

NUKEWATCH

SUMMER, 1997

PATHFINDER

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Photo by Bonnie Urfer

Nukewatch staffer Bonnie Urfer and volunteer Jane Hosking (wearing belted jacket) helped facilitate two weeks of meetings in Nevada, leading up to the blockades, like the one above, that drew international attention to the nuclear waste dumping and the proposed new bomb "testing" going on at the Energy Department's Nevada Test Site. Urfer shocked reporters who watched as her Geiger counter measured the radiation being emitted by backed-up rad waste trucks.

The Road to Nuclear Nevada

By Bonnie Urfer

No trucks or buses passed through the blockade of U.S. Highway 95 leading to the Nevada Test Site (NTS) on April 3. The road was barricaded by 14 activists locked to cement-filled barrels, pipes and an abandoned car. The action covered north- and south-bound lanes shoulder to shoulder.

The blockade began at 4:30 a.m. while it was still dark. More than a dozen affinity groups worked to provide highway safety, peacekeeping, medical support and media liaisons for the immolized blockaders. Fluorescent signs warning motorists of the demonstration on the highway were posted for miles down the road. The first vehicles to arrive carried angry Test Site workers who removed safety cones from the front of the blockade.

Two radioactive waste trucks headed for the Test Site were stalled in the traffic jam. My Geiger counter read the highest at the seams in the scary trailer's metal.

Another obstruction of the Test Site occurred three days earlier. The activity on March 31 shut all entrances and included the use of metal and wood tripods, concrete-filled drainage pipes, and lock boxes (tubes) with individuals' wrists linked by chains inside. Authorities have a difficult time accessing the wrists and the hardware. Two times in one week, NTS employees were late for work.

The actions drew international attention to the ongoing dumping of radioactive waste at NTS, the Energy Department's (DoE's) preparations for new so-called "sub-critical" bomb blasts, and the denial of Indigenous rights and sovereignty for the Western Shoshone.

The NTS officially encompasses 1,350 square miles, with another 5,470 square miles "withdrawn from public use" by the government. Federal personnel account for 340 of the employees there and 3,000 more are privately

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MOTHER'S DAY

A Little Noisier than Usual

By the Nukewatch Staff

Sixteen anti-nuclear activists were arrested at the Navy's submarine transmitter complex, Project ELF, during a noisy demonstration May 11 against the nuclear war trigger system. The tenth annual Mother's Day protest drew about 100 demonstrators from seven states.

About 75 people surrounded the ELF compound in an ear-splitting, pot-banging protest. While issuing a ticket for trespassing, Ashland County Sheriff's Deputy Kyle Kritzman asked Bonnie Urfer, "A little noisier than usual aren't ya?"

Pots and pans were confiscated from marchers during the ticketing process because arresting officers couldn't hear answers to questions.

The people arrested face civil trespass convictions that carry a \$256.00 fine or, for failure to pay, a five-year suspension of Wisconsin driving privileges.

Two of the protesters were taken into custody by Ashland County Sheriff's deputies after they refused to identify themselves except as opponents of the nuclear weapons system. Jane Hosking, 29, and Ida Cunningham, 22, both advocates

Nuclear Whistle-Blower Gains Toe-Hold on Capitol Hill

By Sam Day

Two U.S. Senators and 13 Representatives have called on the Clinton Administration to look into the case of Mordechai Vanunu, a prisoner-of-conscience now in his eleventh year of solitary confinement for blowing the whistle on Israel's secret nuclear weapons program.

The development this spring marked the first toe-hold on Capitol Hill for the 42-year-old former nuclear technician, who is the subject of an international campaign calling on Israel to release him from prison and acknowledge its extensive nuclear arsenal.

Vanunu, convicted of espionage and treason for giving his story, without pay, to the London Sunday Times in 1986, is serving an 18-year sentence in Israel's Ashkelon Prison. He is kept in a small cell and allowed no contact with other prisoners, a form of isolation condemned by Amnesty International as "cruel, inhuman, and degrading."

The congressional break-through came in the form of letters from Senators Russell D. Feingold of Wisconsin, Paul Wellstone of Minnesota and Rep. Ronald V. Dellums of California, the latter co-signed by a dozen other House members. Both Senate and House letters stressed humanitarian reasons for Vanunu's release, citing reports of his growing mental stress resulting from his prolonged isolation.

