

keep it in the ground
international stop
uranium mining
newsletter june 1981
no 14

WISE World Information Service on Energy

special european stop uranium conference edition



SUBSCRIPTIONS

A subscription to Keep It In The Ground costs f20 dutch guilders per year. The various WISE relays, listed on the back of this newsletter, handle all their local subscriptions: and if you have no local relay, then subscribe via WISE Amsterdam.

f20
£4.00
\$10.00
f50 for institutions.

People who are able to donate money: we are always very grateful to receive gifts. This newsletter is sent to many native peoples communities and others who need the information but cannot afford even to pay the mailing costs.

ABOUT WISE

WISE, the World Information Service on Energy, was set up in 1978 at an internationally attended meeting. Our purpose is to facilitate the information flow between members of the anti nuclear and alternative energy movements around the world. Our funding comes principally from the Smiling Sun Foundation, from a percentage of sales of the yellow and red Nuclear Power No Thank you buttons. Keep It In The Ground further receives a subsidy from two Dutch funding organisations - the NCO and NOVIB. Further we are supported by donations from our members, and from grants. We encourage all KIITG readers to become members, by paying f40 per year, for which they also receive our bi-monthly news bulletin on the international movement for a non nuclear future.

This issue of Keep It In The Ground has been edited by Lin Pugh with participation of the WISE Amsterdam collective. Thankyou to readers and WISE relays who sent in stories. Everyone is invited to participate. On the industry section, we have the cooperation of Roger Moody of CIMRA in England.

Re-publication of this newsletter is encouraged, please quote source.
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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

This is a newsletter linking together people all round the world fighting to stop uranium mining and exploration. It was set up in 1979, at the request of a meeting of indigenous peoples fighting uranium mining.

All people involved are invited to share your news. The newsletter is also available in French and in Spanish.

Bulk issues are available to groups - just write and ask. We can give them to you at cost price, and you can distribute them at your actions.

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united states



BLACK HILLS RESETTLED: LAKOTA COMMUNITY BEGIN "YELLOW THUNDER CAMP".

In a press release dated April 4th, the Dakota American Indian Movement and their allies announced they have begun the process of resettlement and the exercise of their Right to Return to the Black Hills (Paha Sapa) under the 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty, the United Nations Constitution, the Indian Freedom of Religion Act (1978), and the June 4 1897 United States Federal law relating to sites for schools and churches.

The Black Hills, sacred to the Lakota people, has been subdivided into "leases" for uranium mining and other minerals, for use by the multinational mining companies.

Yellow Thunder Camp is planned to be a community. Indian people with their non-Indian allies will establish a school and church in the Black Hills, in a self-sufficient community where the children can learn in a culturally and spiritually based school. This new community is the first of many future communities that will be established in the Black Hills.

In their press release they also stated their support for the Dene people in Arizona in their effort to stop the forced relocation of 6000 Dene people from the Big Mountain community on the Navajo Reservation.

In California Indian men and women are now establishing a church and school on National Forest lands and the Lakota community expressed their support of this initiative. The California people are seeking to use this land for purposes other than energy exploitation and development. There are alternatives to energy development.

April 4 was chosen as the appropriate date to send this message to the government and people of the US, as the anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr.

The community is enjoying a lot of local and international support. Clergy and religious leaders in the area have not only written a public letter of support, they have also organised a day of religious fellowship, where religious leaders were invited and the press excluded. The American Friends Service Committee, Pine Ridge Education/Action Project, as well as the Black Hills Alliance, have published support and offered help in many forms. These people also agree, together with the Black Hills National Forest and Pennington County Sheriff's department officials that the community is legal.

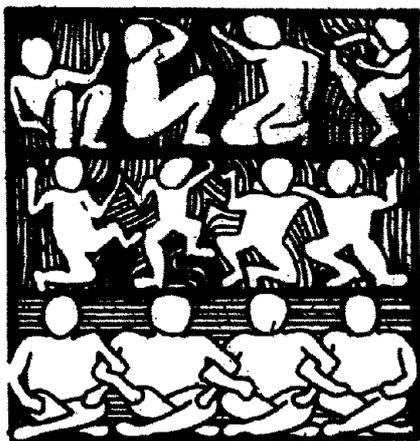


Spiritual leader of the Lakota people, Chief Fools Crow, with Matthew King (Noble Red Man) visited and blessed the community on April 6. Earlier that day Matthew King filed a claim for 800 acres on behalf of the Lakota Community for the establishment of a school and religious site under the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868.

Chief Fools Crow said he and the elders of the Oglala totally support the Yellow Thunder Camp. He said the Black Hills belong to the people, and he was pleased to see the young children in the camp.

Other supporters of the Community are the Mobilisation for Survival in California, who sent aid, and the Miners for Safe Energy. This group of people, miners of hard rock, their families and friends in the Northern Black Hills, are working to promote renewable energy sources and democratic control of resources. They fully support the Camp, and believe "that the Lakota people, whose land this is, will show respect for the Hills and will not abuse its resources for the sake of corporate profits."

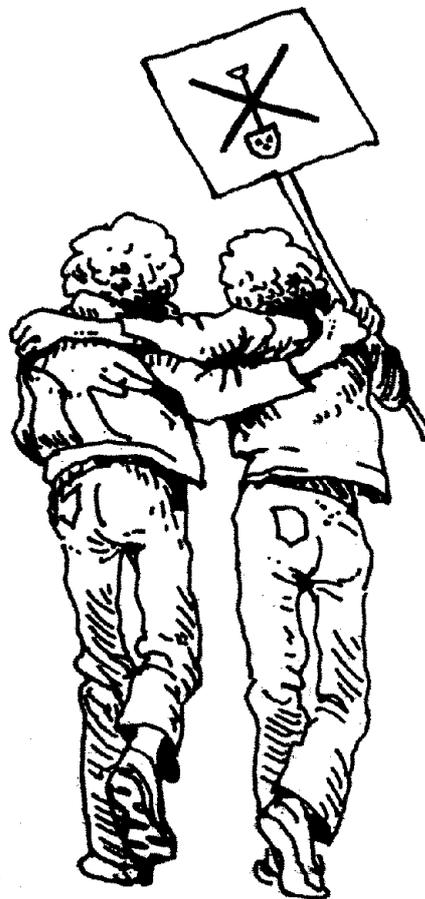
On April 22, the Community filed a special 'use application' for the construction of 83 permanent, underground structures was filed with the US Forest Service. In filing the application, Bill Means of the Yellow Thunder Camp asked that the people receive the same attention and courtesy that Union Carbide, Tennessee Valley Authority and other corporations receive in their applications.



