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9

KIITG



1980

NOVEMBER

KEEP IT IN THE GROUND

international stop uranium mining newsletter

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A subscription to the Keep It In The Ground Newsletter costs 15 Dutch guilders per year

That is the equivalent of \$7.50 US.

If you can afford it, please send more. that is just a minimum.

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MAKE OUT CHEQUES TO WISE AMSTERDAM

OUR POST ACCOUNT (GIRO) IS 4088285



This issue of Keep it in the Ground was put together by Lin Pugh and Volker Hauck and staff of WISE Amsterdam, in cooperation with Roger Moody of Cimra, 218 Liverpool Road, London N1, England. Information was provided by movement people including WISE groups.

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ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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

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. It is a way to learn about each others struggles and tactics and support each other. WISE was invited to make the newsletter.

EVERYBODY is invited to participate in this newsletter. Please send news stories, information requests, information on new and useful publications to WISE in Amsterdam, or to your nearest WISE office. If your news needs to be fast, and should go into WISE's weekly news service to the world wide movement press, contact the nearest WISE office.

For information on WISE's other services, contact us.

We would like to get the newsletter out to more people. Perhaps your group would like to order bulk? Or would you like to use this newsletter together with your regional newsletter? In all cases write to WISE Amsterdam.

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KEEP IT IN THE GROUND INTERNATIONAL

RUSSELL TRIBUNAL BEGINS

The 4th International Russell Tribunal is being held in Rotterdam, Holland, at the time of writing this. The theme: the Rights of Indians of North, South and Central America. But this is not just an opportunity for the international community to hear and support the demands of the American Indian nations. American Indians, Australian Aborigines, Maoris from New Zealand, freedom fighters from West Papua, Greenlanders and Kurds will also meet together to talk together about their struggles for land rights.

12 Indian cases will be heard at the Tribunal. The Hotevilla Hopi will give a case on the Indian Reorganisation Act (see story in North America section of this newsletter). The Big Mountain Dine will present a case on Sovereignty and mining, a case of ethnocide. The Lakota will present the violation of their independence by the US government, and the Iroquois will present the violation of treaty rights and land annexations. Hunting and fishing rights in Ontario will be heard, as well as the genocide of 23 Indian peasants in the Spanish Embassy in Guatemala. There are two cases from Peru, one of land robbery and aggression to the community of San Juan de Ondores, the other ethnocide and genocide. Ethnocide, land robbery are also cases of the Yanomami and Aruake peoples in Brazil, and the Montagnais in Canada. The Nambiquara of Brazil will present their case of deliberate genocide by highway construction through the Indian reservation, financed by international development organisations.

Another 28 charges have been presented, and will be published in the final documentation. This document will be in Spanish and English.



The other land rights groups present will also present their cases.

We will present a detailed account of the Tribunal in our next KIITG.

contact Werkgroep Indianen Projekt
Bloemgracht 90
1015 TM Amsterdam, Netherlands
tel (20) 235984
donations are welcome

KEEP IT IN THE GROUND IN EUROPE

SPAIN

URANIUM MINING AND PRODUCTION IN SPAIN

Carlos Ruiz, of the Spanish Friends of the Earth (FAT) has sent in a report on mining and milling in Spain.

RESERVES

The OECD estimates 9,950 tons of uranium lies under Spanish ground, which can be extracted at less than \$15 per pound. It estimates 103,550 tons are recoverable at less than \$30 per pound. Although this potential is quite large, Spain also imports to cover its "needs".

COMPANIES

The Junta de Energia Nuclear (JEN) was created in 1951 to prospect uranium in France. JEN has always been run by high ranking military figures and, till 1980, has been in charge of research, promotion, and development of nuclear energy as well as of the inspection, approval and enforcement of security measurements and control of every nuclear installation (public and private) in Spain. They are simultaneously, therefore, Judge and Party. But this year JEN was reorganised. The new JEN is only in charge of technical functions, and Comite de Seguridad Nuclear (CNS) is in charge of control, security and approval (a function similar to the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission).

In 1972 ENUSA was formed, which is now government owned and is responsible for mining, milling, uranium concentration, uranium enrichment, irradiated fuel storage, reprocessing and waste disposal, and for making and signing international agreements on any phase of the nuclear chain.

In 1974 the National Uranium Prospecting Plan (PNEU) was established to determine the uranium potential and to locate the most profitable ore deposits. A lot of uranium was found, and resulted also in multinational uranium mining company interest in Spain.

1. CHEVRON (Standard Oil of California) has invested 40%, the Spanish government (ENUSA) 40% and a Bank of Bilbao company 20% in a \$13 million, 36,800 sq kilometres project.

2. EXXON Mineral Spain (Standard Oil of New Jersey) has invested 45%, ENUSA 45% and PETROMED (Spanish oil company related to the bank Banesto) 10% of \$23 million to explore 20,000 square kilometres. The Spanish government has the right to all minerals recovered, but it is clear that the multinationals will now control the only phase of the nuclear chain in Spain that has, till now, been out of their hands.

PRODUCTION

There are 4 mines in operation, all open surface. 265 people are employed. This year 500,000 tons of cropland will be shifted to mine 400 tons at the biggest mine, Ciudad Rodrigo. ENUSA has, besides these deposits, co-operation with international interests in other countries. In Nigeria it contributes 10% to Cominak, in Colombia (see Industry News story at end of this newsletter) 49%, in Canada it participates together with Denison Mines, and in South Africa it has a 50% contribution in Anglo American Corporation. ENUSA also has activity in Argentina and in the Rossing mine in Namibia.

WORKING CONDITIONS OF MINERS

Poor security and health protection measures have meant extremely bad working conditions in Spanish uranium mines. There are no specific uranium mining norms and laws. There is no protection. There have been 30 known deaths due to radiation effects in the mines. JEN

continues to deny this. Their usual practice is to transfer sick miners to other jobs in far places, trying to break any signs of a relationship between the death (which happens in a few years after removal) and work in the mine.

Miners clothes were washed at home and meals eaten in the workplace. Medical tests were scarce and JEN kept exclusively all the records. Retirement has always been given because of sickness, never from old age. Labour unions and ecologists have demanded improvements in the mine conditions and this is having some effect.

URANIUM MILLING AND CONCENTRATION

ENUSA mills and concentrates uranium in 3 plants, the most important of which is located in Ciudad Rodrigo. The combined output was 220 tons in 1977 and is expected to reach 700 in 1980. 600 tons of this comes from Ciudad Rodrigo, and in 1982 900 tons are expected. In 1982 200 tons of uranium will be manufactured as a by-product of phosphates. An expected 800 tons is expected to come from Ciudad Rodrigo alone.

