

# NUKEWATCH

# PATHFINDER

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## International Crime, Not War

By Tom Barry and Martha Honey

America is living through a tragedy of unprecedented depth. Our might—military and economic—has been targeted, and our vulnerability exposed. We are shocked, outraged, determined to respond. Yet we awake to a new day sickened by the cruelty and insanity of this political violence—and uncertain if we, too, want blood on our hands.

Will vengeance, even when guided by the best of America's surgical strike technology, ease this tragedy and end the cycle of terror? Upon reflection and based on past experience, we know better.

The crime was horrific. [Not since the Civil War] have so many Americans died from violence on a single day. It felt and looked like war. Our national security came under direct attack, and the resulting carnage was comparable to the worst of war—Pearl Harbor, firebombing of Dresden, Cambodia, and Normandy. President Bush and Secretary of State Powell have called the crashes “acts of war.” But having four commercial airliners commandeered by political fanatics is not war, it is international terrorism, albeit at its worst. No nation [has] declared war on the United States. In terms of intent and character, the political violence in Washington and New York bears more similarity to the terrorist bombing of the federal building in Oklahoma City than to Pearl Harbor. Sept. 11 certainly was a day of infamy, but it was not—and should not be—the beginning of war.

America and all nations concerned about peace, justice, and dignity will need to respond. But the response should be deliberate, just and humane. In the past, the



Photo by Shawn Baldwin, Associated Press, Sept. 12, 2001

On Sept. 11, terrorists—using planeloads of people as weapons—crashed into the Pentagon and the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center (above), leaving thousands dead. It was the worst act of terrorism on U.S. soil in history. With deep sadness and heartfelt sympathy for the victims and their families, even for the perpetrators, we at Nukewatch hope everyone will reject the government's vengeful and unreflective threats of violence against unknown individuals and even whole countries.

U.S. has responded to terrorist attacks with military strikes that were misdirected, mistakenly targeted and counterproductive. The 1986 bombing raids on two Libyan cities, the bombing of a Baghdad neighborhood in 1993 in response to rumors of a planned assassination attempt on former President Bush, and most recently the air strike on a Sudanese pharmaceutical plant mistakenly believed to be a chemical weapons factory associated with Osama bin Laden, are three cases that should remind us of the folly—and terrorism—of vengeful retaliatory strikes.

Talk by our leaders of war and retribution, while possibly boosting our patriotic spirit, is dangerous and irrespon-

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# International Crime, Not War

Continued From Cover

sible. The politics of vengeance will do little to protect us, and will only fuel more terrorism.

We need to mourn, bury our dead, and move on—but not to business and foreign policy as usual. What's needed now is a new U.S. resolve to address—and not simply react to—the causes of political violence in the post-cold war world. Our president's father promised at the onset of the Persian Gulf War to establish a "new world order," but it's a promise that has gone unfulfilled. Instead, over the past decade we have seen rising global disorder and conflict. Rather than gathering the world's nations together to address the scourges of international terrorism, ethnic and religious conflicts, and the polarization of poor and wealthy nations, the U.S. has relinquished its leadership role. Arrogance, unilateralism, isolationism, and imperialism are the terms now commonly used by the international press and scholars to describe the U.S. role in global affairs.

The attack on America's centers of power was an extremist reaction to what is perceived as a new world order where only the U.S. calls the shots. But it was, first and foremost, a crime against all humanity. If there is to be justice in this incident and if there is to be the rule of law in international affairs, the U.S. should seek the solace and support of the international community. Despite differences with U.S. foreign policy, especially in the conflicted Middle East, nations around the world have been quick to express their own outrage and willingness to join with America to fight and reduce the causes of international terrorism.

As Americans deliberate an effective response to this tragedy and crime, we must first reject the call for war. The gauntlet goading us to militaristic responses that treat human life as callously as the terrorists treated ours must be categorically rejected. As with any other crime, the perpetrators and their accomplices must be brought to justice—in the courts of law, not according to the fundamentalist "eye-for-an-eye, tooth-for-a-tooth" precepts. In recent years, we have made encouraging progress in establishing and enforcing international norms for human rights and crimes against humanity. This is an opportunity to forge a broader international coalition—bringing disparate nations together in a common determination to fight against such crimes against humanity. A first principle, then, must be that we treat this as an international crime, not an act of war, and that the rules of law should guide international response.

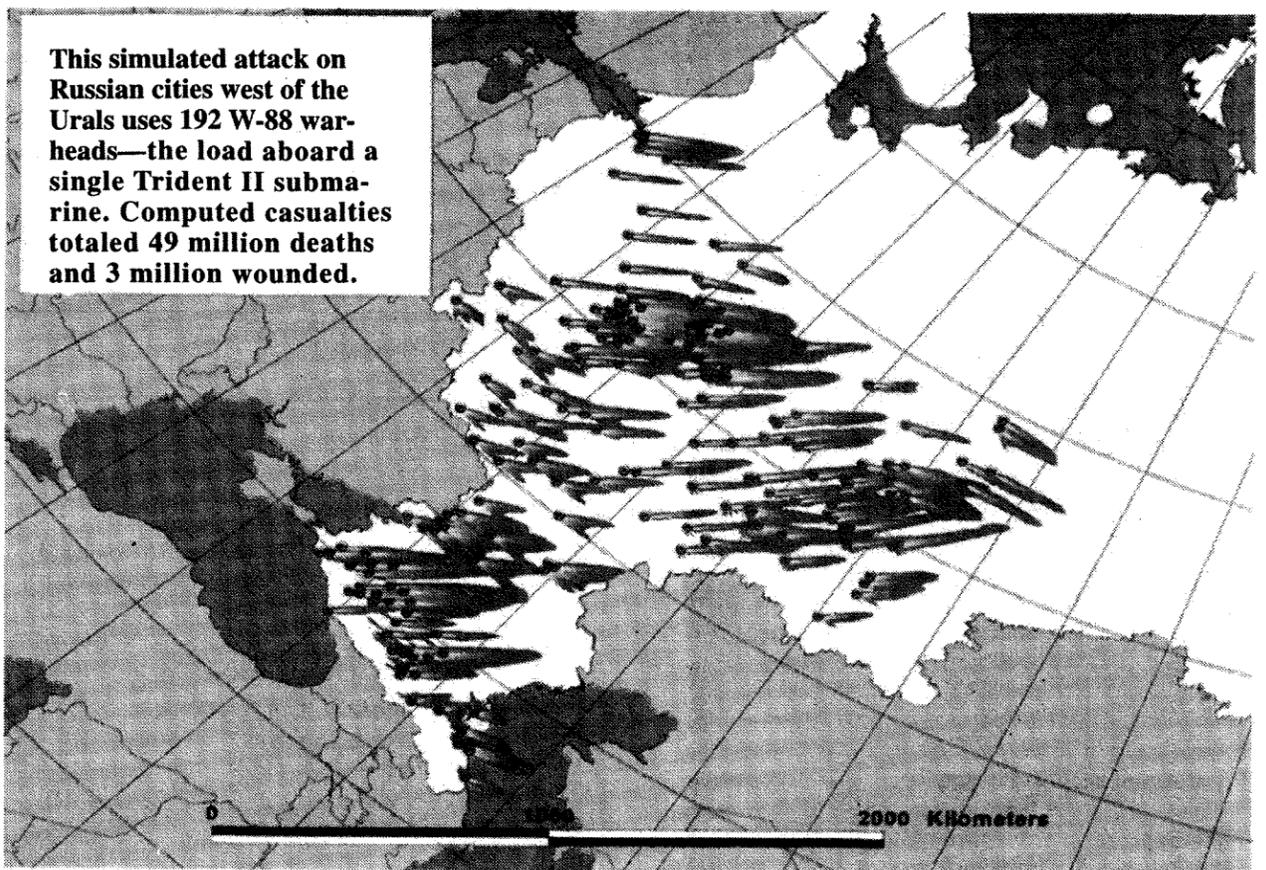
A second principle that should guide U.S. policy is that our investigation, pursuit, and prosecution should as much as possible count on consultation with and the cooperation of the world community of nations. Any government suspected of harboring or otherwise aiding these international terrorists should answer to concerted international pressure, not just American outrage. If indeed military action is deemed necessary, it should carry the approval of the UN Security Council—otherwise the U.S. too will be violating the basic principles of international law.

While charting the appropriate response, the U.S. government must also begin the long-overdue task of formulating a security policy that truly protects Americans from new global threats. As critics have insisted, the Bush administration's promise that a national missile defense system would protect us looks increasingly hollow. If terrorists want to attack us, they can do so from our own soil and with our own aircraft. Our politicians would dishonor the dead, however, if they focused the new security debate solely on issues of intelligence reform and defense technology. More fundamentally, the U.S. needs to take a hard look at the policies and political structures that fan the flames of terrorism—to understand why such anger in the Middle East and elsewhere is directed at America. The task of forging a security policy not just on our response capability but also on addressing the new causal factors for war and terrorism is surely America's greatest challenge—and our success will be the true measure of our character.

Terrorism is mainly the weapon of the politically weak, frustrated ideologues, and religious fanatics. The U.S. should not retaliate in kind—not allowing any compulsion for revenge or the affirmation of U.S. military might to divert America from its moral principles and global leadership responsibilities.

**Tom Barry of the Interhemispheric Resource Center and Martha Honey of the Institute for Policy Studies are codirectors of Foreign Policy In Focus.**

This simulated attack on Russian cities west of the Urals uses 192 W-88 warheads—the load aboard a single Trident II submarine. Computed casualties totaled 49 million deaths and 3 million wounded.



Source: Natural Resources Defense Council

## One Trident Sub Can Kill 49 Million

By Brian Watson

As I write these words, I struggle to honor the lives of the millions of people in the sights of Trident—to not lose the *individual people* under numbers of dead that make my mind reel. One Trident sub is capable of inflicting 52 million casualties, with 49 million of those being deaths.

I learned this from a report recently produced by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) that, for the first time ever, has brought to the public a graphic analysis of the secret U.S. plan for nuclear war. As part of their "Nuclear War Simulation Project," the NRDC made a computer program that shows the effects of different likely nuclear war scenarios. The analysis is titled, "The U.S. Nuclear War Plan: A Time for Change," and is available on the NRDC website or in the July/August issue of *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* magazine.

