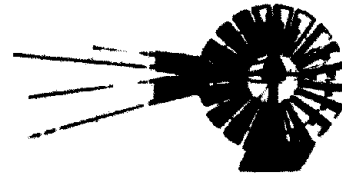
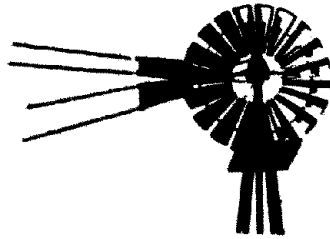
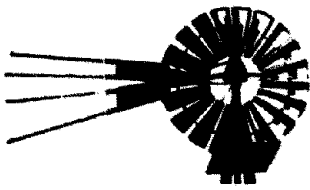


**keep it in the ground  
international stop  
uranium mining  
newsletter  
april 1981**

**WISE World Information Service on Energy**



## SUBSCRIPTIONS

A subscription to Keep It In The Ground costs now f20 Dutch guilders. This is the equivalent of US\$10 per 10 copies. We had to increase the subscription price to cover rising postage prices. You can subscribe to KIITG directly in Amsterdam. If you live in the UK, send £4.00 to the UK office (see address on back page). Americans can subscribe through the Washington office. Australians can subscribe through the (as yet temporary) Canberra office. Institutions are asked to pay f50 or equivalent.

### WISE

Blasiusstraat 90  
1091 CW Amsterdam, the Netherlands  
tel (20) 924264  
telex 15018  
postgiro (for all your cheques) 4088285

This issue of Keep It In The Ground is put together by Lin Pugh with the help of the WISE Amsterdam team. We cooperate with Roger Moody of CIMRA in London for industry news. Mary Wings does the lay-out. Information is supplied by the movement, including WISE relays.

Republication is free to the movement press, and PLEASE quote WISE as a source.

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## ABOUT THIS NEWSLETTER

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

We pass on information from groups who want to share that information with other groups. The newsletter was set up at the request and initiative of a meeting of people from isolated pockets of this earth who needed to keep in touch with each other, and feel the solidarity of others in the same struggle.

Everybody who is fighting to stop uranium mining or exploration, and who is fighting against uranium imports and the use of uranium is invited to participate in this newsletter. Please send information on your struggle, copies of new research and publications, information requests etc. to your nearest WISE relay. You can also send direct to WISE Amsterdam.

Many people in the movement have experienced postal difficulties when corresponding with other groups. If you would like to get a copy of a report from the WISE Amsterdam office, this is also possible: we will charge copying costs.

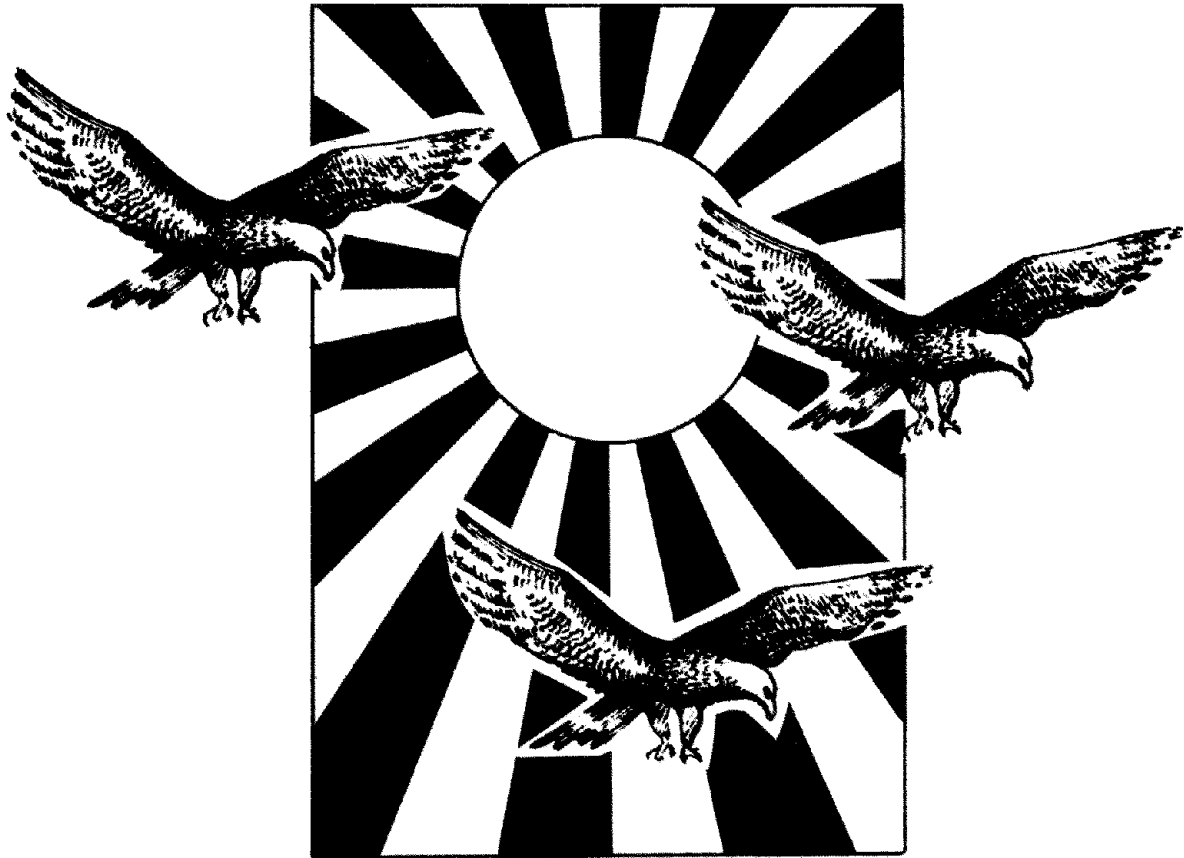
This newsletter is now being translated into French, Spanish and maybe German.

BULK ISSUES OF KEEP IT IN THE GROUND ARE AVAILABLE TO ALL GROUPS. DISTRIBUTE THEM TO ALL ACTIVISTS. ADVERTISE THIS NEWSLETTER IN THE MOVEMENT PRESS.

WISE has received two subsidies for this newsletter service, for which we are grateful. Both are from Dutch organisations: NOVIB and NCO. The grants cover production costs and funding for the Gulliver File.

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## **second european anti uranium conference**

You are reminded of your invitation to the second European anti uranium mining conference, to be held in Bad Alexandersbad, West Germany, from June 12-14.

The groups involved in the organisation, AG Uranabbau in Fichtelgebirge and Kreisbildungswerk des Bund Naturschutz would like responses from people wishing to participate.

The meeting is a follow-on meeting from that held in Bessines, France, in July last year. The great points of the first meeting were the exchange of information, the meeting with people from all over Europe who are fighting in different ways to stop uranium mining, and the resulting feeling of working together. In Bad Alexandersbad we will again

exchange country reports, and discuss the various aspects of the uranium issues as they affect us: effects of low level radiation on people, storing of radioactive wastes in uranium mines, forms of resistance, and international working together. If you have points you wish to add, please tell the organisers.