LMS/ogt

If you want to help build support for this action and protect the camp from being dismantled by federal authorities, telegrams and letters can be sent to:

Director, US Forest Service
Dept of Agriculture
PO Box 2417
Washington DC 20013



John Block, Secretary,
Department of Agriculture
14th and Independence Ave, SW
Washington DC

William French Smith
Attorney General
Dept of Justice
Washington DC

Don Edwards, Subcommittee on Civil and
Constitutional Rights
Room A 407
House Office Bldg Annex 1
Washington DC

and a message to :
Mick Meinhart
Yellow Thunder Camp
PO Box 9188
Rapid City, SD 57701.



NO NUKES means Indian Rights. In past issues of Keep It In The Ground we have carried stories on indian people in prison, and the support for them. These stories are carried not only because these people have a right to be heard, but also because they are victims of the present war against Native Americans: the Energy War. To weaken the indian community is the tactic used to make it possible to steal their land and offer it to the mining companies. On indian reservations 50% of the people are unemployed, malnutrition and radiation-induced diseases contribute to the breakdown of the social fabric. 75% of the national uranium reserve is on indian land and is under the control of major oil companies. 12 oil companies hold 54% of uranium mines, and 5 oil companies hold 62% of uranium mills. The government institution Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) allows mineral companies to pay 2% royalties for raping mother

earth. Standard federal leases pay 12% royalties. The 2% goes to the corrupt tribal councils, not to the Indian Nations themselves.

One of the major energy wars is in the Four Corners area of the USA, where the states of Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico meet. The Navajo-Hopi joint use area is in the Arizona part of the Four Corners. Between 6000 and 8000 traditional people are to be relocated from their traditional land base, in the name of energy development. The Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs heard the Relocation Commissions latest findings on May 20th, which we are waiting on. The Westside Big Mountain Media Support Committee initiated a letter writing campaign in April, demanding that the Senate Select Committee realise that forced relocation is without a doubt the worst thing that can happen to these traditionally self-sufficient people.



**IN THE NAME OF ENERGY DEVELOPMENT:
DINE RELOCATION IN ARIZONA**

On April 17-19 an internationally attended gathering was held at Big Mountain Independent Diné Nation, in Arizona. Over 300 people representing six regional traditional indian delegations as well as other inter-tribal representation and over 30 non-indian organisations joined in support and a stand in solidarity with the Big Mountain and Teastoh Diné

(Navajo) opposing the forced relocation of over 6,000 Diné and Hopi, as well as the confiscation of livestock, loss of traditional land base, and disruption of family and clan system in both tribes.

The gathering demanded the repeal of PL 93-531, which is also a blatant misuse of tax monies and forces starvation and dependence on self-sufficient people.

Traditional Diné declared that there is no dispute between themselves and the traditional Hopi, but they are both victims of their respective "progressive" tribal councils imposed by the BIA. Representatives of the traditional Hopi Independent Nation supported this without qualification.

A boundary line was imposed across jointly shared land of the Diné and Hopi under PL 93-531 due mainly to false information presented to Congress alleging a range war between Hopi and Diné people. Fully documented by the Indian Law Resource Center in Washington DC in 1979, this was a lobby effort of a public relations firm, Evans and Associates of Salt Lake City, representing 23 public and private utility companies who fabricated a dispute and resultant boundary in order to develop coal, uranium and other resources.

The report of the Fourth Russell Tribunal of the Rights of the Indians of the Americas, in Rotterdam, Netherlands in November 1980, found that this case, brought to them by the Diné and Hopi representatives, violates Article II (C) and (E) of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. It also violates the Helsinki final Act, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Declaration of Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and the General Assembly Resolution 1803 concerning permanent sovereignty over natural resources.

contact: Westside Big Mountain Media
Support Committee
PO Box 330
444 Lincoln Blvd
Venice, Calif, 90291 USA



NEW JERSEY BANS URANIUM MINING

On May 4, the governor of New Jersey in the northeast USA, signed a bill making that state the second in the country to ban uranium exploration, mining and milling. One year ago Vermont, also in the northeast, passed a law effectively blocking the uranium industry there. The New Jersey ban, which became effective immediately, expires in seven years. It represents a compromise between a bill to ban uranium mining permanently and one authorising the state to regulate it. The compromise was worked out after the state legislature held a public hearing, dozens testified, and every speaker called for the prohibition rather than the regulation of uranium development in New Jersey. The seven-year time limit was written in because anti-uranium forces feared it would otherwise be unacceptable to the legislature. The legislature passed it in this form unanimously.

The New Jersey Coalition to Stop Uranium Mining, a network of local opposition groups, helped work out the compromise on the ban. They believe that within seven years the extreme hazards involved in uranium mining will be universally understood.

The Coalition's victory came only 10 months after people first became aware that the two largest oil companies, Standard Oil of Ohio and Exxon Minerals, were considering mining the rich uranium ore located in northern New Jersey. Residents organised state-wide opposition to the proposed mining when they learned that water supplies in their drought stricken area would be depleted and radioactively contaminated by the uranium operation.



Members of one local group, Stop Uranium Now, included people who initially opposed uranium mining only in their own area because of potential environment problems. Now that group is aware of problems of the whole nuclear cycle, and they and others in the coalition plan to continue with anti-nuclear activities with an emphasis on helping people in other states in the northeast similarly threatened by uranium development.

contact: NJ Coalition to Stop Uranium Mining, PO Box 271, New Vernon, NJ 07976 USA tel (201) 5399016.



CONFERENCE

The North Country Conference for people organising against uranium mining, radioactive waste disposal, powerlines, and other survival issues, will be held during the International Indian Treaty Council Conference, June 4-11, at White Earth Reservation, Minnesota.

For more information contact WAGER

306 N.Brooks, Box#318
Madison, WI 53715 USA
tel (608) 251 4856

Source: The Mining Organiser March 81.