"We would appreciate it if the State Department would be willing to look into this specific issue relating to Mr. Vanunu's mental health and raise this case, on those grounds, with the Israeli government," Feingold and Wellstone wrote Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

The Dellums letter was addressed to President Clinton. It called on him to use his good offices to persuade Israel to release Vanunu on humanitarian grounds.

"While having no desire to interfere in the internal affairs of a foreign state, we believe that the Vanunu case has human rights implications transcending national boundaries,"

for the homeless in Duluth, MN, were jailed overnight and charged with the additional offense of "obstructing an officer," a class-A misdemeanor with possible penalties of 90 days in jail and/or \$10,000. The obstruction charges, brought several times in the past for peacefully refusing to leave the area, have never stuck.

Jackie Hudson and Brian Watson traveled to the action all the way from the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolence in Bremerton, Washington. Bremerton is home port to eight of the 16 giant Trident submarines now deployed by the Navy. Another eight Tridents are based in Kings Bay, Georgia.

The two activists brought spools of red tape labeled "DANGER, DANGER..." and measuring 560 feet—the length of one Trident sub. It was enough to enclose the entire site.

The day's program included music by *Relative Minor*, the family band from the Anathoth Community Farm which hosted a weekend peace camp prior to Sunday's actions.

Dorothy Davids, a Mohican Elder, educator and activist from Gresham, WI, inspired the crowd with her personal message of perseverance. She spoke of her mentor, her education, and her efforts to resist colonialism in its many forms. Clara

Beyer, a youngster from Ferryville, WI, let us know about the lack of information on peace issues reaching children in our schools. Maggie Drew of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and founder of the Project ELF Mother's Day activities spoke, as did Brian and Jackie. Tess and Bob Koenig, of Tower, MN, read letters to the gathering from Earth Day ELF disarmers Donna and Tom Howard-Hastings.

The Project ELF transmitter sends secret one-way orders to submerged British and U.S. Trident submarines around the world. ELF was designed to help launch and conduct a nuclear war against the now-collapsed Soviet Union.

A single Trident submarine, with its 24 missiles and 196 warheads, carries the explosive and radioactive equivalent of up to 7,296 Hiroshima bombs.

The demonstration at the remote antenna site, hidden deep in the Chequamegon National Forest, near Clam Lake, Wisconsin, was No. 29 in a series of protests renewed in 1991. Since that time, over 400 trespass citations have been issued to civil resisters who have blocked the entrance road or sat-in at the gates.

Write to Congress!

This year, six of the nine-member Wisconsin congressional delegation are sponsoring legislation to terminate funding for Project ELF. Please write and demand support from your Reps. for S.B. 59 and H.R. 1446—the ELF Termination Act amendments. But don't stop there: Demand that the entire Trident system be a part of the new base closure schedule!

On Monday, May 12, the *Superior Daily Telegram* put news of the Mothers Day action on its front page and ran a blistering denunciation of the ELF system as its lead editorial. Send for a copy, and mail one with your letters to Congress.

Contact: Mike Miles at Stop Project ELF, 740 Round Lake Rd., Luck, WI 54853, (715) 472-8721.

An Open Letter to Mother's Day Gathering

Lakota ceremonial prayer uses the words "all my relations" to note our spiritual kinship to all things and all beings. Creation isn't as well described as a collection of beings and things, as by the dynamic relationship between them; and only by accepting responsibility for that relatedness do we take our place in creation.

Once understood being a mother as birthing and nurturing my two sons, but slowly came to realize that a social role was required. I would have to be the vine and fig tree 'neath which they would not learn war and no one could make them afraid, as in the prophesy of Micah. And I would have to tell the world, with Julia Ward Howe, that as a mother I would never accept the killing of any woman's child.

Without regard to gender, let's challenge ourselves to expand our role as Mother even further. Can we each be Mother to "All our relations"—even Earth who mothers us first? Will we step between all that we birth, nurture and protect and that which would cause harm? If we truly pray and live as Mother to all our relations, we accept our place in Creation's sacred web and we change the world.

I am with you in solidarity, in peace and in mothering.
—Donna Howard-Hastings, Taycheedah Women's Prison.

Laurentian Shield Update

Both Donna and Tom Howard-Hastings will have been "released" to house arrest by the time your *Pathfinder* arrives. For their conviction on damage charges following their Earth Day 1996 pole-cutting at Project ELF, the two disarmament activists have been sentenced to three years of "intensive sanctions," which entails electronic monitoring, frequent surprise visits by probation agents, rigid work and travel restrictions and sometimes mandatory cash employment.