Bad Alexandersbad is not the easiest place to reach with trains and things. Some people from Britain and Holland have been thinking about the plight of Scottish and Irish and British people getting there, and a cheap solution is in the form of being made. People can take Magic Bus to Amsterdam, and we will try and get a bus from here (Amsterdam). However, we will only do this and you can only expect

this of us if you contact us. Please tell us before May 15 if you would like to use a bus from Amsterdam. Contact Lin Pugh at WISE.

contact: Gertrud Winkler  
Bahnhofstr. 37  
D-8664 Stammbach, FRG  
tel (09256) 1387

THE PAPERS FROM THE FIRST ANTI URANIUM CONFERENCE ARE NOW AVAILABLE.

After a lot of hard work our friends from the OOA in Denmark have produced, in French and English, the final report of the 1st European Uranium Mining Conference in Bessines, France, 1980. The report is composed of a full set of the papers presented, summaries of the various workshops, area reports and miscellaneous messages of support to other people fighting uranium mining. The information is detailed and is an extremely useful handbook to (particularly) European activists.

Price: 25 danish kroner, 20 french francs, 2 british pounds 8 german marks.

from OOA, Ryesgade 19,  
2200 Copenhagen N  
Denmark

## australia

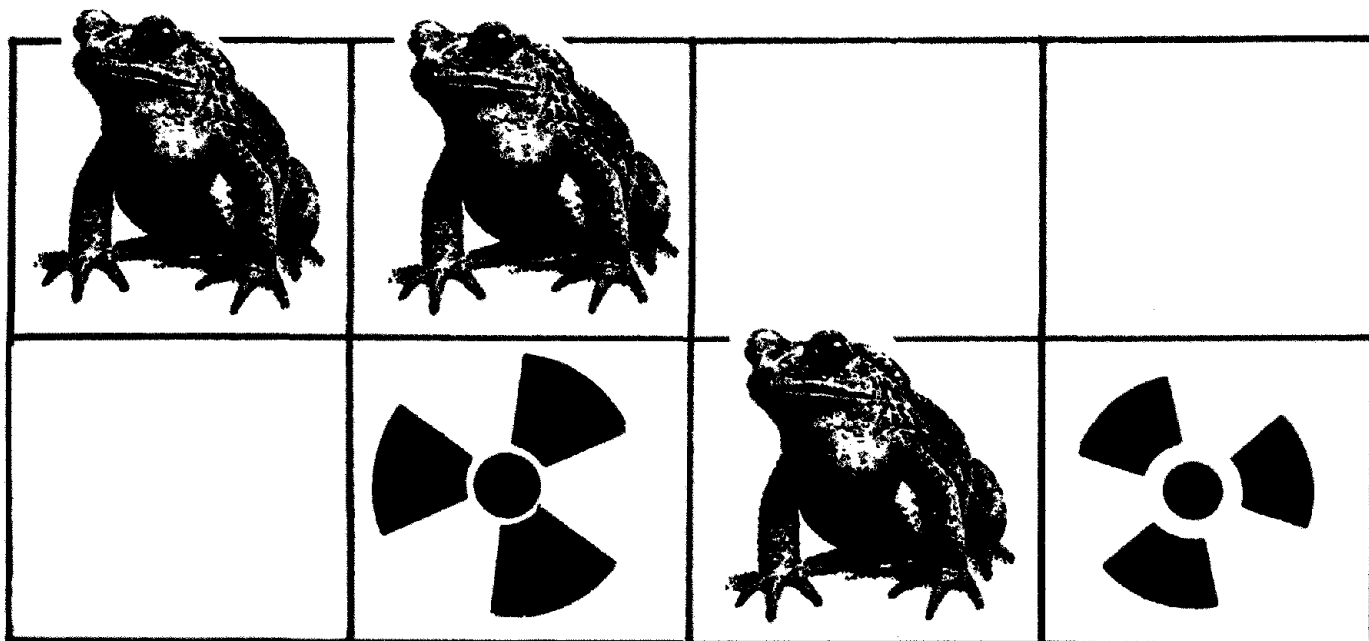
### UNIONS DECIDE ON URANIUM BAN

Unions involved in the uranium industry backed up the decision by the Australian Railways Union (ARU) to ban the transport and handling of yellowcake at a Sydney meeting called by the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) in February.

The ARU, which decided to ban the transport and uranium supplies last year, asked for the meeting to test support by other unions involved.

The meeting declared that if any action is taken against an affiliated union for carrying out the ACTU's uranium policy, a further meeting of the combined unions will be called.

This resolution was seen to indicate that industrial action will be taken if state government rail authorities attempt to discipline railway workers because of their ban. The meeting was also told that the Seamens Union has banned all uranium shipments out of the country.



The first test of the rail ban will come this year in Queensland when the owners of the Mary Kathleen mine will attempt to ship ore by rail to Townsville, Brisbane or Sydney. Inward supplies for the mine must also go by rail.

The Premier of Queensland, Joh Bjelke Petersen, has threatened unionists who attempt to interfere with production or shipments. He has guaranteed producers that they can ship their yellowcake from Queensland.

#### ATEA MINATOME BAN

The federal executive of the Australian Telecommunications Employees Association (ATEA) proposed last December to act against French multinational corporation Minatome which, along with other French companies, is responsible for the development of the Ben Lomond site near Townsville, North Queensland.

The union intends to ban maintenance repairs of switch-boards in Minatome's offices in Sydney and Townsville and will refuse to connect the company's proposed radio link to the mine site or to provide it with telex services.

In a recent meeting of ATEA members in Townsville, the proposed ban on Minatome was endorsed by the membership.

Julia Burrows, Campaign Against Nuclear Power organiser in Brisbane, says that the bans have come at a necessary time, and is hopeful that other unions will follow suit.

Source: Simon Balckwood writing for The Tribune February 18 1981.

#### MINERS EXPOSED TO RADIOACTIVITY

Brisbane: Two workers at UTAH's Blackwater Coal mine are now receiving medical treatment after handling a radioactive isotope.

