

NUKEWATCH PATHFINDER

The Progressive Foundation—P.O. Box 649—Luck, WI 54853—(715) 472-4185



Photo by Bonnie Urfer

Donna Howard-Hastings poured ashes, symbolic of the threat of nuclear weapons, across the entrance to the Wisc. ELF transmitter. She was arrested for trespassing along with four other ELF resisters. Just prior to the protest, Donna was sentenced for her Earth Day disarmament action. She is being held in jail pending a probation revocation hearing.

Collection Laka foundation

www.laka.org
Digitized 2018

Nuclear Abolitionists Jailed for Obeying the Law

By John LaForge

Donna and Tom Howard-Hastings were sentenced on Dec. 3rd for their Earth Day disarmament action against the Navy's "Project ELF" antenna.

Donna and Tom used hand saws on April 22 this year to shut down the "extra low frequency" antenna near Clam Lake, WI. Labeled by critics "a starter pistol for nuclear war," the Project ELF sends crude, one-way orders to submerged missile-firing submarines world-wide. The pair sawed down three of the 600 poles that suspend the antenna.

Facing a possible five years in prison and \$10,000 in fines, both Donna and Tom reprimanded the court and the public for permitting the continued operation of outlawed weapons systems.

"No one who is decent defends these things," Tom said to the court. "No crime ever committed on Earth compares with the crime that the launch of these abominations would commit. To protect these blasphemous devices, as you do, is illegal, indeed, criminal. When you sentence any of us who engage in nonviolent resistance to ELF, you break the law with impunity. By labeling us criminal, you brand yourself."

Tried on two felony charges in September, they were found not guilty of sabotage after a jury heard evidence that the Trident/ELF nuclear weapons complex could not be used defensively. For this reason, the experts explained, ELF and Trident constitute "illegitimate military activity." In acquitting on the sabotage charge, the jury effectively found Trident and ELF illegal. The Howard-Hastingses were convicted of criminal damage to property.

Both Donna and Tom pointed out prior to sentencing that they are legally and morally obligated to continue protesting against ELF. "The ELF trigger is cocked," Donna said. "Hundreds of thousands of victims could be incinerated and all life threatened—by our lawlessness. If I am released, I will continue impeding violence and national lawlessness at every opportunity afforded to me."

Donna was sentenced to three years of supervised probation, ordered not to return to the ELF site, and released. The mother of two grown sons then immediately joined a caravan to the ELF site where, after pouring symbolic ashes across the driveway, she was arrested, along with four others, for trespassing. She's in jail again, awaiting a probation revocation hearing. In a phone interview, she said of her action, "I was only keeping my word."

Because of what the Judge considered Tom's prior record (he cut down an ELF antenna pole in Michigan in 1985), he was sentenced to one year in prison and three years of "intensive sanctions" probation. Intensive sanctions usually involve frequent probation reporting, the



Photo by John LaForge

On Dec. 4, Donna Howard-Hastings poured symbolic "ashes of nuclear war," across the entrance to the ELF submarine transmitter site. Details on p. 1.

wearing of an electronic tracking bracelet, and mandatory cash employment. Both Donna and Tom were given credit for the 114 days they served in jail following their "plowshares" action.

In spite of the fact that Donna and Tom explained their intention to "not pay a nickel to the Navy," Ashland County Court Judge Robert Eaton scheduled a January 27 hearing to consider the issue of restitution. The Navy estimated that \$7,500 in damage was done to the system, which U.S. Senator Russell Feingold (D-WI) has called a "relic of the cold war."

At trial, Judge Eaton refused to allow any defense to the criminal damage charge. Donna and Tom had intended to argue that, as the "instrument of a crime," Project ELF is not property but *contraband*—like a hand gun used in armed robbery, or an assault rifle. Lawyers for the two will appeal the criminal damage conviction.

Donna and Tom made impassioned statements to the court explaining that their action was completely legal under international treaties and U.S. statutes. As Tom put it, "The country is violating its own laws."

"One fifth of the world's nuclear weapons are controlled by ELF. One hundred percent of those weapons are poison weapons. Since the Geneva Conventions outlaw poisonous weapons, [and] Art. 23 of the Fourth Hague Convention makes it a crime 'to employ poison weapons,' ELF is an instrumentality of a crime."

Saying he disagreed with the abolitionists' reading of the law, Judge Eaton used the opportunity of a packed courtroom to deliver a lecture on the danger of "chaos and anarchism." The Judge said, "It is not possible to run a country based only upon the dictates of individual conscience."

What seems clear is that it's not possible to run a nuclear weapons system without first putting your conscience to sleep.

Because the state system will be moving them for a time, you can write to Donna and Tom Howard-Hastings, c/o: Nuke-watch, P.O. Box 649, Luck, WI 54853.

Copies of Donna's and Tom's sentencing statements are available for \$3.50 from Nukewatch.

ELF Plowshares Trial a "Joy"

By Robert Aldridge

I have always believed that when people understand military activity they will exercise their democratic rights to reverse America's aggressive trend. The ELF trial in Ashland last September reinforced my belief.

It was my privilege to testify at the trial of Donna and Tom Howard-Hastings. After testifying, and often being disallowed to testify, at numerous citizen intervention trials, I have developed a somewhat cynical attitude toward courts and trials—their tendency to limit the spirit of justice by shielding jurors from everything but the strict letter of the law which has been violated. It was with this attitude that I went to Ashland, as an expert witness.

But when I approached the witness stand to be sworn in, a feeling came over me that I would be able to tell the "whole truth" this time. Although a bit nervous at first, as I addressed the jurors I could see that they were eager to hear the facts. This encouraged me to recall every pertinent detail and present it as completely as I could.

I was grateful that the prosecuting attorney did not break the continuity of my testimony with a string of objections. Judge Robert Eaton also allowed leeway for me to convey information in a coherent fashion. In explaining the ELF system, I was able to depart from the stilted question-and-answer format which conveys facts piecemeal, in fits and starts. Instead, I felt more like I was giving a lecture to a university audience. I could see the jurors' eyes widen when I uncovered a detail that was new to them. And I could tell by their facial expressions that I had successfully woven all the nuances of ELF into an understandable pattern of public deceit and military adventurism. This was the first time I had left the witness stand feeling that I had been able to give complete and coherent testimony.

It was my joy to hear the Ashland County jury declare Donna and Tom innocent of sabotage. And it was my sadness that the jury was not able to hear how international law had motivated Tom and Donna to deactivate those ELF poles in order to abide by a higher law—international law—which our Constitution makes part of the supreme law of the land. The jury would then certainly have reached a not-guilty verdict on the damage to property charge.

My friend and renown international lawyer Richard Falk once told me, that wide-spread awareness of the illegality of Trident and its supporting systems will not happen quickly—but that each of our actions helps create the climate in which that awareness can take place. The jury's response to Donna's and Tom's message certainly indicates that the climate for awareness is improving. As this awareness deepens, and as juries come to know facts before being informed of them from the witness stand, democracy in our country will truly flourish. Illegals and injustices will be corrected by popular demand. There will no longer be a need to throw tea into the harbor or chop down ELF poles.

Bob Aldridge, a former Trident missile engineer, is now engaged in private research to improve understanding of military activities.

Retired nuclear Gunslinger Joins Call for Abolition

Another U.S. general has chimed in with a resounding denunciation of his entire life's work. In the latest high profile case of "nuclear retirement syndrome"—a phrase coined by Robert J. Lifton to describe the nuclear triggermen who recant upon retirement—air force Gen. Lee Butler has called the Bomb's power "obscene."

Gen. Butler, the former head of the U.S. Strategic Air Command (SAC; now called StratCom) in Omaha, said "the obscene power of a single nuclear weapon is taking a new hold on our consciousness as we confront the nightmarish prospect of nuclear terror..."

Gen. Butler spoke on Dec. 4 at the National Press Club. "I was embroiled in every aspect of [U.S.] nuclear policy making and 'force posturing,'" he said, "from the counsels of government to military command centers, from cramped bomber cockpits to the suffocating confines of ballistic missile submarines..." Gen. Butler had to personally authorize the targets for each of the 12,000 nuclear warheads under his control.

Gen. Butler said "I've investigated a dismaying array of accidents and incidents involving strategic weapons..."

(A 1995 study by the Center for Technology Asses-

sment found that from 1969 to 1989, there were at least 1,445 mishaps, of varying severity, involving nuclear submarines. Among them, at least 43 Soviet and seven U.S. nuclear weapons—missile warheads, torpedoes, and bombs—were lost at sea.)

"I have anguished over the profound moral dilemmas... The nuclear beast must be chained. Its lair laid waste."

