth, Isle of Wight etc.

### FIRST AID \*\*\*

By West Lothian Disaster Team who use band-aid and Colne FoE who use comfrey.

PLUS ... CRAFTS, YOGA, BONFIRES, BURNING OF EFFIGY OF SIR JOHN HILL (?), QUIET SPACES, MAGIC, FANCY DRESS ...

We will have a telephone information centre to co-ordinate all this.

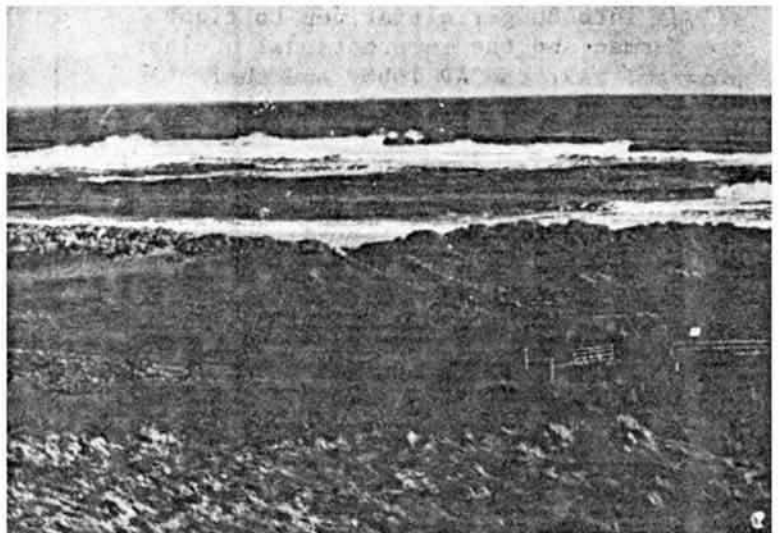
Trains, Busses. - See enclosed sheet [we didn't have room!]

### \*\*\* PROGRAMME \*\*\*

Sat. 6th Assemble Dunbar  
11.30 Greenpeace boat lands Dunbar harbour  
12.00 March departs for Torness  
3.00-4.00 Arrive Torness - Speakers  
4.00 till dusk, open air activities as above...  
after dusk, films, bonfires.. 7.

Sun. 7th a.m. activities as above - yoga, folk music, workshops etc...  
p.m. Reading of the "declaration of resistance" to nuclear power  
6.00 Formal withdrawal from site - "WE WILL BE BACK"...

A more detailed programme of activities will be available later on - but we are still open to suggestions and, of course, lots of help!



The Torness site

photo Richard Tyler

### WHO SUPPORTS US?

The following groups have already declared their support for the Torness rally. We would be happy to hear from more.

BBU (Germany)  
Campaign Opposing Nuclear Dumping  
Conservative Ecology Group  
Conservation Society  
Friends of the Earth  
Greenpeace Ltd.  
Greenpeace (London)  
Movement Against Uranium Mining (Australia)  
National Energy Committee (Netherlands)  
National Union of Mineworkers (Scottish Area)  
National Union of Mineworkers (Group Two)  
National Peace Council  
Network for Nuclear Concern  
Peace News  
Political Ecology Research Group  
Scottish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament  
Scottish Council for Civil Liberties  
Scottish National Party (Trinity branch)  
Scottish National Union of Students  
Scottish Young Liberals  
Socialist Environmental and Resources Assoc.  
Society for Environmental Improvement  
Undercurrents

# The German Experience

Wolfgang Gröning

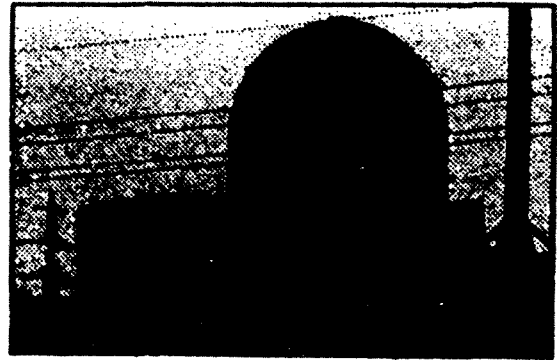
Bürgerinitiativen - that is the key word in the protest against atomic power (AP) in Germany. A wide range of protesters, pure ecologists as well as politically-motivated people, have organised themselves into Bürgerinitiativen to fight the German and the international nuclear program. AP, the AP lobby and their methods are international and that is the reason why the anti-AP movement must be international too. The protest against Malville in France, Kalkar in Germany and Almelo in the Netherlands, demonstrated the strength of the international movement. But it also gave an idea of the methods and power of the AP lobby.

