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KEEP IT IN THE GROUND

international stop uranium mining newsletter

OCTOBER 1980
8



Dear Reader

SUBSCRIPTIONS

This is a newsletter linking together people all over the world fighting to stop uranium mining and uranium imports and exports.

A subscription to this newsletter costs £15 per year.

That is the equivalent of US \$7.50.

We pass on information from groups who want to share that information with other groups. The newsletter was set up at the initiative of several groups of people from remote places who needed to keep in touch with each other and learn about each others struggles and support each other.

If you can afford more, please send that. Institutional rate is £30 per year.

Make out cheques to WISE Amsterdam, marked URANIUM. Our giro number is 4088285.

Or perhaps you would like to exchange publications?

Everybody is invited to participate in this newsletter. Please send news stories, information requests, information on new and useful publications to WISE in Amsterdam (address on back page). Please send news by fastest means - ring the nearest WISE office and it can be telexed.

We would like a theme for each newsletter. For example, we could publish a theme one month on milling, including scientific information, publications useful to people trying to stop a milling plant in their area, plus a listing of other groups working on this problem. We could provide the lists of names and addresses, but who will write up the theme article in simple language?

We need translators for this newsletter into French. Who can do this?

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INTERNATIONAL

TARGETTING CORPORATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL STOP URANIUM MINING STRATEGY

Several meetings have happened in relation to the proposal (see KIITG number 7) for an international action to stop uranium mining. The action, stemming from a group of people meeting at the Black Hills International Survival Gathering, will target two multinational corporations and possibly more, which are involved in uranium mining world wide. These are Rio Tinto Zinc and Union Carbide. The idea at this stage involves a week of action coordinated by a decentralised network of participating organisations and individuals.

The long term goal of this campaign is to unite communities around the world to break the economic and environmental domination by multinational corporations that threaten our very survival.

The London based group Survival International has endorsed the proposal, as well as CIMRA and some other England based groups. There has been interest, but as yet no endorsement, expressed in Ireland.

A recent meeting in Minneapolis discussed the action proposal, and is calling for regional conferences to take place in that country shortly after the November elections. They would like to ask people not to announce any campaigns until international coordination is properly organised and then there can be possibly simultaneous announcements around the world. In the USA contact Northern Sun Alliance, 1519 E. Franklin, Minneapolis, MN 55404 tel (612) 874 1540.

In England contact CIMRA, 218 Liverpool Road London N1 UK. tel(1) 609 1852.

Please send all news on the project to KIITG so that we can play our part and pass the information on.

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RUSSELL TRIBUNAL NEWS

It is at this stage certain that, beside Indians from the Americas, representatives of the Kimberley Land Council in Australia, from the Maori community in New Zealand, and from the community in Greenland will participate in the programme associated with the Russell Tribunal. The Tribunal will be held in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, from November 24 to 30, at De Doelen. While these people have some programme already organised, it is hoped that groups in other European countries who would like to hear these people speak about their struggle against multinational corporations including uranium miners, will contact the contact address at the bottom of this story.

The Tribunal organisers have received 30 cases from Indians in North, South and Central America, including Lakota Treaty, landrights in Nova Scotia, Canada, hunting rights in Ontario, Canada, ethnocide in Colombia, apartheid in Peru, genocide in Guatemala. The week that the Tribunal has reserved is unfortunately not enough for all the cases to be heard.

Nevertheless all the cases will be published in a book presented by the organisers some time after November. To get this book, or more information, contact: 4th Russell Tribunal
Werkgroep Indianen Projekt
Bloemgracht 90, 1015 TM Amsterdam
Netherlands tel (20) 235984

for information on the representatives of other threatened peoples, contact:
Govert de Groot
's Gravenzandelaan 34"
2512 JM Den Haag
Netherlands.

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The organisers would also appreciate gifts of money to help finance travel costs etc

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COUNTRY BY COUNTRY NEWS

GREENLAND

GREENLAND URANIUM ARRIVES IN DENMARK, WITH PROTEST

On Sept. 1 the first 2100 tons of a total of 4200 tons of uranium from Greenland arrived in Denmark. The second shipment arrived on September 27, 5 days before the scheduled time. Both occasions were met with protest.

While the ship "Edith Nielsen" was in Narssaq, Greenland, the crew discussed whether they should boycott or continue working on the ship. The workers decided to continue working, because the shipping company would not pay their costs back to Denmark otherwise. The ship was destined for Holbak, but stopped in Ålborg to change a large portion of the crew. Most of the new crew members were organised in the Seamens Union.

The ship arrived at 6pm (1800) on Monday September 1, and was met by 50-70 people demonstrating against uranium mining in Greenland. Some of these people were members of the Greenland Committee Against Uranium Mining (KUAK), demanding:

- Stop Uranium Investigations at Risø (the laboratory where the uranium was going to)
- No Uranium Mining in Greenland
- Property rights to the Resources belong to the People.

The unloading of the ship began at 6.00 am the following morning. 20 demonstrators were at the harbour to discuss uranium transport with the seamen and the workers. Most of the truck drivers had only heard within the last 24 hours that they were to transport uranium, and had been given no further instructions by their union. The truck drivers belong to a union of small firms, which are often used for political assignments because of their decentralised nature.