What are those scenarios exactly? Except for a few military officers at Strategic Command (Stratcom) and the Pentagon, nobody, not even senior members of Congress, really knows. The plan that dictates how U.S. nuclear weapons are to be used, and what their effects would be, is called the Single Integrated Operational Plan, or SIOP, and it is one of the most heavily guarded secrets in the U.S.

After looking over NRDC's computer-modeled, educated guess about the nature of SIOP, I can see why. If the public not only knew, but could see in a graphic way, the astonishing devastation caused by just a handful of our nuclear weapons, they would be as horrified, outraged, and sick as I am now. The public would not tolerate the kind of insane annihilation deliberately calculated in SIOP. We would begin to ask some hard questions about our nuclear arsenal and would start to wake up from the deep nuclear sleep we've been in.

## Irradiated Meat Sales Flop in Fla. & Wisc. Major Chain & Producer Dump Zapped Beef Patties

**"There's been absolutely no customer acceptance"**

By John LaForge

Citing poor sales and low consumer interest, over 80 grocery stores and meat markets in Florida and Wisconsin that began selling irradiated ground beef last year have pulled the products from their shelves, marking a major test-market failure for the irradiation industry. Also, one of the first major meat packers to sell irradiated hamburgers in the U.S. has stopped making the products.

In addition, the giant retailers Wal-Mart and Publix have backed out of deals to sell Colorado Boxed Beef's (of Auburndale, Florida meat packer) irradiated ground beef, an official from the company told Public Citizen in Washington. And, despite claims of increased sales, the stock price of a major California irradiation company has fallen by more than 50% since May.

"Consumers are voting with their dollars, and irradiated food is losing by a landslide," said Wenonah Hauter, director of Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy and Environment Program, a leading watchdog and critic of food irradiation.

In Florida, all six independently owned grocery stores and meat markets that started selling irradiated hamburger

What kind of destruction are we talking about? Let's look at a couple of scenarios from the NRDC study. The first is a U.S. nuclear first strike against Russian nuclear forces, which many experts believe is close to the nuclear war plan in SIOP. In this scenario, 1,289 nuclear warheads were "launched" at Russian missile fields, naval and air bases, and command/control/communication centers from four fully loaded Trident subs and from all ground-based Minuteman III missiles. The attack would take about 30 minutes and would destroy or seriously damage almost all of Russia's nuclear forces. The effect on people: casualties would range between 11 and 17 million, of which 8 to 12 million would be deaths. In this scenario, by the way, civilians are not the objects of the attack. Even so, millions of people still die.

The second scenario is of a nuclear attack that deliberately targets civilians by launching nuclear warheads at cities. In this scenario 192 separate 475-kiloton W88 warheads from *one* Trident submarine, were "launched" against Russian cities. With prevailing wind patterns carrying radioactive fallout for hundreds of miles, the NRDC calculated that 52 million casualties would be the result, of which 49 million would be fatalities. The warheads used in this scenario represent less than 3% of the current U.S. nuclear arsenal.

The NRDC study runs other nuclear war scenarios as well, with varying results that are all nonetheless horrifying. This study is a remarkable glimpse into what our military leaders likely have planned in SIOP. If we dare to look into this abyss, what we see will transform our thinking about nuclear war.

Brian Watson is a peace activist and editor of *Ground Zero*, the newsletter of Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in Poulsbo, Wash., where this article first appeared.

patties last year have pulled the products from their shelves. "For us to carry an item, we actually have to sell the stuff—but it didn't sell," one store owner told Public Citizen. The six stores were purchasing irradiated beef from Colorado Boxed Beef. The company made headlines in June 2000 with its "New Generation" line of [frozen] irradiated hamburger patties.

Likewise, the *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* reported in July that the 80-store Pick 'n Save chain in Wisconsin has stopped selling frozen irradiated hamburger patties. "There's been absolutely no customer acceptance," said David Busch, spokesman for Roundy's, Inc., the grocery wholesaler and owner of Pick 'n Save supermarkets in Wisconsin.

The newspaper stated that "interest in the so-called "safer" meat is virtually nonexistent in the Milwaukee area," despite last year's E. coli outbreak that killed a 3-year-old girl and sickened dozens of other people.

Pick 'n Save had been selling ground beef products irradiated by SureBeam and sold by Emmepak Foods of Milwaukee. SureBeam, an affiliate of the giant San Diego-based defense contractor Titan Corp., is devoted solely to irradiating food.

Based in San Diego, SureBeam is one of the nation's largest and most high profile food irradiation companies. Its

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## Workers, Troops & Targeted Countries Hit with Plutonium

Thousands more people than anticipated were exposed to the plutonium that fouled vast amounts of uranium used by the U.S. nuclear weapons program over the past 50 years, reports Peter Eisler, in *USA Today*, June 25, 2001.

New federal studies indicate that U.S. nuclear weapons workers and troops—and, by implication, people attacked with depleted uranium (DU) weapons—had their odds of developing cancer and other ailments increased because the uranium-238 was contaminated with highly radioactive fission products from inside nuclear reactors. (See chart, right)

Of the 720,000 tons of U-238 now stored in the U.S., about 250,000 tons are now thought to be tainted with plutonium, etc., twice the government's earlier estimate.

*USA Today* also found that the recycled uranium was shipped out to 10 times the number of places revealed previously—to about 100 government, industry and university sites, and to at least 50 U.S. military bases, foreign and domestic—and that the Pentagon covered up news of the contamination for a year.

Plutonium-239 is 200,000 times more radioactive than ordinary U-238, but the Pentagon repeats glib assurances. In 2000, Eisler reports, the Army said, "the presence of these trace radionuclides in armor is safe." Last Feb. 3, the AP reported, "U.S. officials have said the shells contained mere traces of plutonium, not enough to cause harm." NATO authorities said Feb. 13, "traces of ... plutonium ... were not relevant to soldiers' health because of their minute quantities."

But according to health physicist and former government scientist Dr. Donald Geesaman, plutonium, "...is carcinogenic to animals in microgram quantities [a millionth of an ounce]. The...lung cancer risk...is unknown to orders of magnitude. Present plutonium standards are certainly irrelevant."

Italy said in August that its soldiers afflicted with cancer after being in the Balkans—and potentially exposed to some of the three tons of DU used there by U.S. jets—will be awarded medical compensation. But in July, the U.S. Veterans Affairs Dept. told our vets there is "no basis to establish a presumption of service connection for any disease" resulting from the Persian Gulf bombing, where 320 tons of DU were spent. JL

## Irradiated Meat Sales Flop in Fla. & Wis.

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clients include Cargill/Excel, Del Monte, Kraft, IBP, Omaha Steaks and Tyson Foods. SureBeam "treats" food with linear accelerators originally designed for the Reagan-era Strategic Defense Initiative, or "Star Wars" program.

Between May and August, SureBeam's stock plummeted from \$19.45 a share to \$8.55. Despite claims by several companies that their irradiated food products are selling well, no company has made its sales figures public. The *Journal-Sentinel* also reported that Emmepak, one of SureBeam's first clients, has stopped producing irradiated beef altogether.

Sentry Food Stores in Wisconsin still carry irradiated frozen patties.

Few irradiated food items are being sold even though the FDA legalized the irradiation of wheat in 1963, potatoes in 1964, spices in 1983, pork in 1985, fruit and vegetables in 1986, poultry in 1990, red meat in 1997, and eggs last year. Public opinion polls show that a vast majority of Americans do not want to eat irradiated food.

### Food Irradiators Resort to False Advertising: Call Irradiation "Pasteurization"

#### Complaint against SureBeam is the Fourth Filed This Year against Food Irradiators

In June, Public Citizen and the Center for Food Safety filed a false advertising complaint with the Federal Trade Commission against the SureBeam Corp., a recently spun-off subsidiary of Titan Corp., the giant military contractor—a prominent irradiation company whose Internet advertisements have told consumers that its food products have been "electronically pasteurized" instead of irradiated.

The nuclear and meat industries have a problem with their food irradiation plans: Consumers have not been buying meat with the mandatory label "Treated with irradiation" or "Treated by irradiation."

Timothy Willard, a spokesman for the National Food Processors Association, which represents the \$460 billion-a-year industry, told the Milwaukee *Journal-Sentinel* that current labels are "intimidating." "It's perceived [by consumers] as warning them about this, rather than being informational in nature," he said. "We are very hopeful they will come up with an alternative."

## Depleted Uranium Spiked With Plutonium, Etc.

The fission products below—created inside nuclear reactors—are now known to be mixed with the uranium-238 used in depleted uranium munitions. Three hundred tons of DU were shot into Iraq and Kuwait in the 1991 bombardment; three tons into Bosnia in 1995; and ten tons into Kosovo in 1999. Of the roughly 720,000 tons of DU available to weapons merchants, some 250,000 tons is now known to be spiked with these and other extremely radioactive, toxic and long-lived isotopes.

ISOTOPE	RADIOACTIVE HALF-LIFE	RADIATION EMITTED	CRITICAL ORGANS	SPECIAL CHARACTERISTICS
Americium-241	432.2 years	alpha & gamma	bone & lung	Created only in reactors where uranium is bombarded with neutrons
Americium-243	7,370 years	alpha & gamma	bone & lung	Created only in reactors; decays to the more radioactive Pu-239
Neptunium-237	2.14 million years	alpha & gamma		Created only in reactors
Neptunium-239	2.35 days	beta & gamma		Created only in reactors; decays to Pu-239
Uranium-236	24 million years	alpha & gamma	kidneys, lung, liver	Created only in reactors
Uranium-238	4.5 billion yrs	alpha	kidneys, lung, liver	Created only in reactors
Plutonium-239 (Pu-239)	24,110 yrs	alpha	lymph, liver, lung, gonads & bone	Created only in reactors; 200,000 times more radioactive than uranium-238
Plutonium-238 (Pu-238)	88 yrs	alpha	lymph, liver, lung, gonads & bone	Created only in reactors; 300 times as radioactive as Pu-239

Sources: *Plutonium: Deadly Gold of the Nuclear Age*, by IPPNW & IEER, 1992, International Physicians Press, Cambridge; *Low-Level Radiation and Immune System Damage: An Atomic Era Legacy*, by Joseph J. Mangano, 1999, Lewis Publishers, New York; *The Menace of Atomic Energy*, by Ralph Nader & John Abbotts, 1979, WW Norton, New York; *No Immediate Danger: Prognosis for a Radioactive Earth*, by Rosalie Bertell, 1985, The Women's Press; "The Yellow Pages," 4th Ed., 1994, by Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, Takoma Park, MD; "After the Dust Settles" by Steve Fetter & Frank von Hippel, *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, Dec. 1999; "Groundswell," Nuclear Information & Resource Service, Spring 1989.

