

not leaving Stratford station...

The train

TWO anti-nuclear activists stop a nuclear waste train in east London. David Polden (sitting on the left rail) tells their story: "On December 1st, in a demonstration organised by London Region CND's Nuclear-Trains Working Group, Pat Arrowsmith & I succeeded in delaying a nuclear waste train simply by sitting in front of it.... (continued on page 2)

Nuclear Ship of Fools

There is growing opposition to an immanent shipment of highly radioactive waste from Europe to Japan. Two years ago Japan received the first plutonium reclaimed by Cogema, but international opposition forced a change in route to via Cape of Good Hope and round Tasmania. Future shipments are expected to go via the Carribean and Panama Canal. The Phillipines recently warned Japan it will not allow such cargo through its waters,

and Antigua and the Prime Minister of Barbados have voiced their opposition. Other countries en route (Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico), and politicians in the US, have asked Clinton to intervene to postpone the shipment until safety doubts have been resolved. (US law allows the government to stop shipments of plutonium derived from American fuel, and this cargo would contain 15 kg.) (cotd) The cargo is 11 tonnes of high-level waste left after extraction of plutonium from Japanese spent fuel transported to Cap la Hague. It is due to sail in February: 30 more shipments are expected, many from Sellafield.

A report by a physicist at Princeton University describes how the waste is mixed with glass, stored in welded steel cylinders, and packed in a large container. This will weigh 112 tonnes, generate 40kW of heat, and emit 481 million billion becquerels - more than was released in the 1957 Windscale fire. An accident such as a prolonged oil fire could burst these cylinders. The rubber-like sealing rings on the containers may fail as low as 250°C.

New Zealand is considering action against such waste passing through the Tasman Sea. If there is opposition in enough countries there may be no way for the load to sail. carrying a maximum sentence of <u>only</u> 2 yrs! The court agreed to a defence request for the case to be heard before a Judge and Jury at the Crown Court. This means there first has to be a "Commital hearing" to decide whether there is a case to answer. This will be held at Stratford Magistrates Court on Thursday 16th February, starting at 10 am. and scheduled for a full day.

Support at court would be very welcome. There will be a picket in support of our action, and against nuclear waste trains, outside the Court from 9.30 to 10 am, so bring banners and placards. The court is close to Stratford Station, just across the High Street.

Details from David Polden at CND, 162 Holloway Road N7 8DQ. 071-607-2302

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NUCLEAR WASTE TRAIN HOLD-UP (cntd.) The train was carrying a flask of spent (though radioactive) fuel rods from Bradwell nuclear power station in Essex to Sellafield for reprocessing to yield plutonium for use in nuclear warheads. The group had kept a regular watch on this train and observed it stopping at Stratford Station just after 2pm. to change crews, so it was simple to lie in wait then get down on the rails in front of it. At this, other demonstrators unrolled banners, gave out leaflets and took photos.

We were there for about 20 minutes before railway police arrived to remove us by lifting us onto the platform. We were taken to Forest Gate Police Station, treated nicely, held 4½ hours, charged with "obstructing an engine, unlawfully and maliciously ... contrary to the Malicious Damage Act 1861," - a charge with a maximum sentence of life imprisonment! and released on bail.