The union did, however, demand guarantees for unloading the shipment, but failed to inform their members of this. Many of the other workers are organised in the S.I.D. (special workers in Denmark).

At 10.00 am the director of SID Holbak came to look at the conditions and talk with the workers. Shortly after the work supervisor came, and together they approved the working conditions with the exception that the uranium ore be kept wet. The uranium ore was then handled as normal gravel. Some was dropped in the harbour. Other parts were left all day lying piled, producing a lot of dust when trucks drove past.

The demonstrators called the environment supervisor to inform him of the pile of uranium on the pier, but the case was refused.

Demonstrators handed out leaflets all day, and with the truck-drivers permission posted "uranium ore - keep distance" stickers on the trucks. Demonstrators remained at the harbour during the work.

One week later a public meeting was held at Holbak to prepare for the next uranium transport.

That second transport arrived 5 days earlier than expected, and 30 protestors were there to greet it. A demonstration was held on Monday morning, September 29. 50 people from the local area were there, and tried to talk again with the workers. However, the workers continued, and continued without wearing any security clothing. The demonstration was entirely peaceful.

Source: Greenpeace Denmark
Slotsgade 7

2200 Copenhagen N, Denmark, tel(1)395705

also: OOA

Skindergade 26'

1159 Copenhagen tel (1) 110673

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NAMIBIA

TRADE UNIONISTS IN ENGLAND CALL MEETING TO OPPOSE NAMIBIAN URANIUM

Sept 27: The Preston Trades Council and the Lancashire Association of Trade Councils called a conference to campaign against the import in England of Namibian uranium. These organisations have opposed the contract which brings illegally mined uranium from Namibia to Britain for use in nuclear reactors.

The conference, mostly trade unionists, brought together people opposed to the contract and those leading the struggle of the Namibian workers against multinational and western exploitation. The main speaker was from the South West Africa Peoples Organisation (SWAPO).

The 40 people present decided to bring pressure by pressing the issue within the Trade Union movement.

There will be a demonstration against the uranium import in November, followed by a rally at the Springfields plant which receives the uranium to convert it into hexafluoride.

Contact: J. Parkinson, 28A Whitby Ave
Ingol, Preston, Lancs. UK.
tel (772) 731089

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NO BRITISH GOVERNMENT REVIEW ON URANIUM FROM NAMIBIA

The British government decided not to review the Rossing uranium mine contract in Namibia, according to an article in the Guardian, 21.8.80. Instead they want to fuel 20 new reactors within 20 years - and improve business for the Springfields plant near Preston.

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SWAPO STATEMENT ON NAMIBIAN URANIUM AND RIO TINTO ZINC AT UN HEARINGS

New York, USA: On July 7, SWAPO spokesperson Theo- Ben Guribab spoke at the United Nations Hearings on uranium in Namibia.

"Just like all the other foreign economic interests operating in Namibia", he stated, "Rio Tinto Zinc (RTZ) must get out of Namibia. It is our firm conviction that such interests and their activities in Namibia at the present time only contribute towards the strengthening of racist South Africa's illegal occupation which further aggravates the hardship and suffering of our people."

Mr Guribab submitted before the hearings and before the panel a secret "security scheme" for defense of the Rossing mine where Rio Tinto Zinc is the single largest exploiter... "it is understandable why RTZ would go to the extent of signing a defense agreement with Pretoria (S.Africa) so that the fascist troops of S.Africa can defend the mining complex against "civil, labour or terrorist attack". The document details the nature and extent of this agreement... this is further evidence to show that RTZ is, in fact, one of those corporations whose operations have been integrated into the apartheid military-industrial-strategic complex in Namibia...

SWAPO Central Committee has decided that our people will, through the government of an independent state of Namibia, present a bill of indictment and of damages and demand compensation from any person, entity or corporation, for example RTZ, which during the pre-independence period is involved in illegal acts and in plunder of our uranium and other resources in collaboration with the illegal occupationalist regime."

The document can be obtained from the UN Council for Namibia, UN Plaza, New York 10017 USA

Source: SWAPO of Namibia Information and Comments, August 1980.

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WORKERS IN THE NAMIBIAN URANIUM MINE

- extracted from an article by Kaighn Smith and Angela Gennino in the October number of Not Man Apart.

According to the well-known researcher J. Waggoner, 2000 native workers at the Rossing mine in Namibia - containing the largest open pit in the world - are exposed to levels of cancer-causing radon gas, similar to levels found in early US mines. There, lung cancer rates were estimated to be as high as 80%.

The South African government and the British-based Rio Tinto Zinc testified in New York at the Namibia Hearings that the precautions are adequate at the mine. Inspection of Rossing facilities by outsiders, however, is forbidden. Until Rossing is subjected to full inspection by the scientific community, said Waggoner, assurances by owners and operators will not be acceptable. "To see is to believe", he said.

SWAPO and workers have reported on the evidence of absence of safety standards at Rossing. Mine workers, according to a letter submitted by a worker to the United Nations, now have respirators but are only required to use them in the very dusty areas and when one of the chemical plants breaks down, as it does from time to time, and emits a very toxic odor". Even with the mask on, the worker reports, one feels sick from the odor. In the windy environment of the Namibian desert, the letter continues, the toxic smoke is blown to the black workers' compounds only ten kilometres from the mine. Workers are further contaminated by wearing their work clothes home.