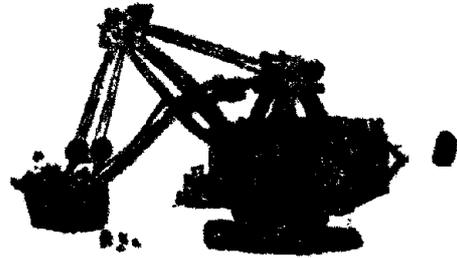
ENRICHMENT

The USA will enrich 37% of Spanish needs until 1985, the USSR 18%, and Eurodif (for which Spain contributes 11% capital) 22%. Spain consumes 90 tons of enriched uranium per year, which will reach 830 tons by 1985. This is going on construction plans for nuclear installations.

Spain has never signed the Non Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which means it can (and has) have difficulties being supplied with other uranium from countries which have signed the NPT.

FUEL MANUFACTURING

The National Energy Plan (PEN) claims the accumulated needs 1977-1987 are 20,555 tons to fuel the fourteen planned nuclear plants, plus 30,000 extra tons for stockpiles. But, given the present difficulties of the Plan, a more realistic figure could be 14,651 tons.



ENUSA is building a fuel manufacturing plant at Juzbado, near Ciudad Rodrigo. This will manufacture 45% of the needs foreseen in PEN. The rest will be supplied from abroad, one of the reasons ENUSA has made so many foreign agreements. This plant is to be built in Salamanca, a region with a high level of migration and unemployment and at the same time a great surplus of energy production. There has been a large popular opposition to the plant.

STORAGE OF IRRADIATED FUEL

The fuel fabrication factory will also serve as a central storage for irradiated fuel from the commercial plants. In 1977 20 tons of irradiated fuel were produced, expected to be 290 tons in 1987. The total accumulated will be 1,500 tons. The Juzbado residents do not look forward to the prospect of living near this plant, where the fuel will be indefinitely stored due to the problems of reprocessing, and are protesting.

REPROCESSING

At present this is done abroad, but the first ENUSA plant is also expected to be built in Juzbado. By 1990, 100-140 tons will need to be reprocessed.

URANIUM TRANSPORTATION

Two trucks will travel daily from the Ciudad Rodrigo mine to Juzbado, with 2.5 ton containers, travelling through major cities and along very rough roads: this perilous voyage also brings risks to many people.

There is a Radioactive Train at present which travels every 4 months from Vandellos nuclear plant (Catalonia) to La Hague reprocessing plant in France, directly through Barcelona, a city of 4 million people. According to estimates this train will travel once weekly in 1985.

contact Carlos Ruiz
Apartado de Correos 46177
Madrid
Spain

The Catalonia Anti Nuclear campaign (CANC) has produced a report on uranium mining in Catalonia. New exploration in Catalonia puts 570 villages under the menace of uranium mining.

The report is in three major parts:

- Spain uranium mining map, August 31 1980, Catalonia Uranium mining map of the same date, surveillance area of the ENUSA-CHEVRON consortium
- comments on Spanish laws on uranium mining
- an inventory of all the Catalan villages affected by uranium mining projects, with detailed maps.

The Report also contains five appendices with

- an alphabetical listing of all villages affected in Catalonia
- The Institut d'Estudis Catalans report against uranium mining projects
- The CAMON I report against uranium
- a bibliography of books, magazines and newspapers on uranium mining all over the world
- addresses of groups working against uranium mining all over the world.

contact: CANC
Calle Bruc 26'
Barcelona 10 Catalonia, Spain.
tel (3)301 4939



FINLAND

URANIUM PLANS A YEAR ON THE ICE

Because of the increasing opposition on a grassroots level to the plans to mine uranium in Kittilä, Lapland, there is at least a year delay on work. The Center Party and the Peoples Democratic Party also oppose the plans. A critical submission on the plans was made by the Radiation Safety Agency, and to proceed legislation first must be renewed.

contact: WISE Helsinki
Valpurintie 6, SF 00270
Helsinki 27, Finland

SWEDEN

NEW URANIUM INTEREST

Since the decision to close the Ranstad uranium project last July, new interest has begun in uranium deposits in the north of Sweden. Swedish companies, mostly involved in iron mines, are exploring Pleutajokk (Arjeplog) and Hotagen.

The closure of Ranstad was a peoples victory, hopefully we will see another in the short term.

contact: Folkampanjen mot kärnkraft
Ostgötagatan 32
Box 4509 S-102 65 Stockholm
Sweden.

STOP THE MILLS

CLOSE THE MINES

RECLAIM THE LAND



GREENLAND

APOLOGY: In the last issue of KIITG we wrongly put a Greenpeace address under the Greenland story. It should have been KUAK.

Loevstraede 6
1156 K Copenhagen, Denmark.

GREENLAND LAND MUST BE CONTROLLED BY THE GREENLAND PEOPLE

Political forces in Greenland are today trying to change existing laws so that the people of Greenland have control over their land and resources.

At the present time there is a double veto, and this particularly affects uranium mining.

For uranium to be prospected, both the Danish and the Greenland governments must approve. But Greenland is a part of the Danish state. If Denmark deems it vital to the Danish state and energy resources, the Danish state can demand exploitation. Paragraph 17 of the Euratom Treaty also states that member countries of the agreement must achieve as much as possible energy self-sufficiency: Euratom can force the exploitation of Greenland uranium.

At present the test mining is completed and the samples are in Risø in Denmark. Risø is also experimenting in a new mining method. This method, called CPL, described in Document 34 of Risø, uses a carbonate catalyst and extracts 70% of the ore instead of the present 30-50%.

The ruling Siumut Party in Greenland will not agree to exploitation - all agreements to now have only involved investigation. The Siumut Party stated in February that all exploration must also stop. However, Risø continues its work against the wishes of the Greenland people.

The latest move of Risø is to remove the uranium mill in Greenland away from Narsaq, the major city. The site is near two sheep farms. A large port facility would have to be built to handle two 10,000 ton ships which will be used. The Danish government also plans a hydro electric scheme near this site, and the Greenland people oppose this plan as well.

contact KUAK.

GREAT BRITAIN

SMALL VICTORY IN ORKNEY

The Orkney Islanders, living in the very northern most part of Britain, have won a small victory against UK uranium mining concerns recently. United Kingdom and European Economic Community attempts to take samples were thwarted by the locals. The samples were to be sent to Harwell - unfortunately they have still been sent away, but to Sweden.

