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The Contaminated Crow

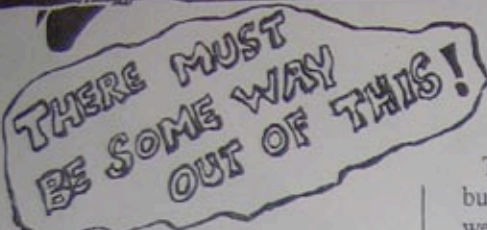
'If a country such as the UK finds it necessary to have recourse to nuclear energy on a large and increasing scale, I cannot see how we can afford not to at least begin.'

O'MALLEY Tues. 29-1-1980



'Three further holes in our Donegal prospecting programme have encountered uranium mineralisation...there will be additional drilling on very promising targets'.

ANGLO-UNITED Wed. 30-1-1980



ications for the individuals who, rather than work towards a mass movement, have opted to be silenced.

Each 'Mass Meeting' so far has commenced or deteriorated into an argument on structure, some people arguing for a form of 'centralisation' & others to continue with the 'Mass Movement'. The last 'Mass Meeting' in Cork brought this continued argument closer to a head, when some people arguing for delegate meetings succeeded in realising their aim, in that there have been 2 delegate meetings to date. What never came out was why these people, some who were initially into mass meetings, & others who had always argued for structure, felt so desperate that they resorted to such oppressive forms of meetings. Meetings where each group can send 2 delegates to speak & vote for an entire group, an impossibility in itself. There were reasons given alright, lack of communication within the anti-nuclear movement, diminishing numbers attending meetings but the real reasons never emerged.

While the delegate structure might facilitate SLP & Friends of the Earth, among other groups, who were wary of the power gained by RS in the supposed 'Mass Meetings', its oppressive structure & possible executive, has untold impl-

In seeking alternatives it is fundamental that all authority over other people is challenged, so that we do not have a repeat of the subtle authoritarianism of the 'Mass Meetings', that have already lost many potential anti-nuclear activists, frustrated by the continual (ironic, in a mass meeting) struggle for power, to the delegate structure.

A project that we should start working on is to acquire rooms in different areas of the country to act as information & communication centres, like for example the office in Dublin which was initially used for Carnsore, but became a contact & information centre for people in general.

There are lots of ideas floating around. Lets get them together at Limerick.

If we are to succeed, we must become conscious of our individuality & abilities made latent by our conditioning, & oppose authority & domination. ♀





THE BLOOMSDAY FARCE

An anti-EEC heads of state march took place on Friday 30th. November, to protest at the visit of the 9 heads of state. In the small press coverage the march got it was labelled an anti-nuclear march. This is unfortunate as it was nothing more than a farce.

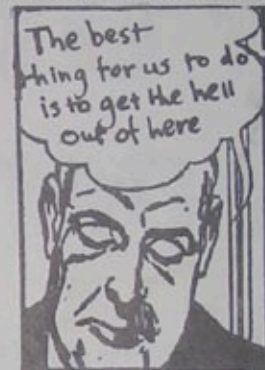
To start with the march started early. When I arrived at Trinity there were about 30 people there wondering what had happened to the march. We eventually found it in Essex Street. There were about 200 people on it. It was escorted by cops & R.S. stewards who had taken the precaution of covering their faces with balaclavas & scarves. There was an assortment of banners & flags - most of them anarchic & anti-nuke.

When we found the march we started to run towards it. The people 'leading' the march took this opportunity to get the march to run. It did & it by-passed us. It then turned up Anglesea Street & stopped outside 3 Bloom's Hotel. (One of the 9 heads was supposed to have stayed there during his

& the people behind them bore the brunt of the cops' 'attack'. Also at this stage we had the R'S' stewards pushing people back into line & giving orders to regroup. Some of them were lucky they didn't get their heads busted by some people who felt very hassled by this.

The march did eventually regroup & went on back to Trinity shouting anti-state, anti-nuke & anti-EEC slogans. When it arrived at Trinity it broke up.

I feel a number of things need to be said about this march. I think first of all it shows vividly the extent to which R'S' are willing to go to manipulate people for their own ends. I believe the RS people went along to the march set on some sort of violent action - thus the torches & balaclavas. I think they believed thousands of people were going to turn up & they would have been able to take on the state.



The masses didn't come but they were still intent on doing something. Some of the people on the march were not into violence & it's their prerogative to feel this way if they want to. I don't believe that RS or any other Marxian vanguard has the right to use people for their own ends. I think their philosophy is that if you get a belt off a cop you will join the forces of revolution. -what shit! Surely if people are going to contest the state violently (or non-violently) it's a decision they make for themselves, having taken the possible consequences of that action into consideration. They don't need decisions forced on them. When people tried to get away from the cops all they had was RS'ers pushing them back into position. *Rebel* tried to blame this breaking of ranks on the Anarchists. It said they wouldn't obey orders. What do they expect from Anarchists? We have enough authority in society in the form of government & bosses without so-called revolutionary comrades being authoritarian. We can be responsible for our own actions & we don't need any vanguard to look after us.

'The Indian smiles, he



is his friend.

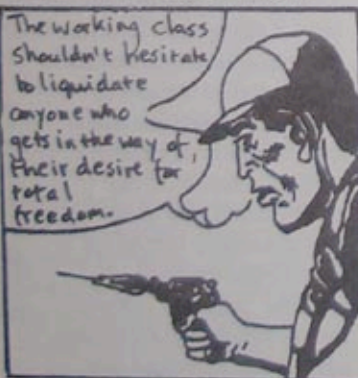
thinks that the cowboy

The cowboy smiles, he is



glad the Indian is fooled.

Now he can exploit him.



visit.) three or four cops then formed a line across the entrance to the hotel.

Some people were carrying torches made from sticks & tin-cans. One of these was thrown at a cop & he was set on fire. The cops retaliated to this & had a go at a few people. The people who formed the front line (R.S.-ers) split to the sides at this stage



While I am not against using violence to fight the state I think we must think actions through before we carry them out. The RS 'comrades' decided to take on the cops in a narrow side street. Both ends could have easily been blocked & everybody could have been easily sealed off, & everybody could have been lifted. Pearse Street & the Castle were both only 5 minutes away. Having pointed to the extent that

RS will go to manipulate people (this isn't the first time) I think it's time we really considered their position within the anti-nuke movement. Surely if they are going to call for a non-hierarchical movement they should be willing to participate in that movement without trying to manipulate the situation & in effect creating a leadership. If they are not willing to do this we should tell them to piss off.

Also I believe we should get down to discussing what part violence is going to have in the anti-nuke struggle & to what degree we are going to directly confront the state. A difference of opinion does exist which this march & the occupation on the previous Wednesday showed. These are matters that need to be discussed now & not the day before an occupation at the site becomes necessary - look what happened at Torness.

? Only One Movement ?

Tralee was probably only the start. For some people the present structure just doesn't work. These people must & will find other ways to organise. A lot of the activists who support the present way see these people as 'fascists'. But wait a minute, isn't it fascist to force a system, in which they don't believe, on these people, & to do so in the name of democracy?

But won't it be impossible to accommodate all these structures within the one movement? Yes. But why want one movement? Why not 10 movements, or 20, or 100, or however many it takes. The 'one unified national movement' idea seems to have become something of an institution among anti-nukes, which fact has led to them accepting it almost without question. This in itself is reason enough to want rid of it.

There are, of course, very solid practical reasons for having a single national movement such as the greater ease in staging national events, etc. But all these things could be done by an alliance of different anti-nuke movements. None of these reasons can really outweigh the fact that the present mass structure is a political experiment which doesn't work for those people who either don't believe in any political structures or who believe in a some other political direction.



ection. The idiotic response, to events like Tralee, of 'We believe in a mass movement, & if you don't like it, tough shit' can & does lead to fears of political manipulation of anti-nuclear activity.

It seems clear that the most effective movement will be the one where people feel most able to give of their energies. This means the one in which they believe most & feel most involved in. For some this will be the movement as it is, for others a delegate structure, for others something else again. All these structures are valid if they work for the people involved in them. The only important thing is that all activists & would-be activists can find a space in which they can be happy & effective. It can only be hoped that those who so violently defend the present mass structure as being the only way will reconsider before they find themselves being left behind in a process of rapid structural diversification which seems inevitable if anti-nuclear activity is to grow to a stage where it can reach & be intelligible to all sections of the Irish community.



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On 29th November the rulers of the 9 EEC states were due to meet in Dublin. For several months before rumours of planned demonstrations & disruptions had been circulating in Dublin in trade union, left & anti-nuclear circles.

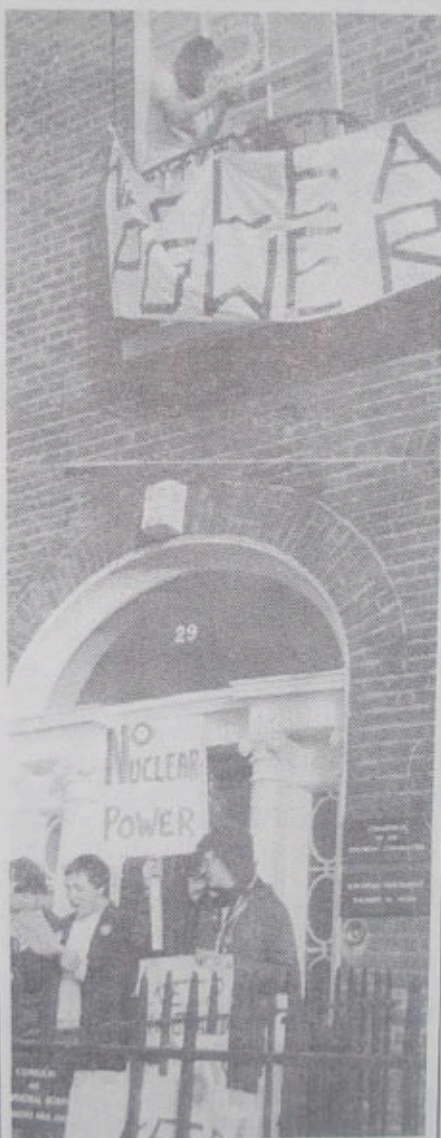
The activists of Revolutionary Struggle formed a Heads of State Rejection Committee & invited the anti-nuclear groups, trade union reps & political groups to join in, the idea being to politicize the anti-nuclear movement & ally it with the trade unions. The device failed however, partly because the unions weren't interested: at one stage the DCTU considered organizing their own demonstration, on a different day. Among the anti-nukes there was division too.

For months beforehand conservatives from the Tralee Anti-Nuclear Group & Cork Friends of the Earth had been arguing heavily for a 'delegate structure' within the anti-nuclear movement. With the ebbing of initial enthusiasm groups led by RS had come to dominate the mass meetings which they had advocated, & it was precisely by playing on the manipulation of RS & the frustration & lack of central information of the country groups that a 'Delegates Meeting' was organised & organised in Tralee for the same weekend as the Heads of State visit.

Meanwhile the awkwardly-named 'Heads of State Rejection Committee' had planned a march for Friday 30th at 9.00 p.m., hoping to lure people to a nighttime 'street event'. Anti-nuclear support was disappearing fast but RS responded with a hard line & rumours of violence. (Don't bring the kids)

At this stage a group of non-RS anti-nukes decided to hold their own demonstration. These people felt very strongly about the EEC Nuclear Connection but rejected the insensitive manipulation of RS. They went about organizing stalls & an excellent street theatre which performed about a dozen times on Friday the 30th. A smaller group of people also set about organising a more radical event, & planned a peaceful occupation & picket on the offices of the EEC Commission -to publicize the

Euratom link & the nuclear & uranium mining plans. They were supported in this by the Anarchists who had advocated autonomous groups & saw through both the political



EEC occupation

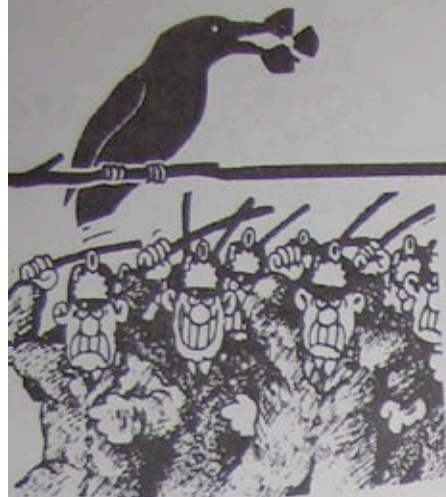
centralization of the 'Delegates Structure' & the 'party-building' activities of the centralised RS.

