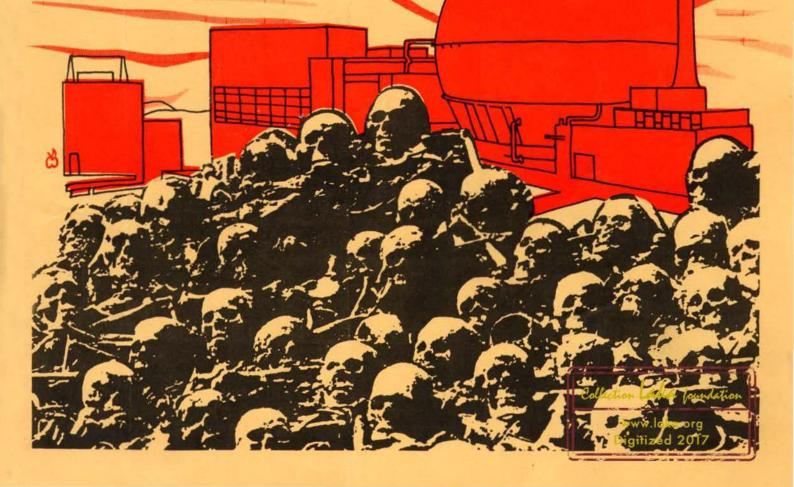
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The Anti Nuclear & Safe Energy Journal No 40

Windscale p3 Greenham

Acid Rain 12



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A belated HAPPY NEW YEAR to all our readers and a HAPPY BIRTH-DAY to the SIZEWELL INQUIRY, one year old on January 11th. SIZE-WELL now holds the record as the longest-running Public Inquiry.

That other focus of Anti-Nuclear attention - WINDSCALE, was rarely out of the news in '83 despite such slick PR as changing its name! This

issue brings you the latest.

The cavalier attitude shown by the SSEB in pushing through its TORNESS AGR project in East Lothian continues to alienate local people and their elected representatives. Our local reporter uncovers the latest steamroller attempt by the faceless ones of Cathcart House.

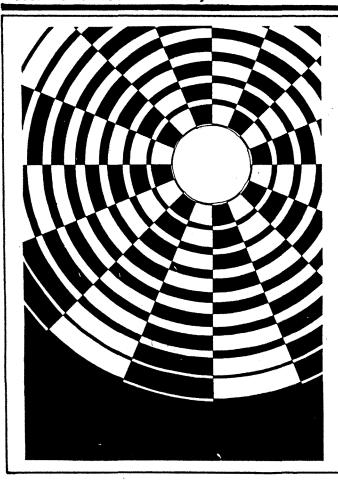
Our interview this month is with French environmental activist DIDIER ANGER, who outlines the changes, or lack of them, in France's Nuclear Power and "Defence" strategy since the Socialist government got in.

Don Arnott's article on waste (SCRAM JOURNAL No. 39) provoked quite a response. We publish readers' letters on this and other subjects.

Last November saw the first national forum of Anti-Nuclear groups; we hope the improved liaison helps us all work more effectively against the Nuclear madness.

SCRAM is changing! As part of this evolution we need new people to work full or part-time in the Office, shop and on the SCRAM Journal.

Please contact us if you can help in any way. Thank you in advance. For some time now, Wednesday has been Wimmins' Day in the SCRAM office and in the Smiling Sun Shop. It has been working well and we hope more Wimmin will call in on Wednesdays.





For information on Energy and Peace issues call in to the Smiling Sun Shop.

Huge stock of literature on Nuclear Power,
Nuclear Weapons and the alternatives to both.... Books, broadsheets, badges, stickers,
T-shirts, mugs, even cheque-books and practical energy-saving draught-excluders.

We also run an extensive Mail Order Service (list free on request) and have a library full of essential reference books.

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WINDSCALE



"WINDSCALE: THE NUCLEAR LAUNDRY"

If the Yorkshire TV programme frightened a few West Cumbrians then the discharge of radioactive 'PUREX' down the infamous pipe caused even more to sit up. Apart from those whose main concern is over jobs (which is quite understandable) the vast majority seem to be worried and confused. People are also angry, not only over the beach ban, but also over the fine imposed on Greenpeace. British Nuclear Fuels (BNFL) are reacting and, as with most people when they get things wrong, they are lashing out in a quite unusual way. Up until now BNFL have always tried to remain calm and cool, trying to make the anti-nukes look bad. This time they have gone overboard in trying to get back at us instead of doing their job - i.e. making sure their factory is safe! They have branded us as lawless, but this has only brought a public reaction that perhaps we are justified if BNFL are to continue polluting the sea.

LONG-TERM EFFECT

Tourism seems likely to be quite badly affected. It must be remembered that the Ruthenium 106 on the seaweed is dangerous for up to 3-4 years and will slowly work its way north towards Scotland. Even the NRPB have said that this stuff may be coming ashore for a long time to come - so it remains to be seen just when the beaches will be safe again.

On the question of the cancer incidence we have had a united front from those scientists who advise us, but the people who do not agree with us have presented quite conflicting evidence. One says that there is no higher incidence of cancer in child-

ren of West Cumbria, one says that there is but that Windscale is not to blame and another says he has not decided yet, he has not seen the evidence, but that he feels Dr. Day is not right and that Windscale is not to blame! So much for the experts. The most important things - the Black Inquiry and the Director of Public Prosecutions reports have yet to appear and at present much is up in the air.

BACK-TO-FRONT

The 'allowable' sea discharge levels of radioactivity have still to be reviewed because the new 'SIXEP' process (which might reduce the amount of Caesium in the discharges) is yet to come on stream. The levels will not be fixed until the capability of the process is seen. You may wonder at this strange procedure. Yes, you have guessed it - instead of the Department of the Environment telling BNFL what levels to achieve they are letting them spend £100m (on 'SIXEP') and then they will set new limits.

BIG EXPERIMENT

The local council gave final planning permission to THORP (Subject of the 1977 Windscale Inquiry) in December. It should be built by the end of the decade, if everything goes well, and then they will experiment with reprocessing spent oxide fuel for a while. One snag here is that there is no country in the world which has solved the problem of commercial reprocessing oxide fuel - why should the UK be any different? THORP going on stream apparently also depends on SIXEP being able to bring the sea discharges down to 10th of the ICRP limits. THORP of course is so far in the future that the international limits may have been

further reduced by then making things even more difficult. This issue is equally important to that of the ocean dumping as it affects the long term future not only of our own nuclear industry but also of many foreign countries.

Anyway it is the Irish Sea discharges which are getting the attention because they are affecting people now. We in Cumbria have enough to cope with regardless of possible spent fuel or reactor accidents. Press coverage on the issue has been very good and we have been inundated with letters and phone calls etc. (So if you are waiting for a letter please be patient!)

Many other councils apart from Cumbrian ones are also taking an interest and some are taking advice on the matter. Others have said they are willing to back the Action Group and Greenpeace over the demand for a reduction in Irish Sea discharges. Maryport District Council, for example, has taken advice on what to do with all the radioactive contaminated mud it has dredged up from the harbour. We have also had a great surge in interest from local based scientists who have offered their help in fighting BNFL, a significant thing we have to thank the company for. In fact it would be true to say that BNFL's arrogance over not only the daily radioactive discharges, but also the 'PUREX' incident, have done as much to help us as anything.

No longer are BNFL dealing with the naive public of the 40's and 50's. Finally there is one thing which people seem united on: lower discharges from Windscale. That these are achievable (both technically and campaign wise) is not in doubt. The only way we can really help the issue is to make them happen sooner rather than later. Jean Emery, BADAGAINW.

Contact: Barrow And District Action Group Against Importation of Nuclear Waste, 3A Slater Street, Barrow, Cumbria.



Porton Down

A £5 million Jaguar military jet exploded over Porton Down 'Chemical Defence Establishment' yesterday. The pilot bailed out and landed on the roof of the base's medical centre. According to the local 'Salisbury Journal', "The bravery of a jet fighter pilot who crash-landed in a field near Porton averted certain disaster on Tuesday night."

A new book from Pluto Press, 'No Fire, No Thunder', (authors, Murphy, Hay and Rose) claims that nasties such as Anthrax, Nerve Gas and Smallpox are being 'studied' in Porton Down. They cast doubt on the ability of the emergency services in the area to cope with any escape of gases or toxins om Porton because of obsessive secrecy surrounding the experiments being carried out.

A Wimmins' Peace Camp against the Animal experimentation going on at Porton, and protesting against the nature of the weapons developed there was set up in March 1983. Ironically, the Peace Camp was to close on Monday (the day before the near-disaster) due to a 'Gentleperson's agreement' that the Wimmin would leave when the land the camp was on was needed for a road-widening scheme!

19.1.84

END in GDR

Support E. German Peace Activists.

In East Germany there are a growing number of people who disagree with the official peace campaign which lays the blame for the prospects of nuclear annihilation on the shoulders of the USA alone. The unofficial peace activists, while supporting socialism, condemn the possession of Nuclear Weapons in both West and East and seek a dialogue with the state concerning arms and militarism.

The East German authorities have employed numerous repressive tactics against the leaders of the unofficial peace movement including harassment, job discrimination, imprisonment and exile. On the eve of June 7th, '83, Roland Jahn, a leading member of the independent Jena Peace Group, was forced into a train bound for West Germany. Jahn has made public his wish to return to East Germany (END Journal 5, Aug - Sept. '83). Ulrike Poppe. a founding member of the indepenant 'women for peace' group was recently arrested in E. Berlin after having met a member of the British Campaign for nuclear Disarmament (Scotsman Dec. 14).

The unofficial peace movement in E.