BNFL Foreign Waste Transport

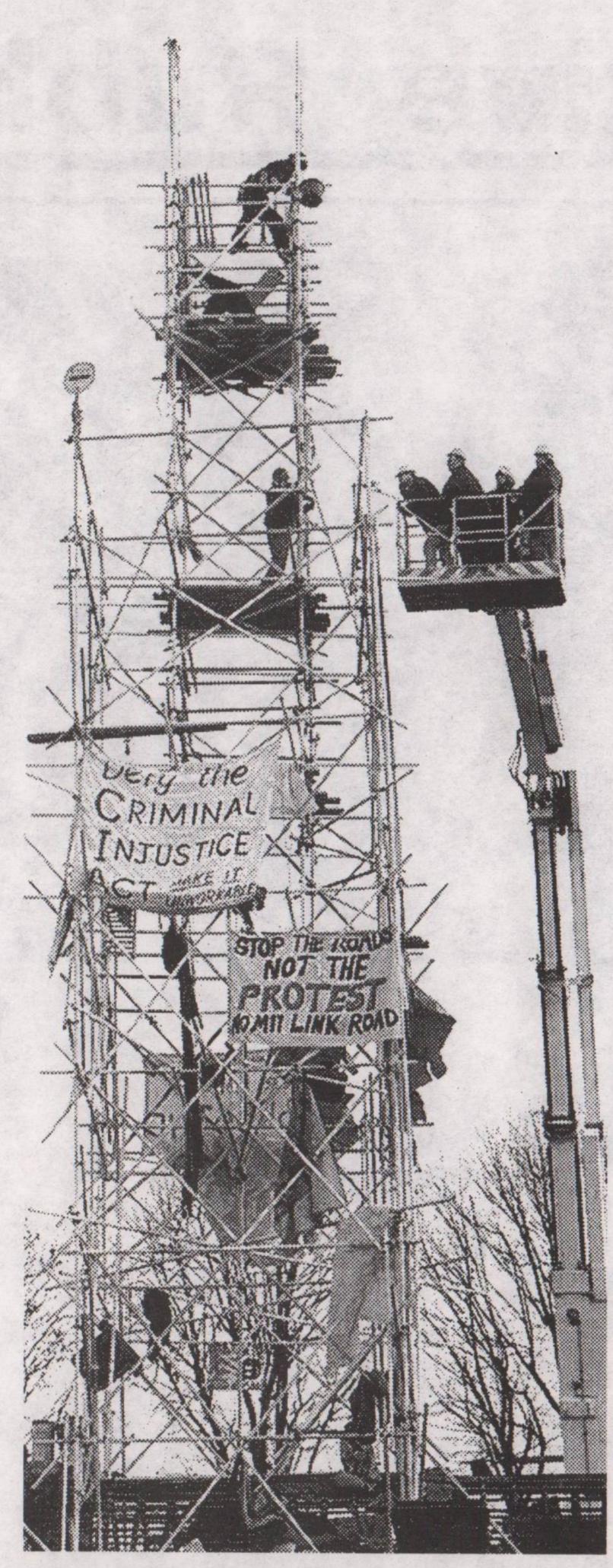
BNFL is planning to change their rail transport of foreign nuclear waste to ship. Currently this crosses the channel by ferry from Dunkirk to Dover, then by rail to Sellafield. This ferry (Nord pas de Calais) was temporarily out of service awaiting replacement of a special bolt on the bow doors (yes it's a RO-RO). The doors had been "fixed" in place (suspect welded) - but why, if it was not in service?

The ferry may cease to operate due to reduction of freight going by sea, following the opening of the Channel Tunnel. The Channel Tunnel does not yet have a license for hazardous goods, though some empty flatbed rolling stock (of the type used to carry nuclear waste flasks) may have already gone through. This may be used as an alternative route in the future.

I said in reply to the charge, "I was trying to draw attention to the fact that radioactive nuclear fuel rods are driven regularly through London and the dangers this represents in particular to passengers and railworkers". The desk sergeant taking the statement asked, "Can I add, '... and police officers working in the area' ?".

When we appeared at Stratford Magistrates Court on 10th. January, the charge was reduced to simply "obstructing an engine", a lesser charge under the same Act, The ship "European Shearwater" was due for decommissioning, but has been renamed (it was the Mediterranean Shearwater) and brought back into service. It would travel between Dunkirk and the BNFL terminal at Ramsden Dock, Barrow. The Irish Government was not informed of the plans to change to sea transport and objected when it found out. BNFL say "the Dunkirk to Dover route will still be used on occasions".

Transport from Dungeness, Sizewell and Bradwell will not be affected, and will still pass through London. The radiation from these waste flasks is detectable over a quarter of a mile away. British Rail sandwiches will be irradiated at no extra charge; buy 'em while they're 'hot'!



BUILDING RESISTANCE

So, the Criminal (In)Justice act became law. We always thought it would. The State and its politicians will always try to outlaw our resistance and our lifestyles. The act doesn't completely change the landscape, as anyone who has previously tried to exercise their "democratic rights" will testify, but it is a massive turn of the screw.

