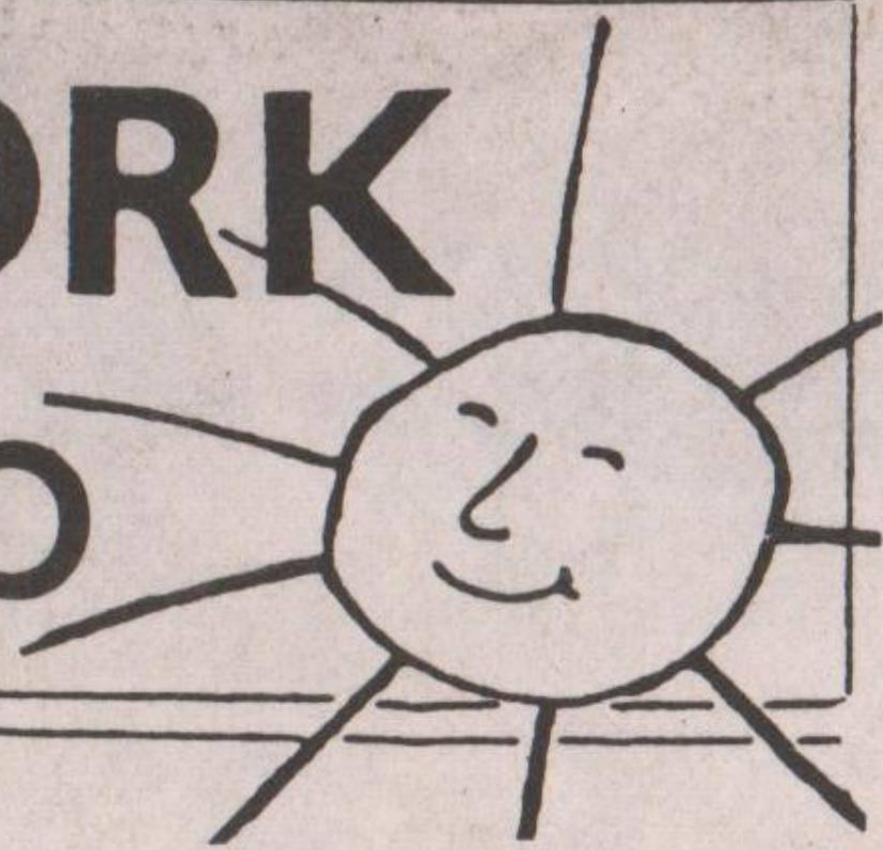


ANTI-NUCLEAR NETWORK NEWSLETTER

NO. 18 - Feb/March 1990

30p



BREAK THE NUCLEAR CHAIN

On April 21st anti-nuclear activists in the West Midlands and from further afield will meet in Kings Heath, Birmingham, to march several miles through communities on the route of the nuclear trains. This is the next step in a campaign which, since October 1987, has alerted the whole city to the dangers of nuclear transport. The campaign has involved many public meetings, widespread publicity in the local press, radio and TV and a 9,200 signature petition to the city council. Recently the Action Group initiated a monthly torchlight vigil to oppose the nuclear train as it travels through Kings Heath at midnight on Thursday nights.

In December a Christmas social was followed by a torchlight procession along the High Street to the site of the vigil by the railway line. The action and the nuclear train were featured on Central TV news the following day. Support for the action group has always been strong in the local community and it is growing with each action. Two years ago an independent report by John Large and Associates confirmed that the nuclear flasks could fail in realistic accidents. This could mean up to a 100% release of the contents into the environment, enough radioactivity to kill countless thousands. The nuclear trains bring the dangers of nuclear power and nuclear weapons to our doorsteps in many major cities. The time is right for a powerful demonstration to advance the struggle against the nuclear trains.



For further information contact:
South Birmingham Nuclear Train
Action Group, c/o Dave Quinnen,
12 Turville Rd, Handsworth,
Birmingham B20 3PL
Phone: 021 554 2990

* DEMONSTRATION *

* in *

* BIRMINGHAM on SATURDAY APRIL 21st at 12 noon. *

* Assemble at Kings Heath, the corner of Alcester Road and Howard Road East (no 50 bus from the city centre). March through Kings Heath, Moseley and Balsall Heath to: *

* RALLY *

* PICKWICK PARK *

* ST PAULS ROAD *

* BALSALL HEATH *

* Organisations are invited to provide stalls at the rally by prior arrangement with the action group. *

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your information about the A.N.N.

