



ENERGY BULLETIN

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

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photo Black Box

from
Torness

now

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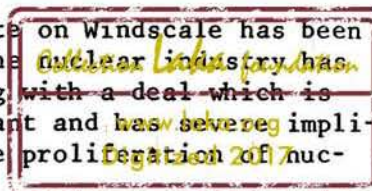
to

Capenburst

While many people in the anti-nuclear movement have been involved with the Windscale debate or the organisation of the Torness occupation, British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. have been negotiating shady deals with a Latin American military dictatorship not famous for its defence of human liberty.

June will be the month when an umbrella group known as "STOP URENCO" will try to turn our attention to the issue of uranium enrichment and world trade in nuclear technology.

While the debate on Windscale has been in progress, the nuclear industry has been proceeding with a deal which is just as important and has severe implications for the proliferation of nuclear weapons.



URANIUM ENRICHMENT

Uranium enrichment is one of the sensitive nuclear technologies - it is open to misuse by those wishing to produce nuclear weapons. Uranium enrichment is the process whereby the concentration of U-235 in natural uranium is increased to between 2 and 3%. It is necessary to do this before uranium can be used in civil nuclear reactors (except for MAGNOX and CANDU types). Uranium enriched to 90% U-235 can be used for bombs.

U.R.E.N.C.O.

URENCO is a tripartite consortium (Anglo/Dutch/West German) which produces enriched uranium at Capenhurst near Chester and at Almelo in Holland. URENCO has the contract to supply enriched uranium to the Brazilian government. The contract involves the delivery of 20,000 tonnes of enriched uranium between 1980 and 1990.



THE GERMAN DEAL

In June 1975, Brazil and W. Germany signed what is potentially the most dangerous and certainly the most lucrative nuclear contract ever made. It is the biggest international business deal in W. German history, worth fl.9 billion over the next 15 years. It will supply a complete nuclear industry to Brazil, from uranium prospecting to the use of nuclear power to generate electricity and will eventually guarantee W. Germany a supply of natural and enriched uranium. The deal includes the supply of 8 reactors, a reprocessing plant and a demonstration uranium enrichment facility.

The Brazilian military dictatorship badly needs enriched uranium from URENCO if its nuclear plans are to get off the ground. The Brazilian government have refused to sign the non-proliferation treaty and are, therefore, exposed to any ban the U.S. might enforce on exports of enriched uranium.

It was originally from Almelo that URENCO expected to send the first batches of enriched uranium in the early 1980s. However, Capenhurst in Cheshire now looks like the most probable supplier, for dark political clouds hang over the future of the Almelo plant.