But so far the resistance has been impressive - from riots in Hyde Park (Oct); mass Hunt Sabs (Nov); occupying Michael Howard's roof (Nov); invading Chequers (Dec), and many more actions in between. For four days in December Claremont Road held off police and bailiffs against the M11 link road - an inspiring piece of mass civil disobedience that met a virtual media blackout. Below are some actions taken by anti-nuclear groups as part of the campaign.

A grass-roots movement is growing. Solidarity and support are vital between all the campaigns. Together we can make the act unworkable, more importantly we can start to make a better world.

Road stopper: Claremont Road's tower of protest



Greenham Women Hit a Nerve - as part of the "Stop the CIA" week, against the Criminal (In)Justice Act six women from Greenham Common Peace Camp took action at the Royal Navy/ RAF/NATO base at Northwood. Rosy Bremer writes "This base in north-west London is the 'nerve centre' of the Trident nuclear submarine system, the place from which the order to fire the missiles would be given. In protesting against the CIA we wanted to send a clear message to the State that its new laws, and heavy penalties for any display of autonomy, would not stop grass-roots resistance. This message came over clear as crystal and bold as brass as we walked through Northwood with banners saying "Trident means £37 billion a year, 480 million dead, No future". We walked straight into the command centre of NATO's nerve centre base, and took our message to the top. We stayed there for an hour and a half, singing protest songs and disrupting the preparations for genocide...Police from Oxhey eventually arrived to get us out of the centre, code name 'Warrior'. On orders from the military they made no arrests..." Contact: Greenham Peace Camp, nr Newbury, Berks.

Shut Sellafield Peace Camp & Actions - over the weekend of 11-14th November sixty anti-nuclear activists gathered at Sellafield to mark the twentieth anniversary of Karen Silkwood's death, and to act against the secrecy surrounding Sellafield. During the weekend 25 protestors entered the plant and were evicted. There were 4 arrests for 'Suspicion of Criminal Damage', but all were later released without charge. Karen Silkwood died because she dared to speak out against the nuclear industry. She worked at a US plutonium plant, and publicised the horrific radiation risks faced by the workers. Later she became mysteriously contaminated with plutonium, and was killed on her way to meet the press.

Stonehenge Campaign, c/o 99 Torriano Avenue, London NW5 2RX - winter issue of their newsletter has a list of local anti-CIA groups and actions.

Plymouth Against the CJB, PO Box 129, Plymouth, Devon.

The Battle for Hyde Park 1855 - 1994, pamphlet from Practical History, 121 Railton Road, London SE24.

ELP - Earth Liberation Prisoners - Box 23, 5 High St, Glastonbury, Somerset.

Road Alert!, PO Box 371, Southampton SO9 7BS anti-roads campaigns network. Contact: Shut Sellafield, Dept 66, 1 Newton St, Manchester.

Legal Defence & Monitoring Group activists in London have set up a group to monitor the policing of demonstrations in the capital and give legal support to those arrested. They want volunteers as observers, legal back-up and to give financial support to the project. They will also help anyone trying to set up groups in other areas. Contact: LDMG, BM Box Haven, London WC1X 3NN. 081-802 9804. The nuclear waste dump at Drigg is licensed to take only low-level radioactive waste. However, contrary to recommendations in a 1986 government report, the waste is neither sorted nor put in labelled containers, to avoid leaching into the soil. There are also indications that intermediate-level waste is being dumped there, and that monitoring is inadequate. Even so, the costs of disposal at Drigg are high compared with landfill burial. Yet private and public landfill site operators are not interested in this business (I wonder why).

In response, the government Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee has urged a change in the law to force local authorities and private landfill operators to accept the waste on refuse tips. The Environmental Protection Act (1990) allowed local authorities to stop such dumping, which had previously been forced upon them by the Radioactive Substances Act (1960).

An RWMAC response of October 1994 to the DoE review of radioactive waste management policy states: "Vocal opposition from local pressure groups, coupled with the general public's perceptions of the hazards of radioactive waste, provide a greater incentive for Local Authorities and private landfill operators not to allow such disposals on their refuse sites." "Drigg should be regarded as a national

asset as a radioactive waste disposal site."

On decommissioning the response was: "the technical feasibility of decommissioning, even shortly after plant closure, was not in doubt. This could be achieved largely by the application of existing technology." But what about the rest that can't?