The 800 white workers are also exposed to above-pit toxic dust from the mine, but they live 80 km from the site, do not work inside the mine, possess 80% of the skilled jobs, and are given thorough medical tests several times a year. A spokesperson of the National Union of Namibian Workers, based in Angola, stated that the black workers are x-rayed, but not checked by doctors.

This preferential treatment for whites is part of South Africa's apartheid policy. Apartheid enables the 8% white minority in Namibia to force the blacks to live in segregated, inferior conditions, and pay them sub standard wages in nearly all labour occupations. At Rossing, black workers earn one-sixth the wages of whites.

Apartheid policy and recent increases of uranium prices have made the low grade uranium mining at Rossing one of the most profitable mining ventures in the world. Rossing now provides RTZ with 50% of its world wide profits. (however, the profitability of uranium mining is now lessening, providing real headaches for the industry, as you will see in the Industry section of this KIITG).

Contact Africa Resource Center
464 19th Street, Oakland, Calif
94612 USA tel (415) 763 8011

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AUSTRALIA

PORT BAN ON YELLOWCAKE

On August 16, Darwin Waterside workers voted to ban yellow cake traffic through the port of Darwin, and have asked the Darwin City council to declare Darwin a nuclear free zone.

Queensland Mines signed a contract two days before the ban to sell 900 tonnes of their Nabarlek stockpiles to a Finland utility. Since the Nabarlek uranium would normally be shipped through Darwin, Queensland Mines now has to find another way to get its uranium out of the area and overseas. Meanwhile, aborigines are going

through legal action to deny QM access to the Nabarlek site through their tribal land.

contact: Movement for a Non-Nuclear Future, PO Box 2120 Darwin NT 5794 Australia tel Darwin 81 3804

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RESIGNATION CALLED FOR OVER STOLEN YELLOWCAKE

The Movement Against Uranium Mining (MAUM) in Melbourne has called on the resignation of the Minister for National Development and Energy, over the stolen yellowcake affair. (see last KIITG).

MAUM has asked for a public inquiry into the theft, involving 2 tons of uranium yellowcake.

The group held a rally on October 3 to oppose nuclear power plants being built in Victoria, to support unions stepping up their activities against uranium mining, and to make uranium mining an election issue, as the elections are happening on October 18.

contact: MAUM
250 George St, Fitzroy
3065, Vic Aust

Source: Tribune

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NOONKANBAH STRUGGLE CONTINUES

ACTION

ON September 3 six aboriginal land councils, in solidarity with the Yungngora community at Noonkanbah, decided to stop all negotiations between aborigines and mining companies across northern and central Australia. The ban will remain until the

Western Australian (WA) Liberal Party government and AMAX begin meaningful negotiations with the Yungngora community.

Nationally, a meeting of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) executive endorsed a plan of industrial action over Noonkanbah. The plan involves bans and limitations against WA's state government, AMAX, CSR, and Midland Brick Company. But ACTU President Hawke has asked Eastern state unions not to act on the plan while he negotiates with Prime Minister Fraser, AMAX and CSR representatives.

Further demonstrations in support of the Yungngora community have taken place in Brisbane, where 300 people rallied outside the WA Tourist Bureau. Dances were held earlier to raise money to send Queensland aborigines to Noonkanbah to give direct assistance to the people there. A bus was planned to leave in late September. In Adelaide aborigines organised a lunchtime picket outside a meeting of six state premiers. The premiers were forced to stay inside during lunch.

Contact: Kimberley Land Council
PO Box 332, Derby
WA 6728, Australia tel 911220

+++ For more news on Noonkanbah actions see the North America section

the struggle has gone international+++

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A NEW FILM FROM AUSTRALIA

DIRT CHEAP

A new Australian film about uranium mining and aborigines has been made. Called "Dirt Cheap" the film seeks to expose who gains and who loses in the current race by multinationals to develop Australian uranium and other mineral deposits. In so doing, it shows the common cause behind Aborigines in the North losing their land and workers in the South losing their jobs. A documentary, co-produced by Marg Clancy, David Hay and Ned Lander, Dirt Cheap (16mm colour 88 mins) was financed by 38 trade unions and the NSW Film Corp. Marg Clancy 46 Forsyth St, Glebe, 2037 AUST. (tel 02. 6602713)

WA GOVERNMENT MOVES AGAINST ABORIGINES

The Court government is moving in state parliament to remove obstacles to the mining of Aboriginal land, according to a report in Tribune, 24 Sept.80.

The Aboriginal Heritage Act Amendment Bill now before the Legislative Council gives the Minister for Cultural Affairs authority over mining on Aboriginal land. Mining companies are to have a right of appeal. Aborigines will not.

The bill also extends the governments power over the WA Museums Aboriginal Cultural Materials Committee, binding it to secrecy.

This means that the government will no longer be publicly seen to be rejecting the advice of its anthropologists on sacred sites or sites of cultural importance (the state government last year prevented the museum trustees from declaring an area at Noonkanbah sacred under the existing Aboriginal Heritage Act).