So, under heavy industry pressure, Congress last year directed the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to come up with label alternatives that do not "give rise to inappropriate consumer anxiety."

The industry wants to replace the word "irradiation" with "electronic pasteurization" or "cold pasteurization."

"The industry is hell-bent on consumer deception," said Tony Corbo of Public Citizen.

"Comparing irradiation to pasteurization is like comparing a heart attack to a hang nail," said Wenonah Hauter, director of Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy and Environment Program. "SureBeam must immediately stop flouting the law."

Earlier this year, Public Citizen filed complaints with both the FDA and the Federal Trade Commission against Huisken Meats, Inc. of Chandler, Minn. for false advertising on its web site, and against Omaha Steaks for not informing consumers in its catalog that its meat patties were irradiated. The consumer group has also demanded a recall of all of Huisken's mislabeled irradiated meat patties. Huisken has used the phrase, "Irradiated for food safety," when current law requires the label "Treated with irradiation" or "Treated by irradiation."

On the bright side, Peter Jenkins, an attorney and policy analyst with the Center for Food Safety, told Nukewatch Sept. 13, "The FDA is very unlikely to adopt congressional recommendations to euphemize the labeling."

"FDA focus groups who studied the question were unanimous in rejecting the proposed changes," Jenkins said. "Public comments and opinion polls uniformly oppose any changes in labeling."

### Officials Have Ignored Peer-Reviewed Research Indicating that Irradiated Food Could Pose Health Risks to Consumers

The Center for Food Safety and Public Citizen filed formal comments with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) opposing industry plans to significantly broaden the types of food that can be irradiated and increase irradiation doses. The groups charged the officials with overlooking substantial evidence that irradiated food is not safe for human consumption and urged further research before more irradiated food goes on sale.

The FDA is currently considering five industry propos-



als that would legalize the irradiation of "ready-to-eat" foods (which represent more than a third of the typical Americans' diet)—such as prepared meals, baby food, deli meats and pre-cut salads—and other major items in the U.S. food supply, such as shellfish.

The groups filed formal comments opposing industry proposals that would:

- # Legalize the irradiation of ready-to-eat foods;
- # Legalize the irradiation of crustacean shellfish, such as crabs, lobsters and shrimp;
- # Legalize the irradiation of molluscan shellfish, such as clams, oysters and scallops;
- # Legalize the irradiation of a variety of processed meats and byproducts, such as beef tongues, hearts and other internal organs (though irradiation does not kill the pathogen that causes mad cow disease); and
- # More than double the allowed radiation dose for poultry.

"Food irradiation is a vast uncontrolled experiment using millions of Americans as guinea pigs," said Center for Food Safety Executive Director Andrew Kimbrell. "Given the growing scientific evidence of potential genetic damage to consumers and their future children from irradiated foods, expansion of this technology would be unconscionable."

The consumer groups told the FDA that more than one-third of the peer-reviewed studies that looked at the question of genetic damage caused by consuming irradiated food showed genetic damage in animals, humans or cell cultures.

Additionally, FDA officials ignored recent revelations concerning a chemical—which does not naturally occur in any food—that is formed when certain meats, fruit, eggs and other foods are irradiated. This chemical—called 2-dodecylcyclobutanone (or 2-DCB)—has caused genetic damage in rats fed the substance and in human cell cultures exposed to it. The researchers who made this discovery have urged caution and said that further experiments are needed.

# The Vatican, Project ELF and Cancer

By Bonnie Urfer

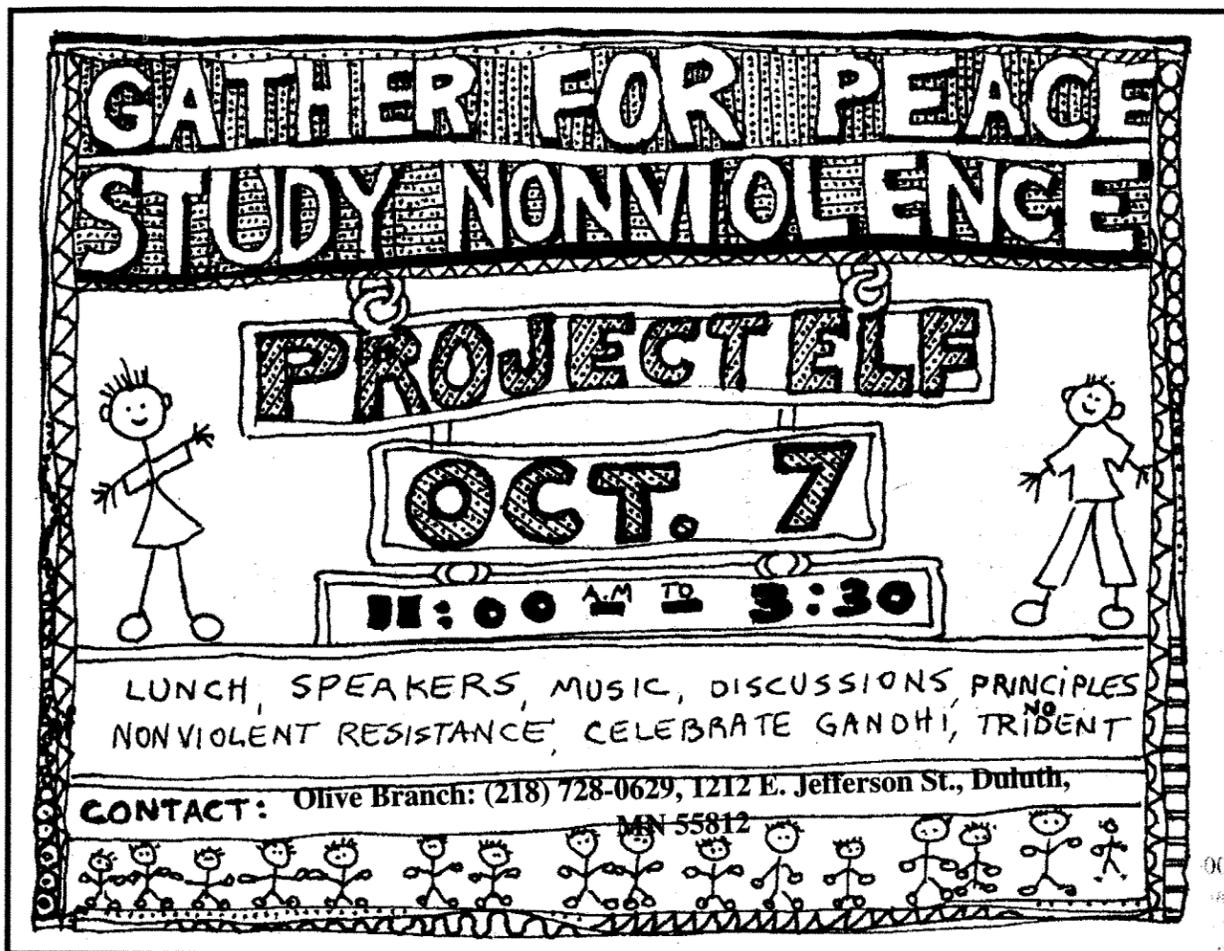
Vatican Radio transmits Roman Catholic programming to five continents in 40 languages. The small suburban Roman town of Cesano, Italy, is home to 58 antennas and the electromagnetic radiation (EMR) propagated by the church. The power generated, perhaps the most potent in the world, is enough to reach a tiny transistor radio in the Australian outback. The Italian minister of the environment has threatened to cut off power to the Vatican's radio station if emissions are not reduced in short order.

Residents complained about disruption of household appliances, computers, lights, intercoms and telephone communication. Citizens claim the radio broadcasts are causing cancer. Before locomotives were shielded, the system stopped trains on their tracks.

Vatican Radio agreed to halve its daily AM transmissions after a joint commission pointed out that the transmissions violated Italy's strict limits on EMR by three to four times the restricted level. Signal strength has been lowered since February. Neither FM nor short-wave transmissions were altered.

The Vatican will increase its use of the internet and satellite transmission equipment to avoid, according to its press release, "undue alarm having no scientific foundation." The church will not however, take confessions online.

In a six-mile zone around the antennas, 41 people died of leukemia within 10 years. Seventeen new cases have been detected within the past three years. A recent study found



that infants living closest to the transmitters have an incidence of leukemia 6.06 times the normal rate for Rome, eleven miles to the south.

The Vatican and the U.S. Navy have much in common in producing electromagnetic radiation. The Navy continually transmits low-frequency signals (using Project ELF in northern Wisconsin and Michigan) that traverse the entire globe.

Signals in the vicinity of ELF electrify metal buildings and fences must be grounded to prevent electric shocks. The

Navy says ELF presents, "no danger to the public."

Locals have been working for over three decades to get the ELF transmitter shut down, not only because it is a one-way, first-strike nuclear war trigger system, but because there is plenty of speculation that health and the environment are being compromised by the system. The Navy has never conducted adequate studies on the health effects of exposure to electromagnetic pollution from the Navy's Project ELF.

The Vatican and the Navy battle to save their instruments of power while citizens around the world struggle to protect themselves from pollution.

## Public Hearings on Project E.L.F.

Tell the Navy what you think about this nuclear war "trigger" & its health and environmental impact. Hearings are sponsored by the Great Lakes Intertribal Council, the Sierra Club and the Sigurd Olson Institute. For info contact Nukewatch, (715) 472-4185; nukewatch@lakeland.ws

Date:	Time:	Location:
Tuesday, Sept. 18	6:30 to 9:00 pm	Great Lakes Visitors' Center, Hwy. 2, Ashland, WI
Thursday, Sept. 20	6:30 to 9:00 pm	Flambeau Lanes, Park Falls, WI
Tuesday, Sept. 25	6:30 to 9:00 pm	Cable Community Center, Cable, WI
Thursday, Sept. 27	6:30 to 9:00 pm	Spider Lake Town Hall, Hayward, WI
Wednesday, Oct. 3	6:00 to 9:00 pm	Lac Courte Oreilles Casino Convention Center, Hayward, WI

## Contamination, Cancer & Compensation

By Bonnie Urfer

Radiation from more than a half century of nuclear weapons and power production has caused multiple forms of cancers in those exposed. For decades, soldiers, factory workers and downwinders have been fighting to receive compensation for contamination. Finally, on October 30, 2000, congress passed the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act (RECA). A fraction of victims of the nuclear industry—those exposed to radiation, beryllium or silica on the job and with certain types of cancer—will receive benefits.