The Health and Safety Commission's response to the DoE strongly supported a reclassification of waste which allows virtually all operational wastes and most decommissioning waste from power stations to be dumped in landfill sites. This is a typical government response of sweeping the problem under the carpet by renaming it.

Clearly the people on such committees do not live in the real world, are short on common sense and logic, and not to be trusted.

Radioactive Rubble on the Rates



There are nearly 40 municipal waste tips throughout Britain which have been identified for nuclear waste (see last ANN newsletter). Some of these have been used in the past; four are currently used by the nuclear industry:

ICI Ltd. and Cowpen Bewley Tip, Cleveland

Vickers Waste Ponds, Walney Island, Cumbria

Clifton Marsh, Freckleton,

Preston, Lancashire

Rolls Royce Hilts Quarry, Crich, Derbyshire

eight sites are currently used by other organisations (eg Universities):

Cilgwyn Quarry, Gwynedd

Sefton Meadows Tip, Merseyside Magnesium Elektron, Swinton, Manchester Beighton Tip, Sheffield, South Yorks. SCM Chemicals site, Grimsby, Humberside Milton Landfill, Cambridge

Braziers Landfill, Ware, Hertfordshire Beddingham Quarry, Lewes, Sussex If government plans go ahead, not only these but any "suitable" site could be used, and for higher levels of waste.

From April 1996 control exercised by elected councillors sitting on Local Waste Regulation Authorities will be passed to the new Environmental Agency - yet another government quango.

If the management at Drigg is so poor what hope is there for sites outside nuclear installations to be properly monitored and guarded?



Successful protestors at Elstow, Bedfordshire thwarted Government plans to bury intermediate level nuclear waste in 1986.

> Most people are not aware that radioactive waste has already been dumped on open tips. So far this has been at a relatively low level. With more power stations reaching the end of their life the pressure to decommission, and hence on waste disposal, is going to increase. It is essential to find out what has gone on locally and what could happen, and to bring this to the public attention. Local Authorities do not want to handle radioactive waste, so they should be willing to help in this (except where they want to keep skeletons hid).

> The media recently reported the illegal dumping of low-level Uranium waste on a farm near Chelveston, Northampton. The radioactivity was only discovered after 3 drums had been sold on to a firm in Sheffield. Some of the drums were badly corroded. The source is not yet known. There is a US Air Force base nearby. HM Inspectorate of Pollution (ie. taxpayers) are paying for the clean-up.

> > David

Remember when it used to be all old fridges round here?



NUCLEAR WASTE DUMPING IN CAMBRIDGE

ampaignNews

One of the 39 sites for dumping is at Milton, just North of Cambridge. When the proposal came to light a public meeting was called by the local county councillor. The meeting, on 24th. Oct. was packed with hundreds of angry residents. It was addressed by Steven Brown, head of the radioactive substances division of the DoE, David Jollie, HMIP, the manager of the waste site, and representatives of Greenpeace and FoE. Mike Tassell, managing director of East Waste which runs the site, tried to assure the meeting thet no nuclear waste would be accepted at Milton. During the meeting it transpired that neither Cambridgeshire County Council nor Cambridge City had received a copy of the Green Paper outlining the government's ideas, which the DoE admitted should have been sent. It also emerged that a third of a ton of low-level waste (some with a half-life of 1,000 years) from the hospital and university has been dumped at the site every fortnight. One resident told the meeting "I would not have moved to this village if I had known radioactive waste was going to this site."

