

# NUKEWATCH

# PATHFINDER

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## Swords Into Plowshares

By the Nukewatch Staff

Swords into Plowshares. It's not just a metaphor. In the face of the nuclear weapons states refusal to obey their own explicit promises in the Nuclear Nonproliferation and Test Ban Treaties, to pursue complete nuclear disarmament, individual citizens have decided to enact nuclear disarmament themselves.

The Plowshares movement started in 1980 in the U.S. with the Plowshares Eight, a group of Catholic radicals who hammered and poured blood on nuclear missile nosecones being built by General Electric in Pennsylvania. Over 65 subsequent "disarmament" actions have taken place against nuclear war systems as diverse as battleships, land-based missiles, submarines, nuclear capable warplanes and even the uranium mining equipment used at the front end of the nuclear weapons manufacturing process.

While destructive of war material, Plowshares actions are non-violent as to living things and openly disable nuclear weapons or their delivery systems so they can't be used. With some notable but rare exceptions, U.S. courts have generally been severe in prosecuting and imprisoning Plowshares activists. European courts often appear more enlightened.

### Minuteman III

DENVER—On February 18, Daniel Sicken and Sachio Ko-Yin were sentenced in federal court for their Minuteman III Plowshares action in northeast Colorado. In November, both activists were found guilty of sabotage, conspiracy and destruction of government property. Sicken was sentenced to 41 months and Ko-Yin to 30 months in federal prison. The court imposed standard conditions for payment of restitution. The government has claimed damages of \$21,299.40.

Sicken and Ko-Yin commemorated the 53rd anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, last August 6, by using sledgehammers to symbolically disarm an active Air Force Minuteman III nuclear missile silo. They painted images of a gravestone and a broken rifle (the international symbol of disarmament) on the underground silo's concrete cap. The Minuteman III missile carries three thermonuclear Mark-12A warheads with the explosive equivalent of 58 Hiroshima bombs.

Sicken is an Air Force veteran from Brattleboro, VT and is self employed in electrical and plumbing home repairs. Ko-Yin is a nursery school teacher from Ridgewood, NJ. They represented themselves during a three-day trial. A formal defense—such as the "ne-



In August, Daniel Sicken and Sachio Ko-Yin, calling themselves Minuteman III Plowshares, used sledge hammers to symbolically disarm a missile silo in Colorado. The pair was charged with destruction of government property, conspiracy and sabotage. Both were found guilty. In February, Sicken received a sentence of 41 months and Ko-Yin, 30 months.

cessity defense" or "Nuremberg defense"—was ruled irrelevant by U.S. District Judge Walker Miller. Immediately following the trial, the activists were incarcerated at Englewood Federal Detention Center outside of Denver. At the February hearing, Sicken was assigned to a U.S. prison at Ft. Devens, Maine and Ko-Yin was assigned to Allenwood, Pennsylvania. Recent federal law abolished parole, so the two men will serve the full 2 ½- and 3 ½-year sentences.

Throughout the sentencing proceeding, Sicken and Ko-Yin repeated their earlier assertions that their action was morally and legally justified. Referring to the sabotage conviction that required proof of damage to national defense material, Sicken asked, "Where is the spirit of a law which defines 'national defense' as essentially everything in the U.S. military...including offensive first-strike nuclear weapons? How can offensive weaponry be legally named 'defensive'—except by deceiving ourselves?"

Both Ko-Yin and Sicken took issue with the government's complaint that the activists had not begged for mercy. Sicken said, "If Gandhi had repentance for breaking British salt laws, the Indian people might still be in servitude to the British." Ko-Yin said in part, "Mr. (U.S. Attorney, Bernard) Lobson is concerned that we show no remorse' for our action. It is my belief that our action was itself an expression of remorse over our nation's plans for a nuclear first strike." Continued on Page 6.

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# Irradiated Food

## Unsafe and Unsavory

By Bonnie Urfer

The Department of Energy (DOE) is anxious to find ways to rid itself of radioactive waste. They'll try burying it a mile underground, injecting it into wells, recycling it with other scrap metal, stacking it in drums. Now they want to shove it down our throats.

On February 12, 1999, the USDA proposed rules that would permit irradiation for refrigerated or frozen uncooked meat and meat products, "to kill harmful bacteria." From the time of the proposal's publication (around Feb. 22), the public has 60 days to comment on the plan. ☐

The meat and nuclear industries lobbied heavily for the irradiation rule as an alternative to White House proposals for greater government authority to recall contaminated meat and punish violators.

Through its Byproducts Utilization Program, the DOE transfers radioactive waste to private businesses where it is used to "sterilize" medical supplies, tampons, contact lens cleaners, spices, food containers, fruits, cosmetics, vegetables, chicken and other products. Jim Greene, a former Food and Drug Administration (FDA) spokesperson, admitted that the use of Cesium-137 in food irradiation, "could substantially reduce the cost of disposing of nuclear waste."

Food irradiation uses gamma rays emitted by cobalt-60 and cesium-137, which are both extremely hazardous isotopes; cesium-137 is water soluble and deadly for 300 years. Both cobalt and cesium are radioactive wastes left in huge quantities from the nuclear power and weapons gang, the same folks that have created the most long-lived and deadly poisons known.

Neither the FDA nor the USDA publicize the fact that irradiating meat doesn't guarantee a safe cut of steak. Irradiation doesn't kill all the harmful bacteria and, after irradiation, the meat is more susceptible to all forms of recontamination. Most of the harmless bacteria that compete with and limit the growth of dangerous pathogens is destroyed. Irradiation allows new pathogens to multiply more rapidly since they face less competition in the meat.

The meat industry hopes that irradiation will loosen factory sanitation and inspection standards and even eliminate calls for tougher ones. Industry lobbyists suggest that checking meat for E. coli may not be necessary. As it is, the FDA doesn't have the authority to recall tainted meat without a court order. The meat producer must conduct recalls voluntarily and they are not required by law to report contaminated meat. The industry publicizes its "hope" that, with irradiation, meat packers will be absolved of responsibility for tainted meat—and free from lawsuits.

The FDA approved irradiation for red meat in December of 1997. The meat industry is chomping at the radioactive bit to begin subjecting pork, sheep and beef to the equivalent of 20- to 30-million chest X-rays.\* The nuclear industry stands to reap huge profits from the new business, since they get to make and sell the irradiators. However, public acceptance and industry revenue still depend on a slick, multi-million dollar advertising campaign.

### Public Relations as "Education"

Brian Folkerts, at the National Food Processors Association says, "One reason irradiation is not widely used on other products is consumer wariness of the process and lack of education about it." Bryan Salvage, an executive with the Chicago-based Marketing and Technology Group, Inc., echoed Folkerts when he stated, "The industry has come a long way in turning around consumer attitudes. They've proven educated consumers would be willing to buy irradiated beef." Educated?

Marketing & Technology Group publishes three meat magazines. Its November, 1998 *Meat Marketing & Technology* includes a promotional supplement dedicated completely to irradiation and paid for entirely by SteriGenics, the nation's biggest irradiation company. SteriGenics, based in Tustin, CA, is also responsible for the worst known U.S. irradiation disaster. The supplement's "articles" include: "Enhancing Safety: Adding Value Through Irradiation," "Consumers Willing to Accept Irradiated Food, Surveys Say," and "Processors Should Move Forward on Irradiation."

The glossy advertisement also includes a list of irradiation endorsers. Lined up in support of the process are the USDA, the American Meat Institute, the FDA, the National Pork Producers and even the Mayo Clinic and the American Medical Association. These last two endorsements are critical to the meat industry, since according to their own survey, "More than 90% of respondents said they would trust the medical community as a source of information on irradiation, followed closely by university experts."

The supplement claims that consumers appear ready to accept irradiated food products. The reason given, "appears

to be straightforward: food safety." But it also states that "No company is going to produce a product that has little consumer acceptance." Consequently, consumers can expect a flood of industry "education."

A CBS poll in August 1997 found that 88% of respondents disapproved of irradiation. A poll co-sponsored by the American Meat Institute, the National Restaurant Association, the Food Marketing Institute and the Grocery Manufacturers of America, found that 80% of consumers would likely purchase food with a label reading "irradiated to kill harmful bacteria." And then there's Dr. Anna V. A. Resurrection, a professor of food science and technology at the Univ. of Georgia, who showed study participants a pro-irradiation slide show then watched 85% of them buy irradiated chicken. In one 12-hour hearing in Hawaii, 126 people spoke out against irradiation and only six spoke in favor of it. Isomedix plans to build a facility there and opposition is overwhelming. Obviously, survey results depend on who stands to gain and who conducts the polls.

### Accidents Happen

Contrary to industry assurances, this is deadly business. The worst accident to date happened at Radiation Sterilizers, Inc., (RSI) in Decatur, GA. In 1986 the company received 250 canisters of cesium-137 from the DOE. After two years, two capsules began leaking into RSI's storage pool. It took federal officials six months to find the leaks and no one knows how many medical supplies, consumer products and food items were improperly irradiated before the leaks were found. An entire truckload of milk containers was disposed of at a radioactive waste dump. Three employees were irradiated and 25,000 gallons of water were contaminated. In 1992 the radioactive building was abandoned. RSI changed its name to SteriGenics. Clean-up took four years and cost taxpayers \$47 million.

In 1976, employees of Isomedix, in Whippany, NJ, disposed of radioactive water—from a cobalt-60 canister leak—in the toilet. Years later, during factory decontamination, the cooling pond, toilet and toilet pipe were found to be radioactive.

An Atomic Energy Commission and Hawaii Department of Agriculture irradiation factory was contaminated in 1979. Radiation Technology, Inc., in Rockaway, NJ, is listed as one of the 50 most contaminated sites in the state. In Maryland, Neutron Products was cited for 5,800 violations including worker overexposure, improper storage of radioactive waste and elevated radiation levels on adjacent property. In spite of this horrendous record, Dr. Christine Bruhn, a food marketing specialist for the irradiation industry says, "Irradiation plants are probably one of the safest places a person could be waiting if an earthquake occurs."

This obvious PR scam implies that irradiation isn't dangerous to workers, haulers, or buyers.

Each irradiation facility could cost up to \$14 million. Irradiated meat is expected to cost from three to seven cents per pound more than regular meat. But, since irradiation increases the shelf life of a package of meat, the industry claims the price hike may not be that much because there's less waste. Just think: older meat for the same price or just slightly more.

The stock market is betting on increased earnings as the public incrementally swallows meat irradiation. After the FDA's approval in 1997, there was a quick jump in share prices for companies in the irradiation business.