The Orcadians are now re-drafting a bill to put before British parliament, intended to give Orkney control over, amongst other things, its uranium deposits. The uranium section is presently being reworded: the Orkney Island Council, who is presenting the bill, was told that there is not enough evidence on the dangers on uranium mining. Contributions from KIITG readers are welcome.

contact: Margaret Flaws
8, Old Scapa Road, Kirkwall
Orkney, UK

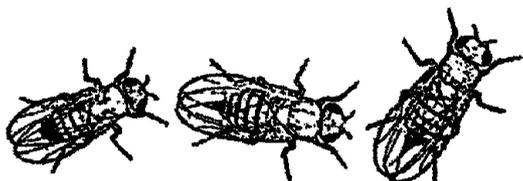
THE NETHERLANDS

RESEARCH AND ACTION AGAINST URANIUM

The Dutch Anti Apartheid movement, the Inter Church Peace Movement, the National Anti Nuclear Committee and others are planning together actions in opposition to all aspects of the Urenco enrichment plant in the Netherlands. Next April the question of Almelo will come up in parliament, and the action groups will concentrate on where the uranium comes from (including Namibia), and where it goes to (including Brazil). It is hoped that Holland will withdraw from the Urenco partnership. As more information comes in, KIITG readers will learn more of this action.

At the same time, research is being done in the Netherlands on mining companies based in Holland which are also involved in uranium mining. Dave van Ooyen requests information on Nord Resources, Dayton Ohio. What mining (uranium) projects does this group have? What financial information is there? Secondly, what is AGIP doing in uranium mining in Australia and other lands?

Contact, for both,
Dave van Ooyen
VMD
2e Weteringplantsoen 9
Amsterdam, tel (20) 221366
The Netherlands



STOP URENCO NEWSLETTER

This newsletter reports on enrichment issues around the world: it is worth subscribing to.

The Stop Urenco group in Britain will meet on Saturday Dec 6 to discuss action and strategy. Dutch and German anti Urenco activists are particularly invited.

contact: Stop Urenco Alliance
6 Endsleigh St
London WC1 UK

FRANCE

ANTI URANIUM MINING NETWORK ESTABLISHED IN FRANCE

On October 11 and 12 50 people representing 30 groups and collectives met in St Priest la Prugne, in the Loire Province in France, to establish a French "Réseau Uranium" (RU), a democratically based anti-uranium mining network.

The meeting was a follow up to the July meeting of anti uranium activists in Limoges. At that meeting, European activists met together for the first time to discuss their common struggle, and also for the first time the French groups, from isolated pockets of the country, met together.

The goal of the newly established network is to facilitate the exchange of information, documentation and experience, and to develop solidarity among all participating groups and individuals. Each group will preserve its autonomy within the network. The general assembly of the RU will meet two times a year; the next meeting will be held in Périgord in March. The principle networking tool of the RU will be a bi-monthly bulletin, "Gouffre", which will be produced and distributed in a decentralised manner by a number of groups within the RU.



Member groups all donated to the costs of printing the first issue. They hope to cover future costs through subscription.

There are several possible contact addresses.

Editorial: Comité de Liaison uranium
Aveyron
c/- Jean Luis Buqarel
Lotissement St. Félix
12000 Rodez, France

CLAN
c/- Aline Biardeaud
41 rue Eugene Varlin,
8700 Limoges, France

FRANCO/KOREAN ASSOCIATION FOR DEVELOPMENT OF URANIUM IN GABON

The Korean Electric company (KECO) is planning to invest up to 45 million french francs over four and a half years in a partnership with Cogema for the development of uranium resources in the region of Lordleyon in the centre of Gabon. Interests in the uranium mining project are as follows
41% KECO
49% Cogema
10% Gabon government.

In 1976 the CEA (French electricity company) tried to sell a reprocessing plant to South Korea but failed because of strong pressures from the United States. The French nuclear industry did not give up, however, and the nuclear divisions of Pechiney Ugine Kuhlman (PUK), Rhône-poulens, and Air Liquide are now well established in South Korea. Framatome is seriously considering concluding sales of 2 nuclear plants to South Korea as soon as the political situation clears up. There is speculation that the France/Korea deal is closely connected with France's need to export its nuclear technology.

source: Michel Genestout, Réseau Uranium
.....

URANIUM MILL SCHEDULED TO CLOSE IN FRANCE

The uranium mill in St Pierre du Cantal, France, which has only been operating since 1978 is scheduled to close down in 1983. This mill, which had an initial production capacity of 100 tonnes of uranium metal is operated by the Minatome subsidiary SCUMMRA. At the time of the public inquiry on its construction it was projected that the mill would treat uranium ore from St. Pierre until 1987, and then, if conditions were favorable, to treat uranium from Creuse and Corrèze. The change in plans is due to technical difficulties which have always existed. Now the ore has to be transported 200 km by truck to Bessines for treatment. Scummra is planning a new mill...to open in 1983..

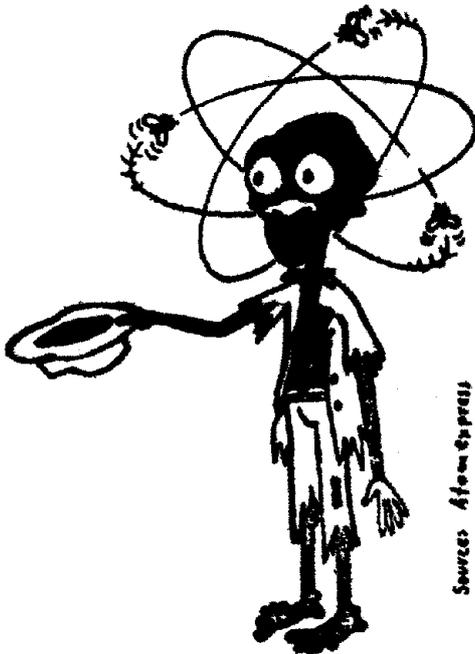
source: Michel Genestout, Réseau Uranium

KEEP IT IN THE GROUND IN NAMIBIA

SPEAKING TOUR BRINGS SOUTH AFRICAN ACTIVISTS AND NATIVE AMERICANS TOGETHER

USA: The South African Military Refugees' Aid Fund (SAMRAF), a New York based organisation, which supports those refugees in America who have fled South Africa for the United States, is sponsoring a three-month nation wide speaking tour in the United States from Sept 17 to Dec 6.