THE NEW RESOURCE WARS

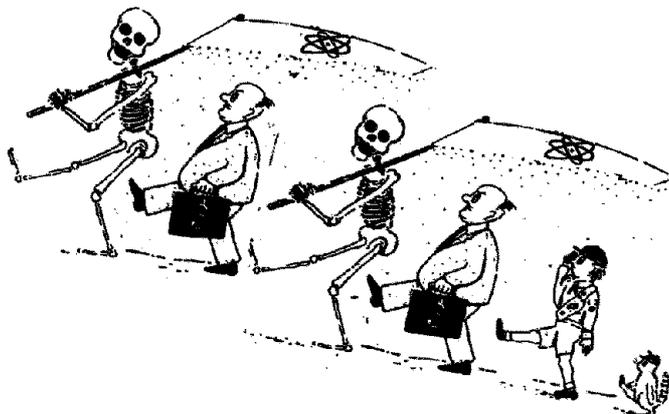
is a 48 page series on native peoples and natural resources. The pack is excellent for classroom use, and is appropriate for courses in Native American Studies, Environmental Studies, Ethnic Studies and Social Issues/Social Problems.

The information comes in three parts: part one examines the struggle between natural resource companies and native peoples in the Amazon.

Part two looks at the situation in South Western USA

Part three focuses on the emerging conflict in the Great Lake region of the US.

Available from CALA, 731 State Street
Madison, WI 53703 USA
cost:\$3.00.



UNION CARBIDE IS ON WELFARE: COMPANY'S BENEFITS INCREASE

Union Carbide (UCC) has been allotted over \$10 billion by the Department of Energy (DOE) for nuclear activities, according to government documents recently received by the Black Hills Alliance. The lucrative government contract began in 1978 and goes till 1983, covering uranium and other nuclear activity. In 1979 the contract was worth 25% of the company's total sales.

The generous contract terms release UCC from responsibility for nuclear accidents associated with the contract. The DOE insures the public up to \$500 million per "incident" in the United States and up to \$100 million per "incident" outside the country.

Some of the operations under the contract are the Paducah, Ky enrichment plant and the Oak Ridge, Tenn, fabrication of nuclear weapons parts, research of various nuclear processes, and production of nuclear and source materials.

The UCC-DOE contract, documents on other UCC work including its uranium resource reports of the Edgemont area and of the Rapid City area are available through the Black Hills Alliance Research Center, attention Lillias Jones.

BHA, PO Box 2508 Rapid City SD 57709 USA

Union Carbide is one of the largest uranium mining companies in the world. At the Black Hills Survival Gathering last year, it was singled out as one of four companies to be targetted in an "international week of action".

RAPID VALLEY WELL CLOSED

On January 19, Rapid Valley Water Company shut down its Well# 3 after a fourth radiation test showed continued high readings. The water contained more than nine times the Environmental Protection Agency's maximum allowable level of Radium 226 and more than 6 times the level allowable of gross alpha radiation.

Although high radiation levels were discovered in March 1980, there was no public announcement until the Black Hills Alliance held a press conference in October. High radiation levels have been found in other area wells, including several on Pine Ridge Reservation. Although the high readings on the Reservation have been known since at least 1956, none of these wells has been closed or replaced.

source: Black Hills Alliance
PO Box 2508
Rapid City, SD 57709

EXXON IS DENIED URANIUM PERMITS IN MINNESOTA

Midway Township officials have denied Exxon permission to drill for uranium, although Exxon holds at least 3 leases in the area. Solway and Thomson townships have prohibited exploration and mining. In Southern Minnesota, Jackson County passed an ordinance regulating drilling. One of the regulations is that company's must first post a \$5000 bond, to be used for necessary monitoring and studies.

source: Northern Sun News April 1981

a monthly publication of the Northern Sun Alliance. Subscription costs: \$6 per year, from Twin Cities Northern Sun Alliance, 1519 E. Franklin, Minneapolis, MN 55404, USA

WHEN ONE MINE CLOSES, ANOTHER IS OPENING - ANACONDA

The Jackpile-Paguate Mine, New Mexico, the world's largest uranium stripmine, closed down its open pit operations early in March, Anaconda Copper Co. has operated the project on the Laguna Reservation for the past 28 years. Among the many legacies it leaves behind, it now leaves a lot of people jobless and seriously affects the Laguna Pueblos Indian Community's economy.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs and the US Geological Survey are currently preparing a reclamation Environmental Impact Statement. The site consists of 1000 acres of open pits, 2000 acres of radioactive waste piles, three abandoned underground mines, and two operating underground mines scheduled to close in 1983. The EIS is expected to be completed by September 1982.

A number of studies, including one by the National Academy of Sciences, have concluded that reclamation in arid sites -- those receiving less than 7 inches (18 cm) of rainfall per year is virtually impossible.

Source: Mt Taylor Alliance Newsletter, April 5 1981

Meanwhile, Anaconda received a permit for open-pit mining from the Texas Railroad Commission, the State Regulatory Commission, for a 300 acre mine in McMullen County, Texas. A \$3.31 million bond was posted by the company for land reclamation - I think we will have to see the reclamation before we believe it.

Source: Engineering and Mining Journal April 81





last unpolluted spawning ground for sturgeon in the Great Lakes would be threatened. Already the region has seen serious contamination from the nearby uranium mines of Elliot Lake. Radioactive plutonium would be produced as a by-product of refining, adding to the dangers of contamination and weapons proliferation. In addition, with no safe way for disposal of radioactive wastes, the refinery would add to the region's already sizeable nuclear dumping grounds.

CANADIANS OPPOSE URANIUM REFINERY

Ontario has vast and varied nuclear facilities: uranium mines and mills; nuclear power plants; transportation routes; waste storage. Now opponents of the Blind River uranium refinery planned for northern Ontario are wearing red ribbons until the project is dropped. Its builder, the Canadian Crown corporation Eldorado Nuclear, hopes to begin construction this month (May) on a \$120 million refinery that would process uranium oxide ore - or yellowcake - into uranium dioxide for Canada's domestic (CANDU) reactors and into uranium hexafluoride for export to the US and USSR. Ninety percent of the plant's production would be for export.

The project is being fought by a number of citizen and environmental groups, native peoples, local fishermen's groups and tourist associations. In January opponents won a delay in the project's licensing from the national Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB). But despite growing opposition, the Board went on to give its approval in mid- February. Dr Gordon Edwards of the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility said that the decision confirmed his belief that the Board is "nothing more than a rubber stamp agency for the nuclear industry in Canada".