Graystar, Inc., designer of a portable \$1.5 million irradiator, is hoping to sell \$9 billion worth of their units. Martin Stein, CEO of Graystar says, "Graystar will be converting waste into wealth." The other irradiators are familiar profiteering polluters: Arco, General Electric, Phillips, General Dynamics, Argonne and DOE contractors at Savannah River and Hanford. If each of these companies had been held liable for past radiation-induced illnesses and been required to clean up their radioactive "dirt," they'd have already gone under financially.

### Food Quality

Anyone opening a package of irradiated meat is treated to the smell of a barnyard. *The New York Times*\*\* described it as "wet dog." However, the meat industry claims that if the meat is frozen, it doesn't smell so bad when the package is opened.

The color of irradiated meat also changes—it gets darker. Gary Mickelson, a spokesman for IBP, Inc., the nation's largest meat producer said, "Irradiation changed [meat's] taste in a noticeable enough way to cause concerns within the com-

pany." One taster compared the flavor to "steamed cow"; another smelled "burned hair." *Yummy!*

After irradiation, citrus fruit goes bad faster and develops black spots. Lettuce, sprouts and other vegetables completely wilt. No one knows why—in at least one study—irradiated spinach killed lab animals. Dairy products are not irradiated at all because they develop bizarre odors.

### Food Nutrition

In 1985 the London Food Commission reported a significant loss of vitamins A, E, K, B-1, B-2, B-3, B-6, folic acid and beta carotene—an important anti-carcinogenic agent—in irradiated foods. Irradiation also kills *beneficial* micro-organisms and enzymes, those that aid in digestion. The process does not kill botulism, but kills the host micro-organisms that give the foul smell alerting buyers that meat has gone bad. In spite of taste, smell and nutrition test results, the FDA dares to say that irradiation, "does not change the food or cause it to become radioactive or less nutritious."

Carcinogenic agents, called radiolytic products, are created in meats by the irradiation process. Some of the carcinogens are: benzene, trichloroethylene, dimethyl sulfide and acetaldehyde. Industry PR claims these same carcinogens are formed when you cook meat at home, a statement that is simply not true.

Fifty reckless and irresponsible years into this cancer-causing nuclear age, radiation has gotten a well deserved "bad rap." Conse-

quently, the meat industry wants the irradiation process re-named. Suggestions from the PR department include: "cold pasteurization," "Isopure," "Bacless" and "picowave." Irradiation labeling requirements have also changed recently. Once, the flower-like "radura" symbol was large and prominent. Now, "Treated with Radiation" or "Treated by Irradiation" only needs to be the type size of an ingredients list—and will be tucked on the back of the package. The meat industry lobbied for the "educational" change.

### One Big Experiment

Millions of lab animals—dogs, mice, rats—have been fed irradiated food and then killed. In dozens of studies, the animals have developed malignant tumors, testicular damage, auto-immune deficiencies and rare pituitary cancers, among many other maladies.

Humans have also been used in studies. Mennonite "volunteers"—33 conscientious objectors imprisoned during WW II—were "tested" and fed a diet of 35% irradiated food, an amount that caused hemorrhaging and death in rats. The experiments were conducted by the U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps at the Army Medical & Nutrition Laboratory in Denver. The "long-term human feeding" involved two 15-day periods and only one year of follow-up physicals. The Army found "no evidence of toxic effects." No long term study was conducted.

In India, children were fed irradiated wheat and they then developed a blood cell anomaly called Polyploidy, a defect found in chromosomes and a precursor to leukemia. The study was discontinued fearing further harm to the children. As usual, the study was refuted and considered invalid in the U.S.

Dr. Marcia Van Gemert chaired the FDA committee that reviewed 441 studies on food irradiation before the process was approved for some foods in 1982. Van Gemert testified in 1993 that all 441 studies were flawed. Dr. Rosalie Bertell (author of the landmark *No Immediate Danger*, 1985, London, The Women's Press), says "food irradiation is nothing more than human experimentation."

The bottom line is that irradiated food has not been proven safe and the public is not eager to eat it. The nuclear industry has never been "safe"—only "allowable"—and allowing it into food processing is a bad risk that's currently smothered with lies, deceit, industry self-interest and the same arrogance that brought us the rest of the nuclear mess.

\**Food & Water Journal*, Spring 1998, p.16.

\*\**New York Times*, Dec. 10, 1997.

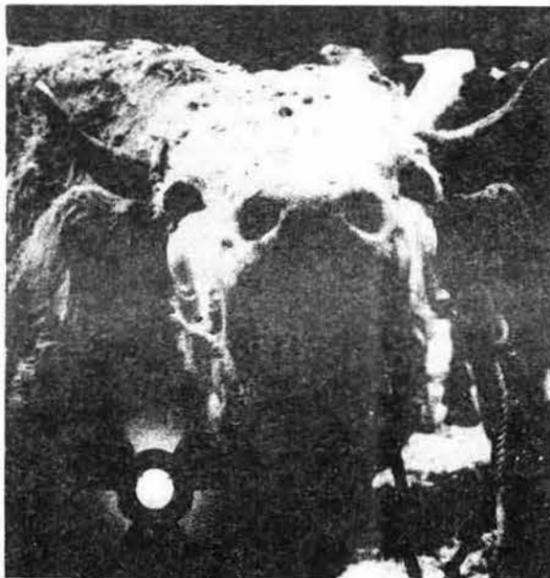
### More Information:

Food & Water, Inc. has excellent material: *Food Irradiation: An Activist Primer* (24 pages) \$1.50 each; 25 copies for \$25.00; *Meat Monopolies: Dirty Meat & the False Promises of Irradiation* (48 pages); \$7.50 each.

☐ Comments on the proposed USDA rule must be received by April 26, 1999. Submit an original and two copies to: FSIS Docket #97-076P, USDA, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Room 102, Cotton Annex, 300 12 St., SW, Washington, DC 20250-3700.

Phone: (202) 720-5627;

Web site: [www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/fr/99-4401.htm](http://www.fsis.usda.gov/oa/fr/99-4401.htm).



# Radiation Warfare with Depleted Uranium

## Human Consequences, Pentagon Lies

By John LaForge

Washington, DC—"History is likely to judge this military use of depleted uranium as the use of chemical and radiological warfare agents nominally to prevent Iraq from using them." This is the conclusion of Dr. Rosalie Bertell, the renowned epidemiologist, writing in *NGO News & Views*.

The political, ecological and medical consequences of using radioactive weapons against Iraq in 1991 are so explosive, that the military kept its knowledge of depleted uranium (DU) hazards secret from soldiers. To hide its liability, the Pentagon conducted a public relations campaign promoting the ammunition and the military still denies that U.S. troops were harmed by it.

DU weapons are the armor-piercing munitions made of toxic nuclear waste left over from the making of H-bombs and nuclear reactor fuel. DU is uranium-238, a radioactive heavy metal with a half-life of 4.5 billion years. It is misnamed because it's not depleted of uranium, but only missing the uranium-235 that was extracted during "enrichment." DU also contains radioactive thorium, protactinium and other radionuclides.

DU weapons were used massively in Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia during the 1991, U.S.-led massacre of some 200,000 Iraqis. (There were 358 U.S. fatalities.) 300 metric tons of uranium-238 pollution was left by the bombing—mostly in southern Iraq—and will contaminate the soil, water and food chain of the region forever.

Upon impact, the DU shells burn and disintegrate to (uranium oxide) dust and smoke, and DU's microscopic air-borne particles can travel dozens of miles and be resuspended by the winds. Hundreds of thousands of military personnel in the Gulf may have inhaled and ingested this extremely hazardous material.

### DU Threats

Dan Fahey, author of a 289-page "Case Narrative" on DU exposures, reports that a July 1990 study from the U.S. Army Armament, Munitions and Chemical Command, describes depleted uranium as a "low level alpha radiation emitter which is linked to cancer when exposures are internal, [and] chemical toxicity causing kidney damage."

Bill Mesler reports in *The Nation* that the British Atomic Energy Authority warned that there was enough DU left behind in the Persian Gulf to account for "500,000 potential deaths" through increased cancer rates. This grim prognosis was based on the estimate that Iraq was bombed with only 40 tons of DU.

Mesler explains that, "DU, unlike most metals, dissolves and is spread through the body, depositing itself in organs like the spleen and the brain." Dr. Bertell notes that, "The expected health effects of chronic lung burdens of DU include fibrosis of the irradiated lung tissue, lung cancer, eventual entry of the DU into the blood over subsequent years, with effects on liver and kidney, together with incorporation of DU into bone."

Scientists and doctors, veterans groups and NGOs (non-governmental organizations) from around the world are compiling evidence of the human health effects of exposure to the 600,000 pounds of uranium-238 contamination that the U.S. spewed across the region.

Unpublished Iraqi government documents show a steep rise in cancer rates among Iraqi civilians in southern Iraq. The number of childhood leukemia cases is triple what it was before 1991. The incidence of miscarriage among 1,625 pregnant Iraqi women nationwide is 3.2 times greater if the father had been a soldier in 1991.

Iraqis found DU in 36% of 154 plant-tissue samples from southern Iraq. Canadian and European scientists are seriously considering DU the cause of certain cancers in the region that they say now occur five times as often as before 1991.

More than 110,000 U.S. veterans of the Persian Gulf action have complained of unusual and often undiagnosed illnesses usually referred to as Gulf War Syndrome. Many of the symptoms are common to victims of radiation contamination: hair loss, bowel disruptions, chronic fatigue, asthma, skin disorders and reproductive problems among women partners of exposed vets such as miscarriage, infant mortality and birth defects.

On March 25, 1998, the VA said its doctors had found uranium in the semen of 5 of 22 veterans in its DU program. Uranium fragments had wounded the five men.

### Pentagon Knew of DU Hazards and Kept Them Secret

The dire consequences of exploding radioactive ammunition in the Persian Gulf are hard to cover up. Still, the U.S. military is sticking to its story that the uranium-tipped shells it blew off across the region have not caused illnesses. Official Pentagon denials of responsibility for Gulf soldiers' ailments

were issued in March, June and December of 1994, August 2, 1995, April 3, 1996 and November 14, 1996. Only the Department of Veterans Affairs has said that some of the veterans' health problems are related to DU exposure.

On July 31, 1998, Pentagon brass reported (contrary to the Army's finding that no DU dose is risk-free) that, "In minute quantities, [DU] exposures will not produce harmful effects..." The lengthy report concluded again that, "medical and scientific research to date, have not established any relationship between DU exposures and the undiagnosed illnesses presented by some Gulf War veterans." These denials are proving to be lies.