Germany requires our help. Both Roland Jahn and Ulrike Poppe have personally stressed their desire for support from the British Peace Movement. Please write to the following state organisation and express your solidary with the members of the unofficial East German Peace Movement.

The G.D.R. Embassy, 23 Belgrave Square, London SW1.

The G.D.R. Peace Council, Friedensrat Der D.D.R., 108 Clara Zetkinstr. East Berlin, G.D.R.

If you would like any further information on the unofficial and official peace activities in the G.D.R. please contact:

Jess Christman, 16 St. Stephen Place, Edinburgh.

Trident

There can't be anyone left who hasn't heard of the Cruise missiles at Greenham Common. But what about Britain's very own Trident nuclear weapons, which are to be based in Scotland? Could they be slipping quietly into production while everyone's attention is focussed on Cruise?

The answer is: quite possibly. The massive new complex in which the submarines are to be built is now taking shape in Barrow-in-Furness. The prototype centre section to house the PWR2 reactor (shortly to be tested at Dounreay) is already on the stocks.

Just before Christmas it was also revealed that the Ministry of Defence has for two years been conducting a secret survey on the consequences of basing Trident at Coulport. Initial landscaping contracts are thought to have been put out already.

£350 million or more may have been spent on Trident by mid-1984. And that doesn't include the spiralling costs of the new complex at Aldermaston where the warheads are being developed.

All this means that there is no campaigning time to be lost.

SAY NO TO BRITISH NUCLEAR JUICIDE - COME TO THE

· CONVENTION ·

* DISPLAYS

One means of stepping up the action will be the Anti-Trident Convention, to be held in Manchester's Free Trade Hall on Saturday 25 February.

Sponsored by the Anti-Trident Campaign (ATC) and supported by CND, the aim is to make Trident a major issue throughout Britain, and not just in Scotland. In particular, the Convention will seek, through workshops, to develop an awareness (drawing on experience in Scotland) of the kinds of alliances and forms of campaigning that will be needed to stop these weapons.

The most important thing is to begin to get the arguments home to those who have so far remained largely outside the nuclear debate - but whose involvement will be vital in stopping Trident.

It is easy to make the link between ordinary people's day-to-day concerns - jobs, housing, welfare services, the quality of life - and the deprivation caused by the insane expenditure on weapons like Trident. That in turn will make it easier to develop more direct forms of action that may need to be taken in future (e.g. boycotts sponsored by the unions and local authorities, as a current ATC petition proposes).

Trident can be stopped. Not only do the mass of people have no interest in it, but the establishment itself is split, with opposition ranging from Field Marshall Lord Carver to former Tory Navy Minister Keith Speed

Making that opposition count towards fuelling a mass popular movement is the aim of the Anti-Trident Convention. For further details contact the Anti-Trident Campaign, 420 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 (Tel. 041-332-3141).



The Australian army defused a bomb on November 17th near a research reactor at the Lucas Heights Atomic Energy Commission nuclear research centre 14 km south of Sydney. The bomb was placed in fertiliser and blue metal under a mesh fence about 500 metres from one of the two nuclear reactors. The bomb failed to ignite due to malfunctioning.

WISE, 6th Dec. 1983

TECHNICIAN ACCIDENTLY INHALES PLUTONIUM

On November 2nd, a worker at Handford Laboratory Washington U.S.A. accidently inhaled plutonium while working in a sealed nuclear waste room. He was injected with a special chemical called DTPA which is supposed to bind with heavy metals to prevent them from being deposited in parts of the body. The worker is being kept under observation. As of November 4th the cause of the leak which resulted in the accident is still under investigation. According to a Handford spokesperson "We assume it was a pinhole in one of the gloves" but this cannot be confirmed until after the investigations.

SATURDAY 25th, FEB: FREE TRADE HALL
MANCHESTER - 11am - 5pm [REGISTRATION FROM SAMT]
UNFORMATION FROM: AUTI-TRIDENT CAMPAGN.

420 SAUCHIEHALL STREET, GLASGOW, G2.Tel. 041-332 3141

February/March '84 SCRAM Journal

SPEAKERS+-

Irradiated

Twenty nine people were contaminated on November 2nd last year, in the containment building of a nuclear reactor in Illinois, USA. Another 100 workers may have been exposed to the radioactivity. The contamination occurred while the 1,085 Mw unit, shutdown since Sept. 7, was undergoing routine maintenance and refuelling. Monitoring devices inside the containment building did not indicate any radioactivity on the day, but monitoring devices sounded alarms when workers were leaving the containment building in their street clothes. Workers had both external and internal contamination mainly from Cobalt 60. The utility is investigating the cause of the incident but so far has been unable to locate the source of the radioactive particles.

WISE, 6th Dec. 1983



TORNESS DEBATE

Writing as a local from Belhaven, just 5 miles up the coast from Torness, I can't promise that this 'up to date' report will be very objective.

It seems that the mining areas in East Lothian, such as Tranent and Prestonpans will certainly suffer if Torness comes on stream in 1987. Several councils in the Lothian Region are calling for Torness to be mothballed once completed as another attempt to save jobs in the Lothian area. There will be little prospect of local jobs.

The coal business is very prominent in the Lothians and the South of Scotland Electricity Board has massive generating over capacity. As the coal industry is already suffering from the S.S.E.B.'s pronuclear policy, the jobs lost due to Torness would be a social disaster. There is a meeting with councillors and the S.S.E.B. on January 23rd to discuss this matter. Report back in next month's bulletin.

The S.S.E.B. have, yet again, been very vague with everyone. This time it is about their plans to build a new railhead near Torness for nuclear transport. The planning application it seems, got to the press first and the council's second. The East Lothian Courier reports that a copy of an press statement about the S.S.E.B. application was sent to the home of the cheif executive of the local council. Unfortunately he was on holiday!!! The first they heard of it was through the press. Once the local council received the application they asked the S.S.E.B. to re-submit it as there was insufficient information for consideration by the planning committee.

The stage now seems to be set for a fullscale confrontation between the councils and the S.S.E.B. The councils on the one hand have been asking Parliament to give them power to control waste going through their areas and on the other the S.S.E.B. reapplying for planning permission.

Windscale

*

In early December last, 900 Engineering workers at Windscale passed a unanimous vote of no confidence in the BNFL management. In November safety rules at the complex were broken by the discharge of radioactive waste into the Irish Sea. The Engineers say their changing rooms were only 200 yards from tanks holding the illegal discharge. Workers only found out the changing rooms were being irradiated after radiation-detecting film badges turned black.

Radiation from the tanks was so great, claim the workers, that it had penetrated the extra-thick concrete and lead shielding round the tanks.

'Whitehaven News', 15.12.83

All workers involved in dredging MARY-PORT docks should be treated as radiation operatives says Dr. Richard Scott of Edinburgh University's dept. of Molecular Biology in a report of Allerdale District Council in Cumbria. He warned earlier this month that the silt contains hazardous levels of radioactive isotopes. It is proposed to use the silt as topsoil in a coastal reclamation scheme in nearby Workington.

Whitehaven News, 15.12.83







At least 3 new Anti-Windscale groups have been formed to join those on the coast of the Irish Sea who are already working towards Zero discharges from the giant site. We welcome 'Lakes Against Windscale' 'Solway Watch 83' and an as-yet unnamed group in Ireland.

'The Waste Paper' Dec. '83

THE WINDSCALE DIVERS FUND

Greenpeace Ltd., the radical environmental group is in need of quite a lot of money just now because of their actions in trying to stop the Sellafield Nuclear Waste Reprocessing Factory (formerly Windscale) from waste dumpings into the sea on the Cumbrian Coast. Their actions did not go unnoticed in the eyes of the law and they now face fines of £50,000.

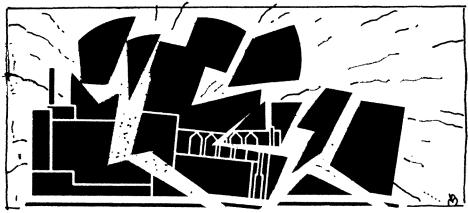
This is why a group of people in Edinburgh are holding several fund-raising events which we hope you will come along to and support, to help Greenpeace Ltd. pay off their huge fine. The events include a cabaret/variety performance, a ceilidh and hopefully a gig and an auction all in February. Unfortunately we have not confirmed all the dates but if you are going to be around Edinburgh at that time do please watch out for news of them.

Any offers of help be it physical or financial would greatly be appreciated by Greenpeace Ltd. and the Edinburgh fundraising group - who have set up a special account (cheques payable to "Windscale Divers Fund") to ensure that all monies raised cannot be "sequestered" by the courts before Greenpeace wish to receive them.

Contacts: Greenpeace Ltd., 36 Graham St., London N1 and Windscale Divers Fund, 11 Forth Street, Edinburgh. Tel: 031-557-4283.

STOP PRESS.... STOP PRESS....

The latest news from Greenpeace is that their fine was reduced to £36,000. Funnily enough this so happens to be the amount raised by the fund so far. PLEASE KEEP SENDING IN MONEY to help continue their fight against Windscale. The High Court have granted a permanent injunction against the group interfering with the work of B.N.F.L. Windscale. They have however been permitted to take samples of silt sand seaweed and sea!

