

SCRAM ENERGY BULLETIN



THE SCOTTISH CAMPAIGN TO RESIST THE ATOMIC MENACE, 2 AINSLIE PLACE, EDINBURGH. 031-275 7752

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A KICK IN THE TEETH

Public opposition to Torness has been given a hefty kick in the teeth. In spite of an independent opinion poll which showed that 42% of the people in Lothian Region were against the building of a nuclear power station at Torness, with only 34% in favour, the South of Scotland Electricity Board (SSEB) have announced that they "do not intend to deflect from their duty (building Torness) in any way", and Gregor MacKenzie, Minister of State at the Scottish Office has emphasised the Government's determination to bulldoze ahead in spite of protests.

At the same time Lothian Regional Council have rejected a call for a plebiscite on Torness, effectively removing a chance for the public to have a say. The rejection of the plebiscite at the December 5th meeting came amidst strong attacks on the SSEB's "arrogance" and bitter suggestions that undue pressure had been brought to bear on councillors by the Government. Councillors made it clear during their debate that they rejected the plebiscite not because they were in favour of Torness, but rather because they didn't feel that it was the right way of expressing public opinion. It now seems likely that the Council will take further steps to question the development.

Meanwhile what can the majority of people who are opposed to Torness do? The construction of Britain's largest nuclear complex, backed by industry and Government is going ahead, steamrolling public opinion. It is no surprise that people are disillusioned with democracy and very angry. It is no surprise that people are prepared to risk their lives before the bulldozers. There are no conventional channels left. All that is open to the responsible and concerned citizen is direct action aimed at preventing the work from going ahead. Plans are now being laid for a mass non-violent action at Torness on May 5th & 6th 1978. See you then...



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Who are the professionals ?

SCRAM's half hour Open Door television programme was screened on November 2nd and 5th. The programme, which included personal accounts of nuclear opposition from throughout Scotland, and centred on the escalating fight to stop Torness, was a great success.

It seems to have pricked the conscience of many - to date we've received over 500 letters of support. It also seems to have pricked Mr Roy Berridge, Chairman of the South of Scotland Electricity Board (SSEB). He appeared on BBC Radio's Good Morning Scotland the morning after the first screening to call us "anti-social" and "irresponsible" and to say, amazingly, that "an explosion in a nuclear reactor is impossible".

His ire obviously grew through the day - in the afternoon the SSEB issued a press release quoting remarks supposedly made in an interview with BBC TV's Reporting Scotland, before the programme was actually screened. In the release Mr Berridge referred to a "core of professional agitators" within SCRAM. That particular remark wasn't, in the event broadcast, although Mr Berridge did say among other things that:

"...what SCRAM are trying to do is by some highly emotive talk to scare people into believing that nuclear power is a bad thing, whereas, in fact, nuclear power is a very good thing...I'm quite sure that SCRAM are going to go on objecting to something or other. I think they are professional objectors. They are against nuclear energy this year and the sort of people who are involved in SCRAM will be objecting to something else at some other time, I'm quite sure".

For a man who professes to dislike emotive language, Mr Berridge uses it well. His words suggest a man at the top of an industry based on insecurity and all-too-aware of its own precarious position. For the record, no-one in SCRAM is paid - most of them pay! - and many of us have been fighting nuclear power and little else for years.

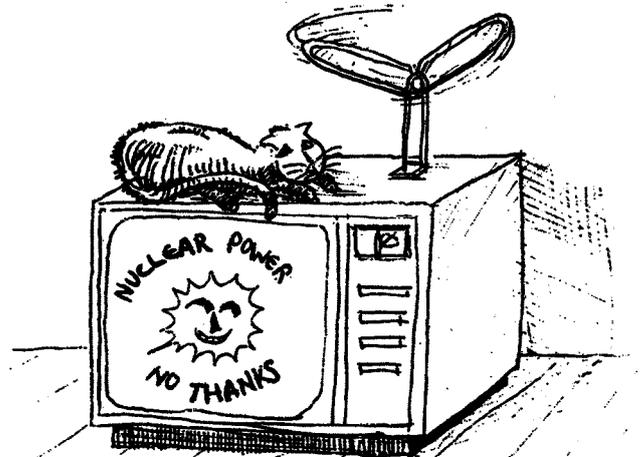
The real professionals are the £10,000 a year public relations men from Cathcart House who spend their time and our money promoting nuclear power.

Since Mr Berridge's remark (after which we understand he went on leave as "he needed a rest") we wrote to him:

"SCRAM does not wish to see the debate on our future energy options descend to the level of mud-slinging. We continue to believe in the power of facts and the importance of argument. It is our experience that the more people find out about nuclear power, the less they like it."