On tour are Ellen Musialela and Mike Morgan. Ms. Musialela is national treasurer of SWAPO, the South West Africa People's Organisation, and a member of SWAPO's Womens Council. Mr Morgan is a white South African military resister. The



tours main focus has been to educate as many people as possible about the liberation movement in Southern Africa

and the position of people in Namibia, including the role of women in the liberation struggle.

During the tour, discussions between Mohawk Indians in the northern New York State region and the South African activists, revealed that there are many parallels between multinational exploitation of native peoples lands and resources, in particular the mining of uranium of North America and Africa. The similarities in the situation will be discussed further and possible cooperation in these struggles will be promoted. In particular, it is hoped that Namibians and Native Americans can work together to stop the efforts of multinationals seeking to extract uranium from these lands.

contact: SAMRAF
29 Seventh Ave, Brooklyn,
New York, 11217 USA

KEEP IT IN THE GROUND IN CANADA

ELDORADO ABANDONS WARMAN

On September 29, Eldorado Nuclear announced it was dropping its options on land for a uranium refinery near Warman, Saskatchewan. Opponents of the proposal applauded this outcome of their four year old struggle. Proponents, led by Saskatoon real estate interests, vowed to continue efforts to locate the plant at Warman.

Eldorado vice-president Ron Dakers said the company will "in due course" consider a number of alternate sites for a Saskatchewan refinery. Premier Allan Blakeney would regret it if no Saskatchewan community wanted the plant. Pro uranium cabinet ministers are likely

to be asked to accomodate the refinery in their areas.

contact: Saskatoon Environmental Society
PO Box 1372 Saskatoon, Sask
S7K 3N9 Canada

A BRIEF ON WHO OWNS WHOM IN SASKATCHEWAN URANIUM

In July this year One Sky produced their background study of companies involved in mining uranium in Saskatchewan. Companies include Noranda, Marathon Oil, Teck, Oxy, Esso, Chevron, Asamera.

contact One Sky
134 Ave F. South
Saskatoon, SASK Canada

BITTER WAGES OF URANIUM MINING

The following two stories are taken from the Birch Bark Alliance's Autumn number.

The uranium mines near Elliot Lake, Ontario, have been twice under scrutiny this summer. Once, at a federal investigation into an unnecessary rockfall that killed three miners. Then again before the Ontario Select Committee on Hydro Affairs, which focussed its summer hearing on the mining and refining of uranium ore.

The federal inquiry heard testimony that supervisors at Denison Mines had been notified of cracks developing in the ceiling of a shaft where work was underway, but have failed to take the proper corrective actions, resulting in the fatal, 120 ton rock-fall.

The Select Committee hearings focussed on a story that has been told many times in Ontario since 1976 - corporate and government neglect of uranium miners health. Despite several government commissions and assessments uranium miners still labour in poorly ventilated and inadequately monitored workplaces. And they still do not have the right to refuse work that they feel is unsafe - supposedly a fundamental right for Ontario workers. "In 1958-59 both Denison and Rio-Algom signed uranium contracts for four dollars a pound. They now get \$44-46 dollars a pound. There is a tremendous amount of profit involved-- yet wages and safety allocations haven't kept pace".



Source:
*Aboriginal Mining
Information Service*

Cluff Lake, Saskatchewan. Last autumn eighty five non-unionised workers at the newly opened Cluff Lake uranium mine in North Saskatchewan tried to meet with their management to discuss concerns they had over health and safety at the mine. They were promptly issued termination slips by Amok Ltd (the French company which has a controlling interest in the mine) and then flown south to Saskatoon. After negotiations between Amok, the workers and the Saskatchewan government, the workers were rehired.

One of the employees was interviewed by Birch Bark. The question was asked, what is the attitude of the radiation protection department?

"For two days before the AECB (Atomic Energy Bureau) was supposed to visit the pit was closed. We didn't mine, we cleaned up. For the first time in the past four months sand was brought in to cover the exposed high grade ore. Flags were posted over the high grade ore. The ore storage was covered with tarps. The day after the AECB visit the sand was scraped away by machine, the tarps removed from the ore storage, and the normal procedures continued. Before the pit crew uncovered the ore piles the head of the radiation protection depart-



ment was asked if toxic gas could have collected under the tarps. He replied that there was no danger and that no masks were needed. However, when the tarps were pulled back he left the group and retreated to a pressurised air conditioned Foremost cab and remained there for the duration of the procedure. I got the impression that the head of the radiation protection department was personally terrified of radiation."

In summary, what bothers you most?

"The thing that bugs me most is that they have spent a lot of money monitoring the environment - they are worried about a blade of grass a mile away and yet we are BREATHING uranium ore - up to 40% uranium in that ore."

contact: Birch Bark Alliance
c/- OPIRG
Trent University, Peterborough
Ontario, Canada K9J 7B8

KEEP IT IN THE GROUND IN AUSTRALIA

NOONKANBAH: PROSPECTORS PEGGING IT OUT

Mining companies have taken out more than 600 permits and leases to explore on Noonkanbah station, near Fitzroy Crossing. This is after the local aboriginal community with support from people all over Australia fought a long battle against the state government and Amax Oil company, who were intent on digging up that land come what may.

Most of the 400,000 hectare pastoral lease (farm) has been pegged out by more than 30 companies. They include Amax Exploration, CRA (Rio Tinto Zinc of Australia) Golden Bullet Mining, Flavia Giselle, Aberfoyle, AS Mining

Ventures, Pand M Ingram, Vultan Mines, Samantha Mines, Audimco Conex, Stellar Minerals, Carr Boyd, Dampier Mining, Jones Mining, Cultus Pacific, Cowarra Pty Ltd, Carpentaria Exploration and Diana Investments.

The Noonkanbah community has demanded a three year moratorium on the mining, and this has been supported by Aboriginal Land Councils and other bodies all over Australia. (In fact, the Uniting Church has handed land back to aborigine communities in Western Australia).

The mass of mining permits would destroy the local aboriginal community if they were taken up. The community did not have the money or resources to take legal action to object to the leases.

In Western Australia the right to mine is stronger than any other claim on the land.

The aboriginal community continues to fight back. Possibly, by the end of this year, the basic groundwork will have been done to establish a federation of Aboriginal Nations in Australia, a body strong enough to fight together for land rights.

A representative of the Noonkanbah community is also participating in the Russell Tribunal (see story in International News).