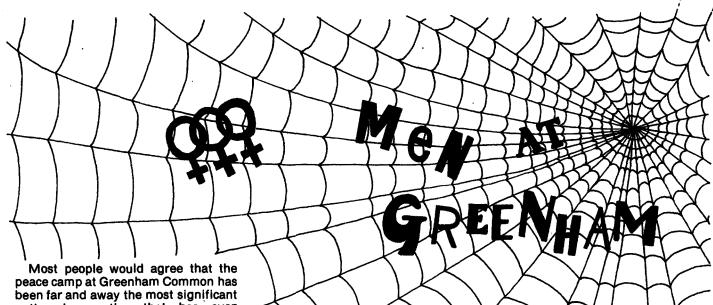


POTENTIALLY SEVERE ACCIDENT IN SWEDISH FUEL FABRICATION PLANT

The accident happened in the ASEA Atom fuel fabrication facility at Västeras, Sweden in the first week of December. A worker carelessly failed to follow safety procedures, causing a tank containing nitric acid used to dissolve uranium to overflow in a uranium precipitation tank. A dangerous chain reaction was prevented by another safety system which did not work properly. ASEA Atom failed to report the incident to the regional newspapers in Spite of past promises to the National Campaign Against Nuclear Power to publicly announce such mishaps.?

THE OAK RIDGE STUDY

Oak Ridge National Laboratories in the USA have prepared an alarming study of nuclear accidents 1980/81. The Union of Concerned Scientists have published fact sheets describing the results of the study which conclude that eight of the incidents were "significant precursors to severe core damage accidents" that is were near to core meltdowns! Based on estimates provided in the study if the frequency of these accidents continues unchanged there is a 10% chance of a core meltdown in the next five years in the US. Makes you think doesn't it.



Most people would agree that the peace camp at Greenham Common has been far and away the most significant anti-nuclear action that has ever occurred in Britain. It was begun more than two years ago by women and its survival has involved acts of supreme courage and enormous sacrifice by women. As most people are aware, an essential aspect of this particular peace camp is that the women do not want men to participate actively in it; it is a women only event. Many men have felt unhappy about this decision and, in various ways, have tried to get women to change their minds, but the women have remained firm - no men at Greenham Common.

This does not seem to be particularly unreasonable to me and never has done. I cannot see how the action could possibly have been even remotely as successful as it has been if it had been action. Apart from the a mixed likelihood of violence. increased confrontation and internal mistrust, a mixed action would rob the Greenham peace camp of its supremely powerful symbolic signficiance:- the juxtaposition of women protestors and the ultimate products of sexist society.

Many men find this view difficult to accept. They feel excluded and bitter. Wanting to protest against Cruise they go to Greenham hoping to join the women or initiate a mixed action and they go away deeply hurt when - with all their good intentions - they are told that their presence is unwanted. Antinuclear men have written repeatedly to the Greenham women complaining about this exclusion. There is a long standing and sometimes acrimonious public debate on the subject. Many other men, viewing from afar, and with no real wish to participate, nevertheless find it easy to condemn this no-men policy. This article is addressed to all such men.

For centuries we men have wanted 'a piece of the action', to be out there fighting for what we believe in. Can you tell me of a single political action of real importance, involving large numbers of people in which men did not participate as a majority, and where men have not overwhelmingly dominated leadership and policy-making decisions? The only actions I can think of have involved women struggling for the basic rights denied to them by men. But apart from these cases, a political action in which women were even equally represented is virtually unknown.

If such an event is so rare may it not mean that women have, for centuries, been manipulated and coerced into taking a role subservient to men? There must be some reason for this peculiar under-representation, which, despite laws and votes, appears to be still with us. If you agree that women should not be manipulated and coerced by men, and you personally would never dream of doing such a thing, how can you avoid doing so unintentionally???

The solution to this dilemma is wonderfully simple. All you have to do is:-

- 1) ASK THE WOMEN IN QUESTION WHAT THEY WANT OF YOU
- 2) LISTEN CAREFULLY, TO THE ANSWER, and most important of all -
- 3) DO IT AND DO IT GLADLY

Listening is very difficult for many men; we are not used to doing it. In fact, most of us are so unused to listening to women that we don't even realise we're not doing it. However, with practice, it is not really that hard after all, and any man can do it if he really wants to. Listening to women involves not only the use of your ears but of your mind as well - so try and suppress the urge to reply until the woman has finished and you have thought about what she has said. Above all, remember that if a woman says you're not listening to her she is almost certainly right.

Let us now apply the above formula for supporting women to the women of Greenham Common. Remember that a women-controlled political action of this type and of such great success is virtually unique. Remember also that these women live in the most atrocious conditions, constantly harassed by soldiers, police and journalists - the great majority of them male. Abuse shouted at them day and night. Physical attacks. Arbitrary arrest. Fear of infiltration. Continual unremitting pressure - most of it coming from men.

Bearing all this in mind, I think we must be very very clear that women are under no obligation to reply to us politely when we finally do get round to asking them what they want. Nor do we have any right to expect gratitude for doing so. Men have profited in a very literal sense from the oppression of women and without it the international lunacy that makes thinkable the murder of millions of innocent people would be impossible.

Women have a right to demand that we stop ignoring them and we have a duty to stop making excuses and listen to what they say. There never will be equality and genuine liberation until men do this. It's time to stop whining, to realise that they're not going to change their minds and to understand why. Can you not see that there is a certain degree of justice in it all?

I have not said anything that women themselves have not said over and over again until they are sick of saying it. The fact is that there is a great deal that men can do to support the women of Greenham Common - and our contribution can be Unfortunately crucial. such support does not involve our physical presence at Greenham and the drama of appearing on TV, or being arrested there. But why don't you go and start cooking meals, changing nappies, washing dishes, doing shopping, and all the other things that women do day in, day out, for year after year? If you volunteer to do it for the right person - well, she could go to Greenham.

Giving money to Greenham women (or other women's initiatives - eds.) is a part of the re-distribution of wealth, a symbolic act on the part of men, who have such vast privilege and power. If you have access to food or to any other articles useful to people living in rough conditions - arrange for them to get it. None of this may seem particularly glamorous or heroic, I'm afraid, but more of such support and less of the hassle could make a very big difference to the campaign to get rid of nuclear weapons. If you do want to get rid of them, remember the struggle has hardly begun. SUPPORT THE WOMEN AT GREEN-HAM COMMON!!!

David Ratovitsky.



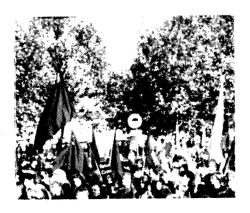
A quarter of a million people marching to a secluded little spot in Hyde Park to ask politely for a "Nuclear Freeze". Do they really think they will ever change anything that way? What would a Nuclear Freeze prove? The world's leaders would still have the capacity to destroy our planet several times over, even if they did halt the escalation of the arms race tomorrow.

Every year it happens, same place, same time, the same people, the same old bull-shit. "Please Mrs. Thatcher, if you wouldn't mind TOO much, could you stop planning world destruction?" Surely people must realise, surely some of these nuclear families who turn up in Hyde Park every year trying to "Ban the Bomb", somewhere amongst their guilty feelings about the neighbours seeing them on TV, their isolation, paranoia, their ultimate fear of each other, some of these people must realise that their anger, fear or frustration felt over the build-up of the arms race is being utilised by power hungry politicians, even if they won't admit it to themselves. Every year a Labour Party politician addresses the CND masses; Vote for me! I'll halt the arms race!" Do you think any politician doesn't manipulate people to further his/her own ends and personal aims? The Labour Party; the very party who in the late sixties brought POLARIS nuclear missiles and submarines to this country after getting into power by promising SURVIVE? not to. **PROTEST** AND

As anarchists we are against ALL wars, ALL violence, all control through fear of violence (AUTHORITY), and we want to make this known. We want to communicate our hopes for a truly peaceful world, based on trust not fear, love not hate, co-operation, individual responsibility. In order to make this known v.e have to confront the state, Thatcher, the Government and show these people up for what they really are; power hungry, selfish, in-human, xenophobic, warped, INSANE. Many anarchists live in constant confrontation with the state because we try to live our own lives, free from authority and violence. We believe in Direct Action in terms of direct confrontation. We don't just go to Hyde Park once a year and say "Please Mrs. T. we are constantly working towards a peaceful world." As a result of this, we are continually walked all over.

COMMUNICATION FROM PERSONS UNKNOWN

CND is another form of State control, a bureaucracy, and as with all such organisations everything just boils down to money. You have to pay to join CND, then you must abide by their rules. You march for them in an orderly fashion, don't say the wrong thing and don't step out of line. CND doesn't allow for individualism. They are polite, careful. They play the game by the system's rules. They won't demand anything, they won't confront the government in any way. They won't ask for too much, too much being everybody's na-tural birthright; the right to live our own lives based on co-operation and mutual aid. They are too scared, too insecure, they have too much to lose, a nice wage packet every week, nice cars, secure homes. Any direct confrontation, any real protest is uncomfortable for them. They argue that a "Nuclear Freeze" is just the first step on the path to peace. But have we got the time to do things in stages? Cruise Missiles are at this moment installed on British soil. CND is putting too much energy into the tip of the iceberg. They are protesting against a very small part of a whole system



based on war, conflict and control through threat of violence. Our whole society is based on fear and isolation, "Divide and rule is the ultimate tool of those in power (the Thatchers, Steels and Kinnocks.)

Several of us went along with the CND march to Hyde Park, and up to the front of the stage, in order to cause a direct confrontation with the left-wing power-mongers and try to communicate our feelings about CND to the other people present. We planned it, took megaphones and flags, most of all a feeling of hope. We wanted, perhaps in vain, to get a message across to at least a few people;

DON'T FOLLOW LEADERS,
THINK FOR YOURSELF,
REJECT ALL WAR,
ALL VIOLENCE:

We were crushed.

We were bullied, harassed, punched and kicked by CND stewards throughout the march, simply for trying to get our banners and flags seen. Do these people really wish for peace? The CND Police.

Upon entering the park and moving to the front of the stage, we began to chant, to shout, to harass the politicians and try to talk to the other people present. We began to get our message across.

