

# wise

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Servicio Mundial de Información sobre la Energía

## 3 February

Dear Friends,

The clearest message coming out of the Uranium Workshop at the International Anti Nuclear Coordination meeting (Freiburg, January 1980, see Report p 6 ) was the need for information exchange between groups fighting to stop uranium mining. From this workshop, we have added many more people to our newsletter mailing list. By sending us news of your actions, and by sending in requests for information, you will reach more than one hundred groups directly in all parts of the world, and probably just as many more indirectly.

Another result of that workshop is that this newsletter is now to be translated into Spanish by the Spanish Friends of the Earth, in their Stop Uranium Mining Campaign. Other groups translating this newsletter into other languages: please let us know, so that we can advertise this fact.

### WORKING GROUP MEETING

The definite date of the Working Group Meeting (as defined by the Copenhagen Conference) is March 18, 19 1980, in Amsterdam. Please send all agenda items to Lin Pugh, c/- WISE, 2e Weteringplantsoen 9, Amsterdam, the Netherlands, as soon as possible.

### FINANCES

Groups willing to subsidise this newsletter, with big or small donations: please send money to WISE, post account 4088285, or via cheque to any of the WISE offices, as seen below.

### NEWS

#### BACKGROUND STORY

#### FRANCE'S FEVERISH SEARCH FOR URANIUM

France has a great appetite for uranium now and in the coming years, which is associated with the fact that France's rate of growth of nuclear capacity is the highest in the western world. Extensive uranium exploration is now being undertaken in France, as well as in many of France's former colonies in Africa.

In 1985 France will need a total of about 100,000 tons of uranium: 65,000 tons for its own nuclear power plants, 10,000 tons for stockpiling, and 25,000 tons associated with the export of nuclear plants.

Reserves in France are estimated at 95,000 tons which could be mined at a price of 390 French Francs per kilogram, and 55,000 tons at a price of 150 FF/kg.

This means that starting from present projections France will not be able to meet its uranium needs at the end of the century.

The uranium is to be found in central and southern France and possibly also in Brittany, although exploration is under consideration in several other areas as well.

Exploitation is going on in three areas:

- Forez/Morvan: content 3.67%. this site will soon be exhausted
- La Crouzville: content 2.49%
- Vendee: content 2.69%



At another site, l'Herault near Lodève in Southern France, another 20,000 tons of uranium ore could be mined, but exploitation has not started yet.

### French Involvement in Africa

At the present time there are several countries with nuclear industries struggling for influence in African countries rich in uranium resources. This struggle is of such a nature that new uranium discoveries are carefully kept secret. It is very difficult - if not impossible - to obtain a fair picture.

France is involved or interested in the following possibilities:

- about one million tons in Morocco, the Spanish Sahara and in Mauritania. This is low grade uranium ore with a content of between 0.1% and 0.2%
- a layer of several hundred km<sup>2</sup> in Tchad
- important layers in Senegal, Togo, Congo and Tunisia
- uranium was discovered in Zaire before the War. 25,000 tons have been extracted already and the layer seems far from exhausted.

In this framework French military activities in recent years in several of these areas must be considered.

- repression of the liberation movement in Zaire (former Katanga)
- the military operation in Tchad
- the sale of Mirages to Libya (Libya backed the French invasion of Tchad)
- France contracted the sale of a reactor to Marrocco, although the economic necessity of this is highly doubtful.
- France supports Marrocco and Mauritania against the Polisario liberation front.

With these African involvements, together with what is to be found at home, France can command about one eighth of all uranium ore that has been located in the world (outside the socialist countries).

source: "Ecologie" 13.6.79  
publications in French about uranium:  
Journal Gouffre: Lodève-écologie,  
29 rue de la République,  
34,700 Lodève, France  
Rapport sur l'état de l'atome,  
Amis de la Terre, 14 bis,  
rue de l'Arbalète, 75005 Paris

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### TRANSPORT

#### SWAPO AND TRADE UNIONS TRICKED BY UK

In the Last newsletter we carried the story of RTZ's secret uranium deals in Namibia.

This month we take up a story from Liberation, where even more startling facts are revealed.....

When the UKAEA signed a uranium contract with RTZ in 1968, it was thought that the uranium would come from Canada. The Canadian mine at Elliot Lake then mysteriously closed ("lack of clients") and the operation was moved to Namibia. Tony Benn, the Minister of Technology for the Labour Government in Britain, was informed, and he agreed to increasing the contract from 6000 tons to 7500 tons - half the uranium imports for the UK till the 1980's. By the time the Foreign Office was informed, the contract was under way. The Labour Government formally stated that it would like to put pressure on South Africa, together with the international community, for its illegal occupation of Namibia, but a signed contract is a signed contract....