It is of course crucial to get one's facts right - on that at least we seem to agree. Thus we are amazed by your bald assertion that "an explosion in a nuclear reactor is impossible". They not only can, but have happened."

"In 1961 at a test station in Idaho USA three workers were killed when a reactor went 'supercritical' and a steam explosion blasted a slug of water at the roof. The workers' bodies were so radioactive that they were buried in lead-lined caskets, placed in lead-lined vaults. Other reactors such as Chalk River in Canada (1952) and Lucens in Switzerland (1969) have also suffered explosions.



As we have stated at length elsewhere, we still take issue with you on the need for Torness, the availability of alternatives and the acceptability of the other dangers associated with nuclear power. We know that our concern is shared by many thousands of people. We can therefore only greet slurs such as "a core of professional agitators" with dismay. Such a remark does nothing to aid a constructive nuclear debate and deeply offends those from all walks of life who support our campaign. We demand a full and public apology from you. Perhaps we can then concentrate on the real arguments." Mr Berridge has not yet seen fit to reply.

Opinion Poll Slams Torness

With the possibility of a plebiscite in mind, SCRAM and Friends of the Earth Ltd commissioned Systems Three (Scotland) Ltd to carry out a poll to discover attitudes to Torness. The poll was conducted over the weekend of 2nd/3rd December on a sample of almost 600 people in the Lothian Region. 42% of those interviewed were against Torness, with only 34% in favour, the rest being undecided. 73% said that they favoured a new public inquiry into the project. It seems a pity that the people aren't going to be allowed to have their say.

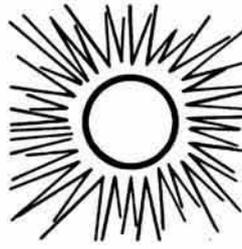
Energy Saving v Generation

A recent study by the US Council on Economic Priorities compares the costs and benefits of building a new nuclear electricity generating plant in the Long Island area and the implementation of energy saving measures, such as improved insulation and solar heating, in the same area. The results show that energy saving beats energy generation on every count. The estimated cost of the nuclear plant was \$ 3800 million of which it was reckoned \$580 million would flow into the local economy, mostly as wages to construction workers. The cost of conservation measures was \$1600 million, of which \$1200 million would enter the local economy and this would stimulate another \$2700 million of local economic activity. Because a higher percentage of the implementation cost would be spent locally, the conservation programme would generate proportionally more local jobs, 30,000 in all compared with 17,000 in the nuclear case. In energy terms, the conservation measures save annually \$19 worth of energy per \$100 invested while the nuclear station generates only \$13 worth of electricity per \$100 invested and that does not even include the running cost of the station.

On every count therefore, as regards finance, employment or energy, it was judged better to invest in saving energy rather than generating it. Taking into account the fact that, unlike nuclear power, the technology of energy conservation is well proven, absolutely safe, non-polluting and uncontroversial, the case becomes even more overwhelming.

In Scotland we have a parallel situation in the Torness nuclear station. The Secretary of State has just sanctioned \$742 million of public money to build a power station which we are unlikely to need since we already have a considerable excess of generating capacity. At the same time there is a crying need to improve the energy retaining properties of the many sub-standard houses and factories in Scotland. In particular, many elderly people have the greatest difficulty in buying enough energy to keep them tolerably warm and there is a massive problem of dampness and condensation in local authority housing. This is where the Torness money should be going.

\$742 million spent on the 2 million houses in Scotland could produce a dramatic improvement in improved comfort and reduced heating bills while at the same time generating much needed employment. Nationally, it would reduce our energy demand, a magnificent investment for the future when the oil runs out.



NONVIOLENCE

SCRAM is committed by the Torness declaration to taking all nonviolent steps necessary to stop nuclear power. There is no rigid definition of what constitutes nonviolence. For some, nonviolence to people and property is a strongly held principle, for some the definition extends only to people and others see it simply as an effective way of working in our present situation.

We feel that it prepares us for confrontation situations by building up our confidence as a group, and our readiness for the possible course of events. Situations are sorted out (role-played) beforehand. This enables possible courses of action to be developed and the effects of our actions on others to be gauged. Out of this emerges the importance of not alienating traditional "opponents" but recognising their human qualities under the "official" surface. The possibilities of creating actions, dreams or symbols which catch the imagination of the workmen, public and police (e.g. Half Moon Cottage) can be explored.