Although the Blind River area is in hard economic times, residents and other opponents feel the project's hazards outweigh the 100 jobs promised to local workers. The North Shore Fishermen's Association and native groups are especially concerned about the plant's location at the mouth of the Missisauqui River, which flows into Lake Huron. The

Eldorado Nuclear must still receive final approval for the construction start. Local opposition groups are organising public meetings and letter-writing campaigns. Says Katherine Croarkin of the Temikaming Environmental Action Committee: "If the Blind River refinery is built by taxpayers money we have paid the nuclear industry's way into Northern Ontario". Opposition letters can be sent to: The Board Members, AECB, PO Box 1046, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5S9 and to the Hon Marc Lalonde, Minister of Energy, House of Commons, Ottawa, Ont K1A 0A6

contact: TEAC, Box 98, New Liskeard, Ontario, Canada P0J 1P0
tel 705/647 8211

RURAL SASKATCHEWAN WANTS URANIUM MINING HALTED

The Saskatchewan government should "put a total stop to all uranium mining and refining in the province...until such time as positive safety of the world is assured", about 600 reeves and councillors decided on March 12.

No one opposed the resolution presented by the rural municipality of Duck Lake at the 76th annual convention of the Saskatchewan Association of Rural Municipalities. This decision made front page news in the local Star Phoenix. It is significant, as SARM represents the vast majority of municipalities in this predominantly agricultural province.

contact: Saskatchewan Environmental Soc
PO Box 1372
Saskatoon, Sask S7K 3N9
tel 306 665,6655
Canada.

australia



RALLY AGAINST HONEYMOON

The people of Broken Hill, an outback Australian town situated near the proposed Honeymoon uranium mine, are expected on the streets on May 23. This will be the first action against uranium mining held in Broken Hill. It has attracted support from unionists and local residents who fear contamination of the important artesian water supply.

Honeymoon, so it is planned, will use the in situ method of mining. This is a leaching process. It is a difficult process - in the USA an in situ plant has recently had to close due to continued "excursions" of leaching material into the environment. See story in USA section.

MINATOME NOT ALLOWED ACCORDING TO THE JUDGES

At the end of April Queensland's Mining Warden rejected a lease application by the uranium company Minatome Aust. Pty Ltd. The decision means that the \$80 million Ben Lomond project, near Townsville, may not go ahead unless it is re-designed or unless the Queensland government overrules the warden.

Minatome had applied for a second lease of 2035 ha to use for site access roads, storage dams, power lines, evaporation ponds, and tailings storage.

One of the greatest problems connected with the proposed second lease was the possibility that site run-off would pollute water which eventually becomes Townsville's drinking water. This was one of the points the Townsville environmentalists were pushing throughout the Hearings. The hearings commenced on December 8 last year, when the Townsville Regional Conservation Council and the local anti uranium mining groups lodged a formal objection to the Minatome plans.

The Queensland Mines Act allows the Minister for Mines to overrule any decision the Mining Warden may make.

Contact: TRCC, PO Box 364, Townsville, 4810 Qld, Australia, tel 077 71 6226

contact: PPFOE
PO Box 7, Port Pirie, SA
Australia



"URANIUM NO THANKS" is the official and approved Smiling Sun symbol for Australia. Permission was first given to the Uranium Moratorium by the OOA (Denmark) in 1977.

This is the one and only version of the Smiling Sun symbol that may, in any language, say anything other than "Nuclear Power No Thanks". The Smiling Sun is a copyright symbol. A portion of the international sales goes into a transnational funding pot. WISE has, since the beginning of the WISE project which was also the beginning of the transnational funding pot, received the major portion of its finances through the Smiling Sun Foundation.

MARY KATHLEEN SHAREHOLDERS GET GRIM NEWS

Mary Kathleen Uranium might never pay a dividend, will probably not sell 20% of its total ore and is likely to close its North Queensland mine in 1983. This is the message greeting the MKU shareholders at the Annual General Meeting, April 27.

J.L. Liebelt, the Company's Chair, said "a marked softening" of the uranium market was reflected in 1981 contract prices, which would average about 15% less in real terms than in 1980.

Mary Kathleen was closed in 1963 and not re-opened until 1974. The re-opening was accompanied by loans totalling \$20 million from its two main shareholders - the Federal Government and CRA (Australia's subsidiary of RTZ). Profits in the past two years repaid that loan and accumulated losses, but now the company is facing the costs of closing the mine and bringing the locale back to an acceptable environmental standard.

The company could now only hope to sell small tonnages of ore at near spot price - which has fallen in the past year by 30% to \$US 25 a tonne.

source: The Age 28 April 81

contact: CANP, PO Box 238
North Quay, Brisbane, Q 4000
tel Bris 221 0188

URANIUM AT CAPE YORK

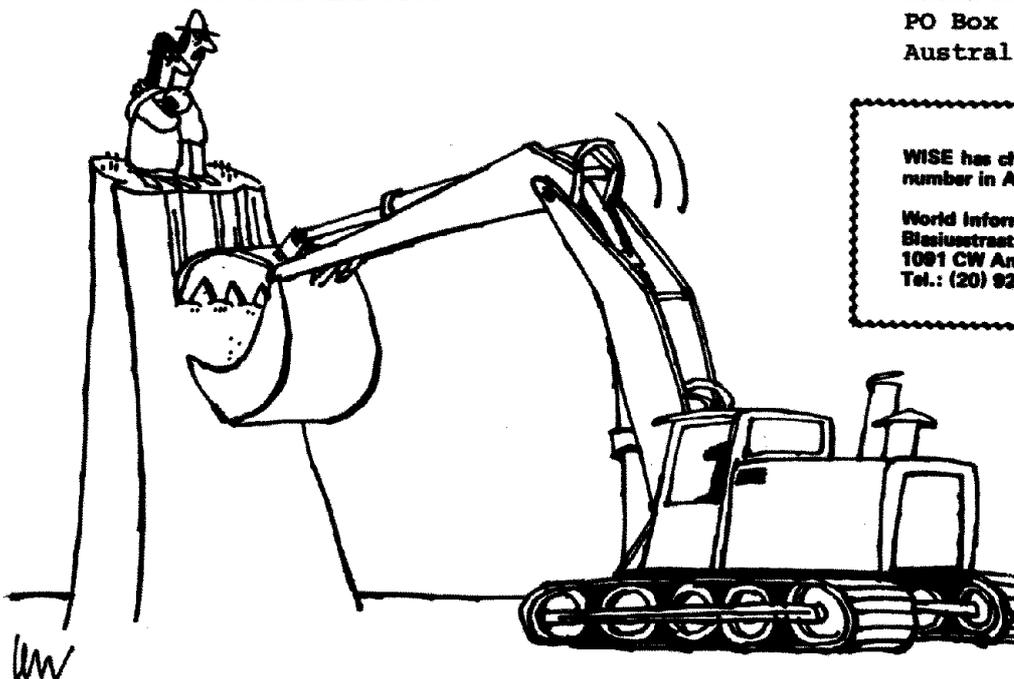
The OILMIN group has found "a very good uranium prospect" at Iron Range in the Cape York Peninsula, Queensland. So far 12 holes have been drilled, and drilling will resume in the dry season. Iron Range is one of Cape York's most important areas ecologically, containing extensive monsoon rainforests, and the area is of great importance to the local aboriginal people. The Campaign Against Nuclear Power will be investigating this latest uranium project, and hopefully we can print more details in a future issue.