A senior member of the staff of the museum recently told the press that staff members have discussed mass resignation.

This would be a response to the governments treatment of Aborigines at Noonkanbah, and to its attack on the professional reputation of the museum staff.

The staff member said that the government forbade staff from speaking in public, in two formal instructions sent through the director of the museum.

"The minister has put the lid on us" he said. "Its not the Public Service Act, its just the minister using muscle to keep us quiet"

Individual staff members are frightened to declare themselves, because they might be sacked or

victimised in the future, he said. Many feel their strongest and safest move might be to put in a mass resignation.

"But there is fear that the government might just accept it and sack the lot of us".

Contact: Kimberley Land Council
PO Box 332, Derby
WA 6728, Australia
tel 911220

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USA

NAVAJO'S FILING SUIT AGAINST MINING CO.

At least 125 families have filed suit against United Nuclear Corporation(UNC) for damages resulting from a dam break at UNC's Churchrock uranium mill in July 1979. The dam broke on July16, releasing 100million gallons of contaminated water into the Rio Puerco river in New Mexico(see WISE, vol 1,No.6 and subsequent issues).

Each of the suits claim that UNC knew that the dam pond was defective and that it failed to notify the appropriate government officials. Each of the Navajos filing suit is seeking \$25,000 in actual damages and \$75,000 in punitive damages. Up to 300 people are expected to file suit, which could result in a \$30million claim against UNC.

Source: Nuclear Fuel
Contact: American Indian Environmental Council, 1503 Central NW, Albuquerque, NM, 87103 USA

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TEMPORARY MICHIGAN MORATORIUM

There is a temporary moratorium on uranium prospecting in Michigan until

next year at least. Under direction from the state governor, the state's department of natural resources and department of public health are studying the effects of mining on human health and the environment. Until their report is ready, expected to be next January, nothing is to be done.

Contact: Land Educational Associates
Foundation Inc.
3368 Oak Ave, Stevens Point,
WI 54481
tel. (715) 344 6158

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FIGHT AGAINST DRILLING IN NATIONAL FOREST

A Texas mining company is seeking to drill more core samples in the Los Padres National Forest, to see if the area is suitable for full-scale uranium mining.

Nearby residents (including people from the Red Wind Native American village, just a few miles from the proposed drill sites), the Santa Margarita Advisory Council and the Oak Tree Alliance, are fighting the company's plans. The drilling could contaminate a vast underground water basin.

Contact: Land Educational Associates
Foundation Inc.
(for address see last article)

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JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP VICTORY

The Jefferson Township town council has voted unanimously to ban uranium mining, milling, exploration and transportation of fissionable materials in the township.

Jefferson is a town in New Jersey, located near uranium deposits in what is known as the Reading Prong (a roughly 1,000 square mile area stretching through northern New Jersey and western New York). Unknown to local residents until recently, energy multinationals Exxon

and Standard Oil of Ohio have been acquiring mineral rights and quietly exploring for uranium. It is now known that Standard has leased 1,000 acres of land near Jefferson for exploratory drilling, while Exxon has been drilling in nearby West Milford.

Two local groups have formed to fight the companies: Stop Uranium Now (SUN) in Jefferson Township, and the Prevent Uranium Mining Alliance (PUMA) in West Milford Township. Besides all the other well-known environmental hazards of uranium mining, the threat to water supplies here is a crucial danger as the area already has a water shortage problem.

Besides the recent ban, the Morris County Medical Society has called for a moratorium on all mining activity, and the county's public health association has come out strongly against any exploration, mining or milling.

The ban is seen by many to be the first step toward banning uranium operations throughout the whole state. The decision is expected to be legally challenged by the companies.

Contact: Morris SEA
Box 271, New Vernon
NJ 07976

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THE BOOM BUSTS IN NEW MEXICO

The uranium mining industry in New Mexico, 'the uranium capital of the world', is in trouble.

In 1977 New Mexico was the source of over half of US yellowcake production. Lured on by rosy forecasts for future nuclear generating capacity, low taxes, little regulation and unlimited water rights, uranium producers there planned to triple output from the Grants Mineral Belt. Only one year ago 8 new mines were under development and at least 24 others were in various stages of planning. But now mines are closing, 20% of New Mexico's uranium miners are laid off, suppliers to the industry are going out of business and

new exploration has halted. The New Mexico Mining Association describes the industry as being "...in a complete state of collapse."

Two major factors have combined to bring this about. First is the decline in reactor construction. This has created a serious over-supply situation in the domestic uranium market and prices have plummeted (so much so that some producers are actually buying from the spot market to fulfil contracts, as its cheaper than mining it).

Second is the growing concern New Mexico residents are expressing over the dangers of uranium mining and milling. Anti-nuclear and Indian Land rights activists (approx. 50% of current New Mexico production is on Indian land, as well as 1/3 to 1/2 of the states uranium reserves) are a growing force within the state. Many people have become active since New Mexicos 'Three Mile Island', the Churchrock tailings dam break, where an estimated 100million gallons of radioactive water and 1,100 tons of contaminated sludge spilt into the Rio Puerco river, seriously contaminating water supplies.

