



FEB 88

NO. 84



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NFZ CAMPAIGN MEETING

I went representing the Wrekin District Council (W.D.C.) to a Nuclear Free Zone (N.F.Z) campaign meeting held in Bedworth on the 7th January.

We discussed a Green Peace paper concerning nuclear dumping and exchanged ideas on the policy of 'critical compliance' with the law. Local Authorities are expected to make plans for a possible nuclear attack, but as all readers of Chain Reaction are aware there can be no such plans in reality. 'Critical compliance' can however so easily become compliance unless local authorities give publicity to the lack of logic contained within civil defence planning.

I was able to report on the publication of the W.D.C. report written by D. Arnott on the effect of a nuclear accident at a power station and the potential problems for Shropshire. The style of the report is both readable and disturbing. It is planned to publicise and report on it in the next 'Wrekin Report'.

An interesting detail is that the iodate tablets, which if administered in advance of fallout containing radio-iodine will block the uptake of radio-iodine into the thyroid glands, are held by the police. Perhaps it is too obvious to suggest that the iodate tablets be distributed to people in direct contact with children (health centres and schools) so that they can be easily distributed.

Or is a more cynical view possible that it may alarm the population if distribution is placed more widely beyond the forces of law and order.

Cllr Paul Wolfe



DIARY

Weds. 3rd Feb. TANG business meeting . 7.30 pm.
16 Linley Drive, Stirchley Park.
BANG business meeting. 7.30 pm.
30 Stokesay Rd., Brooklands.

Weds. 17th Feb. Chain Reaction meeting. 7.30 pm.
2 Attingham Close, Holmer Lake.

Weds. 2nd March. TANG & BANG meetings as 3rd Feb.

Advance Notices:

April 1st-4th National Demonstration at Aldermaston
see details elsewhere in this issue.

April 21st Nightmare in paradise , talk and slide
show - see elsewhere in this issue.

CHAIN REACTION CONTRIBUTIONS

Articles, letters etc. are always welcome. These may be typed to fit into our page directly, typed roughly, or hand written legibly. Please send or give to any of the following:

Mark Stokes,	7 Burton Close, Dawley.	Tel: 501263
Tot Dawes,	6 Myford Cottages , Horsehay.	Tel: 507040
Stephen Cupitt,	258 Burford, Brookside.	Tel: 594825
Laurens Otter,	College Farm House, Mill Lane, Wellington.	Tel: 641852

Deadline for next issue: 17th February.

Extra help with editing, typing etc. always appreciated.
In particular word processing training and experience could be provided to a competent typist who would like to learn this new skill!



Avraham Sasa.

Nearly two years ago TANG hosted a meeting where the International Secretary of the Communes' Movement, Avraham Sasa (known in Japan as Moshe' Matsuba) spoke.

It is therefore with great regret that I heard, just after Christmas, from his sister, that Avraham had been knocked down and killed by a car on the 6th. of September.

I had corresponded with Avraham for just about 24 years and so it was naturally a great shock, particularly since the last letter I had had from him must have been sent only just before he was killed.

Particularly so, since in that letter he had said that he had heard something of interest to investigating the murder of Hilda Murrell, and asked if I could let him have Rob Green's address to go & tell him.

He said he didn't want to discuss the matter in a letter, that he would be visiting me "sometime before Christmas" and would tell me about it then.

I'd replied & had written at least once since, saying when would he be coming, but Avraham had a flat in a farmhouse near Bath, and obviously his landlord had not felt like notifying Avraham's correspondents; so I only heard when his sister circulated everyone in his address book.

Avraham had been during the war against Naziism, a member of the Leftist Zionist movement, Hashomer Hatzair. He went to Israel about the time of its independence, and was twenty years a member of Kibbutz Sasa (in the North of the country.) He was constantly shocked by the departures of the Kibbutz movement from their initial socialist nature; (though his never took to employing outside labour, unlike most.)

He launched - in the early sixties - a campaign to renew the early Kibbutzi communitarian idealism and opposed

Avraham Sasa (cont'd)

the growing imperialism of the Israeli state. Despite this, on balance, he supported the "Six Day War" of 1967; but when this led to what amounted to the annexation of Arab lands - Gaza, & the West Bank, - he left Israel to join a Japanese Kibbutz. Eventually returning to Britain as secretary of the international communes' federation.

It is ironic that his death is announced at a time when the Arab resistance in the occupied territories is at its height.