After serving the mandatory minimum of three months in state prison—required on their one-year prison sentence—both Donna and Tom were "released" to the Department of Intensive Sanctions and are confined to their cabin near Maple, WI: Tom, March 6 and Donna, June 5. They are allowed limited travel for work.

The house arrest involves being clapped with a permanent ankle "bracelet" which is monitored by a special telephone antenna and allows them to move only a few hundred feet from the phone without prior permission. Unlike regular probation, police buzzers go off if they stray and a violation exposes the two to felony escape charges.

Tom and Donna have produced an 35-page analysis of their action, *Laurentian Shield: Nonviolent Disarmament of the Nuclear Navy in Wisconsin*, available for \$3.
—Donna & Tom Howard-Hastings, 12833 E. State Hwy. 13, Maple, WI 54854, (715) 364-8533.

TRACKWATCH

National attention is being paid to the potential shipment of civilian radioactive waste to the Nevada Test Site. You could get the impression that the poison isn't already on the tracks and highways. But the Pentagon's nuclear waste is moving across the country on a regular basis.

From Navy bases on both coasts, defunct nuclear weapons factories in 10 states, and temporary dump sites around the country, waste fuel rods and contaminated equipment is traveling to dumps at Savannah River, SC, Hanford, WA, Pocatello, ID, Carlsbad, NM and the NTS. These shipments are going on every day of the week.

As the *Pathfinder* goes to press, six huge Navy nuclear waste casks are moving across the country to Idaho. They are the 114-ton casks pictured on Nukewatch postcards. From Pocatello, ID, the Snake River Alliance reports that three shipments of Navy waste already entered the state in 1997. The

Navy says it plans 1,070 more over 40 years.

For five years Nukewatch has been following and reporting on these shipments of extremely radioactive used fuel rods, taken from Navy warship propulsion reactors and sent to Idaho National Engineering Lab. Communities all along the route are put in jeopardy by these otherwise secret transports.

Former U.S. Generals Lee Butler, Andrew Goodpaster, Charles Horner and others have demanded that nuclear weapons be abolished. Still, the Navy is refueling its shipboard reactors as if their mission hasn't been ridiculed by the highest of military authorities. Canceling the refueling would hasten disarmament by retiring ships sooner and reduce the number of radioactive shipments on our rail lines and highways.

The Navy looks like the lost South Pacific island soldier, hiding in a darkened cave for years. The department needs to be reminded, "Hey, the war's over."

Nuclear Shorts

U.S. Pilots Blew Up Nukes Over Canada

Twice in 1950 the U.S. covered-up deliberate detonations of nuclear weapons over Canada. Both times, USAF bombers with engine troubles released and blew up the single H-bomb aboard. The plutonium cores had been removed from the bombs, according to the Air Force, but both blasts "scattered" 45 kilograms of highly enriched uranium-235—used as "casing" to boost the force of the plutonium bombs.

On Feb. 30, a B-36 bomber lost three of six engines, and the crew detonated its bomb 3,600 feet over the Pacific Ocean, off Vancouver Island. The B-36 crashed and five of 17 crew members were killed. Again, on Nov. 10, a B-50 bomber with engine trouble detonated its bomb (with 2.2 tons of high explosives) at 2,493 feet near Riviere-du-Loup, in Quebec. People nearby were terrified. The Air Force announced at the time that only conventional training bombs had been exploded. News of the bombing and cover-up is to be published by the Canadian Institute of Strategic Studies in Toronto.

The USAF says its crews "followed standard procedure for such emergencies." Crew members said the order to detonate whenever aircraft developed trouble "was intended to safeguard nuclear-bomb design secrets." —*Earth Island Journal*, Spring 1997; *Winnipeg Free Press*, 27 Jan. 1997

U.S. Lab Workers Contaminated

Three U.S. government weapons lab workers were contaminated recently when uranium filings caught fire. A machine shop worker got traces of the metal in his hair while putting out a fire at the Lawrence Livermore National Lab (LLNL), near Berkeley, CA. Two firefighters showed contamination on their protective gear, but there's more. Doctors cut a small hunk of plutonium-contaminated tissue out of a LLNL employee's thumb last month. According to LLNL officials, the worker had accidentally struck himself with a sliver of the radioactive metal during routine cleanup duties.