Nonviolence techniques are an invaluable tool in the working of meetings by raising the awareness of the individual and the group. They make it easier for everyone (quiet people included) to make a contribution and for the group to reach a decision.

Groups of 6 - 15 people (affinity group) are small enough for all the individuals to get to know and support each other - this really counts in a crisis. Affinity groups are autonomous but must be aware of their responsibilities to a larger group.

If you think you can form a group or that your own group would benefit from some nonviolence guidance, please contact the nonviolence people at SCRAM.

TORNESS REPORT

Since the occupation of the ruined Half Moon Cottage in early October the Torness Site has been the focus of much attention, both locally and nationally. As work went ahead on rehabilitating the cottage - giving it a new roof, making a warm sleeping loft, and getting a windmill working, interest in the anti-nuclear campaign was growing. People living near the site were helping the occupiers, and a forum for discussion of the nuclear power station was opening up.

All was quiet and relatively normal at Half Moon Cottage up until 8am on Monday 13th November when work started on access roads to the site. Very soon bulldozers and excavators arrived. This initiated an intense morning of non-violent direct action which prevented site work for a while.

There was a strong contingent of local people, and a small friendly police presence. There was one arrest during the event.

SSEB vandals

The first experience of opposition made the SSEB react in a very heavy-handed and aggressive manner. The following day, at 8am they brought their own contractors in to raze the cottage. The occupants were given 10 minutes to collect their things and get out. No eviction order was shown, the bulldozers simply moved in. People ran in front of the machines, climbed onto the roof of the cabs sat on the roof of the cottage, and did everything in their power to prevent the wanton destruction. The cottage was pushed into the sea, and many of the occupants possessions were damaged as they were scooped up and dumped in a lorry.

All the people at the house were arrested and this included four local people who were trying to defend the cottage. After some confusion at the police station in Haddington where it seemed to be difficult to find suitable charges, 15 people were charged, some with breach of the peace, and some with trespass. They were released the same day.

This act of vandalism on the part of the SSEB fuelled the fire already lit by the beginning of the work on the road. A call went out to all the groups of the Torness Alliance to gather the following weekend at a point off-site.

Hundreds of people came from all over Britain, prepared to withstand cold winds, and to prepare for a non-violent action on Monday morning when the bulldozers arrived on site again.

Each individual joined a group, to plan a collective action. Trust and friendship was built up between the members of the group to avoid the chance of any individual panicking when faced with an unexpected and frightening situation.

local people march...

On Sunday 19th November local people gathered to show their opposition to the power station. Jim Thorburn, one of the most adamant in his stand against nuclear power (not only Torness) went to plough his field, now claimed by the SSEB for the construction of the reactors. He was followed by a crowd of people from East Lothian and Berwickshire. The press the following day continued to declare that opposition only came from outsiders, without having witnessed the demonstration on Sunday. Jim's ploughing was the beginning of a march around the perimeter of the site. By the end about 400 people were there.

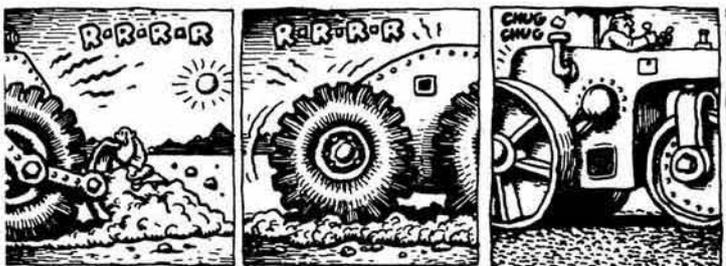


down to earth

Early on Monday 20th November, small groups of protesters went to the site of the excavations for the access road, to join people who had arrived at dawn. The site manager called on the police to intervene to clear the path of the machines. As the first bulldozers moved forward hundreds of people blocked their path. The drivers were beckoned on by the manager when they themselves could not possibly see the people sitting in front of the tracks. Only when someone was in inches of being crushed did an appeal by the police have any impact. Frequently the police were sandwiched between the protesters and the machines, as the contractors tried to force their way through the human barricade.

into the pit

No violence was shown by the demonstrators as they climbed onto the bulldozers to speak to the contractors, sat in the shovels 15 feet in the air, sang and danced in rings around each machine. About a hundred people climbed into a pit which the contractors were trying to dig. They built a fire and offered cups of tea to everyone, as the shovels hovered over their heads, waiting to grab the earth.



The machines crawled inch by inch around the site, but the contractors were determined not to be seen to give up. After lunch the same scene began again. During the morning 13 people were arrested, and by the end of the day 25 more joined them.