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Remembering Hilda Murrell

Just before the fourth anniversary of the murder of Hilda Murrell, Wrekin Libertarians have published:

"The Arrogance of Uncontested Power" by Laurens Otter

available from College Farm House, Mill Lane, Wellington; an attempt to put the Murrell killing into the context of such scandals as the Spycatcher affair. A review/precis by Peter Nias will appear in the next Chain Reaction.



.....

Mrs Thatcher says the "record of our nuclear industry is absolutely superb" yet there are over 300 reported incidents from Sellafield (Windscale) alone, we don't yet know the truth about the Windscale fire, and the Irish sea is the most radio-active sea in the world.

Lord Marshall of the CEGB now agrees:-

- that nuclear power stations have never produced electricity cheaper than that from oil or coal power stations (7% more expensive than that from coal stations) and at one stage it was said that electricity would be so cheap that we could get rid of electricity meters!

- that most of the plutonium for nuclear warheads from our nuclear power stations has been passed to the US nuclear stockpile in exchange for uranium for our nuclear power stations.

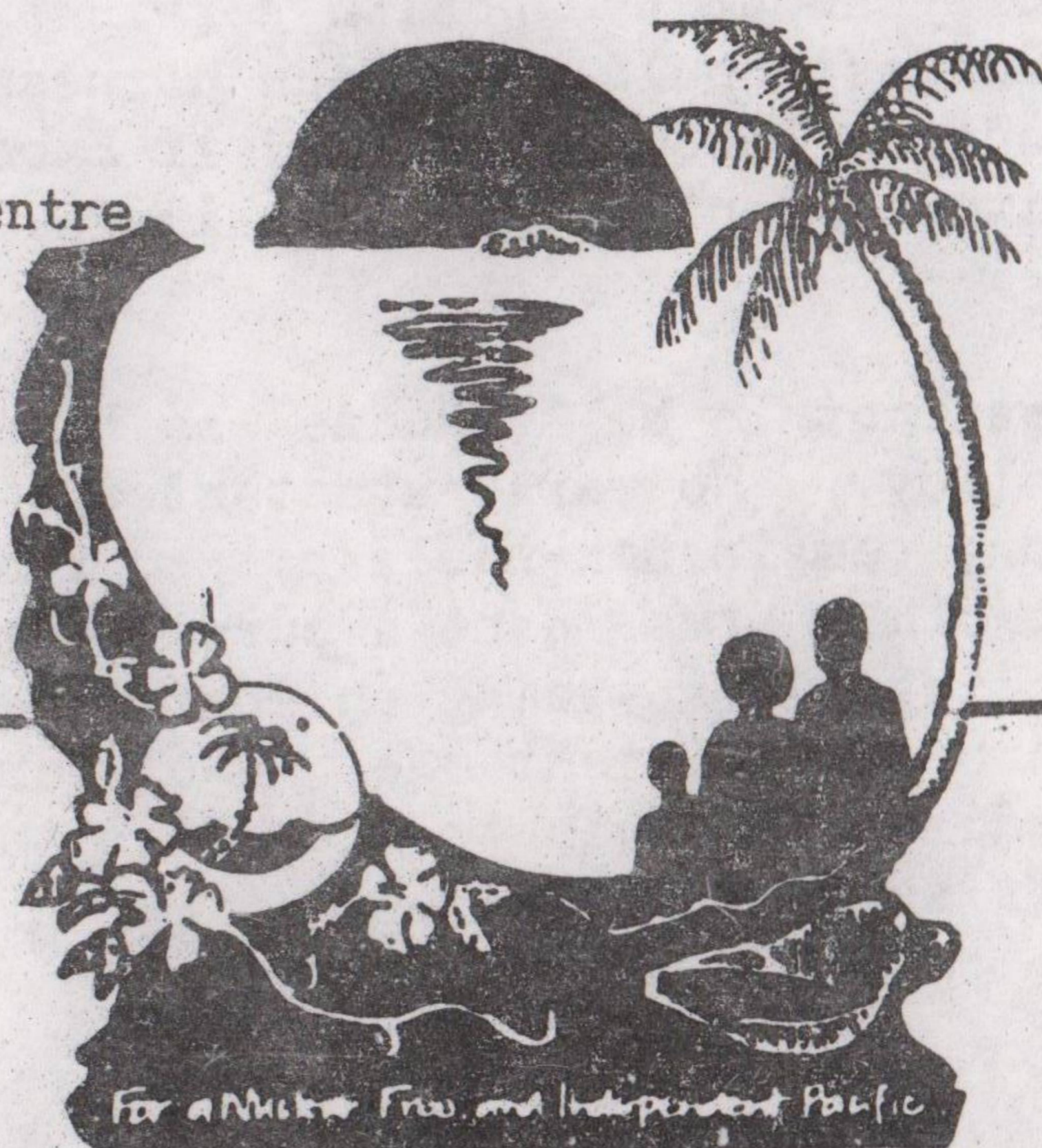
PUBLIC MEETING

NIGHTMARE IN PARADISE

Thursday April 21st

A talk with slides about the damage done to the Pacific and its inhabitants by nuclear testing.

at
the Environmental Action Centre
Chapel St.
St. Georges
at 8.00 p.m.