Of course, the police moved in; we were asking too much; FREE SPEECH. They were indiscriminate and extremely violent. They made organised charges against us. People were trampled, beaten and arrested. Some of us struggled, some of us defended ourselves against the hail of fists and boots. This was organised state violence. The police know they have the law on their side, and they use this to their advantage at any given time whenever they felt like taking out a few frustrations on other people.

Some of us now face possible prison sentences for charges like 'assault'. As with any action, from destruction of state capitalist property to the literature we produce, there has been the usual number of self-righteous bastions of peace and 'law and order' criticising us and putting us down as nothing but 'trouble makers'. We are too 'extreme', too 'violent'. WE WANT TOO MUCH. Be realistic, demand the 'impossible'. THE RIGHT TO LIVE OUR OWN LIVES.

True freedom can become an eventual reality if we are not too scared to step out of line.

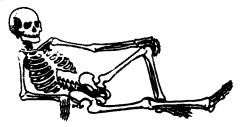
'Stop the City' was much more successful, in terms of communicating ideas, than any CND march is ever likely to be, because it confronted the whole war machine at the very root of the matter; the big business and financial instituttions which profit from dealing with death.

Let's have more positive actions like 'Stop the City' and less weak-minded 'protest' if we really want a peaceful, co-operative more individualistic society to be an eventual reality.

ORGANISE-COMMUNICATE-AGITATE

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POLLUTION KNOWS NO BORDERS

Windscale, British Nuclear Fuel's reprocessing factory on the Cumbrian coast, has been the focus of much media attention over the past few months. 25 miles of beach have been contaminated by illegal radioactive discharges and Greenpeace have been fined for interfering with the discharge pipe; and another compensation payment has been made as a result of radioactive contamination of a worker. But one aspect of Windscale's operation has received very little mention - that of nuclear proliferation.

BNFL has contracts with several countries, notably Japan, to reprocess their spent fuel. The plutonium so produced is to be sent back to the country of origin. Similar contracts have been made by COGEMA of France through their La Hague factory. Windscale and La Hague are the only commercial-sized "civil" reprocessing facilities operating in the world, and as such represent the major

source of plutonium for the Western world.

The following is an interview with Didier Anger, long-time anti-nuclear activist in Cherbourg, recorded by Tony Chafer of SERA last year. In the course of the interview Didier explains how France is contributing to the proliferation of nuclear technologies. He also discusses how the ecology movement in France could develop, and the importance of international co-operation in the campaign for nuclear disarmament and against nuclear proliferation. In particular Didier believes that the British and French anti-nuclear movements must join together in a campaign against both Windscale and La Hague: "Pollution knows no border".

Tony Chafer:

We don't hear much about the French anti-nuclear movement in Britain. What's the position at the moment?

Didier Anger:

One still hears a little of the struggle at Chooz, on the Belgium border, at Golfech in the south-west, and also at Cotentin where the La Hague reprocessing factory is located. I think the anti-nuclear movement has had great difficulty making a come-back after May 10th 1981.

The Socialist Party had made many promises: to greatly reduce the nuclear power programme, and not to expand La Hague. Mitterand himself wrote to us before May 10th, and said we didn't need to extract Plutonium any more since there wouldn't be a commercial fast reactor programme. The Party, and Paul Quilés (Mitterand's chief propagandist), had also promised that foreign contracts made with Cogema would not be fulfilled. We believed this; the supporters of the anti-nuclear movement in the Socialist Party and a large number of ecologists voted for Mitterand in the first round of elections, and many who voted for Brice Lalonde in the first round voted for Mitterand in the second.

We thought for a few weeks, a few months, that the promises would be kept: Plogoff was abandoned and Larzac, where the military base was to be expanded, was eventually to be returned to the peasants. However, we soon realised that we had been conned, we had been offered a goat for the ecologist tiger, so to speak, to attract ecologist votes.

By July 15th we learnt that Chevènement and Mitterand had promised Schmidt that the German contracts (for spent fuel reprocessing) would be OGIE ET SULLE SEULE SEULE

honoured. It was said that it was some sort of deal caused by the problems of the Franc: "We'll support your Franc, but, fair's fair,... you will take our nuclear waste". And, as German waste was accepted, there was no way to refuse Japanese waste, and Swedish, etc... So, on July 30th we learnt that all foreign contracts would be honoured. At the same time we also learnt of a freeze on nuclear power stations, and that there would be a debate on the nuclear power programme in October 1981.

August 4th saw the arriyal of Japanese irradiated fuel again; as we peacefully occupied the Cherbourg railway, we were faced by the CRS (Special Riot Police) with water cannon and tear gas grenades. We were the first victims of truncheons and tear gas of the new regime. We were probably the first to realise we'd been deceived, though it took a little longer for the movement to realise it nationally. It must be appreciated that the October 6th debate in Parliament

was a false debate - apart from Plogoff, the French nuclear power programme continued as under Giscard D'Estang.

We discovered later that the military nuclear programe was to become even more important than under Giscard. So as far as the nuclear issue is concerned, civil and military, we have been well and truly conned.

However, there are people in the anti-nuclear movement who see themselves on the left and we are not only concerned by the presence of the factory (La Hague) on our coast. We are also workers, and so for a while we thought that the fifth week of paid holiday was good, retiring at 60 was better than retiring at 65. There were a number of advantages given to us by the Left, we were not happy with the nuclear question, be we were satisfied by certain things which we were given. On the other hand many other hopes have been dashed. For the young, for example, national service hasn't been reduced, and concientious objection is no longer allowed, contrary to what was promised. So the Left feels very deceived, not only with-

in the anti-nuclear movement.
Without doubt this is one of the elements which has brought the revival in of the movement, perhaps more in this area than in the rest of France, it is true, but for practically two months the anti-nuclear movement has attracted the attention of the media, not only locally by also inter-

nationally.

ACTIONS

TC:

What actions are you taking at the moment in Cotentin?

DA:

Both spectacular actions with small groups and mass demonstrations. For example, we learnt that another transport of Japanese spent fuel was to arrive at Cherbourg, and some activists climbed up and occupied the cranes which were to unload the waste. As long as the occupiers stayed in the cranes it was impossible to unload the waste fuel - a position of strength, still nonviolent, efficient and spectacular, which got public opinion on our side, for it was the fourth time we had carried out this operation.

Then there was an international action by Greenpeace; the boat came to collect information on Cherbourg. The French Navy intervened, along with the Police. The Police shot a grenade at the boat and the Navy escorted the boat into Cherbourg harbour. This created a climate of opinion against

the arbitrary actions of the French Navy and Police. There was a movement in favour of civil liberties. So we decided to organise a mass demonstration, covering two days, which brought 3000 people to Cherbourg the biggest demo in the area since the elections. Then, later on, some activists chained themselves to the railway used to transport irradiated fuel.

So, a number of spectacular actions should be interspersed with mass protests. Spectacular actions are easier to carry out, with a few dozen participants, than with a few thousand; they are symbolic, showing our opposition to transport of these irradiated fuel elements through our And mass demonstrations, equally necessary, are to show that it is a whole population which opposes it, not just a few dozen activists.

I have the impression that the Ecology movement is becoming less and less centred on a campaign against nuclear energy. What is your opinion?

DA:

Let's say that we can no longer say today what we said several years ago. Before, we could say "No" to nuclear power. It was simple. But today there are nuclear plants which are already working. There are the radioactive wastes. So our problem today is to discover the least bad way of dealing with the wastes. We say build no more new power stations, so as to produce as little waste as possible; and as far as existing wastes are concerned, we prefer storage of the spent fuel without reprocessing to extract the plutonium, in part because in the course of reprocessing workers are contaminated, and partly because of environmental pollution - radioactive gases and liquids are released to the environment. Plutonium is a very grave problem; it has an almost unlimited life so we must be afraid of accumulating more and more of it. We would be satisfied with management and storage of unprocessed waste as that wouldn't permit plutonium extraction. Now, there is no difference between civil and military plutonium and we know that military-grade plutonium can be recovered from the 'blanket' of fast reactors. Therefore, when we are receiving 2000 tonnes of Japanese irradiated fuel at La Hague - that is if the factory works, it isn't fully working at present, in fact it is slowing down - it means 20 tonnes of plutonium will be returned to Japan. Everyone knows that it takes only about 6kg of plutonium to make a standard A-bomb, imagine the military potential Japan will have in th 90's if France is capable of giving them 20 tonnes of plutonium. For Germany, there are similar quantities, for Sweden there are 7 tonnes. Our region is becoming a sort of atomic dustbin for Europe and Japan; but in the long term we cannot exclude us becoming a sort of plutonium supermarket (both civil and military). We will be strongly contributing to the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the increasing risk of nuclear war by this export.

Now one cannot simply say "no nuclear power"; this would be closing one's eyes to the problems of nuclear wastes which already exist to-



TC:

You spoke earlier about military nuclear power. At the moment in Germany the Greens are becoming a more important political force, mainly because of the nuclear disarmament movement. Do you think that this theme could become a new focal point for the ecology movement in France?

It is possible. I think it is important because France has her own military arsenal which is becoming more and more important. France is selling a great deal of technology and nuclear material to foreign powers: not only the plutonium, if La Hague starts working, but also nuclear equipment to South Africa, possibly to Morocco and Gabon too.

just sold nuclear France has material to India, which the US didn't want to supply because of their worry of nuclear weapons proliferation. France has just signed a contract with China to supply reprocessing plant; for several years pressure from the US has prohibited this. One must ask if Pakistan will be able to obtain nuclear material via China. France has sold nuclear power stations to Iran, and also to Iraq (remember, the Israelis tried to blow up that Iranian reactor a few years ago). France is presently the country contributing most to nuclear proliferation. It is possible to see a movement developing here like in other countries Britain and Germany, for example.