The demonstration was halted when a policeman standing on the A1 was injured by a passing lorry. Although this accident occurred quite separately from the halting of the machines, it was felt to be a sad event on a day of non-violent protest. A member of the medical group on the demonstration gave first aid to the policeman.



TORNESS- the great debate

He was released from hospital later in the day, after receiving two telegrams of goodwill and a whip-round of £15 from the Alliance Groups. Since then press coverage has been excellent and the day was considered very worthwhile.

The groups dispersed, returning to their local areas. The arrested people left Haddington and Musselburgh Police stations in ones and twos through the evening. Some were detained until midnight supposedly to verify their identification. It took them 14 hours to check the records of some people who lived in Edinburgh!

The action taken by hundreds of people at very short notice showed the strength of the organisation of the anti-nuclear movement. We do not need a hierarchy, or a leader. The small groups were strong and autonomous. There is now much more understanding of what this kind of direct action can mean. There are many imaginative ways we can continue to show our opposition and encourage everyone who has doubts about the nuclear power programme in this country to do the same.

and the occupiers ?

"The Occupation Group" although no longer occupying the site intend to stay in the area to keep up the local contact work and run their offices in Dunbar.

They have found ample accommodation in the area, but still urgently need furniture, office equipment and money!

Donations can be sent to The Torness Alliance
Trustee Savings Bank
High Street
DUNBAR

Our present correspondence address is:



Torness Alliance
3A Westport
DUNBAR
East Lothian
Scotland



Why should trade unionists have a special interest in supporting the anti-nuclear movement?

Firstly, there is the question of employment. It is simply not true that a capital intensive industry such as nuclear power produces more jobs in any longterm or structural way.

The 600m reprocessing facility at Windscale will create a grand total of 1000 jobs. The money would be much better invested in the 12000 jobs which would be available in a comprehensive insulation programme. 2/3 as many jobs again would be available in the alternatives: solar, wind, waves, heat pumps, biomass, geothermal etc. This would not be rejecting new technological advances but using them to more effect for a wider section of society.

Then there is the problem of health and safety at work. Recent cases of contamination suffered by workers at Aldermaston highlighted the hazards which are constantly denied by the Government. Nuclear power workers are routinely allowed up to 30 times the radiation level originally estimated as 'safe' for the general public.

The dangers of radiation are elusive, on two counts.

- 1 We are unable to determine the safe dosage, and it has been revealed now that there really is no safe level. We are dependent on very expensive and sophisticated machinery to detect the contamination. It may take up to 30 years for the most serious effects to show up.
- 2 In addition the scope of the Health and Safety at Work Act is seriously limited by information being held back from the workers when it is considered 'in the interest of national security'. It is significant that the two Windscale workers who died of cancer were awarded £30,000 by British Nuclear Fuels Limited in an out of court settlement.

TRADE UNION RIGHTS

In the nuclear industry there is the systematic curtailment of workers rights. The 7 week strike at Windscale in February 1977 was brought to an end with the threat that the troops would be used to fly so called safety equipment over the picket line. The UKAEA and BNFL have 'no strike' clauses in their employment contracts, and 'strike leaders'

are liable to criminal proceedings under the 1875 Conspiracy and the Protection of Property Act. Sacked workers are not even entitled to a hearing under the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, which does not apply, since 'cases of national security' are specifically excluded. For the same reason, information may be withheld which is normally available under the Employment Protection Act or Health and Safety at Work Act. The workforce and their families may be subjected to special surveillance which includes the use of informers, phone tapping, opening of mail, and inspection of bank accounts.

However, in the light of these threats to hard won trade union rights the Daily Telegraph sees the development of nuclear power as desirable!

!... a capital intensive form of energy it is less likely to be cut off by politically motivated trade unionists. For these reasons, we must hope that it becomes the energy of the future'.

We need to fight against this future scenario to ensure that workers still have control over energy production.

ENERGY POLICY IN SCOTLAND

A MOTION FOR A NEW ENERGY POLICY IN SCOTLAND

CALLS FOR:

A major review of Scottish Energy policy and a halt to further development to nuclear power in Scotland (apart from those developments required to improve the safety of existing plant and processes) so that a fuller debate can take place within the trade union movement on the implications of a variety of future energy scenarios, especially considering Scotlands resources and requirements for energy and employment.

CALLED FOR ON THE BASIS OF:

- 1 There being a chronic excess of capacity over demand and little likelihood of an early rapid increase in electricity consumption, especially if conservation technologies (such as building insulation, combined heat and power systems, energy cascading and upgrading through heat pumps, are utilised).