Gen. Butler has suggested that every nuclear warhead be removed from U.S. land-based ICBMs and from our submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

Long-time disarmament activists might get some satisfaction from Gen. Butler's admonition that, "...the risks entailed by nuclear weapons are far too great to leave the prospects of their elimination solely within the province of governments."

Fr. Frank Cordaro, in Iowa, helped organize dozens of civil resistance actions at SAC in Omaha. He said, "The general is trying to make some sense of these weapons, and he came to the right conclusion. They are useless." Fr. Cordaro said that a total of 12 years had been served in jail and prison by SAC resisters over a period of 20 years.

The nuclear retirement syndrome's roll call is impres-

sive. President Dwight Eisenhower, who speeded up Bomb building, said upon retirement, "Disarmament...is a continuing imperative." The late Adm. Hyman Rickover, the "father" of the nuclear navy, told congress upon retiring that he wasn't proud of his work and was afraid that "we may destroy ourselves." Gen. Colin Powell (ret.) who refused in 1991 to rule out use of the Bomb against the Persian Gulf, now supports its abolition. Former President Jimmy Carter, a former nuclear submarine commander, now supports the elimination of the nuclear arsenal. In 1994, Gen. Charles Horner, head of the U.S. Space Command, said "the nuclear weapon is obsolete. I want to get rid of them all." Former Pentagon chief Robert McNamara, the architect of the Vietnam War, said in 1983 that nuclear weapons "serve no military purpose whatsoever."

In 1994, retired army Gen. Andrew Goodpaster did his bit for disarmament, proposing a three-stage plan to accomplish "the complete abolition and elimination of nuclear weapons worldwide."

The White House responded to Gen. Butler's Dec. 4 address, saying that nuclear weapons would remain a part of the U.S. arsenal for the foreseeable future.

SHADOWS ON THE ROCK PEACE CAMP

The 3rd annual Shadows on the Rock Peace Camp, at the Clam Lake, WI, ELF transmitter site, lasted from August 3 through 10. "Shadows on the Rock" is a remembrance of the negative impressions of human beings left by the flashes of the U.S. atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Nukewatch won a \$1,000 grant from RESIST to help fund the encampment.

Dozens of participants helped vitalize the busy week of in-camp discussions and in-town demonstrations.

Four times during the week, caravans drove into Ashland, WI for demonstrations focused on the 51st anniversary of the bombings. August 7th's front-page photo in the Ashland Daily Press of our August 6th "March for Disarmament" was the only regional notice of any kind that mentioned the anniversary of the massacre. Later in the day, two people were arrested on the ELF site after refusing to end their chalk drawing of human shadows.

On Tuesday Chris LaForge, operator of Great Northern Solar, led a solar-powered protest against Northern States Power Company. The giant utility receives over \$40,000 monthly for the electricity it sells to the Navy to run the ELF transmitter near Clam Lake, WI.

Later, Marv Davidov, director of the Midwest Institute for Social Transformation (MIST) in Minneapolis, spoke to campers on "Resistance Over the Long Haul." Davidov was the long-time coordinator of the Honeywell Project, Minneapolis, MN, which for 23 years protested and resisted the manufacture of cluster bombs and nuclear weapons components.

On Thursday, Kathy Anderson of Women Against Military Madness, and Walt Bresette of the Lake Superior Alliance, spoke with vigilers who weathered the 90 degree heat on the street outside the Ashland County jail where Donna and Tom Howard-Hastings were being held.

Later, Michele Flatau and Char Karsch, members of the Loaves and Fishes Catholic Worker Community in Duluth, spoke to campers about how homelessness is aggravated by militarism.

Throughout the week there was also lively discussion of the meaning, impact and consequences of the Earth Day "Laurentian Shield" ELF disarmament action—just the sort of debate that Donna and Tom Howard-Hastings hoped to foster.

On Friday, Nagasaki Day, a half-dozen chalk graffiti artists endured police intimidation in Ashland and won a victory for sidewalk speech. Cory Bartholomew and others covered the courthouse sidewalks with human "shadows" commemorating Nagasaki's atomized victims. In the afternoon, another resister was arrested for entering the exclusion zone around the ELF headquarters.

The Peace Camp concluded Saturday when the week's participants returned for a day of work and play. Around the campfire Mike Miles presented the case for the International Ban on Landmines. Later, puppet and mask-

making, was led by Laurie Witzkowski of the In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater (Minneapolis) and artist Chris Lutter (Washburn, WI). The participants



Photo by John LaForge

Activists had the opportunity to create colorful masks used in a parade to the Project ELF front gate. The mask making was taught by Laurie Witzkowski of the In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theater in Minneapolis.

created a spectacular theater of color and dance. The group closed the camp with a parade past the ELF site's gate pantomiming a happy, nonviolent and voluntary end to nuclear militarism.

THANK YOU RESIST

1 Summer Street, Somerville, MA 02143, (617) 623-5110

Nukewatch co-sponsored and organized the 3rd
Shadows on the Rock Peace Camp
held in August of 1996.

RESIST helped to fund the event
with a \$1,000.00 grant.

USAF Eyes 'Abolition' Tour of Silos

by Loring Wirbel

On Saturday, November 2, twenty "Abolition 2000" campaigners in Colorado decided to tour a Minuteman missile field in northeastern Colorado. The tour kicked off an effort to remove the Minuteman wing, controlled out of Cheyenne, Wyoming. We have a series of actions planned, including public meetings in the small towns of NE Colorado, a petition drive, and possible direct action.

Previous experience in looking at silo sites, initiated by Ken and Meg Seaman, suggested that silos themselves are unguarded, and that the MPs only respond when you visit a launch control facility directly. So we planned to visit four silos first, followed by the launch control site last, in order to have time to plant sunflower seeds and have prayer vigils at each site.

We chose a missile cluster surrounding the tiny hamlet of New Raymer, in the Pawnee National Grasslands north of Fort Morgan.

At the very first silo site we visited, a guard contingent happened to drive by on lunch shift-change, and we were immediately surrounded by vehicles with sirens coming from all directions. We got a virtual escort as we traveled to each silo, and at each silo, the MPs wanted to get tougher. We made very clear we had no intention of jumping fences, but they tried to clear us off open county roads leading to the sites. We stood our ground and they backed down, but M1s and M16s mounted on tripods were

The Price of Trident:

**\$5,189,980.00 a day,
for thirty years!**

This is the price tag for the fleet of 17 U.S. Trident submarines with their two complete crews per sub—not including the cost of their Trident missiles.

The operating, maintenance & support costs for one Trident submarine over its 30-year service life is \$2.38 billion, or \$79.5 million per year in 1997 dollars.

The U.S. has commissioned its 16th Trident submarine, the *USS Maine*, at a construction cost of \$1.3 billion.

If the U.S. decommissioned the oldest nine Tridents now, rather than maintain an 18-sub fleet, the savings would be more than \$19 billion in 1996 dollars.

(This figures the various service lives left on the 17 Tridents, all of which come on-line at different times.)

Within the \$256.6 billion annual military budget, the Pentagon spends \$30 billion each year to buy, operate and maintain nuclear weapons systems.

Source:
Robert Aldridge,
Trident Resister's Handbook,
Pacific Life Research Center
631 Kiely Blvd.

LAURENTIAN SHIELD

Nonviolent Disarmament
of the Nuclear Navy
in Wisconsin

Ω Donna & Tom Howard-Hastings

Ω Kary Love

Ω Katya Komisaruk

Artwork by Pam Johnson & Francine Hart

Photos by Will Famle & Fr. Frank Cordaro

The story of an act of direct disarmament
on Earth Day, 1996, at Project ELF.

36 pages. \$3.00 ppd.