Let's say that what slowed down the movement here was that France didn't seem to be as linked to the US as others, by having an independent force. But, at the moment, I can see a movement towards Atlanticism on the part of the French Government, and I think the gap which used to exist has closed. I think this will be one of the biggest campaigning issues

for the movement, but it isn't yet the case.

TC:

What, in your opinion, are the prospects for the anti-nuclear movement. and the ecology movement in general?

It is very difficult to say. There is the Green movement in Germany which encourages the hope of some ecologists to constitute a political force here. The big problem in France is what structure to give to this political movement? On the whole there are three tendencies in France at the moment: there is the "Parti Ecologiste" - the Greens, who have a traditional centralist party approach; there is the "Reseau des Amis de la Tette" (the Friends of the Earth Network), who have, let's say, a more associative approach, but still there are well known politicians like Brice Lalonde; and then there is the Confederation -"Les Verts - Confederation".

Here, in Lower Normandy, we see ourselves much closer to this latter movement. We are supporting the unification movement, but mainly on a federal basis because for us, ecology goes together with federalism. I think that the Green movement developed in Germany because there already existed a regional power devolution. This is very important. When I stood at the European elections in 1979, with Solange Fernex and others, I thought that our manifesto had to be called "Ecologie - Régions - Europe": I think that all goes together.

CO-OPERATION

TC:

Do you think there is a possibility of more international action and cooperation, as far as the anti-nuclear campaign is concerned?

That seems to me to be very necessary in terms of opposing military nuclear power, since there seems to be revival on the part of the US to want to deploy their missiles just about everywhere, as well as in Germany and Britain. We also know that Mitterand's policies seem to suit Reagan perfectly. The military policies of Mitterand seem to complement those of Reagan.

As to civil nuclear power, we have seen that there is no real distinction between civil and military nuclear power, as far as producing and returning plutonium is concerned. For instance, I think that it is necessary for the British and French anti-nuclear movements to combine their efforts. In Britain there is a risk that Windscale may become what La Hague represents here: Windscale also has contracts with foreign countries, and is going to return plutonium to them (if the plant works). Nuclear materials will be transported through the North Sea and the English Channel. This is a common ecological struggle for our two countries; pollution knows no borders.



Many readers have written in response to Don Arnott's article on Waste tactics in the last issue ...

Dear SCRAM,

In response to your request for views on the article: Nuclear Waste: The Political Realities, I would like to offer a few comments.

Increasing the confidence of the public in NIREX by altering its structure to include representatives of environmental groups and local authorities would enhance its effectiveness and reduce the backlog of waste created by the short-term thinking of the nuclear inudstry. Fine. But the pressure on the nuclear industry to reverse its present programme of expansion would be lessened.

As long as NIREX is blocked from disposing of the backlog its members are under pressure as far as new building projects are concerned. Should our immediate priority not be to maintain all available pressures on the industry and to utilise the purchase gained in the blocking of waste disposal schemes to curb the continuous increase in the waste being produced by an expanding nuclear industry.

After all, is it not true that any method of disposal is going to be at best a compromise? And while there is something to be gained in the longer term by refusing to compromise, should we not do so? It will be time enough for acceptance when it is merely the backlog of waste from a dead industry which must be dealt with.

Chris Brown, Shetland

Dear frjends,

I've read Don Arnott's article with its rather pessimistic ending. The struggle against badly conceived nuclear waste dumping plans is no more diversionary now than when Don was addressing meeting after meeting in Wales a few years ago. It remains probably the only nuclear power related issue capable of attracting mass interest and involvement, and in my view is the straw which is still most likely to break the camel's back.

We are warned against painting ourselves into a corner by opposing sea dumping and then opposing the land based proposals that follow the possible demise of sea dumping. But that is not the case, since a badly conceived plan should be opposed whatever the history of its evolution. And the plans for Elstow and Billingham are badly conceived on three distinct grounds.

Firstly, both proposed sites are 'green field', a convenient way of saying that the nuclear industry hasn't dirtied them in the past, which is plain daft given the number of sites it has contaminated.

Secondly, the waste to be disposed of is post-reprocessing waste; but the decision on the worst part of the waste after plutonium is extracted - the high level waste, is delayed for fifty years or so.

A more responsible strategy would be to abandon reprocessing and force the generating boards to hold their spent fuel in dry stores on the reactor sites - although the economics of that solution make further nuclear stations improbable. It

would also cut the supply of plutonium to the ministry of war.

Finally, the government, talks gaily of 'disposal', which denies the possibility of eventual retrieval if that should be necessary.

The anti-nuclear movement has no need to help the government out of their problems. We've been pointing to those problems for years, and pointing to the solutions. Imposing a nuclear dump on some unsuspecting community is not an answer.

The answer lies in closing the reprocessing facilities at Windscale; in ending the nuclear transport story (before a disaster occurs) by forcing reactor operators to establish spent fuel stores, with full monitoring and retrievability, at each reactor; in using the existing site at Drigg to capacity now to clear the backlog (rather than attempting to stretch its life into the next century, as is the current plan), and, of course, in stopping any crazy talk of Sizewell, PWRs, Trident, FBRs or any other part of the nuclear future.

Best wishes to all for 1984, Geoff Young. London SW2.



Dear Editor,

Is Don Arnott really suggesting that antinuclear groups should campaign to get themselves represented on the nuclear industry's lap dog committee - NIREX? This would be a wholesale sellout!

If we were co-opted **before** the nuclear power programme was stopped the antinuclear movement would be helping **them** dispose of **their** nuclear waste from an expanding nuclear programme.

I agree that there are more things wrong with nuclear power than the fact that it produces nuclear waste, but waste is the programme's Achilles heel.

If nuclear waste transport and dumping on land or sea are clearly shown to be politically unacceptable, then the nuclear power programme itself is unacceptable, and it should be stopped for that reason alone.

Best wishes, Pete Roche, Edinburgh.

Dear SCRAM,

Don Arnott's article on Nuclear Waste in SCRAM Journal 39 deserves careful attention. He makes several important points:

- -something has to happen to the backlog of nuclear waste that has been accumulating for decades:
- -once the decision-makers start to accept anti-nuclear arguments, protest must turn to constructive exercise of responsibility;
- -NIREX has been formed for the express purpose of waste management: as currently constituted it is the opposite of democratic: given that waste has to be managed, all those with a legitimate interest in the matter, including local councils and environmental groups, must demand an input to the decision-making process. "Dialogue alone is useful". To leave it to technocrats and central government is to completely blow any credibility the process may have.

His logic appears faultless. The political difficulty in following it through will be for those who have an interest - which presumably includes readers of this journal amongst others - to establish their "legitimacy". What in effect we shall be forcing the nuclear industry to do is to turn round and say "OK, we know you don't like nuclear power and we know you're concerned about nuclear waste, but what do you want to see happen?" And at that point we need to have some solid answers. Slogans are not enough.

What we're talking about is nothing less than a properly-thought-out strategy for dismantling the nuclear industry. This could include the following components:

- as Don Arnott proposes, a recognition that low- and medium-level waste has got to be managed, and a consequent demand for a properly democratic structure for such management.
- immediate cessation of plutonium and other long-lived discharges from Windscale/Sellafield, cancellation of foreign reprocessing contracts and a phasing out of all reprocessing activities over a period of a few years.
- essation of all CEGB/SSEB, UKAEA and NNC activities related to the design and construction of new nuclear plants. Redirection of those parts of the industry which can be so redirected towards controlling the environmental impact of current methods of power generation flue gas desulphurisation, fluidised bed combustion or towards developing benign analysis of the present constitution of the industry, and might profitably draw on studies into conversion of military industry to civilian production.
- consideration of the status of currently operating nuclear power stations. This would have to weigh the environmental detriment involved in their continued operation against the economic and system capacity consequences of closing them down. Such consideration would have to take place in a democratic forum of similar nature to that outlined for waste management.
- for those sectors of the nuclear industry

Weite to SCRAM, U FORTH ST. EDINBURGH.

More comments and ideas welcomed!

which cannot be re-directed to nonnuclear fields, immediate re-allocation of their resources towards dealing with the twin problems of decommissioning and long-term high-level waste disposal. Their most urgent task would be the Cumbrian coastline.

This programme is by no means exhaustive; for example it omits any reference to the military aspect of the fuel chain, which is a huge and largely hidden component that would have to be dealt with in any serious appraisal. It is also somewhat parochial; the nuclear industry is international, and the international aspects of its dismantling would need to be addressed. Some will say it is utopian. It would indeed be naive to expect the whole thing to happen overnight, or even in less than (say) a decade. But without a detailed overview of what we want to achieve, we will only achieve confusion. The antinuclear movement must discuss now what it will be saying in the future.

Yours, Tim Williams, Tunbridge Wells.

Dear SCRAM.

I see Don Arnott's point when he says that to worry about the problem of nuclear waste disposal is rather like fiddling while Rome burns. But I don't agree. Should we therefore waste no time worrying about motorway proposals, acid rain etc. Should we not handknit an heirloom, not plant oak trees, just throw the acorns to the pigs. Life would grind to a halt.

When we nuclear disarm, as we must, the nuclear weapons must be dismantled and will contribute to the waste disposal problem.

Besides I think he overlooks the link between nuclear power and nuclear weapons. By campaigning to stop nuclear waste disposal, we can turn all the industry's disposal routes into cul de sacs. We can campaign to close down Windscale. We can cripple the nuclear industry. This ensures no more waste being produced. And the production of plutonium to fuel the arms race would cease.

It does not deal with the 30 year backlog of waste, and here I agree that we should press for NIREX to become more democratic. We must all do what we can. Mr. Arnott used to work in the nuclear industry and is better suited than some of us to press for representation on the industry's various executive bodies. But for some of us a gust of emotion is all we can manage.