- 2 The possibility of erosion of employment protection rights by statutes which allow the "interest of national security" to override the right to appeal against unfair dismissal (Trade Union and Labour Relations Act) and the right to Trade Union Representatives to disclosure of information (Employment Protection Act and Health and Safety at Work Act).
- 3 The development of "alternative" technologies has been starved of Research and Development funds, while the nuclear programme has received massive capital investment, R & D funding and hidden subsidies. The economic arguments for nuclear power should be made to include ALL the costs born by the community to date, including the cost of Waste Disposal and decommissioning of reactors, as yet unquantified.
- 4 The alternatives of coal (massive untapped resources under the Forth and elsewhere) plus promising fluidised bed technology and conversion with the rapid development of new and sophisticated technologies based on the use of wind, wave, solar power and forestry waste, offer prospects of considerably more employment across a broader range of skills in mining, shipyard electrical, engineering and construction industries which would better meet Scotland's need for employment and would provide the range of fuels to meet energy needs for the foreseeable future.

WHY IS IT ESSENTIAL TO HAVE THE SUPPORT OF THE LABOUR MOVEMENT IN THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST NUCLEAR POWER?

We live in an advanced industrial society. The economy is dependent on those who produce the machinery, food and everything else which we consume. The environmental lobby has often been accused of ignoring this fact, with its detractors suggesting that people will be burning candles in caves, if the environmental arguments are followed.

Of course this is a complete misinterpretation of the real basis of opposition to nuclear power, which springs from the fact that we do not need it, and that our technology is not controlled by the interests of the people who use it and work in it.

What the environmentalists have tended to ignore is that the conflict of interests between those who work in industry and those who control it. The power industry is dependent on the miners, and the other workers in the energy industries. As long as the miners threaten the production process by demanding better pay and reasonable safety standards, the government cannot refuse to listen to them, any more than they can refuse any other group of key workers at the very least the right to voice their side of the conflict. Obviously the support of these workers against nuclear power is of prime importance.

It makes a lot of sense from the government's point of view to take power sources out of the hands of traditionally well organized and militant groups like the miners and hand them over to small groups of highly disciplined, poorly organized technicians. Rights for these workers will be much more difficult to achieve, even on basic safety matters, because they have no tradition of organizing to build on.

The miners would not stand for any erosion of health and safety provisions, which have been fought for over the past 150 years. Yet workers in the nuclear power industry have already been refused vital information about accidents which could help in preventing future ones.

Historically the labour movement has made enormous gains in pay and conditions. Each step has been a struggle between workers and management which has not wanted to sacrifice any of its profit.



With the advance of nuclear power today, the labour movement needs to look at the kind of energy which is being produced, for what need, and at whose instigation, not simply at jobs and conditions. The present waste of energy is a scandal when so many people cannot afford to keep themselves warm and comfortable.

Who decides that Britain needs 5 new AGRs when the electricity boards have already complained bitterly that they do not need to build Drax B? The small group of people who control the nuclear industry are not accountable to the public, least of all to those who will be working for them. Decisions are made and trade unionists are forced to bear the consequences.

Only the actions of the large industrial and domestic labour force can call a halt to the nuclear power programme, because only they have the economic power to show the government and the nuclear lobby that this method of energy production is unacceptable.

TEST BORING

TEST BORES IN THE HIGHLANDS

Following the U.K.A.E.A.'s stated desire to investigate the suitability of hard-rocks for the deposition of nuclear waste, it has become quite obvious that the Highlands is to be one of the main areas to experience this particular form of nuclear activity. It could be said cynically, that the reasons for this are precisely because it is a sparsely populated region.

Still, at this packed meeting, the scientist involved in this research ran into very stiff opposition and representatives of the community councils and the district council in the area, as well as many individuals, all voiced their objections to any test-bores in the locality. Their minds were in no way stilled when a Dounreay expert, who just "happened" to be in the area, stood up and declared that if he were asked to swallow either a teaspoonful of strychnine or a teaspoonful of plutonium, he would happily take the plutonium!!!

Still, whatever the reason, the people of the Highlands are now being confronted directly with this fact.

Since the meeting, due to the pressures of the local people, Mrs Balfour has decided to withdraw her permission "in the meantime".

Shin Forest

A similar public reaction has been forthcoming from local people living in the vicinity of Shin Forest, near Bonar Bridge in south-east Sutherland, when it became known that the U.K.A.E.A. were investigating the area. In this case, the site is owned by the Forestry Commission, so permission to walk over the land has been readily available.