"We have obtained documents that show the DOD was aware of the exposure of soldiers from DU when it burns, aware of the downwind spreading and incidental contamination hazard and aware of the large number of military personnel that were exposed," said Chris Kornkven, president of the National Gulf War Resources Center.

Indeed, Kornkven's group has concluded that, "military commanders consciously ignored U.S. Army and Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations, in place during Operation Desert Storm, which required medical testing and care for vets exposed to DU. Denial of medical care for soldiers exposed to DU was so complete it applied even to soldiers wounded by DU fragments in "friendly fire" accidents.

A report by the Army's Mobility, Equipment, Research & Development Command concluded on March 7, 1979, over ten years before the Gulf bombing: "Not only the people in the immediate vicinity but also people at distances downwind from the fire are faced with potential over-exposure to airborne uranium dust."

Mesler also found that the Army's AMCCOM (radiological) task group knew as early as 1990 that "long-term effects of low doses [of DU] have been implicated in cancer...there is no dose so low that the probability of effect is zero."

A study done in 1990 for the Army by Science Applications International, Corp., says that DU is, "linked to cancer when exposures are internal, (and) chemical toxicity causing kidney damage." The Army's 1993 "Depleted Uranium Safety Training" document reaffirmed the same finding of DU's carcinogenic and toxic effects.

At the VA Medical Center in Boston, Doctors Belton Burroughs and David Slingerland identified 14 Gulf vets as having measurable DU in their lungs. Their testing was terminated and all records have since been supposedly "lost."

As of August 1997, there were 91 federally funded studies of veterans' illnesses underway, but only two were focused on the effects of embedded depleted uranium shrapnel and not one was looking into the effects of inhaling or ingesting DU.

The U.S. isn't the only government trying to cover-up DU's trail of illness. Two British veterans, who are still sick from their Persian Gulf deployment, acquired secret Ministry of Defense (MoD) papers that confirmed that the MoD was investigating possible links between DU and Gulf-related illnesses. These investigations were previously denied by MoD, and military police raided the homes of the two ex-soldiers.

In the former Czechoslovakia, the Defense Ministry was so alarmed about health problems among its soldiers who served in the Gulf, that in 1991 it placed a lifetime ban on blood donations by the veterans. The military was obviously aware that soldiers were exposed to toxic, long-lived agents that had entered their blood streams.

### DU Public Relations Campaign Fails

The Army's 1990 AMCCOM paper (above) recommended "public relations efforts" to prevent a possible "adverse international reaction."

A March 1, 1991 memo on the "Effectiveness of Depleted Uranium Penetration," written by Army Lt. Col. M.V. Ziehm, Los Alamos National Laboratory says in part: "There has been concern regarding the impact of DU on the environment. Therefore if no one makes a case for the effectiveness of DU on the battlefield, DU rounds may become politically unacceptable and thus be deleted from the arsenal."

Dr. Asaf Durakovic was formerly the chief of nuclear medicine at the Wilmington, Delaware VA hospital. He has accused the VA of joining a "conspiracy of silence" to avoid liability for vets who may develop cancer. Durakovic says the Army is also afraid of being stuck with the cost of clean up and reparation for Iraq, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

The discovery of these deliberate efforts to downplay the health effects of exposure to DU and to highlight, ironically, the weapons' killing power, have energized veterans and their supporters and even congressional critics.

In addition, the Pentagon's investigations of Gulf related illnesses have been attacked with unusually harsh criticism. A presidential advisory committee September 5, 1997 called Pentagon studies "superficial" and charged that the military had a "pervasive inclination" to ignore evidence that didn't support its dismissive conclusions. Both the presidential advisory group and then, on October 25, 1997, the House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, demanded that the Pentagon be stripped of all its authority to study Gulf related illnesses. President Clinton has not acted.

Doug Rokke, an Army Reserve Capt. who was the director of the Pentagon's DU Project, was outraged when the presidential advisory group said it was "unlikely" that Gulf illnesses were caused by DU. Rokke said, "It's a deliberate cover up."

U.S. Senator Russ Feingold (D-WI) has also called for an independent study of DU effects of sick veterans. Feingold said last September that the Pentagon's conclusion that DU didn't cause harm to soldiers "contradicts numerous pre- and postwar reports, some from the U.S. Army itself."

Under intense pressure, the Pentagon said in August 1997 that 112 soldiers had been exposed to dangerous levels of DU. Then on January 8, 1998 it surprisingly increased its estimate, saying that "thousands" of soldiers may have been exposed.

Dan Fahey said the admission raised a lot of new questions. With roughly 110,000 U.S. veterans suffering Gulf related illnesses, Fahey said, "We want the Pentagon to do what they finally did with Agent Orange: Give the benefit of the doubt to veterans."

The U.S. must also lead the effort in aiding the affected populations of Iraq and Kuwait where most DU contamination remains and lead the world in bringing about a ban on the use, production or stockpiling of this toxic, radioactive boomerang.

## Peace Action Confronts U.S. Bombings

DULUTH, MN—Outraged at President Clinton's December holiday 1998 bombings of Baghdad and greater Iraq, advocates for the homeless, university students and others organized a day-long protest December 18 at the federal courthouse in Duluth, MN. One sign read: "Food to feed children, Not bombs to kill them." Nine activists, including Nukewatch staffers Bonnie Urfer and John LaForge, refused to end a federal building sit-in and were arrested for trespass. Several pleaded not guilty and will go on trial March 10. The trespass ordinance allows an exception for "emergencies."

"My government's killing of Iraqi people in my name creates an emergency for me," said Joel Kilgore, an organizer of the demonstration. The holiday attacks resulted in the deaths of more civilians than military conscripts and since December the U.S. has engaged in almost daily bombardment of Iraq.

Conviction on the trespass charge usually results in a fine or forced community service. Some may not cooperate with the penalty phase. LaForge said, "Nonviolent interference with the business of bombing cities was my community service. To punish that is to applaud the war."

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

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Bonnie Urfer and John LaForge  
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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MLK Holiday keynote speakers Ruth Maynor and Dian Lovett are staff members with Homeless On the Move for Equality in Chicago. HOME is comprised of presently and previously homeless people working to end homelessness. Ruth and Dian spoke of their personal experiences as homeless women with children and made real the devastating impact of military spending and corporate welfare.

# Mobile Chernobyl Alert, Alert, Alert, Alert

By Michael Mariotte and Mary Olson

Mobile Chernobyl, the idea of shipping all of the nation's high-level nuclear waste to a parking lot in Nevada, is back. Although Congress has been unable to enact such legislation the past four years, the nuclear industry wasted no time this year: on the first day of the 106th Congress, House members Fred Upton (R-MI) and Edolphus Towns (D-NY) introduced a new Mobile Chernobyl bill. This year, it is HR 45.

HR 45 is nearly identical to the previous House version but has some new funding provisions and

dates to reflect the atomic industry's previous failures to pass legislation. The new date for the opening of a centralized storage site for irradiated fuel from commercial power and weapons reactors is 2003. This would trigger the largest nuclear waste shipping campaign in history.

Transport of high-level nuclear waste from reactor sites—three quarters of them east of the Mississippi River—would impact 43 states. The legislation would require that 3,000 metric tons of irradiated fuel be moved each year for the next 30 years or more. Fifty million Americans live within a half mile on either side of the likely train tracks and highways this waste would pass by. Normal trade routes—major interstate highways and rails—would be used to move the waste. Urban areas should examine whether there is a disproportionate impact on some sectors of the community. For example, highways and railways often are placed in poorer, predominately minority areas.

HR 45 is moving fast. The new Chair of the House Subcommittee on Energy and Water is Joe Barton (R-TX), who has long been a "water boy" for the nuclear industry. He was the chief sponsor of "one-step" reactor licensing legislation. Barton would like to move the bill out of his subcommittee in March—with no hearings.

Barton and his nuclear industry allies are counting on us to fold. They believe we have fought this effort so long and hard, that we no longer have it in us to fight. Guess again, Mr. Barton! National environmental and public interest groups are meeting weekly to launch an all-out offensive on Capital Hill. We have stopped this bill every year since it was first introduced in 1994. We can stop it now, but it requires immediate action.

First: demand hearings on this legislation. Since the funding mechanism has changed, this is the perfect thing to focus on. Even if your U.S. Representative is not on the House Commerce Committee, call his/her office and demand that he/she oppose HR 45. The bill is not the same and there are new members of Congress. Focus on the money issues, the transport issue and the fact that this is environmental plunder not environmental protection.

While hearings might show the fallacy of the nuclear industry's funding schemes—which are intended to put the burden of radioactive waste storage on the taxpayer instead of the industry that created the waste—hearings are not enough.

In December, 219 environmental groups demanded a complete end to the Yucca Mountain project for temporary or permanent waste storage. The science is now clear: Yucca Mountain cannot legally be licensed as a radioactive waste dump. HR 45 is one of the worst environmental bills ever. It does not provide a solution for nuclear waste, just a "fix" for the nuclear industry that gets to dump their waste on Native Shoshone lands, while at the same time making it the possession and liability of the tax-payer in perpetuity. The legislation authorizes the Department of Energy to curtail or preempt all environmental laws.

HR 45 sets new deadlines that are more unrealistic than the current law's missed deadline of 1998.

Yucca Mountain will not isolate nuclear waste from the environment. Data in the DOE's own "viability assessment" of the proposed repository contradicts that assertion. Constant seismic activity in the area has fractured the soft rock, allowing rain to travel through the proposed repository site. The same fractures will allow radioactive gases to escape as the waste decays.

A recent study of the funding for the Yucca Mountain Project shows that there will be about a 50% shortfall in total project funds. By law the funding for this project comes from the customers of nuclear power, and the original concept was that they should pay the full bill. A proportional 10% to be paid by taxpayers via the military budgets would cover the cost of military waste that would go to the same site (10% of the total). The fund is paid for monthly with the electric bill of those who get nuclear power, but at the current rate, this fund will deliver \$28.1 billion. The total projected cost of the program with centralized storage is \$53.9 billion. This means that taxpayers would end up more than \$25 billion short if these conservative projections are met—and every year the cost estimates go higher.

Our job is clear. We must stop HR 45 and all related legislation and we must begin now. It is not too late to get resolutions against the legislation passed at municipal and county levels. A local resolution against HR 45, on the basis of the transport of nuclear waste, is a message your U.S. Representative needs to hear.

It's time to stop Mobile Chernobyl and Yucca Mountain dump proposals once and for all.

Michael Mariotte and Mary Olson work for the Nuclear Information & Resource Service in Washington, DC.