The U.S. knowingly and recklessly exposed millions of people to dangerous levels of radiation. The first publicized case of radiation injuries in America was that of women radium-dial painters in the 1920s. These women used radium paint to put luminous numbers on watches. Many wet their brushes in their mouths to make the tiny points needed for the fine work. When the women began to die of cancer their successful lawsuit against the watch manufacturers in 1928 made the dangers of radiation public.

Two hundred and forty-four aboveground and 700 belowground nuclear bomb tests released huge amounts of radiation into the atmosphere and soil. The Pentagon marched soldiers within a few hundred yards of ground zero during atomic tests. During the 1940s and 1950s, thousands of poor, uninformed men, most of whom were Native North Americans, labored in mines without ventilation or protection in the Four Corners region to produce uranium needed to manu-

facture plutonium for bombs and atomic tests. 750,000 people worked in the nuclear weapons industry. Government and university doctors injected as many as 16,000 prisoners, institutionalized adults and children, and even pregnant women with radioactive substances just to see what would happen.

The DOE has identified 317 sites that employed more than 600,000 people in 37 states, Washington D.C., the Marshall Islands and Puerto Rico for nuclear weapons-related work during the Cold War. Sick workers employed at those facilities might qualify for compensation.

The Department of Labor began accepting claims on July 31 when the final act went into effect. Lump payments of \$150,000 under the RECA have started seeping into the hands of victims and family members. The act, since first passed in 2000, went bankrupt and industry victims have been handed IOUs. The U.S. House and Senate passed a final version of legislation effective in July containing \$84 million to pay elderly and sick uranium industry workers.

Compensation cost estimates today total \$1.9 billion over a decade.

The nuclear industry causes cancer that will be with us for 500,000 years. Weapons production sites are highly contaminated. In addition, 70,000 tons of highly radioactive spent nuclear fuel rods are stored at 77 civilian reactor sites around the country. The volume of waste increases by 300 to 600 tons per year with no end in sight.

Applications for benefits can be filed any time by calling the Dept. of Labor toll free at 1-866-888-3322.

## CALENDAR

### October

**7—Gather for Peace, Study Nonviolence at Project ELF** in northern Wisconsin, Annual Gandhi & St. Francis Birthday Gathering. 11:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; Music, Speakers, Direct Action. **Contact:** Loaves & Fishes Community, 1712 E. Jefferson, Duluth, MN 55812; *phone:* Scott at (218) 728-0629, Judy at (218) 728-3771.

**6-7—Nuclear Free Great Basin Gathering** hosted by Ohngo Gaudadeh Devia, on the land of Margene Bullcreek, Skull Valley Goshute Reservation, 75 miles west of Salt Lake City, Utah. **Contact:** Nuclear Free Great Basin Campaign, P.O. Box 1115, Salt Lake City, UT 84110; *phone:* (801) 359-2614; *email:* reinard@shundahai; *web:* www.shundahai.org/nfgb/nfgb.html.

**13—International Day of Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space.** Worldwide. Sponsored by Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space. Events are being held in well over 150 cities and dozens of countries. For a complete list of locations **Contact:** GNAW&NPS, P.O. Box 90083, Gainesville, FL 32607; *phone:* (352) 337-9274; *email:* globalnet@mindspring.com; *web:* www.space4peace.org.

**12-13—Minneapolis/St. Paul. Overnight Protest to Stop the Militarization of Space.** Starts 3:00 p.m. Friday., Lockheed Martin offices, Pilot Knob Road, Eagan, Minn. **Contact:** Nukewatch (715) 472-4185; *email:* nukewatch@lakeland.ws; *web:* Nukewatch.com or CircleVision: (615) 698-2810; *web:* www.circlevision.org.

**22—October Anti-Trident Protest & Blockade at Faslane Naval Base** in Scotland. Monday, 7a.m. **Contact:** Faslane Peace Camp, *phone:* 0-141-423-1222; *email:* cndscot@dial.pipex.com.

### November

**1-15—Nonviolent International Action in Germany to halt radioactive waste shipment.** **Contact:** Center for Education and Networking in Nonviolent Action, Kirchstrasse 14, 29462 Wustrow, Germany; *phone:* +49-5843-9871-0; *fax:* +49-5843-9871-11; *email:* kurve-wustrow@oln.comlink.apc.org.

**16-18—Close the US Army School of Americas** in Fort Benning, Georgia, Graduates of the SOA are responsible for some of the worst human rights abuses in Latin America. **Contact:** School of the Americas Watch, PO Box 4566, Washington DC 20017; *phone:* (202) 234-3440; *fax:* (202) 636-4505; *email:* info@soaw.org.

# U.S. Human Rights Record Snubbed at United Nations

Recent UN committee votes that removed the U.S. from the Human Rights Commission and the UN International Drug Monitoring Board, resulted in a show of shock, amazement and righteous indignation among the diplomatic corps and the anti-UN crowd.

Millions may truly believe White House and State Department sloganeering on human and civil rights. Some may assume that the world's people do not actually notice U.S. behavior. This is what the psychologists call projection, since it's the U.S. public generally that ignores the rest of the world.

In view of the United States' exceptionalism and imperiousness, the UN committee's snub should come as no surprise. The votes to remove the U.S. delegate came from close allies and NATO partners.

On Aug. 14, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination said the U.S. had implemented "destructive policies with regard to Native Americans." The Committee expressed "concern that treaties signed by the government and Indian tribes, described as 'domestic dependent nations' under national law, could be abrogated unilaterally by Congress and that the land they possessed or used could be taken without compensation by a decision of the Government."

The trail of broken treaties—recognized years ago by Native North Americans—may be extended by the Bush Administration to every corner of the diplomatic world, especially regarding war.

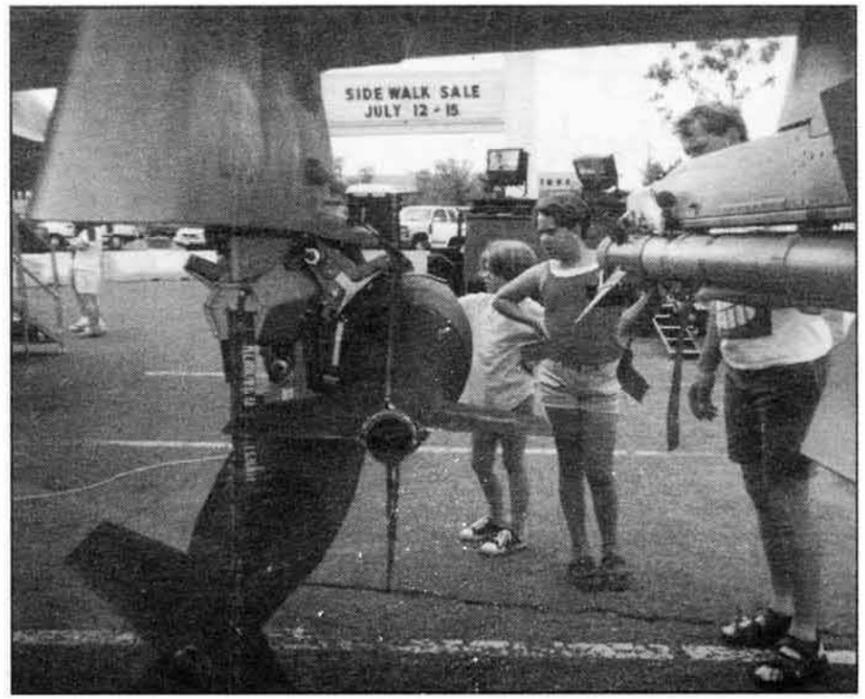
The UN does not have military means by which to enforce its General Assembly resolutions. When faced with belligerent obstructionism by a member, the UN can merely reject that member's representation, hoping that political pressure will produce positive change.

The mainstream press noted only two reasons for the U.S.'s expulsion: 1) President Bush's insistence on violating the 1972 Anti-ballistic Missile Treaty, and 2) Bush's refusal to join negotiations over the Kyoto Treaty on global climate change. But human rights extend to other U.S. embarrassments like the death penalty, imprisonment rates and defiance of international law.

There is a considerable list of notably militaristic, draconian and isolationist actions taken by U.S. delegates at the UN and by the U.S. government at home and abroad. Among them:

- ❖ U.S. abstention from a UN General Assembly vote on renewal of the Outer Space Treaty (Renewal passed 163 to 3).
- ❖ President Bush's July 25, 2001 rejection a draft agreement to enforce the 1972 International Biological Weapons Convention, now ratified by 413 countries.
- ❖ U.S. Senate rejection of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (48 to 51).
- ❖ U.S. refusal to join the international land mine ban.
- ❖ U.S. refusal to ratify the Law of the Sea Treaty. (120 other nations are now Party to the Treaty.)
- ❖ The 10-year-long U.S. bombardment of unilaterally declared "no-fly zones" over northern and southern Iraq, and fruitless U.S. support of crushing economic sanctions against Iraq.
- ❖ President Clinton's 1998 warlike use of 78 Cruise missiles against Afghanistan and a Sudanese pharmaceutical plant.
- ❖ U.S. demands for a private exemption from the otherwise universal jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. (In 1998, with 120 in favor, the U.S. joined seven states to vote against the treaty.)
- ❖ Reckless U.S. Marine Corps pilots go unpunished after illegally underflying Italian air space and killing 20 people on a ski lift.
- ❖ A U.S. vote against a UN General Assembly resolution acknowledging food as a human right and against another guaranteeing women the right to own property.
- ❖ The U.S. ban on support for international groups organizing family planning or safe abortion services, and U.S. opposition to low-cost access to HIV/AIDS drugs.
- ❖ Overt U.S. undermining of peace and re-unification talks between North and South Korea.
- ❖ U.S. maintenance and enforcement of a unilateral and illegal boycott of Cuba (opposed by the UN General Assembly 155 to 2).
- ❖ The United States' chronic deadbeat status with annual UN dues payments.
- ❖ U.S. maintenance and expansion of the federal death penalty.
- ❖ The 1999 execution in Arizona of two German brothers—Karl and Walter LaGrand—in violation of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. The UN's World Court ruled June 27, 2001 that the U.S. violated the Convention by not discharging a legal obligation imposed in Feb. 1999, "to ensure that Walter LaGrand is not executed pending the final decision in these proceedings."
- ❖ The use in Texas of the death penalty against minors, mentally ill and retarded capital offenders. Half the United States still allow state execution of the mentally retarded.