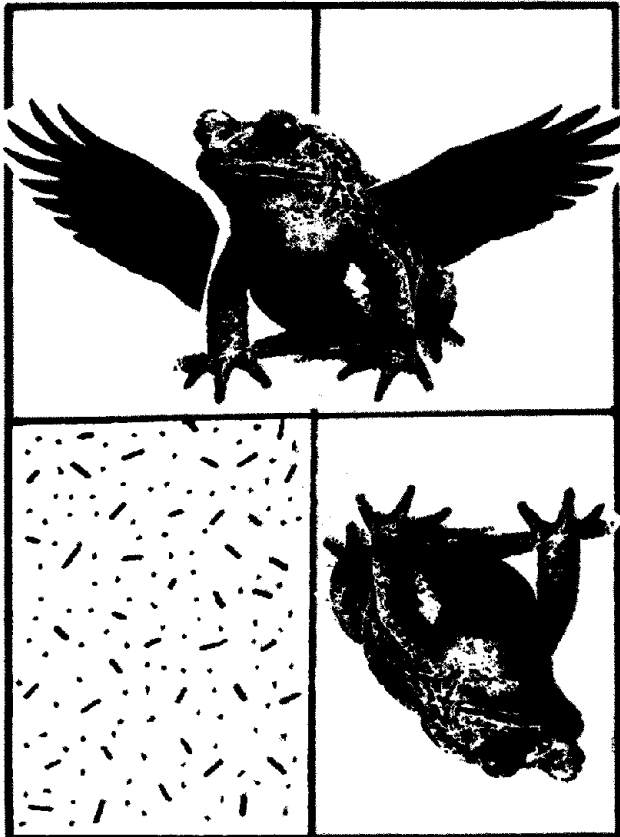
An isotope of Cesium was found by two miners inspecting a coal conveyor tunnel. The isotope was in a lead container with a hole in one end. It had fallen out of a disused piece of equipment for measuring the thickness of coal on a conveyor.

Normal safety routines did not discover the deterioration in the equipment. One worker stored the isotope in his locker for some time before its identity became known.

At a mass meeting at the beginning of March, members of all Combined Mining Unions at Blackwater voted to return to work after a two day strike.

Utah accepted blame for the incident. The company agreed to stricter security measures for radioactive materials used on mine sites.

Source: Tribune March 11 1981.



KIMBERLEY LAND COUNCIL - The Newsletter is out.

The Kimberley Land Council is an incorporated Aboriginal organisation representing over thirty Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. It is an independent, non-Government body which relies on grants and donations for funding. The KLC was formed in May 1978 at a meeting of over 1,000 aborigines at Noonkanbah station, site of the battle against US giant multinational AMAX. The KLC aims, determined at that meeting, are

1. To represent the interests of all Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley with regard to land matters.
2. To arrange meetings throughout the Kimberley for Aboriginal communities to talk about land matters.
3. To help support Aboriginal culture in the Kimberley.
4. To encourage and co-ordinate research on land matters in the Kimberley
5. To instruct the Western Australian Aboriginal Lands Trust (a statutory body) about land matters in the Kimberley.
6. To work towards the introduction of land rights legislation in Western Australia, whereby Aboriginal communities can exercise real control over land.

The Land Council published a thick newsletter in March. The content is as far-ranging as the community it services: the KLC meetings over the past year are covered, local community struggles, mining news, the Noonkanbah struggle, the outstations movement, the KLC overseas, health, photos, and stories on the sacred lands. The newsletter is published 4 times a year, and the subscription is Aus\$10 per year. It is worth far more.

KLC  
PO Box 322  
Derby 6728 Western Australia, Australia.



#### NORTHERN ONTARIO RESIDENTS LOSE ROUND AGAINST URANIUM REFINERY

A Feb 18 decision by Canada's Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB) allows Eldorado Nuclear Ltd., a government owned corporation, to go ahead with a proposed uranium trioxide plant at Blind River, in the Algoma Manitoulin region of Northern Ontario.

On Jan 15 AECB had postponed site approval a month following representations from concerned citizens opposed to the plant. Despite a lack of satisfactory data from Eldorado, AECB staff returned from a weekend of public meetings in the Blind River region to conclude "that no new information bearing on matters of health, safety, security of the environment had been presented which could alter its original recommendation that the site be approved".

At least one of the staff members who reviewed the proposed plant is a former Eldorado employee.

Meanwhile, opposition to the plant is growing. Although the region includes Elliot Lake, one of the world's largest uranium mining centres, the town of Massey voted Feb.12 to withdraw its original support for Eldorado's plans. This, along with a possible demonstration at the site in the near future, resulted from local community education taking place across the region. Besides the Blind River plant, Northern Ontario residents are also fighting plans for nuclear waste disposal in their area, and a possible power plant for electricity exports.

contact: Blind River Concerned Citizens  
PO Box 1427, Blind River ONT  
Canada P0R 1B0



KEY LAKE REPORT RELEASED

The Key Lake Board of Inquiry released its recommendations for a uranium mine at Key Lake in Northern Saskatchewan on February 5. Predictably, the Board which could only recommend how, not whether, the mine should proceed found the mine proposal satisfactory.

The Board, by its own admission, suffered from the refusal by all anti-nuclear and environmental groups in the province to participate in the hearings under the existing narrow terms of reference. As a result, the Board quite obviously ended up accepting the information supplied by the proponent - the Key Lake Mining Corporation - its consultants and government agencies. Even so, it appears that the Board could have done a lot more critical probing in many areas identified in the Bayda report. The Inquiry has made no contribution towards the tightening up of radiation exposure standards for workers and towards significantly improving waste management practices.

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

"Nuclear Newsletter"

SURVIVAL GATHERING 1981

Saskatchewan people invite wide participation in their Protect the Earth Survival Gathering, from June 29-July 4 this year.

The Board of the People's Inquiry will hear speakers on the issues facing indigenous peoples and the land: Native political prisoners, human rights violations, land rights, health for survival, education for survival, corporate/Government connections, and uranium exploitation.

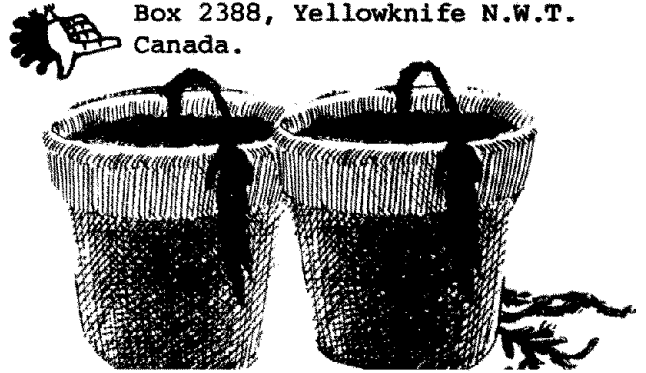
for details,  
Survival Group  
524-5 Ave No  
Saskatoon, Sask, Canada

DENE NATION CALLS FOR URANIUM MORATORIUM

On Feb 26 the Dene Nation called for a ban on uranium mining in the Northwest Territories until aboriginal land rights have been settled and a full public inquiry into uranium mining has been held.

The Legislative Assembly agreed to hear speakers on the subject of uranium mining, and two people addressed the Assembly on Feb 27 on behalf of the Dene Nation.

contact: Dene Nation  
Box 2388, Yellowknife N.W.T.  
Canada.



SPECIAL: URANIUM RUSH LEAVES WAKE OF TOXIC DEBRIS

A uranium exploration and mining boom centred in Northern Saskatchewan, is currently taking place in Canada. A first boom came in the early 1950's as a result of the nuclear arms race, and the second began in the early 1970's when uranium prices were inflated by a price-fixing cartel.