My view, which I have expressed to the scientific director of Greenpeace, Dr Leggett, is that if one opposed nuclear power as I do, then it is essential to have detailed proposals for an alternative energy policy backed by authoritative engineers. I think it is a defect of critics on ecological issues to simply criticise. I believe Greenpeace was due to produce alternative proposals but I havn't seen them. You seem to be a very lively group but anyone in the position of Lord Marshall will simply say that they have to deliver a certain amount of electricity in a certain area and objections are not enough.

The second point I wish to make is that in general liberal movements have an unfortunate tendency to proliferate which makes them less effective - in this case Greenpeace and FOE are very active. I think maybe you should consider whether you can fit in with any existing organisations and become a campaigning group within it. In my belief it is the fact that liberal movements simply criticise the Government which makes them less effective.

Yours sincerely
T. L. Lukes.

Events

SHUT TRIDENT OUT INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST TRIDENT 31st March

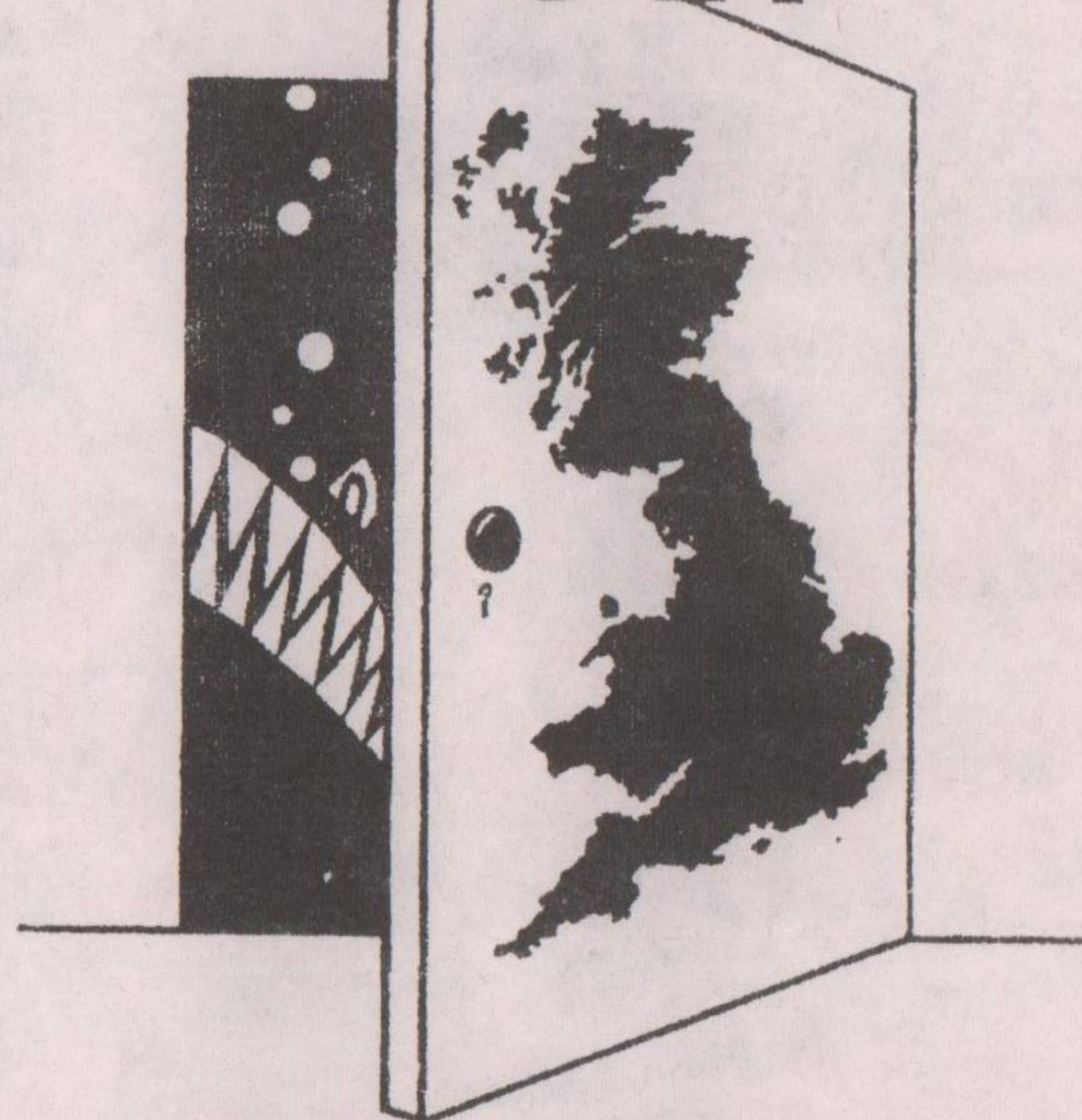
As the barriers between East and West seem to be coming down faster than ever before, the deployment of Trident becomes even more insane. On Saturday, 31st March, the Anti-Trident Network are calling for protests at 26 places in Britain connected with the Trident programme, as part of an international day of action against Trident.