Having been dismissed from a pair of important UN committees after acting like a rogue, the current administration and Congress should learn a lesson in humility and embrace the concerns of our colleagues in international civil society. —JL



Parents brought their small children to a pseudo-carnival atmosphere at this scene at Miller Hill Mall in Duluth, Minn., July 14, where an F-16 Fighter was on public display. The jet, dubbed "Bulldogs" (after the mascot of a local university), was equipped with mock bombs and accompanied by MN Air Guard public relations staff with glossy photos in hand.



Photos by John LaForge

John Heid is placed under arrest and lead to a waiting police car in Duluth after telling the story of Omran, the shepherd boy killed by an F-16 May 17, 2000 in Iraq. Trial is set for October 3 in Duluth for the six peace activists arrested at the display.

## Omran & F-16s at the Mall

By John Heid

On May 17, 2000, eight boys were harvesting rice in a field near Toq-Al-Ghazalat, their village in southern Iraq. Two of the youth were tending sheep at the field's edge. The scene was bucolic. Quintessentially pastoral. At 11:00 a.m. everything changed. An F-16 jet fighter streaked across the cerulean skies dropping cluster bombs in its wake. Omran Harbi Jawair, a 13-year-old shepherd died instantly. Decapitated. Thirty of his sheep also perished. Five of his companions were injured by shrapnel.

On the weekend of July 13-15 at the edge of a shopping mall parking lot in Duluth, MN, a polished, periwinkle-azure F-16 Fighter was on public display. The jet, dubbed "Bulldogs" (after the mascot of a local university), was equipped with mock bombs and accompanied by Minn. Air Guard public relations staff with glossy photos in hand.

Omran is one of hundreds of civilians killed by U.S./UK jets enforcing the illegal "no-fly zones" over Iraq in what has become the longest sustained bombing campaign since Vietnam. F-16s have been commissioned to carry out biweekly missions since December 1999. It is noteworthy that there are no anti-aircraft facilities or military installations in the vicinity of Toq-Al-Ghazalat.

The Duluth exhibit was cordoned off by yellow tape and the area designated a temporary "federal reserve." The mall ambiance lent a pseudo-carnival atmosphere to the scene. Cheerful Air Guard personnel promoted a theme of "F-16's as tools of peacekeeping and security." They offered details of the vehicle's sophisticated technological capacities such as its ability to distinguish a goat from a human being at thirty miles distance.

There was no mention of 5<sup>th</sup> grader Omran or the other "collateral damage" caused by the bombing, let alone the active role of National Air Guard and F-16s over Iraq. Machine capacity not human cost was the focus. Technology not toll. Peacekeeping not bombing sorties.

Members of Nukewatch, Anathoth, Loaves and Fishes Catholic Worker, Veterans for Peace and Women Speak for a Sane World offered passersby the rest of the story. Six who refused to leave the "federal reserve" were arrested for trespass and are scheduled for trial on October 3 in Duluth Circuit court.

### NUKEWATCH PATHFINDER

The Pathfinder is the quarterly newsletter of Nukewatch, a project of The Progressive Foundation, a non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status founded in 1979 by Samuel H. Day, Jr.

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Nukewatch educates and organizes to nonviolently promote an environment free of the nuclear industry, militarism and weapons of mass destruction.

Write us. The Pathfinder submission deadlines: Nov. 15, Feb. 15, May 15, Aug. 15. Suggested subscription donation: \$25/yr.

#### The Progressive Foundation Nukewatch

P.O. Box 649, Luck, WI 54853

Phone: (715) 472-4185; Fax: (715) 472-4184

Email: nukewatch@lakeland.ws

Web: www.nukewatch.com

www.no-nukes.org/nukewatch

# Danger: Radioactive Waste

## Recycling Radiation

By John LaForge

Radioactive waste from the nuclear power industry and nuclear weapons contractors is being released into the general materials recycling stream and used to make everyday household items, building materials and more. "Standards" are being developed which will dramatically increase the amount of radioactive material recycled into the open market. Radioactive metals could end up in the nails, wire, screws, bolts and joist hangers used by just about everybody.

The DOE, NRC, EPA, the U.S. Transportation Dept., the European Commission and international agencies all have a part in this bail-out of the nuclear industry. If it can send its radioactive garbage into the recycling market, the industry would have to deal with it—expensively—as toxic, hazardous waste.

The waste being "recycled" includes contaminated metals, concrete, plastic, asphalt and soil. Once these materials enter the general recycling stream they are no longer traceable to their sources. In the absence of sophisticated, expensive detection capabilities and equipment, the public will have no way of knowing which items may be contaminated. Producers and workers will also be unaware if the materials they are working with are contaminated.

DOE internal orders allow radioactive materials, including metals, to be released into regular garbage or recycled into commerce without public knowledge or meaningful record-keeping.

The potential impact on public health is enormous because there is no safe level of exposure to ionizing radiation. Low-level radiation damages tissues, cells, DNA and other vital molecules, causing immune and endocrine system disorders. Studies show that long-term exposure to low levels of ionizing radiation can be more dangerous than short-term exposures to high levels. The practice of releasing and reusing radioactively contaminated materials into general commerce will result in random poisoning.

Congressional interest in "recycling" has focused on setting "standards" to legitimize and facilitate the release of contaminated materials, rather than on preventing the release of ever more radioactive materials and the public's exposure to ever more radioactive pollution.

In 1992, Congress revoked similar schemes that attempted to declare certain levels of radiation exposure "below regulatory concern." Current government efforts are dressing up the rejected BRC concept by applying the eco-friendly sounding term "recycling."

### Temporary halt on radioactive metal recycling

While the DOE quietly continues to release some radioactive materials into general commerce, there has been a temporary halt, since 2000, on the release of potentially contaminated radioactive metal.

The DOE's "Center for Excellence" at Oak Ridge, Tenn., has been facilitating the release into unrestricted commerce of "slightly contaminated" radioactive materials from throughout the DOE complex.

# Great Lakes Action v. Nukes

By Dan Miner-Nordstrom

In August, two-hundred activists representing dozens of non-governmental organizations from 11 countries converged on Chicago for The International Conference for a Sustainable Energy Future: Confronting Nuclear Power with People Power.

After a weekend of workshops at DePaul Univ., the conference moved to Yorkville, Ill for the week-long Nuclear Free Great Lakes Action Camp. Each day began with nonviolence training and continued with sometimes day-long direct action planning. Panels were held concurrently on such topics as media outreach, organizing a local campaign, German nuclear waste blockades, mixed oxide (MOX) reactor fuel, reprocessing and radioactive waste transportation.

Activists from the Washington, DC-based Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS), the Evanston, Illinois-based Nuclear Energy Information Service, and the Indiana-based Citizens Action Network spearheaded the direct action event, an afternoon protest at the new world headquarters of the Exelon Corp. Exelon is the largest nuclear power company in the U.S., generating 20% of the country's nuclear reactor output. Exelon's reactors have dumped over 5 million curies of radioactive pollutants into the air and waters of Ill., and over 3 million curies in Jew Jersey.

DOE is extending the public comment period for the "Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement" on radioactive scrap metals recycling

### You Are Invited to Attend a Public Scoping Meeting and/or Submit Comments

The DOE has announced an extension through November 9, 2001, to the comment period for the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) that will consider alternatives for the "disposition" of radioactive scrap metals. [66 Federal Register 46614, September 6, 2001—retrievable on the Internet at: <http://www.nara.gov/fedreg/>]

The public scoping period for this PEIS has been extended to November 9, 2001 and four additional public meetings have been scheduled. The schedule for completion of the Draft PEIS is also changed to March, 2002, and the Final PEIS to August, 2002.

The public is invited to comment on the scope of this PEIS. Comments may be submitted verbally or in writing at any of the public meetings listed or mailed directly to DOE. An additional opportunity for public comment on the preliminary results of the impacts will be provided when the Draft PEIS is issued. Requests for further information should be submitted to addresses below.

### Mail &/or Email Mr. Kenneth G. Picha, Jr.:

Email: [Metals.Disposition.PEIS@em.doe.gov](mailto:Metals.Disposition.PEIS@em.doe.gov);

Office of Technical Program Integration,

EM-22, ATTN: Metals Disposition PEIS

Fax: 301-903-9770

Street Address: Environmental Management Metals Disposition PEIS

1000 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20585-0113

Web: <http://www.em.doe.gov/smpeis>

### Schedule of Public Scoping Meetings

Oct. 8: 8-10 p.m., Santa Monica, CA

Ken Edwards Community Center.

1527 Fourth Street

Santa Monica, CA 90401

Oct. 9: 8-10 p.m., Simi Valley, CA

Simi Valley City Hall

2929 Tapo Canyon Road

Simi Valley, CA 93063

Oct. 16: 2-5 p.m. and 8-10 p.m., Mpls., MN

Zurah Shrine Center

2540 Park Avenue

Minneapolis, MN 55404

Oct. 18: 2-5 p.m. and 8-10 p.m., NY, NY

American Conference Center

780 Third Avenue, C2

New York, NY 10017

"Exelon is the perfect example of all that is wrong with the nuclear power industry," said Michael Mariotte of NIRS. "It is now the largest nuclear power utility in the U.S., and through its subsidiary arrangements with British Energy, its tentacles reach into the U.K. and Canada. Moreover, it is the only utility that says it wants to build new atomic reactors in the United States. Exelon's plan would mean more radioactive waste production and waste transport across our highways and railways, more radiation pollution, and more risk of nuclear accidents. We see a different future, of clean, sustainable energy, and unless it changes radically, Exelon has to go."