At present, six new mines are under construction, and the whole of Northern Saskatchewan is experiencing intensive exploration.

Uranium mining in Northern Saskatchewan takes the form of open pit and underground mines. Once the uranium ore (or rock containing uranium) is taken out of the ground the uranium is extracted by processing the ore in a mill, where it is crushed, ground down to a fine sand, and treated with chemicals.

Uranium ore in Northern Saskatchewan generally contains only a few tenths of a percent uranium. All the rest of the rock is unwanted, and therefore considered to be a waste. In addition, huge quantities of unusable liquid by-products are produced in the milling process. Up to 2000 pounds of waste water for example are created to produce one pound of "yellowcake" - the final product from a uranium mill.

In recent years there has been increasing concern over the health and environmental effects of these wastes.

It is now realised that while milling removes about 90% of the uranium, few of the other radioactive elements are removed. In fact, 85% of the total radioactivity remains in the wastes, including almost all the radium and thorium.

Also of concern are heavy metals such as iron, copper and arsenic, which do not decay but are always toxic.

To date precautions taken with solid mill wastes have been so minimal that these wastes have been used as construction fill material, while liquid wastes have been directly dumped into lakes and streams.

At Uranium City in Northern Saskatchewan tailings were used in many building projects including the high school, CANDU HIGH. In April 1977, radiation levels in the school were 60 times higher than the "acceptable limit" set by the Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB). In an attempt to solve the problem, a venting system was installed in the building. Ironically, the vents designed to decontaminate the school now release contaminants into a school ground used by the students.

Of yet more concern than the solid contaminants are the liquid wastes which have a greater impact on the surrounding environment. In Northern Saskatchewan, contaminants from the

Beaverlodge mines flows into Lake Athabasca. From there, contaminants are able to flow down the Slave River, and into the MacKenzie river which flows into the Arctic Ocean. Regulations set to control the amount of radioactive wastes being dumped have been bypassed. Government data show that levels of uranium, radium, iron, and copper in lakes and streams downstream from the Beaverlodge mines all exceed concentrations for either, or both, suitability for human drinking water and aquatic life. As well, it is stated by Menely Consultants of Saskatchewan that at the Key Lake mine, levels of arsenic are high enough to present a serious hazard.

At Fookes Lake, downstream from the Beaverlodge mines, iron levels are more than 7 times the level safe for fish (stated by the Environmental Protection Service to be .5 parts per million), and almost 15 times the level suitable for human drinking water (.3 parts per million - according to Health and Welfare Canada).

Copper levels in Fookes Lake are 6 times the level necessary to kill trout and salmon (.03 parts per million - as determined by the Canadian Department of the Environment).

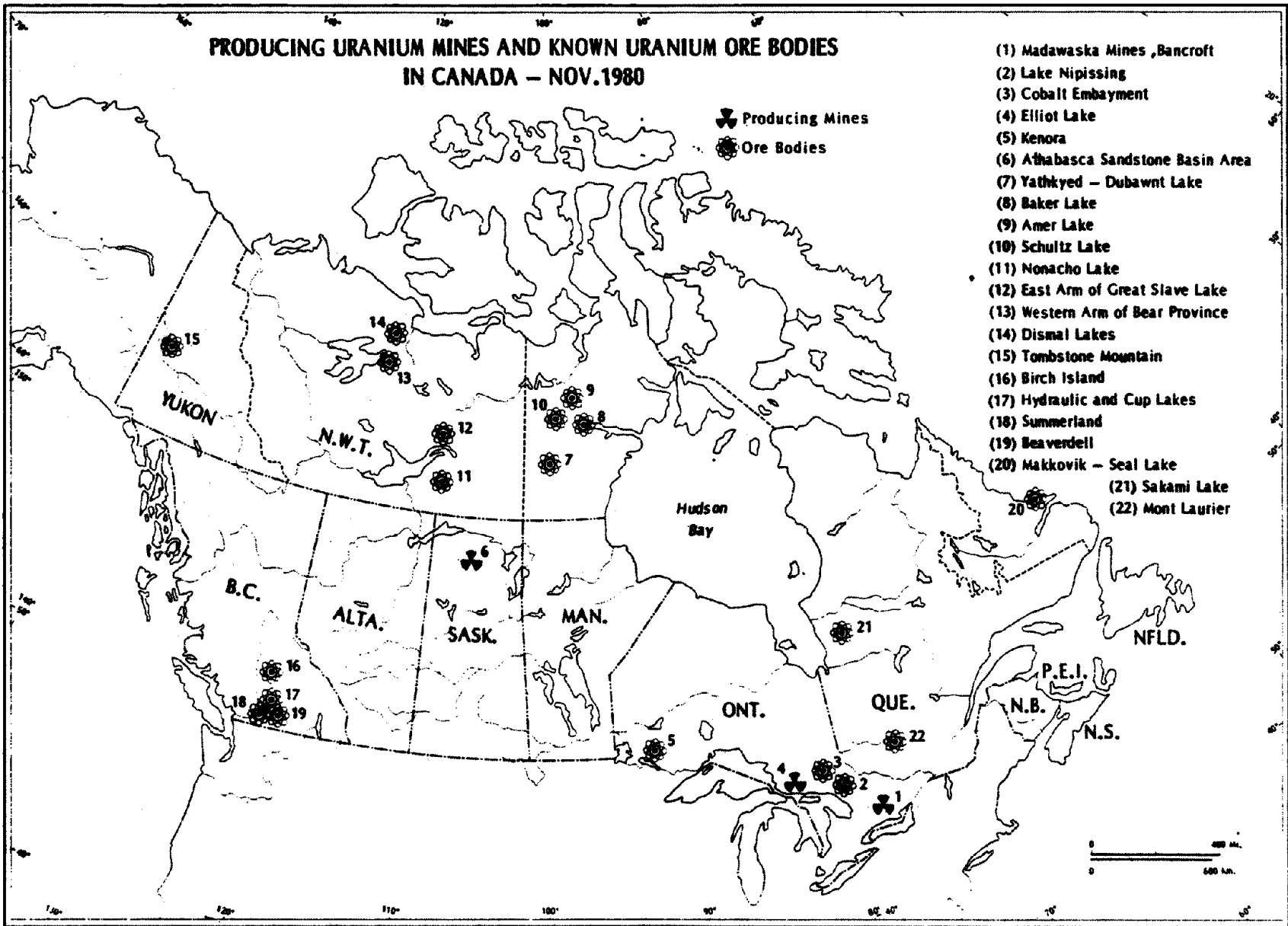
At several points surrounding Fookes Lake, uranium concentrations are more than 100 times the "maximum concentration" for drinking water established by Health and Welfare Canada (set at 20 parts per billion).

A further water quality problem is high acidity of waste water and mine drainage. Nero Lake, downstream from the Beaverlodge mine, has the acidity of vinegar. A particular problem with acidic wastes is that high acidity increases the solubility of radium, uranium, thorium and other heavy metals.