In fact, since 1970, the Labourites have done everything to stifle the affair. In 1975 SWAPO was asked by the Labour leader not to make public its opposition over Rossing. At the same time SWAPO was promised that the contract would be cancelled. But the first loads started, as anticipated, in 1975. Two years later SWAPO again meets with the British government. "We consider that the British government is an accomplice to RTZ in Namibia". Ten months later, the French uranium channel was set up: the British government then argues the uranium comes from France, and Trade union conflict is avoided.  
source: Liberation, 5 Dec 1979

#### CONTRABAND URANIUM FLIES UTA

For two years, pilots from the French airline UTA have been transporting 33 tons of Namibian uranate each week, destined for European nuclear power plants. According to UTA, a private company, these flights are made with the agreement of the French government. The flights are not scheduled, and the

DC8's used are disguised to resemble UN planes. BUT it seems Angola, which supports the peoples struggle in Namibia, is long aware of the flights. On January 18 1979 a MIG from Angola intercepted the UTA weekly flight and forced it to land.

The SNPL (Syndicat National des Pilotes des Lignes Francaises) requested a meeting at the end of January with the Director of African and Malagan affairs at the Quai d'Orsay, the French port of entrance for the illegal uranium. In reference to the UN Decree number 1, against South Africa's occupation of Namibia, the official replied "There are movements like SWAPO everywhere. If we had to listen to all of them, we could not do anything anymore." Nothing happened after this: some unionists accepted the claim that the MIG interception was an error, while others think it is a warning. The question remains an issue for French unions.

source: Liberation, Dec 4 1979

(WISE has a 12 page translation of the Liberation reports. For more information you can also contact Greenpeace, 31 rue du Mail, 75002 Paris, France)

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#### TRANSPORT

#### ENRICHED URANIUM ARRIVES AT ASCO NUCLEAR PLANT, SPAIN

The nuclear power plant in the village of Ascó, on the Erbo river, in the south of Catalonia, is not expected to begin functioning before two years. But on January 18 1980 a Spanish aeroplane arrived at the Barcelona airport from Miami (USA) with a cargo of 740 kg enriched uranium. The two containers were transported to Ascó by truck, via a circuitous route to avoid detection. The cargo arrived, in total secrecy, at the plant early in the morning of Jan 19. Municipal governments en route were not advised, despite a law that such a transit must be known, for public safety reasons. The authorities of the autonomous government

of Catalonia were also not informed, nor were the provincial governors of Barcelona, Tarragona or Lleida.

On Jan 27 a new shipment arrived in the same way. It is expected shipments will arrive in the same way until the initial needs of the plant are met.

The sudden transportation? - the importation licence of this uranium expired on December 31 1979. Additionally, it is expected that the US will change its policy on export of nuclear fuel to countries which have not signed the Non Proliferation Treaty.

At the same time, in Catalonia, the strong anti nuclear movement held an AntiNuclear week, Jan 21-27. A photograph and poster exhibition was open to the public all week, and films, audiovisuals and discussions were presented. On the 27th, 10,000 people demonstrated in Tarragona (near Ascó) against nuclear power.

Contact: CANC

Bruc 26, 2<sup>o</sup> Barcelona-10  
Spain

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Energy file  
Feb 1979

#### ACTIONS

#### INUIT EXHIBITION IN GERMANY

Exhibitions in Inuit art (sculptures, carvings, prints, etc) are planned in West Germany between April and June. Together with that visitors will be informed of the situation of the Can-

adian Inuit today and the problems the Baker Lake Inuit are facing with uranium mining on their land .

For more information, and if you would like this display in your country, contact:

Erwin Bittner  
Kochstrasse 17  
8750 Aschaffenburg, West Germany

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FOR A FUTURE.

THE 1980 INTERNATIONAL GATHERING FOR SURVIVAL JULY 18 - 26 1980

As in Australia, Canada, and South Africa, uranium resources in the United States are found on the lands of native peoples, but are controlled by outside forces. The pattern is worldwide - although these four areas are the site of most uranium reserves, the pattern extends to the Orkney Islands of Scotland and to the Colombian Amazon. The "outside forces" are the multinational energy corporations, whose names dot the world map as uranium miners, nuclear brokers, and loan-makers for the centralised energy they sell.

In the Black Hills of South Dakota, the people who make North-America their home are taking a stand against the first stage of the nuclear chain - uranium ore mining - to secure a non-nuclear future for their children. The Black Hills Alliance is leading the fight, with support from people of many nations who recognise the world wide implications of the nuclear fuel chain.