Nearly one-hundred twenty people attended the rally. While Exelon held its grand opening event, a hundred people lay on the ground outside the new offices, symbolizing the mounting death toll from radiation. Members of international organizations attempted to deliver a statement to the Exelon CEO, but were stopped by an Exelon spokeswoman and several police officers. Eleven activists, including Nukewatch's John LaForge, were arrested as they tried delivering a warning to the front office. The sustainable energy advocates were bailed out the same day. An initial appearance in Warrenville on "trespass to private property" charges has been set for Oct. 4. The charge is a misdemeanor with a maximum fine of \$2,500 and/or 30 days in jail.



## A Blast from the Past Nuclear Madness Sweeps White House

By Arianna Huffington

To make the world safer.

That's the justification by the Bush administration for its missile defense shield. But, as is often the case with the Bushies, once they have a goal, they let no facts or logic stand in their way, even if they contradict the original motivation. So just how far is the White House willing to go to build support across the globe for its missile defense shield obsession? Further than any sane person would imagine.

According to reports published over the weekend, the administration is prepared to wink at a Chinese nuclear buildup in exchange for China's acquiescence to Bush's Star Wars fantasy. So, to recap, to make the world more "safe," we're going to make the world less safe.

The timing is all the more important since Don Rumsfeld's Pentagon has authorized construction work to begin on a U.S. missile test site in Alaska. Coupled with the impending drilling in the Arctic refuge, it's beginning to look like Bush has it in for the 49th state. At least he hasn't yet announced plans to set fire to the place.

What's more, this bouquet of nuclear roses is being sent to the Chinese before the president arrives in Beijing for his first state visit there in October. After this latest move, they'll probably want to stuff him and put him on display next to Mao. "George W. Bush: hero of the Chinese nuclear program."

Even Republicans are aghast—but not aghast enough. Arlen Specter, a leading Republican on the Senate Appropriations Committee, called the strategy to offset Chinese objections to the U.S. missile shield "much too soon." He should have called it "much too insane." How else would you describe igniting an arms race in Asia and ending a 30-year ban on nuclear testing?

They must be smoking some potent ideological crack in the White House. One can only imagine the late-night binge that produced this latest bizarre result: "I got it," Rummy must have cried out. "China currently has fewer than two dozen miserable nukes. If this number is increased tenfold, and we make sure that we share whatever technology they need to make them top-of-the-line nukes, can't you just see how absolutely necessary our shield will be?" "It's brilliant," echoed W. "We overcome Chinese objections by letting them arm themselves to the teeth, and then we overcome domestic objections by sounding the alarm about the Chinese!"

It's as if a condom maker were encouraging the spread of gonorrhea, hoping that, given time, it would spark demand. Part of the Bush team's Strangelovian strategy is an apparent determination to spread the nuclear plague across Asia. Otherwise, why has the administration decided to lift all sanctions on India, despite its refusal to halt nuclear weapons testing, curtail its own nuclear buildup, or stop flexing its nuclear muscles at Pakistan, yet another nuclear cowboy?

Maybe it's just a nuclear version of the concealed weapon law Bush signed in Texas. If everybody has nuclear weapons, we'll all be safer, right? From this coming chaos, so the thinking goes, rational demand for a panacea will emerge. But any student of the Cold War must conclude that we were damned lucky to survive that era without a nuclear shoot-out. Now imagine that instead of a bilateral face-off, the next cold war will be a nuclear free-for-all. Do you want to put your faith in George Bush and a pie-in-the-sky defense system to keep you and yours safe during such a time? I sure don't.

National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, while denying the reports that the administration was dropping its objections to China's nuclear buildup, spoke resignedly about it. "There is a Chinese military buildup that has been going on for some time," she said as though there were nothing the administration could do about it. But in fact we have diplomatic carrots and superpower sticks aplenty when it comes to our relations with the Chinese—free trade goodies to brandish, Olympic games to boycott, state visits to forgo.

"We have told the Chinese," Rice added, "that the missile defense system is not aimed at them." Interesting. I was under the impression that a missile defense system isn't aimed at anyone, but intended to protect us from those aiming at us. Oh, well. As Nurse Ratchet might have said, "There is no reasoning with these lunatics!"

And all of this is happening just after the presidents of China and Russia signed their first post-Soviet era "friendship treaty," centered on their belief in the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty as "the cornerstone of strategic stability."

The time has come to ask: If launching a moon-shot scale defense project with less than a moon-shot likelihood of success means living in a world that's much more heavily armed with nuclear weapons, why are we doing it?

# Preventing an Accidental Nuclear Winter

By Dean Babst

A study made by the World Health Organization found that a nuclear war between the U.S. and Russia could kill one billion people outright. In addition, it could produce a "nuclear winter" that would probably kill an additional billion. It is possible that more than two billion people, one-third of all the humans on earth, would be destroyed almost immediately in the aftermath of a global thermonuclear war. The rest of humanity would be reduced to prolonged agony and barbarism. The study committee, chaired by Sune K. Bergstrom (the 1982 Nobel laureate in physiology and medicine) issued its report nearly 20 years ago.

Subsequent reports have made similar findings. Professor Alan Robock says, "Everything from purely mathematical models to forest fire studies shows that even a small nuclear war would devastate the earth."

Rich Small's work, financed by the Defense Nuclear Agency, suggests that burning cities would produce a particularly troublesome variety of smoke. The smoke of forest fires is bad enough. But the industrial targets of cities are likely to produce a rolling, black smoke, a denser shield against incoming sunlight.

Nuclear explosions can produce heat intensities of 3,000 to 4,000 degrees Centigrade at ground zero. Nuclear explosions can also lift an enormous quantity of fine soil particles into the atmosphere, creating more than 100,000 tons of fine, dense, radioactive dust for every megaton exploded on the surface. The late Dr. Carl Sagan said the super heating of vast quantities of atmospheric dust and soot will cover both hemispheres. For those who survive a nuclear attack, it would mean living on a cold, dark, chaotic, radioactive planet.



Photo by John LaForge

**Michael Sprong and Bonnie Urfer, shown here during their February "Silence Trident" disarmament trial, completed their federal prison sentences in July and August. Both activists have "supervised release" but have refused to pay restitution for Project ELF repair.**

## Silence Trident Activists Back Home

Nukewatch staffer Bonnie Urfer and Catholic Worker Michael Sprong, who last year became the fifth group to take the Trident trigger "Project ELF" off line using hand saws, have completed the (initial) federal prison portion of the sentences they received May 4 from U.S. Magistrate Stephen Crocker in Madison.

The Silence Trident act of disarmament took place on June 24, 2000. Urfer and Sprong were found guilty of criminal damage at trial in February. Both defendants were given signature bonds and were free on pre-trial release until sentencing May 4 when Urfer began serving her time. Sprong began his sentence on May 24.

Michael spent two-months at the minimum security Federal Prison Camp (FPC) in Yankton, SD where the authorities kept up an almost constant regimen of politically motivated harassment and threats. He was released July 18.

Bonnie was released August 27 from the Greenville, Ill. minimum-security FPC. Both "crime stoppers" were surprisingly given credit for the time they served in Ashland County jail after their arrest. For Bonnie the credit was 68 days off her 6-month sentence.

The two still face long-term consequences for their ongoing refusal to make restitution payments. The Magistrate ordered them to each pay \$7,544.00 in restitution. Refusal can be grounds for revocation of their one year of "supervised release." They could be sent back to prison for up to 11 months if probation officials order revocation.

(Nukewatch's Student Intern Dan Miner-Nordstrom has been invaluable in the Nukewatch office while Bonnie has been in prison. After Sept., he is moving on to international observer work=nukewatching=in Germany and Ukraine. Thanks Dan!) =JL

A nuclear warhead is far more destructive than is generally realized. For example, just one average size U.S. strategic 250 Kiloton nuclear warhead has an explosive force equal to 250,000 tons of dynamite or 50,000 World War II type bombers each carrying 5 tons of bombs. The truck bombs that terrorists exploded at the New York World Trade Center and in Oklahoma City each had an explosive force equal to about 5 tons of dynamite.

### Accidental Nuclear War

The U.S. and Russia each have more than 2,000 strategic nuclear warheads set for hair-trigger release. If launched, they could be delivered to targets around the world in 30 minutes. They would have an explosive force equal to 100,000 Hiroshima size bombs. Russia and the U.S. have more than 90 percent of the nuclear weapons in the world. The more automated and shorter the decision-making process becomes, the greater the possibility of missiles being launched against false warnings.

The U.S. is trying to decide whether to build an anti-missile "star wars" defense or not. In order for an anti-ballistic missile to hit another missile traveling at incredible speed that can come from many different directions, it would be necessary to have a very complex computerized system.

President Reagan's Defense Secretary, Casper Weinberger, said that since an anti-missile defense would require decisions within seconds, completely autonomous computer control is a foregone conclusion. There would be no time for screening out false alarms and a decision to launch would have to be automated—there would be no time for White House approval.

A highly automated defense system that has no time for determining whether a warning is false or not is highly likely to launch a false warning. There are always false warnings. For example during 1981, 1982 and 1983 there were 186, 218 and 255 false alarms, respectively, in the U.S. strategic warning system.

There have been at least three times in the last 20 years that the U.S. and Russia almost launched to false warnings. Fortunately there was enough time to determine that the warnings were false before decision time ran out.

In 1979, a U.S. training tape showing a massive attack was accidentally played.

In 1983, a Soviet satellite mistakenly signaled the launch of a U.S. missile.

In 1995, Russia almost launched its missiles because of a Norwegian rocket studying the northern lights.

If the U.S. builds an anti-missile defense it appears certain that missiles would be launched to false warnings because no time is available for determining whether a warning is false or not.

### Preventive Action Needed

Plans to build an anti-missile defense need to be carefully researched as to how it could increase the danger of an accidental nuclear war. As the research progresses, the findings need to be widely discussed in the news media. The more widely and clearly the danger is made known, the more concerned the public should be for agreements to greatly reduce and eventually eliminate all nuclear weapons from the world.

As humanity's safety becomes more and more dependent upon technology, the technological dangers need to be guarded against. Technical errors in one system may trigger errors in others. When researching missile defense dangers the following types of factors need to be included in the assessments, e.g. Electromagnetic Pulse (EMP), "Dead Hand" control of missiles, High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP), Hazards of Electromagnetic Radiation to Ordnance (HERO). Russia's blind spots in its satellite warning system also need to be included in this research.