N.H.S.

Everyone knows, indeed even the Tory Press admits, that despite Governmental juggling of statistics, the Health Service is desparately under-funded. People who have seen the government change the method of calculating the number of unemployed, something like seventeen times in order to produce more favourable figures, are hardly likely to be impressed by the shrill parliamentary denials.

Labour has seen it, at last, as a vote winner, that might finally signal the end of the Thatcher era. What a pity then that, by watering down its policy on unilateralism, Kinnock lost the opportunity to make this the issue at the last election.

Whereas the party had been committed to abolishing Cruise & Trident, & spending the money on the health service, & other such desparately under-funded services; Kinnock got cold feet, & said he was going to use the money to build up conventional armaments. We said before the election, as at the time of the change of policy, that this was foolish.

It is now clear that there is a groundswell of popular worry about the health service; that the feelings so manifest could have been harnessed to a vigorous & radical Labour campaign, if Labour had been concerned with content rather than image.

It was not to be. Noone was taken in by the changed policy. No war that started with conventional would long remain non-nuclear; so redeployment of the money to other arms meant a purely temporary non-nuclear policy; if anything an inefficient war-mongering rather than an efficient one. Not surprisingly though the Media hyped this to the skies the voters shrugged it off as worthless.

L.O.

1988 : MOURNING : CELEBRATION : SOVEREIGNTY

An article in last month's Chain Reaction "Nothing to celebrate in '88", drew attention to the campaign by the Aboriginal population for justice and the end to oppression.

In an attempt to counterpose the white celebrations the Bicentennial Protest Committee has asked that 1988 be a year of :

MOURNING...for what has been lost and destroyed by colonisation.

CELEBRATION OF SURVIVAL...of the Aboriginal people . For their strength...Health organisations, housing, community control.

DEMANDING SOVEREIGNTY...self determination, land rights and recognition as the first people and nation.

MOURNING

When the English colonised Australia 200 years ago they came across a civilisation that was already 50,000 years old, a civilisation with its own social structures, religious beliefs and economy. Within 150 years of the white invasion 80% of that ancient civilisation was wiped out, the rest were forced from their ancestral lands, enslaved and oppressed. Today that oppression continues. A recent report by the Anti-Slavery Society has highlighted the extreme poverty and misery in which the Aboriginal population exists, conditions are comparable to those of the most impoverished areas of the Third World , the system of oppression is akin to that of the Apartheid regime in South Africa.

CELEBRATION

The Aboriginal people also have much to celebrate, for in the face of blatant racism they have survived, organising themselves and their communities to cope with the tremendous problems they face. Resistance to white oppression continues. (...over...)

.....cont

DEMANDING SOVEREIGNTY

Australia is the only former British colony that has not recognised native title to the land, nor have any treaties been signed with the indigenous people. Grassroots support for such a treaty is widespread. Such a treaty would recognise not only that the Aboriginal people held sovereign domain over their country before the white invasion, but that Aboriginal sovereignty has never been relinquished.

In its recent report the Anti-Slavery Society reported that land is still being taken from the Aborigines by force. Large mining companies such as the British owned British Petroleum and Rio Tinto-Zinc, in search of Uranium, still mine on Aboriginal lands with no compensation to its inhabitants. Under a treaty proposed by the land rights council the treaty would ensure inalienable freehold title over Aboriginal lands; the protection of sacred sites; control over mining on Aboriginal lands; negotiation for compensation for land that has been lost; and the right to self determination.

USEFUL ADDRESSES

Aboriginal land rights support group.

Robyn Holder, 19c Lancaster Rd, London W11 1QL

Aboriginal Bicentennial Protest

14b Chardmoor Road, London N16 6JD

Survival International

310 Edgware Rd, London W2 1DY

People Against Rio Tinto Zinc and its Subsidiaries
(P.A.R.T.I.Z.A.N.S.)