# Project ELF

## 15 Arrested at King Holiday Action Against Project ELF

By John LaForge

ASHLAND, WI—Fifteen peace activists were arrested January 17 and charged with trespassing at the Navy's Project ELF site despite the presence of a police dog used by authorities to scare us away from the fence.

The arrests capped a weekend rally by organizers from the U.S., Canada and Central America honoring the birthday anniversary of slain civil rights and peace activist Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Students of the Northland College Peace Club hosted the gathering—the eighth annual King Holiday protest at the controversial Navy transmitter and the 37th in a series of protests since 1991.

"The police kept the dog in a squad car," said Sam Day, author, activist and former Nukewatch staffer, who was among those arrested. "But it was a chilling reminder of the viciousness visited upon civil rights activists of Dr. King's generation," Day said.

At the Saturday gathering, special guest Malkia M'Buzi Moore, YouthPeace coordinator of the War Resisters League in New York, spoke of the terrible choices being forced on inner-city youth by the militarized, minimum wage economy. "I've heard kids say their only choices are Rikers Island (jail) or the Army. This is a crime of theft. We must give them more employment and educational chances than that."

Later, Sam Day criticized the sugar-coating of Dr. King that most MLK celebrations involve. "The man was not just a civil rights advocate," Sam said, "but a criminal and a jail bird. It was his plea to violate unjust laws that is so often minimized and obscured by our tendency to lionize the man. Dr. King's profound appeal wasn't a note from the Hilton Hotel, but 'A Letter from the Birmingham Jail.'"

On Sunday, some 80 protesters traveled to the Navy's ELF transmitter, near Clam Lake, WI., which is used by the Pentagon to signal U.S. and British nuclear-armed submarines around the world. The ELF transmitter (for extremely low frequency) is thought to have been used to help direct the U.S. Fast Attack submarines, that in December 1998, launched Cruise missile attacks on Iraq, killing several thousand people.

Nineteen members of the Chicago-based Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) and two staff members of Homeless On the Move for Equality, traveled from Chicago to help plan the action and make keynote presentations. Nine CPTers were arrested at the gate along with three Duluth high school students, the Nukewatch staff and Sam Day.

Of the 15 people arrested, authorities handcuffed and took eight into temporary custody because they refused police orders. On February 16, all 15 were sentenced to a fine of \$181.00 or, for refusing to pay, the suspension of their Wisconsin driving privileges.

About 100 people participated in the weekend of nonviolence training, planning, discussion and action.

### \$2 Million ELF "Improvement" Planned

The Winter *Pathfinder* reported that alarm bells went off around the state when news of the Navy's so-called "ELF

Improvement Project" was published in the *Spooner Advocate* and the *Ashland Daily Press*.

The Navy plans to drill a series of thirty 200-foot "wells" at three of ELF's grounding sites in Ashland County. The grounds are at each end of the X-shaped antenna lines that extend seven miles in four directions from the center near Clam Lake. The ELF antenna uses the "grounds" to jolt the bedrock with millions of watts of electricity. The jolting creates the ELF radio waves that eventually encircle the Earth, reaching the submarines almost anywhere they go.

In letters to U.S. Senator Feingold (D-WI) December 9 and January 15, the Navy claimed that it intends to clear 30 acres of land for the wells and that the improvement will "reduce the amount of stray voltage from the antenna." Robert Aldridge, a missile design expert and author of *First Strike!* (Boston, South End Press, 1983), reports that the program is more probably an attempt to strengthen the ELF signal. The Navy also told Sen. Feingold that it estimates the "improvement" would cost \$2,000,000.

At the U.S. Forest Service office in Glidden, WI, environmental coordinator Mary Lucas told me that in mid-March "we will be able to initiate our environmental assessment and the public will be asked to comment."

The Superior Wilderness Action Network has complained to the USFS about the project and may file a lawsuit to block any further destruction of the Chequamegon National Forest.

### ELF Termination Act, S. 128

The ELF Termination Act has been introduced again by Senators Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl, both democrats of Wisconsin. The measure, designated Senate Bill 128, would cut the funding for ELF.

Long-time ELF resister Jeff Leys, Monona, WI, has penned a request to the newly elected U.S. Representative Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) asking that she take up the ELF termination effort on the House side. Baldwin is the first woman ever sent to Congress by the State of Wisconsin. She has taken over the seat vacated by Republican Scott Klug, who last year introduced a House version of the "scrap ELF" bill.

### More Action to Take:

1: Ask your group to formally join the Coalition to Stop Project ELF. Then send us a copy of your group's resolution to be a part of the campaign. We'll send detailed background information if you need more.

2: Urge your U.S. Senators to co-sponsor S. 128, and ask your Congressional Representatives to sponsor a House version of the bill.

3: Write to the Forest Service, the military contractor and Navy officials involved with the so-called improvement. Urge them to cancel plans to spend more resources on cold war weapons of mass destruction. Write:

Lenny Kempf, Environmental Coordinator  
U.S. Forest Service, P.O. Box 126  
Glidden, WI 54527, (715) 264-2511;

Rob Aiksnoras  
Naval Undersea Warfare Center, Code 3411  
New London, CT 06320  
(800) 669-6892, Ext. 25413; and

Robert J. Natter, Vice Admiral, U.S. Navy  
Director: Space, Information Warfare (N6)  
Office of Chief of Naval Operations  
The Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20350; or  
Attn.: Commander C.A. Znachko, (703) 601-1473.

# Rad Waste on the Move

By Bonnie Urfer

Radioactive waste is constantly on the roads, rails and seas but two planned shipments are more reckless than usual.

First, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), a load of ten irradiated fuel rods will leave Limerick, PA by truck and travel to General Electric's Vallecitos nuclear laboratory in Pleasanton, CA.

It's hard to tell which is worse, the fact that they're shipping irradiated fuel rods by truck, or that once they arrive in California they'll be inserted into another reactor to test whether the waste fuel can be re-used.

This shipment is scheduled for early 1999. The NRC isn't saying when and won't announce the shipment until 10 days after it is delivered to Pleasanton.

The truck carrying the irradiated fuel rods will have special communication systems and will travel with an armed SWAT escort. It will even have extra safe-guards to prevent

## StratCom and Pentagon Condemned

WASHINGTON, DC—The annual Faith & Resistance Retreat for the Feast of Holy Innocents took place at Holy Name School at the end of December. The retreat was organized by Baltimore's Jonah House and DC's Dorothy Day Catholic Worker. Philip Berrigan, who was recently freed from federal prison, offered the opening presentation.

On December 28, 1998, some 75 activists from the retreat gathered at the Pentagon's River Entrance to say, "Stop The Killing." A "river of blood" mixed with food dye was poured across the entry which was closed by a human blockade.

Banners commemorated the massacres at Wounded Knee, El Mozote, Hiroshima, Nagasaki and Baghdad. The group's leaflet read in part: "Today is the feast day in the Christian calendar when we commemorate the slaughter of the Holy Innocents. It is a day to remember and mourn, not only this tragic slaughter 2000 years ago, but the ongoing slaughter of the innocents around the world today. Let us...beat all the swords of our time into plowshares and stop the massacre of the innocents." Six activists were arrested by Pentagon police. Some will probably face a destruction of property charge.

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OMAHA, NB—For the same commemoration, another 30 people gathered at the gates of StratCom in Omaha, NE. StratCom is headquarters for planning, targeting and command of all U.S. nuclear weapons.

Air Force Captain Mike Richmond told the *Omaha World-Herald*, "We create peace, we keep peace and we stop wars." On the contrary, the Rev. Jack McCaslin of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Omaha said, "Somebody, somewhere along the line has to say that what comes out of here is evil. Somebody has to say this is immoral."

Seven activists trespassed and were detained on base. For the past 19 years protests, including nonviolent direct actions, have taken place at StratCom on Dec. 28. The event was organized by the Lakes & Prairies Life Community.

As Capt. Richmond mouthed Air Force support for free speech rights, his military police arrested, fingerprinted, photographed and issued each of the activists a ban-and-bar letter. All seven were eventually released.

## War Taxes Going Up

WASHINGTON, DC—President Clinton announced increases of more than \$110 billion in weapons spending over the next six years—only \$2 billion shy of what the brass had demanded in December. Clinton's proposed \$269 billion military tax for 2000, doesn't count the DOE's \$11 billion nuclear weapons bill; NASA's \$7 billion, or \$41 billion in veterans benefits.

Most of the increases would pay for redundant warplanes and nuclear submarines. Franklin Spinney, of the Pentagon's own Office of Program Analysis and Evaluation, complains that the Navy has retired usable attack submarines simply to make room for fewer, more expensive models. (After criticizing Reagan-era military spending, his office was stripped of access to budget figures.) The Center for Defense Information in Washington, DC, reports that within five years, the military's share of income taxes will be 100% of the cold war average—without the cold war! A Friends of the Earth report, *Green Scissors '99*, points to \$8.6 billion in savings that could be made next year alone, simply by cutting nine dangerous nuclear weapon and reactor programs.

In 1998, 49% of the federal budget went for military spending. Trust Funds such as Social Security are raised and spent separately from income taxes. The government practice of combining Trust and Federal Funds (the so-called "unified budget") began in the 60s during the Vietnam War. The deception makes military spending appear to be only 15% of the budget.

terrorist hijacks including instant immobility so the truck can't be moved. DOE H-bomb trucks travel the same way.

According to an NRC report, there have been some problems with the shipment. The Limerick reactor's engineers encountered "minor problems" in November when they attempted to load the ten, 12-foot long irradiated fuel rods into a shipping cask. "There were also believed to be some irregularities, so the operation was halted," according to a memo.

The fuel rods will be carried in a 23-ton NRC-certified steel shipping cask and hauled by the tractor-trailer. There have been more than 1,000 separate shipments of commercial spent fuel in the U.S. over the last 20 years.

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Second, later in the summer, those who live along the Columbia River can watch the NRC transport the reactor core from the decommissioned Trojan reactor, up river on a barge, for "disposal" at Hanford.

The Trojan reactor was shut down in November of 1992 and its irradiated fuel rods placed in cooling pools on site. The reactor facilities are supposed to be decontaminated, and all contaminated structures, components and systems dismantled.

The steel reactor core will still have all of its components and 2 million curies of radioactivity inside. The whole of it will be filled with solid concrete to keep it all in place. According to the NRC, shielding will be installed on the outside of the core as needed to ensure compliance with "allowable" external radiation dose limits.

Partly because it's only happening this one time, this shipment of the reactor core and its cladding has been given Department of Transportation Exempt status.