—*Citizen's Watch*, Tri-Valley CAREs, March 1997

"Mobile Chernobyl" Bill Bails-Out Utilities

The U.S. Senate passed legislation March 15 (SB 104) dubbed "Mobile Chernobyl, (SB 104)" that would fund a so-called temporary dump for irradiated waste fuel rods from U.S. nuclear power reactors. The House is expected to follow suit. The law would allow the radioactive waste to travel through major cities en route to the Nevada Test Site (NTS)—on about 17,000 separate shipments—from 109 reactors in 41 states. The NTS has never been evaluated as a nuclear storage dump. Still, if the Energy Department's (DoE's) proposed "permanent" dump at Yucca Mt., NV is ruled unusable, the 30,000 tons of waste would remain at the "interim" site forever.

As passed, the bill financially bails-out the nuclear industry, which has run out of on-site storage space for its waste fuel rods. (Further, a 1982 law obliges taxpayers to pay "damages" to the utilities for the DoE's failure to remove the waste by 1998.) Without a dump, the utilities would have to shut down the reactors—and the production of more waste. The new bill says that if DoE rejects Yucca Mt. as a permanent dump and then fails to choose an alternative site within two years, the waste will go to Nevada anyway.

—*The New York Times*, 16 April 1997.

Passing the Buck & the (Nuclear) Hot Potato

Fifty years into the age of nuclear waste, radioactive waste still stumps the Energy Dept. The DoE recently asked, in a letter to the nuclear industry, for ideas on how to contain and store waste reactor fuel rods. A coalition of utilities and state regulatory agencies replied curtly, telling the government to figure it out for itself. The coalition of radiation producers wrote, in part, "It is not the responsibility of the harmed parties to accommodate the DoE for failing..." Mary Heimstead, spokeswoman for Northern States Power, the coalition's lead company, said the DoE, "needs to move forward in helping the industry resolve the waste storage problem." —*Minneapolis Star Tribune*, 15 March 1997.

After Protests, German Police Beg Halt to Waste

It took 30,000 German police to transport six radioactive waste canisters a few hundred miles, from south Germany to the northern town of Gorleben. At least 20,000 people organized to stop the shipments. Local farmers blocked the streets of small towns with their tractors. Downed trees, dirt, concrete and even steel girders became barricades. The farmer's property became targets for heavy vandalism by the police who slashed tractor tires and smashed a lead tractor.

Police in Dannenberg tried to commandeer a schoolhouse, but the children barricaded the doors so the cops couldn't get in. Between Dannenberg and Gorleben 9,000 people covered the roads with 20 blockades and made traffic impossible.

2,000 people demonstrated against the first shipment 18 months ago. That cost the German government about \$15 million. The second shipment cost more than \$40 million. One hundred and seventy three people were injured, 500 were arrested. The police have asked for an end to shipments.

—*The Nuclear Monitor*, NIRS, March 1997

Clean-up of Nothing to Cost Billions

"A chemical tank that was not believed to be volatile" exploded May 14 at a defunct plutonium separation plant at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, near Richland, WA, the most radioactively polluted area in the U.S.

The phrase "not believed to be volatile" is a reference to leaking radioactive waste tanks at Hanford and at the Savannah River Plant near Aiken, South Carolina. Fifty-one tanks in SC, and 177 at Hanford, containing tens of millions of gallons of plutonium-contaminated liquids, "are," according to the *New York Times*, "at substantial risk of exploding and contaminating the surrounding area."

The AP said of the May 14 blast that, in the words of Hanford management, "No one was injured and no radiation or chemicals were released in the explosion at the Plutonium Reclamation Facility building at the Hanford Nuclear Reservation."

According to the same story, "Clean-up is expected to take decades and cost tens of billions of dollars."

The *Seattle Times* reported earlier that eight workers were sent to the hospital after complaining of metallic tastes in their mouths and, further, that "it was not known what chemicals if any were in the room" where the explosion occurred.

—*Seattle Times*, 15 May 1997 & 25 March 1990; *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 16 May 1997; *The New York Times*, 18 Sept. 1987.

Workers Irradiated, Officials Charged

In the worst reported radiation accident in Japanese history, 37 workers inhaled and were contaminated with air-borne radiation March 11, during a fire at the Tokai nuclear waste processing plant. The facility extracts plutonium from highly radioactive reactor fuel waste. Irradiated liquid waste is then mixed with asphalt and placed in drums. Several drums caught fire and caused two explosions that blew out the windows and doors in the four-story concrete building, 70 miles northeast of Tokyo. A Belgian reprocessing plant had a similar accident in 1981.