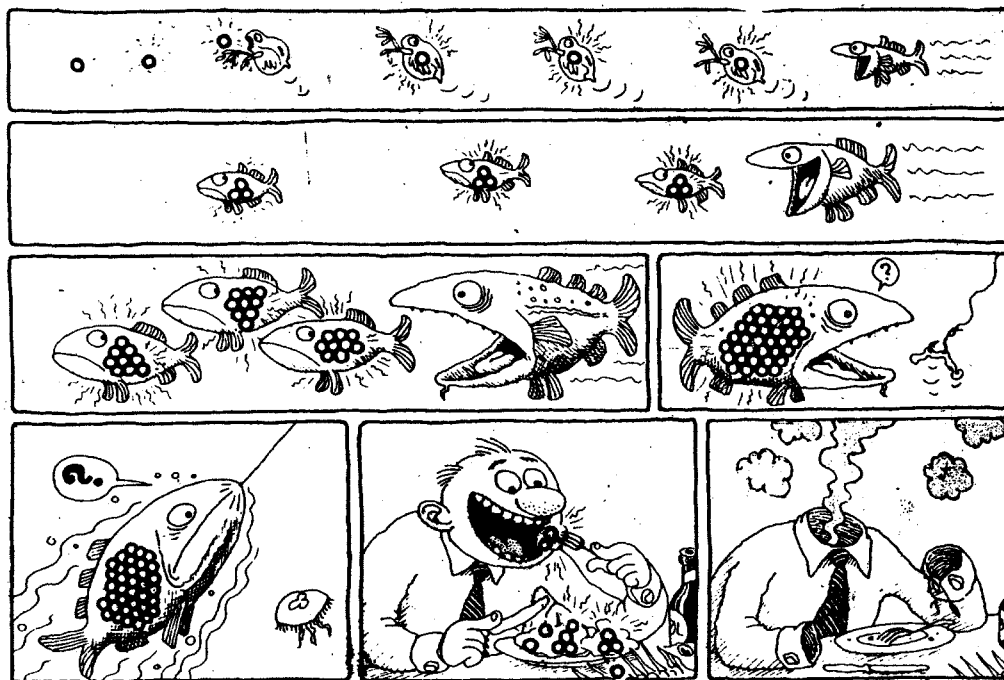
THE BRAZILIAN MILITARY DICTATORSHIP

Brazil is hardly the most savoury customer with whom to trade in nuclear technology. The military regime is striving for dominance in Latin America and is involved in an arms race with Argentina to this end. Several Brazilian government officials have declared a nuclear weapons force to be indispensable. This attitude must be behind the German contract - or why should Brazil, a country with enormous potential for development of hydro-electricity and solar power, want nuclear power?

THE BRITISH CONNECTION

Through this contract, Britain is encouraging the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Opposition to URENCO in Europe has been increasing. In March, 40,000 people marched against Almelo. Public opposition has forced the Dutch government to back down. BNFL, anticipating less public awareness in Britain, has offered to supply the enriched uranium from Capenhurst. Moreover, the British taxpayer is involved, not simply because BNFL is a nationalised industry, but

the nuclear foodchain



So not for us the "luxury" of a public inquiry such as at Windscale - either locally or in France. The Director of La Hague, M. Delange, has visited the island several times and even offered to let States engineers visit the plant but will not, despite repeated invitations, speak to the Nuclear Action Group.

The French Minister of the Environment, M. D'Ornano, who by definition should be interested in the effects of La Hague on the surrounding areas will not reply to letters and has said he "will not speak to demonstrators" - demonstrators apparently being anyone who objects to reprocessing and/or nuclear power.

One very important point about La Hague is that COGEMA, as a private company, will be trying to run La Hague as a profit-making organisation, and we are very wary of the potential effect this could have on safety standards at the plant. Last year saw the end of the second month-long strike by the workers there, protesting about the safety standards.

As the Nuclear Action Group is not happy with the less than comprehensive type of sampling as done by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, we invited a Dr. Hugh Livingston from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in Massachusetts to the island last October and he arranged with us that samples of seaweed, sand, shellfish, potatoes and soil from seaweed-fertilised fields and parts of seaweed-eating sheep should be sent to Wood Hole for analysis.

First results for sediments (Bordeaux Harbour) and seaweed (Fermain Bay) are now coming through and show a level of plutonium about five times higher than the estimated background levels from fallout, but lower than the Isle of Man levels.

Needless to say, we shall be watching the outcome of the Windscale Inquiry very closely - the results of which will help decide the type of approach we will use in the future.

SCRAM

A.G.M.

SCRAM's inaugural meeting on 24 June last year adopted a constitution and elected an Executive Committee. Throughout the course of the year, the Committee pursued its stated aims of providing an information service on the energy issue (largely through the Energy Bulletin) and of broadening the base of the anti-nuclear movement in this country by building up an ever-widening network of contacts.

The planning of the Torness rally resulted in many more people being directly involved in the organisation and a new structure has now emerged - that of sub-groups working on a variety of issues and coming together at regular intervals for a general meeting to report on action and to discuss policy.