NRC says the shipment is expected to take about 72 hours. The 300-mile journey begins with the reactor lying horizontally on the barge as it moves up the Columbia River to the Port of Benton. At the port, the core is transferred to an overland transporter that will travel five mph for the last 30 miles to the Hanford dump site, where it will remain radioactive for hundreds of thousands of years.

## Saved for Now: Ward Valley and Sierra Blanca

The anti-nuclear movement has long known that uncontainable radioactive waste will one day lead to the demise of the nuclear industry. That day is dawning.

Activists have kept the rad-waste issue in the forefront of the nuclear debate at both Ward Valley in California and Sierra Blanca in Texas. These two struggles point to the value of public education, perseverance in resistance and holding the line against the spread of radioactive contamination.

On December 8, 1998, employees of US Ecology, Inc., the company contracted to oversee construction of the dump, accompanied by a Bureau of Land Management ranger, disassembled and removed its generator and weather station from Ward Valley. The generator is not simply turned off—it is gone, and US Ecology is closing its Needles, CA office.

Opponents of the Ward Valley project count the company's retreat as a victory. However, a US Ecology spokesman said it didn't mean they were withdrawing from the project, only that the dump siting process has been stalled for years and the cost of keeping a staff in Needles can't be justified.

The federal government owns the 1,000-acre site and agreed to transfer it to California in the 1980s. The state and American Ecology, parent company of US Ecology, have sued the Interior Department for not turning it over.

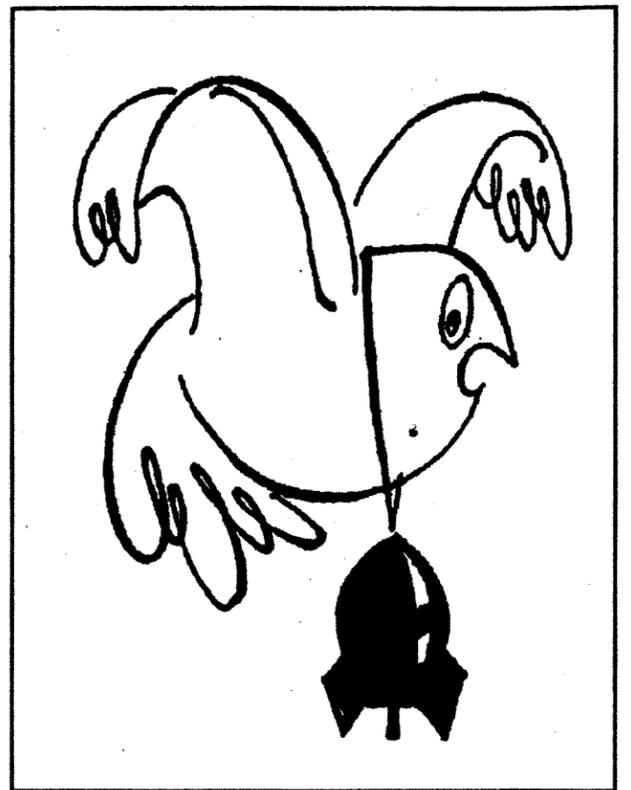
Protesters plan to continue their occupation of the site to prevent construction of the dump and subsequent contamination of the Colorado River, just 20 miles away.

Likewise, in Texas, the Board of Commissioners of the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission and the State Office of Hearing Examiners decided to deny a license to the Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority, effectively stopping the Sierra Blanca dump.

Earthquake fault lines and environmental racism were two of the obvious reasons for the license denial. But in addition to the legal battles, thousands of people can claim ownership of this victory. Mexico also played a key role in keeping the site free of radioactive waste, since the proposed dump would have been near enough to the U.S./Mexico border to have violated the international La Paz Accord.

These victories are encouraging and will serve as catalysts for the many struggles we still face. Already the produmpers in Texas are looking at Andrews County—bordering New Mexico, and outside the 60 mile La Paz Accord cleanzone—as a replacement for Sierra Blanca. And US Ecology, in California, is not yet giving up on Ward Valley.

Thanks and congratulations to the dozens of organizations and thousands of individuals that are doing the work.



## Y2k and Nuclear Reactors

WASHINGTON, DC—Nuclear reactors are dangerous enough that insurance companies refuse to sell them accident insurance. (The federal Government pretends to insure the uninsurable with the Price Anderson Act.) A potential reactor disaster could be so catastrophic that reactors aren't allowed to operate without an evacuation plan. No other industrial process—even chemical and biological engineering—carries such a heavy burden. Now, add to this risky business the Y2k threat.

A nuclear watchdog group has called on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to address three grave safety threats that reactors face in the event of year 2000 (Y2k) computer failures. However the NRC may not take the issue seriously.

The Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS), on December 10, formally petitioned the NRC to shutdown non-Y2k-ready reactors by December 1, 1999, and keep them shut until they can prove—through full testing—that they are compliant.

"The NRC so far has refused to say it will close any reactors for non-compliance," reports NIRS' *Nuclear Monitor*. The NRC has a July 1 deadline for utilities to explain their Y2k readiness, but the Commission has no plans to shut down non-compliant reactors.

Two other NIRS-proposed rules would require: 1) that nuclear reactors undergo full-scale emergency response exercises during 1999 that include a Y2k component; and 2) that utilities install additional backup power generators to ensure a steady supply of electricity to reactors in the event of loss-of-offsite-power.

NIRS reports a little-known liability of nuclear reactors: they need a steady source of electricity—even when they are shut down—to cool their cores and their irradiated waste pools. "Without this cooling ability, even closed reactors would melt down, (waste) fuel pools would boil dry and release their highly radioactive inventories," NIRS reported.

Irradiated fuel rods, fresh from the core of a reactor, are placed in huge pools of circulating cooling water. The irradiated "fuel rods" are so dangerous—because of their intense heat and radioactivity—that they must be kept in these pools for years. The cooling pools are at work near every nuclear reactor. "The NRC currently does not even require that these fuel pools have backup power," noted NIRS radioactive waste specialist Mary Olson. "We are demanding that the NRC add backup power capability and to classify these pools as safety-related and requiring cooling."

Asked March 2 about the testing of backup generators for cooling reactor cores, Michael Mariotte of NIRS was skeptical of NRC oversight. "They do tests, but the question is 'How reliable are the tests; how much fuel is on hand; how many back up generators are required? Several companies will turn on their backup generators December 30 and leave them running 'just in case,' but this too is unsafe because of overheating problems."

"The actions we are requesting are prudent, modest steps to help ensure that the Y2k computer bug does not lead to catastrophe," Mariotte said, "but the NRC doesn't like new rules and will probably say that current regulations are sufficient."

—Nuclear Information & Resource Service

# NUCLEAR SHORTS

## Governors Promote Ignorance of H-bomb Shipments

PHOENIX, AZ—After a 1996 H-bomb truck crash in rural Nebraska—and the month-long cover-up of the accident—Neb. Gov. Ben Nelson proposed formal prior warning of future nuclear weapons movements. But governors from other H-bomb states have criticized the proposal saying the notice would needlessly worry the public. Gov. Gary Johnson of New Mexico said of the idea, "We raise hysteria with these shipments that I think (is) unwarranted." [New Mexico was only told in 1986 of a 1957 accident in which an explosion and fire destroyed an H-bomb after it fell from a bomber near Kirkland AFB.] North Dakota Gov. Ed Schafer asserted, "These shipments are safe." [Minot, ND is home to 150 Minuteman-III missiles and 35 B-52 bombers, and in March 1990 an Air Force trailer carrying a Minuteman skidded off an icy road near Pisek, ND.] Gov. Jim Geringer of Wyoming—home to 150 ICBMs—said he and his family routinely watch nuclear war convoys leave Warren AFB. "We kind of take it for granted." Gov. Nelson's emergency preparedness plan was rejected by the Western Governors Association.

—Albuquerque Tribune, Dec. 5, 1998; Grand Forks Herald, Mar. 23, 1990; Fargo Forum, Aug. 28, 1986.

## Military Propaganda Base Called "Journalism School"

FORT MEADE, MD—At the new \$30 million Defense Information School here, 3,500 officers and troops are learning the fine art of public relations. The Washington Post reports that "Despite warnings ... against censorship or propaganda ... information officers must ... get out the command message, the ... angle that commanders want the public to know." Army Maj. Bob Hastings tells future public affairs officers at the "school," about "the art of speaking to reporters without saying anything..." The Post acknowledged that some troops "find it a bit hard to swallow the notion that the military should be open with information that might embarrass the government." The Defense Information School's commandant, Col. Larry Icenogle, is a PR veteran of the 1991 Persian Gulf bombardment during which the Pentagon censored all U.S. news and TV reporting.

—Minneapolis Star Tribune, Nov. 27, 1998.

## U.S. Bishops Demand "No First Use" Policy, Call Nuclear Deterrence "Morally Abhorrent"

ERIE, PA—A condemnation of U.S. nuclear weapons has been signed by more than 94 U.S. Catholic Bishops. Contrary to its conclusion, the October 1998 statement is titled: "The Morality of Nuclear Deterrence." The declaration reverses the Bishops' 1983 statement of *conditioned* moral acceptance of deterrence. The reversal says in part: "The U.S. today maintains a commitment to use nuclear weapons first, including pre-emptive nuclear attacks on nations that do not possess nuclear weapons. ... This must not be allowed. Because of the horrendous results if these weapons should be used, and what we see as a greater likelihood of their use, we now feel it is imperative to raise a clear, unambiguous voice in opposition to the continued reliance on nuclear deterrence. ... Nuclear deterrence as a national policy must be condemned as morally abhorrent because it is the excuse and justification for the continued possession and further development of these horrendous weapons."

—Pax Christi USA, October, 1998.

## Masters of War Lying about Y2K Compliance

WASHINGTON, DC—Potential computer problems known as the Year 2000 "bug" loom large for the military, which has acknowledged falsifying Y2k readiness reports. The Defense Special Weapons Agency (which is in charge of nuclear weapons security) has admitted it skipped mandatory tests on 60% of "mission critical" computer systems and then claimed the systems were compliant. The office even failed to develop required contingency plans that would take effect in the event of a failure of critical systems. In Nov., the House Government Reform and Oversight Committee gave the Pentagon a D-minus grade on its Y2k progress.

On the bright side, Republican Sen. Robert Bennett of Utah claimed that "There aren't as many people lying to us as there used to be."—USA Today, Nov. 27, 1998, p.1.