CNN described the inhalation of radioactive chemicals precisely this way: "Two fires and an explosion at a nuclear processing plant in northeastern Japan exposed [37] workers to minimal amounts of radiation... No one was injured in the accidents which occurred in the same area 10 hours apart." (Emphasis added)

In fact, plutonium-contaminated radiation was detected as far as 23 miles from the facility.

One month after the Tokai explosions, officials of DONEN, Japan's state-run nuclear power bureaucracy, were indicted in a criminal complaint for allegedly covering-up the incident and lying about its severity.

In Dec. 1995, DONEN was embarrassed by a separate serious accident involving leaking reactor coolant at its experimental 'Monju' fast breeder reactor. Monju has been closed ever since. One DONEN official committed suicide after a cover-up of the Monju contamination.

—AP, 16 April 1997; *The New York Times*, 25 March 1997; CNN, Inc. via Internet, 12 March 1997.

NRC Denies its First License Ever

A Nuclear Regulator Commission Atomic Safety & Licensing Board (ASLB) has denied a license for the proposed Louisiana Energy Services (LES) uranium enrichment plant near Homer, Louisiana. The precedent-setting decision found that the license application, and the NRC Staff's review of the application, violate President Clinton's executive order on environmental justice.

It is the first NRC denial of a license application—for any project of any kind anywhere—since the agency's founding. The decision, because it addresses the environmental racism, and how the NRC must investigate it, is excellent and will be useful in many other environmental battles.

While stopping short of declaring the project an example of environmental racism, the ASLB required the NRC to re-



'That's a good question which demands some real evasion.'

investigate whether racial discrimination played a role in the site-selection process and to re-examine the disproportionate impact the project would have on the nearby African-American community. —NIRS, 5 May 1997.

Resources

• *WISE News Communiqué*, the World Info. Service on Energy, P.O. Box 59636, 1040 LC Amsterdam, The Netherlands <wiseamster@antenna.nl>

• *The Nuclear Monitor*, NIRS (Nuclear Info. and Resource Service), 1424 16 St. NW, Suite #601, Washington, DC 20036, phone: (202) 328-0002, <nirsnet@igc.apc.org>

• *Touching Bases*, the quarterly magazine of the Military Toxics Project, has published a fine analysis of the crisis of depleted uranium (DU). It includes a good list of DU resources and educational materials. MTP, 471 Main St., Second Floor, Lewiston, ME 04240, phone: (207) 783-5091, <mtp@igc.org>

• *Earth Island Journal*, 300 Broadway, No.28, San Francisco, CA 94133-3312, phone: (415) 788-7324, quarterly/\$12/yr.

• *GaneSayer*, Georgians Against Nuclear Energy, P.O. Box 8574, Atlanta, GA 30306, phone: (404) 378-4263.

• *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, 6042 S. Kimbark, Chicago, IL 60637, phone: (773) 702-2555, six issues/\$36/yr.

• *Citizen's Watch*, Tri-Valley Citizens Against a Radioactive Environment, 5720 East Ave., No. 116, Livermore, CA 94550, phone: (510) 443-7148, <marylia@igc.apc.org>

Hearing HAARP?

The Air Force and the Navy have joined forces in developing a gigantic electromagnetic gun in Alaska that they hope will manipulate the ionosphere, a layer of charged particles in the upper atmosphere. The intentions of the armed forces are not well known, but their own pronouncements about the system indicate that it may replace and obviate the ELF submarine warfare transmitters in Michigan and Wisconsin.

The Navy describes the system this way: "HAARP (High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program) is a scientific endeavor aimed at studying the properties and behavior of the ionosphere, with particular emphasis on being able to understand and use it to enhance communications and surveillance abilities for both civilian and defense systems."

Why military involvement? "To meet national defense needs in the Arctic," according to the Navy.

"One of the uses for the HAARP and IRI (Ionospheric Research Instrument), will be to generate ELF signals for... submarine communications and geophysical exploration." ELF signals to submarines have, in the past, been strictly one-way communications. The Navy is now pursuing the possibility of two-way communications. The Pentagon also hopes to use HAARP to probe the earth's surface in search of weapons caches and other underground facilities.

According to the Navy, the \$30 million "experiment" involves the world's largest ionospheric "heater." The system is a large grid of antennae, powered by diesel generators, that shoot huge amounts of electromagnetism into the upper atmosphere "to temporarily excite a limited area of the ionosphere for scientific study."