The following Monday (30th October), a representative from Harwell was given the opportunity to state their case, backed up by a slick slide presentation which showed the "safety, cheapness and efficiency of nuclear power". Most of the questions however showed that people were not impressed. The situation is now that the U.K.A.E.A. can apply to the Highland Regional Council for permission to carry out test-bores, A well attended meeting was held on 26th October with one speaker from the Galloway area and another from Scourie, both relating their individual experiences opposing waste dumping in their own localities. After hearing of all the "techniques" employed elsewhere, the local people were even more convinced that they didn't want any experiments in the Shin Forest and it was a happy and encouraging sight to see these Highlanders buying "smiling sun" badges!

Corrour

In recent weeks Harwell has inform Lochaber

District Council that they intend to carry out a second series of tests (the first was earlier this year) on Forestry Commission ground (like Shin Forest) at Corrour, in the Loch Treig and Loch Ossian area. Lochaber District Council has made its opposition quite clear, and has intimated that it will object as a council should Corrour reach the "planning stage". It should be explained that Highland Regional Council is the Planning Authority for the whole region including Caithness! Local opposition to the idea of nuclear dumping in Lochaber is very strong; even back in the spring of this year a petition against dumping (and in favour of halting the expansion of the nuclear programme) achieved well over 2000 signatures in the area. When the recent developments came to the public notice, opposition to the whole idea of dumping in Lochaber gained a new dimension. A "standing room only" public meeting in Roybridge gave its unanimous support to the District Council, and elected an action group which has named itself BAND (Ban All Nuclear Dumping).

BAND hopes to demonstrate that people in the Highlands, contrary to the opinion of Highland Regional Council and a certain Labour M.P., do not want anything to do with being made a nuclear dump for the U.K., the E.E.C. or Japan. It is becoming clear that the more local people find out about what is being planned for them, the more hostile they become. It has to be asked "How much longer can Highland Regional Council pretend that the people it is purporting to serve like what they are getting?)"



though the people in the area are hoping that the representations from the Community Council and the petition that is being organised at the moment will ensure that that is not the case.

In Lochaber the landowner is the Forestry Commission, a government-run body. Individual local foresters are likely to be against permission being given, but are powerless to stop decisions taken higher up. So readers of the Energy Bulletin can help by writing to:

Forestry Commission
231 Corstorphine Road
EDINBURGH EH12

and by asking sympathetic MP's to do the same.

Lochaber District Council has come out unanimously against test drilling, and it seems may lead the fight against it. However, they have no actual authority to say stop it, as the decisions fall to the Forestry Commission for a surface survey and ultimately to the Regional Council for drilling.

South West Scotland

Meanwhile, as we reported in our last issue Kyle and Carrick District Council were in the process of considering an application by the U.K.A.E.A. to carry out test-drilling there. Kyle and Carrick District Council has rejected this application - round one to the anti-dumping campaigners.

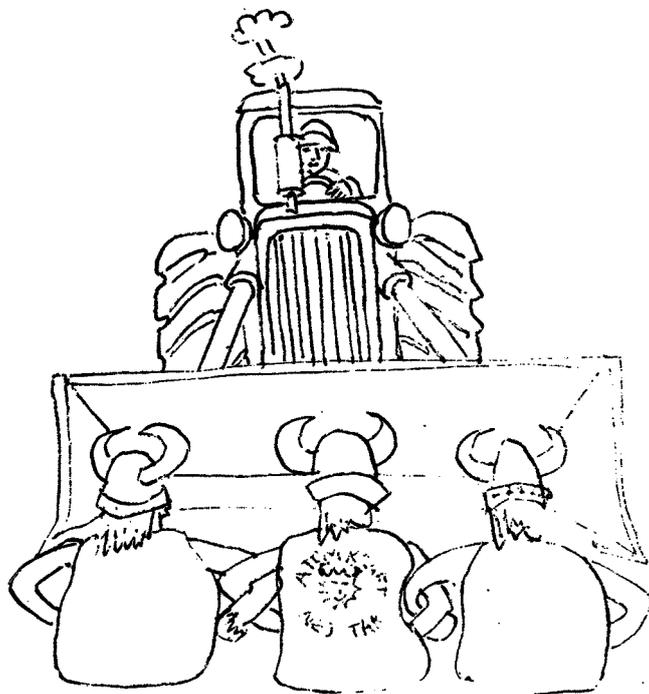
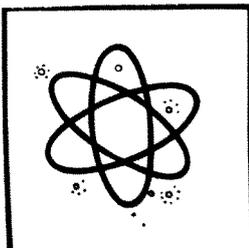
However the U.K.A.E.A. can still appeal to the Secretary of State who, as his behaviour in Lothian Region has shown, is not above overruling local authorities in the interest of the nuclear industry.