Poetry, narrative, trial analysis

Available from:

STOP PROJECT ELF

740 Round Lake Road, Luck, WI 54853

(715) 472-8721

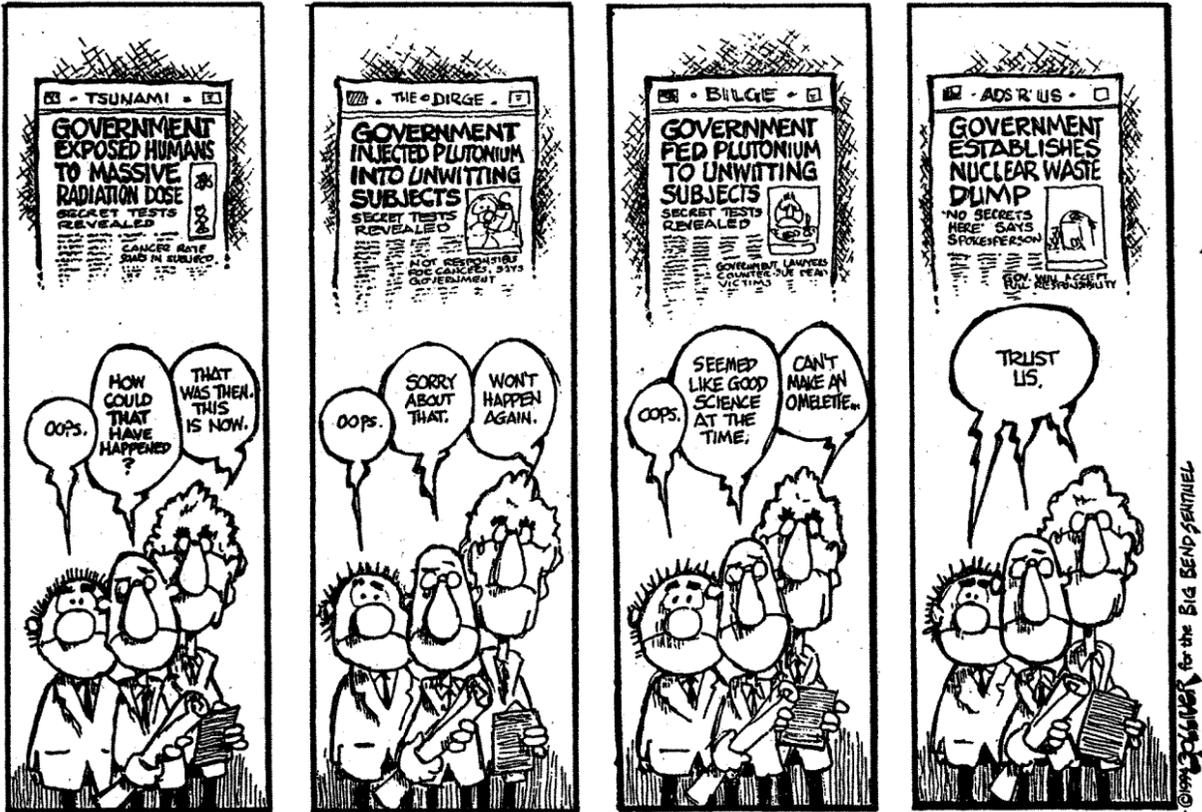
constantly trained on us as we planted sunflower seeds at each site.

By the time we got to the launch control center, an armored personnel carrier was parked across the road leading to the center, and all the MPs had flak jackets on. They tried to act extremely tough for the first few minutes, but after grasping what we were up to, they loosened up a bit, and even recommended that we try the Pawnee Station Cafe for lunch.

When we got to the cafe, we ran into Wes McKinley. McKinley was the former foreman of the Rocky Flats Grand Jury who insisted that Rockwell be punished for its Rocky Flats mess. He was at the cafe plugging his independent run for Congress (he ran a cowboy-populist, but very environment-friendly campaign). When he learned what we had been doing, he insisted on making a big deal, telling the townspeople there that anti-nukers were the true patriots, etc. As it turned out, the sheriff and the restaurant owner became very interested in "Abolition 2000," and we have excellent contacts established for further educational campaigns.

While it wasn't much fun to plant sunflower seeds while automatic weapons were being trained on us, the Air Force served as our best PR helper. In some ways, we couldn't have asked for a better campaign opener.

Loring Wirbel is active with Abolition 2000, an international network organizing to outlaw and dismantle the world's nuclear arsenals.



World Court Action

By George Farebrother

September 28 saw two trucks pulling into the Battlebridge Centre in London, England, groaning under the weight of 3.7 million signed documents. They had been collected from the Hague a week before and trailed through cities in Holland, Belgium and France where they were welcomed by peace activists and city officials.

On arrival they were passed from hand to hand by London World Court Project supporters in an extended game of "pass the parcel." The 120 substantial boxes were built into a formidable mountain for the benefit of visitors and the media.

So why such a performance over large numbers of bits of paper? The documents were Declarations of Public Conscience. They were signed in 36 languages from people all over the world stating that they believed nuclear weapons to be immoral. They were collected by the World Court Project over four years and accepted by the International Court of Justice (the World Court) as evidence of citizens' beliefs on the issue. The Declarations were referred to in the Opinion itself, issued on 8 July 1996. This is the first time that citizens' evidence has played a part in the development of international law. The Court knew very well that it was a citizens' group, the World Court Project, which had lobbied to put nuclear weapons on trial, and the judges were perfectly happy about this.

Asked by the UN General Assembly for an Advisory Opinion on the legality of the threat or use of nuclear weapons, the Court could find no circumstance in which these weapons of mass destruction could legally be used: and that it is the duty of all states, including the nuclear weapons states, to work seriously toward a Nuclear Weapons Convention that would abolish nuclear weapons everywhere. The UN Disarmament Committee has overwhelmingly accepted a Resolution welcoming the Court's Advisory Opinion and demanding action on it. Apart from UK, USA, Turkey and France, even NATO members found some aspects of the Resolution acceptable.

Pie in the sky? The Nuclear Weapons Club is already beginning to feel beleaguered. The Norwegian Labour Party has welcomed the Court's Opinion. And the Canadian government, after extensive consultation with its citizens, has decided to review its nuclear policy in relation to the USA and NATO in light of the World Court's ruling. In England, a government defense spokesman, Lord Chalfont, has spoken of a new and worrying trend advocating nuclear disarmament.

After a triumphal tour of seven cities in England and Wales, the Declarations have now found a resting place in the UK's first Peace Museum in Bradford. So that is the end of one story and the beginning of another. The World Court Project now has a new role—to work with Abolition 2000 to use the World Court Opinion to achieve a world free of nuclear weapons.

George Farebrother is the UK Secretary of the World Court Project and lives in Sussex, England.

The Outlaw Bomb

By Lois Barber and Alyn Ware

Despite the crumbling of the Berlin Wall, the threat of nuclear war remains. The five declared nuclear weapon states, Britain, China, France, Russia and the U.S., continue to keep a total of [22,610*] nuclear weapons armed and ready for use, which could be triggered by accident, madness or escalation of a crisis.

Meanwhile, the nuclear giants try to persuade or cajole other countries not to acquire nuclear weapons. Joseph Rotblat, 1995 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, has called this a "recipe for proliferation—a policy for disaster. If the militarily most powerful—and least threatened—states need nuclear weapons for their security, how can one deny such security to countries that are truly insecure?"

The spread of nuclear weapons to new countries isn't the only danger. The increased availability of nuclear technology and materials has made it possible that small organizations could get hold of nuclear bombs.

However, three recent events point in a new direction:

→ In July, the World Court concluded unanimously that, "There exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control."

→ In August, the Canberra Commission, which included many former high-level political and military leaders, released its report calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons. The Commission includes, among others: former French Prime Minister Michel Rocard; former Chief of the U.S. Strategic Air Command, Gen. Lee

Butler; former Chief of the UK Defense Staff, Field Marshall Lord Carver and former Brazilian Foreign Minister, Celso Amorim.

One Commission member, Robert McNamara, former U.S. Secretary of Defense, said that we must "put the genie back in the bottle. If we do not there is a substantial risk that the twenty-first century will witness a nuclear tragedy." The commission concluded that putting the nuclear genie back in the bottle is practical, verifiable and enforceable. The commission's report includes a practical implementation plan.

→ In September, a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), which prohibits all nuclear weapons test explosions, was adopted at the UN. The CTBT will enter into force when 44 states including India, sign and ratify. India says it will sign the CTBT only when the nuclear weapon states agree to a framework for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

In a step toward ensuring that the World Court decision is implemented, the CTBT is brought into force and the Canberra Commission's recommendations are followed, the President of the United Nations General Assembly, Ambassador Razali of Malaysia, has circulated a draft UN resolution calling for negotiations on a Nuclear Weapons Convention to eliminate nuclear weapons. Countries are expected to vote on this resolution in the UN General Assembly in December 1996.

*The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, 7, 9 & 11, '96.

Lois Barber works with EarthAction, a coalition of environmental, peace and social justice groups based in Amherst, MA; Alyn Ware is the Executive Director of the Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy in New York City.

Conference Marks Vanunu's Tenth Year in Prison

By Felice Cohen-Joppa

September 30, 1996 marked the tenth anniversary in solitary confinement for Israeli nuclear whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu. The date was observed with demonstrations and other events throughout the world, including in many U.S. cities.