Groups in Britain which have been campaigning against Trident at different establishments will be acting simultaneously on a decentralised day of protest, linking up with groups in the US which will also be organising protests on the same day.

CND groups are being asked to support these protests by travelling to their nearest Trident establishment and joining the local group in protests. There will be action at HMS Vulcan, Glen Garry, Faslane and Coulport, Chapelcross, Longtown, Anthorn, Windscale, Barrow, Imskip, Springfields, Capenhurst, Swynnerton, Criggion, Llanishen, Bath, Aldermaston, Burghfield, Northwood, Rugby, Derby, Wittering, Forest Moor, Albemarle, Rosyth and Pitreavie.

Actions will include vigils, rallies, fence decorating, peace camps and direct action. For more details, publicity materials and contacts for the local actions, contact: **Anti-Trident Network, c/o Faslane Peace Camp, Shandon, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire (0436 820901).**

SHUT TRIDENT OUT!



SATURDAY, 31ST MARCH
INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION
TO STOP TRIDENT

Disarm the Seas UK Conference 1990 - Birmingham 9-11th March

Details from SCANN as below Tel: 021-643-540672.

Pax Legalis Practical legal advice for those involved in NVDA.

Taking place at Peace and Justice Centre, 35 Kings Mills Rd, Wrexham, on Feb 17th, 11-4pm.

Easter March on Aldermaston

Details from SCANN, 119 Orchard Rd, Southsea, Portsmouth. Tel: 0705-811603.

CRAZY GOLFECH



Whilst British merchant bankers have rejected nuclear power as being financially unviable, against all odds the French appear to hold the opposite viewpoint.

The French equivalent of the CEGB, called the E.D.F. maintains a huge cumbersome nuclear programme, supplying 70% of French electricity from nuclear sources

Of the 54 reactors that presently exist in France, 17 are currently broken down, and the nuclear industry is in debt to the tune of 235 billion Francs.

Completely out of step with the rest of western Europe the E.D.F. is pushing ahead with its European Energy Strategy which bears all the hallmarks of a discredited Stalinist 5 year plan. The Strategy basically consists of trying to turn an honest penny by flogging electricity to France's European neighbours.

To this end the E.D.F. has built two 1300mw PWR reactors at Golfech, in the attractive Midi region of France near Agen; the sole purpose of these reactors is to export electricity to Spain.

In common with recently deposed governments of Eastern Europe, the E.D.F. is not well known for its democratic accountability. Despite a history of violent clashes with local demonstrators at the site, (including last year the 'occupation' of a 630ft cooling tower) the reactors are now built, loaded with fuel, and about to 'go critical'.

Like President Ceausescu in his palace, unaware of the people's feelings towards him, the Director of Works At Golfech Mons. Michon is apparently unaware that there is a drought in the area, and the level of the Garonne river (used for cooling the reactor) is now low. Instead he publicated stated "There is no water problem at Golfech"

The 'Stop Golfech' movement however points out that drinking water for the local population is abstracted from the Garonne, and with river levels so low; the danger of chemical and radioactive pollution of river water is high. More seriously 'Stop Golfech' is aware that there are serious faults in the PWR design at Golfech, and these faults have developed and become problems at the reactors of Cattenom, Flamenville, Paluel, St. Alban, and Nogent, and are therefore hardly isolated occurrences.

On a more hopeful note a referendum maybe held on whether the reactors can be started up at all in Toulouse & Ramonville. National opinion polls already state that 56% of France says "non" to nuclear power.