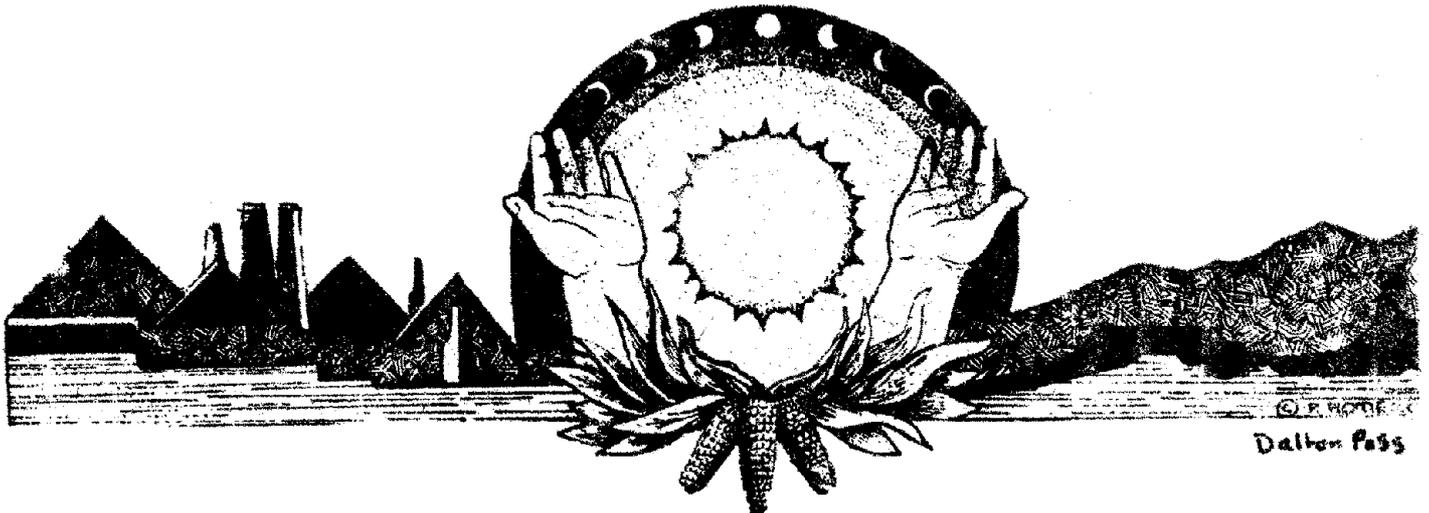
contact: Kimberley Land Council
PO Box 332 Derby
WA 6728 Australia
tel 911220

QUEENSLAND: NO U BAN BY RAILWAYS UNION

Efforts to impose a railways workers ban on transporting uranium were, sadly, unsuccessful. In a recent month-long secret ballot 58% of the state's 1100

ALL MINING NEGOTIATIONS WITH ABORIGINES SUSPENDED

It was agreed at the Land Councils meeting in Noonkanbah in August this year that all negotiations between Aboriginal communities and mining companies would be suspended. This was done in "full support for the stand of the Yungngora community to stop drilling on their Sacred Land... "We call on the Australian Mining Industry Council to persuade Amax that meaningful negotiations must take place to move the drilling rig off Sacred Land. Until then Aboriginal people will not believe that mining companies take us seriously and we cannot negotiate with them."



members voted in favour of continuing to transport the yellowcake. The union's State council favoured the ban. The vote was clearly influenced by Mary Kathleen uranium mine workers who were promised new safety measures in the event of any rail spillage of yellowcake. We'll have to see that before we believe it.

contact: Workers Against Uranium Mining
c/- CANP
PO Box 238 North Quay,
Brisbane 4000 Q
tel 391 5966

In the Northern Territory, this will affect the hundreds of exploratory permits that have been applied for but not yet processed. It will also affect Pancontinental's prospecting at Jabiluka and the Koon-garra uranium prospect of Denison Mines (formerly Noranda property) near Oenpelli. Other companies affected are oil companies.

Another uranium prospect affected will be Westmoreland, a major uranium find in northern Queensland. This is 37.5% owned by, and wholly administered by

Urangesellschaft of West Germany. This is on tribal land but does not have the consent of the North Queensland Land Council.

Many diamond and mineral deposits in Western Australia will also be affected.

For detailed information on mining on boriginal land, contact Aboriginal Mining Information Service 5 Candy Street, Northcote 3070 Victoria, Australia. tel (3)481 2717.



KEEP IT IN THE GROUND IN NORTH AMERICA

ATOMIC WORKERS UNION DEMANDS HEALTH AND SAFETY STUDIES FOR MINERS

The Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW) requested on October 14 the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to initiate an epidemiological study of the health status of 212 uranium mill workers of the Cotter Corporation at Canon City, Colorado, as soon as possible.

The union also requested the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) to exercise its jurisdictional powers to inspect the Cotter mill and external radiation at Cotter.

A report released September 20 by the Colorado Bureau of Investigation on the Cotter mill's health and safety policies revealed that the Colorado

Health department:

- routinely notified the Cotter mill of impending inspections
- allowed citations to go uncorrected year after year, such as Cotter's failure to perform work environment and worker's health surveys performed only 7 out of 12 annual inspections from 1968 to 1979
- failed to identify data falsification in the mill's exposure reports.

The OCAW, which represents more than 11,000 atomic workers, is demanding that MSHA exert its authority under the Mine Safety Act of 1977 by enforcing occupational health regulations in the nation's uranium mills.

contact: Anthony Mazzocchi, OCAW
director of Health and Safety Department
1636 Champa Street
Denver, CO 80202 USA
tel (303) 893 0811

ARCHEOLOGICAL AND RELIGIOUS SITES THREATENED IN SOUTH DAKOTA

Unique sites, as well as hundreds of aboriginal habitations, hunting camps and flint quarries are now threatened with destruction in South Dakota's Black Hills.

These hills have been inhabited by Native people since at least 8,000 BC. During the 16th and 17th centuries the Plains Apache, the Kiowa and the Comanche were in the southern parts of the Hills. They were followed by the Arapaho and the Cheyenne about 1750, and by the Dakota about 20 years after that.

The Paha Sapa are considered sacred by the Lakota and other Native peoples. The mosaics and aboriginal rock drawings throughout the Hills have, probably, religious significance.

Now more than 20 multinational corporations have staked out mining claims for uranium and other minerals in the Black Hills, of which Tennessee Valley Authority and Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) have been the most active, drilling for uranium on more than one million acres.

More than 25 known archeological sites are within the affected area of the UCC project, the Craven Canyon being one of the most scenic areas of all of these.