With a seemingly new environmental awareness the state legislature recently raised the industry's taxes an average of 30% to help pay for the damage wrought by the mining and milling. And producers now face many lawsuits seeking to block exploration and development. While far from being defeated, the industry is definitely in the doldrums.

Source: Americans Before Columbus
Feb 80.

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THE FUTURE RETURNS

FUTURES (Folk United to Thwart Unsafe Radiation Emission), a grass roots Colorado group, has come back to fight uranium mining in southern Colorado. They are also fighting Homestake Mining, one of the companies operating the Churchrock mill in New Mexico

(see the previous article for what happened at Churchrock).

Source: Women Strike for Peace
201 Mass. Ave NE Suite 102
Washington DC 20002

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SUPPORT ACTIONS FOR NOONKANBAH

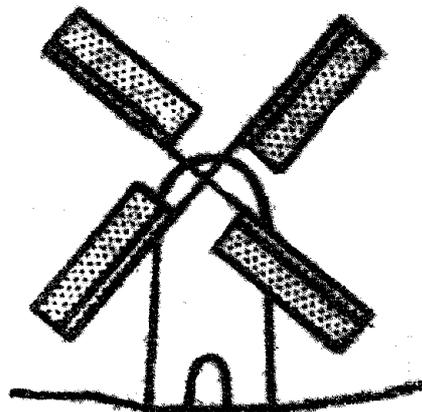
American Indians, in separate incidents thousands of miles apart, have acted in solidarity with Australian Aborigines in their current struggle at Noonkanbah.

In Switzerland, two Mohawk Indians met the three person Aboriginal delegation in Geneva. The delegation is protesting to the United Nations over Noonkanbah. The Indians suggested they consider revoking their Australian citizenship, and then issue and travel on their own passports. The Indians had travelled to Geneva on their Red Indian passports.

In Washington, Indians demonstrated against the Australian Prime Minister Fraser, who was there to collect a humanitarian award from B'nai B'rith. The Indians, carrying placards condemning the Noonkanbah drilling, highlighted the hypocrisy of this award.

Source: Australiasian Express
9/9/80

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CANADA

TROUBLE OVER SASKATCHEWAN REFINERY

Eldorado Nuclear's plans to build its third Canadian uranium refinery near Warman, Saskatchewan, have received several setbacks. A Federal Government Environmental Assessment panel concluded it "could not endorse" the site chosen by Eldorado, due to its uncertainty about the refinery's social impact (it felt the physical environmental impact would be "minimal".) The panel recommended that Eldorado either look at other sites, do a social impact study of the Warman area, or both.

Citizen opposition to the plans, in nearby Saskatoon as well as Warman itself, is strong. However, the panel avoided this opposition, stating that there was confusion as to whether the panel is entitled to seek "representative opinion". The panel's report was accepted by the Federal environment minister and is now with the energy minister for a decision.

The Saskatoon City Council, according to a report in Nuclear Newsletter of 15 September, split 5 to 5 on a motion to support Eldorado's Warman plans. The Mayor cast the deciding vote - in favour of the project.

Whether the Council's vote merely confirms the stalemate in the community or has any real impact on the decision whether or not to proceed with the project remains to be seen. In the meantime, real estate interests are running a petition to save the refinery project from dying in an effort to protect a number of speculative investments in buildings constructed in anticipation of the refinery being built.

contact: Saskatoon Environmental Society, PO Box 1372
Saskatoon, Sask S7K 3N9
tel (306) 665 6655

ABORIGINAL LANDRIGHTS THREATENED: GOVERNMENT WANTS SEAT OF CONSTITUTION OUT OF ENGLAND

The Canadian government asked Britain on September 18 to transfer the Canadian constitution from Whitehall (London) to Canada. However, a message from the Nishnawbe-Aski people to the organisers of the Russell Tribunal in the Netherlands stated that this is a threat to the aboriginal people of Canada.

"The government of Canada is today (15 Sept) seeking to patriate the British North America Act, from the British parliament of Canada. It threatens to take this action unilaterally despite the fact that the aboriginal people have close intimate ties by treaty with the British Crown. This possibility is a direct threat to the existence of those aboriginal peoples, who were recognised by the British monarch in 1763 as an entity in North America. It is this threat, that prompts us to appeal for world support through the 4th Russell Tribunal."

contact: Inuit Tapirisat
222 Somerset St W 6th Floor
Ottawa Ontario K2P 2G3
Canada tel(613) 238 8181

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NETWORKING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

A British Columbia/Washington newsletter has been started. It is one of the results of the Black Hills Survival Gathering held in July, and the September number is already out.

The Uranium Resistance Coalition/Pacific Northwest Research Center in Eugene Oregon USA proposes to facilitate a network of all people involved in the Survival Gathering. The BC Washington Alliance people decided to form a local area network. They hope to develop close regional contact and develop strategy effective in areas of mutual concern.