Vanunu is serving an 18 year sentence for "treason" and espionage in a 6'-by-9' prison cell in Ashkelon Prison, after telling the Sunday Times of London about Israel's nuclear weapons program. He had previously worked at the Dimona nuclear facility, located in the Negev Desert. As a matter of conscience, Vanunu felt compelled to tell the world that his country possesses nuclear weapons.

This past October 14 and 15, anti-nuclear and human rights activists from more than a dozen countries gathered in Tel Aviv for an international conference, "Democracy, Human Rights and Mordechai Vanunu."

Chaired by 1995 Nobel Peace Prize recipient Professor Joseph Rotblat, speakers addressed various aspects of the Vanunu case. A doctor, a judge, a Knesset member, law-

yers, religious leaders, and disarmament and human rights experts talked about the legal, medical, human rights and secrecy issues related to Vanunu's case. An inspiring panel of whistle blowers included: Daniel Ellsberg, who helped end the Vietnam War by leaking the Pentagon Papers, senior scientist Hugh DeWitt from the Livermore nuclear weapons lab, chemist Dr. Vil Mirzayanov, who blew the whistle on Russia's chemical weapons program, and Dr. Alla Yarushinskaya, a journalist and Chernobyl whistleblower.

Following the conference, Professor Rotblat met with President Weizman of Israel, and presented him with a conference resolution calling for clemency for Vanunu. It read in part, "The question of Israel's possession of a nuclear arsenal is one that affects not only Israel and the Middle East, but the entire world. A public debate on that question could lead to the creation of a treaty making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. Surely that would provide a greater measure of security for Israel than the prospect of a regional nuclear arms race." President Weizman rejected the request for clemency.

The day preceding the conference, Oct. 13, was

Vanunu's 42nd birthday. A small group of British, Canadian, North American and Norwegian activists traveled to Ashkelon Prison. They asked prison officials to present Vanunu with the birthday gifts they had brought for the prisoner. The group then held a short vigil in front of the prison, with signs and banners demanding freedom for Mordechai Vanunu.

The conference helped to bring about an important transformation in Israeli media treatment of Vanunu's case. The news coverage was both more widespread than had ever before been seen in Israel, and its tone was often more sympathetic as well. As a result, the Israeli public had the opportunity to view Vanunu in a new light. Interviews with conference speakers and other press coverage presented Vanunu as a whistleblower, not primarily as the "atom spy" and "traitor" previously vilified by the media.

For more information, contact the U.S. Campaign to Free Mordechai Vanunu, 2206 Fox Ave., Madison, WI 53711, (608) 257-4764.

Felice Cohen-Joppa is co-publisher of The Nuclear Resister, a newsletter of information about and support for imprisoned anti-nuclear activists.

Half-lives and Half Truths Chernobyl Ten Years On

By John LaForge
(Second of two parts)

The 10th anniversary was no party.

"I have seen the beginning of the end of the world," is how Michael Mariotte, editor of *The Nuclear Monitor*, put it after visiting Chernobyl's doomed landscape, everything dead or dying for miles around. "The end of the world begins in Pripyat, Ukraine, a once-thriving city of 45,000. Now it sits crumbling, abandoned, a mute but overwhelming testament to technological arrogance gone amok."

Pripyat was the city nearest Chernobyl's Unit 4, the reactor that exploded on April 26, 1986 and burned dangerously until October, spewing tons of cancer-causing radioactive isotopes around the world.

Mr. Mariotte is not known for emotional writing in *The Monitor*, but anyone who can stand to investigate the unfolding human consequences of the world's worst industrial catastrophe can understand his choice of words. *Izvestia* called it "the greatest technological catastrophe in world history."

Cancers and other disease caused by Chernobyl's radioactive poisons are being recorded thousands of kilometers from the reactor site. The 90 million people who lived in the path of the very worst fallout are learning the hard way that damage done by ionizing radiation is unrelenting, cumulative and irreversible.

In the first part of this article (Spring 1996 *Pathfinder*) I compared the recent trivialization of Chernobyl's consequences to news accounts that appeared soon after the explosions and fire. For example, while the commercial press now tell us that the disaster "spread radiation across parts of Europe," the fact is that the federal EPA announced in mid-May 1986 that, "Airborne radioactivity from the Chernobyl nuclear accident is now so widespread that it is likely to fall to the ground wherever it rains in the United States."

In this part I review how much radiation Chernobyl evidently added to the "natural background level," at government skewing of the radiation's long-term effects, and at recent reports of its human health consequences.

Answers are Blowin' in the Wind

How much radiation was released? What mix of isotopes were thrown into the atmosphere? Was it mostly iodine-131? How much of the total was the far more dangerous cesium-137 and strontium-90?

Piecing together the truth is a dizzying job of ferreting out bias and vested interest. The pro-nuclear *Time* magazine reported in 1989 that perhaps "one billion or more" curies were released, rather than the 50 to 80 million estimated by Russian authorities. One curie is the amount of radiation equal to the disintegration of 37 billion atoms—or "berquerels"—per second. It is a very large amount of radiation.

The U.S. government's Argonne National Lab has said that 30 percent of the reactor's total radioactivity—3 billion of an estimated 9 billion curies—was released. And scientists at the U.S. Lawrence Livermore National Lab suggested that one-half of the core's radioactivity was spewed—4.5 billion curies, according to the World Information Service on Energy in Amsterdam.

Vladimir Chernousenko, the chief scientific supervisor of the "clean up" team responsible for a 10-kilometer zone around the exploded reactor, says that 80 percent of the reactor's radioactivity escaped, something like 7 billion curies. At the Union of Concerned Scientists, senior energy analyst Kennedy Maize, concluded that "the core vaporized"—all 190 tons of fuel, and all 9 billion curies.

Joseph Hendrie, a former chair of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), concluded likewise, saying, "They have dumped the full inventory of volatile fission products from a large power reactor into the environment. You can't do any worse than that."

The Soviets reported to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1986 that 50 million curies of radioactive debris, plus another 50 million curies of rare and inert gasses were discharged. However, the rocketing incidence of cancers, leukemias and other radiation-induced illnesses, leads scientists to suspect that the higher radioactive fallout estimates are likely. Pandemic numbers of thyroid cancers led even the cautious Dr. Alexander Sich, in his Chernobyl cover story for the May 1996 *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* to conclude that the "higher [radiation] release estimates support the conclusions drawn by medical experts."

Geneticist Valery N. Soyfer, founder of the former

Soviet Union's first molecular biology laboratory, analyzed the 1986 report to the IAEA, which has since been condemned as a cover-up. Dr. Soyfer says that if only 100 million curies were vented, then worldwide "background radiation doubled at once."

This claim was unsupported by accompanying evidence, but if "background" was doubled by 100 million curies, then it was multiplied 180 times by the release of Chernobyl's "full inventory." Nineteen months after the disaster—in Nov. 1987—the U.S. government officially doubled its estimate of the "background" radiation to which we are exposed every year.

Thyroid Cancers: More, Sooner, Untreatable

Dr. Soyfer further discovered that the Soviets focused on and publicized the fallout's radioactive iodine content, but understated the amounts of other far more dangerous isotopes. While 10 to 15 percent of the fallout was iodine-131, the long-lived radionuclides strontium-90 and cesium-137 made up more than two thirds of the total contamination.

Furthermore, the Soviet's 1986 estimate of future cancer deaths was based only on the impact of iodine-131, and then only on external doses. As a result, the IAEA misled the world about Chernobyl's cancer threat. People contaminated with iodine-131 ingested it, first by breathing, then by drinking contaminated milk for six weeks.



Natasha, damaged by Chernobyl radiation before she was born, now has a home in Scotland. Photo courtesy of Chernobyl Children's Project.

Thyroid cancer is caused by the iodine-131. Its rates are today ten times higher than the increase any scientist had anticipated. The U.N. has said that the number of thyroid cancers among children in Belarus—where 70 percent of the fallout landed—are 285 times pre-Chernobyl levels.

The *British Medical Journal* reported in 1995 that the rate of thyroid cancer in the region north of Chernobyl—Ukraine and Belarus—is 200 times higher than normal, and the Imperial Cancer Research Fund found a 500 percent increase in thyroid cancers among Ukrainian children between 1986 and 1993.

Fear is growing among physicians treating the child victims, because the thyroid cancers are appearing sooner than expected and growing quicker than usual. Dr. Andrei Butenko, at Kiev Hospital No. 1 in Ukraine, says of his patients, "Routine chemotherapy seems to have lost its effectiveness ... something has changed in the immune system."