'Stop Golfech' has now established a permanent presence in caravans at Golfech, and local demonstrations are held every Sunday at three o'clock. They have also launched a Europe wide petition & appeal for the closure of all reactors in France, and the abandonment of sites under construction.

Contact: Vivre Sans Le Danger Nucleaire De Golfech
BP 343- 47008 AGEN- FRANCE

NUCLEAR POWER - A NEW PHASE

The Government's decision to pull nuclear power out of the electricity privatisation has left the industry reeling. A recent meeting of the Anti-Nuclear Network discussed the changes, and how the anti-nuclear movement should respond.

The Government has swallowed some of its nuclear pride because the City refused to accept the financial costs of nuclear power, however it was dressed up in the sale. Only Sizewell B remains out of the PWR program - plans for Wylfa B and Sizewell C have been shelved, and there is no money to build Hinkley C in spite of the completion of the planning inquiry.

However, the nuclear industry has not died a death yet. Thatcher and the Tories remain committed to nuclear power as a means of ensuring "diversity of supply" in order to beat the miners. A large part of Britain's nuclear industry will remain necessary for the production of nuclear weapons. The Government aims to review "the prospects for nuclear power" again in 1994 and see if further expansion is possible then. This is after the next election and a lot of accidents, nuclear or otherwise could happen in the next five years.

The nuclear industry itself is keen to expand. BNFL is looking at plans to build PWR's on existing sites at Calder Hall and Sellafield. The company is also planning to expand the life of the Magnox reactors by another ten years.

Keeping nuclear power in the state sector will allow a continuation of subsidies by the tax-payer.

The Government is also talking about a "fossil fuel levy", supposedly to pay for the effect of Carbon Dioxide on the Greenhouse effect. This could make nuclear power seem more competitive. But the Government will nevertheless have problems in squaring the circle on nuclear power finances, as nuclear costs go rocketing upwards. The Tories may prefer to keep nuclear power in the public sector and contract out work to private tender as is envisaged at Aldermaston.

you'll soon have the power to negotiate.

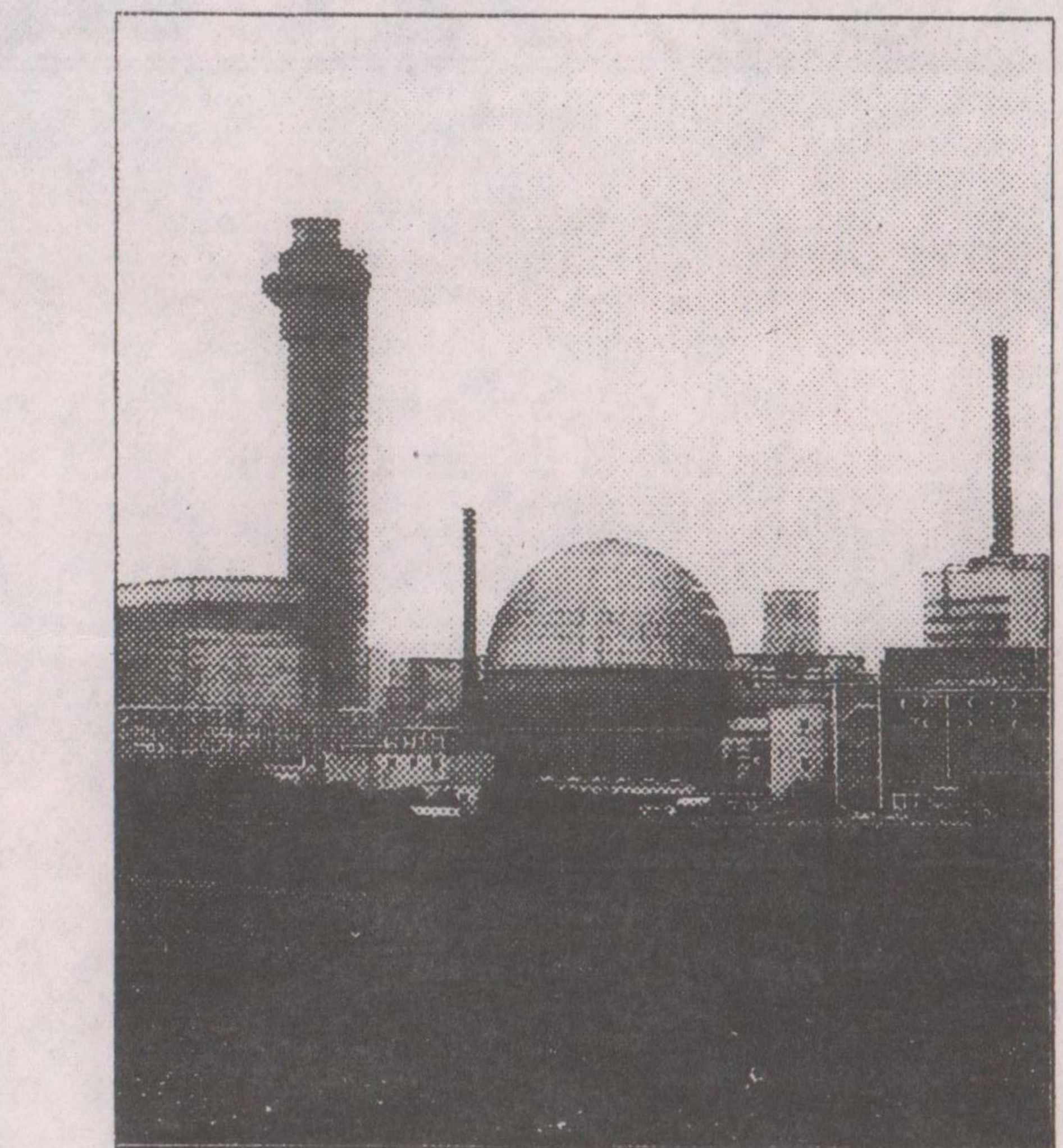
The anti-nuclear movement needs to be cautious in its enthusiasm for the recent changes. It is not our victory - taking part in public inquiries and anti-nuclear protests had very little to do with these decisions. However we can claim that concern over safety has forced nuclear costs to rise and anti-nuclear propaganda has queered the industry's own sales pitch. Other costs have also increased dramatically and have led to these "strange victories" which happened in a similar way in the United States ten years ago. (see "Strange Victories" by Elephant Editions 1985) The nuclear industry in the States is now staging a come-back, the same thing could happen here if we let it.