The Committee comes to the end of its elected term in June. But, unlike a nuclear reactor, it is not required to sit uselessly around while research goes on into how it may safely be disposed of..! It is proposed that the meeting on WEDNESDAY 5th JULY, 1978 at 7.30 p.m. will take the form of an ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and deal with the following business :-

- * report on year's activities
- * presenting of Accounts
- * dissolving of present Constitution (and thus of the need for an Executive Committee)
- * adopting of above-mentioned looser and less centralised structure
- * reaffirming of objectives of the organisation

There should then be an opportunity for reports on current action, questions, discussion etc. Anyone who supports the aims of SCRAM is welcome to come along to listen or to take part. Unless otherwise indicated nearer the date, the meeting will be held at 2a AINSLIE PLACE, EDINBURGH 3.

Additions to the agenda should be sent to Mairi MacArthur, Secretary, SCRAM, 2a Ainslie Place, EH3 prior to the meeting.



SCENES

from

Torness



Photos

Mr. Rennie, a local farmer.

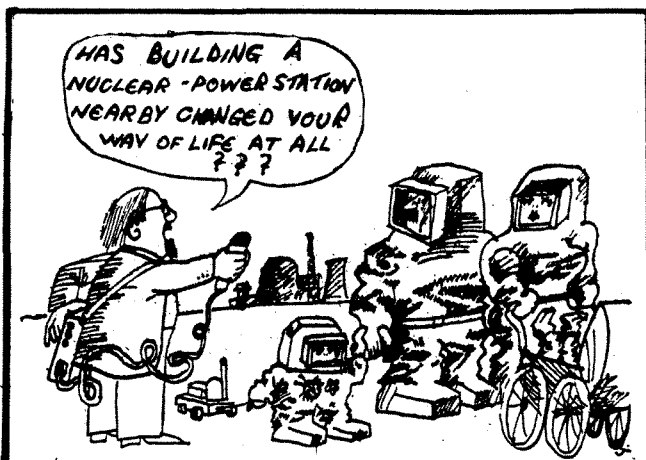
Black Box.

This may seem a far cry from a nuclear power station at Torness: a small, remote island community uniting to ban uranium mining. An unimportant gesture against the ever-growing menace of nuclear energy to which our politicians seem dedicated. But every rivulet joins the mighty river eventually and that river, I believe, is a growing awareness all over the world (in the USA and Europe in particular) of ultimate annihilation if nuclear power - leading to weapons and war - proliferates.

Orkney happens to be a prosperous, fertile part of the British Isles where agriculture and other basic industries flourish. Oil, too, contributes and though there is not too much enthusiasm for oil amongst conservationists there is quite a spin-off to boost the islanders' standard of living.

Inhabitants of Orkney are called "Orcadians". Living in "Arcadia"? An unspoilt arcadian bliss still lingers in the islands. Farms are small, there is little ambition to be bigger and better than other Orcadians. Without going into boring historical detail, the kind of contentment which exists here (exasperating many who cannot accept that when you have all you want it is silly to desire more) springs from land-tenure. Farmers in Orkney are mostly owner/occupiers.

It is too facile to paint an idyllic picture of life in Orkney. We have a dramatic climate, sometimes almost unendurable. But there is a kind of magic too. Who will care when uranium mining shatters our way of life? When Westerly gales blow dust - radioactive or just dust - across the land? When radioactive effluent seeps into the water supply and the enchanting miniature *Primula Scotica*, which is to be found only at Yesnaby the centre of uranium deposits, is finally eradicated? That magnificent coastline is designated of Special Scenic Value.



No one spared a thought for the Banaban Islanders when greedy prospectors for phosphorus destroyed their way of life. No doubt some future tycoon revelling in profitable uranium deals will say: "Yes, Orkney was a charming place once upon a time", just as Sir Arthur Grimble wrote about the Island in the South Pacific as he was signing away its birth-right for phosphorus extraction.