The industry is now engaged in the Sizewell Inquiry, trying to convince us of the need for a new generation of nuclear reactors. It is vital they demonstrate viable plans for the disposal of nuclear waste. There was a flurry of activity before the Inquiry, trying to make their case more credible. They abandoned the Harvest "vitrification" project and bought in the French method, as it's further advanced. They postponed dealing with high level waste for fifty years.

I think we must be wary about the industry's motives for abandoning test drilling. Granted that they capitulated in

the face of intense opposition, it also happened to suit them to put the issue on the back burner for fifty years. This lets them off the hook for a while. This may be cynical, but I think its a truer picture than the idea they "adopted our proposals".

But whoever had the idea, whether its our proposal or their proposal, it is still hugely unsatisfactory to store highly radioactive waste in swimming pools for 50 years, with no idea what to do with it after that. Scientists have been doing research for 30 years, spending millions of pounds, to no avail. How am I supposed to come up with a "better alternative"? The point is that it may actually be an impossible problem. They certainly should stop producing more waste, but I do feel powerless in the face of an insoluble problem.

Yours sincerely, Louise Coe, London W6.



Dear Sir,*

Don Arnott compares the nuclear waste issue with Nero's performance on the Lute as Rome burned. Of course it is true that nuclear war would be the final tragedy and there are a good many voices already being raised in protest. Not merely the respectable and autocratic CND but also the vibrant and autonomous Peace Camp movement and other initiatives are fortunately now going from strength to strength.

But let us remember that nuclear war may never happen. What is happening already and happening to the detriment of the Earth and all her life, is the nuclear industry and its ramifications. This expensive, elitist, secretive and dirty technology is sucking up resources from our society which we urgently need for the saving of human and other life and is spewing back in return these fantastically toxic wastes which are destined to mutilate and destroy people and other creatures for the forseeable future.

Don calls for an "educated" movement which would on occasion be prepared to say "yes" to some proposal for solving the waste dumping problem. The only thing I would say "yes" to at this stage would be an immediate end to all further production of radioactive materials. Once there is a

firm commitment to dismantle the entire nuclear industry, then we could consider the least objectionable way of minimising its future impact. So long as the operation of nuclear reactors of any sort is contemplated by our rulers, we should oppose waste dumping, reprocessing and any other opposable manifestation of this evil force.

Yours faithfully, Owen W. Dumpleton, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

*We are not in fact a 'Sir', but an open editorial collective.

Dear Scram,

In the October/November issue of SCRAM, China gets a rare mention as a member of the nuclear arms club. It was reported that they have now developed their own Polaris missile, the XIA.

The inscrutables of Peking have been well hidden behind the friendship of Nixon, Reagan and Thatcher and have been allowed to turn someone else's country into a nuclear base.

China has occupied Tibet in one way or another for 33 years. These once easy-going, simple-living, religious people have suffered severe discrimination - a million dead already in a genocide attempt equal, if not worse than that implemented by Hitler's Nazi regime against the Jews.

Now to add insult to injury, China has moved its ICBM bases out of Inner Mongolia fearing them too easy a target there for the Russians and deployed them in Tibet. These three bases, one at Nagchukha, have nuclear missiles aimed at Russia, India and the Indian Ocean. Red China now has covered with nuclear weapons some of the most densely populated countries in the world - war or accident, the results would be devastating.

To back this up China has 520,000 troops, 9 military airfields and 11 radar stations in a country once synonymous with peace, and spiritual nation now best described as the WARHEAD of another country.

Why isn't the UN questioning all this? The human rights issue alone deserves attention yet there is silence. The Chinese call Tibet Xizang. It means Hidden in the West. There is little we can do except let it be known that we do know about China's growing nuclear strength. Protests obviously, to MPs, and the Prime Minister. It appears that N.J. Cox, Far Eastern Dept. at the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (London SW1A 2AH) is dealing with the protests concerning Tibet's occupation and the missiles there and, of course, letters of protest to the Chinese Embassy, 31 Portland Place, London W1.

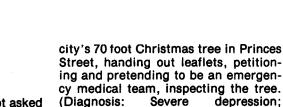
Anyone interested in helping or learning more about Tibet and the plight of its refugees should contact The Tibet Society and Refugee Fund of the UK, Kensington Palace Barracks, Kensington Church Street, London W8.

Yours sincerely, Stephen Loveless Bucks.









r proposals for read they didn't.
ention (the CEGB dy) that Electricity gest pollutant propering and difficulty ferent techniques exteriors and they didn't.

Treatment: Re-planting in an environment with clean air!).

People all over the country are organising in groups like Friends of the Earth, Ecology Party, Greenpeace and other environmental groups: campaigning to bring the acid rain problem to light. The atmosphere is everyone's concern. A national week

April.

For more information contact: Acid Rain Clearinghouse, 53 George IV Bridge, Edinburgh (031 225 6906)

of action on Acid Rain is planned for

[Sources: New Scientist, SCRAM's Library].

Acid Rain, a result of fossil-fuel combustion, is increasingly recognised as a huge problem affecting countries throughout the industrialised world.

Nearly half the lakes in South Norway are now lifeless; a recent survey in West Germany found one third of all trees are damaged or dying and "dead" lakes with high acidity are being found all over the world.

Britain is the biggest acid rain producer in Europe. The Government has recently published a disturbing report on the effects of acid rain in Britain.

The UK Review Group on Acid Rain has found unnaturally high acid levels all over Britain. 80% of the pollution which causes acid rain is produced from factories, power stations and road vehicle exhaust pipes. The estimated total discharged into our atmosphere is over four million tonnes of sulphur dioxide each year. This must go somewhere and the Review Group aimed to find out where.

They found unnaturally high acid levels in rainfall throughout the UK. Rainfall acidity levels 100 - 150 times normal, (one 600 times normal) were recorded. The levels are increasing and are greater on the east than the west. From limited data of Northern Scotland the damage from "acid deposition is of the same order of Scandanavia." A separate study by Dr. Allan Wellburn of the University of Lancaster recorded rainfall six times stronger in acidity than vinegar near Pitlochry, Perthshire.

According to the report "dry deposition" (Sulphur & Nitrogen oxide particles falling directly on the land not from a rain cloud) is responsible for more of the acidity in the fields, forests and rivers of central Scotland, southern and eastern England than "wet" deposition. These deposits fall in and around large urban areas, power stations, motorways, and industrial sites.

However, the Review Group's report was based only on a handful of monitoring stations (and not where they are needed most) in areas like the Lake District and northern Scotland. The report does not say that 76% of emissions from Britain are blown abroad to Europe and Scandanavia.

Most significantly they were not asked to suggest actions or proposals for reducing Acid Rain and they didn't. Neither did they mention (the CEGB took part in the study) that Electricity generation is the biggest pollutant producer.

Piecemeal monitoring and difficulty in comparing different techniques used at different stations led the Group to conclude that a new national survey is needed "requiring a commitment to long term funding". Another plea for research on the effect on trees came in December from an international symposium of forestry students held at Newbattle Abbey, Dalkeith.

All these calls for more research on Acid Rain in the light of the new information, have been acknowledged by the Government. But there is a growing lobby which wants action, not words, and international pressure on Britain is huge.

EUROPEAN EXAMPLE

In West Germany a 60% cut in Sulphur dioxide emissions from power stations and oil refineries will take place over an eleven year period. This action is being discussed by all countries in Europe and an EEC draft directive, due to be published mid-January (after this goes to print) will call on member states to cut their SO₂ emissions at the same rate as West Germany. Norway, Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Austria, Switzerland and Canada have agreed in principle.

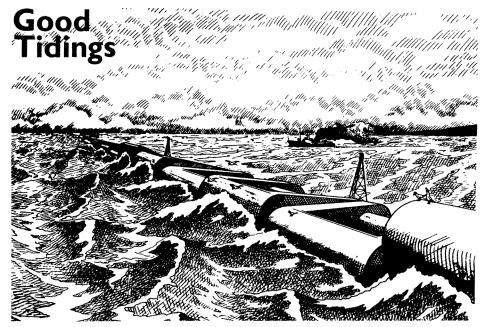
Britain still refuses to accept such steps even in the face of evidence showing that acid rain is harmful to crops, wildlife, soil, forests, lakes and buildings. Even though this country is sending 76% of its pollution abroad the government maintains steadfastly that more research is needed before any action is taken.



As awareness of the problem grows protest demonstrations are being organised all over Europe. One of the first to take place in Britain was in Edinburgh. Friends of the Earth demonstated their concern over acid rain by wrapping a bandage round the



An informative FREE pamphlet on the effects and solutions to the acid rain problem has been published by the Acid Rain Information Group. Essential as an introduction and for leaving in appropriate places (pubs, waiting rooms, living rooms, etc.). Send SAE to Smiling Sun Shop, 11 Forth Street, Edinburgh.



Interest in **Tidal power is growing in Britain again,** two proposals for Barrages to harness tidal movements to produce energy, have been made in recent months.

Academics from Manchester, Salford and Liverpool universities have supported a plan for a barrage across the River Mersey which could produce enough electricity to provide 0.5 per cent of Britain's needs.

The scheme, proposed by Merseyside County Council, would cost in the region of £500 - £800 million and could be built by 1994.

An interesting suggestion to build a barrage across the Severn which would also act as a motorway instead of the ill-fated Severn Bridge, has been made by Wimpey Atkins Ltd.