Groundwater contamination is also a problem, though until recently it has not been recognised by regulatory authorities. Water quality is often



**PRODUCING URANIUM MINES AND KNOWN URANIUM ORE BODIES  
IN CANADA – NOV. 1980**



judged by surface water monitoring alone. This ignores the groundwater seepage problem. Contamination of groundwater has been taking place for almost 30 years, as a common practice since the beginning of mining in the early 1950's according to the Atomic Energy Control Board has simply been to dump wastes directly on the surface and into lakes and streams.

Uranium mine and mill wastes degrade water quality to such a degree that aquatic communities are completely eradicated in the immediate vicinity of a mine.

Nevertheless, an example of a biological pathway to people that has been confirmed through scientific study is one involving the lichen-to-reindeer-to-human chain.

Finnish scientists from the University of Helsinki, found that people consuming reindeer that ate contaminated lichen ended up with 8 times the normal level of radioactivity in their blood. Lichens accumulate greater amounts of trace elements than other plants because their slow growth increases their exposure time to environmental contaminants.

Research in Russia by A. Il'enko found the effect on small mammals living in areas with high uranium and radium concentrations is greater incidence of sterility. It was also found that gamma radiation reduced bird populations, by reducing the number of hatching eggs. Generally though, research is limited to bioaccumulation of radioactivity in the aquatic environment, and does not examine the impact of that bioaccumulation.

#### NO SOLUTION IN SIGHT TO WASTE PROBLEM

If present expansion plans take place, the annual production of solid wastes will more than double by 1990. In their current search for a longterm solution to contamination by wastes, government and industry are considering "encapsulation" on the surface or underground, both of which have serious drawbacks.

Surface isolation schemes hold the risk of being exposed to erosion and weathering. Underground isolation has the ad-

vantage of avoiding catastrophic pollution on the surface though there is no guarantee that such pollution will not occur underground.

Even barring the possibility of a catastrophe, due to the difficulty in eliminating seepage, the underground site itself still has to be isolated from human use forever.

The waste isolation problem can be regarded as "solved", only when longterm contamination of an area is accepted.

What is more, seepage-proof designs remain in the realm of unproven theory. It is well accepted among hydro-geologists that seepage cannot be eliminated over the short term let alone the long term. Needless to say, there is a high degree of uncertainty with regard to the future of uranium mine wastes.

In short, it can be stated that the current form of uranium - dependent, northern development in Saskatchewan is based on the "distant cow principle" ie. "The southerners get the milk and the northerners get the shit."

Miles Goldstick



Resources: Uranium

Corporate Uranium & Saskatchewan: The Yellowcake Road. This booklet examines the largest multinational corporations, both private and government owned, which have investments in the Saskatchewan uranium industry. The guide is intended to expose the major and most powerful companies involved in the industry and is a very useful tool for those who want to do further research into the international uranium mining industry (almost every major international corporation involved in uranium mining has some investment in Saskatchewan).

Available from: Saskatoon Citizens for a Non-Nuclear Society, Box 8161, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada S7K 1L5.  
Price: \$3.00 plus postage



#### MISTRIAL IN BIG MOUNTAIN CASE

The trial of four Big Mountain women came to an unexpected end on January 10, when a mistrial was declared after one of the seven jurors failed to appear for the second day of court proceedings.

Sixty-two year old Alice Benally and her three daughters were charged with seven counts including assault, battery, disorderly conduct and interfering with fencing. The charges stem from an incident in September, 1979, when the women confronted the Bureau of Indian Affairs (a government puppet agency) fencing crew as they attempted to complete the Navajo-Hopi partition fence.

The Big Mountain people are being forcibly relocated, so that mining companies can get at the vast coal resources under the land. There is continuing resistance by the people of the Big Mountain. This month is set as the relocation deadline.



Support for the trial was widespread, with Indians and non-Indians providing a visible show of support.

A new trial has not yet been scheduled.

The Big Mountain Support Committee has produced an eight-page booklet on the struggle at Big Mt. The booklet contains original graphics by artist Rini Templeton.  
Single copy price 50c

contact: American Indian Environmental Council  
PO Box 7082 Albuquerque NM 87194 USA



#### CHURCH ROCK: NEW BILL TO STOP LEAKING MINE FROM CLOSING DOWN

A bill has been drafted to exempt the Church Rock uranium mill from environmental legislation. The bill would require that the state, in certain cases, temporarily waive water quality regulations if a company can prove there would be no immediate or severe health hazard. This bill is being pushed by Sen. Jack Morgan, who says "the time has come to throw more support behind the energy industry and allow it more leeway in solving complex technical problems such as leakage".

The uranium mill tailings pond at Church Rock has not stopped leaking since 1979. At that time thousands of liters of radioactive liquid broke through the dam containment wall. Heavy metals, arsenic, thorium, radium and acids are part of the flow of contaminants.

There are many official and activist groups opposed to the bill. The New Mexico Water Well Association, an Albuquerque based group of contractors, manufacturers and suppliers in the well industry, voted at the beginning of February to circulate petitions opposing the bill. One member, Beverly Stevenson, said "The way this bill is, if a company say they (the regulations) are a hardship, then they can go ahead and pollute"


State officials also have indicated the serious nature of the Church Rock problem:

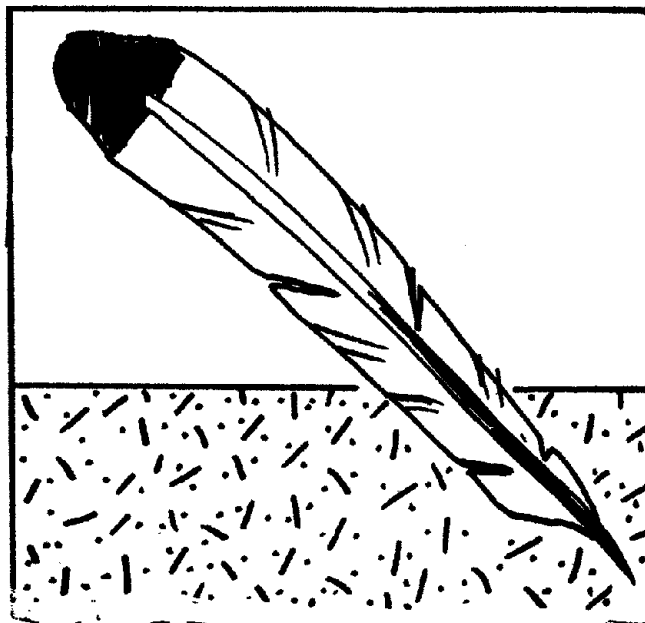
- o The amount of lead in the liquid has reached 150 times the permitted level.
- o Chromium, a cancer-producing substance, exceeds standards by 17 times, iron by 3,570 times.
- o At least 6 wells outside company property violate health standards.
- o The contamination level of those wells has risen sharply since July.
- o The contaminated liquid has even spoiled company equipment used to test it. Pumps corroded until inoperable in a short period of time, a hose bringing fluid from groundwater was eaten away.