Uranium is becoming scarcer and more valuable. It seems to be a futile fight we are committed to in Orkney against the interests of government and the EEC. A Bill seeking to ban uranium mining was presented to parliament by the Orkney Islands Council. It only requires one objection for such a private member's bill to be chucked out and a government stooge was at hand - George Cunningham MP for Islington North. And when the bill came up for approval a second time it had been effectively amended - no longer "a Bill to ban (or prevent) uranium mining", but now "a Bill to restrict uranium mining and prospecting so that there may be no undue disturbance to flora, fauna and agriculture." Well, of course, prospecting will not damage the ecology, but farmers and land-owners have already signed on the dotted line giving the SSEB the right to mineral working on their land. (That was a con trick if ever there was one.)

If exploratory drills reveal sufficient quantities of uranium, no one will be able to prevent mining. The Secretary of State for Scotland has said already, in another context, that he will not stand in the way of the SSEB.

This is why I joined SCRAM's protest march. If the Secretary of State upholds a future appeal by the SSEB against the decision of local inhabitants of Orkney, we will need assistance from SCRAM to prevent the desecration of our countryside.

stop press

Orkney Islands Council's Private Bill will definitely go into its committee stage early June in an amended form which will effectively deny them control over the future mining of the estimated 2000 tons of uranium in the Stromness peninsula. The Orkney Heritage Society, of which Marjorie Linklater is the Chairman, has expressed deep concern at the erosion of the protective powers sought by the Islands Council - the final decision on exploration and mining applications will now be left solely to the Secretary of State for Scotland.



DUNBAR HARBOUR

photo Black Box

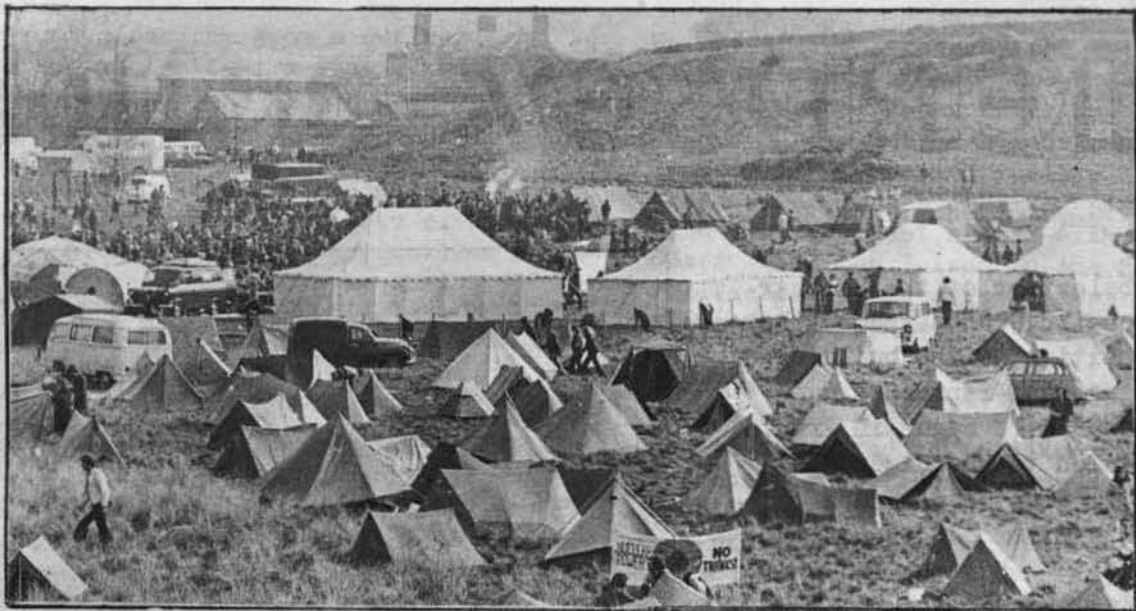


GERMAN SUPPORTERS

photo Martin Zucker



LOCAL FARMER PULLING WINDMILL BY TRACTOR



THE CAMPSITE photo Martin Zucker



COOKING FOOD

photo Black Box



Don't lumber me with your
radioactive rubbish

photo Black Box



WADSWORTH BEACH

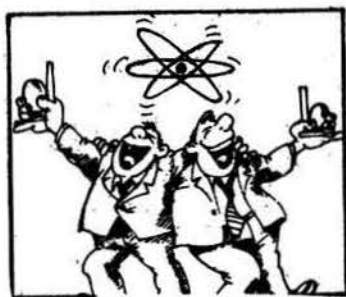
Photo. Mike Spring

GUERNSEY action

Dilys LARBALÉSTIER of the Nuclear Action Group in Guernsey describes their opposition to the building of a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Cap de la Hague in France. Our opposition to the Windscale reprocessing plant has tended to ignore the similar dangers of the French project - but the French are pressing ahead with even less regard for public opinion than are the British Government.