Sellafield is the "heart of darkness" for the nuclear industry in Western Europe. Even more foreign nuclear waste will be arriving there now that the Wackersdorf plant in West Germany has been closed due to a militant campaign of direct action. With the Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant about to open (for AGR fuel) it seems time to again make Sellafield a focus of anti-nuclear activity and campaigning.

Whilst the strategic importance of Sellafield is clear, the problems for the anti-nuclear movement are formidable. The plant employs 6000 local people and the community around it is very much under the influence of BNFL. It is important that any campaign against the plant stresses alternative employment for the workforce.

The idea of a Close Sellafield Campaign was discussed and it was agreed that we would try to enlist support for such a campaign on a local, national and international level.

Nuclear trains and other nuclear transports remain an important focus for all of the groups present, and for many anti-nuclear groups - in particular for those groups not near to power stations. Recent actions in Wales have highlighted the issue, and a Welsh monitoring network has been set up. South Birmingham Nuclear Train Action Group are holding a major demonstration on 21 April (see front page). It was felt that many groups had taken the issue for a time and then lost momentum - there had been a lot of duplication of effort.



According to established scientific models British Nuclear Fuels' Sellafield discharges will cause up to 115 deaths, 170 non-fatal cancers and 100 genetic defects.

At a future date a conference should be held specifically on nuclear transports in order to set up a national monitoring network. In meantime groups agreed to take the issue locally.

Food Irradiation is being promoted by the nuclear industry as a "hamless" way to use nuclear waste. The food industry sees it as a way to increase the shelf life of products. The health risks come not so much from the irradiation as from the chemical changes brought about by bacteria before irradiation takes place. (There will be an article about Food Irradiation in the next ANN newsletter.) As yet the food irradiation plants have not been built in this country but the Bill to legalise the process is likely to be passed during this Parliament.

Food Irradiation is tremendously unpopular and campaigns against it would be supported by consumers. So far, only one supermarket chain, Sainsbury's, has said it will take irradiated food if it is legalised. The Government's argument about "freedom of choice" for the consumer is entirely spurious as in many settings, eg restaurants and canteens, consumers would have no way of knowing if food had been irradiated. Individual consumers would have no way of checking if unlabelled foods had been irradiated.