The preparation for the occupation was necessarily secret & there was some argument over whether to resist the police & whether to tell RS. This resolved itself with RS excluded & a commitment to a peaceful occupation. Those not committed to a non-violent action decided to stay outside.

A strongly worded leaflet was prepared, attacking the EEC nuclear policy. Placards were made & a banner & anti-nuke T-shirts were borrowed. At the last minute more support was canvassed & reporters & photographers tipped off. The protestors began to feel like conspirators, plotting in the night. The action was planned for 10 am, on Wednesday, 29th Nov., -hoping to evade the blanket security that was to descend on the city next day.

Wednesday dawned bright & cold. At 10 am a few people arrived, laden with placards & banners & a megaphone & made camp in the middle of Merrion Square. By this stage probably 100 people knew of the event, including the press who were on their way. Seven individuals had opted to go in. It was decided to cancel the event unless there were at least 20 supporters. By 10.20 there were 15 & the decision was made to go ahead.

Just before 10.30 the seven walked calmly in, took 2 plush empty offices, locked & barricaded the doors & hung out the banner -Nuclear Power -No Way. A huge cheer went up from the picketers, cameras clicked furiously as the invaders appeared on the balcony. A large smiling sun was stuck up, people gave out the leaflets, waved their placards, gave interviews, chanted slogans & took up the refrain -No Nuclear Power -That's what the people say. Then the police & special branch arrived -in force.



Some picketers stood in front of the front door & uproar followed as the gardai pushed their way through & took control of the door. They made no attempt to negotiate or ask the anti-nukes to come out. There was then a delay, with the gardai intimidated by the noisy anti-nukes. But soon about 50 more gardai & bean gardai arrived in paddy wagons & began to smash down the door. The demonstrators retreated to the balconies. 4 were immediately dragged in but the other window somehow got stuck & the 3 outside kept up the theatre for a few more minutes till the gardai broke the window.

Another delay followed as the anti-nukes were arrested & searched.

The gardai planned a back door escape by a laneway which they cordoned off. Some anti-nukes as well as reporters & photographers slipped through however & there was more uproar as those arrested were brought out, arms pinned &

dumped into vans. The laneway was black with cops, who took the opportunity of grabbing 2 of the anti-nuke supporters & threw them in as well.

Nine were arrested altogether, one for each head of state. of these, 5 got out on bail that day, & a woman & 3 men were held overnight.



The press coverage was impressive, the story & photos hit the front page of both the evening & morning papers, as well as *Hibernia*, *An Phoblacht*, *Hot Press*, *Rebel*, the *Guardian* & now the *Crow*. The 9 defendants decided to fight the case, on the grounds that they had no other means to counteract the heavy pro-nuclear & pro-uranium publicity put out by the EEC & the government. A defence collective has been set up with an address c/o 60 Marlborough Rd., Dublin 4. A letter was sent to all the anti-nuke groups explaining the action & a leaflet 'Who's occupying who' produced. The defendants have

given their supporters a free hand as long as they keep it peaceful & anti-nuclear. Street theatre is being organised; others are canvassing & organising gigs, & others again are organising pickets.

The nine will be finally tried by jury, probably in March & April & the trial may become a focus for publicising the dangers & the vested interests in nuclear power & uranium mining, in the run up to the public enquiry.

I will not go into the events of Friday Nov. 30th, due to lack of space. Suffice to say that since then the 'delegates' grouping has gained ground, with only Cork, Limerick, Belfast & a few Dublin groups holding out for autonomous groups & the mass movement structure. However many from the delegates group will be coming to the Limerick 'mass meeting' & a constructive compromise is still on the cards.



WHAT WE DID ON OUR HOLIDAYS

As promised it was an exciting winter. It started with the Cork meeting, over which a grim air of un-reality hung. There was tight control by the Cork group over the content of the meeting, if over little else. Attempts to bring up subjects for discussion that did not fit into the guidelines laid down were parried by Cork members who said they fitted another discussion better. One of the ways this control was set up was the lateness with which the Cork group sent out their proposals: in the case of Dublin 6 they arrived 1 and a half weeks before the meeting. Little time there for groups that meet fortnightly to discuss the proposals, much less formulate their own. Little chance was

given (or taken) throughout the workshops to examine past activity, compare & judge it -surely basic to the formation of any future strategies. No chance to deal with basic questions -Where was the 'mass'? Many felt the inability of the movement to deal with the anti-nuke struggle without considering taking on new struggles should have been examined. (& still needs to be).

When the tight 'limits of permissible discussion' was finally broken, people did it to discuss the all-important topic of -structure! Here we go again: proposal of delicate structures, counterproposals. The fetishization of structure was such that one comrade explained that all he wanted was a structure -he didn't

care what structure! (As if structure would solve the problems facing us).

From that came the Tralee & Kilkenny meetings. The oppressiveness of that kind of structure is more than adequately dealt with in another article. While we expect no better from Friends of the Earth, certain parts of the blame must fall on RS, who advocated a libertarian structure & then proceeded to manipulate it -thus scaring people into structure, where they felt they could at least see the decisions being made.

For some of us these proposals & counterproposals for more talking-shops seemed ludicrous: more opportunities for people to bullshit to each other & waste energy. It

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now appears that these meetings are irrelevant to the struggle.

The reaction was both ludicrous & typical. Reams of paper flowed from Limerick, Cork & Tralee (RS Limerick apparently having been 'delegated' by RS to deal with the delegate issue.) RS took the opportunity in *Rebel* -that comic of the class war- to upbraid certain of our friends, since they had also made mistakes (ie, had a meeting at which they discussed RS manipulation) & needed to be shown the error of their ways by uncle (big brother?) RS, as petty bourgeois. This labelling process (label them/dismiss them -see the horrid generalisations about neo-Marxist groups below) is unsatisfactory -& not only because the same label could be attached to some members of RS. It is an extremely immature way to deal with people (Remember people, Frank? Once upon a time revolution was about liberating people, not class forces.) who were interested in making sure that any action they took was not manipulated. Having labelled people as bourgeois, it's easy to go ahead & use/manipulate them. Thus 'liberators' become oppressors.

Along with this came a theoretical clarification of what autonomy actually means to RS. All you foolish people who thought autonomy was about self-activity, control of your own life, actions & expression, were wrong. Autonomy is (put it in capitals so they know it's important) 'AUTONOMY FROM THE STATE' CAPITAL AND BUREAUCRATIC FORMS OF ORGANISATION'. It is certainly NOT (important word that) about everyone doing their own thing. (*Rebel 18*)

It's good to have that spelt out at last. & who decides what is autonomous or not? Who else but uncle RS who have studied, read, etc., & who are therefore in a position to tell us what to do. (That attitude remind you of anyone? Your parents? Dessie O'Malley? The state?)

RS's definition of autonomy is a blatant example of a general trend in neo-Marxist groups' theory & practice -the co-option of libertarian ideas & forms of action/organisation. But this co-option also empties all liberatory content from these concepts. Thus autonomy

-self-control of one's own activities, self-management of all struggle-becomes a hollow shell in the hands of RS, all surface & no content, another alienated spectacle.

That theory found its expression in practice on Nov 30th, when RS, dressed in *autonomes* chic, used anti-nukes & others as cover & cannon-fodder for a pretty-batched-up attack on Bloom's Hotel, then ran back to Trinity, that bastion of bourgeois privilege, where, as we stood on the pavements & paddy wagons, branch & cops moved up the street towards us, the RS militants disappeared like pure driven snow, some wearing changes of clothing. (Not planned beforehand, huh?) This example of domination & manipulation makes it hard to differentiate between RS & the authoritarian state it claims to be opposing, especially as RS reproduces within itself oppressive relationships such

any wish to impose our organisation on them. The growth of a reformist, bourgeois opposition to nuclear need not be a bad thing: at any rate, it is inevitable. The growth of this organisation -noone could call it a movement- will increase the amount of anti-nuclear activity. When the movement is presently so weak, any anti-nuke action & information-spreading is to be welcomed. Being freed from attempts to impose forms of organisation on each other will liberate our energies for the main game -opposing nuclear power.

There is much that needs to be done: spreading information in working class areas may be one priority: while reams have appeared in print about this, little has been done. Where was the working class on Nov 30th? (A modest & practical



as leader & led which are characteristic of the society they claim to oppose. Well, no tears will be shed here when RS are carted off to the great dustbin of history along with all the other old relics & voices from beyond the grave.

What we may see at Limerick is a power play: a struggle for power over the anti-nukes direction between FoE & RS. Both sides wish to define the limits within which anti-nukes may act. Both sides are wrong. While we disagree with oppressive forms of organisation & reject them & also note John Carroll's certainty in his *In Dublin* interview that the anti-nuke movement will set up a centralized office & provide agreed material & speakers to the straight media, this decision being communicated to him magically before the mass meeting takes place: did the angel come hot foot from Kilkenny- we don't feel like wasting our time & energy fighting FoE. Nor have we

proposal from a friend is that the next anti-nuke march in Dublin start at Dolphin's Barn, making its way to town via Cork St., the Coombe, etc.) Opposing uranium mining will also come to the forefront: attention should not only be directed towards Donegal. Some of these actions may need to be co-ordinated: many need not.

It appears that some of us from now on will operate autonomously, not only from state, capital & reformism such as FoE's, but also from RS. The 2 most successful actions in the past 3 months -the EEC occupation (much as we regret the arrest of the people involved) & the Donegal weekend (which was organised by Belfast & other anti-nukes proved as much a hindrance as a help)- were organised autonomously by the people who participated in them. Thus we can bypass the incipient bureaucracy of the FoE



delagation system & the strangling bullshit & pointlessness of the mass meetings. These groups are liable to resemble anarchist affinity groups: basic to them is that the people involved in them know & trust each other. This implies, in one way, a re-direction of activity towards local areas, originated & controlled by the local autonomous group itself & on the other way, an increase in co-ordinated efforts between like-minded local groups, as against 'national' actions. In this way also we can operate autonomously of the two bourgeois, hierarchical organisations -FoE & RS'



ASSAULT ON SEABROOK

The attempt to occupy the Seabrook (New Hampshire, USA) nuclear power plant began before dawn on October 6, 1979. If the following report suffers from subjectivity, or incompleteness, it is because of the near impossibility of being both a participant & a reporter at such an event. I chose to be a participant.

For some the confusions started early. Directions to the distant staging area (some 20 miles from the site) where groups other than those from Boston & Newburyport would spend Friday night, were in one case completely wrong, the road to be taken being marked as not to be taken. Nevertheless the small circle that greeted us grew into a crowd, meals & meetings were called (& held, mostly in a steady cold rain) & a group feeling was born. Still many out-of-state groups, travelling for hours, did not arrive until midnight or later. With jump-off scheduled for 5 am, there was pressure for a day's delay of the assault.

It was decided, upon learning that one group was already in position on the marshes & not easily reachable for co-ordination & that the southern group (Boston) was determined to stick

to the original plan, that our 'cluster', targeted for the north, would proceed to the fence as planned where the final decision to attack would be made.