The chief of the State Water Pollution Control Section stated that the leak is far worse than the spill.

A representative of Friends of the Earth, Sally Rodgers, said that the legislation would require a "typhus epidemic" as a condition for not granting a variance.

Taos Citizens Together in New Mexico have requested a Congressional Investigation of the Church Rock pollution problem.

contact: Southwest Research and Information Center,  
 Box 4524  
 Albuquerque, NM 87106 USA



#### OYATE WICAHO

is a new newsletter, of the Dakota American Indian Movement. It is published with the help and co-operation of the Lakota Treaty Council, Dakota American Indian Movement, American Friends Service Committee, the Black Hills Alliance, Women of All Red Nations and many other freedom loving peoples. The first number of this monthly came out in November 1980.

contact: Dakota AIM Information Office  
 Box 175 Porcupine SD 57772 USA

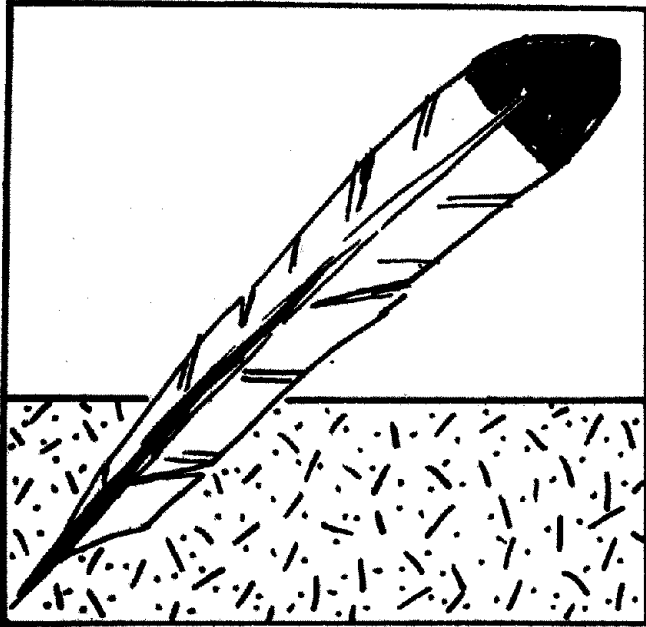


#### EXCESS CANCER INCIDENCE IN MESA COUNTY, COLORADO.

Final report, prepared for the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission in July 1979.

To quote from the abstract:

The initial phase of this investigation has determined that there is a twofold excess of leukemia incidence for all ages in Mesa County, Colorado, for the period 1970-1976. The greatest excess was observed among residents over 65 years of age who developed leukemia 2½ times the expected rate. No excess incidence of lung cancer has been identified.



#### NEW BREAK IN THE PELTIER CASE

#### DEFENCE COMMITTEE ASKS FOR ACTION

There is exciting news about Leonard Peltier. The situation demands immediate and intense action to be undertaken.

Leonard's case has just been assigned to Congressional subcommittee. This particular one is the subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights, headed by Representative Don Edwards, and is part of the House Judiciary Committee headed by representative Peter W. Rodino.

The second phase of the investigation has been case-control study of all adult leukemia deaths since 1960. No significant differences were found between cases and controls with respect to: years of residence in Mesa County, general health status prior to diagnosis, and radiation exposure from "tailings" buildings. No association between tailings structures and leukemia excess was observed.

Available from:  
National Technical Information Service  
Springfield, Virginia, 22161 USA

Representative Robert Dellums has worked with Indian Activists for many years, especially around Leonard's case. He said his office has been flooded with letters "from all over the world" urging him to get the Congressional Black Caucus to push for this hearing. The flow of letters especially increased since the Black Hills Gathering last year.

Now letters should be sent to Dellums and to the subcommittee supporting this investigation. Letters should point out the FBI's criminal acts in this case, from their armed attack on Pine Ridge Reservation (the incident from which Leonard's charges stem) to their coercing witnesses and perjuring affidavits for the court proceedings, to their suspect involvement in the attempt to "neutralise" Leonard in prison.

This is Leonard's last known recourse at this particular time, outside of such international outreaches as the Bertrand Russell Tribunal of last November. Whether or not the hearing will fully expose the truth depends on the support that is expressed to the subcommittee.

Letters should be sent to:

Hon Don Edwards  
Chair: Subcommittee on Civil Constitutional Rights  
A407 House Office Building Annex 1  
Washington DC 20515

Copies should be sent to:

Hon Peter W. Rodino  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515

Hon Ronald Dellums  
2464 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington DC 20515



and also to the letter-coordinating campaign of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee at  
2406 Alhambra Rd  
Alhambra, Calif 91801  
USA



The official assigning of this case to a subcommittee - and a good one at that - is truly a victory and an opportunity. Lets make the most of it.

A beautiful book, IN TOTAL RESISTANCE, has now been published by the Leonard Peltier Support Group. The book is a collection of statements and poetry from Leonard Peltier, Standing Deer and Bobby Garcia. This book was compiled while Bobby was still alive and his poems are his contribution to it. \$2.00 contact: Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, PO Box 1492 Rapid City, SD 57709 USA for copies.

## sweden

### DECISION ON URANIUM MINING IN THE NORTH THIS MONTH

Is Sweden about to open its first full scale uranium mine? The answer to that question may be given on April 27, when the City Council in Arjeplog convenes to decide about an application from the LKAB mining company to open a mine 30 km from the town.

Arjeplog is situated in the northern mountain region of Sweden. The county covers tens of thousands of square kilometres, but has a population of only 4,200. Some 200 of these are unemployed, and this is the reason LKAB has focused its interest on this uranium find, instead of further south, where local opposition has stopped all previous projects.

Those most directly concerned by the mine are the Lapps in the village of Semisjaur-Njarg, whose reindeer are grazing on the land where the mine will be located. The opening of the mine would make it impossible for these people to keep to their old trade. The Lapps are also worried about the effects of the mine on the fishing in Lake Hornavan, where the waste water and the seepage from the tailings deposit will float out. The local resistance is also concerned that many jobs from tourism will be lost if the mine is opened.

Arjeplogare Mot Pleutajokk (AMP), who organise the local opposition, have been campaigning against the mine very efficiently. They have distributed a 12 page information pamphlet to all homes, written letters to the local newspapers, and have forced the City to arrange a hearing with experts on uranium mining before their decision. The hearing will be held on April 10, with the participation of Dr Joseph Wagonner, a well known and highly respected doctor of occupational medicine in the United States.

According to Swedish law, the City can force a veto over a government decision to open a mine. If the City Council does so on April 27, the government cannot possibly overrule this. If the City says yes to the application, then it will be tried under the Atomic Energy Law, the Environmental Protection Act, and other laws. It is interesting that the State Institute for Protection from Radiation (SSI) has raised objections against the material presented by the mining company. This is an important objection which might help the movement to stop the mine.