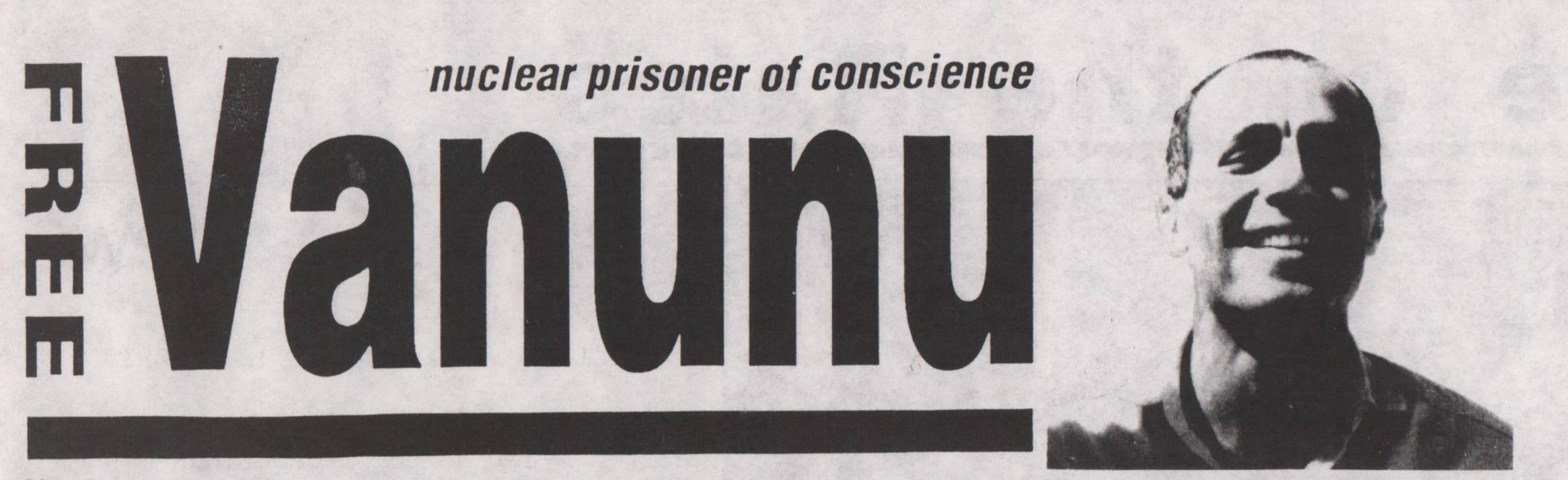
Janet.

PROTEST IN SUFFOLK

Ipswich FoE and Ipswich Greenpeace supporters gathered at the FoxHall landfill site on 12th. October to publicise the DoE Review of Radioactive Waste Management Policy. Spokesman Sandy Martin said "We don't believe there should be any landfill sites, not here, not there, not anywhere."

AVONMOUTH CAMPAIGN

The nearest tip to Hinkley Point is at Crooks Marsh Farm, Hallen, just outside Bristol, and is run by Avon County Council. Tests of drinking water supplies around the site already show levels of radioactive contamination above those recommended by W.H.O. For further information on local action contact: Campaign Against Nuclear Dumping, 18D Trenchard St., Bristol BS1 5AN



Mordechai Vanunu has now spent over eight years in solitary confinement for revealing to the world that Israel had secretly used a supposedly 'civil' nuclear programme to amass a nuclear arsenal.

From 1976 to 1985 Vanunu worked as a technician at Israel's "nuclear research centre" at Dimona in the southern Negev desert. In September 1986 he came to Britain where he gave the "Sunday Times" his account of the clandestine production of atomic weapons at Dimona. On the basis of verbal & photographic evidence and checking by independent experts, the newspaper concluded that Israel had between 100 - 200 nuclear warheads, and thus ranked as the world's sixth nuclear power.

Following his disclosure he was kidnapped from Rome by Israeli secret service agents and taken to a secret trial in Jerusalem. In December 1986 he managed to scrawl details of his abduction on the palm of his hand and press it against the window of the police van in which he was being taken to court. He was sentenced to 18 years for treason.

Secrecy, deception and repression are the hallmarks of the nuclear industry everywhere. Israel's nuclear programme and the case of Vanunu are particularly vivid and important examples. Israel obtained the raw materials for Dimona illegally. For example in 1968 200 tonnes of uranium oxide was hijacked at sea. A black market in plutonium and enriched uranium was set up and still operates today. Israel co-operated with South Africa on development of nuclear weapons. Israel is involved in an intense and continued conflict with Arab states in the region. It is reported that during the 1973 war Golda Meir approved an order for atom bombs to be prepared for delivery.

Mordechai spends his days in a cell measuring 9 feet by 6 feet. He is permitted no contact with anyone, except for his family for 30 minutes once a fortnight and occasional visits by his lawyer or clergyman. His daily walk is taken in an isolated yard.