The northern groups arrived at low tide -Seabrook is on the ocean & high tides make the plant a virtual peninsula- & crossed an amazing series of pontoon bridges that had been erected in the dark just hours before by an advance team. The main northern body halted about 100 yards from the fence & a meeting was called. The gathering was typified by its (lengthy)



joined circles of people singing 'love, love, love, love...we are one', picture-taking by the media, & attempts to talk the few visible state troopers & National Guard into going home. It didn't work.

Report then came to us that the south was the scene of heavy fighting, fence-cutting, macings & clubbings. Sensing no likelihood of action where I was, I headed towards the south. Apparently, at about this time, a splinter group was cutting fences & being repulsed where the railroad tracks entered the northern perimeter, more to the west. The main northern force, however, as I left & for as long as I could see them (which was quite a while) did not move forward.

The first southern assaults lasted about an hour. As we regrouped, complaints were aired; some southern people were surprised & bitter about the lack of simultaneous support (thus diversion) from the north. It was to become clear that, not coincidentally, the differences in strategy & tactics -roughly translated as 'confrontational/property as fair game' vs. 'pacifist/no violence to property' -ran along the geographical line. Not coincidentally I say, because the southern group (Boston area)

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were (1) much more directly threatened by the plant; (2) had long histories of both working with each other & working against Seabrook (they knew the contempt the utilities have for local feeling against the nuke & how far being polite had got them); and (3) contained significant anarchist & libertarian-left elements.

Also, we mulled over 2 pieces of intelligence; First, it seemed as if the State was going to arrest as little as possible. At earlier Seabrook dems, especially 1977's, there was a strategy of deliberately getting arrested & 'bleeding' the state with costs of custody. This had worked quite well except that it had no direct effect on the plant itself.

This year, the cops' orders were to repulse, not arrest, which coincided with our own plans. It's nice to cost the State in jail, but it's much sweeter to cost them & stay free. (For those who might advocate a recreation of 77, there were signs that the State was better able to deal with that, though unwilling - the bottleneck of processing was to be loosened by on-site mobile courts, visible from the fence).

Horses, Mace & clubs were used. Later on, when the cops moved outside the fence to attack, their

main concern seemed to be the confiscation of gas masks.

The other bit of news was also interesting, & ultimately more frustrating. Although National Guard units were on call about an hour's drive away, at the time of the initial attack there had been just 300 defenders - to keep out almost 10 times their number! With this ratio, it was clear to some of us that had several groups attacked in concert & with resolve, there almost certainly would have been a major breakthrough. Now, however, our advantages (few as they were) of surprise (location & precise tactics) & secrecy (numbers) were lessened. By the next day, the guards had doubled.

On Sunday more assaults were made. The main thrust on the south, where most people had shifted, was to be supported by a diversionary attempted entry on the northern front. But, instead of creating a credible diversion, the northern group simply sat down! The police left a token force & concentrated on the only visible threat.

It has been suggested that this failure of the northern group to support the southern assault effectively was a simple mix-up. I have no evidence to the contrary, but the Sunday assault was supposedly more tightly planned than Saturday's. Is it par-

anoia or perception that makes me wonder whether that northern group ever had a real commitment to confrontation, if that's what was required to get in? Throughout the action, there seemed to be people whose priority was entry & occupation but only if no-one - including the cops - were 'alienated' by anything that was done.

After Sunday, there were no serious attempts to occupy the facility. Small guerilla groups circled the fence, cutting & running, harassing the police but posing no threat to the nuke.

Still, there were bright spots. New Hampshire Attorney-General Rath was gassed when a CS canister was returned. One affinity group noting that one particular policeman was being especially nasty, isolated him long enough to use a stolen can of Mace on him!

Monday was given over to peaceful, legal picketing at the main gates, although numbers grew & we received solid support from the locals driving by.

After shutting down work for the better part of three days & costing New Hampshire over \$200,000 in expenses, many went home. The authorities, thinking the coast was clear, brought the two dozen who had managed to get themselves arrested to the courthouse, only to be greeted by 300 very noisy people. An attempt to smuggle the prisoners away was met by a determined blockade & several flat tires on the police buses.

The police then charged, acting as they usually do when few people & fewer cameras are around. Several people were hospitalized with broken bones & concussion.

The relocated prisoners were eventually released, upon identification; those who refused to identify themselves were held. As of this writing I personally have no word on how many, if any, are still held, or on what charges.



When the cops moved against the assault force they concentrated on seizing gas masks. The attempted occupation failed this time, but the lessons learned were invaluable. We'll be back!

MIANADÓIREACHT URANIUM AGUS



Ag cruinniú de cheannairí thíortha an Chomhfhargaidh, Meitheamh 1979, cuireadh tús le feachtas úr chun cúis na cumhachta eithnigh a chur chun cinn san Eoraip. Agus, le deireannas, mhaí Rialtas na Breataine gurb é a polasaí- siúd suas is anuas le billiún punt a chaitheamh d'fhonn cur lena gcumas riachtainisí fuinnimh an Ríocht Aontaithe a chomhlíonadh le cumhacht eithneach. & é seo uilig ainneoin go bhfuil clabh-súr ar an 'bhforbairt' seo i dtíortha & i réigiúin áirithe (an tSualann, an Ostair, Caladh Foirne, srl.) de bharr i lochtaí, a chontúirtí is a chostaisí is atá an teicneolaíocht seo.

Ainneoin ceacht Harrisburg, lena rá go h-icearrach!

'Ainneoin' eile nár mhiste a chur san áireamh is ea an chaoi go bhfuil Uranium -an tamhábhar is fairsinge a h-úsáitears sna tionscail seo- ag dul i ngainne. Go deimhin féin, meastar go mbeidh príomhfhoinisí an ábhair seo ídithe faoi na luath-naochóidí. I bhfiainise go bhfuil tréimhse na teirce sroichte againn cheana féin tháinig méadú 500 faoin gcéad ar phraghas Uranium idir 1973-77, & de bharr na gainne bainfear fad as an gclaonadh seo. Sé a thorthaí seo ná a) go bhfuiltear go dian sa tóir faoi láthair ar sholáthair nua & b) ag caitheamh súl ar fhoinisí nach raibh sách 'torthúil', i dtuairim na saineolaithe, go nuige seo.

bAs Meiriceá, Ceanada, Deisceart na hAfraice, an Astráil is an Fhrainc, don chuid is mó de, a thánig an tamhábhar i dtús báire. Bítear in ann suas is anuas le 4 faoin gcéad uranium a aimsiú i mianach den scoth, ach ta ábhar aitheanta den chaighdeán seo i ndáil le bheith ídithe. Ach Ach táthar ag plé faoi láthair le mianach a bhfuil 10 n-oiread, ar a laghad, níos lú uranium ann, & beifear ag tabhairt aghaidh feasta ar mhianach nach bhfuil ach 0.01 faoin gcéad, nó níos lú ná sin, dá mhéachaint ina uranium.

Sin cuid den chúlra atá leis an tóir ar uranium sa nGaeltacht Láir! ... Ní nuaíocht a thuilleadh i mbéal an phobail é faoi láthair gur nochtaigh



na scrúdaithe seo go raibh dóthain uranium sa gcomharsanacht úd & a mheallfadh ceann de na comhlachta móra chun tús a chur le mianadóireacht san áit.

Ach, dá mbeadh sé seo i ndán don cheantar, níor mhiste an lorg a d'fhágfadh a leithéidí ar shaol is ar shláinte phobal na n-háite a phlé & a mheas. Nó féachaint an bhfuil bunús ar bith leis an gcaint adeireann go mbeadh fiontar nach beag ag baint leis an dtionscnamh uilig, ní

hamháin d'acfainní aiceanta an cheantair, ach don phobal féin.

Tá a bhíonnas ar siúl sna poill uranium neamhurchóideach go leor, shílfeá. An mianach a baintear faoi talamh nó ó drompla na talún, cuirtear trí sraith de mhuilinn mheilte é a dhéanann gaineamh mhín as an gcrúán. Mar adúirt mé cheana is beag uranium seachas substaintí eile atá san ábhar seo. Ní folair é a dhlúthú. Chuige seo, déantar scagadh ar an ngaineamh le subsaintí ceimiceacha a ghlanann an uranium aisti. Fágтар dhá thoradh as seo: 1) 'Ciste buí' nó 'Yellow cake', a mbíonn 85 faoin gcéad de, d'réir mhéachaint, ina uranium & 2) an Fuíollach ('tailings') Bíonn Radium-ábhar raidighníomhach (agus nimhneach, dá réir)- le fáil sa bhfuíollach. Agus bíonn an fuíollach seo 100 oiread níos troime ná an uranium a scartar uaidh. In aghaidh gach tonna mianaigh a phróiseáiltear sa gcáoí seo táirgítear níos mó ná 3700 líotar de lucht raidighníomhach (.i. nimhneach) fosta; ábhar is ea é seo nach bhfuil aon tairfe le baint as & nach fiú a stóráil...

Tá mé ag caint ag deireadh thiar ar 'Radighníomhaíocht' (radioactivity) & an 'ghathaíocht' a léiríonn é. Rud í an ghathaíocht nach féidir a fheiceáil, tar éis an tsaol; cad chuige mar sin an mbíonn daoine chomh



SLAINTE AN PHOBAIL

faiteach sin roimpi? Nó, lena chur ar bhealach eile, is feasach do chuile dhuine, san lá atá inniu ann (agus fianaisí Hiroshima & Nagasaki againn) an dochar a dhéantar don chorp a nochtaitear go tobann do mhéid abhallmhór gathaíochta; ach ba mhór a bheadh idir seo, adéarfadh daoine áirithe, & an leibhéil leanúnach gathaíochta a bheadh sna poill i mBaile na Finne, abair, dá mba ann dóibh...

Bíodh sin mar atá -ach ní foláir a mheabhrú fosta go bhfuil fianaisí láidre á gcuinniú le na blianta anuas a theasbaineann go soiléir go bhfágann fiú is méadaithe beaga i leibhéil gathaíochta na timpilleac-tachta droch-lorg ar an bpobal agus ar shliocht an phobail.

Dochar fadtéarmach a bhíonn i gceist de ghnáth nuair a fhaigheann corp an duine dósanna beaga leanúnacha gathaíochta. Bíonn tréimhse forbartha 5 bhliana ag ailse fola (leukaemia), cuirim i gcás -ach tá ailsí eile ann nach dtagann chun solais go mbíonn fiche bliain tar éis don chorp glacadh leis an dós imithe



thart. Tá an patrún seo á léiriú ag daonradh Leithinis Cherbourg sa bhFrainc mara dnéantar próiseáil ar dhramhaíl eithneach na Fraince. I measc na ndroch-thorthaí a thig

as bheith nochtaithe ar dhóigh leanúnach do leibhéil ísle gathaíochta tá laghdú, nó cealú torthúlacht (sa bhfíreannach nó sa mbainneannach) & giorúchán ginirálta saoil, nach dtuigtear go h-iomlán fós.

Níos measa ná sin, ar bhealach, -mura bhfuil a bhfuil luaite thuas sách dona: Tá fianaise ann gur féidir leis an méadú is lú gathaíochta dochar a dhéanamh don cheall síolrach, nó don tsíol, sa gcois is go bhfágfaí smál ar shliocht an té a d'fhulangóidh an dós...

Ach, le filleadh ar an mianadóireacht! I rith na próise féin, ní san uranium is mó a bhfuil an dochar, Bíonn an subsaint seo ag meath san talamh & dá thoradh sin gintear an gas radighníomhach Radon-222. Bíonn sé seo a thiomsú sa mhianach faoi thalamh ar feadh na gcianta ach scaoiltear saor in aer an phoill/mhuilinn é nuair a bhrítear an cloch. Fosta, thig claocló ar an Radon-222 féin, go ndéantar Polonium 218 as. Greannaíonn sé seo de dheannach an phoill/mhuilinn. Séard a chiallaíonn seo ná go mbíonn an dá substaint shár-nimhneach seo á n-analú isteach i scámhóga na n-oibreanna fhad is bhíonn mianadóireachta uranium ar bun.