contact: CANP (adress above).

ARTISTS AGAINST URANIUM

The South Australian Artworkers Union is working towards holding an exhibition from artists opposed to uranium mining, nuclear energy generation and nuclear armaments proliferation. The Campaign Against Nuclear Energy and the Movement Against Uranium Mining in South Australia are also involved in the project, planned to open on July 1 1981 in all Australian capital cities. After January 1982 the exhibition will tour overseas venues.

contact: SA Artworkers Union
Exhibition from Artists Against Uranium
PO Box 308 North Adelaide SA
Australia.



WISE has changed its address and telephone number in Amsterdam.

World Information Service on Energy
Blasiusstraat 90
1091 CW Amsterdam - The Netherlands
Tel.: (20) 924264

namibia



REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS COUNCIL ON
NAMIBIA vol III

- book review by John Drane

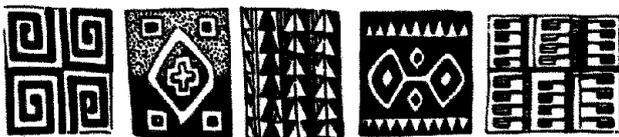
(We had written to the UN Council for Namibia requesting a copy of "Environmental and Social aspects of uranium mining in Namibia", and received the reply that that organisation does not have it. Can anyone tell us please where we can obtain a copy for review?)

This is a useful resource base for people interested in the Namibia question. The background to the position of the UN General Assembly is given plus a breakdown of the shareholders of Rössing mine. Whilst RTZ controls 56.5% of all the equity holdings, it only controls 26.5% of voting rights.

The political and economic advantages to South Africa from the exploitation of Rössing and other possible uranium deposits are covered. The history of the development of nuclear technology in South Africa is given and companies named. The health effects of uranium mining are discussed briefly as are the impact of the apartheid laws. Of interest (to me anyhow) is that EURATOM countersigns all uranium contracts with EEC member countries and Euratom reports to the EEC Council of Ministers.

The report contains a list of people invited to testify and those who did at the Hearings on Namibian uranium. There is a list of publications, referred to as testamonies.

A report should be available from your nearest UN organisation.



britain



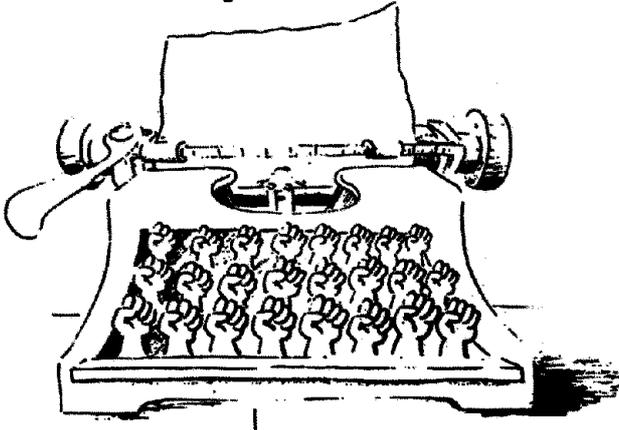
RIO TINTO ZINC: THE VICTIMS SPEAK OUT

Britain's largest mining corporation, Rio Tinto Zinc, which is also the world's largest producer of uranium, was the subject of a unique public trial on May 10, in London. Two Australian Aborigines, Joyce Hall from Weipa in Queensland and Les Russell from Portland in Victoria, joined by Bill Rosenberg of the CAFGINZ (Campaign Against Foreign Control in New Zealand), members of the Namibia Support Committee, and Randy Sweetnam representing the Labrador Inuit Association presented six hours of testimony and documents on the company's impact on indigenous people.

The testimony was heard by a jury drawn from shareholding institutions in RTZ. It included two county councillors, a doctor, a trade unionist, and a representative of Kent University.

One thousand shareholders were invited to participate in the weekend through an open letter signed by John Pilger, journalist with the Daily Mirror, Sir Kelvin Spencer (former Chief Atomic Scientist) and Professor Peter Townsend of the Department of Sociology at Kent University. The letter lists many of the criticisms RTZ has received in past years, including condemnation of its vast and illegal uranium mine in Namibia, which defies UN resolutions and decrees against South African occupation of Namibia. The letter also criticises RTZ's handling of projects related to the Aborigines of Australia and the Guyami of Panama and its involvement in the uranium cartel. (For more information on the cartel see story under Industry). "RTZ's investments are partially underwritten by more than 83,000 ordinary shareholders like yourself or your organisation", the invitation states.

"We are neither shareholders in the company nor do we hold any specific brief from groups which oppose its operation. Nonetheless, we are deeply disturbed by allegations of malpractice or injustice which are being made against this British company whose world-wide activities are of such importance to British industry".