The system underwent a March 8 test in which civilians were encouraged to tune-in and "listen" for the HAARP signal. The test allowed amateur and HAM radio operators the "opportunity" to report any HAARP-generated Morse code messages they picked up. The Navy claimed on its Web site that 200 electronic reports from around the world confirmed reception of HAARP signals. In November, HAARP succeeded in communicating with the orbiting NASA "WIND" satellite—120,000 kilometers (74,563 miles) from Earth. Another eight tests were conducted from Dec. 15 to Feb. 12. HAARP is scheduled for completion in 2002.

From Nukewatch: *Angels Don't Play This HAARP: Advances in Tesla Technology*, by Nick Begich & Jeane Manning, 1995, from Earthpulse Press, Anchorage. \$16.00 postage paid.

Solid Gold Nukes

Just Now Ready (almost) for the Cold War

By John LaForge

Right after the Air Force's high-profile announcement that its new nuclear weapons were coming on line, it was forced to ground the fantastically expensive B-2 "Stealth" nuclear bomber squad.

On April 8, seven days after declaring that the Stealth was operational and "nuclear combat ready," the Air Force grounded thirteen B-2s stationed at Whiteman AFB in Missouri. The cause was an in-flight accident in which an engine's drive shaft broke apart. The week-long grounding was the latest in a long series of setbacks and accidents with the B-2.

"The B-2 was designed to fly deep into 'enemy' territory and attack heavily defended targets," according to the USAF. You will recognize this "enemy" as the non-existent USSR. Like the Trident submarine fleet and the land-based ICBMs, the Stealth no longer has a target.

In spite of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the dissolution of the Warsaw Pact, the Air Force says six B-2s became part of the Pentagon's "nuclear war plan" on April 1—the fools. Next January, another two B-2s are to join the "plan" known as the Single Integrated Operational Plan, or SIOP.

Gen. George L. Butler (USAF, Ret.), a former head of the Strategic Air Command and principle designer of the SIOP, has called for the complete abolition of the nuclear arsenal.

Critics call the Stealth a "solid gold cold war dinosaur" because, at its present cost, the bomber which weighs 70 tons, could be built of solid gold—and leave a \$1 billion in cash left over. According to the Center for Defense Information, the price of one Stealth is enough to build 424 elementary schools for 254,000 children.

During the 1980s, Pentagon contractors had hoped to build 132 B-2s, and the DoD said then that it could produce all 132 of them "for \$30 billion."

The bomber's per-unit cost has steadily increased, from the Air Force's initial "estimate" of \$532 million in 1988, to the current \$2.2 billion—or one for the price of four.

The House of Representatives twice endorsed stopping construction at 15 planes. Now the Air Force expects to have 21 of the B-2s "in service" by 2002.

Secrecy Breeds Fraud

As the most expensive and useless airplane ever made, Stealth is a frightening monument to the results of secret military spending.

The Stealth program cost \$30 billion during ten years of secret research and development—without a word of open debate—before it was revealed to the public in 1988. Having been hidden within the Pentagon's secret budget, there was no analysis of the cost or rationale for Stealth until building the planes became a *fait accompli*.

Paraded as "nearly invisible on radar screens," the Stealth is named for this failed promotional device—an old advertising gimmick called "bait and switch." As early as 1989, the Air Force was forced to reverse its claims of Stealth's "invisibility." The Pentagon acknowledged in 1991 that its boast that Stealth's "radar signature" would be no bigger than an insect, could not be realized.

The Government Accounting Office (GAO), an investigative arm of Congress, reported in June 1993 that, "the fledgling B-2 has yet to pass its flight tests."

The GAO's eight secret reports on military spending, produced over three years, concluded that the Pentagon, in reporting to Congress, practiced exaggeration and deception and had given inaccurate and misleading testimony which led

Congress to spend up to \$350 billion on unnecessary weapons. (*Milwaukee Journal*, 29 June 1993)

The GAO's reports specifically criticized the B-1 and B-2 Stealth bombers, and Cruise and MX missiles. The weapons were funded, the GAO said, partly on the basis of deliberate exaggeration of both the weapons' abilities and the threat posed by the former Soviet Union. Pentagon officials denied any misrepresentation.

"I was lied to and I resent it," Sen. John Glenn (D-Ohio) said at the time. "I want to see those responsible punished for their actions."