Ailse scámhóige a thoradh seo! Rinneadh staidéir ar fhairsinge an ailse seo i measc mianadóirí Joachimsthal na Gearmaine tamall maith ó shin & léiríodh, roimh 1930, go raibh claonadh thar an choiteann ag mianadóirí uranium bheith buailte ag ailse scámhóige. Thug fianaisí breise a chruinníodh in Iar-Dheisceart Mheiricea tar éis an Dara Chogadh Domhanda tacaíocht dearfach don bhreithe seo. Insíonn na figiúirí féin an scéal. As an 6000 fear a d'oibrigh sna poill uranium faoi thalamh i meiricea, tá sé measta ag an US Public Health Service go bhfaighfidh idir 600 & 1100 daofa bás ón ailse scámhóige, & é seo uilig de bharr dósanna gathaíochta a bheith faite acu i gcaitheamh a gcuid oibre.

Luaigh mé an Fuíollach a bhíos fágtha i ndiaidh na próise. Bíonn ábhar gníomhach (i. nimhneach) eile



-Radium- cuactha suas san aóhar seo. Nuair a fhágtar amuigh faoin tsíon é (i. s beag eile is féidir a dhéanamh leis) scuabann an braon anuas an radium amach as an bhfuíollach & isteach in uisce a d'ólfadh beithíoch, nó duine, b'fhéidir. Nuair a shlogtar radium lonnaíonn sé sa gcnámh mar a bhíonn sé ina thrúig ailse go minic. Sna Stáit Aontaithe meastar go spreagtar 40-50 cásanna ailse in aghaidh na bliana ag an ngathaíocht a thagann ón bhfuíollach thall. Tharla nach maolaíonn ar a nimhneacht-siúd mórán le h-imeacht aimsire, beidh an t-ábhar seo ina chinntsiocar bháis ag na slóite amach anseo.

Tá an gaol díreach idir gathaíocht & ailse cruthaithe faoin am seo, & seanchruthaithe. Tá sé cinnte fosta go bhfaighfidh baill de phobal na Gaeltachta Láir níos mó gathaíochta ná mar is gnáth dá gcuirfí tús le mianadóireacht uranium sa cheantar.

An cheist, mar sin, gur gá do mhuin-tir na h-áite a chur orthu féin ná: arbh é a leas sláinte an phobail a chur i gcontúirt ar mhaithe lena leas gearrthéarmach féin. Nó arbh é a gceart é sláinte na nglún atá le teacht a chur i nguais ar an ábhar céanna.

Ceisteanna móra tromchúiseacha iad seo, gan amhras. Meabhróidh an té a bheas á gcur taithí an tionscail seo in áiteacha eile. Ná racfadh na fianaisí seo uilig amu orainn.

Tomas Mac Slomóin,
Colaiste Teicneolaíochta Sraid
Chaoimhin, Ath Cliath.

SUBJECTS OF CHANGE NOT

The anti-nuclear movement in Ireland has gone through its first phase of opposition.... after 2 years of talk and action we have all gained in personal and collective experience, and are now able and willing to apply this increased awareness and confidence in the ways we want to challenge and stop the states' attempts to make us all live nuclear. However it is still important to understand the aspirations and drives of the stateour actions are designed to stop them, to overthrow them, and this can be done only if we appreciate their motives, their strengths, and their weaknesses. If we don't do this we run the risk (whatever our intentions) of playing their game.

The state wants nuclear power..... IT NEEDS IT! Not just because of oil shortages or E.E.C. pressure.. it's the way the state MUST engineer our very existence to continue industrial and capital development as they see it. (i.e. screwing the worker even more in socially useless commodity factories alongside an expanding bureaucratisation of all aspects of state control over us.) Nuclear energy is THEIR short-term answer to THEIR problem, albeit giving us ALL the unimaginable risks and dangers that go with it. They need it and will have it unless our strategy of opposition goes beyond merely asking them to change their minds.

If we see the state as needing it, then our sincere opposition must develop accordingly and see the state and all its structures, and all its ways of doing things and all its supporters as part of the problem too. And that's what is beginning to be worked out and discussed within the anti-nuclear movement.

But it's not just an empty debate about theories or ideologies... it involves ways of doing things, what has been done, and what will be done in the future. That's why the anti-nuclear movement seems to be having its 'internal problems'.

But what are the problems? In Dublin (late '78) anti-nuclear activists decided on a different form of politics... actively open to all imaginations as opposed to the hierarchical norms of boring

ineffective, soul-destroying, manipulating political parties. This is NOT to imply that any decision made in 1978 is binding on us all now...far from it... we change, as we learn, as we change. In 1980 this 'mass movement' is challenged by the more traditional stereotype of a delegate structure, of a national directorate, central office, central decision-making etc. etc.. The D.S. could be seen as just some people, frustrated at the mistakes and overt or covert political manipulation of the mass movement, trying to do things in their own way. This does, of course explain the enthusiasm for the D.S. by some people, but it hides the real and potential FUNCTION of the DS. where that function could and will interfere with the rest of us, and the real reasons for such a change in direction by some.

It's no longer enough to say that 'everyone do their their own thing in their own way' without outlining what



that means both to ourselves and to others we are trying to persuade of our anti-nuclear ideas; what the different ACTIVITIES of the DS and the mass-movement will mean in effect.

The DS is more than an alliance of the disaffected few, ranging from FOE to the CP... it is an alliance of those who wish to accommodate themselves to the 'rules of the game', to the legal and 'acceptable' ways, those who will respect rather than confront our class rulers. And in this lies its importance, as it plays into the hands of the govt., duplicating its structure, and legitimising all anti-nuclear opposition. In making TDovertures, sloganised encouragements to Haughey, participation in govt. whitewashes, it is NOT designed to confront nuclear policy

in the terms and language of those who will suffer the consequences. It is only play-acting, hoping to re-direct the bourgeoisie logic by asking them nicely, at best trying to trim the rough edges of a shit system.

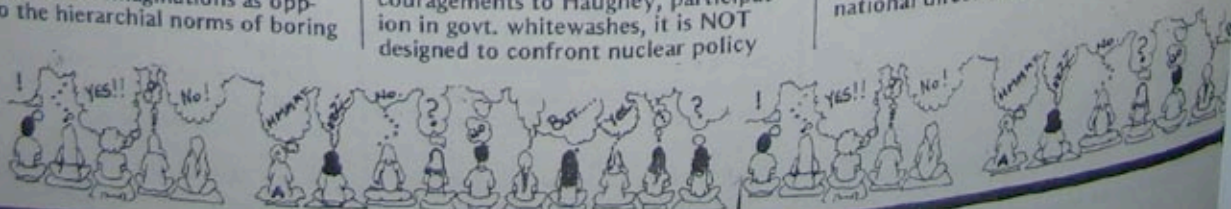
The DS is merely a respectable divergence which deliberately mistakes the capitalist dictates of need and greed for democracy. The dangers arise when it serves as the legitimising board for decided govt. policy, just as FOE(England) were vital to the widgey of the Parker Report, or as the Anti-Nuclear Campaign will become to the British struggle.

Only a respectable opposition can court and be courted by the bourgeoisie national media(through a central press office), can participate in govt. plans (a public enquiry), can condemn and disassociate from other anti-nuc. action when it goes beyond the narrow boundaries of legitimacy (wait and see or think again about Torness). New guidelines are drawn and all of a sudden the anti-nuclear movement has its own Friends Of the Police..... it will play to the govt. rules and procedures no matter how much they are stacked against us. Nuclear opposition can now become an essential ingredient for nuclear policy-making.

So that's its function, similar to its stunting forms of action. Only those ill-at-ease with direct forms of action by all those who stand to lose by nuclear living can seriously advocate sitting round a table to vote for each other so that the press can have a clear picture of their views in response to govt. decisions. Or legitimising the bureaucratically-mystifying govt. whitewashes through courts or public enquiries— is this what the DS 'demand' equal funding for?

And now the Nuclear Energy Board announces that it might recommend that the 'anti-nuc lobby be assisted to offset the relatively greater resources of the pro-nuclear camp' NOW WE HAVE MERCENARIES IN OUR CAMP!!

So the DS takes the path of bourgeois legality.... the central offices, national directorates etc. are the nec-



AGENTS

essary props. But how come the anti-nuclear movement takes steps backwards? Of course this is the path some MUST follow if their true interests and feelings are to be safe-guarded... but it is only to be expected at some stage, and should rid us of the burden of constantly having to reconcile opposing interests. But how come the mass structure has lost vitality?...and is raked by energy-wasting hassles between different groups and individuals? How come so many activists want to find alternatives to mass-meetings?

It is too easy to put the blame exclusively on sophisticated political manipulation by Revolutionary Struggle. In fact it is a sign of our weakness when we immediately see RS as the CAUSE of our problems..... they are not the cause, merely an effect! They are highly organised and disciplined along 'self-confessed Marxist-Leninist' lines....that's their problem... but the RS ability to dictate decision-making and make a lot of the running is due to the weaknesses of the rest of us. And it is these weaknesses which must be overcome so that no one group...no matter who... controls the flow, destroying in the process any spirit we have.

It is NOT impossible to come together every three months from all over Ireland to talk and argue AND make it positive at the same time.... but it's going to require a much greater degree of political openness activity, and consciousness if it is to work. It's going to require a great deal of organised activity amongst those anti-nuclear activists who want open libertarian structures to work and be effective...a more organised method of working together in our anarchic ways, so that mass-meetings become less of an individualised, intimidating routine, and more of a forum for discussing our successes. That way we have the collective confidence to listen to others, reject or accept what they have to say without being individually conditioned into silence and distrust....or turning our backs and joining the talking shop. Like minds must learn the magic of support.



If libertarians and anarchists of all shapes can organise together all the time (and not just some of us for brief moments), then we can meaningfully co-exist with all other anti-nuclear activists. This is NOT to imply we get a label too, and the power to dominate and compete (like the libertarians alongside RS and the delegates)- NO - it is to take anti-nuclear activity out of the realm of intrigue and gossip and into a much more confident, open, and effective struggle. And we do that by working together in an organised way, a non-authoritarian way NOT by splitting the country up to make the faces fewer, or delegating others to do it for us!



It means no break from autonomous structures, no break from self-control over our actions....but it means that the trust and confidence and ideas gained from activating together can be better applied....and hopefully our confidence and ideas can re-think our anti-nuclear attitudes. For instance, we need to look much more closely at just who we want to communicate with and how best we can do that.

We need to see nuclear power as part of a wider scheme, see where struggle against it is already taking place, or can take place no matter what the issue....there we will find our natural allies.

In a small unco-ordinated way, glimpses of what is possible have already occurred, with uranium mining in Donegal, and the E.E.C. offices in Dublin...what is needed now is for libertarians to get together with the aim of working together in an open, trusting way to counter-act the quiet moralism of the state, and their press, and resist any domination of the mass-meetings. So, working within the anti-nuclear movement, widening our understanding of what constitutes a nuclear state, we can suggest and implement actions which challenge the statist path, and learn NOT to

reject good ideas just because of their source.

At this point in time we are part of the propaganda war; it is now we are permitted to publicise anti-nuc views. As the state gets nearer to building, as opposition grows, THEIR propaganda will swamp us... in the meantime we must get our own communications together....we could use the internal newsletter as much as is useful; strategic use of good information appearing in the right way in the right place, at the right time, (eg. uranium mining pamphlet distributed free in Donegal): a good, regular newspaper which will more reflect our thoughts AND actions:

be prepared to think and act in national terms, and break down the isolation the bourgeoisie media forces upon us....100,000 leaflets next time round? We can't depend on the whims of an inherently hostile press. Use them if we can, but be under no illusions about their true interests.