Shamefully, Amnesty International have refused to adopt Vanunu as a "prisoner of conscience". They have produced a lot of verbiage in order to uphold their untenable position - basically they say Vanunu broke "a legitimate criminal law" (by divulging the production by Israel of weapons of mass destruction). In May 1994 they called for his release because of "the human rights violations to which he has been subjected" but still refuse to call him a "prisoner of conscience".

The attitude of Israel towards Vanunu is coloured by his Left-wing and Palestinian sympathies and the fact that he has converted to Christianity. This underlines the ideological as opposed to criminal nature of his case. In Mordechai's own words "I had no choice, I am a citizen, a man of conscience who did what he did out of deep belief, and after much thought. I heard the voice of my conscience and there was nowhere to hide". He believed that the Israeli people had the right to know what their government was doing.

We are all at risk from nuclear proliferation. must support him and continue his struggle.

Mordechai would be pleased to receive you cards, letters, books (especially literary classics and books on philosophy) or magazines (news, politics, nature). Do bear in mind, however, that his mail is censored and that he may not be able to reply. Address: Ashkelon Prison, Ashkelon, Israel

WRITE TO:

Yitzhak Rabin The Prime Minister of Israel Prime Minister's Office HaKiriya, Jerusalem, Israel Fax: 010-972-2-664 838

Vanunu has helped to sound the alarm. We Janet, Cambridge Anti-Nuclear Group.

SUPPORT THE WEEKLY VIGIL

Please come along. bring friends, or organise a local group to attend.

The vigil is held every Saturday ouside the Israeli Embassy, at the junction of Kensington High Street and Kensington Palace Gardens from 12 mid-day to 2.00pm.

CAMPAIGN TO FREE VANUNU AND FOR A NUCLEAR FREE MIDDLE-EAST. 99 Borough High Street, SE1 1NL. Tel/fax 071-378 9324.

published by the Anti-Nuclear Network, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 2DE.



September 1: A blast killed a worker at a nuclear research reactor in Indonesia. 8: A Greenpeace report documented the transfer of "sensitive nuclear technology" which can used to separate weapons-grade uranium from the US to Japan.

10: Russian rozzers in Glazov arrested 3 thieves trying to sell 2201bs of uranium. 12; Berlin bobbies seized 30oz of uranium ore from Zairean traveller at the airport. 14: Bulgarian bobbies found 19 containers of radioactive materials, including plutonium, hidden in two cellars. 15: A 0.3 kiloton nuclear bomb has been left at the bottom of a mine shaft at a test-site in Kazakhstan, forgotten in the confusion of the Soviet collapse. 16: Russia plans to build four floating nukes to supply electricity to Siberia. 19: Faslane peace campers blockaded the Trident base using tree trunks chained together, oil drums, scaffolding and car tyres filled with cement. 26: China plans 15 new nukes. 29: A US Federal Grand Jury has indicted the manufacturers of "Thermolag", a firebarrier material used in nuclear reactors, which was found to be 'inoperable'. The material has yet to be replaced. 29: The IAEA has restored technical assistance to Israel which was stopped when Israel bombed an Iraqi reactor in '81. 29: Sediment in the River Ribble near BNFL's Springfield plant was measured to have 1 million bequerels/kg radioactivity.

halted in 1993 because of spill during machining of warheads. 18: Reactor 3 at Chernobyl was shut down after a cooling water pipe burst. 24: A Spanish newspaper uncovered an accident in 1970 when 40-80 litres of highly radioactive liquid were released into a river killing crops in the area. 25: A locomotive collided with two wagons of nuclear fuel in Ukraine. 27: The nuclear industry wants to keep the 10% levy on electricity bills until 1998 to pay for decommissioning. 27: Dutch anti-militarists disrupted NATO "Co-operative Spirit" manoevres. 31: Cracks at Germnay's Wurgassen reactor may force its closure.

November 4: An investigation has been launched into illnesses & 35 deaths of workers at a Spanish uranium factory. 13: The MOD gave a secret payment of £575 million to BNFL and AEA to cover the decommissioning of Britain's bomb program. 16:Lithuania's electricity supply was cut off after the Mafia threatened to blow up a nuclear power station. 19: Cracks have been found at Dungeness B and Heysham. Local campaigners say Dungeness may be forced to close. 22: Russian scientists revealed that for 30 years billions of gallons of nuclear waste were pumped into undeground dumps. 23: A Hong Kong newspaper alleged Russian scientists are working on secret nuclear projects in southern China. France and Canada have both recently signed nuclear co-operation deals with China. 24: Half a ton of enriched uranium was flown from a Kazakh test site to the US. 28: THORP given go-ahead for 2nd stage of commissioning.