WINDSCALE - 1957



The Guernsey Nuclear Action Group was formed in March 1977 out of concern about the proposed French plans for a huge expansion of the nuclear fuel reprocessing plant at Cap de la Hague, and the plan to build a Pressure Water Reactor complex at Flamanville.

The Channel Islands are in a rather difficult position when it comes to dealing with foreign governments. All communications with the French Government about La Hague etc have to go first through the Home Office, then through the Foreign Office and so to the French. About fifteen months ago, the States of Guernsey - the Island's government - asked the French Government for "reassurances" about safety at the La Hague plant. After about twelve months, a report was received, but it has not, as yet, been made public. We are still waiting, apparently, for an English translation.

This is all that has happened officially, in spite of a great deal of press and TV coverage and two public meetings - the first a lecture by Dr. Mike Flood from Friends of the Earth and the second a public debate with Mike Flood and G. Woffinden, head of safety at Winfrith.

Shortly after the Nuclear Action Group was formed, a petition was organised asking for reassurances that safety standards at La Hague would be improved. This was signed by 10,500 people - a quarter of the adult population of Guernsey. At first it had great difficulty in finding a 'home' but was eventually accepted by the Advisory and Finance Committee, and details of the contents passed on to the Home Office.

Yet there has not even been a debate in the States on the effects of La Hague on the Island, or on any sort of long-term energy policy - and this for an island which gains a large part of its revenue from fishing and growing tomatoes, flowers etc. The growing industry is at the moment very dependent on oil for heating the greenhouses. Indeed, until 1975, there were no published data on the amount of fuel imported into the island and the figures are very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain.

because the government has provided £35 million of the £50 million so far committed to expanding the Capenhurst factory. BNFL is also dealing directly with the Brazilian government to supply a 'hex' plant, which converts uranium oxide into a gas prior to enrichment. This is not a sensitive technology, but there is no point in producing 'hex' unless it is going to be used to produce enriched uranium.

The Dutch parliament passed a motion demanding further safeguards from Brazil to ensure that no enriched uranium was going to be shipped to Brazil until full international control of its nuclear industry-to-be was accepted. Brazil has refused.

W. Germany and Britain, on the other hand, have contented themselves with accepting Brazil's assurances that no atomic bombs are going to be made. The URENCO partners are at the moment discussing the possibility of changing customers: Capenhurst could supply Brazil and Almelo could take over the British supply to Germany nuclear plants. In this way, the Brazilian contract would be saved for German reactor builders and the Dutch parliament decision respected....

On the other hand, anti-nuclear groups in Britain now have the opportunity to stop the whole deal. If the British government can be persuaded not to

supply enriched uranium to Brazil until they accept full international control of their nuclear industry and Brazil once again refuse, the whole deal may have to be renegotiated.

stop Urenco

STOP URENCO is an umbrella group which has recently been set up to co-ordinate a demonstration on Saturday 24th June.