So that's one path for libertarians and anarchists...active in local autonomous groups, yet communicating and acting together to get strength, and confidence, and keep the mass-meetings as a forum for open debate, full of vitality.

It's up to us to make them this forum for ideas, to permit the flow of feeling and confidence, to return to a vision of what is possible. We can do this without leadership, to be aware of what forms manipulation can take, all the disguises it appears in....We can also broaden our terms of reference, and initiate anti-nuclear activities, and establish our own forms of communication. If not, we run the danger of becoming too introverted and incestuous, leaving nationally organised opposition in the hands of futile reformers or authoritarian cliques. Perhaps at Limerick those interested will start to do something about it. ④

What I mean here by ecology is a science which studies life as a whole - as an intimately connected & interdependent set of animal, insect, plant & biological systems. The science of ecology is promoted by ecologists & 'eco-freaks' - but is totally at odds with modern industrial society, which still treats the earth as an unlimited system & manipulates people, resources and ideas to create profits & power.

The answer of the industrialists to ecological objections is first to label all protest as irresponsible & anti-progress, then to modify their operations with cosmetic changes (eg. the Department of the Environment) & token controls, & in the last analysis to move their operations to countries where middle-class objections are impossible. This type of response can be traced back to the beginnings of modern capitalism. It was in 17th century England that the small merchant class decided to bring together the part-time craft weavers & spinners of the countryside into factories. They achieved this by labelling poverty & laziness a sin, through the religious revival, & by introducing the ideology of technology & progress as good in itself. Widespread resistance was broken & by 1820 the industrial proletariat was beginning to emerge. Capitalism, as I say, uses people, resources & ideas in any way that brings profit. At this time new technology was brought in mainly to break resistance & increase work discipline - from the beginning there was nothing neutral about it. Ideas & theories too were pressed into service. The first of these were the theories of Malthus - who claimed that the sacrifice of minorities was the only way to prevent total annihilation by population growth. & advocated a programme of 'positive checks' & survival of the strong. Malthus was ably refuted by Hazlett & William Godwin, the father of modern anarchism. But politicians, generals & industrialists

took up Malthus's theory & it still survives today. Then came Darwin, with his theory of natural selection - Like any other animal, man has undoubtedly ascended to his present high level by means of a struggle for existence resulting from his rapid production; & if he is to advance yet higher still, one fears that he must remain subject to a bitter struggle. He would otherwise relapse into indolence' (The Descent of Man). It was these ideas, along with those of Huxley (the Struggle for Life manifesto) & Hobbes, which provided the ideological basis for modern capitalism & justified the 19th century bourgeoisie in massive exploitation & subjugation of the proletariat & coloured races throughout the world. Again these ideas were ably refuted, this time by Kropotkin in his books 'Mutual Aid' & 'Fields Factories & Workshops'. Kropotkin was a leading geographer & naturalist as well as an anarchist, & he showed convincingly that in nature competition 'is always bad for the species', arguing with myriad examples from nature & pioneering anthropological studies, that all animals evince a social character, & that if all authority was removed, spontaneous co-operation would emerge. Kropotkin was the first ecologist & a brilliant revolutionary, though he underestimated the extent of human conditioning to accept & reproduce authoritarian systems. His unique contribution was in the

THE ROOTS OF ECOLOGY

area of anarchist communism - where he saw ahead of both Marx & Bakunin to a society where each would be paid 'according to their need' - thus destroying the wages system. Kropotkin's ideas had no effect on those who held power, but were important in the revolutions of 1848 & 1871.

It was left to Marx & Engels to expose the economic foundations of capitalism & create their own brand of scientific socialism. Marx saw clearly that the new 'exploited' proletariat could be a source of power, formulated a theory of alienation which he unfortunately dropped later & undertook a thorough analysis of production, power & historical forces. Marx used the theory of dialectics - adapted from Hegel - as a means to gain power through political polarisation. Over-reliance on this theory, along with Marx's need to appear scientific, led to some unfortunate results in the technological & ecological spheres. The first was a naive faith that technology, in itself, is unbiased - thus we see Lenin adapting the scientific management methods of Frederick Taylor, invented specifically for mental & physical control of labour: 'The Taylor system is a combination of the refined brutality of bourgeois exploitation & a number of the greatest scientific achievements in the field of analysing the mechanical motions of work' says Lenin in 1918. Thus also we see Trotsky modelling the Red Army on that of the Tsars, in the name of dialectics, & Marx himself, way back in the 1848 revolutions, dissolving central committees, allying with the bourgeoisie & suppressing proletarian agitation, as a strategic policy to get rid of the monarchy first. Marx, it seems, was the original Stickie.

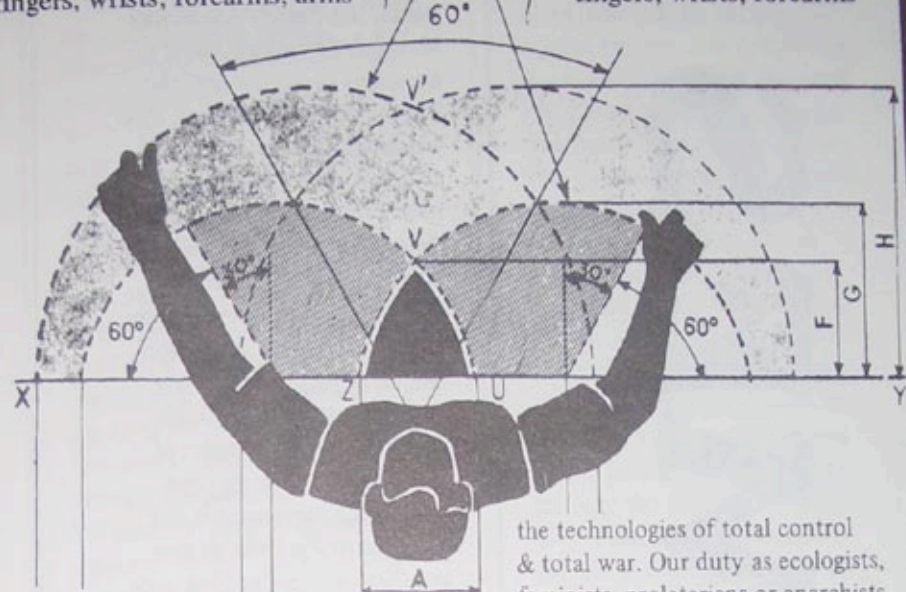
The purpose of the above comments is to give an idea of how the ideology that Science & Technology are neutral and equal progress dominated both the State 'Socialist' & the Capitalist spheres. From that

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time the process has continued unabated, with the continued opening of fresh markets & resources. The capitalist West has so far survived all crises, by resorting to direct repression & war, by breaking labour resistance with new technology, by ensuring cheap raw materials & a stranglehold over the Third World, & by hammering home the message that science & technology = equal progress. The recent upsurge in environmentalism in the West must be seen, in this light, as an ephemeral middle class reaction, & likely to disappear, unless linked to a positive ideology & the submerged power of the working classes. Indeed the counter ideologies of Marx & Kropotkin have been developed & tested, most significantly, from an ecological viewpoint, in the Spanish Revolution. At this time, after the collapse of the Republican government & the defeat of the fascist coup, much of the land & industry actually fell into the hands of the people, who were prepared by many previous insurrections & averse to any form of political control. What happened then is an enduring proof of Kropotkin's ideas. After a short general strike the people went back to work, in a spirit of mass solidarity, & set up their own worker controlled industries & autonomous collectives all over the country, pooling their goods & talents, adopting minimum wages for all, the beginnings of Kropotkin's free consumption system, free schools, local hospitals, etc & hammering out federations of collectives. (see Leval - Collectives in the Spanish Revolution - Freedom Press - & A new world in our hearts - Cienfuegos Press). This was the most highly developed system of human organization yet seen, resembling, in scientific theory, the self-regulating systems of ecology & cybernetics. That revolution was only defeated, with millions dead, by an alliance of the ascendant fascist powers & the withdrawal of aid by Moscow, both because they had no control & ironically to secure a treaty with Hitler,

Maximum work area
4th category movements
fingers, wrists, forearms, arms

Normal work area
3rd category movements
fingers, wrists, forearms



who was responsible for 10 million Russian dead in the following 7 years.

Since that time the world power game has resolved itself into a straight fight between capitalism & the controllers of state 'socialism', both of them committed to

the technologies of total control & total war. Our duty as ecologists, feminists, proletarians or anarchists is correspondingly great. The greatest ecological threat at present is the total destruction of the biosphere through the release of atomic radiation. One way to begin is by stopping the further spread of nuclear power & blocking any plans to mine uranium.

SNIPPETS

LATE NEWS !!!

A large area of East Anglia was in danger of being showered with plutonium from burst atomic bombs when a US Air Force B47 Bomber crashed in Suffolk in 1956, it was claimed in an American newspaper. It happened just as the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament was being formed in Britain & according to the Omaha World Herald the then Mr. Eden & US president Eisenhower ordered that any mention of nuclear weapons should be excised from the accident reports. The newspaper says it has pieced the story together from limited information in official records & from interviews with military personnel familiar with the incident. None of the sources is quoted by name but the paper covers the area that is the home of the USAF Strategic Air Command. (Guardian 6/11/79)

The American Government has admitted for the first time that radiation from atmospheric tests of atomic bombs in the South Pacific from 1945 to 1962 may have caused cancer among the troops exposed. The Government, under criticism for years about its alleged reluctance to make the acknowledgement, accepted the responsibility in a case brought by former Sgt. Orville Kelly in 1974, a year after his cancer was first diagnosed. It is estimated that 250,000 personnel & islanders were exposed to radiation in 183 tests, some 3000 have reported they have cancer & 804 have filed disability claims. (Guardian, 30/11/79)

A couple who live just over 3 miles from the Three Mile Island nuclear plant in Pennsylvania have sued its owners, claiming that the March 28, 1979 accident caused the still birth of their child. The couple charged that radiation released during America's worst commercial nuclear accident caused their daughter's death. (Irish Times 28/12/79)

AUTONOMES

In the previous issue of the Contaminated Crow, the article on the French Autonomy Movement raises a number of questions about the anti-nuclear movement in general. That article was translated from an ultra-left review, Spartacus, which did some good work on historical matters relevant to the revolutionary movement, but which confuses everything when dealing with the Autonomy movement. This article represents an individual, although not isolated, point of view inside that movement.

First, the movement is not confined to the Parisian area, and there was no 'sudden appearance' of autonomous groups at the Malville anti-nuke march in 1977. One can trace the basic ideas of Autonomy as far back as the late sixties, & especially during the May & June 1968 revolt: these are the rejection of politics as distinct from economic struggles, thus the rejection of both political parties & trade unions as such, & the necessity of direct action to meet the demands of the proletariat. The rise of the Autonomy movement lately was caused both by the remodelling of economic & social life by capitalism itself, & by the chronic inability of left organizations to deal with the actual problems of proletarian youths. Former militants of those organizations are not numerous in the movement, who generally come from maoist & libertarian backgrounds. As for street demos, it is inaccurate to relate the rise of Autonomy with the ritual rioting & clashes with police that took place at the end of almost every demo in France since 1968. Accordingly, the bourgeois press (but not Liberation, which is decadent but not libertarian) has attempted to reduce the act-

ivities & the activity of the movement to those emotional deeds, in order to brand the Autonomes as 'fascists', 'provocateurs', 'mindless vandals', etc. In fact, if any individual or group acts that way, nobody will clamp down on it or condemn it, as there is no leadership or overall structure or trade mark picked out of the dustbins of history. It is an extremely heterogenous movement, which may include a counter-culture activist, a small farmer who will resist the state on a land issue as well as an unemployed youth who will squat an empty building with his pals & live partly on stealth, and a worker who will sabotage some machinery in his factory.