To people of all walks of life, the battle for the Hills is a symbol of the refusal to accept corporate and governmental dictates that tell us how to live, what to do, and when to die.

In the last century there was much open warfare as the Indians battled for their right to the land against gold fevered hordes. Finally an illegal signing took place, and the native nations had no more rights to the land.

In this century, gold has been replaced by uranium, and overt warfare is second to more subtle forms of genocide - but the US government is still trying to prove that "might makes right", and the colonisation of the Lakota people continues. The siege of Wounded Knee in 1973 was the most violent, longest confrontation between the US and native Americans since the 1880's, and with good reason: under the Pine Ridge Reservation, which includes Wounded Knee, lie uranium reserves.

Again in 1975, the Federal government attacked Pine Ridge, and a native man and two FBI agents were killed. On the same day, the puppet Tribal Chairman, Dick Wilson, signed away the rights to one eighth of the reservation to the Federal government - the part of the reservation containing most uranium ore. A reign of terror followed, and four members of the American Indian Movement (AIM) were charged with the killing of the FBI agents . Leonard Peltier was eventually jailed for those deaths, while no investigation into the killing of the native man, Joseph Stuntz, was ever held.

The US government tried to buy the Lakota off - for \$700 per person, for the richest gold mining area in the US, not to mention the vast uranium, iron ore, coal, oil, gas and other resources.

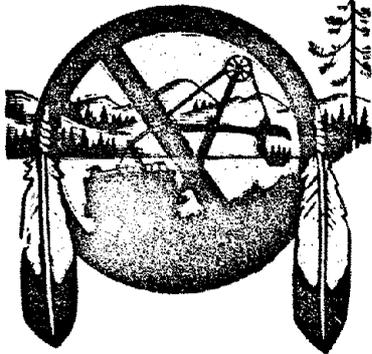
Now over 2 dozen corporations want to mine the energy resources of the Black Hills. Carter declares these people will have to sacrifice in order to win the energy crisis war for the US.

The Black Hills Alliance was formed in early 1979 to prevent the Hills becoming the waste land the companies and government intend.

The issue is not only aesthetic or cultural. The Alliance realises that radiation from uranium mining kills, that destruction will spread as far as the nuclear chain is exported. And if

the Hills are mined, there will be uranium for the most arrogant and powerful nation in the world to create new weapons for use on the earth's citizens.

If the Black Hills are not mined, the US government will be forced into putting more resources into the development of alternative energy sources and appropriate technology that will allow us to survive into the distant future. The development of these ideas and of networks to support them is the goal of the International Gathering for Survival the Black Hills Alliance has planned for this July.



Bringing the Survival Gathering to pass is a large task requiring the work of many people around the world. We must together plan a new way, a less centralised way of lifestyle, not based on high technologies, that will provide the things necessary for a satisfactory existence.

The two themes of the Gathering are Community Building and Community Defence. Three major events will tie the Gathering together and focus on the needs to build and defend a sane future.

1. A citizens review Commission on the Energy Developing Corporations, designed to gather documentation and provide testimony about the effects of corporate policies and practices on people worldwide.
2. Appropriate Technology Demonstration and Education.
3. Forum for Traditional Native Governments, to allow indigenous peoples to present their views of stewardship of the land and protection of people from corporate annihilation.

The Gathering will be for participation - it is not a spectator event. It will be

a tool for activists within their own communities, as well as a further development of a non-nuclear survival network.

It will take the support of many people to use this as the beginning of a non-nuclear future that includes the survival of our distant generations. The Black Hills Alliance invites the people of the world to participate.

For more information and donations contact:  
Black Hills Alliance  
PO Box 2508  
Rapid City, SD 57709  
(605)342 5127

International Indian Treaty Council  
777 United Nations Plaza, Suite 10F  
New York, NY 10017  
(212)986 6000

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PLEASE NOTE

Representatives from communities threatened by uranium mining who would like to attend the Survival Gathering, regardless of money, please contact Leah Warn. Leah is working on a project to raise funds for those people.

Contact: Leah Warn, 2e Weteringplantsoen 9  
1017 ZD Amsterdam, Netherlands



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RESOURCE: STOP URANIUM MINING BULLETIN

Vermont, USA, is also confronted with uranium miners - the German Urangesellschaft. A new group, SUM, has a publication of the same name.