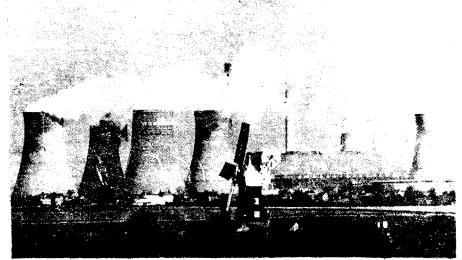
According to Wimpey, they could build it in six years, it could produce 2.43 Terawatt hours of electricity (a 1/6th of Wales' total needs) and providing 100,000 personyears of much needed employment. The barrage would be 15 km west of the existing Severn Bridge, about 6 km long, and have 42 turbines, each rated at 25 MW.

Controversy over the cost of the construction has been rife. Wimpey say that it would cost £885 million but they say it is a "marginal cost" because a new Severn bridge will have to be built anyway, at a cost of around £120 million. The point is, with the Wimpey plan, you have a renewable energy source which produces no radio-active waste, cannot melt-down and provides a road as well!

A study by the Department of Energy two years ago concluded that a Barrage across the Severn would present no great technical difficulties. However their proposals for a barrage across the mouth of the Severn would be 3 times longer, affecting six shipping ports, more expensive and would have a "significant" effect on the environment. The Wimpey Plan which is much further upstream would affect only two parts and would have "minimal" environmental impact.

Professor Eric Wilson, an international expert on tidal power told the Sizewell Inquiry in November that barrages incorporating steel caissons, rather than traditional concrete structures, could be more economic. Steel caissons might be used for a barrage across Lough Stranford in Northern Ireland, which is being investigated by the government, he said.

New Scientist, 1.12.83 & 5.1.84



Some things never change

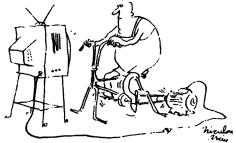
In 1952, week-ending 13th December, there were 4700 deaths in London. Compared to 1850 the year before, for the same week.

This was the result of the great London Smog, an issue which, until 1956, was not acted upon. When the awareness of the Smog problem came out the government decided, just like the ACID RAIN problem today, to do something. Set up a committee! Three cheers for the committee. Hip, Hip.

Under the 30 year rule the cabinet papers of that time have been released.

"For some reason 'smog' has captured the imagination of the press and the people... ridiculous as it appears at first sight, I would suggest that we form a committee (Hip, Hip)... We cannot do very much, but we can seem to be very busy and that's half the battle nowadays." Macmillan, the Minister of Housing and Local government jibbered on the next day as well. According to minutes of the meeting "the government might create an even better impression" if it announced taking on "some at any rate" of the committee's (Hip, Hip) recommendations.

I wonder what the 1984 cabinet papers on Acid Rain have in store for us. No accusations of course (would we do that) just burning curiousity!



ALTERNATIVE ENERGY PLAN FOR CANADA

Canada could use up to 34 per cent less energy in 2025 than it did in 1978, requiring no new nuclear capacity or Arctic oil to achieve self-sufficiency.

achieve self-sufficiency.

The study, by FoE Canada, commissioned by the government shows residential and commercial energy use could be cut by half, in spite of a 50 per cent population growth. "The implications are enormous" said one resource economist, "Our findings imply that public policy and institutions form the main barriers to an energy self-sufficient future."

"It seems ironic to be pursuing expensive dangerous and non-renewable energy supplies when we have access to such easy alternatives". Dr. Brooks said "The study was focussed primarily on renewable and conversion technologies that are available and cost-effective today, so that any technological breakthrough in the next 25 years would tip the balance even further toward "soft" energy paths."

WISE, 20.12.83

N.B. Contact for Canadian Report from SCRAM.

The Oxford Review

Meryl Streep in an Oscar-winning film about Karen Silkwood? The story of the life and death of the antinuclear movement's first martyr "SILKWOOD" will appear on your local screen some time this year. It should embarrass the Kerr-McGee Corporation, whose energy interests include North Sea Oil fields. Just part of the interesting gossip to emerge from a meeting in Oxford on 19th/20th November last year. The meeting brought together Anti-Nuclear Groups to look at the movement against nuclear power and for safe energy as it is at the moment, and how it could be. Maicolm Bruce ventured south and brought us this report:-

There were 25 people present. Most regions and groups managed to send a representative so we were able to hear about what most campaigns and regions were up to. The Oxford meeting was felt to be worth repeating on a larger scale, so it was decided to have a national get-together on the 7/8th April at County Hall, London SE1 (provisional dates and venue). It will last the weekend and have big-name speakers on the Friday night to ensure a large turnout (that means YOU!), there will be smaller, more intimate sessions for the Saturday and Sunday for sharing information and ideas on specific campaigns.

As a result of the conference we now have an Anti-Nuclear Phone-Tree! It connects offices (mostly) of anti-nuclear groups in a circular arrangement and it will, in theory, link in with the Greenham phone-tree and local Peace networks. It is proposed that on Harrisburg Day (28th March) every group in the country has an action, co-ordinated on the Phone-Tree. For example a train of spent fuel might be met by small demonstrations met everywhere it goes across the country, from power station to Windscale.

The SIZEWELL Inquiry and WIND-SCALE were both reported on and discussed at some length. These national, indeed transnational, issues must become the context for all the local issues in the movement. That this is not easy is obvious when met with the attitude "Don't build/mine/dump or transport it through HERE, do it somewhere else! As the badge says "We all live in Harrisburg".

SIZEWELL

The first report was from Jennifer Armstrong who is attending the Size-well Inquiry full-time for the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA). Her basic message was that the opposition case has made a lot of ground and that the Inquiry is a good

opportunity for groups to get press coverage. Even boycotting the Inquiry, as the East Anglian Alliance Against Nuclear Power (EAAANP) have done, is newsworthy. The EAAA-NP produces the newsletter 'Sizewell Reactions' which means attending on the public benches. As I write (mid-January) a Peace camp has been set up at the Inquiry after a Peace Walk from Lakenheath (US nuclear-armed bombers) to Sizewell to stress the links between nuclear power and nuclear weapons. There has also been nonviolent obstruction of spent fuel trains from Sizewell 'A' reactor and of course, various protests at the hearings.

Roy Thompson of the EAAANP outlined the necessity of a post-Inquiry strategy. The longer the final Report is in appearing, the stronger our case becomes. Latest guestimate of when the Inquiry ends is Sept-Dec 1984. After that date there is a period of not-much-happening till the Inspector's Report is published. During this vital period we must keep the issue in the public eye nationally. The Report might come out in early/mid 1985 so a National Nuclear Sites Day on Harrisburg Day, March 28th 1985 has been proposed.

After the publication there will be a period of intense lobbying inside and

Reviews

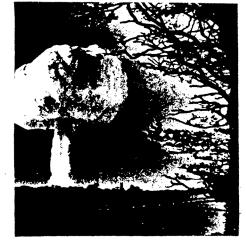
DOOMSDAY: British after nuclear attack, by Stan Openshaw, Philip Steadman, Owen Greene. Blackwell Press, £4.95p (+ 60p + p.).

Would you survive if the Soviet Union launched a full scale nuclear attack on the British mainland? How far are you from a nuclear target? Would you ever see your family again? Do you live in one of the "safe" zones and if so, would you survive the resulting radioactive fallout?

These questions and many more are answered in 'Doomsday' as Openshaw, Steadman and Greene take us through several attack patterns showing in clear diagrams and computer printouts what parts of the country would be the most badly hit, what parts would be devastated by radiation, what the effects would be of attacks on nuclear power stations, how many people would be killed outright, how many would survive just to die later and who would be the "lucky" ones is all spelt out with chilling clarity.

The book also looks at the futility of civil defence preparations showing how most people following Government advice would be killed in their "inner refuges" and at how the country would be run in the aftermath of the attack by the few remaining politicians and by armed police who would have instructions to shoot on sight.

The book took many years to research as it had to be constantly updated as more and



more sophisticated weapons systems were introduced.

It has already captured the interest of the nation on Independant Televisions "World in Action" current affairs programme and one finishes the book convinced that the only way to stop a nuclear holocaust is to stop nuclear weapons — completely. In short, if you are someone who is interested in disarmament but never had the facts at their fingertips, a backsliding disarmer or even a fully fleged disarmament campaigner - this is the book for you. Read it.

L. Christian Thomson

THE RUSSIAN THREAT by Jim Garrison and Pyare Shivpuri. Gateway Books £4.95, 344pp.

A book like this, which has no original research in it, but uses material from other books on different subjects - Russian foreign policy, domestic and political reasons for chilling or thawing the cold war, the influence of researchers and companies on arms' development - ought to give all these aspects due weight in a general argument. This book does not do that.

It is incoherent and badly organised - the authors repeat what other people have written and then tack on a bit of moral uplift about unity or internationalism, or make occasional heavily sarcastic asides. So, having described how countries are pulling out of super-bloc politics as they take on their own national identities and compete against each other or join smaller blocs such as the Common Market or OPEC, Garrison and Shivpuri then call for unity - a unity that comes out of the air (or out of the United Nations, which is the same thing) and is not connected to the process they have shown.

There are plenty of books, better written, which will give you the facts about the Soviet Union, the world situation, armaments, the military-industrial complex. There are several good books which offer overwhelming moral argument and vision. This is neither. "We are both simple people," write Garrison and Shivpuri, and they certainly write, if not simply, at least simple-mindedly, by pinching other people's work and only contributing their own pop-rhetoric.

Rosie Bell

out of Parliament, where the Report will be 'debated'. The final stage is the Energy Secretary's decision and our response to it.

WINDSCALE

This year the planned big day of protest is WINDSCALE DAY, 8th Oct. It was on that date in 1957 that a switch in the No. 1 Plutonium Production Reactor was thrown 'too soon'. At the height of the resulting fire, 11 tonnes of Uranium was ablaze. The fire only began to be extinguished on the 11th of October, by which time unknown amounts of radioactivity had been released. Please put the 8th of October down in your diary! There'll be an event at Windscale and hopefully in your area, too.