Cesium's Genetic Assault: the 300 Years War

Cesium-137 contamination is probably Chernobyl's most devastating and ominous consequence. The body can't distinguish cesium from potassium, so it's taken up by our cells and becomes an internal source of radiation. Cesium-137 is a gamma emitter and its half-life of 30 years means that it stays in the soil, to concentrate in the food chain, for over 300 years. While iodine-131 remains radioactive for six weeks, cesium-137 stays in the body for decades, concentrating in muscle where it irradiates muscle cells and nearby organs.

Strontium-90 is also long-lived and because it resembles calcium is permanently incorporated into bone tissue where it may lead to leukemia.

The Soviets predicted in 1986 that the influence of cesium-137 on cancer death rates could be *nine times* that of iodine-131. They said that the effects of strontium-90 would "perhaps have, along with cesium-137, the most important meaning."

Early Findings Go from Bad to Worse

Exposure to radiation more often results in genetic and reproductive damage than cancer. These hereditary disorders are unlimited in time, since they pass from generation to generation. So, as geneticist Soyfer points out, Chernobyl's enduring biological legacy will be that of inherited diseases, deformities, developmental abnormalities, spontaneous abortions and premature births.

Some recent epidemiological studies confirm the worst of these inevitable effects. The June 25, 1995 *Washington Post* reported that birth defects in the areas most heavily poisoned have doubled since 1986.

In a long page-one story, the Aug. 2, 1995 *New York Times* reported that life expectancy has plummeted in Russia, making it the first nation in history to ever experience such a public health status reversal. Male life expectancy in Russia is now the lowest in the world (below even India or Bolivia) and, at the same time, infant mortality rose 15 percent in both 1993 and 1994, and there are now epidemic rates of heart disease and cancer. Dr. David Hoel, an epidemiologist at the Medical University of S. Carolina, is studying whether Chernobyl's radiation is a major factor in the spread in cancers and birth defects. "Everyone assumes the connection," he said.

The journal *Nature* has published a study of children born in 1994 to mothers exposed to Chernobyl's fallout in 1986. Researchers studied families living 186 miles from Chernobyl and found never-before-observed "germ-line" mutations: changes in DNA of the sperm and ovum. Such mutations are passed on from generation to generation.

Nature has also reported that in Greece—2,800 kilometers from Chernobyl—where radiation exposures were far lower than in areas close to the reactor, leukemia has been diagnosed at rates 2.6 times the norm in young people who were in the womb when the reactor exploded. The British epidemiologist Dr. Alice Stewart found in the 1950s that only one diagnostic X-ray to the pregnant abdomen increases the risk of leukemia in the offspring by 40 percent. However, the report from Greece is the first to link Chernobyl's wreckage to increased leukemia incidence in children exposed in utero. The report has moved some experts to again warn that the low levels of radiation to which people are exposed every day "could contribute to cancer."

Even the stodgy *New York Times* has reported that "cancers are now believed to be the result of smaller [radiation] doses, and the amount of damage inflicted by a given dose is now believed to be larger."

In a related study, two U.S. geneticists analyzing animals inside Chernobyl's 6-mile radius found that rodents known as voles "sustain an extraordinary amount of genetic damage." The study found that "the mutation rate in these animals is...probably thousands of times greater than normal." Two findings the researchers called "ominous" were, first, that one-third of the mutations that the scientists expected to see were not even detected—probably because they were lethal. "It could be that the animals were never born," said Dr. Robert Becker of Texas Technical Univ. Second, "the vole mutations were cumulative, increasing with each succeeding generation." Both researchers doubted that any species could sustain such a mutation rate indefinitely.

Acceptable Whole-Earth Poisoning

The extent of Chernobyl's radioactive, biological and ecological damage, and the depth its psychological and economic devastation are incalculable.

What everyone does know about nuclear reactors is that they have a record of whole-earth poisoning, and that their potential for more of the same is considered acceptable—authorized in advance. This potential, for unlimited and uncontrollable radiation "accidents," has been deliberately developed, promoted, protected, ignored and then denied, or forgotten.

Sadly, denial and forgetfulness of this potential only make another Chernobyl inevitable.

A footnoted copy of this article and of part 1 are available for \$3.50 from Nukewatch.



Three Mile Island Alert

Researchers Find Evidence of High Doses of Radiation Following 1979 TMI Accident

Scientists at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) have found what they believe is evidence that exposure to high doses of radiation shortly after the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island [caused] increased cancer among Pennsylvanians downwind of the plant. Dr. Steven Wing, UNC-CH School of Public Health, led a study of cancer cases within ten miles of the facility from 1975 to 1985. He and his colleagues concluded that following the accident, that began March 28, 1979, lung cancer and leukemia rates were five to ten times higher downwind of the Three Mile Island reactor than upwind.

"I would be the first to say that our study doesn't prove by itself that there were high-level radiation exposures, but it is part of a body of evidence that is consistent with high exposures," Wing said. "If you say that there was no high [level of] radiation, then you are left with high cancer rates downwind... that are otherwise unexplainable."

Dr. Wing presented his group's findings at the International Workshop on Radiation Exposures by Nuclear Facilities, held at the University of Portsmouth in Portsmouth, United Kingdom, in July 1996. Co-authors of the report were Dr. Douglas Crawford-Brown, Dr. Donna Armstrong and David Richardson, all at UNC-CH.

The study involved re-analyzing data from a 1990 Columbia University study that concluded [that] the nation's worst civilian nuclear accident was not responsible for slightly increased cancer rates near the plant because radiation exposures were too low. Dr. Wing and his colleagues felt the earlier study was flawed and redid it, using what they believed were better analytic and statistical techniques.

"Several hundred people at the time of the accident reported nausea, vomiting, hair loss and skin rashes, and a number said their pets died or had symptoms of radiation exposure," he said. "We figured that if that were possible, we ought to look at it again. After adjusting for pre-accident cancer incidence, we found a striking association between the area believed to be downwind and increased cancers." He and his colleagues do not believe smoking and social and economic factors were responsible for the increased cancers found downwind.

Most earlier researchers, as well as government and industry officials, have accepted as fact that only small amounts of radiation were released into the atmosphere, Dr. Wing said. But it is known that plant radiation monitors went "off scale" when the accident started. One or more plumes containing higher [levels of] radiation could have passed undetected, he said.

Findings from the re-analysis of cancer incidence around Three Mile Island [are] consistent with the theory that radiation from the accident increased cancer in areas that were in the path of radioactive plumes, the scientist said. "This cancer increase would not be expected to occur over a short time in the general population unless doses were far higher than estimated by industry and government authorities," Dr. Wing said. "Rather, our findings support the allegation that the people who reported rashes, hair loss, vomiting and pet deaths after the accident were exposed to high level radiation and [are] not [merely] suffering from emotional stress."

The UNC-CH scientist said he found it ironic that U.S. District Court Judge Sylvia Rambo threw out more than 2,000 damage claims filed against the power plant by nearby residents in July 1996, citing a "paucity of proof" to support their cases. "Judge Rambo spent a year or more throwing out scientific evidence presented by the plaintiffs," he said. "After she threw out the evidence that people had been injured by the accident, including our work, then she ruled that there wasn't enough to proceed with the case."

Should H-Bombs Generate Dirty Electricity? Tell the DOE: No Way!

by Mary Olson

What do you do with the plutonium from an H-bomb when you take the bomb apart?

One dangerous plan for what to do with it, is to stick it in a commercial nuclear reactor and "burn" it as fuel. The plan is wrong-headed because the radiation doesn't go away; it gets multiplied millions of times, and you still end up with plutonium—but now it's called high-level radioactive waste.

The Department of Energy (DOE) calls the decision about what to do with plutonium its "disposition," and it is expected by January 20th, 1997. Three options have been explored in a massive Environmental Impact Statement: 1) deep "bore hole" dumping; 2) immobilization (also called "vitrification"); and 3) converting it to mixed oxide fuel (MOX for short) and irradiating it in commercial power reactors. MOX is an option for only about 33 tons of the roughly 50 tons of purified plutonium for which the U.S. is ready to seek "disposition". Thus, MOX alone could not fulfill the entire disposition mission.

Background:

The thread that binds these three options, is making the plutonium unusable for new bombs. This is a worthy goal, but it is not enough. It needs to be combined with a second goal: keeping this deadly material from poisoning the biosphere. None of the DOE's options will isolate the plutonium without fail, and two don't even come close.

"Bore holes" offer the ever-present threat of ground-water contamination. The MOX option will involve the routine release of and exposure to radioactive pollution, as well as the potent possibility of reactor meltdowns.

The deeper question is this: What can we do with any radioactive waste to insure that it doesn't wind up in our bodies and, over time, those of all living things. Because

this question is going completely unanswered at this point it is vital that the decisions we make now form the basis for the best long-term stewardship option. Knowing that we have to isolate *all* the waste, the less we make the better.