Secondly, the Autonomes have kept away from the anti-nuclear movement for some time, mainly because it was controlled by environmental groups (Ecologists), & subsequently, it had a high level of illusions & a low level of efficiency. That low-profile involvement turned out to be a mistake. When the French state hardened its position on nuclear & decided to go ahead with the biggest programme of n-plants in Europe, local resistance increased in more radical ways, thus moving towards autonomous-like practices. The irrelevancy of ecologist ideology appeared during the preparatory discussions of the Malville march, when some ecologists rejected any kind of violence which was not 'legitimate': by this they meant that only local people under the threat of the plant could take action, & when asked to define local people, the apostles of non-violence determined a 'legitimacy zone' within, say, a 10-mile radius from the site. A sick joke indeed, if one considers that a nuclear accident would affect people on a much broader radius, & on the ideological side, the French nuclear state is non-violent in talk & extremely violent in practice.

Its hard line has lately been reaffirmed by Barre under the sempiternal pretext of the oil crisis, which means more STATE TERRORISM against ordinary people, such as:

- a) breaking the law: near the notorious La Hague waste retreatment plant, the Flamanville plant is being built in spite of a court injunction to stop it because of the mere lack of any planning permission (!)
- b) gambling on safety: 2 new plants in Gravelines & Tricastin have been commissioned & fuelled in spite of cracks in the boilers for which the 'authorities' admit they have no present solution
- c) demagoguery on employment: the projected plant in Cattenom will have several more reactors under the pretext of creating additional jobs & being more attractive to investments in the steelworking area of Lorraine which erupted at the beginning of 1979.

And so on. Confronted with such an enemy, the anti-nuclear movement cannot confine itself to a respectable, law-abiding attitude. It also means that unity of the movement at the national level - which still prevails in Ireland - is impossible & may only be reached at a local or regional level, where some struggles tended to get more radical, as in Le Pellerin. On many sites under construction, sabotage actions on machinery were carried out, but for the major bomb attack against Fessenheim in 1976, responsibility was claimed by a 'Commando Puig Antioch/Ulrike Meinhof' from the Autonomy movement. A similar attack wrecked the head-quarters of the semi-state nuclear company Framatome near Paris, causing extensive damage to high precision machinery & files. More recently, every unloading of nuclear waste in Cherbourg for the La Hague plant was disrupted by sabotage actions & riots to such an extent that special harbour facilities are planned nearer to La Hague.

Both the stubborn, not-an-inch attitude of the French state & the subsequent, spontaneous response of the anti-nukes contribute to define the movement strategy: a sort of economic resistance based on every means available - including using the law as much as possible - in order to increase the bill of the nuclear programme & show the state that there will be no lying down. It was interesting to note that some moderate elements of the movement had no other alternative other than dropping the old ecologist appraisal & relying more on involvement with bourgeois politics, especially through the Socialist Party & its left satellite, PUS. A national petition for a moratorium has been launched, with the support of those two parties, the CFDT, UFC consumers organization & the Friends of the Earth. A prominent member of the latter resigned from a National Advisory Council on nuclear energy, the chairperson of which is supposed to be Simone Veil, who obviously prefers the EEC Parliament circus. That dummy body did not produce a single line of information to the public in several years. Even for would-be bureaucrats, there is no future in the institutional anti-nuclear movement in France.

In this context, the Autonomy movement has always had a weak theoretical position & a practical involvement much below its potential level because of the pressure of other issues & strong repression. However, it emphasises the importance of nuclear energy & connected industries in the restructuring of Capital as well as the subsequent strengthening of the police state. The anti-nuclear movement can & should be developed into an anti-capitalist mass movement organizing people on a political, but non-politician, basis. Its justification & legitimacy do not arise from a law-abiding attitude, but from

the proletarian need for SELF-DEFENCE when confronted by a deadly threat. There is indeed more potential for unity between the farmers of le Pellerin who threw the nukes out & the workers of the Tricastin plant who sabotaged electrical connections than between them & the opportunists that conceive the anti-nuclear movement as a mere lobby on environmental issues. Moreover, all the sweet talk on the possibility of pushing towards alternative sources of energy today by influencing capitalists, neither worries nor threatens them, quite the contrary: they are only too glad to have a bit of diversification which allows the pill of nuclear power to go down. The theme of energy-saving - & more generally, of an alternative way of life - is extremely ambiguous: on one side it can mean that overdeveloped capitalist society is based on waste, junk production, pollution, etc., & that it should be overthrown, on the other side it can be seen as a contribution to the process of impoverishment of the people who are asked - or compelled through soaring prices or scarcity - to stand more cold or travel less. The only valid answer to that is: your problems are not our problems, no collaboration with you in managing the present system, no gambling with fraudulent dice with 'national interest' on every face.

In short, there is a clear need in the anti-nuclear movement in France, but also in Italy & Euzkadi for instance, to overtake the environmentalist considerations which have prevailed so far & to build progressively a theory & a strategy that would stick more to the radical practices of various anti-nuke struggles. The argument that they upset the ordinary people appears to be generally false &

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indicates a deep dislike of their capacities of adaptation from those who advocate it. Even for the state & its huge propaganda machines, it is very difficult to smear those practices. The Fessenheim bombing caused more condemnation from the opportunistic, allegedly non-political elements of the anti-nuclear movement than from the local Alsatian people who are said to be the most conservative in France; that kind of action could be understood, because local mobilization had been good before the plant construction was started.

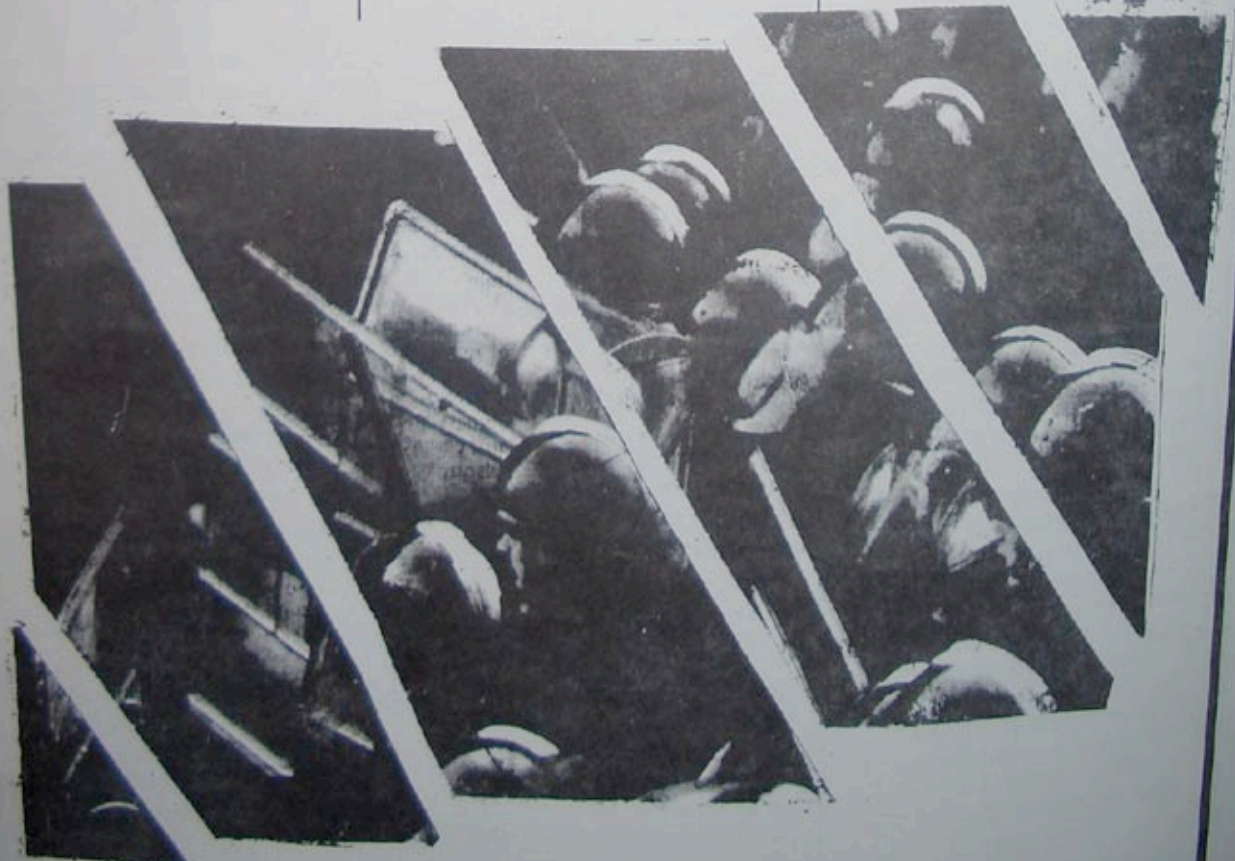
In this view, the previous article is wrong when saying that 'until now the movement has only appeared at nuclear sites & has always ended with confrontation with police forces & ended in failure'. Most of it is irrelevant,

as it only tells about the more spectacular & less efficient appearance of the Autonomy movement the one that makes the bourgeois press hysterically delighted with 'violence'. It is also an intellectual debate to try to find whether the social basis of the Movement has chosen its battleground or has been relegated there by the capitalist system. While both explanations can be argued for, the answer for the concerned people can only be active resistance to Capital state plans, & the nuclear issue is probably a key one for them. But the very end of the article is right when pointing at the tremendous work that still has to be done in order to increase the efficiency of the anti-nuclear movement, by identifying the various sectors of the economy that are being restructured by nuclear energy, by

intelligence gathering to supply active resistance with the appropriate data, by more local agitation, by mobilising the workers on safety issues.etc.

Though it can & should be criticised, the Autonomy component of the anti-nuclear movement has at least helped to show the reactionary, collaborationist nature of those who advocate non-violence at any price when confronted with a terrorist nuclear state. On the other hand, radical actions on the grounds of self-defence do not exclude the use of the law when & where it seems appropriate, or civil disobedience actions such as split payment of electricity bills.

If you say 'Nuclear Power, No Way!', it implies that EVERY WAY must be available to overcome the enemy, which is basically the same in every country.



Uranium Mining in Australia

Total Australian uranium reserves are estimated at 312,000 tonnes, most of it in high level ore. This is 20 per cent of the world's uranium, 60 per cent of high level unsold uranium in politically stable, non-communist countries. Big interests are involved & they are not going to give in easily. The large-scale struggle against uranium mining has been going on in Australia for 5 years & what we can learn from it are the extreme lengths to which the interests concerned are prepared to go to secure their profits against opposition, & the kind of tactics the people have used to be effective even against this determination.

Before public opinion was ever interested, 2 mines were operating, Mary Kathleen in Queensland & Rum Jungle in the Northern Territory. Mary Kathleen is still exporting. Rum Jungle was only a very small deposit & closed down years ago, leaving us with a strikingly visual mini-example of what the leftovers of our uranium mines will be like. As you approach Rum Jungle the vegetation thins out eventually to bare ground. Then you come to the tailings dam, a gigantic rectangular lake, the water looking black because of its great depth, stretching almost to the horizon & lined with signs to keep away & warning not to touch, let alone drink the water. This 'tailings dam' is modern engineering's solution to the problem of disposing of the thousands of tons of radioactive dirt that is left after the uranium has been extracted. But the dam is full of radioactive water because the tailings were long ago washed out by the rain into the river. The Finiss River system is dead for 1000 miles downstream, no fish no birds, no living vegetation in the surrounding area, just brown ground & black tree skeletons. The chemical & heat pollution has done the most damage but the radioactive pollution will be the most enduring. 450 curies of radium is left at Rum Jungle -0.04 microcuries causes 1,000 million cancers. No-one will be harmed?


But Rum Jungle was only a small deposit. The plan now is to open up Ranger & 3 other very large mines on Aboriginal land in the Northern Territory. But now the public is aware & protesting. But the companies & the government are determined.