HAND (Haney Alliance for Nuclear Discouragement) will act as clearing house for the regional network. They will maintain a library, materials file, skills file, an events calendar, an information journal, and send out mailings on a regular basis.

contact HAND
13210 232nd St
Maple Ridge, B.C. Canada
V2X 7E7
tel (604) 467 9089
(Bill Hartley)

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FRANCE

COLLECTIF AUTONOME D'INTERVENTION ET DE MOBILISATION ANTI NUCLEAIRE REPORT

CAIMAN has published a report on uranium mining in France, and this has been translated by the group Rebel in Ireland. "No-U-Turn" specifically chooses to focus on the political, economic context of uranium mining in France as well as on the struggles themselves, because French nuclear imperialism is getting more and more aggressive inside the European Economic Community, in Africa and other parts of the world. Therefore it does not focus on technical and medical questions as a means of exposing the dangers of uranium mining.

The 25 page booklet is divided into four chapters: one on the "world-wide game", the second on the "French Game", with details of French companies involved in uranium production, pointing out their special connections with capitalism in France. The third chapter "The Damage Done" is the one I found most interesting, with discussions on decision making and the democratic

debate, the environment - the problem of water supply, and a very detailed and documented through conversation account of the effect on local people. The final section in this chapter is based on workers and radiation. They conclude this section with the statement that it is time scientists lower the maximum permissible level of radiation, as there are so many radiation induced sicknesses apparent in the mines. RADON inhalation for Euratom is 10 times that recommended by ICRP. There is no systematic follow-up of miners health including every aspect of irradiation and other health hazards.

In that section they say that since the beginning of 1980, 3 uranium miners have been killed in classical mining accidents. On January 2 the Lodève mine of COGEMA was flooded by a violent stream of mud and rocks, killing two miners. The CGT union denounced the lack of safety in the 5 year old mine, and the workers went on strike. In February a miner died in a landslide in the St Jean-la-Fouillouse mine of CFMU. That mine had been opened 20 years ago, was closed later for safety reasons and was only just recently re-opened. For the first time since 1958 260 miners went on strike. An agreement was reached with the management a week later, but the strike continued as some demands were not met. 3 miners went on hunger strike in the town hall of Langogne. They won a wage increase, but the safety problems remain as big as ever, particularly in privately owned uranium mines.

This actually on-going study can be obtained from
Rebel
PO Box 1103
29 Mountjoy Square, Dublin 1
Ireland

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BELGIUM

URANIUM PRODUCTION IN RUTSBROEK

Metallurgie Overpelt and the Société de Prayon and Rupel-Chemie have formed an association together with the International Minerals and Chemical Corporation to produce uranium.

Rupel-Chemie produces phosphate from Sahara sand. This phosphate is then processed, and uranium is extracted. Together with "sister" organisations in France and America, Rupel-Chemie will produce, within a number of years, 10% of the world's uranium "requirements". The purpose is, for Belgium, to create its own energy requirements independent of other countries. Belgium then plans to build a nuclear power plant at nearby Schelle.

The anti nuclear group in Rupelstreek is distributing information on this development, and demanding action to stop it.

contact: Eddy Stuer
Dorpstraat 39
2640 Niel
Belgium

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PERMANENT PEOPLES TRIBUNAL SESSION ON THE PHILIPPINES

From October 30 to November 3 the Permanent Peoples Tribunal, in Antwerp, will hold a session on the Philippines. Bataan nuclear power plant will be a case, and uranium mining is also likely to come under discussion. For more details write to

Phillipine Peoples Commission for the Permanent Peoples Tribunal
Sint Andreas Plaats 20-21
2000 Antwerpen
BELGIUM

IRELAND

IRISH BASE METALS OUT OF GALWAY

Irish Base Metals and Northgate (the multinationals involved in uranium exploration in Donegal, and through their subsidiary Ulster Base Metals in Armagh and Down) have packed up and pulled out of mining operations in Tynagh, county Galway.

Behind them they have left huge mounds of polluting wastes. The 300 they employed are now jobless, with little hope for finding new jobs. And all the ores are gone - and no-one believes their public relations that the area will miraculously be transformed into green pasture.

contact: Outta Control
7 Winetavern Street
Smithfield
Belfast
Northern Ireland

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PUBLIC OPPOSITION GROWS IN DONEGAL

In the latest number of U STOP, bulletin of the Donegal Uranium Committee, several letters of support of the Donegal uranium campaign have been published. Although they are dated June and July, we want to publish them to give an idea of the way things are done in Ireland

"The Irish Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament sends its warmest regards to the Donegal Uranium Committee... and wishes it every success in future campaigning. Because of the intrinsic link between the mining of uranium, and the extraction of weapons-grade uranium for use in nuclear weapons, and the eventual use of reactor-grade uranium, when it is turned into plutonium, in the manufacture of

plutonium weapons, this campaign is vigorously opposed to uranium prospecting in Ireland, or anywhere else.