Dr. Helen Caldicott began her mission of waking us up to *Nuclear Madness* with the news that a single pound of the plutonium, if evenly disbursed, is enough to give cancer to every man, woman and child on Earth. MOX is a program we *have* to stop before it sees the light of day.

There has been only limited experimental use of plutonium fuel in the U.S. The use of MOX in an aging light-water reactor has never been tried. Furthermore, the use of plutonium for MOX fuel would require building a new fuel fabrication facility. The waste from this facility would be plutonium-heavy.

Use of plutonium fuel increases the percentage of plutonium and other fission products in both so-called "low-level" and high-level radioactive waste. The MOX reactors' routine emissions to the atmosphere and the water table will also contain a higher level of plutonium and fission products.

The physics of plutonium fission suggest that MOX fuel would accelerate the aging of reactor core components, a problem that is already causing early commercial reactor retirement. The irradiated fuel (because of the increased fission products) will have a greater heat load, complicating every waste storage and "disposal" option currently available or contemplated.

MOX waste would contain about five times more plutonium than regular fuel does (after one cycle in the reactor core), making "criticality" an even greater concern. In other words: it makes an even bigger mess.

MOX will also erase any separation between the civilian nuclear establishment and the military nuclear weapons complex. A MOX mission for plutonium disposition will be the birth of a Military-Industrial-Utility Complex. Under a MOX system, nuclear weapons-level military security would be imposed at the new fuel fabrication site, during all the plutonium transportation, and at the previously civilian reactor sites—since the unirradiated plutonium fuel would be a target for anyone seeking bomb-grade materials.

The MOX option is being frenetically promoted by the international nuclear industry. Nuclear states like Britain, France and Japan would love to see the U.S. return to this activity, rather than pestering them to stop. MOX from H-Bombs is, in the industry's eyes, "the camel's nose under the tent." With only a small leap, one can see the industry once again on a path toward a "closed nuclear fuel cycle," where "reprocessing" (the very step which created the bomb-grade plutonium) would again become part of "business as usual" in the U.S.

Reprocessing takes the prize for radioactive waste creation, without any reduction in total radioactivity. It needs a new name, like "waste proliferation." The best reason to stop: reprocessing just makes more pure plutonium, and more so-called low-level waste.

Coupled with the MOX idea is a second: the use of one or more civilian reactors to produce tritium gas for the maintenance or building of nuclear warheads. All the more reason to stop DOE in its tracks.

The biggest concern that the MOX promoters now have is resistance at the local level. We need to show them some *now*.

Mary Olson is on the staff of the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) in Washington, DC.

ACTION STEPS: Letters are the best right now. Do one to the Secretary of Energy and copy it to the rest. Please use Fax where possible, and put a hard copy in the mail:

♦Hon. Hazel O'Leary, Secretary of Energy, U.S. DOE, 1000 Independence Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20585, fax: 202-586-4403.

♦President Clinton, Vice President Gore, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC 20500 (email): president@whitehouse.gov (and) vicepresident@whitehouse.gov).

♦John Gibbons, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, fax: 202-456-6021.

Sixteen utilities have registered interest in becoming part of plutonium "disposition":

Interested only in MOX: Duke Power, with Commonwealth Edison (McGuire 1 & 2, Catawba 1 & 2, Braidwood 1 & 2, Byron 1 & 2, LaSalle 1 & 2); Entergy Operations, Inc. (Grand Gulf, River Bend); IES Utilities, Inc. (Duane Arnold); PECO Energy Co. (Limerick 1 & 2, Peach Bottom 2 & 3).

Interested in both MOX and tritium: Arizona Public Service Co. (Palo Verde, 1,2,3); Centerior Energy (Perry 2); Florida Power & Light Co. (St. Lucie 2); Georgia Power Co. (Votgle 1 & 2); Niagara Mohawk Power Co. (Nine Mile Point 1 & 2); N.C. MPA & Piedmont MPA (Catawba 2); Southern Nuclear Op. Co. (Farley 1 & 2), Tennessee Valley Authority (Bellefonte 1 & 2); Virginia Power (North Anna 1 & 2, Surry 1 & 2); Wisconsin Public Service Co. (Kewaunee); WPPSS (WNP-2).

Interested in tritium only: Houston Lighting & Power (South Texas 1 & 2); Illinois Power Co. (Clinton).

Non-utility entities interested in one or both projects: Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd.—Team CANDU; COGEMA; Westinghouse Electric Corp.; ABB-Combustion Engineering; BNFL International; Utility Resource Associates; BelgionNucleaire, Lockheed Martin-INEL.

Dr. Wing also found it odd that the court gave attorneys for the nuclear industry the right to review the earlier health effects research before it was made public. "I think our findings show there ought to be a more serious investigation of what happened after the Three Mile Island accident," Dr. Wing said.

Limitations of the study, like the earlier work, include the continuing difficulty of determining precise wind direction for several days following the accident. The UNC-CH researchers used information supplied by the Columbia [University] scientists in their re-analysis [of the 1990 CU study].

From the Nov. 1996 Newsletter of the TMI Alert and the August 26, 1996 Cancer Weekly Plus

Nuclear Elite Wins a Big One in Idaho

By Sam Day

Two years ago an officer of the Bannock Tribal Council drove his police car onto the railroad tracks at the border of the Fort Hall Reservation in eastern Idaho and parked it defiantly in the path of an oncoming train. The event marked a high point in the region's long battle to keep out deadly radioactive waste.

A front page picture of the car and the stalled nuclear waste train still adorned the office wall of the Snake River Alliance in Pocatello when I visited the city this Fall on the eve of what turned out to be the low point in that struggle.

With the euphoria of 1994 now just a fading memory, Idahoans concerned about incoming nuclear garbage have learned what it's like to be hit by a political express train. The iron horse that flattened them on November 5 was powered by a well financed federal-corporate elite bent on perpetuating the nuclear industry.

There's a lesson in this not only for Idaho and other sparsely populated Rocky Mountain states targeted for radioactive waste burial but for others who may think they are free of the threat.

The federal government has been burying nuclear waste in Idaho since the late 1940s, when it set aside almost a thousand square miles of desert land for nuclear weapons and nuclear reactor research and development. The waste was poured into tanks and shoveled into trenches a few hundred feet above the vast Snake River Aquifer, an underground pool which waters much of the Pacific Northwest. But not until the environmental movement of the 1970s were concerns raised about seepage into the aquifer or the fact that the facility had been built in an earthquake zone.

These concerns peaked in the early 1990s because of increasing shipments of the spent fuel rods from naval reactors—material that remains deadly for tens of

thousands of years. For decades the Navy had been sending Idaho the spent fuel rods from its nuclear-propelled submarines, but the volume has increased in recent years as the surface fleet, too, went nuclear.

Prodded by the Snake River Alliance and other environmental groups, Gov. Cecil Andrus took the Navy to court and secured a halt to further waste shipments pending an environmental impact study. With Nukewatch helping to track the waste trains from East and West coast ports and Idaho environmentalists beating the political drums at home, the Navy seemed to be on the run, along with its plans to make Idaho a permanent radioactive waste dump for its nuclear fleet.

But all that changed last year with the arrival of a new governor, Phil Batt, who proceeded to make a deal with the Navy and the DOE allowing 1,133 shipments of naval waste into Idaho over the next 40 years in exchange for promises to get the waste out by the year 2035.

Idahoans were outraged. Polls taken early this year showed as many as 80 percent opposed to the governor's agreement. The polls prompted formation of a citizens group, called "Stop The Shipments," which collected enough signatures for a November ballot initiative (Proposition 3) rescinding the agreement and eliminating the governor's authority to make such deals without the consent of the legislature or the people.

Environmentalists took to electoral hustling, hoping to nail the door shut for good against further waste shipments into Idaho. Then the nuclear establishment struck back.

Lockheed-Martin Corp., the biggest military contractor in the world and the major contractor at the multi-billion-dollar Idaho nuclear installation, orchestrated a campaign to depict Proposition 3 as an economic threat to the state. The Lockheed group called on newspaper editors, enlisted industry and labor help, flooded newspapers and the air waves with advertisements, even hired Andrus, now a

private citizen, as a \$165-an-hour consultant.

In a highly successful gambit aimed at confusing voters, Lockheed and its cohorts set up an organization calling itself "Get the Waste Out." Citing the vague promises in the governor's agreement, the group argued that bringing new waste in was the best way to get old wastes out.