Contrast this with the words of Gen. Larry Welch, the Air Force's chief of staff, who said at the Stealth's unveiling in 1988, "The B-2 is a superb example of the inherent technological advantage of free society." (*Grand Forks Herald*, 23 Nov. 1988.)

New H-bomb Defies Arms Reduction Treaties

One of the B-2 bomber's purposes will be to wage nuclear war with the new "B-61 (Mod 11)"—an H-bomb designed to burrow into the ground before detonating. "With the B-2, the deeply buried target killer will come on board," said an Air Force officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The 300 kiloton B-61-11 bomb is to replace the horrific nine-megaton (9,000 kiloton) B-53 bomb, which is still in use today.

The Air Force did not report that such underground thermonuclear explosions produce far more radioactive fallout than above-ground blasts. This type of thermonuclear attack corresponds to a proposed "radiation denial" program disclosed by the Jan. 1997 *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, and intended to maximize an H-bomb's radioactive fallout. (See *The Pathfinder*, Spring '97)

As if trying to rationalize the B-61-11, the AP reported that, "several nations, including Libya, Iraq and North Korea, are believed to have burrowed into the earth to protect military sites." However, Libya, Iraq and North Korea, are all non-nuclear Third World countries. There remains a profound if unofficial stigma against attacking non-nuclear countries with nuclear weapons. Officially however, only China has unequivocally pledged not to do so.

On April 23, 1996, the Pentagon stunned diplomats all over the world when the Assistant to the Secretary of Defense for Atomic Energy, Harold Smith, told reporters that an earth-penetrating B-61 bomb could take out a plant in Libya that he alleged was a chemical weapons facility. The Pentagon retracted the threat May 7, 1996, but not before Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak publicly contradicted the U.S., saying Egyptian inspectors had not found such activity at the site.

Cancel Cassini!

International Protest Actions

On Oct. 6, 1997 NASA plans to launch 73 pounds of deadly plutonium on-board its Cassini space probe to Saturn. Cassini is to fly to Venus, then hurtle back toward Earth at 42,300 mph! Recent Russian and NASA accidents show that space technology often fails (see *The Pathfinder*, Spring '97).

According to NASA studies, if there were ever a plutonium accident over Florida, vast portions of the state would have to be evacuated and all the affected topsoil would have to be removed—no trees, animals or people!

For the two weeks prior to the planned Cassini launch, the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice will sponsor round-the-clock vigils at the front gates of Cape Canaveral. Nonviolent attempts to sit on the Cassini launch pad will follow the international demonstration October 4 at the Cape. Please help stop Cassini and keep space free of nuclear power and weapons.

Contact: FCPJ, P.O. Box 90035, Gainesville, FL 32607, phone: (352) 468-3295, <fcj@afn.org>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

23-25—**The Struggle for Justice and Peace** in the light of Kingian Nonviolence, a workshop limited to 25. Contact: Fellowship of Reconciliation, FOR, Box 271, Nyack, NY 10960, phone: (914) 358-4601, <forpti@igc.org>

25-July 3—**Leadership Development and Non-violence training** for young people working to create positive social change. Seattle, WA. Contact: Peacemaker Training Institute for details and complete schedule, see FOR contact info above.

July

6-11—**International Occupation of the Temelin reactor** in the Czech Republic, in need of support actions across the globe. Contact: <http://www.ecn.cz/private/piano> or NIRS, 1424 th St. NW, #601, Wash., DC, 20036, phone: (202) 328-0002.

8—**Nuclear Weapons Abolition Days (NWAD)** at NATO Summit, Madrid, Spain. International Campaign to Uphold Int'l Law with Nonviolent Direct Actions of Civil Defense. Contact: NWAD, Pol D'Huyvetter, Lange Steenstraat 16/D, 9000 Gent, Belgium. Phone: +32-9-233 84 39. <int@fme.knooppunt.be> <http://www.knooppunt.be/~fme>

20-26—**Stop Cassini Camp**, at NASA's Space Center, Cape Canaveral, FL. A week of early morning vigils at the Cape gate, & in the evenings dropping leaflets in the surrounding neighborhoods to educate on space issues & Cassini. \$12/day covers food and camping. Contact: Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, P.O. Box 90035, Gainesville, FL 32607; phone: (352) 468-3295 or <fcj@afn.org>

August

6—**Nuclear Weapons Abolition Days (NWAD)** at NATO Headquarters, Brussels, Belgium. Contact: NWAD above.