Since 1979, work on the Craven Canyon project has been halted through several state and federal appeals initiated by local residents and the Black Hills Alliance. Experts in the interpretation of aboriginal rock drawings are badly needed. Support from the archeologist, anthropological and Native communities in the form of publicity and communications to the US Forest Service and the State Archeologist would be helpful. A comprehensive archeological study of the Black Hills has never been done, and should be done now .

contact: Black Hills Alliance
PO Box 2508 Rapid City
SD 57709 USA

UNION CARBIDE AVOIDS ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Black Hills Alliance attorneys are suing state and federal agencies for their actions approving Union Carbide's (UCC) uranium exploration and mining plans in the Black Hills. UCC is well known as a company with a history of failing to get permits before starting work and not capping exploration holes as required by state law.

Current legal challenges involving Union Carbide are:

1. BHA vs. Regional Forester, Craven

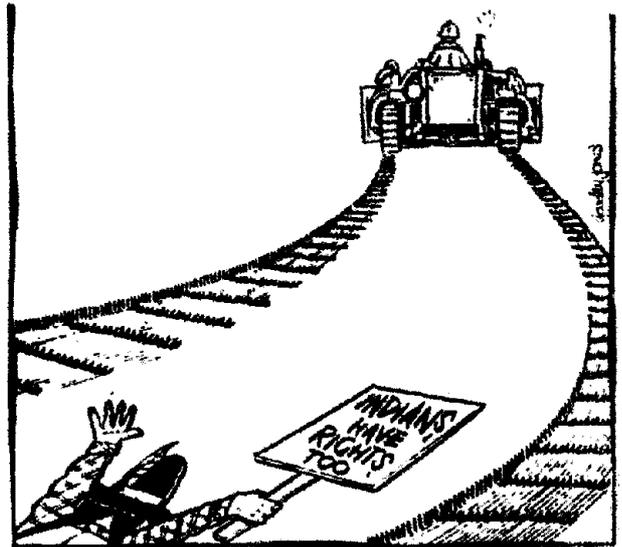
Canyon Adit. This suit asks for preparation of an environment impact statement.

2. South Dakota Supreme Court Review of State Exploration Permit - Craven Canyon.

This appeal concerns two State Conservation Commission decisions: one that gave an exploration permit for the adit (a small mine) and one that denied the BHA and Edgemont area residents a chance to take part in the hearing on the permit.

3. BHA vs. South Dakota Division of Conservation, in the Matter of the Request of UCC to Undertake Its 1980 Exploratory Drilling Program.

4. US Forest Service Review of Approval of UCC's 1980 Exploration Plan.



When the BHA has challenged UCC operations, the company has responded by attacking the Alliance (BHA). UCC says the BHA has no real interest in preserving the environment, and that it is spreading "half-truth" and "wild speculations" in an effort to further a "minority political viewpoint". Significantly, Union Carbide has yet to recognise or respond to any of the environmental issues raised by the Alliance and other plaintiffs.

contact: Black Hills Alliance(ibid).

ALL INDIAN INDEPENDENT RADIO ESTABLISHED

For the first time a completely independent, not-for-profit, community based, all-Indian radio station is being set up. The radio station, Lakota Communications, evolved out of several people's desire to bring reliable news and information to the people of Pine Ridge Reservation.

Some of the topics Lakota Communications will cover are the Black Hills land claim, water contamination at Pine



Ridge Reservation, uranium mining and milling and other energy development, including alternatives, Tribal Council news and more.

The broadcasting facilities will be energy self-sufficient. In addition to cutting their own costs by using solar and wind conversion, Lakota Communications will promote alternative energy development in the community. Broadcasting is scheduled to begin in late 1981.

All donations, from money to radio equipment to lumber to documents, should be sent to Lakota Communications
Box 378, Pine Ridge
S.D. 57770
USA

LOCAL OPPOSITION STOPS U IN EAST USA

Attempts at mining, and even exploration by uranium mining companies have all but stopped in the uranium-rich Eastern Seaboard states, according to the Wall Street Journal of July 25. Minatome Corporation of France, Exxon USA, Union Carbide, Kerr-McGee, and Urangesellschaft N.A. of West Germany are pulling out, after having their efforts repeatedly thwarted by local opposition motivated by fears of radon gas contaminating ground water supply.

The mining companies are now pushing towards the Upper Midwest.

We would appreciate it if someone wrote a story on how this battle was won!

source: Hold That Line Oct. 1980
PO Box 5
Lowry MN 56349
USA tel (612) 283 5439

JUDGE DENIES BID TO HALT MINING

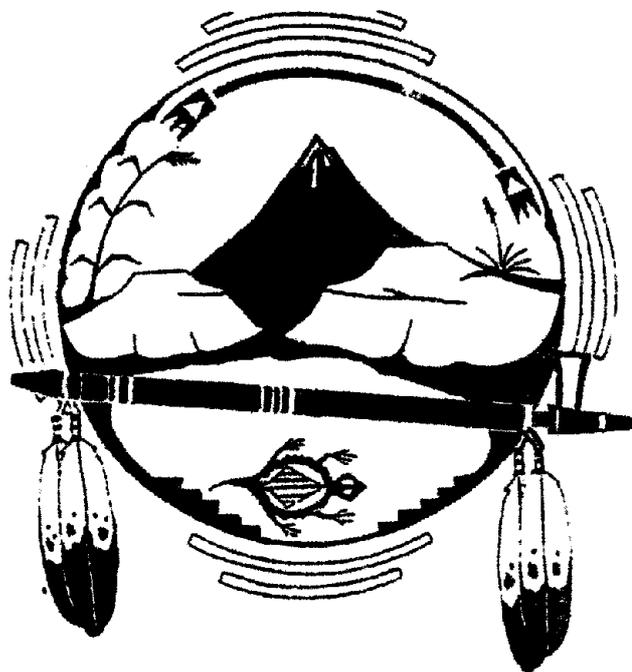
In his ruling of August 29, 1980, US District Judge Harold Greene of Washington DC denied for the third time a motion to halt uranium mining and milling activities in the north west portion of New Mexico in the Dalton Pass Chapter.

The suit, initiated in 1978, was filed by Walter Peshlaikai, Friends of the Earth, and a number of members of the Navajo Ranchers Association against federal officials in the Departments of Energy, Interior and Agriculture; the Environmental Protection Agency; the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

The suit asks that the federal agencies halt uranium development until national, regional and site-specific environmental impact statements are prepared.