Campaigning in Idaho as a volunteer for Proposition 3 a few days before the November 5 election, I found that even some of the leaders of the Bannock-Shoshoni, along with others concerned about protecting the land, had taken Lockheed's bait and were intending to vote No, thinking this was the best way to fight back.

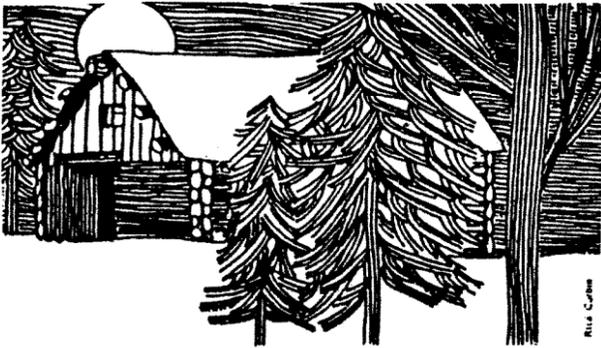
The result was a 2-to-1 victory for the industry. Money and slick electioneering had carried the day, leading the way for state approved use of Idaho as a nuclear dumpsite for the next 40 years.

While Idaho environmental activists intend to continue the battle in court and along the railroad tracks, the residents of other embattled western states have witnessed the power of the nuclear industry to overcome public opinion.

Nevadans, now targeted for commercial nuclear waste, and New Mexicans, targeted for military wastes, should take fresh note of the industry's determination to establish permanent nuclear waste burial grounds on their lands as a way of extending the life of nuclear weapons and nuclear power production.

Public opposition to the dumping of permanently dangerous nuclear waste constitutes the greatest threat to continuation of nuclear energy production for commerce or war. The nuclear establishment has won a reprieve in Idaho. Similar successes in other beleaguered states could mean trouble for all of us for another generation.

Sam Day, an independent writer and political activist based in Madison, Wisconsin, is a founding member of the Nukewatch Board of Directors.



A REMINDER Nukewatch Has a New Home

P.O. Box 649, Luck, WI 54853
Phone (715) 472-4185
email: nukewatch@win.bright.net
Stop Project ELF phone & fax:
(715) 472-8721

Nukewatch has moved to the Anathoth Community Farm, on Round Lake Road, in rural Luck, Wisconsin. Anathoth is an intentional community committed to "sustainable living and radical nonviolence." Begun in 1987, Anathoth doesn't farm in the usual sense, but tends the organic garden, taps the maple trees for syrup, cuts the hay for mulch and gathers standing dead wood for heat. The community's work involves shifting from a culture of consumption, materialism and militarism, to learn to achieve a nonviolent way of life.

At present, the community consists of four households: Barb Kass, Mike Miles & their children Ollie, Emma and Philip; Barb Katt and John LaForge; Linda and Jim Miles and their children Jessie, Sarah and Micah; and most recently Bonnie Urfer.

Nukewatch's new space, built in 1989, now includes housing for Bonnie, and the offices of Nukewatch and Stop Project ELF. After helping edit the quarterly *Pathfinder* since 1994, John has now joined Bonnie as a Nukewatch staff member.

Nukewatch, Stop Project ELF and Anathoth have worked together for more than seven years, so joining forces at the same locale is a happy and energizing move. Please call or write for a map and come and visit.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1996

February

12-March 30—Nevada Desert Experience

Events--Lenten Desert Experience No. 16, Hermitage at Nevada Test Site, "40 Days of Prayer, Fasting and Reflection." Main event weekend: March 21-23. Two Retreats: Feb. 9-15 or Mar 24-30. Holy Week Walk from Las Vegas to the NTS: March 31-April 4.
Contact: NDE, (702) 646-4814 or email: nde@igc.apc.org

April

11-13—Lakes and Prairies Life

Community. Sixth Anniversary Gathering. Omaha, NE. Contact: Father Frank Cordaro, (515) 534-4691.

August

8-10—Desert Witness, Nevada Test Site.

Contact: Nevada Desert Experience, (702) 646-4814, or email: nde@igc.apc.org

October

Stop the launch by NASA of 73 pounds of plutonium 238 into space, Contact: Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, P.O. Box 2486, Orlando, FL 32802, Phone: (407) 422-3479.

27—A Day Without the Pentagon, Local

Actions across the country to stress anti-military themes. A project of War Resisters League with wide sponsorship. Contact: WRL, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012, Phone: (212) 228-0450, Web: <http://www.nonviolence.org/~nvweb/wrl>

November

9-11—Catholic Worker Gathering in Las

Vegas, Celebrate Dorothy Day's 100th birthday at the Nevada Test Site. Contact: Nevada Desert Experience, (702) 646-4814 or email: nde@igc.apc.org

Please send your calendar items, articles, and photos to *The Pathfinder* on or before our deadlines: February 15; May 15; August 15; and November 15.

December

On Going—Vigil: Stop Land Mines at

Alliant Tech, every Wed., 7 a.m., Hopkins, MN. Take Excelsior Blvd to Blake. Turn right on Blake, turn left at Baker's Square and gas station. Parking in Alliant Tech parking lot on the right. Contact: Marv Davidov, 2615 Park Ave., Apt. 404, Mpls., MN 55407, Phone: (612) 874-7715.

27-30—Peacemaker Congress III, Joining

the Nonviolent Struggle. Luther Place Memorial Church, 1226 Vermont Ave. NW, Washington, D.C. Contact: Christian Peacemaker Teams, P.O. Box 6508, Chicago, IL 60680, Phone: (312) 455-1199.

28-29—18th Annual Feast of the Holy

Innocents Retreat. Witness and Line Crossing at STRATCOM Headquarters. Contact: Father Frank Cordaro (515) 534-4691, or Jo Peterson (402) 556-9057.

31- Jan. 1—Shaping the Future Together

at St. Marys, Georgia. Interfaith New Years Eve Gathering. A call to proclaim life, protect the least among us, pursue the common good. Contact: Metanoia Community, 12230 Flynn Woods Road, Jacksonville, FL 32223, Phone: (904) 262-5071.

1997

January

13-23—Kirkridge Peacemaker Training,

Bangor, PA. Education includes nonviolence, leadership, organizing skills, race, gender, sexual orientation, mediation, religious roots of non-violence. Contact: FOR, P.O. Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960, Phone: (914) 358-4601, FAX: (914) 358-4924, email: formatl@igc.apc.org

18-19—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's

Birthday Party at Project ELF. Workshops, Speakers, Skiing, Nonviolence Training, Direct Action, Potlucks, Music and more. Northland College, Ashland, WI. See ad on back page for more information. Contact: Stop Project ELF, (715) 472-8721 or Nukewatch (715) 472-4185.



Challenges, Wisdom, Freedom, Justice,
 Movement, Education, Commitment Opportunity,
 Importance, urgency, Willingness,
 Knowledge, Practicality, Heart,
 Consideration, Reason, Reality,
 Action, Nonviolence,
 Contemplation,
 Determination,
 Resolution, &
 Contributions

Please send a donation to
 Nukewatch today.
 P.O. Box 649
 Luck, WI 54853-0649

Thank you.

NASA's already controversial Cassini space mission to Saturn has created even more reason for concern as workers in New Mexico are being contaminated by highly toxic plutonium 238. Cassini is scheduled to be launched from Kennedy Space Center in Oct. 1997. Activists in Europe and the U.S. are vigorously organizing to stop the launch. *The New Mexican* of Santa Fe has reported, based on government documents it obtained, that 241 cases of radioactive contamination occurred at Los Alamos between 1993 and 1995 as the Cassini RTGs (Radioisotope Thermoelectric Generators) were being processed. The reporting reveals that previous denials by NASA and the DOE concerning worker contamination (reported in February in the *Albuquerque Journal*) were lies. NASA's Cassini craft is set to carry 73 pounds of deadly plutonium in spite of the fact that safe solar power systems can provide electric power for the system's experiments.
 —Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, Press Release.

The NRC has undertaken a "federal radiation survey" of air-borne radioactive contamination near Northern States Power Company's two reactors—Prairie Island and Monticello, in Minnesota—and the two nuclear reactors in eastern Wisconsin, Kewaunee and Point Beach. Asked about the survey's purpose, the NRC's Jan Strasma, in Chicago, said it is "to map the natural radioactivity at each site. They're not measuring anything that's being released from the plant, and they're not measuring anything that's in the air." Strasma said the highly sensitive, helicopter-based (radiation) detection equipment would establish a precise "baseline" radiation level, which could then be compared to levels that may occur after a reactor accident. Such a baseline was already established in 1971, just before the plants were built. Strasma did not explain how the NRC could justify replacing the actual 1971 baseline with figures that will now include 25 years of radioactive gases (xenon and krypton for example) that are emitted by the reactors daily as a matter of normal operating procedures.
 —The Minneapolis Star Tribune, 10-22-96, p.B5.