After giving a brief account of the anti-AP movement, I will try to discuss the political effects of AP, the erosion of civil liberties and the development of the atomic state : a German model for Europe.

First, a short history of the German opposition to AP. In 1975, the first mass rally at Whyll resulted in the occupation of the reactor site shortly after construction had begun. 28,000 protesters chased away 1,000 policemen. The site was occupied for about 9 months, during which time the site functioned as something like an anti-AP open university. The state was then determined not to let a second Whyll happen.

At the Brokdorf site, only hours after provisional planning permission had been granted, masses of police were moved in at 4 o'clock in the morning. Since then, Brokdorf has suffered three demonstrations and two attempts to occupy the site. The state used unseen brutality to prevent a "second Whyll". Building procedures began although the court had not finally granted planning permission. Since then we no longer trust the "democratic game". Instead, support grew steadily, partly due to the state's reaction to a broadly based opposition to AP.

However, the third demonstration against Brokdorf was a success for the state and its propaganda machinery. One of the main aims of the AP lobby is to split and separate the anti-AP movement. The state succeeded in labelling one half of the movement as "communist and potential terrorist" who had "no right to demonstrate", as had the ecologists. Vile



propaganda methods were used to make everyone who wanted to take part in a demonstration at the Brokdorf site a "potential terrorist". The state proposed that the demo be held 20 miles away from the site and the result was two demos with 30,000 participants in each, both peaceful. These two demos left a deep scar on the consciousness of the movement, but fortunately both sides have undertaken to reunite since then.

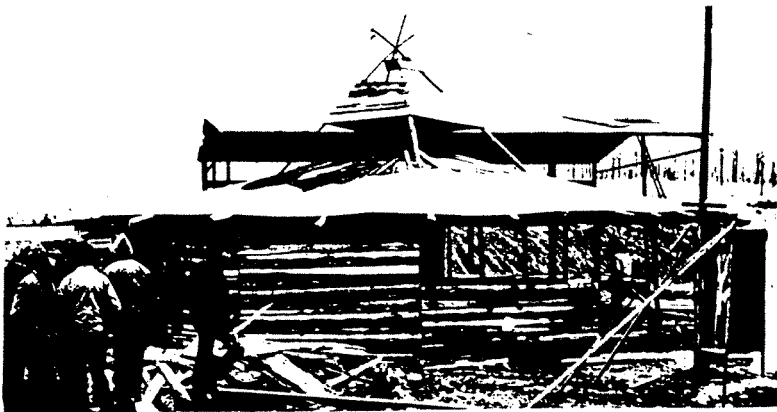
The demo at Kalkar showed that the movement is getting stronger again. Although 20,000 police tried to stop people from going to Kalkar - and actually prevented 10-20,000 with road blocks, confiscating bus drivers' licences on no grounds other than that they were going to Kalkar - 50-60,000 people did manage to get there. This marked the re-unification of the movement. One lesson we have learned is that the AP lobby will always try to break down our solidarity, as solidarity is our main weapon and strength. Of course there are different political opinions involved in the protest, but there is an increasing awareness of the fact that political and ecological aspects of the issues must not and cannot be separated. AP is a political and ecological threat to any country. Successful opposition to AP needs broad solidarity from environmentalists, liberals, democrats, socialists and all.



## THE LEGALISTIC TRAP

Opposition to AP started by using legalistic methods, relying on inquiries and ordinary courts. Events have made it clear that this legal fight is not enough and cannot be won. In our experience, we have found that quite a number of environment acts have been "adjusted" due to "new scientific evidence" and, thus, the court and the media were simply used by the AP lobby to prove that AP is harmless to man and his environment. There were, however, a number of cases when the court ruled a stoppage of the building procedures or did not grant planning permission. What looked like a success for us was in fact part of the "democratic game": permission had been rejected for the whole project but not for single parts of it. Who is naive enough to believe that AP stations may be built but not be operated? Although quite a number of judges have come to realise the dangers of AP, it is fairly clear that the future of the nuclear programme will not be decided upon in any court: German, Dutch, French or British.

The decision is a purely political-economical one and in the end those who ask for planning permission are in reality asking themselves and will grant their own permission. Chancellor Schmidt has admitted frankly on various occasions that whatever scepticism, evidence and protest exists, the nuclear programme will go ahead - as will the export of AP-stations and reprocessing plants to Brazil.