The local opposition is also helped by Folkkampanjen Mot Kärnkraft, which

is the national organisation against nuclear power. In April they are launching a national campaign to stop the mine. The most important argument, except for the risks involved, is that as a result of the referendum held in March 1980, the parliament has decided not to build any more nuclear plants than those now operating or under construction. Swedish uranium mines would threaten this decision.

contacts: Folkkampanjen Mot Kärnkraft  
Göran Eklöf,  
Box 16 307, S-103 26 Stockholm



AMP  
c/- Holmström, Furug 3,  
S-930 90 Arjeplog  
Sweden

(thanks to Göran for this article)

## spain / portugal

### FIRST IBERIAN PENINSULA MEETING AGAINST URANIUM MINING

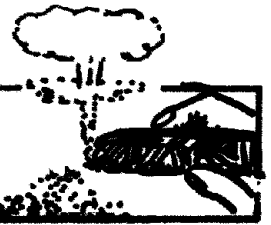
On the weekend of January 31 February 1st, 14 Spanish and 2 Portuguese groups gathered together in Salamanca to analyse the actual uranium mining and milling situation in their countries and to develop a common strategy. The meeting was organised by FAT, the Spanish Friends of the Earth, and among the main conclusions the most outstanding was the need to investigate thoroughly the specific legislation covering this matter in Spain and Portugal, compared to the ones in force in other countries (especially the USA and Canada), and to analyse the implications that could derive from Spain and Portugal entry into the European Economic Community, regarding Euratom treaties.

It was also agreed to support Mantenedlo Bajo Tierra (Spanish version of KIITG) and to participate locally in the Non Violent Direct Action Week Against Uranium Multinationals.

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## industry news



Many thanks to Roger Moody for these articles...

### AUSTRALIA

The long awaited uranium boom seems about to get under way. Approval for the go-ahead at Koongarra (Denison Mines of Canada) has been given, while clearance for the huge Jabiluka deposit (Pancontinental and Getty Oil mines) is expected at any time.

Most alarming, a new committee has been set up in the Northern Territory by the NT government, whose object is to "reopen all applications" for mining on aboriginal land. As Darwin's manager for Conzinc Rio Tinto of Australia (CRA) announced: "the freeze is off".

Apart from CRA, other major companies involved in the new rush are BHP (Aust) Comalco (in which CRA has a 45% interest), De Beers (Sth Africa), Mitsui (Japan), and Reynolds (USA), Queensland Mines (Aust) and Union Carbide (USA). Some 273 applicants whose bids have gone back as far as 1969 have been approached with a request to renew them.

On January 7 1981 the Federal government signed a nuclear transfers agreement with France, one of the world's most aggressive nuclear powers, after considerable opposition to its relaxation on previous controls over final use of uranium. Agreements with Euratom, Sweden and Canada are expected.

At Nabarlek, milling of the 12,000 tonnes already mined is said to be going well, and ERA expects to start commissioning the large Ranger deposit in the Northern Territory this autumn (ERA is 75% held by Australian companies with important minority shareholdings by Japanese and West German companies).

Following a contract with the Swedish Oskarshamnsværkets Kraftgrupp AB, ERA has now sold its output through to 1990. Despite the reduced price of U308 in the past three years, Australian uranium companies have therefore assured their investments, come what may.

With the recent approval expected for mining in northern Saskatchewan following on the Key Lake inquiry, uranium companies are satisfied - in Australia and Canada at least - the eighties and nineties will be a fun time.

There is one potential snag. As the Mining Journal of March 6th put it: "The outlook would be clear if only key union activists did not remain opposed to uranium export. The railways union intends to ban the carriage of oxide from Mary Kathleen, and the Seamen's union has reaffirmed its ban on all uranium shipments. However in view of Queensland Mine's successful evasion of the previous ACTU rulings, it is not clear how effective the union actions will be. Perhaps the bulk of the early production can be flown out". (information: Financial Times 25/2/81 and 19/3/81 also MJ March 6 1981).

ROGER SAYS RAPE IS A SEVEN LETTER WORD,  
AND HERE ARE A FEW OF THE URAPISTS

Australia's huge Western Mining Corporation has announced "encouraging results" from further drilling at the mammoth Olympic Dam (Roxby Downs) prospect in South Australia. WMC Chairperson Sir Arvi Parbo says there is "no doubt this will eventually be a major mine". Initial indications were, according to the industry, that Olympic Dam might be the biggest high-grade uranium prospect yet discovered.

Essex Minerals, a subsidiary of US Steel, plans to prospect for uranium in Tasmania, at Fingal Valley in an area previously searched by Getty Oil. (MJ 6 March 1981)

Mining Magazine thinks the French uranium corporation Minatome will secure the right to mine at Ben Lomond (but we think otherwise, as report shows in last month's KIITG). Minatome is also a partner in a consortium exploring for uranium at Pandanus Creek (Northern Territory) - the other partners are Kratos Uranium NL (35%) Wyoming Mineral Corporation of the US with 32.26%. Recent assays indicate high grades of ore - up to 29.36 kg a ton of uranium oxide. (mining magazine March 1981)



#### THE STORY OF THE CARTEL

One of the seventies biggest scandals is about to become dusty history. In March 1981, the RTZ group of companies announced that it had reached an out of court agreement with Westinghouse over the uranium cartel which RTZ - together with the South Africa, French, Canadian and Australian governments - set up and operated between 1972 and 1975. One of the results of the cartel was to push up the price of uranium and therefore electricity, four to five fold. Another was to give RTZ finance and justification for its Rössing mine in Namibia.

The main case which was to have been heard in Chicago in September will now almost certainly not be heard. Westinghouse has already reached an out of court settlement with Gulf Minerals of Canada, Getty Oil and Homestake Mining (both US). Alone of the 29 mining companies originally charged by Westinghouse with having operated a cartel, thus pushing up uranium prices and preventing it from fulfilling its own contracts to utilities - Australia's Queensland Mines has stated it will not settle out of court. It is extremely doubtful however if Queensland mines would hold out on its own.



The out of court settlement has several important implications. First, it means that key documentation on the cartel will not now be subjected to legal (thus public) scrutiny. Second, RTZ will now be able to operate freely within the US without fear of legal action. Following hotly on the heels of the Westinghouse settlement, RTZ announced that it was going ahead with one of the world's biggest molybdenum mines in Alaska, through its US subsidiary with the Borax corporation. The Alaska mine has caused tremendous controversy in the US, and was at one stage opposed by Congress. Environmental groups have claimed it will make comparative nonsense of the Alaska Land Bill which supposedly guaranteed a large part of Alaska a national monument as an area free from mining. However, in December the US Congress gave approval to the mine because of its "strategic value".

Settlement in the Westinghouse case also lets down one of the barriers to RTZ opening one of the world's largest copper mines on native land in Panama.

Third, the Westinghouse settlement will provide long-term contracts to the very companies which allegedly "hurt" Westinghouse in the first place. Westinghouse will receive \$39 million in cash from the 12 companies involved in the most recent settlement, and 9 million pounds (lb.) (4.5 million kg) of uranium over the next five years at "favourable prices."