Greene's ruling follows his previous two denials of a restraining order against Mobil Oil Corporation's in situ pilot plant. "In situ" mining is a process of combining mining and milling in one step. It reduces radon emission and tailings productions by leaching, using a leaching agent which extracts minerals while leaving the host rock in place. At Crownpoint, Mobil injects the leaching agent into the same geological strata from which the Crownpoint community pumps drinking water.

contact: Mt Taylor Alliance
PO Box 7082 Albuquerque
NM 87194 USA



BIG MOUNTAIN SUPPORT ACTION URGED

By April 1981 the relocation programme of 6000 Dine (Navajo) people is to be completed. This is the largest mass removal of Indian people since the Cherokee Trail of Tears in the 1800's. The people of the Big Mountain have refused to move from their traditional homeland and say that any such removal would be a form of genocide.

The US government has fabricated a reason why the people have to be moved: the so-called "Hopi-Navajo Dispute". These people are not disputing - only government appointed Tribal Councils are disputing. Congress passed a law in 1974, US Public Law 93-531, authorising the removal of the Dine nation to settle this "dispute".

But the truth of the matter is, under the area where the Hopi and the Navajo live lies 22 billion tons of coal, one of the richest deposits in North America. The Big Mountain people maintain that the "dispute" and the Public Law were created in order for Peabody Coal to gain access to this coal deposit. The next months will see a massive fencing and "livestock reduction" program, designed to starve the Dine people into moving. Congress passed an amendment in July this year to hasten the process.

Please write to the people mentioned under this story and urge

- a complete and immediate halt to all fencing and stock reduction and preparations for relocation
- demand the repeal of these laws on the grounds that they violate the 14th amendment "due process" and "equal protection" clauses of the US constitution, and constitute a violation of human rights.

Lynn Montgomery
Joint Use Administrative Office
BIA Relocation Commission
Flagstaff, AZ 86001 tel (602)7793331

William S. Hallett
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Dept of Interior, Room 4600
18th and C Streets
Washington DC 21245

Senator Daniel Inouye
105 Russel Senate Office Building
Washington DC 21245

Meanwhile the people of Big Mountain are fighting to stop the relocation: as the fences go up in the day, they are pulled down at night.

contact: Winona La Duke
89 Lindhurst 1-R
Dorchester MA 02124 USA
tel (617)265 8965

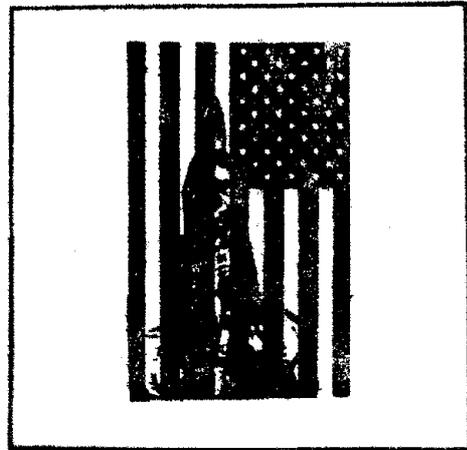
REPORT ON POTENTIAL RADIATION RELEASES FROM EXPLORATORY DRILLING

This report outlines a number of potential sources of radiological impact from exploration uranium drilling. It also presents some calculations which show the possible order of magnitude of these releases based on assumptions and relationships given by Evans (1980), EPA (1979), NRC(1979), and D'Souza and Misty (1970).

The potential sources addressed are:

- radon released during drilling
- interaquifer communication
- migration of contaminants from ore zone into aquifer
- loss of drilling muds into aquifer
- gamma radiation from mudpits
- vegetative uptake of radionuclides
- overland runoff of muds
- seepage of mudpits into groundwater
- gamma radiation from cores and cuttings
- radon emanation from cores and cuttings
- drillings and cuttings dust.

This report was set up by Deborah Rogers and is available from
Center for Alternative Mining Devt Policy
1121 University Ave,
Madison Wisconsin 53715 USA



NEWS FROM COLOMBIA

OPPOSITION TO MINING COMPANIES IN COLOMBIA

The following story is extracted from El Tiempo, from Bogota, Colombia, 29.8.80.

In December 1976 uranium was discovered in Berlin, Caldas, in Colombia. The French company Minatome sent geologists and engineers to the site, who were badly (but you could call it well if you like) received by the people of the village. The first day the foreigners were shot at.

The deposit is ten hours walking from Manizales and 6 hours from La Dorada. It is probably Colombia's largest deposit. Now the village has been totally invaded by technology and all that accompanies that. Test drilling is underway, and samples are being tested in France and Canada. The uranium is 1.6 parts per million

The first exploitation phase will last 5 years. Contracts have signed away 50,000 square kilometres. The Instituto de Asuntos Nucleares de Colombia and ENUSA of Spain are also participating in the mining.

The Institute of Geological investigations, INGEOMINAS, estimates 40,000 tons of uranium are lying under Colombian ground.

INDUSTRY NEWS

KUWAIT TO MINE for uranium in Niger. It will invest a large amount of capital in a joint Niger/French company exploiting the Arlit deposit. (The French participation is Cogema). Kuwait is also to make some investment at Imourarem which will soon be put into production by Conoco (USA), the French Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) and the Niger government. Kuwait has no known nuclear programme of its own. (information: Mining Magazine Sept 80)

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ITALY AND GERMANY TO EXPLORE uranium in a joint venture in the Ngalla Basin, northwest of Alice Springs in Australia. The companies are AGIP Australia, Urangesellschaft Australia and Rundle Twin Central Pacific. (source: Mining Magazine Sept 80)

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US UTILITIES TO BURN THE BONES OF ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIANS. Consumers of power supplied by the Indiana and Michigan Electric Power company (wholly owned by the American Electric Power Company) will be burning the spirits of aboriginal Australians in their television sets and washing machines in 1982. The Ranger partners - mining on aboriginal traditional land in Australia's Northern Territory - have now contracted to supply 4.5 million pounds of U308 to the American company starting in two years time. Agreements for Ranger Uranium have already been made with Japanese and West German utilities (see KIITG 8).

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RIO CULPA
RTZ's Canadian subsidiary Rio Algom (largest Canadian uranium producer) increased its revenue this year, but the benefits have been offset by the costs of its expansion of its Elliot Lake facilities. Within a month of Panel mine and mill being modernised in 1979 a tailings line had broken,

polluting the Quirke Lake. According to an Ontario government report from as long ago as 1976, eighteen lakes in the region had been contaminated thanks to Rio Tinto and Denison Mines activities. Yet a year later RTZ was claiming that "the forest and wild life resources in the Elliot Lake area have suffered little damage directly attributable to the uranium mining industry. What you might call contamination by low-level mendacity.... (information from Status Report; Water pollution in the Serpent River Basin, Ontario, 1976", Birch Bark Alliance, and PARTIZANS, 218 Liverpool Rd, London N1. UK

..... PROFITEERING

As some companies see their growth rate slowing, mining companies with diverse interests are producing almost unheard of profits. For example, AMAX (the Noonkanbah Australia despoilers) beat its 1979 record and turned in profits of \$381 million in the first nine months of this year. Homestake - the first producer of gold in the Black Hills and one of the major beneficiaries of the theft of this land from the Sioux one hundred years ago, almost doubled its profits in the same period. Western Mining, the Australian company, more than doubled its profits for the first six months of this year, as against 1979, while other companies such as Atlantic Richfields (US) were declaring bigger dividends.