- * assemble outside Chester Town Hall at 12 noon
- * march to Capenhurst (about 7 miles)
- * rally at Capenhurst with speakers, music etc (train for people who don't wish to walk 7 miles)
- * contact SCRAM for details of transport from Scotland
- * or contact FoE Manchester 061-236 3063
- * write to your MP and ask him/her what they think of the deal; stress the shady nature of the contract and the unambiguous intentions of the Brazilian government; ask why Britain is prepared to sell enriched uranium to a military regime without adequate safeguards against the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

TORNESS

The Torness Rally is over. At least 3,000 people gathered to reaffirm their opposition to the building of a nuclear power station there. Despite this, and despite the many representations that had been made to him, on May 24th Bruce Millan announced that he had given permission to the SSEB to build an Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor at Torness. As I write this, we are getting word that the contractors, MacAlpine have put in a tender for the building of the sea wall; and the Brodies have been given a week to get off their camping site (the field we used for the festival). Rumour has it that MacAlpine's are planning to move concrete tank traps from the nearby local nature reserve at Gullane (conservationists at heart?) and use them for the sea wall.

Alliance

There can be little doubt that the contractors knew which way the decision would go - they were at the site on the very day that the announcement was made. A local house was compulsorily purchased by the SSEB a couple of years ago and the ex-residents were disgusted to see the Board let it fall into disrepair. Work started on its conversion to a house for the warden of the construction work camp, but since been halted by vandals.

Clearly, the SSEB intends to waste no time in attempting to begin construction. Our support is mounting, but we can't afford to let them get away with anything. Let us restate the intentions of the Torness Declaration which over thirty groups and thousands of individuals signed:

this was a commitment to taking all necessary non-violent direct action to halt the construction of a power station at Torness. After the 6th and 7th of May, a number of groups were set up in Edinburgh to work on different aspects of the campaign (fund-raising, working within the labour movement, educational programmes, research, organisation with the local people, non-violent direct action). We have a lot of people doing very valuable work in all these areas but we need more! SCRAM will be co-ordinating this work, but, while we are in a good position to support action taken, it will not be up to us alone to direct future policy that will be for the mass of people to decide. To this end, we suggest that a

'Torness Alliance' is formed out of all groups and individuals who wish to prevent the construction of Torness nuclear power station. To that end, we are planning a gathering for the weekend of 8th and 9th July (whereabouts yet to be decided). Groups who are interested should try to send at least one person to this meeting with proposals for future action. We ourselves have plenty of ideas which we prefer to announce only when we are ready to put them into practice - at which time, we will be as open as possible about our intentions. Meanwhile, we will be drawing things together with the local people, some of whom are organising in East Lothian.

W H Y I M A R C H E D

Mrs. Marjorie Linklater

Few of the thousands who demonstrated at Torness against nuclear power can have known what I was talking about or why I was there at all, when I appeared on the rostrum.

Robin Cook, Labour MP for central Edinburgh, was the first to address the multitude. His theme was that there is no need for a nuclear power station at Torness. Already there is over-capacity for domestic and industrial requirements in the UK - a very powerful argument, put with practised skill and firm conviction. Other speakers spoke of conservation, alternative sources of energy and the probable contamination of the local area.

So what could the vast assembly make of my message? It was quite simple really: a story of how a tiny island off the Northern-most tip of Scotland rose in protest against a threat of prospecting for, and ultimately mining, uranium. Out of a population of 18,000 scattered throughout the Orkney archipelago, 4,000 signed petitions to ban uranium mining and 600 wrote protest letters to the Orkney Islands Council.



photo Martin Zucker

Finally, on the day when applications from the South of Scotland Electricity Board for permission to make exploratory drills on the Atlantic seaboard of the Main Island came before the Planning Committee, 400 people marched through the town of Kirkwall and gathered silently outside the Council offices. Most of the marchers were young parents with families. Unanimously the Islands Council voted against the SSEB's application.

PLUTONIUM

BY

AIR

In January, when it was revealed that 4 flights of plutonium/uranium fuel elements had been made between Carlisle and Wick Airports, as part of their journey from Windscale in Cumbria to Dounreay in Caithness, we were as surprised as anyone.

The news would not have come out in the first place if it had not been for a particularly alert Borders TV reporter who noticed unusual activity at Carlisle airport. Carlisle City Council, who own the airport, reacted immediately by banning British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. from making further flights. BNFL then formally applied for permission to use the airport.