## DOE: Quaking, Water-logged Yucca Mt. Dump Still OK

JACKASS FLATS, NV—Six days after the Energy Department (DOE) announced that it had found no reason to disqualify Yucca Mt. as the government's nuclear waste dump, the area was shaken by nine earth quakes. The quakes, along with two recent studies of groundwater running into and through the 1,000-foot deep site, could signal the end of Yucca

Mt.'s viability as a dump. Although the DOE shrugged off the critical water studies in its Dec. 18 "Viability Assessment," NIRS, Public Citizen and other critics said the DOE's own assessment should disqualify the site. Data on seismic activity, volcanic activity and geothermal up-welling indicate the risk of waste explosions. "You're talking about an unimaginable catastrophe," according to Jerry Szymanski, formerly the DOE's top geologist at Yucca Mt. and now a dump opponent. He told the Washington Post, "Chernobyl would be small potatoes."

"It is outrageous that DOE will continue to study this site when their own data predicts excessive radiation exposure to citizens of our nation," said Wenonah Hauter, director of Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy Project. "We now know water can move from the waste level to wells in less than 1,000 years. This violates the Energy Department's own guidelines," said Mary Olson of NIRS.

—Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Feb. 1, 1999; Minneapolis Star Tribune, Dec. 19, 1998; Washington Post, Dec. 15, 1998.

## Germany & Canada Challenging NATO Nuclear First-Strike Policy

BERLIN—Germany and Canada suggested in November that member states should renounce their doctrine allowing NATO to make first use of nuclear weapons in war. The proposal sent U.S. and NATO military commanders into a public relations dither. The Pentagon's William Cohen attacked the proposal, saying the current first-strike policy was "sound doctrine." And a NATO delegate said, "We have 200 nuclear weapons systems in Germany, Britain, Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium....and their credibility would be undone without the first-strike option." Pentagon war planners claim that threatening the first use of nuclear weapons works as a deterrent against small, nonnuclear nations. However even the threat to use nuclear weapons against nonnuclear states is illegal, a violation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. German Defense Minister Rudolf Scharping later backed away from the no-first-strike proposal, but says Germany "is following the vision of a nuclear-weapons free world."

—New York Times, Nov. 24 and 25, and Dec. 7, 1998.

Text on a Motor Trend Stanley tools ad: 1946: Cold War begins. 1989: Cold War ends. 1995: Stanley hydraulic tools are enlisted to help keep the peace. Today, we manufacture over 200 hydraulic tools that are recognized worldwide for their power, efficiency and dependability. From mounted breakers that can destroy weapons, to tree pruners that help cultivate life. 1-800-Stanley. www.stanleyworks.com

## Chernobyl's Deteriorating "Tomb" Needs Repair Funds

KIEV, Ukraine—In December Ukrainian President Kuchma and British Prime Minister Blair appealed internationally for money to repair the crumbling concrete tomb that was hastily built around the Chernobyl reactor—site of the world's worst radiation disaster—80 miles north of here. The "sarcophagus" was designed and built in a mere five months and employed some 300,000 tons of cement. Ukrainian officials have for years warned that the sarcophagus could collapse. Last May the director of the three reactors still operating at Chernobyl, Sergei Parashin, said he was fired for publicly complaining about unsafe operations. In 1995, a European Commission study of the sarcophagus found that a second catastrophic explosion

at the wrecked reactor could happen "at any time," because pillars supporting the cement "envelope" are in danger of bursting. The 1986 explosion and fire created a lethal cloud of radioactive fallout that descended with the rain all over the world. Only \$390 million of an estimated \$758 million in repair costs has been pledged so far.—AP, Dec. 30, 1998; New York Times, May 5, 1998; The London Observer, March 26, 1995.

## Stolen Radioactive Gauges Sought

LAS VEGAS, NV—The NRC is searching for a locked metal box containing gauges with small amounts of cesium-137 and americium-241 (used for soil-testing at building sites) that was stolen from CTE Nevada, a Las Vegas engineering company. Cesium-137 has a radioactive half-life of 30 years, americium-241, about 400 years. That is, after the half-life time passes, half of the radiation remains. Both radionuclides are highly unstable and deadly. "Yes, you could get a pretty serious dose of radiation," said Breck Henderson of the local NRC office. "About 104 radioactive gauges disappear across the nation each year," Henderson said. "This stuff is at every construction site. Bulldozers run over them all the time."

—Las Vegas Sun, Feb. 2, 1999.

## Plutonium & Tritium Threatening Nevada Drinking Water

LAS VEGAS, NV—In 1996, DOE scientists revealed that plutonium from underground bomb blasts at the Nevada Test Site had contaminated well water over one mile from a blast cavity. Now, physicist Anthony Hechanova has determined that 260 of 921 underground nuclear explosions took place at or near the level of the ground water. (In 1988, the federal Office of Technology Assessment said that about 100 underground nuclear bombs were blasted in ground water.) Scientists worry that tritium, a radioactive gas spread by bomb blasts that dissolves in water, is posing a serious threat to drinking supplies and to irrigation water for crops and livestock. Because it has a half-life of about 12 years, tritium is a threat to public health for over 100 years. The federal Environmental Protection Agency says drinking a daily dose of more than 20,000 picocuries (or 2 one hundred millionths of a curie) of tritium is dangerous.

—Las Vegas Sun, Jan. 24, 1999.

## Resources

- \*CARD, Citizens for Alternatives to Radioactive Dumping, 144 Harvard SE, Albuquerque, NM 87109; (505) 266-2663.
- \*Center for Defense Information, 1779 Mass Ave., Washington DC 20036; (202) 332-0600.
- \*Citizen Alert, P.O. Box 17173, Las Vegas, NV 89114; (702) 796-5662.
- \*Citizens Watch, Tri-Valley CAREs, 5720 E. Ave., #116, Livermore, CA 94550; (510) 443-7148.
- \*Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety, 107 Clenega St., Santa Fe, NM 87501; (505) 986-1973.
- \*Green Scissors 99, \$20 from: Friends of the Earth, 1025 Vermont Ave. NW, #300, Washington, DC 20005; (202) 783-7400, ext. 229.
- \*Depleted Uranium: A Tragedy of the Commons, by C. E. Larson, Dept. of Psychology, Univ. of W. Florida, in Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology, 1996. Inquire at C. Larson, PO Box 1092, Shalimar, FL 32579.
- \*Food & Water Journal, 389 Vermont Route 215, Walden, VT 05873; (802) 563-3300.
- \*Friendly Fire: The Link Between Depleted Uranium Munitions and Human Health Risks, \$5 from: Military Toxics Project, 471 Main St., 2nd Floor, Lewiston, ME 04240; (207) 873-5091.
- \*Healing Global Wounds, P.O. Box 3518 Freedom, CA 94019-3518; (831) 661-0445; <hgw@scruznet.com>.
- \*Homeless on the Move for Equality, 1307 S. Wabash, #615, Chicago, IL 60605; (312) 435-0225.
- \*The Morality of Nuclear Deterrence, by Pax Christi Bishops in the United States, October 1998, from: Pax Christi USA, 532 W. Eighth St., Erie, PA 16502; (814) 453-4955.
- \*National Gulf War Resource Center, 1224 M ST NW, Washington, DC 20005, (202) 628-2700, ext. 162.
- \*Nuclear Information and Resource Service, 1424 16 St. NW, #404, Washington, DC 20036; (202) 328-0002; <nirsnet@igc.apc.org>.
- \*Save Ward Valley, 107 F St., Needles, CA 92363; (760) 326-6267; <swvl@ctaz.com>.
- \*Shundahai Network, (702) 647-3095; <shundahai@radix.net>; or on the web at www.shundahai.org/HGW.
- \*Sierra Blanca Legal Defense Fund, P.O. Box 18087, Austin, TX 78760; (512) 447-8906; <heart@igc.org>.
- \*The Silence is Deafening: A Report on Exposures of Persian Gulf War Veterans and Others to Depleted Uranium Munitions, by Dan Fahey, Feb. 20, 1997, from: Swords to Plowshares, 1063 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94103; (415) 252-4788.
- \*Superior Wilderness Action Network (SWAN), 2052 Carroll Ave., St. Paul, MN 55104; (651) 647-4400; <fenner@pioneerplanet.infi.net>.

# Australia Accosted by N-Waste Threat

CANBERRA, Australia—At all the proposed nuclear waste dumps in the U.S., state and federal plans face broad opposition. With over 50 years of failed waste containment schemes, the nuclear industry is desperately searching for an “out of sight, out of mind” solution. Now they’re eyeing the continent of Australia.

Robert Gallucci, dean of Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service and President Clinton’s Special Envoy on Weapons of Mass Destruction, slipped into Australia last year and caused a storm of outrage by proposing that radioactive waste from around the world be dumped there. Gallucci said Australia should consider accepting U.S. and Russian nuclear weapons waste, because of its geography and political stability. With the condescension of an emperor, Gallucci pompously told *The Australian* newspaper December 8, “If Australia could appreciate the concept and decide it was in the national interest, there would be enormous benefits for the world.”

While Gallucci said the U.S. government is aware of the plans, the White House put out word December 10 that Gallucci was not speaking as a U.S. representative. The statement said several independent, private dump proposals were being floated, none with a U.S. endorsement.

## Military Dump (WIPP) on Hold

By Margaret Carde

CARLSBAD, NM—Why hasn’t the military’s nuclear Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP) been opened?

The short answer is that despite approval from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), questions persist about whether WIPP really is safe. For example, the Department of Energy (DOE) refused to investigate suggestions that nuclear waste will escape from the deep underground site within the 10,000-year regulatory period. EPA allowed DOE to ignore these possibilities. Further, the proposal still doesn’t have a hazardous waste permit from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). NMED is the only independent regulator of DOE operations at WIPP. The state permit regulates construction, worker safety, and DOE procedures which will determine whether waste restrictions are being maintained. If a serious accident occurs, the state permit would regulate cleanup and other corrective actions.

NMED has said it will not be ready to issue a permit until mid-1999. After years of assuring New Mexicans that DOE would never open WIPP without a state permit, now DOE claims WIPP can open without it. Many people feel this problem stems from DOE’s self-imposed and unrealistic WIPP opening date projections. Congressional members and DOE officials from Idaho and Rocky Flats blame delays on environmentalists or NMED itself. But many experts familiar with this issue believe that the fault lies with the DOE’s ineptitude at characterizing waste and its false claims of readiness.

Lawsuits have been filed by New Mexico Attorney General Tom Udall, Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety and other environmental groups to prevent DOE and EPA from bypassing the legal and scientific requirements necessary to assure WIPP’s safety. One lawsuit challenges the EPA’s approval of DOE plans without investigating scenarios that show WIPP cannot contain nuclear waste for 10,000 years. The lawsuit would make EPA require that DOE “model” these very real possibilities. The timetable for this lawsuit calls for submission of arguments to the Washington, DC Court of Appeals by the end of February 1999. After that, the Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments. The Court could rule in favor of more scientific analysis and impose an injunction delaying opening until after completion of the study.