Considering that Westinghouse's obligations over the next twenty years amount to 5 million lb. of uranium, which it can supply from its own mining subsidiary, Wyoming Mineral Corp, it is quite clear that the world's biggest manufacturer of dangerous reactors is now back in big league business with the world's most dangerous and destructive mining companies. As Westinghouse remarked, the settlement was "particularly pleasing in view of the need to revitalise the international nuclear industry".

RTZ can't be all that displeased either. RTZ's involvement in the uranium cartel and its plans for Alaska and Cerro Colorado will form a large part of the hearings planned for the Week of Action on RTZ in London between May 8th and 10th.

Details: PARTIZANS, 218 Liverpool Rd  
London N1, UK tel (1) 609 1852

#### GOLDEN GUINEA?

Guinea-Conakry has invited nine countries to discuss exploiting eight recently discovered uranium deposits. No details have been given of these deposits, but nine countries are Canada, West Germany, France, Morocco, Nigeria, Romania, Switzerland, Yugoslavia and the USA. The presence of Morocco and Nigeria in the talks is particularly interesting, since neither of these countries has yet announced concrete plans for exploiting their uranium.

(Mining Journal 13 March 1981)

#### URANIUM CANADA SHIFT

Controversy surrounds the Canadian Government announcement earlier in March that the nation's \$C300 million uranium stockpile is to be moved out of the hands of Uranium Canada, a federal agency, to those of the Crown Corporation and primary producer Eldorado Nuclear Ltd. This switch surprised and dismayed Eldorado's private sector competitors. The news of the transfer of the stockpile to Eldorado was given by the federal minister for Energy, Resources and Mines, Mr Marc Lalonde. Government spokesmen subsequently explained that the move will help Eldorado's position, particularly in respect of its ability to raise funds on the private capital market to finance its expansion programme, involving the Beaverlodge mining/milling facilities and the refinery at Blind River.

Ottawa pointed out that the stock-piled uranium (some 5.56Mkg) could be used by Eldorado as collateral against further loan requirements, and that it could also make the uranium available in Canada and abroad. It is this aspect of the transfer that concerns the other Canadian producers, which are understandably anxious about the current softness of the international uranium market.

Mining Journal March 1981

#### WATCH THE KETTLE

Energy Reserve Group Inc. and Phillips Uranium Corp have formed a joint venture to explore the Kettle River in Carlton and Pine Counties, Minnesota, for uranium.

This is the latest in a series of assaults upon Minnesota in which a number of companies are involved (including Rocky Mountain Energy, Uran-gesellschaft of West Germany, the Anaconda company and Exxon). One of the best studies of uranium mining to date is "Uranium Mining in Minnesota", published by Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, 311 Walter Library, 117 Pleasant Street, SE University of Minnesota (no price, we suggest you send \$5 to cover postage).

One of the US's biggest uranium producers, Homestake Mining (successor to General Hearst's original Homestake gold company which ravaged the Black Hills of South Dakota last century) is to develop a new \$6 million uranium mine near Moab, south eastern Utah. Homestake is active in New Mexico, Colorado, Washington, Wyoming. Perhaps the most controversial projects at present is the Pitch Mine in Colorado (85% owned by Homestake) where, against much local opposition, Homestake has been trying to open a new mill and expand its operations.

information: Mining Journal March 20, '81  
action group: FUTURE, PO Box 2625 Denver  
Colorado 80201 USA



#### PROSPECTS IN BRAZIL?

Nuclearbras of Brazil has announced that it will spend \$18 million on uranium prospecting in the Amazon this year. Exactly where the exploring will take place is not known, nor which remaining native peoples will be affected.

(Mining Journal March 13 1981)

At the same time, the Wall Street Journal reports that Pechiney Ugine Kuhlmann said a subsidiary concluded a licensing agreement with Brazil for the construction of a uranium flouridation plant. The plant will be built at Resende, in the State of Rio de Janeiro, will transfer concentrated uranium ore into hexaflorine, UF6

Wall Street Journal, Jan 8, 1981

#### AND IN MEXICO?

New deposits of uranium have been discovered in Oaxaca, says Uramex, the state company. Potential reserves of 10,000 tons are located at Santa Caterina Tayata - if proven they would be the largest in a country whose reserves rank it among the 15 most important potential uranium producers. (MJ March 13, 1981)

#### AND IN ARGENTINA?

The Argentina junta has signed a 16 year contract with Uranco, an Argentinian company, to mine and process uranium in the San Luis province from 1981. An estimated 4,536 tons a year



of uranium ore will be produced.  
(Reuters, quoted in MM March 1981)

#### BUT LESS IN COLOMBIA

The Colombian government is to inject nearly \$25 million into its depressed mining industry, but this will not cover uranium, coal or oil industries.

#### TAIWAN GOES RACIST

Taiwan, which has one of the largest nuclear programmes in the world, relative to its size, is seeking uranium supply from South Africa up to 1990. Last year the Taiwan Power Company signed a contract for 400 tons of uranium from a South African company.

(Mining Journal Jan 30 1981)

#### THE GAS GOES OUT

Yet another US company has suspended uranium operations because of low uranium prices, according to March 20 Mining Journal. It's the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) - one of the half-dozen corporations attacked at the Survival Gathering last year in South Dakota. The property affected is at Gas Hills, Fremont County, Wyoming, and TVA says it will resume operations when the price of uranium improves.

#### PORT IN A STORM

Portugal is expected to quadruple its uranium oxide production output by 1985, according to Reuters (MM March 81) to between 400 and 500 tonnes a year. This is dependent on a rise in the international price of U308.

Portugal currently exports virtually all of its 120 t/yr production. The country has one of the largest known reserves in the world, however, and is currently "studying bids" put in for joint venture by foreign companies.

#### RESOURCE

The British MINING MAGAZINE recently published a six page fully illustrated article on the new Lodève uranium mine in France. The article is based mainly on information provided by Cogema, and includes an overview of uranium in France. Meanwhile the Guardian newspaper published a half-page article on opposition to mining in the area, on March 14.

Copies of the articles can be got, for the price of a postage stamp and photocopying, from  
CIMRA, 218 Liverpool Rd London N1 UK.

#### BLASTED SOUTH AFRICANS

Bophuthatswana, latest of South Africa's bantustans, mini-apartheid, pseudo states is to be the site for an explosives factory, to serve the uranium and gold fields in the Free State. It will be the bantustan's biggest single development.

(MJ 13/2/81)

#### URANIUM ON THE CHEAP?

A survey of the energy requirements of the metals industry in South Africa concludes that the apartheid regime has enough coal in situ to provide energy to virtually all its known current reserves of gold, copper, iron and other minerals.

One-fifth of current coal reserves would be required to mine all the known reserves of uranium, while the rate of exploration for energy in the form of U308 was, in 1978, about one fifth of that of coal.

(Jochens, Energy Requirements of mining and Metallurgical industry, Journal of South African IMM, Sept 1980)