By anyone's standards, the industry's initial behaviour was to say the least discourteous. We have not been reassured by our subsequent findings. For example, the containers that were used in the airlifts, as Industry representatives never tire of pointing out, "have been tested to international standards". The standards that seem to apply are those of being subjected to 30ft. drops onto hard spikes. It is obvious to anyone that 30ft. is completely inadequate in the context of airlifts. But then, say BNFL, we have tested containers by dropping them 2000 ft. so that they reach their terminal velocity. Very well - but it turns out that these were not exactly the same containers actually used in the flights that have been made. In addition, in any likely air crash, the terminal velocity of the aircraft is more important than that of the fuel containers. No containers have been tested to withstand likely impact of an aircraft crash.

Plutonium is a very persistent poison. But it is also the raw material of the atomic bomb. As such, the conditions surrounding its transport pose an important nuclear dilemma. Due to its serious health hazards in the event of leakage, it is necessary for the public to be fully informed of precautions taken and for them to judge for themselves whether any risk is acceptable. On the other hand, because of

its usefulness to clandestine bomb-manufacturers, it is necessary to keep much information about plutonium shipments secret. Thus there are very good political reasons for knowing how much plutonium is carried but there are also equally good security reasons why such information cannot be released.

Thus we do not know the amounts of plutonium involved in the shipments that have been made. Here lies the crucial lesson of the plutonium airlift fiasco. Here and now, in a small way, we can see the emerging conflict between the need for open public scrutiny and the need for tight security. It is a conflict that can only worsen as our dependence on nuclear power increases.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS ---

ENERGY 2000 plan to launch a campaign specifically against the FAST REACTOR at its Annual General Meeting to be held on 15 July in the Miners' Hall Barnsley from 11.30 am onwards. Speakers of national and international importance are being invited to attend.

NON-VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION

The best way to learn about non-violent direct action is to take part in it. In rallies and demonstrations, problems are likely to develop if people feel that they are having decisions made for them and don't know what is going on.

It is important that anyone who thinks they might take part in non-violent direct action should try to learn about it. SCRAM has a group working on this in Edinburgh to which all are welcome.

In addition, a group of people in Lancashire are organising two weeks of training in methods of non-violent direct action - both at Casterton Grange, Bentham near Lancaster, on July 2nd-9th and September 1st-8th. For further details, contact : Mike Goldberg, Bentham Villa, Station Road, High Bentham, near Lancaster.

TORNNESS declapation

As an affiliation of groups and individuals we declare our total and uncompromising opposition to the construction of a nuclear power station at Torness.

Nuclear power threatens all living creatures and their natural environment. It concentrates power in the hands of a few, necessitates a military-style secrecy and undermines the principles of human liberty. A nuclear power station at Torness would be another irrevocable step towards a future of which we want no part.



"Son, 24,400 years from now all this will be yours."

We therefore demand :

- an immediate and permanent halt to the construction of any further nuclear power stations;
- an urgent and vigorous energy conservation programme;
- the cleaner, safer and more efficient use of our fossil fuels;
- the radical rechanneling of resources into the implementation of wave, wind and solar power and other forms of renewable energy;
- the provision of socially-useful work for all in energy and other fields.

Our stand is in the defence of the health and safety of ourselves, of future generations and of all living creatures on this planet.

We announce that we are prepared to take all non-violent steps necessary to prevent the construction of a nuclear power station at Torness.

.....

Before we left the site at Torness on 7th May, this statement - the "Torness Declaration" - was read out and signed by over 30 organisations and thousands of individuals. A symbolic model of a nuclear power station was burnt and doves were released - a symbol of peace and hope that Torness can be stopped.

TOGETHER WE WILL STOP IT!



I wish to subscribe to the SCRAM Energy Bulletin for 1 year (6 issues).

Name.....

Address.....

I enclose cheque/PO for £1.00

(cheques payable to SCRAM; no receipts issued unless requested)

Signature.....

Date.....

Please send this form, subscription fee (plus any donations!) to SCRAM, 2a Ainslie Place, Edinburgh 3. Thanks.