Another lawsuit against the DOE, filed by the same plaintiffs, amends an existing suit filed in 1991 in the DC Federal Court. It challenges the DOE’s authority to open WIPP without a hazardous waste permit from NMED. An existing 1991 injunction is being contested by the DOE. The timetable on this lawsuit is uncertain because, after asking the District Court to expedite its request to consider the legal issues, DOE then asked the Court to indefinitely delay ruling. The injunction now prevents the shipping of waste until DOE goes back to ask the judge to proceed.

So, why isn’t WIPP open yet? Because the DOE has not yet satisfied federal and state law and because the DOE’s scientific justification for WIPP is so problematic that the EPA certification process is under judicial review.

Margaret Carde is a Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety board member.

Gallucci’s suggestion comes from the Seattle-based British, Swiss and American company, Pangea, which has been promoting the idea of a massive, private Australian rad-waste dump with a 15-minute videotape. Australian environmentalists received a copy of the video and broke the story. The video describes how billions of dollars could be spent building ports, railways and roads for the nuclear burial ground. It’s being billed as a favorable commercial arrangement while “helping” the whole world.

Prime Minister John Howard of Australia, even though he met with Gallucci, said the issue of radioactive waste dumping never came up.

Dump planners have their eyes on the remote southwest Andamooka area of Australia. Andamooka is the center of a 67,000-square-kilometre region known as Billa Kalina, which for decades has been exploited and contaminated by the Australian government. It’s where nuclear explosives have been tested, rockets and weaponry developed, military exercises conducted, global satellite eavesdropping systems installed and uranium mining operations set up.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Industry and Resources said last December that they would not even consider becoming a dumping ground for the world’s nuclear waste.

Comments made by Gallucci, printed in Australian papers, describe the sleazy nature of the scheme. “Australia could play a pretty unique role if Australia was willing to do it. Such a role would not necessarily be at odds with Australia’s past history of promoting the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons,” Gallucci said.

## Plowshares (Continued from Cover)

### Jabiluka Uranium Mine

BRISBANE, Australia—In the early hours of August 9, 1998 (the 53rd anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki) Ciaran O’Reilly and Treena Lenthall carried out the non-violent disarmament of uranium mining equipment, an “excavator,” on Energy Resources of Australia’s Jabiluka lease in the Northern Territory of Australia.

On December 14, the pair was convicted of trespass and two counts of criminal damage. The magistrate sentenced them to the two-week mandatory sentence for criminal damage. magistrate granted credit for time served, so they weren’t returned to jail. The activists were also ordered to jointly pay court costs of \$1,415 and restitution of \$5,258—with one month to pay. The activists stated that they had no intention of paying and for that face a further 66 days imprisonment.

The trial began November 26 before Magistrate Loadman. The defendants immediately requested that Loadman disqualify himself from the case on the basis of “perceived bias.” On July 29 the magistrate had described participants in the Jabiluka Blockade as “selfish, arrogant and fascist.” Loadman made these highly prejudicial remarks in open court while sentencing blockaders who pleaded guilty to trespass at Jabiluka. Magistrate Loadman refused to disqualify himself.

Under questioning, Frank Devine, the government’s Emergency Operations Manager at the Jabiluka and Ranger uranium mines, admitted knowledge of the Chernobyl and Three Mile Island nuclear accidents. He admitted that Energy Resources of Australia sold uranium to the U.S. nuclear weapons program. When the owner of the excavator was questioned, he said it was no concern of his if the mine threatened the Mirrar aboriginal people and their lands.

Physicist Dr. Paul Dyson was called by the defense to testify to the extreme and long-lasting dangers posed by uranium ore once it is mined. Dyson also described the health and environmental threats posed by nuclear weapons and “depleted uranium” munitions. (See Page 2.)

Lenthall and O’Reilly left the court amidst cheers and a standing ovation from the gallery, as the police mistakenly took them into custody. They were quickly released and at an impromptu press conference immediately began advocating the closure of the Jabiluka Uranium mine.

### Bread Not Bombs

BARROW, Scotland—On September 13, 1998, three Swedish activists made their way to the HMS *Vengeance*, Britain’s fourth and final Trident submarine, still under construction at VSEL Barrow.

Ann-Britt Sternfeldt, Annika Spalde and Stellan Vinthagen were dismantling Trident equipment with simple household hammers when they were arrested.

The three left a statement at the scene that read, “The military force of the western world is the largest barrier to creating economic justice... We are taking this action... because nuclear weapons are a threat against all human beings and future generations. As long as nuclear weap-

The U.S.-based plans involve collecting weapons-grade radioactive waste from dismantled warheads and dumping it in a way that would prevent proliferation. Australian environmentalists say the plan is short-sighted, considering that the Australian government has been around for only 99 years. “It’s a very optimistic outlook to say Australia’s going to have a stable political life for 300,000 years. That’s just farcical,” said Larry O’Laughin, a campaigner for the Australian Conservation Foundation. The opposition Labor Party leader, Kim Beazley, said it was up to countries which develop nuclear power to deal with their waste themselves. Environmentalists also fear that a low-level dump could too easily become a high-level dump where no dump at all is wanted.

Gallucci acknowledged that such a dump could be politically impossible in the U.S. “I don’t know enough about the geology of the United States,” *The Australian* reported him rambling, “but I don’t think the politics in the U.S. would sustain (the idea).”

Australia is proposing to dump its own “low-level” radioactive waste in the remote Outback and U.S. companies like Pangea are hoping to make the dump international. The Federal Minister for Industry, Science and Resources, Nick Minchin, said December 1 that, “it is not government policy and will not be government policy to accept radioactive waste from other countries nor to accept high-level radioactive waste.” However, the Pangea plan would piggy-back on the proposed Australian government site. Australian officials are saying test drilling for its own dump is scheduled for this year. The land title is held by Western Mining Corporation, owner of a large uranium mine.

ons exist, humanity is doomed to live in fear that they will be used.”

The activists were charged with suspicion of going equipped to commit criminal damage. One of the three had begun to dismantle equipment outside the “Devonshire Hall,” or “shed,” in which HMS *Vengeance* is being constructed. All three are members of the Swedish plowshares movement and recently attended the Trident Plowshares 2000 Camp at the Coulport Trident base in Scotland.

### Gods of Metal

GREENBELT, MD—In May 1998, Kathy Shields Boylan, Sr. Carol Gilbert, Sr. Ardeth Platte, Fr. Frank Cordaro and Fr. Larry Morlan, calling their action the “Gods of Metal Plowshares,” hammered on the bomb bay doors of a B-52 bomber at an Andrews Air Force Base “open house.” They called the B-52 “the bloodiest weapon in the bloodiest century in human history.”

The five activists were sentenced on January 4 for their symbolic disarmament. Past records for each played a roll in their sentences. Larry Morlan received four months and was released January 15. Frank Cordaro, Sr. Ardeth Platte and Sr. Carol Gilbert each received six months and expect to be released March 20. Kathy Shields Boylan, who has joined five plowshares actions, received 10 months and could be released July 20. All were given credit for the time they’ve served since their September 22 trial.

The three women have been kept together and Ardeth Platte wrote Jan. 15, “We are five inside this small county jail. As you can imagine, we have learned through these many years of jailing how to make the small space sacred and how to keep minds and hearts together... Letters have come from Finland, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Scotland, England, Australia, Taiwan and most states in the union.”

### Aldermaston Trash Trident

BARROW, Scotland—On February 1, Rosie James and Rachel Wenham, from the Aldermaston Women Trash Trident affinity group, swam 300 meters through cold filthy water at Barrow, Scotland dockyard to board the Trident HMS *Vengeance*. They hung a banner on the conning tower: “Women Want Peace,” and painted “Illegal Death Machine” and peace and women’s symbols on the hull. They also smashed equipment on the conning tower.

Three others, Janet Kilburn, Helen Harris & Louise Wilder, were arrested when they delivered food and dry clothing to the wet-suited swimmers at the Barrow Police Station. The police implied in court that the three supporters had been in the shipyard, and all five have been jointly charged with criminal damage to the submarine valued at £25,000. The women appeared at Barrow Magistrates Court March 2 where bail conditions were eased and four were released. Rachel Wenham remained in Risley prison pending an April 27 court hearing.

Members of Trident Plowshares 2000 campaign have pledged to rid the UK of its illegal weapons of mass destruction by the year 2000, by means of open, accountable and non-violent direct disarmament.

# Calendar of Events

## March

**26-28—One Step, Then Another. Lenten Desert Experience XVIII.** Holy Week walkers and supporters gather Palm Sunday weekend at St. James Church in Las Vegas. Early prayer service on Sunday at the DOE starts the 65-mile walk to the Nevada Test Site. Walkers arrive on Good Friday, April 2, for the Nuclear Stations of the Cross at the Mercury gate with 2-day encampment to follow. **Contact:** NDE, P.O. Box 4487, Las Vegas, NV 89127.

## April

**24-25—The Nuclear Weapons Abolition Days Network is calling for an international weekend of inspections of nuclear weapon related sites on the weekend of the NATO summit.** NATO will plan its future policies in this summit, which will take place in Washington D.C. on the 50th anniversary of the alliance. **Contact:** For Mother Earth International, Lange Steenstraat 16-d 9000 Gent, Belgium; **Phone & Fax:** +32-9-233-8439; **E-mail:** [international@motherearth.org](mailto:international@motherearth.org); **Website:** <http://www.motherearth.org/>

**30-May 2—Lakes and Prairies Life Community Gathering.** Sugar Creek Bible Camp in Ferryville, WI. **Contact:** Gail Vaughn; **Phone:** (608) 734-3037; **Email:** [vaughn@mail.uwlax.edu](mailto:vaughn@mail.uwlax.edu).

## May

**1-4—Close the School of the Americas in Washington, DC.** White house rally: Saturday May 1, Noon to 5 p.m.; Pentagon Vigil and Civil Disobedience: Monday, May 3, 7 a.m. (south entrance); Nonviolence Training: (required for risking arrest), Sunday May 2, 2 to 7 p.m., Church of the Reformation, 222 East Capitol Street N; Lobby Days: May 3-4, 10:00 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Benefit Concert with Pete Seeeger, Odetta, Jon Fromer, Grupo Morazan, Indigo Girls & Bonnie Rait on Saturday May 1, 8 p.m. **Contact:** SOA Watch, P.O. Box 4566, Washington, DC 20017; **Phone:** (202) 234-3440.