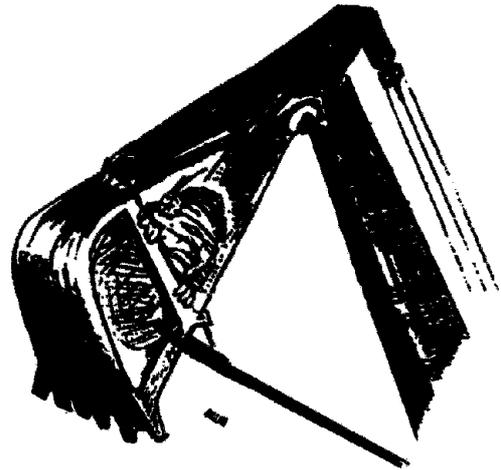
The joint tribunal organisers, CIMRA and Survival International, received at least 20 responses to the letter of invitation. The Bah'ai National Spiritual Assembly has promised disinvestment and the Greater London Council (the 16th largest government in the world) has withdrawn its shares. Others promised consideration of the evidence.

RTZ Chair Sir Anthony Tuke refused to participate. "As you know", he wrote to CIMRA on May 1, "RTZ is always ready to listen and discuss genuine concerns and problems with its critics in an atmosphere of mutual respect and in the presence of truly independent observers. ...We do not feel that it would be in the interests of our shareholders, our employees, our customers of (sic) the communities where we operate to take part in a meeting organised without regard to the true principles of British Justice".

This tribunal is only the beginning of a long term campaign examining multinationals and their effect on native and self sufficient communities. The initiative arose out of a meeting at the International Survival Gathering held last July in the Black Hills of South Dakota, USA, when groups decided to target key uranium multinationals in an internationalised strategy.

In Britain, a week of action against RTZ preceded the tribunal. And you will read in the Ireland section that people in that country also participated in the week of action.

Students Against Nuclear Energy (SANE) organised a speaking tour during and after the Week. In Edinburgh, several meetings were held, and the anti uranium action was coupled with a week of action against the Torness nuclear power plant in Southern Scotland. In Newcastle-Upon-Tyne a shack constructed in the grounds of a local church was demolished to symbolise the effects of multinationals on native communities. On May 9 at the Capper Pass tin smelter a picket was held - this is also RTZ operated. In Cambridge a meeting was held on the day of the trial of 12 people arrested during a demonstration against the RTZ recruitment drive among college-leavers at Cambridge University. Meetings were held in various other centres in the UK. In London a rig was set up outside RTZ's headquarters



and workers were leafletted with invitations to attend the public meetings and tribunal.

Films shown during the week included Dirt Cheap (Australia), Strangers in our Land, and the Dutch made and very successful film on the USA, Sacrifice Area.

The cost of the week mounted up to £6000 - and PARTIZANS, responsible for the entire week, needs another £3500 just to cover this - let alone have funds for continuing the campaign. Please send generous donations.

PARTIZANS, 218 Liverpool Rd, London N1 UK



LOCAL VOTE ON URANIUM MINING IN SWEDEN

On April 27 the local government in Arjeplog in northern Sweden voted 16 to 15 to accept uranium mining in the area if the federal government approves it next fall. Before the vote a poll, which appeared in the Dagens Nyheter, the largest daily paper in Sweden, showed 40% of the local population opposed to the mining, 30% in favour, and 30% undecided. Local anti nuclear activists, however, collected 1300 signatures, representing more than half the local voting population, on a petition opposing the local mine.

Had the local government at Arjeplog voted 'no' it would have been a significant victory for the people opposed to uranium mining. Although there are uranium deposits in several other places in northern Sweden, it would have at least put an end to industry plans to mine at Arjeplog. The 'yes' vote is less significant, and means that efforts will now be directed at the coming decision in the federal government.

contact: Folkkampanjen mot kärnkraft
PO Box 16 307
S-103 26 Stockholm
Sweden

AMP
c/- Holmström, Furug 3,
S-930 90 Arjeplog
Sweden



BLOCKADE AT THE ALMELO ENRICHMENT PLANT

The Ultracentrifuge uranium enrichment plant, owned by URENCO, at Almelo, will be blockaded from 18-20 June. All the access roads to the plant will be closed off. The action is against the opening of the newly completed extension, which triples the capacity of the plant. The organisers are directing the action against nuclear power, but they also have 6 particular grievances against the UCN. The first is that the Dutch government refuses to consider the nuclear opposition. The second is that Urenco delivers to Brazil, a land which has not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty and who wants very much to build nuclear weapons. They protest the dangers of nuclear transport in the Netherlands that unemployment is not helped by the huge Almelo investments, that the expansion of Almelo leads to a more repressive state, and that it is extremely questionable whether the tax-payers money is well spent in this expansion, where there is no indication that the market for the finished product is secure.

contact: UC-nee, en hoezo verrijking?
(UC-no, and what do you mean enrichment?)
Postbus 850 Deventer, Ned.
tel 05700 16404

ireland



ANTI URANIUM MINING DAY IN IRELAND

Sunday May 10 saw the Leinster Anti Uranium day, designed to come at the end of the week of action held against RTZ, Minatome, Union Carbide, and Uran-gesellschaft. The Leinster Anti Uranium Group (LAUG) held a "jamboree" on this day. They have prepared a leaflet, and an anti uranium poster, to go with exhibitions on Windscale reprocessing plant in the UK, Uranium Mining, Harrisburg, and genetic effects of radiation. A concert of traditional and folk music followed in the evening, interspersed by talks.

The LAUG is informing local people of the dangers facing them from the various companies prospecting uranium in the area. There are two main companies, Irish Base Metals and the Minatome subsidiary Maugh. These two have received between them over £1 million from the EEC for uranium exploration in Leinster. The companies are keeping quiet on their finds, to keep the people uninformed of the commercial viability of the deposits.

contact LAUG c/o 'In Dublin'
14 Batchelors Walk, Dublin 1
Ireland

REBEL reports that low flying planes, painted stones and drilling rigs have been seen by locals in Skibereen, and the area from Crosshaven to Innishannon, indicating prospecting of uranium companies. In April Noranda and Billiton were given prospecting permits for the Mallow area of County Cork.



europaean resources



RESOURCE

We have received a copy of the summary on the interventions done by the national anti uranium group in France, RU, at the time of the recent French elections. They look fascinating, but I can't read them and hopefully the next KIITG will have more detail on this.

If you want your own copy of the dossier, contact:

Y.Lenoir, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Mines
Centre D'Automatique et Informatique de Paris
35, rue Saint-Honoré
77305 Fontainebleau tel 422 48 21
France

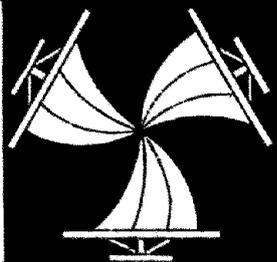


Group for a Natural Life in Patras has sent information on uranium mining in Greece which they would like to inform others about.