Vale of Belvoir

At last, having promised that it wasn't only Scottish granite which they wished to examine, the U.K.A.E.A. proposes to examine the Vale of Belvoir clay to determine its suitability for nuclear waste disposal. Next stop Sir John Hill's back garden?!

Europe

That infamous West Lothian Labour MP Mr Tam Dalyell has been telling the EEC Energy Commission how the inhabitants of Caithness have welcomed test drilling with open arms. Apparently they set an example for the rest of Europe in their attitude to nuclear power



ORKNEY URANIUM SAGA

Orkney Islands Council's amended structure plan differs from its predecessor in one important way:- it says that uranium mining would be an unacceptable industry - for obvious reasons. Opportunity for representations or objections ended on November 16th.

Subsequently it has emerged that both the South of Scotland Electricity Board and the North of Scotland Hydro Electric Board (whose chairmen sit on each others Boards) have put in objections. This will probably be a topic which the Secretary of State for Scotland will decide to bring before the statutory "examination in public" The Islands Council is considering how best to represent the strong local feeling against any moves towards mining of uranium. Uranium is known to be present in a 5 mile by 1/2 mile "uranium corridor", close to Stromness with its outstanding conservation area, through one and near another site of special scientific interest, and near a rural conservation area.

Local support for SCRAM is developing and the old anger against the SSEB is rising again.

arrested ?

SCRAM is collecting the names and addresses of people who were arrested at Torness, so that we can put them in touch with one another - and also send them a new legal broadsheet.

If you were arrested, please write or phone us and also let us know whether we may pass your name and address on to other "arrestees".

Mazouté Aujourd'hui

In Brittany the electricity board has plans for a nuclear power station at Ploumoguier. They can expect heavy opposition because this is where the oil from the Amoco Cadiz washed up.

When people have been threatened by one environmental hazard they do not take lightly to having another one dumped in their midst. The people of Ploumoguier have formed an agricultural association which bought 2 hectares of the designated site for the reactor. Every square metre belongs to a different person or group.

SCRAM has acquired one square metre of the site, which means that the implementation of a plan to build the station could involve the French electricity board in an international case to gain possession of the land.



Radioactif Demain!

During the oil catastrophe the whole area of Finistere was under military supervision. No one was allowed to pass without a permit. Those who lived there were under curfew.... The comparison with a nuclear accident was difficult to avoid. How much more would their daily lives be supervised and disrupted? How long could they expect the aftermath of a nuclear accident to last, when the effects of the oil are not expected to disappear for another 10 years?

The Bretons have had their livelihoods as fishermen taken away by an accident the oil companies swore would never happen. They have not received adequate compensation (what compensation is there for a destroyed coast?) The Bretons fear a repetition with the nuclear risk which no one will insure against.

The words which the Breton farmers and fishermen were shouting in anger after the Amoco Cadiz and the announcement of a nuclear power station at Ploumoguier were 'oil polluted today - radioactive tomorrow?'

If you want to help them change their future (and they have helped us already in their support at Torness in May 1978) contact:

Yves le Hir
Kercoziou
29229
Ploumoguier
Finistere



TORNESS



20th November, 1978.

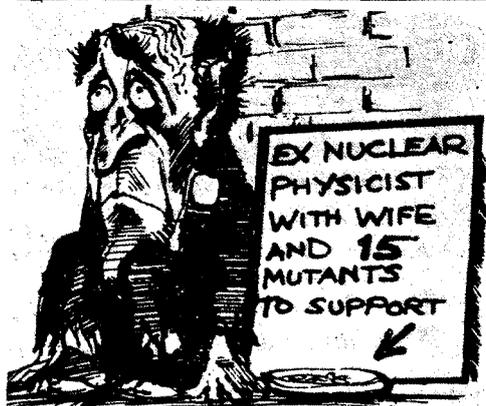
INFO'

THE LAST ANTI-NUCLEAR FESTIVAL

25th December 1978 - 7th January 1979

Street Theatre, inflatables, films, photo exhibition, slide show, silent video movies, lectures by eminent speakers, plays, music, books, pamphlets and badges.

ALMOST FREE THEATRE. 9 RUPERT STREET. W1.
01-485-6224



Review

THE POLITICS OF NUCLEAR POWER

by DAVE ELLIOT with PAT COYNE, MIKE GEORGE and ROY LEWIS. PLUTO PRESS (distributed by P.D.C. in Edinburgh) price £1.95

Two issues dealt with by the authors make this well-researched book of special relevance. Parts 1 and 2 focus on issues of concern to workers and Trade Unionists, in the nuclear industry and elsewhere e.g. health and safety, workers' rights, the viability of a non-nuclear energy strategy, and the role of government. Part 3 explores the political strategies open to the anti-nuclear movement.