Sizewell B

Sizewell B is the only Pressurised Water Reactor now being built, and as such makes very little economic sense. It has been estimated that the plant will cost **£1 million per day** for its 35 year lifespan. However rational arguments alone will not be enough to stop this monster - the whole campaign needs to be stepped up.

The Sizewell campaign have made a start by highlighting the arrival of the reactor's pressure vessel in late 1990 and calling for a demonstration against the plant on that day. The pressure vessel is a very large steel component which will have to be transported by barge from its manufacturers, Frematone of Dijon, France via Marseille to land on the Sizewell beach itself. The date is not certain yet.

I AM A TECHNICIAN



I BUILT FLIXBOROUGH



I BUILT WINDSCALE



I BUILT 3 MILE ISLAND



NOW I AM BUILDING SIZEWELL 'B'



TRUST ME.



Master Jules Feiffer

Sellafield

Transport

Food Irradiation

News round **IN BRIEF**

NOVEMBER

- 7: Police seized 110lbs of enriched uranium from a Western Australian hotel - two men were arrested. The uranium is believed to have originated in South Africa.
- 7: Mr Abbott, a British nuclear scientist, has said that his discovery of serious design faults in U.S and Canadian reactors was deliberately covered up.
- 9: Moscow News revealed that 250 people have died at Chernobyl as a result of the accident and clean up attempt and not 31 as was officially claimed.
- 10: The Tory government withdrew nuclear power from the electricity privatisation programme. There is to be a five year freeze on nuclear plant building.
- 17: The CEBG was fined £3,000 after two serious accidents at Dungeness B nuclear power station in Kent.
- 20: A Friends of the Earth report claims that an energy efficiency programme costing £3.8 billion could cut energy use by 20 per cent a year and save £12 billion.
- 22: Selwyn Gummer's so called "Food Safety Bill" lifted the ban on food irradiation.

DECEMBER

- 1: After two years of massive opposition and the outlay of \$500 million, the US Dept of Energy has backed down on its attempt to force a nuclear waste repository on Nevada.
- 5: A Greenpeace ship was hosed, rammed and finally towed away by the US navy after trying to prevent a test firing of the Trident II missile off the coast of Florida.
- 5: The Aldermaston Bomb Factory is to be privatised following nuclear warhead production problems.
- 8: 30 gallons of contaminated cooling liquid has spilt from a nuclear sub into the VSEL shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.
- 11: The villagers of Rokkasho, Japan, threatened by a proposed nuclear waste dump have voted for an anti-nuclear candidate Mr Hiroshi Tsuchida, in a crucial by-election.
- 13: Robert Cole, a CND activist was jailed for 14 days for refusing to pay a £150 fine after he chained himself to a nuclear waste flask last August.
- 19: John Wakeham, the Energy Secretary, said that businessmen are free to build private nuclear power stations.
- 19: Lord Wally Marshall resigned as chairman of the CEBG, with a £250,000 pay off!
- 21: British Nuclear Fools won first prize in FOE's "Green CON" contest for its misleading advert suggesting nuclear power is the best solution to the greenhouse effect.
- 22: CEBG have now doubled their estimate of the overall cost of decommissioning nuclear plants and dealing with spent fuel - it now stands at £13.3 billion.

JANUARY

- 6: Lord Wally Marshall is to be replaced by Mr Gil Blackman, deputy chairman of the CEBG for its last three months before privatisation.
- 10: Sweden revealed a Cabinet shake-up yesterday which looks set to backtrack on previous Government plans to phase out nuclear power.

last little bit of nuclear poison from page 8

are dangerous, indeed potentially disastrous, cock-ups at nuclear power stations almost every day and the Sellafield reprocessing plant on one occasion actually caught fire and discharged huge amounts of radiation into the environment after which there was a massive cover-up ensuring that no one knew anything about it for years. Perhaps the man from the N.I.I. would explain once he had finished doing his plea for the C.E.G.B. ? No, he never did.

We also had, from "prosecution" and defence, the old sob-story that the C.E.G.B. had already "suffered enough" (in financial terms) and that everyone at Dungeness from the station Manager down felt "a deep sense of corporate shame".