October 1: Austrian environmental groups have catalogued 6000 incidents at nuclear plants 1988-93, 1500 were serious safety threats.

6: Pakistan threatened to complete a plutonium production reactor unless India stops producing fissile material.
6: The Y-12 site at Oak Ridge, USA, used for dismantling nuclear warheads, has been after years of serious safety violations - in 1992 19 workers were contaminated with radioactive Ceasium.
8: China carried out a nuclear test.
8: Germany abandoned the Biblis C reactor.
10: Greenpeace found intermediate level nuke waste being dumped at Drigg.
12: The US is to remove 'harmful greenhouse gases'from its intercontinental ballistic missiles.

December 3: Aboriginal people at Maralinga are to receive £6.5M compensation for British bomb tests on their land in the '50s. 300 sq km are too radioactive to ever to be reoccupied. 3: Siemens announced the closure of their Hanau uranium processing plant in Germany. 7: The US Energy Dept is to repackage tons of plutonium found to be leaking at 13 nuclear facilities where it is stored. 10: Over 150 gallons of uranium sulphite was spilled at a plant in the Urals. 12: The Tennessee Valley Authority is to halt work on the last 3 nukes under construction in the USA. 12: Trespasses took place at British Aerospace factories at Stevenage & Warton to protest the Hawk deal with Indonesia. Indonesia wants a nuclear plant by 2004. 29: 3 German companies cancelled their contracts with THORP which has yet to start reprocessing.

13: More US radiation experiments on humans uncovered - including one in which 12 people were exposed to the flash of 6 atomic explosions to see how burns affected eyes.
15: Roumanian rozzers seized 151bs uranium.
18: The MOD has agreed to submit Aldermaston to civilian licencing procedures after it was revealed that warhead production was

February



Tues 14- Picket of nuclear industry conference on decommissioning (Nuclear Eletric & Aldermaston bosses present). 8.45am - 2pm outside Royal Lancaster Hotel, Lancaster Terrace, London WC2. (Lancaster Gate tube). Bring banners. Organised by ANN & Shut Down Sizewell.

17-3 Mar- Walk across Europe for a Nuclear Free World - hits England. On 12 Jan about 150 walkers set off from Brussels on a 5,500km journey through France, England, Netherlands, Germany, Czech Rep., Austria, Slovakia, Ukraine, Belorus and ending in Moscow on 12 Oct. Their route will be Portsmouth (17); Twyford Down (18); Whitchurch (19); 20-21 they join actions at Greenham/ Aldermaston; Reading (22); Maidenhead (23); Turnham Green (24); 25 they join the picket for Vanunu, 10am (see page 6 for details), 12.30pm Trafalgar Sq, 3pm meeting Tavistock Sq (see below). Greenwich (26); Northfleet (27); Sittingbourne (28); Canterbury (1 March); Ramsgate (2). People wishing to greet the marchers, join part of the walk or action should contact Dave Polden at CND 071-607 2302.

BNFL try to nobble health research

A major health program including the genetic screening of every baby born in Cumbria is to be carried out by Westlakes Research Institute. Until May 1994 the Institute was entirely funded by BNFL, and 60% of the staff including the Director used to work for BNFL. "It is difficult to see how such an establishment can be independent, especially when research will include radiation links with genetic damage and illnesses, issues in which the nuclear industry has a vested interest" say Cumbrians Opposed to a Radiactive Environment.

German anti-nuclear blockade stops nuke waste transport to Gorleban.

In spite of the biggest police operation ever seen in Germany (5000 police in the Wendland district alone) the anti-nuclear movement has won a tremendous victory against the Castor transport of spent nuclear fuel to the 'intermediate storage site' at Gorleban, so far empty for 15 years. (See ANN 31) On 5 November 2000 activists blocked all important approach roads into Wendland. Almost every day actions including sabotage took place. On 24 November, defying a ban on demonstrations, 2000 blocked the railway line the transport was scheduled to use. Demonstrations continued on the track and in cities around Germany over the next two days. A judge in Luneberg, not previously noted for his anti-nuclear sympathies, suddenly decided to prohibit the transport.