The key message of the final chapter is that, although the anti-nuclear movement should be broadly based, opposition to nuclear power will never be effective unless it takes trade union problems and concerns into account.

Austria says

The majority of the people in Austria and the Austrian Anti-nuclear movement have won a major victory over the Austrian nuclear programme and the first nuclear reactor in Austria at Zwentendorf. The reactor which is ready for use will not go critical. It will be dismantled or converted into a conventional station. The rest of the nuclear programme will be scrapped.

So 50.5% of the votes were enough to strike a tremendous blow against Chancellor Kreisky and the pro-nuclear lobby. Kreisky, thinking he had a safe victory, had announced his retirement from the government if the vote was anti-nuclear. In spite of this and a massive campaign in favour of the power station, the anti-nuclear movement in Austria can now celebrate a fantastic victory, not only over the nuclear programme, but also over the hypocrisy of the pro-nuclear supporters.

In most big cities, except Vienna and Linz there was a significant majority AGAINST nuclear power.

In Zwentendorf, the place of the reactor, people voted in favour of the power station by a 56% majority. This result is quite typical as most places like Zwentendorf, Brokdorf, Gorleben, Windscale, Dounreay have been "won" by the nuclear lobby with all kinds of promises.

'NO NUKES!'

And after the referendum? The Socialist Party says (as does the opposition) that they will respect the decision of the people. But they now want to give the people a chance to "rethink" and therefore want to start "a dialogue with the citizen", and probably they will try to introduce a new nuclear programme through the back door. It is pretty clear from the statement made by Kreisky and other officials that the pro-nuclear lobby is not simply giving up their ideas of a nuclear future.

The anti-nuclear movement in Austria still has to press for the decision to be implemented and for Zwentendorf to be either pulled down or converted.



salt mines are dead safe !!

Recently (28 September 78) five town councillors from Luneburg, a town in Northern Germany, 20 miles from Gorleben, (where the Germans plan to build a waste disposal facility) were taken to visit a salt mine planned for use in storing low level radioactive waste.

For two of them this visit to a dead safe salt mine had a sad ending: they were killed by a rock fall in the mine.

The clever specialists saw themselves confronted with something that was impossible since they are absolutely sure that salt mines are safe for millions of years.

According to their information there is nothing that can disturb these mines, they are even resistant to minor earthquakes.

Another German saltmine, the one in Asse, which has been used for years now to dump radioactive material has raised some doubts among geologists: they have found out that theoretically the mine should have collapsed long ago. Their advice was to leave the mine as fast as possible.....

(Information from STERN 7/78)



BY APPOINTMENT

The latest person to realise the benefits of alternative technology is no less than Her Majesty the Queen.

Despite attempts by the Department of the Environment to keep it hush-hush, news of Her Majesty's installation of twentyfour solar panels to heat the Royal swimming pool at Windsor leaked out via an enthusiastic Mr Michael Powell, Managing Director of the Firm who got the contract.

Mr Powell's enthusiasm was soon dampened after discussion with the D.O.E. when his public announcement was withdrawn.

Anyone interested in heating their swimming pools by solar power should get in touch with Mr Powell at Aztec Solar, Richmond!

OUR UNDERGROUND CORRESPONDENT REPORTS



LITTLE BLACK RABBIT was concerned about SSEB plans to build power stations (possibly nuclear) in Fife; so he wrote to Fife Regional Council to ask them about this. The Regional Council replied that "so far as Fife is concerned the possible sites included Tentsmuir, Buddo Ness, Crail, Dumbarrie Links and the Torry Bay area". He then wrote to the SSEB

Dear Sir

I have to paw a letter from Fife Regional Council indicating that you have been investigating certain sites in Fife with a view to their suitability for nuclear power stations. Would you care to comment?

Yours faithfully

Little Black Rabbit

The reply was somewhat strange.

Dear Little Black Rabbit

It would seem that you may have been misled. As the board responsible for generation and supply of electricity in the South of Scotland, we are not aware of any proposals for nuclear power station at any of the places you mention, or indeed anywhere else in Fife.

Yours sincerely James McGuire
Public Relations Officer

LITTLE BLACK RABBIT intends to write to the SSEB again in case, as "the Board responsible for generation and supply of electricity in the South of Scotland" they are not aware that they are building a nuclear power station at Torness.

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