The U.S. and Russia are in a position where either can destroy humanity in a flash and yet there appears to be little recognition of this peril hanging over the world. Only 71 out of 435 U.S. congressional representatives signed a motion calling for nuclear weapons to be taken off of hair-trigger alert. The U.S. Senate rejected the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in 1999.

Queen Noor al Hussein, of Jordan, said "The sheer folly of trying to defend a nation by destroying all life on the planet must be apparent to anyone capable of rational thought." There is a need to greatly increase public awareness of the danger in order to provide broad, long-term understanding and support for arms agreements ridding the world of nuclear weapons.

*Dean Babst is a retired government research scientist and Coordinator of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation's Accidental Nuclear War Studies Program.*

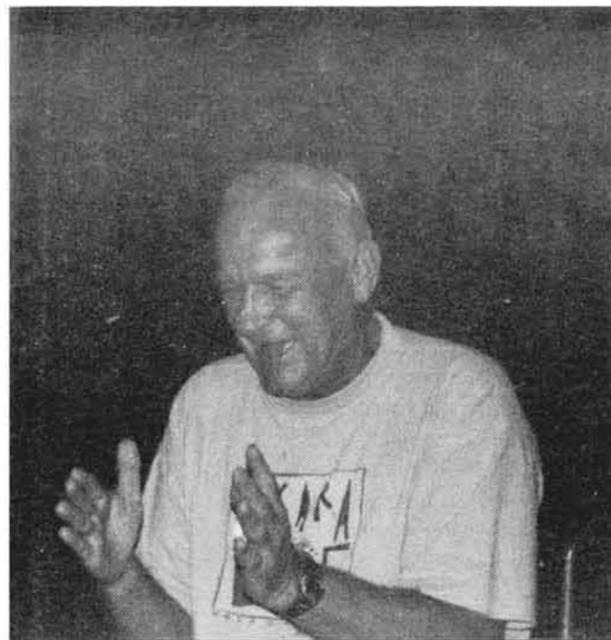


Photo by John LaForge

Rev. Carl Kabat, who says he's doing "fantastic," during a July visit to the Anathoth Community & Nukewatch.

## Carl Kabat Relentless Peace Activist Back in Jail

By Bill Sulzman

The final chapter of the protest last Aug. 6, 2000 at Minuteman missile silo N-7 in Weld County, Colorado, unfolded at the sentencing of Rev. Carl Kabat on July 12. A U.S. District courtroom in Denver packed with his supporters from Colorado Springs, Denver and Boulder, and from the disarmament task force of the War Resisters League, and John Heid and John LaForge from Nukewatch in Luck, gave Kabat a standing ovation as he entered the courtroom.

In May a jury found Kabat guilty of trespassing. Kabat commemorated last year's anniversary of the 1945 nuclear blast on Hiroshima by scaling a barbed wire fence at the Minuteman III missile silo dressed in a clown suit, then breaking bread, pouring wine and praying. Kabat said he wore the outfit to point out the absurdity of nuclear weapons.

At the July 12 sentencing Kabat's lead attorney Walter Gerash and then Kabat himself delivered impassioned statements about the dangers of nuclear weapons such as those contained on Minuteman III missiles and, once again, pointed out the illegality and immorality of such weapons.

Prosecutor Jim Allison then took the floor to argue for the maximum sentence of one year for Kabat's actions. He strongly embraced nuclear weapons and their role in ending World War II and their ongoing role in "keeping America free." He ignored the international law arguments of Gerash and Kabat, and argued instead that nuclear weapons have the full sanction of U.S. law.

Judge Boyd Boland accepted Allison's legal analysis but then went on to a rambling justification of the verdict (throwing in some quotes from Thoreau), before concluding with his decision that Kabat was to receive a sentence equal to the time he had already served, which was 83 days. The judge then ordered Kabat's immediate release. Another round of applause followed. After procuring a change of clothes, Kabat was on his way.

At the time of Kabat's release, it was possible that he would be arrested and charged with a probation violation stemming from the "Silo Pruning Hooks" disarmament action in 1984. He was arrested Aug. 14 at the Shrine of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Belleville, Ill, where he was visiting Fr. Larry Rosebaugh whose mother had recently died at the nursing home.

Federal authorities had been pursuing Kabat for days on the probation violation and had been very intrusive into the lives of his family in rural Illinois, not far from St. Louis.

They had quite a manhunt out for him, so he finally told them he'd be at the Shrine, so they'd quit bothering his family.

In court, Kabat was sentenced to one year and a day. He was held at the St. Claire County jail, in Belleville, IL for more than a week.

The sad fact is that the missiles themselves remain on 24-hour alert...

The 67-year-old Catholic priest has spent more than 14 years in state and federal prison for his work calling for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. He has participated in demonstrations around the country, including Washington, DC, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Nebraska and Missouri.

*Excerpted from "Active for Justice," newsletter of the Pikes Peak Justice & Peace Commission. Bill Sulzman is director of Citizens for Peace in Space in Colorado Springs.*

# Nuclear Shorts

## Radioactive Waste Disposal: In Your Lungs

ROCKY FLATS, Colo.≡The DOE changed its grass cutting policy in 1999. Instead of mowing the radioactive vegetation around its sites, policy makers have decided to burn it. Critics say the burn plans are an effort to accelerate what's called "clean-up." Burning vegetation on any DOE nuclear weapons production site guarantees that downwind residents will be radioactively contaminated.

In April 2000, a local news crew was interviewing staff at Environmental Information Network in Lakewood, Colorado when the DOE started a burn. A plume of smoke drifted north from Rocky Flats and the normal RadaAlert reading of 8 to 15 counts-per-minute (CMP) for the area, jumped to the highest level of detection (19,999 CMP). The news crew was shocked at the evidence. It took weeks for radiation levels to return to normal in the area. ≡*Earth Island Journal*, Autumn 2001.

## The Nuclear Body Count: 175 million

In a major attempt at accounting for the victims of global radiation pollution, *Earth Island Journal* has declared, "The equivalent of a nuclear war has already happened."

Eduardo Gonclaves, in an article reprinted from *The Ecologist*, writes that, "The holocaust that peace campaigners warned of if [nuclear] war broke out between the old superpowers has already happened.... Its toll is greater than that of all the wars in history, yet no one is counted as among the war dead." Using government estimates and research from experts in epidemiology, Gonclaves counted prospective cancer victims among: people exposed to plutonium-spiked depleted uranium in Iraq, Bosnia and Kosovo; downwinders from 1,900 H-bomb tests done during the Cold War; tens of thousands of government sponsored human radiation experiments; and those exposed to regular emissions from radioactive waste dumps, and over 400 H-bomb factories and nuclear power reactors.

Using the official "radiation risk" estimates published in 1991 by the International Commission on Radiological Protection and 1993 radiation exposure data calculated by the UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, researcher Rosalie Bertell (author of the 1985 classic *No Immediate Danger*) has come up with a terrifying tally: 358 million cancers from nuclear bomb production and testing; 9.7 million cancers from bomb and reactor accidents; 6.6 million cancers from the "routine discharges" of nuclear power reactors. As many as 175 million of these cancers could be fatal.

Add to this number no fewer than 235 million genetically damaged and diseased people and a staggering 588 million children born with a range of teratogenic effects, including brain damage, mental disabilities, spina bifida, genital deformities and childhood cancers. This would include 500 million babies lost as stillbirths because they were exposed to radiation while still in the womb. They currently are not counted as "official" radiation victims. ≡*Earth Island Journal*, Autumn, 2001.

## Democrat Lashes Bush's Star Wars "Lunacy"

WASHINGTON≡The Senate's most powerful voice on foreign affairs, Joe Biden, has denounced President George Bush's Star Wars policies that threaten to "pull the trigger" on a new arms race.

"Are we really prepared to raise the starting gun in the new arms race in a potentially more dangerous world? Because, make no mistake about it, folks, if we deploy [the] missile defense system that's being contemplated, we could do just that," he said. "Let's stop this nonsense before we end up pulling the trigger."

Sen. Biden reserved his greatest contempt for suggestions in the press, attributed to senior administration officials, that in return for Chinese acceptance of the missile defense system Washington would not object to China building up its nuclear missile arsenal and testing new warheads in contravention of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Biden called the policy "absolute lunacy." ≡*The Guardian*, London, Sept. 11, 2001.

## Star Wars Protestors Hit with Harsh Charges

VANDENBERG AFB, Calif.≡Fifteen Greenpeace activists and two journalists have been hit with heavy charges after delaying the faked Star Wars missile "test" July 14, 2001. The activists, mostly internationals, entered by boats into a restricted area of Vandenberg Air Force Base in southern California. The two journalists were documenting the protest.

Two of the activists swam toward the shore to attempt to make it to the missile silo, while others submerged them-

selves with scuba equipment in the path of the missile test.

The action delayed the missile test for 40 minutes. The base commander ordered the test be continued despite the fact that activists and coast guard workers were still in the restricted area.

The activists are from the U.S., U.K., Germany, India, Sweden, Australia, Spain and Canada. They face charges of "conspiracy to enter a safety zone," a felony which carries up to 7 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, and "disobeying a commander," a misdemeanor, carrying a maximum one-year sentence and a \$1,000 fine. The trial is currently set for September 25 in Los Angeles.

≡Dan Miner-Nordstrom & Greenpeace.

## Missile Defense: The Impossible Dream

WASHINGTON, DC≡As if the \$100 billion spent on ballistic missile defenses (without a thing to show for it) weren't reason enough to cancel the program, now comes the head of the Pentagon's BMD programs, Lt. Gen. Ronald Kadish, nearly asking to be fired. The system lacks "basic functionality" the General said in August. Adding an exclamation point to the skepticism, Gen. Kadish acknowledged that the program's tests have never involved inexpensive, hard-to-hit "tumbling" warheads—the ones most likely to be used against the BMD system. In computer simulations of 200 types of enemy decoys and warheads including tumblers—done by Dr. Nira Schwartz at weapons giant TRW—"the kill vehicle always failed to distinguish between tumbling warheads and decoys." While Gen. Kadish says, "It's irresponsible to launch off on more difficult flight tests before we've solved the fundamentals," critics charge that the military found the problem impossible to solve and chose to cover it up.