Stop Uranium Mining, Inc  
Jamaica, Vermont 05343, USA

READ Stop Urenco Alliance Newsletter  
for information on uranium enrichment  
c/- London Greenpeace,  
6 Endsleigh St  
London, UK

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REPORT: URANIUM MINING WORKSHOP, FREIBURG,  
JANUARY 1980

At the Freiburg International Conference of the Anti Nuclear Movement, Jan 19, 20 1980, there was a workshop on uranium mining, chaired by Lin Pugh.

The workshop participants, 30 people, came from Australia, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Belgium, Spain, Germany, the USA, France, Denmark, Sweden. An address list of participants is available, but most are included below.

The dual task of the workshop was sharing information, and working out strategy demands for the international conference to take back to their regions.

There were of course frustrations in the workshop, mainly due to time (2 hours) and three language barriers to cross. There was certainly too little time to share strategy and tactics.

1. INFORMATION

Information sharing was seen as a priority, within the workshop and in the course of our struggles. This newsletter was introduced to the people, who will also now participate in the information exchange.

Spain The Spanish Friends of the Earth have a main focus this year on uranium mining. The group needs information on open surface mining, health effects for miners, etc. Exxon is widely prospecting in Spain. 5 uranium mines exist at the moment.

contact: Carlos Ruiz  
Campomanes 13  
Madrid 34, Spain

Germany Two participants are from groups working against uranium mining and milling, as well as against the construction of the Cattenom power plant in their area  
Rolf Schuba  
Birkenstr. 32  
6690 St Wendel Saarl  
West Germany

Photos and posters of the uranium struggle were requested for an exhibition in Hamburg, but the need was expressed in general for such visual materials. This is to help educate the anti nuclear struggle of the importance of supporting the stop uranium mining struggle  
Anne Neddermeyer  
Herderstr. 22  
D2085 Quickborn, W. Germany

France Members of the Nationale Coordination Anti Nucleaire explained their groups opposition to the uranium contracts and transport from Namibia, and other ex French colonies.  
Contact: Denis Montet  
CEP  
BP 6 Lyon St John  
F 69245 Cedex 1, France

We learnt of the group opposed to plans to mine in Elsass in France.  
Jean Marc Riebel  
4 rue Bellevue  
67220 Ville  
France

USA Madonna Thunder Hawk, from Women of All Red Nations, the Black Hills Alliance and MUSE foundation, invited participants to the Survival Gathering. Leah Warn announced her proposal to raise funds for other threatened people to have their fares paid to the Gathering, and immediately had a strong response. Madonna Thunder Hawk OR Black Hills Alliance, PO Box 2508 Rapid City, SD 57709

Two people from the Boston Clamshell Alliance participated, and expressed the need for more information and new contacts  
NNN. Boston Clamshell Alliance, 595  
Mass Ave, Cambridge Mass 02139 USA

Some participants were involved in support groups for native American and Canadian peoples

Erwin Bittner is in close contact with Baker Lake Inuit, whose land is being mined by Urangesellschaft. His Address Kochstr.61  
8750 Aschaffenburg, West Germany

Pascal Gagneux from Switzerland has contact with South American people, and he expressed the need for more international solidarity with anti uranium mining struggles. This is especially important for Brazil  
His Address: Heubadstr. 65  
CH 4054 Basel  
Switzerland

Amis de la Terre in Brussels are preparing a meeting in March to raise support for the American Indian struggle.

Benic Deswarte  
91 rue de la Stassant  
1050 Bruxelles tel 5120329

Gert Henzel of Germany is researching German uranium mining companies in relation to Native Americans, and, as a freelance journalist, is explaining to German the situation of American Indians. He stated the need for a good, quick information service. The other need is research, extensive, into uranium transport, for use by European activists.  
His address:  
c/- White Light Verlag  
Neudorf 3  
6121 Mossautel 1  
West Germany

Birger Krüse works with an Inuit support group in Denmark. His address:  
OOA, Skindergade 26, Copenhagen, Denmark.

Sweden A representative from the Swedish National Coordination explained that there is an estimated 4½ thousand tons of uranium under Swedish ground. In the Swedish referendum in March this year, a NO vote will mean no to

uranium mining as well as no to nuclear power. In the past, test drills were stopped by local action, and there is at the moment no active uranium mining in Sweden

Contact: Ann Brising  
Sveav 80"  
11359 Stockholm, Sweden

Netherlands Two Dutch participants stated the need for information to inform the Dutch anti nuclear movement about anti uranium mining struggles.