"friendship-house" being built on occupied reactor site at Wyl (W Germany)

## NUCLEAR CYNICISM

As the illusion of democratic procedures vanishes, it is replaced with what I would like to call nuclear cynicism. Herr Schmidt's statement demonstrates this cynicism, which is typical of the AP lobby. As the Windscale Inquiry also showed, the cynical argument is "yes, we admit that AP is dangerous but we don't care since our economy needs it". The most deadly technology is advertised as "the only way we can survive". It is stated

that it is not the technology which is dangerous but the opposition to it. When the state ordered its police and paramilitary border guards to protect the nuclear programme against our protest using appalling brutality against peaceful demonstrators, the lesson for us was to wear helmets and gas masks and bring along first aid kits - since in a number of cases the Red Cross was prevented by the police from helping. This purely defensive gear was then considered offensive and aggressive and a threat to law and order. Even wearing a scarf was considered to be aggressive behaviour, since people were trying to protect themselves from being photographed and blacklisted.

On the other hand, the police were equipped for civil war. In Brokdorf, batons, tear gas, chemical maze (CN gas) and water cannons with chemical maze mixed into the water were the milder weapons. Since then, submachine guns and armoured cars have become standard equipment. The state's reaction to our demo at Kalkar seems to be a planned step towards a police state. The social democratic federal minister of North Rhine, Westphalia tried to intimidate protesters: "If the anti-AP protesters continue with their active opposition against the nuclear programme, the state is prepared to move away from civil liberties towards a police state." Thus, the cynicism goes, the protest against AP is itself "a threat to civil liberties and democracy".

## THE ATOMIC STATE

The police state and the atomic state go hand-in-hand, the former being the consequence of the latter. The journalist Robert Junck pointed out the dangers of the atomic state. The above gives some impression of the atomic state developing. Once a state has decided on a nuclear programme, the consequences are fatal, both ecologically and politically.

Politically, the atomic state makes necessary repression of criticism and democratic movements. The nuclear programme and "national security" are mistaken for the same thing and thus the state protects its nuclear programme as if it was "national security" - which is open to misinterpretation anyway. The atomic state is in action when the social-democrats impose a ban on members taking part in Burgerinitiativen. The atomic state is in action when union members are expelled or threatened with expulsion when engaging in anti-AP protests. The atomic

(over...)

state operates when you cannot take part in demos without being photographed by special police with constant danger of being blacklisted and prevented from getting a job - or of being sacked. The atomic state means the dismantling and erosion of civil liberties.

The measures listed above are all part of German reality. It all started with banning an anti-AP demo and the use of masses of tear gas against demonstrators. Police with submachine guns, informers, infiltrators, illegal arrests, searching of flats without permission, wiretapping - these have all become the sad routine of the German nuclear reality.

The atomic state has gone to ridiculous extremes. 'Nuclear Power? No Thanks!' buttons have been banned from schools. Teachers must not have them on their cars in school car parks. Some private firms have made a similar ban. This is all part of the German model of a developing atomic state. It is a model for Europe. It has been used during the demo in Malville, when German experts were advising their French colleagues and in Holland. Herr Schmidt offers advice and the "Modell Deutschland" to build the atomic Europe. AP means international repression. We have to resist it. Torness will be an important step forward in our European resistance.

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## Waste dumping threat grows.

"Clay formations have three distinct advantages:- they have very low permeability, they can deform plastically to seal any gaps and they can retard some potential pollutants. They are also able to cope with a source of heat.... Clay deposits are of low economic value, and often quite thick. There are extensive areas in southern England and other areas of the UK that might be geologically quite suitable, but there will undoubtedly be difficulties because of public reaction."

The above extract is taken from paragraph 402 of "Nuclear Power and the Environment", the report of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution. The quotation should be of immense relevance to the people of south-west Scotland since, perhaps like no other, it states quite clearly that the issue of the disposal of high-level radioactive waste is not purely a technical one, involving burial at the best site, but instead is at least partially a political one, depending on "public reaction".

In January, a request was lodged with Kyle and Carrick District Council for permission to carry out a test-bore programme in granite rocks at Mull-wharchar, near Loch Doon. The Harwell team responsible explained that this project is part of an EEC research programme into possible methods for long-term storage of high-level radioactive wastes. While research teams in other countries are studying the physical properties of clay and salt deposits, the British group is investigating granite structures, in Northumberland and Cornwall as well as here. As far as the Harwell group are concerned, the work is purely experimental, and implies no preference for any nuclear burial site to be constructed sometime in the future.