≡*New York Times*, Aug. 16 & 27, 2001.

## Radioactive Waste Shipment Awaiting Send-off

NEW YORK≡After the terror attacks in New York and Washington, DC, the DOE placed all nuclear facilities on high security status and suspended the shipment of 125 assemblies of irradiated fuel. The fuel is loaded in transport containers at the West Valley Demonstration Project in New York and was originally set to roll the week of Sept. 17.

The four train companies that will carry the high level nuclear waste casks through New York, Penn., Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, and Idaho have all signed contracts with DOE.

The shipment takes four days to cross the country. Due to the great bulk of the radioactive cargo, and its timing in the final days of the Yucca Mountain site characterization process, this West Valley shipment is being viewed by the DOE and the media as a "test case" on nuclear waste shipments to see what kind of resistance they face.

Show your concern. Organize a protest, vigil or press conference. NIRS is coordinating a Track Watch with Nukewatch, and will alert participants when the train moves. ≡Nuclear Information & Resource Service.

## Radiation Tests on Children's Corpses

SYDNEY≡Australia's radiation safety authority confirmed that the bodies of thousands of children and adults were used in government radiation experiments without parental consent.

The experiments ran from the 1950s until 1978 and involved reducing the bones of dead children to ash which were then used in studies in the United States, Great Britain and Australia. The experiments were said to gauge the effects of the fallout from atmospheric nuclear weapons tests.

The lack of official consultation with bereaved parents has shocked Australians.

Australian servicemen have also discovered they were subjected to radiation experiments without their informed consent. These revelations will only add to the unease about Australian participation in nuclear research.

≡*British Broadcasting Corporation*, June 10, 2001.

## Missing Nuclear Bombs

GEORGIA≡A nuclear bomb, 100 times more powerful than the one dropped on Hiroshima, is lying near Tybee Island, near the mouth of the Savannah River, 10 km off the east coast of the United States.

The Mark-15 weapon has been lying off the coast of Georgia since February 5, 1958, when it was jettisoned from a B-47 Stratojet bomber after the plane was struck by a fighter jet during a training exercise.

Documents reveal the search for the weapon was called off after ten weeks when another hydrogen bomb was accidentally dropped near Florence, South Carolina. Pentagon officials, though admitting they do not know the bomb's exact location, insist it is safe. They have rejected demands for

it to be recovered, saying it is too dangerous to be touched.

The bomb's existence was only made public when a salvage company offered to find it. The military says recovery could take five years and cost \$23 million.

≡*The Australian News*, August 15, 2001.

## Hot Fuel Rods: "We're not sure where they are"

SCOTLAND≡In the early hours of July 5, during a routine reactor refueling operation at Chapelcross in the south of Scotland, 24 irradiated fuel rods fell out of place inside a "basket." Twelve of the rods broke through and dropped 50 or more feet. The basket carrying the rods is normally lowered down a chute where rods are then placed in flasks in preparation for transport.

A British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) spokesperson, when interviewed about the incident said, "We have now been able to do a camera inspection and we have basically found that a number of fuel elements aren't where we expected them to be. There were 24 rods originally inside the basket. We know that 12 are still in the basket. The 12 other rods, we are not sure where they are, other than to say that because of the physical arrangements, we are almost certain that they have dropped down the fuel discharge route to the bottom of the chute." He added, "Even if there is any damage to the rods, they are clearly exactly where they should be in a very highly shielded area with absolutely no personnel access."

The company described the incident as "low level" and said there were no signs of increased radioactivity.

Reactor operators later decided to progressively shut down the other three reactors at Chapelcross. BNFL also suspended refueling at their Calder Hall reactors in Cumbria since they use the same refueling system as Chapelcross.

≡*The Independent*, London, July 16, 2001.

## Bad Drivers Curse USS Greenville

SAIPAN≡In its first outing since it smashed and sank the *Ehime Maru* killing nine Japanese fishing students, the nuclear powered attack submarine *USS Greenville* hit the bottom of the sea this time.

A new commander, David S. Bogdan, had control of the sub as it set out on a 6-month tour August 15. The sub's rudder was damaged after it hit the ocean floor off the coast of Saipan, in the Mariana Islands of Micronesia halfway between Hawaii and the Philippines. The warship has returned to Guam for repairs. ≡*New York Times*, Aug. 30, 2001.

## Waiting for an Accident

WASHINGTON, DC≡The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) warns that many U.S. nuclear reactors could be subject to the cracking found in a South Carolina reactor this spring. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has for 10 years ignored deterioration found in joints between reactor vessels and the tubes that hold control rods, the UCS charges. These joints are subject to severe stress from heating and susceptible to cracking. While France and Japan acted to correct the problems in their reactors soon after it surfaced in 1991, the NRC has rejected efforts to replace the equipment in U.S. reactors although the problem was found this spring at Oconee's Unit 3 in South Carolina. At Oconee, cracks extended almost 45 % of the way around two joints, according to UCS, which said cracks so large could result in a catastrophic rupture. "Waiting a decade until an expected problem crops up is bad enough," said David Lochbaum at UCS. "Waiting until an accident occurs is worse."

≡*Environment News Service*, Sept. 13, 2001.

## RESOURCES

*Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*: 6042 S. Kimbark Ave., Chicago, IL 60637; (773) 702-0725; [www.thebulletin.org](http://www.thebulletin.org).  
*Citizens for Peace in Space*, PO Box 915, Colorado Springs, CO 80901; (719) 389-0644; [bsulzman@juno.com](mailto:bsulzman@juno.com).  
*Center for Food Safety*, Washington, DC; (202) 547-9359, ex. 13; [www.centerforfoodsafety.org](http://www.centerforfoodsafety.org).  
*Earth Island Journal*, 300 Broadway, #28, San Francisco, CA 94133; (415) 788-3666; [journal@earthisland.org](mailto:journal@earthisland.org); [www.earthisland.org](http://www.earthisland.org).  
*Greenpeace*, 702 H St. NW, Washington, DC 20001; (800) 326-0959; [www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org).  
*Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action*, 16159 Clear Creek Road NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370; (360) 377-2586; [info@gzcenter.org](mailto:info@gzcenter.org); [www.gzcenter.org](http://www.gzcenter.org).  
*Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space*, PO Box 90083, Gainesville, FL 32607; (352) 337-9274; Email: [globalnet@mindspring.com](mailto:globalnet@mindspring.com); [www.space4peace.org](http://www.space4peace.org).  
*Institute for Policy Studies*, 1293-A National Press Bldg., 592 14th St. NW, Wash., DC 20045; [ipsun@aol.com](mailto:ipsun@aol.com).  
*Natural Resources Defense Council*, 1200 New York Ave. NW, #400, Wash., DC 20005; (202) 289-6868; [www.nrdc.org](http://www.nrdc.org).  
*Public Citizen*, 215 Penn. Ave., SE, Wash., DC 20003; (202) 546-4996; [cmep@citizen.org](mailto:cmep@citizen.org); [www.citizen.org/cmep](http://www.citizen.org/cmep).  
*Nuclear Age Peace Foundation*, [www.wagingpeace.org](http://www.wagingpeace.org).  
*Nuclear Information & Resource Service*, 1424 16th St. NW, #404, Wash., DC 20036, (202) 328-0002, [nirsnet@nirs.org](mailto:nirsnet@nirs.org).  
*Pikes Peak Justice & Peace Commission*, 29 S. Institute, Colorado Springs, CO 80903; (719) 632-6189.

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# South Carolina Governor Threatens Blockade of Plutonium Trucks

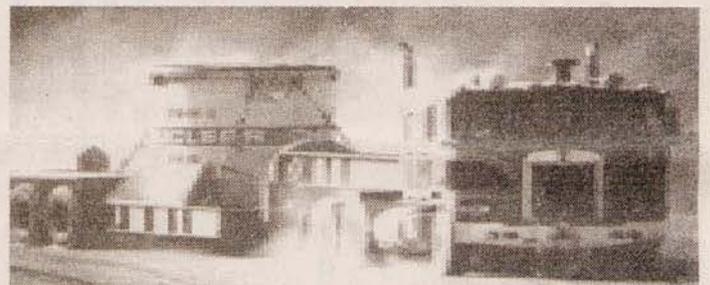
By Bonnie Urfer and John LaForge

ATLANTA—In August, Gov. Jim Hodges of South Carolina said he's prepared to do "whatever it takes" to stop the DOE from dumping 50 tons of waste plutonium in his state. Hodges suggested a law suit, threatened a state patrol blockade at the border to keep the trucks out, and volunteered to stand in the road himself.

The irony is that the state is already home to over 790,000,000 curies (4.5 million cubic feet) of Cold War radioactivity, stored in underground tanks, seepage basins and landfills. Substantial leaching from the site is causing severe contamination of aquifers and groundwater, endangering the Tuscaloosa aquifer used by Atlanta.

In 1988 and 1991, Idaho Gov. Cecil Andrus used state police to block railroad cars filled with Naval irradiated fuel rods from entering the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory near Pocatello. Shipments resumed once the DOE agreed to remove the waste over a 40-year period.

This year, the DOE reneged on a deal with S.C. to use the Savannah River Site (SRS) only for temporary storage while the plutonium is vitrified or turned into MOX fuel. Based on DOE assurances that the plutonium would be stored in S.C. while the issue is studied, Gov. Hodges suspected the plutonium would be dumped permanently. The plutonium is scheduled for shipping in mid Oct. from plutonium pit fabrication at Rocky Flats in Colo.



Hodges has said, "We will not allow the health and safety of our citizens to be threatened by storage of plutonium without a definite timetable for conversion and disposition in another state." South Carolina's SRS operated five reactors during the cold war, producing plutonium-239 and tritium for H-bombs, and still produces NASA's plutonium batteries. The site is already home to some 38 million gallons of highly radioactive liquid waste (with plutonium-239, strontium-90 and cesium-137) kept in 51 giant underground tanks some of which have to be constantly cooled. In 1977, the EPA told operators to monitor its burial sites for 300 years because of strontium and cesium contamination.

In September, 18 southern governors meeting in Lexington, KY, endorsed Hodges' demand that the Bush administration finance a DOE plan to build plutonium reprocessing machines at SRS, replacing the very facilities that produced the waste already on site.

Attention: Bonnie Urfer  
[www.laka.org](http://www.laka.org)  
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