Sat 25- Resisting the Giant - Dayschool on British Aerospace - Britain's largest arms dealer. 10am-5pm. United Reform Church, 86 Tavistock Sq., London WC1. Details- Chris 071-275 9150.

April

May

28-30 Chernobyl Day actions and camp at Sellafield. (see p3) 0706-371 387.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER - 21 APRIL!

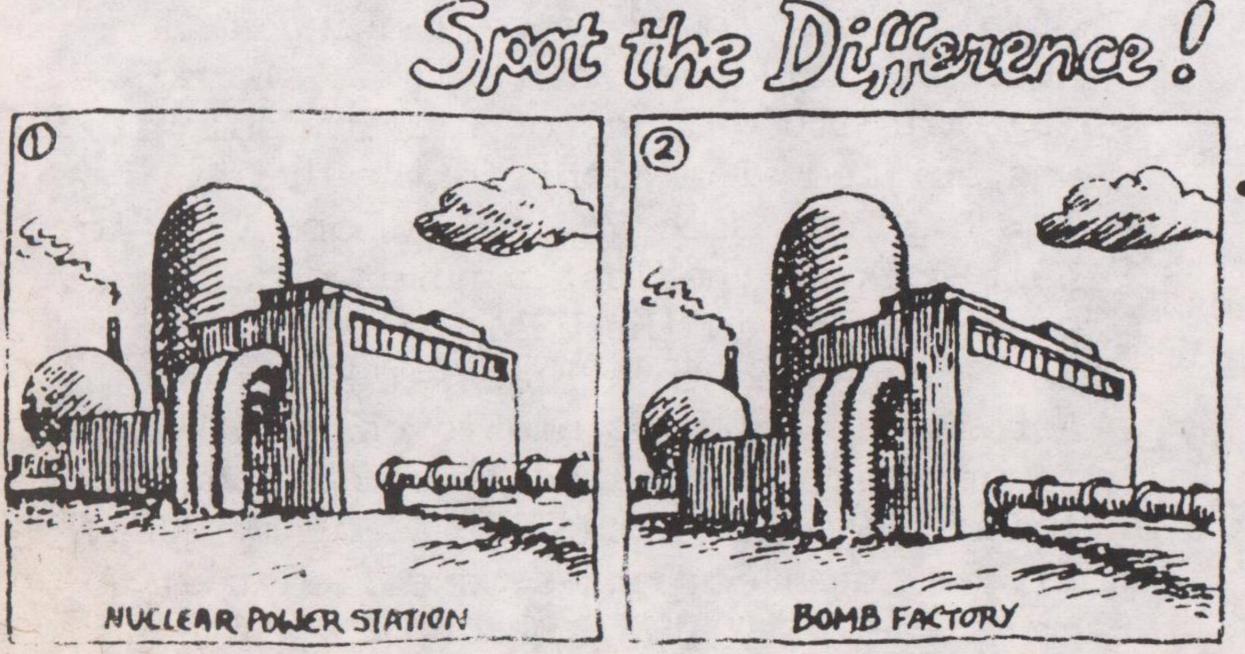
Source - Peace News.

REVIEW

"Radio Activity - a Cumbrian tale in five emissions" by John Murray (Sunk Island Press, PO Box 74, Lincoln LN1 1QG, £7.99)

Mon 1- Mayday. The real one.

11-14- Women's Beltane Walk. Uffington Whitehorse to Aldermaston. Organised by Greenham Peace Camp (address p3). 0374-136 728 (8-9pm only).



The book is set in 1986, the year after Chernobyl, in a pub in Santon Bridge just down the road from Sellafield where they hold the annual world famous Biggest Liar in the World Competition. The book is full of typical Cumbrian characters, settings and dialect!

Definitely worth buying a copy, recommended. Dave.

The Anti-Nuclear Nework is a federation of independent local groups opposed to nuclear power. We support effective direct action.

Please send your news & donations to:

Anti-Nuclear Network, c/o 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 2DE.