Uranium mining has begun in the area of Maramena, Serres. Progress has been kept secret from United Nations scientists and the Greek public. Uranium deposits have been located in Diptoma, Pefki, Paramestro, Drama and Kirki, in Ebro. Five test drillings have taken place at Kato Brontos Lailai in Serres. There has been no reaction from the various political parties, organisations, groups or citizens.

contact: Group for a Natural Life
Konstaninoupoles 22
Agias Sofias Sq
Patras, Greece

portugal



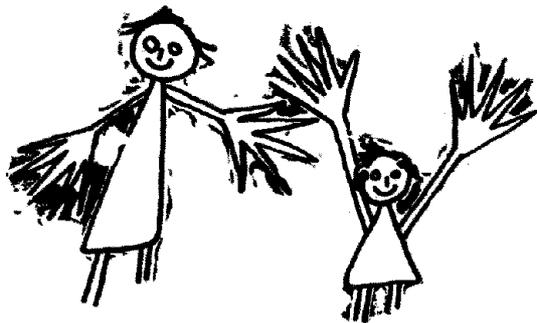
The following stories have been sent in by the Grupo Ecologico in Coimbra - they are relatively old but as we hear very little from this part of the world I think it is important to place them.

The National Uranium mining company ENU has found, according to a recent report of its research, significant uranium reserves in the Santa Combe Dão area, near Mondego. Exploitation is expected to begin in 1981, and the opening corresponds with the closing of a mine in Cunha Baixa, near Mangualde.

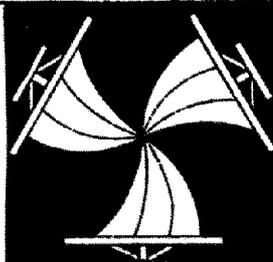
Portugal estimates it has 10,000 tons of U308. In 1979 130 tons of Portuguese uranium was sold internationally, and in 1980 it sold to just one customer, Iraq, 102 tons of uranium. By '85 it is expected that 270 tons will be exploited, and that reserves will last until 2020. Uranium mining is concentrated in the area Urgeirica, Tras os Montes and Alentejo (Nisa). The ENU employes, in all its jobs, only 615 people, and expect to employ another 700. In July 1980 uranium mine workers went on strike demanding higher wages, and planned another strike for the beginning of this year.

source: A CAPITAL, Oct 80

contact: Grupo Ecologico,
Apartado 158
3002 Coimbra, Codex, Portugal



spain



URANIUM PRODUCTION GROWS IN SPAIN

Uranium production in Spain increased to 460,000 tons U308 in 1980. This is an increase of 36% compared with 1979.

In Spain there are four uranium oxide factories operating, all of which are owned by the government enterprise EMPRESA NACIONAL DEL URANIO SA, except for the first one which is owned by the Spanish Junta de Energia Nuclear (JEN).

Andújar, Jaén	70 t/ year
Cuidad Rodrigo, Salamanca	120 t/ year
El Lobo, Cáceres	30 t/ year
Saelices El Chico, Sal	130 t/ year.

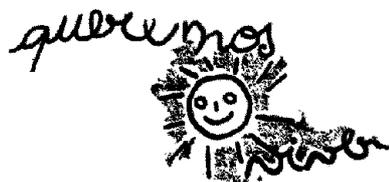
TOTAL CAPACITY 350 ton/year

In Saelices El Chico, the factory is being expanded to reach production capacity of 830 tons per year.

In December the Spanish government authorised the construction of a factory to produce nuclear fuel (UO₂) in Juzbado, Salamanca. This plant is owned by Empresa Nacional Del Uranio SA.

contact: Comité Antinuclear de Salamanca
Apartado Correos 805
Salamanca, Spain.

source: WISE Barcelona





industry news

There is big news this month on the uranium mining cartel. Roger Moody brings the following report...

The Uranium Cartel Story

One of the seventies biggest scandals is about to become dusty history. In March, the Rio Tinto Zinc (RTZ) group of companies announced that it had reached an out of court settlement with Westinghouse over the uranium cartel which RTZ - together with the South African, French, Canadian and Australian governments - set up and operated between 1972 and 1975. Westinghouse brought legal suit against RTZ and a number of other companies for forming the cartel. By pushing up uranium prices four to five fold, the cartel made it impossible for Westinghouse to fulfill contracts it had made with utilities to supply them with uranium at lower prices.

The main case, which was to have been heard in Chicago in September, will now almost certainly not be heard. Westinghouse has already reached an out of court settlement with Gulf Minerals of Canada, Getty Oil and Homestake Mining (both US). Of the 29 mining companies originally charged by Westinghouse with having operated the cartel, only Australia's Queensland Mines has stated it will not settle out of court. It is extremely doubtful, however, whether QM would hold out on its own.

The out of court settlement has several important implications. First, it means that key documentation on the cartel will not now be subject to legal (hence public) scrutiny. Second, RTZ will now be able to operate freely within the United States without fear of legal action. Shortly after the Westinghouse settlement, RTZ announced it would go ahead with the world's largest molybdenum mine in Alaska, through its subsidiary the Borax Corporation. The Alaska mine has caused tremendous controversy in the USA - it was at one stage opposed by Congress.

Environmental groups have claimed it will make comparative mockery of the Alaska land bill which supposedly guarantees a large part of Alaska as a National Monument, thus free from mining. However, in December the US Congress gave approval to the mine because of its "strategic value".

Settlement in the Westinghouse case also removes one of the barriers to opening one of the world's largest copper mines on native lands in Panama.

Third, the Westinghouse settlement will provide long-term contracts to the very companies which allegedly "hurt" Westinghouse in the first place, Westinghouse will receive \$39 million in cash from the 12 companies involved in the most recent settlement, AND 9 million pounds of uranium over the next five years at "favourable prices".

Considering that Westinghouse's obligations over the next twenty years amount to five million pounds of uranium - which can be supplied from its own mining subsidiary, Wyoming Mineral Corp. - it is quite clear that the world's biggest manufacturer of dangerous reactors is now back in big league business with the world's most dangerous and destructive mining company. As Westinghouse remarked, the settlement was "particularly pleasing in view of the need to revitalise the international nuclear industry".