NUCLEAR SHORTS

Nuclear chickens coming home to roost? The Energy Dept. has issued its final Record of Decision to begin shipping irradiated fuel rods from foreign research reactors into the U.S. through San Francisco Bay; sailing under the Golden Gate Bridge, to the Concord Naval Weapons Station. The shipments will begin in 1997. Trains are scheduled to move the irradiated fuel from Concord to the Idaho National Engineering Lab near Pocatello. The radioactive waste trains will travel between and directly through Sacramento, Reno, and Salt Lake City.
 —Citizen's Watch, Newsletter of Tri-Valley CARE, 6-96.

The new time on the "doomsday clock" of *The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*: 14 minutes to midnight. In explaining the latest shift, *Bulletin* editor Mike Moore observed that when the cold war ended "nuclear weapons didn't go to the shredder, like so many worn out cars." Over 22,000 warheads remain in the world's arsenals, which makes the use of these genocidal weapons "an ever-present possibility."
 —War and Peace Digest, Newsletter of the War & Peace Foundation, 4/5-96, Vol. 4, No.1.

In the crucial subparagraph of its July 8, 1996 Advisory Opinion regarding the legal status of nuclear weapons, the International Court of Justice (World Court) decided that "a threat or use of nuclear weapons would generally be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, and in particular the principles and rules of humanitarian law." In doing so, it confirmed that the Nuremberg Principles apply to nuclear weapons.
 —"Implications of the Advisory Opinion," A Discussion Paper by the World Court Project, 10-6-96, LCNP.

Warning against H-bomb proliferation, and the dangers of increased trafficking in plutonium, U.S. environmental groups have condemned the proposed export of waste military plutonium to Canada (from Los Alamos, NM to Atomic Energy of Canada, Ltd.) for test use in civilian power reactors. The mixed-oxide (MOX) plutonium transfer would be the first ever use of bomb-grade plutonium for fuel in a civilian reactor, and also the first ever export of the potent carcinogen for a civilian project. Greenpeace, the Nuclear Control Institute and the Natural Resources Defense Council have urged the President to enforce his stated opposition to the civilian use of military plutonium and to stand by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's 1977 decision to suspend licensing of MOX for use in the United States.
 —News Communiqué, WISE, #460, 10-18-96, p.5.

In a clear warning against NASA's planned 1997 Cassini space probe, a \$300 million Russian spacecraft failed on its Nov. 17 attempt to leave the Earth's gravitational field. The craft crashed back through the atmosphere traveling 17,000 mph, and the threat of its power packs—four canisters of plutonium—landing on Australia "sparked a short-lived national emergency." Robert Bell of the U.S. National Security Council announced what he called "very good news" the same day, claiming that the plutonium "appeared likely to land harmlessly in the Pacific Ocean." Bell admitted the possibility that a "small lethal cloud of plutonium" spread across the atmosphere if the canisters burned up. Today the U.S. Space Command and Russia can't say where the craft actually crashed.
 —Reuters News Service, 11-18-96; *The New York Times*, 11-19-96.

Stray cats have spread radioactive contamination after infiltrating the heavily guarded San Onofre power reactor grounds near Oceanside, CA. A mother cat slipped under a barbed-wire fence, and past metal detectors and guards carrying semiautomatic weapons to give birth to a litter of four near the shut-down Unit 1 reactor. When an employee carried the cats out through the "portal contamination monitors," the alarms went off. The kittens, and the hapless So. Calif. Edison Co. worker, were contaminated with radioactive cesium and cobalt. The atomic kittens had "high levels," while the worker's clothes were said to be irradiated "below the level considered dangerous." There is no known harmless level of radiation exposure.
 —The Los Angeles Times, 2-8-96.

The DOE's new "Science-Based Stockpile Stewardship Program" calls upon the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico to annually build between 20 and 80 new nuclear warheads ("cores"). Further, there are five nuclear weapon "modifications" in the Fiscal Year 1997 DOE budget. What used to be referred to as new nuclear weapons are today called "modifications."
 —The Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, Nov/Dec, 1996, p.10; News Communiqué, WISE, #460, 10-18-96, p.6.

The proposed "Mobile Chernobyl Act" (S. 1936) was withdrawn in September after nation-wide opposition was mounted and helped guarantee a Presidential veto. The reactor industry spent tens of millions of dollars to buy the "dream bill," that would have exempted their deadly irradiated reactor waste fuel rods from environmental laws, and allowed it to start moving across the country to a so-called temporary dump in Nevada. More than 150 citizens' organizations worked to stop the bill.
 —NIRS, Press Release, 9-27-96.

Outgoing Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary has announced federal cash compensation to survivors of 12 of the victims of Nazi-like cold war radiation experiments conducted against Americans without their consent or knowledge. As many as 20,000 U.S. citizens may have been the victims of the secret injections and poisonings. She said, "Never again should (secret) tests be performed on human beings." However, the U.S. on Nov. 1 repealed the ban on medical experiments done without the patient's consent. The Food and Drug Administration threw out the 50-year-old ban, with some restrictions, because it said the requirement for informed consent was hobbling research that could save lives. Not everyone agrees. Ethicist George Annas says, "the idea that people might be denied new treatments is silly. If we knew it would work, it would be a treatment." And Jay Katz at Yale deplored the reversal of the Nuremberg Code—medical ethics rules that were established after W.W.II to prevent a repetition of the practices of the Nazi doctors. Katz said, "The first sentence of the first principle of the Nuremberg Code" says the voluntary consent of the human subject is essential. "And now, here we are making exceptions."
 —The St. Paul Pioneer Press, 11-20-96, p. A2; *The New York Times*, 11-5-96.

Sources:

- *The Nuclear Monitor* (\$35/yr) from NIRS, Nuclear Information and Resource Service, 1424 16th St. NW, Washington, DC 20036, Phone (202) 328-0002.
- *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* (\$36/yr), 6042 S. Kimbark Ave., Chicago, IL 60637.
- WISE News Communiqué, (\$40/yr), World Information Service on Energy, P.O. Box 59636, 1040 LC Amsterdam, The Netherlands, Phone +31-20-612-6368, email: <wisemster@antenna.nl>
- LCNP, Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy, and the World Court Project, 666 Broadway, #625, NY, NY 10012, Phone (212) 674-7790, fax (212) 674-6199, email: <lcnp@aol.com>
- Abolition 2000 Network, P.O. Box 220, Port Hueneme, CA 93044, Phone (805) 985-5073, fax (805) 985-7568, email: <pricedell@igc.apc.org>
- Three Mile Island Alert, 315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102, Phone (717) 233-7897, fax (717) 233-3261.
- Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, P.O. Box 2486, Orlando, FL 32802, Phone (407) 422-3479.
- Citizen's Watch, Tri-Valley Citizens Against a Radioactive Environment (CARE), 5720 East Ave., #116, Livermore, CA 94550, Phone (510) 443-7148; fax (510) 443-0177.

The Pathfinder
 is the newsletter of Nukewatch,
 a project of The Progressive Foundation,
 founded in 1979.
Nukewatch Board of Directors
 Barb Katt, Cassandra Dixon, Patricia Kane,
 Susan B. Nelson, Bonnie Urfer,
 Samuel H. Day, Jr., John LaForge

The Pathfinder Staff
 John LaForge, Bonnie Urfer

Nukewatch publishes *The Pathfinder* quarterly.
 Nukewatch educates and organizes to nonviolently create
 an environment free of the nuclear industry and free of
 weapons of mass destruction.

The Pathfinder submission deadlines:
 Nov. 15, Feb. 15, May 15, Aug. 15.

January 18 & 19

Saturday 18 Sigrud Olson
Environmental Center on the Northland
College Campus, Ashland, WI

10:00 a.m. - Presentation about
Project ELF, Videos, Discussions
Noon - Lunch, followed by a
nonviolence training workshop.

7:00 p.m. - Resistance
Discussion, Celebration
Planning

Sunday, 19 - 9:00
Preparation, packing, break-
fast, cleaning. Caravan to
Project ELF at 11:00 a.m.

Noon - Soup, speakers, ski, cake
campfire, hot chocolate.

NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION

DR Celebrate
Martin
Luther
King,
Jr.'s
Birthday at Project ELF



CONTACT:
NUKEWATCH
PO BOX 649
LUCK WI 54853
(715) 472-4185
NUKEWATCH@win.bright.net

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED

Collection Laka foundation

www.laka.org
Digitized 2018