Jean Emery of the Barrow Action Group gave us the latest in the Windscale saga (beats Dallas hands down). The building of the THORP (Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant) has been held up because Copeland, the local County Council, withheld final planning permission 'till December on the grounds that access roads were inadequate. The delay did not stop British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. (BNFL) from taking on contracts from abroad for reprocessing and some shipments have arrived already.

The old Magnox spent fuel reprocessing process is in need of refurbishment to cope with 10 - 15 years more work. A plant called SIXEP is behind schedule. Its purpose will be to reduce Caesium discharge but no-one knows if it will work. The leaky silos continue to leak.

Stories abound of workers removing radiation-monitoring film badges in order to do double shifts (no overtime bans here). There have been 6 out of court settlements paid by BNFL for former employees who have suffered from radiation exposure. The Transport and General Workers Union is bringing up 43 more cases.

There are 3 goals in the Windscale campaign. Firstly, stop discharging into the sea immediately. Secondly, in the medium term, stop the import and reprocessing of spent oxide fuel. Thirdly, over the long term, no more reactor building, concentrate research on safe storage and disposal, dump no waste, store spent fuel and waste onsite in a retrievable form.

BILLINGHAM

On the subject of waste, Kevin Daws of Cleveland Friends of the Earth told us about the campaign on Teeside to prevent the dumping of 'intermediate-level' waste in a disused salt mine under the town of Billingham. Opposition is unanimous from residents and unions, and already the schedule of NIREX, the nuclear industry's 'waste-management executive', is slipping.

ALARM

Concern about the hazards of waste transport, especially through built-

up areas, has led to the formation of ALARM (Alert Londoners Against Radioactive Materials). Janice Owens, told us they are bringing out an information-pack on the subject soon, and will continue publication of the Waste Transport newsletter "Routing Out". Members of Rail and seafarers unions are starting to get extremely concerned about the hazards of nuclear waste transport. We may well see action on the international movement of spent fuel by the seafarers' union, NUS. On land, Rail unions ASLEF and NUR are moving to protect their members and the public from the hazards of transporting spent fuel flasks of doubtful safety.

TANC

Tyneside Anti-Nuclear Campaign's Martin Spence reported some optimism for their campaign. There is increasing sympathy for the anti-nuclear case in the labour movement in the North-East. Credit for this must go to such TANC publications as their 'Jobs For A Change' pamphlet on the conversion of Armament jobs to making peaceful products and 'Jobs at Risk', a broadsheet about the effect on Coal, Rail and Steel jobs of the proposed reactor at Druridge Bay.

MACKERELS NOT BECQUERELS!

If they build Sizewell 'B', next in line will be Hinkley 'C' PWR in Somerset. Paul Glendell of the Alliance Against Hinkley 'C' (AAHC) and CASD (Campaign Against Sea-Dumping) said the AAHC had already had media coverage and produce their own newsletter. The moratorium on sea-dumping has put CASD in a buoyant mood - mention must be made of their inviting members of the public to sponsor them in sending local mackerel from Somerset to the Ministry of Agriculture to protest at radioactive pollution of the seas.

The Anti-Nuclear Campaign (ANC) and the Consumer Campaign were both in evidence at Oxford. The Consumer Campaigns encourage electricity consumers to channel the nuclear portion of their electrickery bills into special trust funds as a protest against their Electricity Board's infatuation with nuclear power. The ANC are

about to publish a pamphlet quoting what the "High-Heid-Yins" in the nuclear industry said all those years ago and what they are saying now! Top marks to the ANC for their recent pamphlet on the dangers of the PWR - "Under Pressure" (50p + 20p. p&p).

The message from Jan McHarry of WISE (World Information Service on Energy) is - send them your group's news. Let them know what's happening and they'll let the World know via their Bulletin. Albert Beale of Peace News had the same message - send them copy and dates of events and they'll publish them. (WISE-Oxford, 34 Cowley Rd., Oxford & PN, 8 Elm Ave., Nottingham).

NVDA

Nonviolent direct action was discussed at the meeting, especially with regard to Sizewell. There is now a national list of people willing to organise training sessions for affinity groups, where theory can be put into practice and you can learn to think and act as a group. Please approach your nearest contact enclosing an s.a.e. for reply.

Sheryl Crown, 16 Albion Road, Fallowfield, Manchester 14.

Ann Stringer, 1 Fell Rd, Birdbrook, Halstead, Essex CO9 4BG.

Julian Bird, 202 Rowntree Ave, York. Al Curry, 15 Reservoir Retreat, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Angela McKee, 17 Springfield, Clapton, London E5.

Andrew Porter, 111 Albion Hill, Brighton, E. Sussex.

Mark Levene, 37 Henry Rd., Oxford. Sue Fleckney, 23 Woodstock Road S., St. Albans, Herts.

Maylin Heard, 33 Phoenix House, Julian Rd, Bath, Avon.

Sally Albrow, 98 Penylan Rd, Cardiff, Cymru.

Finally, a big thank-you to our Oxford friends, especially Chris, for their hospitality and for organising the event. Details of the big national meeting in London on 7/8th April from them at 32 Cowley Rd., Oxford.

If anyone would like the address of any group mentioned above please contact SCRAM.

Malcolm Bruce



SCRAM Journal February/March '84

Little BlackRabbit DIARY

Little Black Rabbit was amazed to read in a paper last year that a Nuclear Power Station in India had shut down 'cos its cooling water intakes had been jammed up with JELLYFISH!!!

Leaving her warren at TORNESS she skipped into Dunbar and asked a Trawlerperson if Jellyfish ever gather in any numbers off the coast at Torness.

Little Black Rabbit got a lesson in Jellyfish spotting from the local person who told her that least common were the Man O War Jellyfish of childhood nightmares and most common were those clear bluish ones with a milky-white cross in them, known as "BRUMBLERS" to people on the coast here

Brumblers increase rapidly when the water is warm and our fisher-friend told us stories of boats bursting their nets they were so full of jellyfish, and of cooling water pumps choking on Brumblers, causing engines to seize up.

It happened in India, could it happen here? All that hot water Torness will throw into the sea (if they manage to start it) could cause a Brumbler Boom. Little Black Rabbit challenges the SSEB to release the computer studies done on this problem, or is this another factor the designers forgot to take into account??

Jellyfish-breeding Meanwhile, The machine is coming along nicely.....

FEBRUARY

In February, the Dutch Parliament will debate the siting of CRUISE in the Netherlands.

3 - 5th Solar Energy, a short residential course. Details: Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Powys, Cymru.

25th Anti-Trident Convention, Manchester Free Trade Hall. Informa-(Sat) tion from: SCND 041-332-3141

13th Public Inquiry into the 'Dipslope Route' for pylons from Torness Nuclear Reactor, Venue: The Public Hall, Lauder. Inquiry Reporter is Mr. Richard Hickman.

British Assoc. of Nature Conservationists, Edinburgh, Talk by Jas. Hunter of 'Rural Forum' Old Broughton School, Edinburgh, 7.30 p.m.

11 - 18th Iona ABBEY, NVDA Training Week. Booking: Helen Steven, Centrepeace, 143 Stockwell St.

Glasgow (041-552-8357). WALES, Nuclear-free for 2 years 23rd

TUCND A.G.M. Tel: Andrew Hewitt 01-263-0977. 25th

28th CND's 26th Birthday.

29th NATIONAL NON-SMOKING MARCH

National Meeting of CAAT (Campaign Against the Arms 3/4th Trade). Details: CAAT 5 Caledonian Rd. London N1 (01-278-1976)

Bounce on the Button Bunker, 3rd Walk for Peace over the Forth Road Bridge from South Queensferry to Pitreavie Bunker (Backup Polaris button) via Rosyth (naval dockyard and Nuclear sub graveyard) South Queensferry is 12 miles from Edinburgh, nearest BR station is Dalmeny. Contact 031-557-4283 (SCRAM Office).

8th International Wimmin's Day 9th Copy-date for SCRAM Journal. 20th

BANC, Edindburgh (see Feb. 14th) Speaker: Ken Collins (Labour Euro-MP and chair of European Environmental Cttee.) 6.30 pm Old Broughton School. Harrisburg Day. PWR minutes 28th from catastrophe at Three Mile Island Pennsylvania, 150,000 flee. Local demos planned. ALARM (Alert Londoners Against Nuclear Materials) are suggesting that groups release

clear shipments in their areas. 29th STC (Stop The City) Anti-War Demo on the day the City tots up the profits (including those from Nuclear Power and Nuclear War preparations). Venue: The City of

balloons along the routes of Nu-

APRIL 2-7th International Acid Rain Week April

London.

'Nuclear Power The Final Push', Weekend Get-Together for EVERYONE interested in any-6/7/8th Speakers! anti-nuclear. Socialising! Discussion! Come along and make it what you want it to be!!! Venue: County Hall, Westminster, London (date and venue provisional - see next issue for final details of programme, place and time).

7th International Acid Rain Day, con-(Sat.) tact Friends of the Earth (locally). 20/22nd Animal Lib weekend of action and camp at Life Science (Sic) Research Labs at Occold nr. Eye, Suffolk. Contact Eddie Smith, 50 Horns Lane, Norwich.

MAY

21 - 27th CAAT (Campaign Against the Arms Trade) Week of Action. Details: CAAT, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1. (01-278-1976).

GENERAL WEDNESDAYS

11 am - 3 pm Wimmin gather outside 'AP-2' (part of Rio Tinto Zinc) at 6 St. James Square, Piccadilly, London. Contact: Greenham London office (01-226-

Change ican only be the amount of forces



THE BEST OF SAFE AND RELIABLE TECHNOLOGY