**7-9—Mothers' Day Weekend at Anathoth Community Farm and Project ELF.** Camping, speakers, music, pot-luck meals, tours, caravan to Project ELF on Sunday. **Contact:** Anathoth, 740 Round Lake Rd, Luck, WI 54853; **Phone:** (715) 472-8721; [anathoth@win.bright.net](mailto:anathoth@win.bright.net) or Nukewatch (715) 472-4185; [nukewatch@win.bright.net](mailto:nukewatch@win.bright.net)

**7-10—"Love Your Mother" gathering at the Nevada Test Site.** **Contact:** Healing Global Wounds, P.O. Box 420, Tecopa, CA 92389; **Phone:** Jennifer Viereck (760) 852-4175; **Email:** [hgw@scruznet.com](mailto:hgw@scruznet.com); **Website:** [www.shundahai.org/HGW](http://www.shundahai.org/HGW).

**11-30—Nuclear Disarmament International Peace Conference and "2000 Walk for Nuclear Disarmament."** Walk

from the UN International Court of Justice in the Hague, Netherlands to NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. 13-16 miles per day for 16 days. **Contact:** For Mother Earth Int'l, Lange Steenstraat 16-d, 9000 Gent, Belgium, **Phone:** +32-9-233-8439; **Email:** [international@motherearth.org](mailto:international@motherearth.org) or **Contact:** Karina Wood, U.S. outreach coordinator, **Email:** [kwood@igc.org](mailto:kwood@igc.org); **Website:** [www.haguepeace.org](http://www.haguepeace.org).

**15-16—Trident Ploughshares 2000.** Nonviolent Direct Action against Trident in Coulport, Scotland at the Faslane Peace Camp. **Contact:** Trident Ploughshares 2000, 42-46 Bethel Street, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 1NR; **Phone:** (01603) 611953; **Email:** [reforest@gn.apc.org](mailto:reforest@gn.apc.org).

**24—Women's Disarmament Action at Y12 in Oak Ridge, TN.** **Contact:** OREPA, 100 Tulsa Rd, Suite 4A, Oak Ridge, TN 37830; **Phone:** (423) 483 8202; **Email:** [orep@igc.org](mailto:orep@igc.org).

## June

**Three Weeks—Explore Alternatives to Violence.**

Learning Harmony With the Lakota/Dakota, Unlearning the Disharmony of Racism. Outdoor group living and learning in four different reservation communities. **Contact:** Nonviolent Alternatives, 825 4th St., Brookings SD 57006; **Phone:** (605) 692-3680 or (605) 692-8465; **Email:** [carlek56@hotmail.com](mailto:carlek56@hotmail.com).

**10-13—10th Annual Protecting Mother Earth Conference.** Dine' CARE hosts this years gathering in Laguna and Acoma Pueblo in New Mexico. Includes workshops on various environmental issues. Camping, sacred fire, trainings and more. **Contact:** Indigenous Environmental Network, P.O. Box 485, Bemidji, MN 56619-0485; **Phone:** (218) 751-4967.

**18-20—Midwest Renewable Energy Fair at the Portage County Fairgrounds in Amherst, WI.** Energy efficient construction, renewable energy systems and sustainable living workshops. **Contact:** MIREA, P.O. Box 249, Amherst, WI 54406; **Phone:** (715) 824-5166; **Fax:** (715) 824-5300; **Website:** [www.the-mrea.org](http://www.the-mrea.org).

**21—World Peace & Prayer Day 1999.** All nations are called to embrace peace and balance. Come together in prayer for world peace and global healing in Costa Rica, or at your sacred site. Let us know of your gathering by signing our log at the web site. **Contact:** P.O. Box 421, Spearfish, SD 57783; **Email:** [mosa@rapidnet.com](mailto:mosa@rapidnet.com); **website:** [www.worldpeaceday.com/1999](http://www.worldpeaceday.com/1999).

**20—Father's Action for Peace at the Y12 Plant in Oak Ridge, TN.** **Contact:** OREPA, 100 Tulsa Rd, Suite 4A, Oak Ridge, TN 37830; **Phone:** (423) 483 8202; **Email:** [orep@igc.org](mailto:orep@igc.org).

## July

**6-8—Gathering and Nonviolent Action at Michigan Project ELF Transmitter.** Accommodations in cabins or your tent near Marquette, MI Friday & Saturday. Sunday gathering at Project ELF near Republic Michigan. **Contact:** Laurentian Sheild, **Phone:** (715) 364-8533; **Email:** [laurentn@cpinternet.com](mailto:laurentn@cpinternet.com).

**6-9—International War Tax Resistance Conference.** Redirect our federal income tax dollars from war to peace in Washington, DC. **Contact:** National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, P.O. Box 774, Monroe, ME 04951; **Phone:** (207) 525-7774.

## August

**6—Hiroshima Day observance at Y12.** Grand Finale of the year's events in Oak Ridge, TN. **Contact:** OREPA, 100 Tulsa Rd, Suite 4A, Oak Ridge, TN 37830; **Phone:** (423) 483-8202; **Email:** [orep@igc.org](mailto:orep@igc.org).

**3-8—Tromp Trident Trek III: 52-mile Peace Walk & Hiroshima and Nagasaki Commemoration, from Ashland, WI to Project ELF.** Camping, community-building, nonviolent direct action, evening discussions. **Contact:** Nukewatch, P.O. Box 649, Luck, WI 54853; **Phone:** (715) 472-4185; **Email:** [nukewatch@win.bright.net](mailto:nukewatch@win.bright.net); **Fax:** (715) 472-4184.

## October

**29-Nov. 1—Building the Peace and Justice Movement. Youth and Elders Speak: The Nonviolent Path.** Gala opening, discussions, music & performance, nonviolent resistance history, nonviolence training, and nonviolent civil resistance at Alliant Tech. **Contact:** Marv Davidov, Midwest Institute for Social Transformation, 2615 Park Ave., Apt. 404, Minneapolis, MN 55407; **Phone:** (612) 874-7715.



## New Nukewatch T-Shirts & Note Cards

"Nuclear Free, Naturally"  
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# Mock Waste Cask Tour

LAS VEGAS, NV—Join the parade! Citizen Alert's life-sized mock nuclear waste cask is hitting the road June 1 through July 28, 1999 and proves to be a dynamic backdrop for press conferences, rallies, demonstrations, parades, concerts and street theater, combined with town meetings and nonviolent direct action trainings. The nation-wide tour expects to mobilize local activist communities and help strengthen citizen input on national nuclear waste policies.

Initial sponsors include Citizen Alert, the Shundahai Network and Nuclear Information and Resource Service.

The 1998 Nuclear Waste Policy Act was narrowly defeated, keeping thousands of shipments of high-level nuclear waste from heading to temporary storage on Western Shoshone land in Nevada.

The "Don't Waste America! No More Mobile Chernobyl's" Nuclear Waste Transportation Corridor Tour will make stops at: Albuquerque, Amarillo, Boulder, Cheyenne, Chicago, Denver, Des Moines, Flagstaff, Indianapolis, Kansas City, Kingman, Las Vegas, Little Rock, Los Alamos, Los Angeles, Louisville, Madison, Memphis, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Nashville, Needles, Oklahoma City, Salt Lake, Santa Fe and St. George.

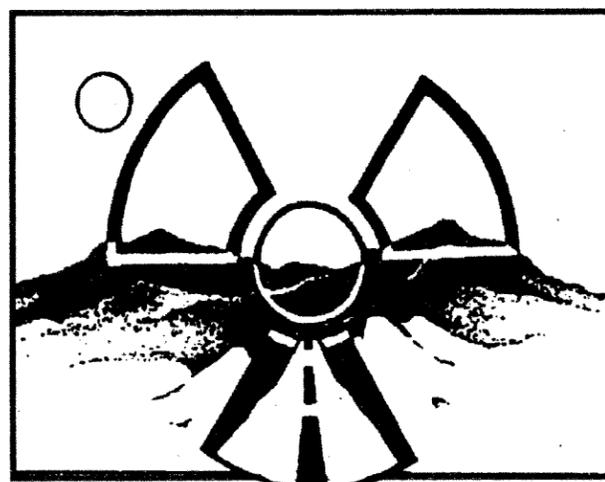
These towns and cities are all along the planned nuclear waste "corridors." In the past, these tours have helped to focus local media attention on nuclear issues and inspire people to become actively involved through education, organization, cultural networking and action planning. Organizers help others realize the relationship between nuclear weapons, nuclear energy and nuclear waste. The nuclear chain, including trans-

portation and storage, effects all communities but especially low-income communities, minority groups and Native Americans.

The "Don't Waste America" caravan includes an RV, the mock nuclear waste cask and one van complete with equipment, speakers, meeting facilitators, trainers, musicians and educators. The caravan carries enough signs, banners, costumes and props for your community's creative events.

Please endorse and make use of the "Don't Waste America" corridor tour. Help publicize the tour and involve your community.

**Contact:** Reinard Knutsen <http://www.shundahai.org/> or Susi Snyder, Shundahai Network (702) 647-3095. [shundahai@shundahai.org](mailto:shundahai@shundahai.org)

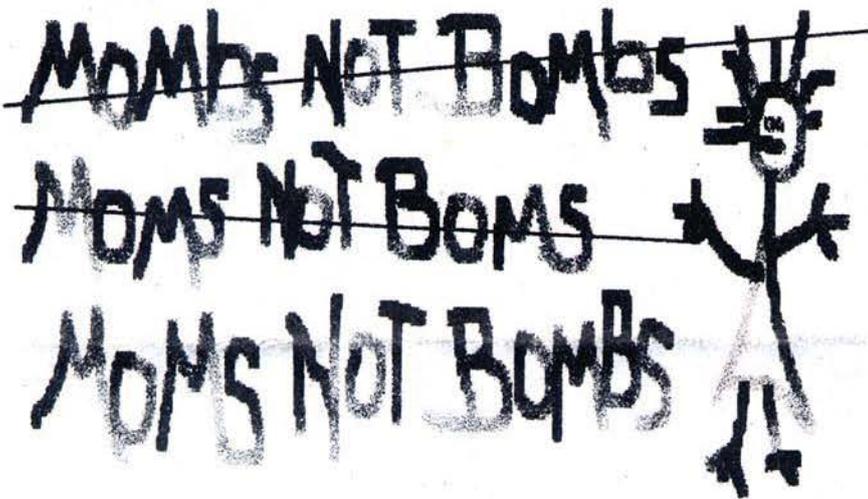


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