Why all this determination to mine uranium? Australia has no nuclear reactors & as a vast sunny country is ideal for developing solar energy. She provides most of her own oil as well. Our uranium is all exported, mostly to fuel reactors in the US, West Germany, the UK & above all in earthquake-ridden Japan. (Some people are asking, where is overpopulated little Japan going to store its nuclear waste?) We are told that it is to boost the economy & provide employment for Australian (white) workers; but let us look again at the benefits to the country. (25A equals one pound sterling approx.) 15 million put into manufacturing industry can create 25 jobs, put into uranium mining it creates 2 jobs. & the uranium mining will be finished in 20 years. This investment is actually robbing money from job-creating enterprises. Uranium mining will only comprise 0.34 per cent of the national income. And that's not all. The Federal Government will not be levying a resources tax on mining companies & has made other significant tax concessions to them to encourage overseas investment. In 1969-70 the tax paid by the mining industry in Australia was exceeded by 40\$ million of government assistance. In 1978 Mary Kathleen would have closed down if the government had not agreed to cover most of their 235 million loss. How much are these 'profits' going to cost the Australian taxpayer?

Perhaps we should look at it from another point of view. Who really are 'Ranger Uranium Mines Ltd.' & 'Mary Kathleen Uranium Ltd.'? To begin with 50 per cent of shares in each case are held by the Australian Atomic Energy Commission, the body set up by the government to set safety limits & protect the public from any dangers of the atomic industry. Lesson: we can't trust the government to look after our safety. The other 50 per cent is owned by Peko Mines Ltd., Electrolytic Zinc Co. & Conzinc Rio Tinto. Not only do individuals & companies with power in the government have shares in these, but also, profit or no profit, these multinational companies need Australian uranium to fuel their multi-billion dollar reactors all over the world. (Some of it will end up in the Irish sea) So it is not surprising that they are willing to go as far as they have & further.



Thousands of Aboriginal people live a traditional tribal life on their own tribal land in Northern Australia while they seek to find in their own time their own way of coping with the fact of white 'civilization' around them. These are unaggressive people who never knew warfare & whose traditional values are kin-



ship, loyalty, sharing & avoiding trouble & conflict. Easy target. The Australian government 'gave' them their own tribal land because it was no good for farming or anything else, but kept the mineral rights just in case anything came up. So fairly recently some tribes, whom I have visited, have had bauxite mines thrust upon them & have been turned from traditional community life to disintegration, despair & alcoholism, as aborigines in the south did generations ago. Now some other tribes are to be burdened with uranium mines on their hunting grounds & sacred sites.

But a uranium mine would be a much more serious imposition than a bauxite mine. A township would have to be built to accommodate the workers, miles of ground cleared, a stream of trucks coming in every day, bringing in heavy acids & carrying out radioactive yellowcake; a large mill would pour chemical pollution into the environment, the area would be left radioactive & unapproachable for miles around, even if there were no accidents, wild life would be killed, the water table from which the water supplies are taken left radioactive & undrinkable for hundreds of years & a larger version of Rum Jungle left to them when the mines are depleted & everyone goes home in 20 years.

The mining companies & government are prepared to do this to these gentle people. In fact for 2 years they kept the general public believing that the aborigines wanted a uranium mine, while the aboriginal spokesmen were unable to have their opinion publicised down south. They have tried to conceal the bad effects of mining from the aborigines & lied to them about the benefits. They have conducted smear campaigns in the Northern Territory press to discredit the Northern Lands Council (an aboriginal representative body) & to undermine their negotiating position. They have attempted to destroy support for the NLC by fostering racist groups such as

Rights for Whites & suggesting that white unemployment is directly attributable to aboriginal selfishness. They released a confidential document of NLC negotiation proposals to the rest of the mining industry.

Meanwhile, down south, another unbelievably dirty trick. In 1974 the Federal Labour Government set up the Fox Commission to carry out a full enquiry into uranium mining & suggested it might put a stop to all uranium mining pending the report. In 1975, in mid-term of office, always the time of lowest popularity & at a time of high inflation in Australia as in the whole world, the Liberal Party headed by Malcolm Frazer used a technical oversight in the constitution to stage what is now referred to as the Constitutional Coup. It refused to ratify the budget in the senate, the Governor-General, the English Queen's representative, sacked the government, set up Frazer's party as a care-taker government & called an untimely election. In the midst of peoples' fears of economic insecurity the Liberals were elected on a policy of 'Turn On the Lights', get the economy back on its feet & this, not surprisingly, included uranium mining at full speed. Now, many people suspect that the mining companies were behind the whole disgraceful affair. A US journal, Nucleonics Week, had predicted 6 weeks before that that the present Australian government will have to be overthrown within 6 weeks if we are to receive our necessary uranium supplies. We must never underestimate their power.

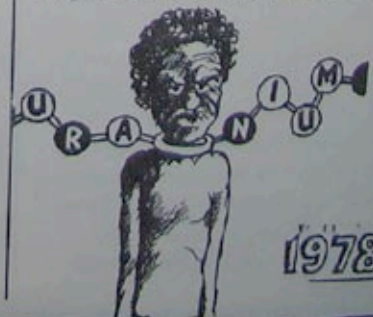
Members of the Fox Commission say that they were pressured by the Frazer government to moderate their report, but still when the Fox report was published it condemned uranium mining from every point of view. It is the most-quoted document by the Movement, but the government has ignored it entirely, won't even comment on it. Another lesson: we can't rely too much on government enquiries, even honest ones.

Then Frazer decided to make things easier for himself in the future by an attack on our civil liberties now. The Atomic Energy Act of 1953 was expanded to give the Governor General the right to give extraordinary powers to the government for 6 months in case of an emergency involving uranium, deny information to workers & the public about the health hazards of uranium mining, prohibit free speech & demonstrations about the mining & export of uranium, give the police the right to arrest & search people without warrant & convict people without proof of an offence; give the companies the right to ban anyone from a uranium mining site, including health inspectors & union leaders; allow the army to be brought in even in the case of an industrial dispute that isn't about uranium mining.

They are making sure that no industrial action or public protest will interrupt the flow of uranium exports. And don't think they won't use it if they need to. In July 1977 a peaceful demonstration on Swansea Park dock against uranium exports there was charged by mounted police & the ship quickly took the yellowcake & left without its other supplies.

Now you've heard the bad news, I'll give you the good. The public are becoming more & more suspicious of uranium mining & are showing that if determined they can make their power felt even against all this.

Last year a survey showed that already 40 per cent of the population oppose uranium mining. In 1977 70,000 people showed their opposition in demonstrations throughout Australia & marked the



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beginning of opposition as a really mass movement. Each year the marches get bigger, especially on Hiroshima Day 1978 & 1979. People have also shown their opposition by bike rides, lobbying of politicians, an annual weeklong activists' conference, posters, letters to the newspapers, pressure on trade unions, an unpleasant welcome to company directors at their secret strategy meeting early this year, the publishing of leaflets, booklets & books.

Behind this are always the local groups with their street stalls, film nights, letterboxing, talking to people. It is hard to walk around an



Australian city without being reminded of the hazards of uranium mining by graffiti, badges, information stalls, posters, etc.

This healthy fear for our future cuts across many barriers. At demonstrations one sees banners side by side such as 'Gays Against Uranium Mining', 'Mail Exchange Workers Against Uranium Mining', 'Anarcho-Feminists Against Uranium Mining' & 'Concerned Baptists Against Uranium Mining'.

A few examples of local group tactics. There is a very small nuclear reactor in Sydney for experimental purposes. We wondered how it receives its fuel & did a bit of investigation, discovering that yellowcake is brought from a wharf by truck for 20 miles in the early hours of the morning & no-one knew about it. We made a small poster to tell people this & to say that in the US there have been 250 accidents with yellowcake trucks. Then we posted the 20-mile route with this information. Shoc-

ked residents wrote to us, the papers & the local council. One local paper gave us an excellent article entitled 'Radioactive Convoys Whisk Through Narrow Newtown Backstreets', a bit dramatic, but quite true. When there was enough local support we were invited to a local council meeting & put a set of questions about what provisions there were for a possible accident. There were none. The fine yellowcake would probably have blown around the streets for a day or two. Then the local council declared the suburb nuclear-free zone & the route had to be diverted. People were made aware & other local groups along the route started work on their local councils.

One very easy but effective move was for 15 people to occupy the offices of one of the mining companies unexpectedly, with press & TV cameramen whom we had invited. A bit of office-theatre & a few key questions put to an embarrassed office boss who couldn't have his answers ready. A good coverage on each of the 4 TV channels that night.

But the real power of the Movement in Australia, the key, lies with the trade unions. There are dozens of instances, e.g. Sept. 75: Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) banned uranium mining pending the Fox Report

April 76: Federal conference of Australian Railway Union extended its ban on the shipment of uranium products to all products used in the treatment of uranium

May 76: a shipping supervisor at Townsville refused to handle sulphur for the cargo vessel Mary Kathleen, in accordance with union policy. He was fired, all workers in the yard out, next day the strike extended to all of Northern Queensland

May 76: 12,000 rail workers in Queensland on 24-hour strike.

In September 1979 the ACTU Congress met & reaffirmed its policy of opposition to the mining & export of uranium. All supplies

to uranium mines will be stopped. And the ACTU will run a massive public campaign advertising the dangers of uranium. Some of the larger unions are undertaking to educate their members about uranium mining. And the Labour Party says that if it wins the next election, all uranium mining will be stopped immediately.

So, the initial work of bulldozing & some construction has been done on the Ranger site, work being done by 2 scab unions. But the mining companies don't know how they will get their skilled workers or their future supplies against union blackbans.

Public opposition has delayed the mining for 2 years so far. Perhaps if the mining can be delayed for long enough, the whole project will become too uneconomic & too unpopular to handle. A recent US Congressional report showed that the uranium industry costs are escalating astronomically. Orders for uranium ore & for nuclear reactors

have dropped significantly in the US & in Europe. Below the level needed for the industry to make profits. One reason for this is economics: another reason is popular resistance to nuclear power around the world.

TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION OF AUSTRALIA



URANIUM POLICY

WHY IT DESERVES YOUR SUPPORT

How safe is "SAFE IN THE WORKPLACE AND THE COMMUNITY"? THERE ARE NOW SERIOUS DOUBTS, NOT ONLY ABOUT WHAT IS DO WITH MOUNTING VOLUMES OF RADIOACTIVE WASTE, BUT ALSO ABOUT THE EFFECTS ON HEALTH BY LOW LEVEL RADIATION EMITTED CONTINUALLY FROM NUCLEAR PLANTS.



URANIUM MINING IN IRELAND

Until recently most of the energies of people in the anti-nuclear movement have been used mainly in a campaign to prevent the building of a Nuclear Reactor at Carnsore. Only now are we becoming aware of the threat of URANIUM MINING to the country. However, even now, I think, people are unaware of the magnitude of this threat. Uranium Mining, in term of its known effects, the scale of present prospecting and the speed at which this prospecting is progressing toward concrete mine plans is probably a greater nightmare than the proposed Carnsore plant.

Very few people, for example, seem to know about the extensive prospecting taking place in the Wicklow granites even though work here appears significantly further ahead than it does in Donegal.

In 1976 a company called MAUGH were given a license to prospect for Uranium and Thorium. They were allowed a 500 sq miles area which included parts of counties Dublin, Wicklow and Carlow. It was a very confident beginning since even they managed at this stage to get an EEC grant to help finance their operations. Since then they have managed to grab the lions share of grants from the same source. By early 1978 MAUGH were drilling merrily away in the Carlow area (Drilling only began in Donegal last year) and have so far managed to avoid any significant publicity.

MAUGH are a French Company wholly owed by Minatome, who are old hands at Uranium hunting. Minatome is itself owned fifty-fifty by two more French Companies PECHINEY, UGINE, KUHLMAN (MINING) and CIE FRANCAISE DE PETROLES (state owned oil company). SILVERMINES have a 20% interest in this particular venture.