Apart from the, fairly technical, description of the two incidents (which I'll say a bit about in a moment) and the usual nonsense about how radioactive everything in the world apart from nuclear power plants is that was more or less it. The C.E.G.B. were fined £1,500 on each count and ordered to pay costs (they had the nerve to ask for time to pay !). So a total of nearly £6,000 was shuffled from one bureaucratic pocket to another, the T.V. did some interviews and we all went home for tea.

As to the "accidents" themselves all we have to go on is what was said in court which was at best only part of the story and could conceivably have been a complete fabrication. So to judge from what we heard in court the first accident involved a large mobile bit of equipment concerned with inserting and retracting fuel rods into and out of the reactor; on February 4th, as the result of what sounds as if it could well have been a genuine accident involving the use of dowelling that was too short for the job, a 73 ft fuel assembly fell into the reactor. What was left of this bit of equipment was then isolated in a special part of the station so that it could be investigated at some later point. Less than 3 weeks later 3 people, a manager, a fitter and a health worker went to have a look at it. The C.E.G.B.'s version of events continues like this; for some, unstated, reason the other two had to go off for a moment leaving the fitter on his own whereupon he started undoing bolts left, right and centre the result of which was that the remains of the thing was sent crashing 27 ft to the floor. Frankly my reaction was "well, if you believe that you'll believe anything".

What really happened, how dangerous it actually was and what the thinking behind this prosecution was we may never know given the secrecy which shrouds all things nuclear.

Happy speculating.

Grudger.

ANTI-NUCLEAR NETWORK

The Anti-Nuclear Network campaigns for the immediate closure of all nuclear power stations, reprocessing plants and fuel fabrication facilities and an end to uranium mining.

The Anti-Nuclear Network supports an alternative energy strategy based on conservation, and the development of renewable energy sources (such as wind, wave and solar power) under community control. In the interim this policy will include the clean burning of fossil fuels.

The Network aims to:

- * Link together independent anti-nuclear groups and individuals.
- * Co-ordinate activities and promote campaigns within the anti-nuclear movement.
- * Support effective direct action and campaign for this in the British anti-nuclear movement.

Nuclear power is part of a world wide nuclear chain. The Anti-Nuclear Network seeks to make links with anti-nuclear groups in other countries. To this end we are affiliated to the International Congress of the Radical Anti-Nuclear Power Movement, which is based in Holland.

The Anti-Nuclear Network is a grass-roots national campaign against nuclear power. We are an independent movement not tied to any political party or group. The Network has a decentralised structure and relies on the activity of autonomous local groups.

We invite any group or individual who shares these ideas to join us. TOGETHER WE CAN STOP NUCLEAR POWER!



It's a fair
cop guy,
but society's
to blame.

On Thursday November 16, in the first case of it's kind, the Central Electricity Generating Board (C.E.G.B.) were prosecuted by the Nuclear Installation Inspectorate (N.I.I.) for two breaches of site licence conditions at Dungeness nuclear power station in Kent. The case was heard at Folkestone Magistrates Court, site in the past of trials of "Snowball" activists on charges relating to civil disobedience at the very same Dungeness nuclear power station. Irony indeed, and the Usher welcomed as old friends those of us who ventured over to Folkestone to observe the spectacle.

And what a spectacle it was - I've seen a few trials where it seemed to me that there were two prosecution lawyers but this was the first one I'd come across where it seemed like there were two defence lawyers. Doubtless you have to be as rich and powerful as the C.E.G.B. to earn this privilege.

The man in grey from the N.I.I. (the one supposed to be doing the prosecution) did a wonderful job on the C.E.G.B.'s behalf describing them at one point, if my memory serves me well, as a "popular and responsible organisation" with an "exemplary safety record". In fact so good was their safety record, he went on to say, that they had never once been prosecuted before - the old "previous good character" argument. Well no, they haven't been prosecuted before have they? Which seems rather suprising considering that there

continued over →

Please return the slip below to:

Anti-Nuclear Network, Box 30, 187 High Road, Wood Green, London N22.

affiliate/subscribe

I/We support the aims of the Anti-Nuclear Network and wish to affiliate to the campaign (See previous page)

I wish to subscribe to the Anti-Nuclear Network Newsletter

I wish to get involved with a local group

Name.....Tel.....

Organisation.....

Address.....

Please indicate by circling if any of the above information is private and not to be published.

I/We enclose a donation of £..... towards producing the Anti-Nuclear Network Newsletter. Please make all cheques out to HARINGEY DIRECT ACTION GROUP who produce the Newsletter.