Contact:  
SSK  
Vondelstr 6  
Nijmegen, Netherlands

LSSK  
Oude Gracht 42  
Utrecht, Netherlands

Australia An Australian activist explained the struggle in Australia and stated the need for better information flows, both within Australia and internationally

Annabelle Newbury Knight  
CANE  
537 Wellington St  
Perth, WA Australia

From the above discussion, the following points emerged:

- need for better information flows
- organising good contacts - for graphics as well as information
- research on uranium mining and transport which will then be strategy material for the European anti nuclear movement.

## 2. WHITSUN

The second part of the discussion was Whitsun: what are our demands for the international movement. The following points, delivered at the Plenary session and adopted by the meeting, will be used in Whitsun anti nuclear actions preparation and demands.

### 1. DEMANDS:

Uranium mining has to be made an

international issue and brought to the anti nuclear movement. The movement needs to be informed, and the anti uranium mining struggles need international support. Uranium mining is the source of the nuclear fuel chain: it therefore affects the entire movement.

Uranium is consumed in "civil" and military programmes.

- We propose: 1. Stop Uranium mining
- 2. Stop the import and export of uranium
- 3 stop the fuel chain at the source

be a theme of coming international anti nuclear actions

2. INFORMATION

we need to connect with existing stop uranium mining publications to strengthen them and to keep us informed, and to act as channels for passing on research

3. ACTIONS

Actions against transport in Europe could include blockades, sabotage, strikes.

Actions to be non violent

Actions could also include demonstrations in front of and against selected firms connected with the uranium industry, including for example banks.

4. SURVIVAL GATHERING

We propose that this conference supports the Survival Gathering in the Black Hills in July 1980.

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EXTRAS  
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CAN WHITES CHANGE ABORIGINAL LAWS?

Australia: the Australian Law Reform Commission is doing its best to discredit Aboriginal law in the sight of white Australians.

The tactic seems straight forward: uranium mining is facing strong opposition from aboriginal people and aboriginal law. Convince the whites that the law must be changed, then it can, then the land can be maximally exploited. Justice Kirby, head of the Commission, decided the laws discriminate against women, the punishments under black law are unacceptable to whites and that clubbing and physical violence should not be countenanced by "us" - the whites. Justice Kirby apparently accepts oppressive laws in white society - we don't have to believe the intention of this Commission is friendly towards aborigines.

source: Sydney Morning Herald 4.2.80

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TROUBLES FOR US, YELLOWCAKE PRODUCERS

USA:

A study carried out on yellowcake in 1972 has surfaced again: and it could make trouble for US yellowcake producers. Since 1971, when it was discovered that much of Grand Junction Colo. was built on radioactive tailings, federal agencies have passed laws to clean up old uranium mills - 90% paid for by federal agencies. Now utilities will have to pay for the cleaning up of off-site "hot spots" - radiation, if the NRC decides the responsibility lies with those responsible and not with tax payers.

In some two hundred communities surveyed, some seven thousand hot spots were found in 1972. In 33 communities in Colorado, 6,191 hotspots were found. How high would that figure be today.

Source: Nuclear Fuel, Jan 21 1980

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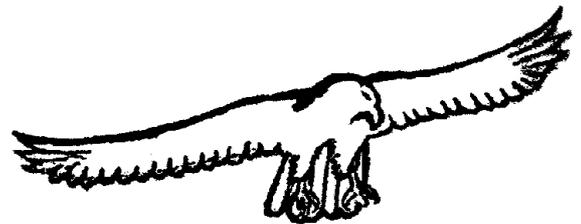
RAW MATERIALS GROUP STUDY ON URANIUM

We publish the letter from Ravarugruppen, an independent research group working with Kommentar, an independent socialist monthly, and the largest anti-imperialist magazine in Scandanavia.

We have just finished the first extensive study of the world uranium market in Swedish. The book will be out Feb 11th. Hopefully a lot of the statistical material will be useful to you, even if the analysis is in Swedish. We are sending you a copy as soon as possible.

We think it would be useful to send you some of the source material we have used especially in relation to Rossing in Namibia, to which we devoted one full chapter.

In WISE Keep It In The Ground International Newsletter no.2 you stated that "journalists have discovered that Iran has a 15% stake in the uranium...". Enclosed material from NUEXCO confirms this and indicates that the Spanish state has a 10% interest as well. This, we think, is not known in Spain and should be communicated to them as soon as possible.



When the book is published we are going to argue publicly that Sweden - through Svensk Kärnbränsleförjning AB, the State importing agency - has to prove that it does not accept Namibian uranium as a part of its extensive import contracts with Uranex/Cogema. We are prepared for an interesting debate in which our SWAPO friends will most probably play an important role.

from: Olle af Geijerstam  
Raw Materials Group  
PO Box 5220  
102 45 Stockholm, Sweden

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