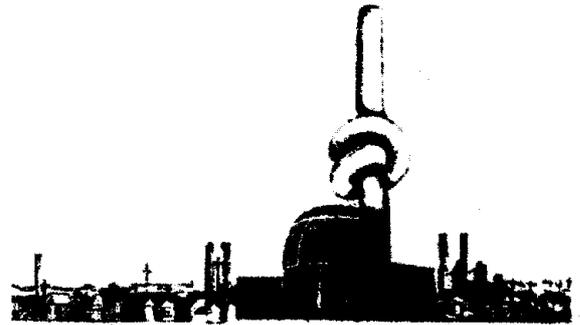
Irish CND has called for a moratorium on uranium prospecting in Ireland, has called for a full public inquiry on uranium, separate from the proposed nuclear inquiry, and with Nuclear Safety Association has asked the Minister for Energy for a meeting to discuss uranium prospecting and its links with the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Twenty nine groups or organisations have now expressed support for the submission to the Minister for Foreign Affairs which included the following demand "As Ireland's obligations through the membership of the EEC would require the equitable supply to all EEC partners, including Britain and France, of any uranium mined in Ireland, thus providing Britain and France with uranium which they could enrich to weapons grade uranium, we strongly argue that all uranium prospecting should cease immediately, and that the mining of Irish uranium deposits should not proceed."

A letter from the Labour Party, headed Stop the Uranium Exploration, says the "Irish Labour Party demands that all uranium exploration in this country be halted until such a time as we have a full and fair public inquiry into the question of nuclear energy in all its aspects; and that this inquiry be followed by a referendum, so that the voice of Irish men and women can be heard on an issue which not only gravely affects them, but future generations of the Irish people to come."

The Northern Ireland Childrens Holiday Scheme also opposes uranium mining. The Scheme has a House in Naran, Donegal, voted overwhelming in support of the campaign against uranium mining in Donegal at its latest meeting in Liverpool, England.

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INDUSTRY NEWS

BADEN BADEN, WEST GERMANY known uranium deposits will not be mined so long as uranium is available on the world market at reasonable prices, according to Ministry of Economics in Baden-Württemberg. Source: Tageszeitung 29.8.80

THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT has decided how to divest itself of its 50% share in the Ranger uranium mine. Energy Resources of Australia (ERA) has been formed to take over Ranger, to be owned 30% by Peko, 30% by EZ Industries, 25% by various West German and Japanese utilities, and 15% to the Australian public.

The West German and Japanese utilities involved have contracts for 34,000 tons of yellowcake over 15 years, yet bilateral nuclear safeguard agreements with these countries have yet to be completed. The Australian government is taking all lengths to sell uranium on a depressed world market. Points likely to be comprised are: whether used uranium will be reprocessed to derive plutonium; the transfer of new and used uranium within the EEC; and methods of waste disposal

West German recipients of Ranger uranium will be Rheinisch-Westfälisches Elektrizitätswerk, Urangesellschaft and Saarberg Interplan Ura, who will take a share in ERA along with Rheinische Braunkohlenwerke.

Meanwhile the Mary Kathleen Mine in Queensland, operated by Rio ~~Zinc~~ Zinc is undertaking a "regional and local exploration programme" according to a report in the Financial Times (London) in August - but no significant mineralisation has yet been reported.

Directors of the mine fear that Australia's trade unions may be trying to force the mine to close down prematurely.

"The company will resist vigorously all attempts in this direction. Early closure would have far reaching consequences for our employees, our

customers, our shareholders and for Australia", the company said.

CRA, RTZ's Australian subsidiary, announces that it has reached agreement with aborigines at Lake Argyle in the Ashton joint venture area to proceed with diamond exploration and mining. In return, employment will be offered the aborigines and "improved facilities for residents" are promised. To our knowledge the Kimberley Land Council, not recognised by CRA, is still proceeding with a suit against CRA for disturbing sacred sites on the Ashton prospect. There are rumours of uranium in the area as well.... Source: CANP Newsletter Sept 80.

THE URANIUM INSTITUTE has said that falling international investment is forcing changes in the uranium industry. For the third year running more reactor sales have been cancelled than ordered. Last year there were 13 orders for reactors cancelled and only 9 reactors ordered.

An RTZ economist at the Uranium Institute meeting said that the longer the market remains weak, the more difficult it will be to re-open mines. Because of environmental controls it is even more expensive to re-open mines. He said that it was easier to go somewhere else entirely.

The Institute claims that the present three year uranium stockpile will have to be increased because they hope for a resurgence in the demand for the 1990's. source: Financial Times (UK) Sept 9 and Sunday Times (UK) Sept 7

EURODIF the French uranium enrichment plant at Tricastin, is having trouble selling its output. The commercial director of Eurodif, quoted in the Sunday Times Sept 7, stated that the US is deliberately undercutting the market for European enriched uranium by 30-40%. The European industry is in really bad shape possibly a reason why URENCO,

especially in the UK, has had to put off new investment and expansion.

BAGHDAD HAD ENOUGH enriched uranium, supplied by France, to make a bomb at the time of the bombing of its nuclear power plant. France had supplied it with 15kg of 93% enriched uranium - 8kg is enough for a bomb. Source: Guardian (UK) Oct 2.

A \$6.28 MILLION LOSS was suffered by Queensland Mines Ltd from its operations at the Nabarlek uranium mine in the Northern Territory in the opening six months of the year.

Nabarlek is Australia's second operating mine. It is situated on aboriginal land, and 40% of the mines output is already committed to Japan.