However, that is looking at this matter from a technical viewpoint, and as the quotation above explains, this matter is also political.

Initial statements suggested that the District Council would consider the matter sometime in April. In early March, however, it was announced that the Council had approached the Secretary of State for Scotland with a view to his calling the matter in. The Scottish Office reply stated that the application did not raise issues "of a kind which would warrant a call in by the Secretary of State". This view was rejected by another interested party, Dumfries & Galloway Regional Council, who felt that national concern over this issue did merit such action by the Secretary of State.

At the same time, Strathclyde Regional Council stepped in to call the plan in before its own Planning Committee, but this action generated some resentment within Kyle and Carrick District Council.

At the time of preparing this article, the position remains confused. Only if the Harwell team has its plans accepted, is this stage of the procedure likely to resolve itself quickly. Otherwise, since all parties concerned have the right of appeal to the Secretary of State, it is likely that, despite his obvious desire to keep this issue off his desk, it will fall to him to make the decision, which is likely to be influenced by "public reaction".



One man's nuclear waste in simulated HARVEST glass block. If all the electric power, both domestic and industrial, that one man used in his lifetime were generated by nuclear power alone, the long lived radioactive wastes that would be produced could all be incorporated in a piece of glass this size.

How many million

of these

from Japan?

If this is such that the decision-makers feel able to grant permission for the Mullwharchar programme, there must be fears that this body of opinion will thereafter have little or no opportunity to influence decisions further.

In the event that the Harwell team finds the area geologically intact, the geographical position of the site must place it high on the list of favourites for the eventual disposal site, particularly if BNFL's application to expand Windscale goes ahead. Plans are already proceeding to make Windscale an EEC-controlled nuclear fuel reprocessing centre, and with the Japanese contract already negotiated, and others likely to follow, the volume of high-level wastes from the plant will rise steadily.

Glassified wastes are hot, and the need to ensure permanent cooling until the blocks are placed in position would favour a disposal site as close as possible to Windscale and with good transport links. Mullwharchar would seem to offer both satisfactorily.

If the EEC or Westminster favoured the site there would, of course, be a public inquiry ordered by the Secretary of State. As the Windscale Inquiry showed, however, present knowledge of the effects of radioactive material is so scant that it is virtually impossible to provide the sort of documented proof necessary to show that present arbitrarily-set handling procedures are unsatisfactory.

Therefore, if a public inquiry into such a proposal was held in the next few years, it would be extremely difficult to set out any "hard" technical opposition, and permission would almost certainly be granted. The option to construct is unlikely to be taken up immediately but, once permission was granted, there would be no further need for the public to be consulted in any way.

If any relevant technical innovations come to light in the intervening period these might be incorporated into the scheme, but that decision would rest purely with the technical people, who are in no way directly responsible for their actions to the general public.

Certainly, since we have all allowed nuclear wastes to be produced already, it would be irresponsible not to accept that the safest possible long-term disposal method must be found. There are strong grounds, however, for feeling that major decisions in the nuclear area, many of which will affect us for generations ahead, are being taken rather hurriedly at this time, before the ordinary members of the general public realise the full implications.

For example, on the Mullwharcher proposal, there have been few, if any, official statements made on precisely what would occur after the Harwell team's project. At present, there are no grounds for believing other than that the public consultation part of the decision would be whisked through quickly, and the matter tied up swiftly.

On the face of it, the matter to be discussed is a relatively simple one: whether or not to allow some geologists to study some rock formations. However, the underlying detail is much more complex and worthy of the closest consideration by all who might be affected by the outcome, now or in the future.

Peter Dickson  
The Conservation Society  
Scotland South West Branch

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Think I look stupid?

Just you check out Sir John Hill's disguise!

## GLASGOW ENERGY GROUP

The newly formed Glasgow Energy Group is already mobilising for the Torness rally. Coaches - or perhaps a train - will be run from Glasgow to Torness. If anyone is interested in helping, or in joining the rally, they should ring Ian Wilkes at 041-942 2237 (evenings & weekends) or write to John Robins, 16 Newlands Terrace, Milton of Campsie, Glasgow G65 8ED.



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STOP PRESS \*\*\* STOP PRESS \*\*\* STOP PRESS

We have just heard that the "National Energy Committee" of The Netherlands, based in Amsterdam, will be sending "at least two sailing boats" to Torness. (If the wind is not too unpredictable.) They should be arriving at Dunbar Harbour before midday on Saturday May 6th - at the same time as the Greenpeace boat. Some Dutch protesters will also be coming overland.