6-9—52nd Anniversary of Atomic Bombings of

Hiroshima & Nagasaki. International NWAD actions; plan a local action or seminar.

8-10—**Desert Witness, Nevada Test Site, Las Vegas.** Contact: Nevada Desert Experience, phone (702) 646-4814 or <nde@igc.apc.org>

10-16—**YouthPeace Organizer's Training Program**, for high school youth age 13-18, in Voluntown, CT. Contact: War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette St. New York, NY 10012, phone (212) 228-0450, <wrl@igc.apc.org> <http://www.nonviolence.org/~nvweb/wrl>

September

21-Oct. 3—**Vigil to Halt Cassini: Round-the-Clock vigils** at Cape Canaveral's front gates against the Cassini Space Probe, with its 73 lbs of plutonium, leading to Oct. 4 Demo. Contact: Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, above.

October

4-6—**International Demonstrations to Stop the Oct. 6 Cassini launch.** Cape Canaveral, FL Launch Pad Sit-Ins to Prevent the possible catastrophe of the plutonium-laden Cassini Space Probe. Contact: Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, above.

24—**A Day Without the Pentagon: Plan an Action.** Actions across the country to stress "breaking the military addiction." A project of War Resisters League with nation-wide sponsorship. Contact: WRL, above.

November

9-11—**Catholic Worker Gathering in Las Vegas, Celebrate Dorothy Day's 100th birthday** at the Nevada Test Site. Contact: Nevada Desert Experience, phone: (702) 646-4814 or <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.

The Pathfinder is the quarterly newsletter of Nukewatch, a project of The Progressive Foundation, founded in 1979.

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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.

Nukewatch

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Activists disabled a junker to stop traffic into the Nevada Test Site.

Nuclear Nevada

Continued from Cover

contracted. The 1997 budget for the NTS totals \$390 million. The detonation of a "sub-critical" test is slated for June. Two tests were postponed in 1996 and four were originally scheduled for 1997.

It didn't take long for police to arrive at both of the Test Site blockades, and they came from all directions to deal with the highway obstructions.

Las Vegas special forces, Clark County Deputies, NV State Patrol, Nye County law enforcement and the Test Site's own Wackenhut Private Security showed up. A fire truck, an ambulance, a wrecker and law enforcement's own heavy equipment eventually ended the action. In spite of the number of police on site, the closure of Highway 95 lasted 4½ hours and the previous blockade lasted 3½ hours.

On April 1, hundreds of activists sauntered through the streets of downtown Las Vegas in the Parade of the Nuclear Fools. A giant puppet, people in costumes and painted bodies, banners and signs, and a mock nuclear waste cask were all on the scene. For an hour, police directed traffic, provided protection and tried to keep the street open. The parade ended at the Federal courthouse, home to the DoE.

Two weeks of workshops, nonviolence training, meetings and line crossings took place prior to April 4. Nevada Desert Experience activists walked from Las Vegas to the Test Site, a five-day trek. The Shundahai Network helped coordinate the events, along with Abolition 2000, Healing Global Wounds, Earth First!, Nukewatch, Atomic Veterans, and Greenpeace. Western Shoshone Elder Corbin Harney conducted sunrise ceremonies every day. Activist and writer Starhawk led a dance and chant with hundreds at the NTS' main gate. About 40 people crossed the boundary at one action, but numerous line crossings took place during the course of events.

It was a very busy and intense two weeks but considering the state of nuclear affairs in our nation, every week needs this amount of activity and opposition to the poisoning of our land. Now more than ever, people are needed to support these courageous efforts.



Photo by Jane Hosking

Test Site opponents practice for action.

TROMP TRIDENT

Trek to Project ELF

52 years ago on August 6 and again on August 9, the U.S. detonated A-bombs. The victim cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki lost 200,000 people within 4 months, two-thirds of those killed were elderly, or children under 10, or women. Forty percent of the bodies were never recovered. The death toll grows every year. 300,000 people have now died and 75% of the survivors, 400,000 in all, have illness due to radiation contamination.

**No more Hiroshimas
No more Nagasakis**



No more Project ELF

Join the 4 day trek to Project ELF leaving from the county court house in Ashland, WI, 7:00 am, August 6, arriving at the Stop Project ELF Peace Camp August 9, pm.

Call Nukewatch at (715) 472-4185 or STOP Project ELF at (715) 472-8721

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