218 Liverpool Rd, London N1

Treaty 88

Kevin Gilbert, GPO Box 1101, Canberra 2601, Australia.



TRAWSFYHYDD

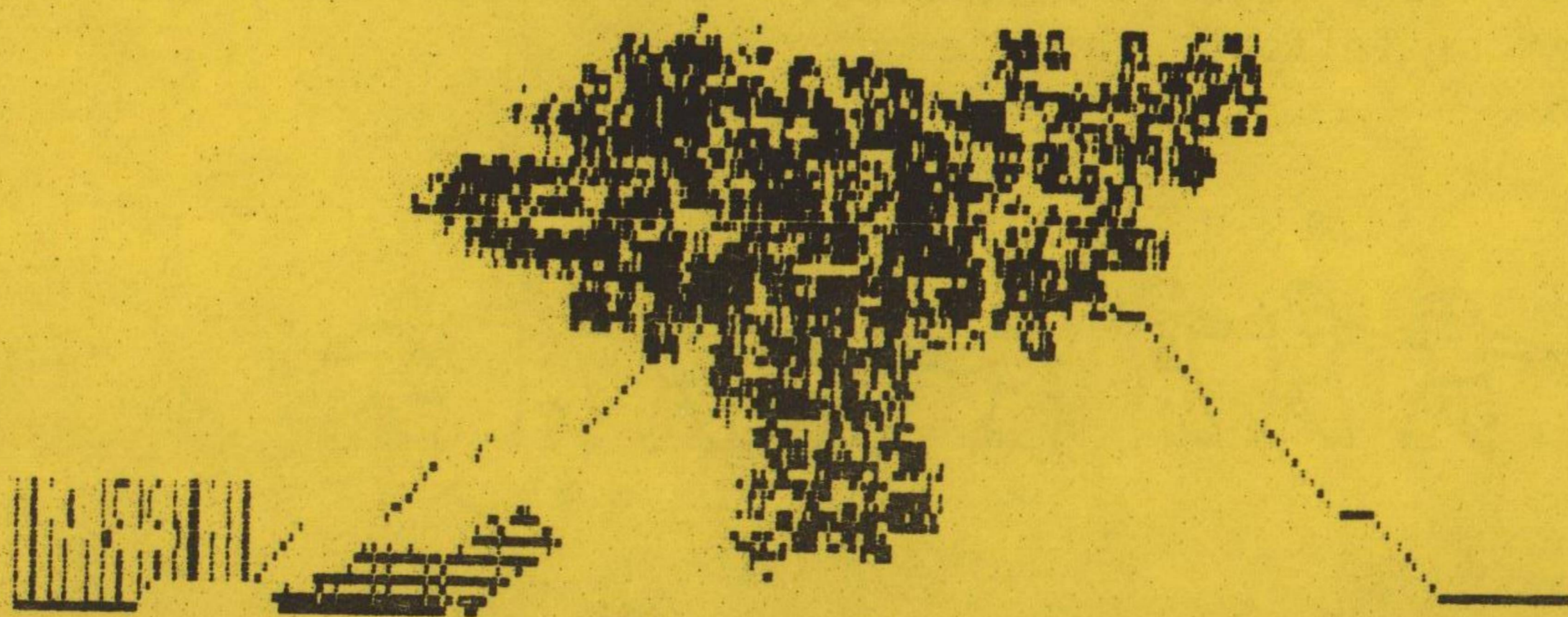
Almost two years ago the press was full of the irresponsibility of the Russian nuclear power industry. The Chernobyl disaster had been caused by nuclear scientists seeking to check safety controls seeing how the reactors worked if parts were shut down. They were doing this in order to see whether it was still possible to control it if some safety systems malfunctioned.

TANG would of course - for once - agree with the media in this. Nuclear power is inherently unsafe, and the waste inevitably damages the environment. We consider that any government resorting to such a method of producing energy is irresponsible.

But we did not share the nationalism and anti-communism that led the media, and far right Shropshire Star-Mail correspondents to point the finger of scorn .

There is however now a significant silence on the part of the right wing - media and propagandists. More or less the same experiments that caused the Chernobyl disaster are now being performed at Trawsfynydd (the nearest reactor to us here in Shropshire).

Moreover this is doubly irresponsible. Trawsfynydd is older than Chernobyl. It has already had at least one serious leak ; and though the media said the Chernobyl lacked a secondary containment cover, it later emerged that it had had a more substantial one than any in Britain. There can therefore be a disaster in Wales ; it will be luck not good judgement if one is avoided.



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