All of these companies produce uranium - whose price has dropped nearly 25% in the past three years. While they haven't declared higher uranium profits, they are nonetheless able to keep their uranium operations going by making money out of their operations - especially gold.

(This is especially true of the 8 South African gold/uranium mining companies). It's as well to bear this fact in mind when we reflect on the depression in the uranium market: the 'opposition' is going to keep on kicking long after nuclear profitability appears to be dead.

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RTZ surrenders BRINCO

RTZ has lost control of its Canadian subsidiary Brinco - the company whose wholly owned exploration arm, Brinex, was refused permission to drill for uranium in Labrador after the company produced woefully inept waste disposal plans. Brinco will be controlled by Olympia and York Developments of Toronto: Tinto Holdings of Canada (RTZ) will retain 24% interest. (source: Financial Times Sept 25 80).

.....
CHILE to produce uranium oxide in a year's time, according to the London Financial Times (Sept 7 80). The Privately owned Pudahuel mining company will extract the oxide from copper oxide at the Cascada mine in northern Chile - it will first be offered to the fascist junta and then to overseas buyers.

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NORANDA MAKES HUGE PROFIT
Canada's Noranda mines has sold its Koongarra mine in Australia's Northern Territory for £16.3 million - and will make another £30 million or so if the mine proceeds to production. Denison Mines of Canada who have bought Koongarra - which still awaits government permission to open - also mines Elliot Lake, Ontario, site of Canada's largest mining operation.

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IRAQ BARS DOOR TO IAEA, despite being signatory to the Non Proliferation Treaty. Iraq has blocked inspection of its nuclear facilities because of the present war. An embarrassed French official was quoted as saying in response "We are in a completely new situation that was not foreseen in any international treaties". French nuclear technicians assisting Iraq say that the 26 pounds of weapons grade enriched uranium France recently delivered to Iraq has been removed from its research reactor. However, they go on, Iraq cannot use this to make a bomb. In fact, using a "hot" laboratory supplied by Italy, the Iraqis

could extract plutonium, even from irradiated U236. And, of course, the Iraqis could make at least one nuclear bomb from the removed material.

If there's any doubt that Iraq has the scientists to do the job, it should be dispelled by the knowledge that France has already created a centre that can train 600 nuclear scientists at one blow...
(information from the Guardian, London Nov 8 1980)

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LIBYAN IMPERIALISTS IN TCHAD
Libyan forces are reported to have entered the Tchad capital of N'Djamena in support of President Goukouni, in his civil war against former Prime Minister Hissene Habre. Libyan sources also claim that Gaddafi's forces recently "liberated" the northern city of Faya-Largeau. Three years ago Libyan forces first intervened in Tchad by claiming large parts of the north and fielding troops against nomadic tribespeople in the area. It is widely believed that Libyans have their eye on uranium deposits in the Tibesti region. Libya recently opened all its nuclear facilities ostensibly to IAEA inspection. But it is known to have heavily financed Pakistan's own research into enriching uranium - and Pakistan's facilities are not open to such inspection. The "Islamic Bomb" may now be near completion, since Pakistan has recently announced that it is manufacturing its own nuclear fuel (enriched uranium) which is being used in a power plant in Karachi.

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Portugal with its eye on 2001. The Portuguese Industry Minister Sr Alvan Barreto, has announced that Portugal must invest \$40 billion between now and 2000 AD to build up its energy resources. This will probably include investing in some of Portugal's 10,000 tonnes of reasonably assured uranium reserves. A new prospecting programme may turn up more...
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WASTE NOT, PROFIT A LOT

CENEX LTD, one of Canada's five uranium producers, has started to use mobile units to process uranium oxide from ore-and- waste dumps left after the huge yellowcake boom of the 40's and 50's in the northern Saskatchewan. (These were mines which supplied much of the uranium for US bombs). The units - which can be transported by road - screen out rock and low-grade ore above a certain cut-off grade (0.03%). The mobile plants can only be relocated and set up in less than a week. No production figures from this new method have yet been made available, and although its contribution to total production must be very small at present it could represent a significant low-cost factor in 'old' uranium areas. Moreover, the industry could justify expansion of this method on grounds that they are clearing up unsightly and potentially dangerous dumps, as well as making their contribution to overcoming the energy 'crisis'.
source: Mining Journal, August 1980.

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PHILLIPINES URANIUM

Australia is to give substantial support to a five-year search to find and define prospective uranium mining areas in the Philippines. Australia will provide more than half the £1.9mill planned investment. Australia will provide technical experts, technology to conduct airborne and radiometric surveys, and training. The formal agreement will start working in the first quarter of 1981. The first area to be surveyed will include the northern part of the main island of Luzon and the islands of Mindora, Catanduanes, Polillo and Masbate, all in the central Philippines.
source: Financial Times Sept. 9 1980.

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FILM: SACRIFICE AREA

For the past month the Dutch media has been gearing up towards the Russell Tribunal. The television also has found a lot of room for information. Ready in time for the Tribunal, Otto Schuurman and Ernie Damen have produced a film based on the July International Survival Gathering in South Dakota, and the issues surrounding that gathering.

The film tries to show the relationship between Indian ethnocide due to mining and the European energy consumption.

The film is a successful television film, lasting 60 minutes and consisting mainly of a series of interviews with local people. It shows the cavernous mines and the huge tailings piles - and the results of the Churchrock spill last year.

The film will be shown during the Tribunal and is available for use by groups.

For details of hiring this colour film contact: Otto Schuurman
Verversstraat 7
Amsterdam Holland
tel (020) 256288

WISE URANIUM AUDIO VISUAL PROJECT

The WISE uranium project announced in the last newsletter that we want to make an indexation of audio-visual materials within the anti uranium mining movement - as was requested by some of our subscribers. Now we have a listing from Canada, USA and Australia, at the end of this letter. Please add more, and send it in, so that we can make a more complete listing in 1981.

Please send television material information as well.

Special thanks to Peter Murphy for his work on this project.