FINTOWN in Donegal is probably the prospecting area best-known to anti-nukes. This is partly because anglo-United the Company involved are not averse to a little publicity. While this risks opposition it does wonders share prices. Anglo-United are Canadian owned and operate in Fintown through a subsidiary called MUNSTER BASE METAL which is owned 27% by NORTHGATE another Canadian Company. Drilling began in Donegal last year and results were described as 'encouraging' (for them). Average mineralisation ranged from 0.61lbs

Uranium per ton in their worst drill-hole to 2.12 lbs. per ton in their best. One section of a hole yielded 7.99 lbs. Uranium per ton. Around 2 lbs. per ton all things being equal, would make mining commercially feasible. (It would be terrible to leave anglo-United without mentioning that they number among their directors --- Peter McAleer, who is a brother-in-law of Desmond O'Malley. Northgate wholly own Irish Base Metal who have been prospecting for the last few years around THOMASTOWN in Co. Kilkenny. Again as in the case of Maugh there seems to be complete silence about results though Irish Base Metals also received an EEC grant last year. IBM share offices and directors with Munster Base Metal as do TARA PROSPECTING LIMITED and Jetair exploration Ltd Northgate own TYNAGH GOTTRUM and TARA MINES among their other Irish interests. They are at present involved in Labrador in Canada where they are mining Uranium against fierce local Indian opposition. Northgate are in turn partly owned by WESTFIELD (can) who are heavily involved in Uranium mining in Australia.

The other two areas of interest in Ireland, Fintona in Co. Tyrone and the Allihies in Co. Cork, are

being exploited by the same Company, MINAREX. This is a prospecting outfit financed by four other companies, SABINA (can) GLENCAR (Ire) DUNGANNON (Ire) & E+B. In the Allihies it is too early to talk about test results, in Tyrone though work began in 1977 with the usual EEC grant. However as regards results the by now inevitable silence.

New interest is being shown all time in Ireland's Uranium prospects. In 1978 Elf - Aquitaine the French Petrol giant did an aerial survey of the country. RTZ did a car-borne survey. In both cases it was announced that nothing of significance had been found. RTZ, strangely enough though, last year received an EEC grant and the trend with these grants in the past has been to give them to those who have definite results, at least from initial surveys.

It perhaps sums up the situation as regards information that one of the most brutal multinationals of the lot are prospecting in Ireland and yet it seems semi-impossible to find out where.

I feel that the priorities of the movement as regards Uranium Mining should be to try to strengthen opposition where it exists, to bring attention to the localities where no opposition exists, (in Carlow this would seem urgent) and to press for precise and detailed information about Uranium Companies, where they are prospecting and with what results, future plans etc. Meanwhile if anyone can add anything to this rather sketchy account would they please write to contaminated crow.





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The following are the edited highlights of the leading story in the Donegal Democrat (18/1/80)

There were 3 significant developments in the uranium mining issue this week. First, in their annual report, Anglo-United Development Corporation has declared itself encouraged by the results so far of its search for uranium in the county; & they have stated they will spend more than 70 per cent of its current year exploration budget drilling for the lucrative ore.

Second, at Tuesday's meeting of the Vocational Committee in Lifford there were varying opinions as to the necessity of holding a public seminar to explain the issue. The VEC decided on the seminar at its previous meeting with Senator Paddy McGowan particularly vocal in expressing his opposition to the seminar which he said would be a 'circus'.

Third, the Donegal Uranium Committee which was formed at a meeting in Fintown on 19th. December in a statement say that their primary task is to ensure that the health of the people of Donegal, & the quality of their environment, does not suffer as a result of uranium mining or its related activities.

The Donegal Uranium Committee in their statement which was made on Tuesday say that they must ensure that the people of Donegal, & especially those in the most threatened areas, are aware of the basic facts about uranium mining & its effects.

Their statement adds: 'We need contact with concerned people & bodies all over Ireland & beyond. This is a national problem, not simply a local one. Uranium deposits have been found in other parts of the country. We need money. We are aware that no expense will be spared by those with vested interests in uranium mining in promotion of their case. Both sides of the case must be heard. If you would like to help us financially we have arranged Bank Giro facilities. All you have to do is to hand in a sum of money at your local bank & ask them to credit it to the Donegal Uranium Committee, Giro no. 06001051.'

The statement concludes: 'The



decision on whether or not the mining of uranium is commenced in Ireland is one which will have profound & serious implications for the entire country. Now is the time for us all to inform ourselves about the problem, & to make sure that we all have a part in the making of that decision.'

Outlining details of the VEC's preliminary preparations at Tuesday's meeting, Mr. Hugh Dorrian who is organising the seminar with his fellow adult education officer, Mr. P. Doyle, said they wanted to ensure that they would have a balanced seminar. The Institute for Industrial Research & Standards (IIRS) & the Nuclear Energy Board (NEB) had agreed to send speakers. They had contacted numerous other experts from the Dept. of Industry, Commerce & Energy, from universities in Galway, Manchester, Dublin (Trinity) & Coleraine. They had met people from the recently formed Donegal Uranium Committee & overall, they felt that the people taking part will be of a high calibre & will represent a fair spectrum of opinion.

Mr. Willie McCafferty, Co. C., said that there was a lot of hot air being blown about the issue. He felt that they should not hold a seminar until they were absolutely sure that the mining is going to take place & he felt that representatives from the mining company should be invited to give their views. He added: 'A lot of people here will have their pockets well lined & I make no apologies for that'.

Commenting that it would be stupid of the VEC to get involved in 'this circus' Senator McGowan said he was chiefly concerned for the 'poor people of Fintown who had to stand beside the sod ditch' & whose future was jeopardised by people who wanted to 'get on the bandwagon'. Complimenting Mr. Willie McCafferty 'if he has shares'

& stating that he himself had no shares in Anglo the Senator added: 'I would encourage the exploration to continue & we should also encourage exploration for other minerals. I would have confidence in the government & I would have confidence if there was a new government, to look after our interests. It is too serious for the VEC to be seen

to be holding a seminar on something they know nothing about. If you are so interested in getting the facts you should write to Anglo & the Department stating that you are concerned & would you kindly advise us on what is the situation.'

'I feel that the people should not allow themselves to get carried away by people who want to start a circus. I am convinced the Dept. will be able to handle it,' he said.

Mr. J.J. Reid, Co. C., said it would be a waste of effort inviting the company because they would not give a true picture of the situation because of financial priorities. He doubted if it would be a good idea to have a public seminar; they would have to be careful about that.

Mrs. Brid Bonner said she had doubts about the merit of holding the seminar. She believed that 'screamers' from all over Ireland would arrive carrying banners.'

'I genuinely fear that if the seminar is held the VEC will put itself at risk' Senator McGowan said, 'because you are giving a platform to people who are not sincere. Why not send a deputation to the Department who have all the facts?'

Mr. J.J. Reid suggested that the seminar be open to invited people only otherwise they would 'have people up from Carnsore'.

Mr. Clement Coughlan, Co. C., said he hoped that nobody would be opposed to the idea of the seminar just because it was Mr. McLoone who proposed it.

The CEO said that no seminar would take place if it was detrimental to any interests. If speakers from the Nuclear Energy Board & the Dept. would not attend the seminar would not take place but he would want the best people possible lecturing. 'If it was a fact that it would not be a balanced seminar we would not have it,' he said.

It was finally agreed to defer the date of the seminar until after St. Patrick's Day.



ACCIDENTS WILL HAPPEN

On 3/10/79 the *Guardian* reported: The French electricity authorities yesterday decided that two nuclear power stations could be loaded with fuel immediately - although scores of cracks have been detected in basic metal components. The power stations, Gravelines 1 & Tricastin 1, each have more than 40 cracks in their tubular base plates, & even more serious, in their tubular supports of the reactor tank. Because of manufacturing faults at the Creuset-Loire works, more than 20 reactors, destined for new power stations throughout France, developed the same metal cracks of up to 7 millimetres. The unions & safety experts maintain the cracks could cause metal failure leading to nuclear disaster. The cracks were originally found by a Creuset-Loire worker after testing a welding component on his own initiative. On 25/10/79 a long article appeared in the *Guardian* by Shoja Etemad, an experienced nuclear engineer, until recently a systems designer with Framatome (the giant French nuclear consortium) which outlined the gravity of the cracks now being found in pressurised water reactors & described the collapse of the scientific method on which safety calculations are based. In January both reactors at Dungeness A nuclear power station were out of action while engineers checked them for dangerous cracks. 'Safety engineers are known to be embarrassed by the discovery of bad cracks, up to a metre long. Reactor 2 was closed in May (at Dungeness A) for special inspection after the discovery of what were officially described as minor cracks. But it has such severe cracking that there is no chance of it being brought back into use this year.' (*Guardian*, 11/1/80)

A nuclear power station at Borssele in the Netherlands has been shut down following discovery of signs of corrosion in the heat exchanger. The corrosion was probably caused by sea-water which had eaten through 40 of the 8000 pipes in the secondary cooling system (*I. Times* 20/11/79)

The 912-megawatt Rancho Seco nuclear power plant in Sacramento, California was shut down during the weekend for investigation of leaking water coolant. The plant has reported at least 2 similar incidents since its construction in 1975. (*I. Independent*, 16/1/80)

The most powerful nuclear reactor in Switzerland, which went into operation last month, was shut down for 24 hours this week when experts discovered a faulty valve. (*I. Times* 21/12/79)

About 80 tons of radioactive water sprouted from the cooling system of a nuclear reactor in Takahama in Western Japan. The cause of the leakage was the defective cap of a reserve temperature monitoring pipe, which was made of copper alloy instead of stainless steel as specified. (*Guardian*, 9/11/79)

The French CFDT trade union called for the closure of the nuclear waste retreatment plant at La Hague near Cherbourg, following the second breach in an underwater pipeline carrying radioactive water in the same month. The union described the equipment at the privately-owned plant as decrepit & said the pipeline had now broken 39 times. The second breach occurred in calm weather, spilling radioactive waste into the Channel. (*Guardian* 22/1/80)

Plutonium was found outside the Windscale plant in Cumbria after a leak of radiation in which 30 workers were checked for contamination, the *Guardian* reported on 25/10/79. And 'a marked increase in the discharge from the Windscale pipeline is reported in the annual survey of radioactive discharges into the seas published yesterday by the Department of the Environment', the *Guardian* reported on 28/11/79. 'The report says that in 1978 almost 11 tonnes of uranium went down the pipeline into the sea, & that discharges of strontium 90 rose from 11,534 curies in 1977 (34 per cent of the authorised limit) to 16,160 curies in 1978, which is 54 per cent of the authorisation. Discharges of plutonium 241 rose from 26,517 curies in 1977 to 47,928 curies in 1978.'



The widow of a Windscale nuclear plant worker was awarded 67,000 pounds damages in a test case at Carlisle Court today. (*Evening Press*, 14/11/79) It was the first action of its type & followed the death in 1971 of Malcolm Pattinson (36). He worked in the plant's radiation areas from 1957 to 1965 & left Windscale in 1970. In January 1970 his health deteriorated. In the hope of an improvement he left Windscale & took an outside job. However in May 1971 he died of leukaemia.

On 15/11/79 the *Guardian* reported: 'Afterwards, British Nuclear Fuels director of information said 'This is not a precedent. Any further claims will be examined on their own merits. But after taking expert medical opinion we decided the balance of probabilities was weighted towards Mr. Pattinson'.

Contaminated Crow was once again put together by an assortment of anti-nuclear activists in Belfast and Dublin. No-body could possibly agree with everything in it, so enjoy the contradictions! And if your head isn't too badly conditioned, contact C.C. c/o...JUST BOOKS 7, Winetavern St. Belfast 1 and Dublin 6 anti-nukes, 60 Marlborough Rd. Dublin 4