Contact: Partizans, 218 Liverpool Road,
London N1 UK. tel (1) 609 1852.



JAPAN

URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT TO BE BUILT AT HYAGA, KYUSHU

The Science and Technology Agency approved Asahi Chemical's Test Plant planned in Hyuga, Miyazaki Prefecture, to research uranium enrichment by their new chemical "exchange method". The test plant will have the capacity to produce 300 kg of 3% enriched uranium per year. It would cost about 12 billion yen, two thirds of which will be subsidised by the government. Hyuga municipal anti-pollution council announced a report saying that there would be no major safety problems caused by the enrichment plant Asahi chemicals plans to build. The report urged that the firm be required to implement thorough safety and environmental measures and that the municipal government be allowed to inspect the plant.

contact: Chikyu-No-Tomo (FoE)
4B Kubodera Bldg 2-18-19
Koraku, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112
Japan

FIRST JAPAN MADE URANIUM SHIPPED FOR FUGEN REACTOR

The uranium enrichment pilot plant at Ningyo Toge, Okayama Prefecture, made its first shipment of enriched uranium in mid April. It will be processed into fuel rods to be used by the first Japanese made reactor, "Fugen". The Ningyo Toge plant is operating 4000 centrifugal parts, code-named OP-1. An additional 3000 separators of the sophisticated OP-2 type, which have twice the capacity of the OP-1's, will be put into operation in October.

The plant, when put in full operation, is capable of producing 15 tons of enriched uranium which is enough to fuel a reactor generating 500Mw per year.

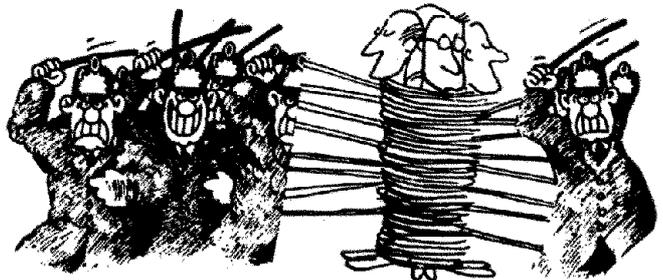
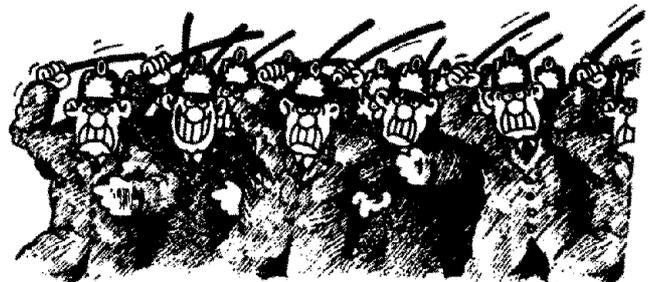
Source: Asahi Evening News April 25 81
(from Revealing Japan May 1981

MEXICO

The final decision on which road Mexico's nuclear development will take has not been made, and it won't be until Mexico is sure of its uranium reserves. The debate in the Mexican industry is over whether Mexico will use enriched uranium or natural uranium as reactor fuel. Currently proven reserves are 10,000 tons, only enough to guarantee the operation of the Laguna Verde nuclear power plant which plans to begin operation in 1983. The state uranium company URAMEX plans to search for uranium over a 450,000 square kilometre area over the next 24 months. Uramex officials believe this exploration will eventually provide enough reserves to fuel the 20 nuclear electric plants planned for the next two decades. 450,000 sq km is more than two times the area prospected for uranium in Mexico in the past 22 years.

Scientists at the Autonomous National University of Mexico will be working on developing a uranium enrichment plant using the centrifugal system. This plant would need as much energy as Mexico City currently consumes each day, and will produce 8 times as much fuel as the country can cope with.

source: Inter Press Service



LIBYA MAY BE BUYING AND SELLING URANIUM

The African nation of Niger has sold 450 metric tons of unenriched uranium to Libyan leader Moammar Khadafy and Western experts say some of it may have been diverted to Arab nations thought to be developing nuclear arms.

"If the devil asks to sell him uranium today, I'll sell it to him", President Seyni Kountche said in an interview when he disclosed the amount of uranium sales to Khadafy.

What Libya has done with the uranium is not known, but sources believe it may have gone to Pakistan and Iraq - both of whom are developing nuclear arms. Niger has asked Libya to promise not to make bombs.

Tom Cochran of the Natural Resources Defense Council in Washington say that this is where the Pakistanis have been getting their uranium from.

Niger, an impoverished African desert nation of 5 million people, is the world's fourth biggest producer of uranium. 450 tons have been sold to Libya. It is also well understood that one of the reasons for last years invasion by Libya of Tchad was for the uranium resources.

The International Atomic Energy Agency has been unable to find out what Khadafy has done with most of the uranium.

contact: Natural Resources Defence Council
917 15th Street NW
Washington DC 20005 USA
tel (202) 737 5000

CANADA'S URANIUM SOURCES RISE - according to the April 1, 1981 edition of Canada Weekly.

As a result of continued exploration efforts, Canada's uranium resources increased by 50,000 metric tons of uranium metal in 1979. This was stated in a recently released report, Uranium in Canada: 1979 Assessment of Supply and Requirements, by Energy, Mines and Resources Canada.

Only 10 percent of this uranium will be required domestically over the next 30 years to fuel the more than 14,000 megawatts of nuclear power capacity now operating or committed for operation in Canada by 1990.

The report states that the Canadian production could double by 1990 - to 15,300 metric tons per year.

Thanks to Erwin Bittner for this story.

TWO MORE URANIUM PROJECTS MOTHBALLED

Continued depressed market conditions are blamed for the closing of Wyoming Mineral's, ~~Irigaray~~ IN SITU solution mine in Wyoming and for the suspension of construction at the Conoco/Wyoming Mineral underground mine near Crownpoint, New Mexico. Westinghouse is the parent company of the Irigaray operation, near Buffalo. During its three year life, the operation was plagued by a fire, which delayed start-up by three months, and by persistent excursions of solution chemicals. The uncontrolled migrations caused continuing difficulties with state and federal regulators, limited production, and once forced shutdown.

On Crownpoint, \$35 million has been spent, but all is halted now till the uranium market "significantly improves".

source: E&MJ April 1981