Queensland Mines has recently announced an agreement to supply 816.5 tonnes of yellowcake to the Finnish utility Teollisuuden Voima Oy Industrins Kraft. This contract is the first European contract signed in Australia for a decade, according to the London Financial Times of August 14.

Source: Sydney Morning Herald, 20.9.80

FURTHER CUTS IN PROJECTED URANIUM DEMAND FOR THE US have uranium producers wondering when the market will bottom out. The US Department of Energy's Energy Information Administration, in its latest annual report to Congress, has cut its mid-case projections made just two years ago by 2,500tons for 1980, 2,800tons for 1985, 9,200tons for 1990 and 14,100tons for 1995. Private assessments are equally as gloomy.

Cutbacks in production still go nowhere near enough to correct the imbalance between supply and demand. The Nuclear Exchange Corp. estimates that between now and 1983 US production will be about 30million pounds more than required, while worldwide that figure is expected to be 154million pounds. With inventories in the US still increasing there seems little doubt that uranium prices in the US are going to continue their downward trend. Source: Nuclear Fuel, 18.8.80

A US SHIPMENT OF ENRICHED URANIUM TO INDIA has been approved by the US Senate. The shipment, of 38tons of low-enriched uranium, was in some doubt after the US House of Representatives had voted against the shipment (being sought by President Carter). Opponents of the shipment had argued that approval would engender nuclear proliferation because India, which exploded a nuclear device in 1974, had rejected international inspection and prohibitions on nuclear weapons production. But an intense lobbying effort by Carter saw the Senate approve the shipment by two votes. Source: Sydney Morning Herald 20.9.80 and Nucleonics Week 2.10.80

ANOTHER UNDERGROUND MINE IS TO CLOSE this time Western Nuclear's Sheep 1 mine in Wyoming. The company is laying off 138 miners, though it will keep the mine in operating condition for immediate start-up if the market situation improves.

This decision brings to more than 500 the number of cut-of-work uranium miners in the area. Source: Nuclear Fuel, 1.9.80

THE DESTRUCTION OF PLANET EARTH (Parts 5,6 & 7 in a twenty-part serial by Roger Moody).

As Iran and Iraq go to war, very few commentators are mentioning the recent controversy over the supply of nuclear technology and enriched uranium to Iraq.

Egyptian and Italian nuclear scientists have played roles in developing Iraq's nuclear programme over the last year, but it is the French who come under most attack (by the US State Dept and Britain, for example) for their assistance in providing Iraq with two experimental reactors, and now 93% enriched uranium, suitable of course for making bombs.

In late August Pakistan also announced that it now had the capability of being self-reliant in the production of nuclear fuel. According to the

chairperson of Pakistan's AEC "abundant supplies of natural uranium" were being used, some of which had already been enriched and supplied to a reactor producing electricity for Karachi. He said this illustrated the "peaceful nature of Pakistan's nuclear programme".

What it also illustrates of course is that Pakistan is now able to manufacture highly enriched uranium suitable for weapons - the fear that has been expressed ever since plans for an ultra centrifuge enrichment plant were 'stolen' from URENCO some years ago, and since it was learned that Gaddafi of Libya had been financing the manufacture of an 'Islamic' bomb.

Meanwhile President Carter has - after an earlier refusal - said that he will proceed to supply India with enriched uranium for its Tarapur power plant, the first time U-235 will have been supplied since India exploded its nuclear bomb in 1974 (see also article on pg 15 - ed.'s note). The decision was made in the teeth of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission and just before the US was subjected to fierce attack by both 3rd world and western European countries for its stringent uranium supply conditions, at the NPT review conference in Geneva.

Meanwhile the Swiss and Canadians are arguing over Canada's refusal to resume supplies of uranium to Switzerland, after a Swiss company, Sulzer, had been discovered exporting parts to Argentina for a heavy water plant which enhances the South American dictatorships ability to make nuclear bombs

Watch this space for parts 8,9 & 10 in this exciting saga.

Starring: thirty odd nations of the world. Production by US, France, West Germany, Canada, Britain. Directed by the IAEA, Euratom, the Uranium Institute. Supported by a cast of millions.

DOSIMETERS ON MINERS is one thing that the US Mine Safety & Health Administration (MMSA) would like to incorporate as a requirement when it proposes a revised radon dose limit sometime next year. However this seems unlikely due to the delay in the development of an acceptable dosimeter.

The Bureau of Mines, which has been working on such a device since the early 1970's, is not expected to have anything before 1982.

Source: Nuclear Fuel 1.9.80

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KIITG AUDIO-VISUAL PROJECT

As an initiative arising out of the European Anti-uranium Mining Conference held in July of this year, KIITG is endeavouring to compile an audio-visual resources list. But to do this properly we need YOUR help.

What we need is for groups to send us a list of films, slide shows, radio-show tapes, etc. which they have produced or know of. Such information as title, length, where available from and at what cost, etc. would be useful, as well as a brief summary of the topics covered.

Once received this information will be collated, and a resources list printed in a future KIITG newsletter. Lists should be sent to:

KIITG AV PROJECT
c/- WISE Amsterdam.

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Special thanks to Peter Murphy for helping put together this KIITG. This number put together by Peter, Lin Pugh and Roger Moody.

Please send news for next KIITG as soon as possible.

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