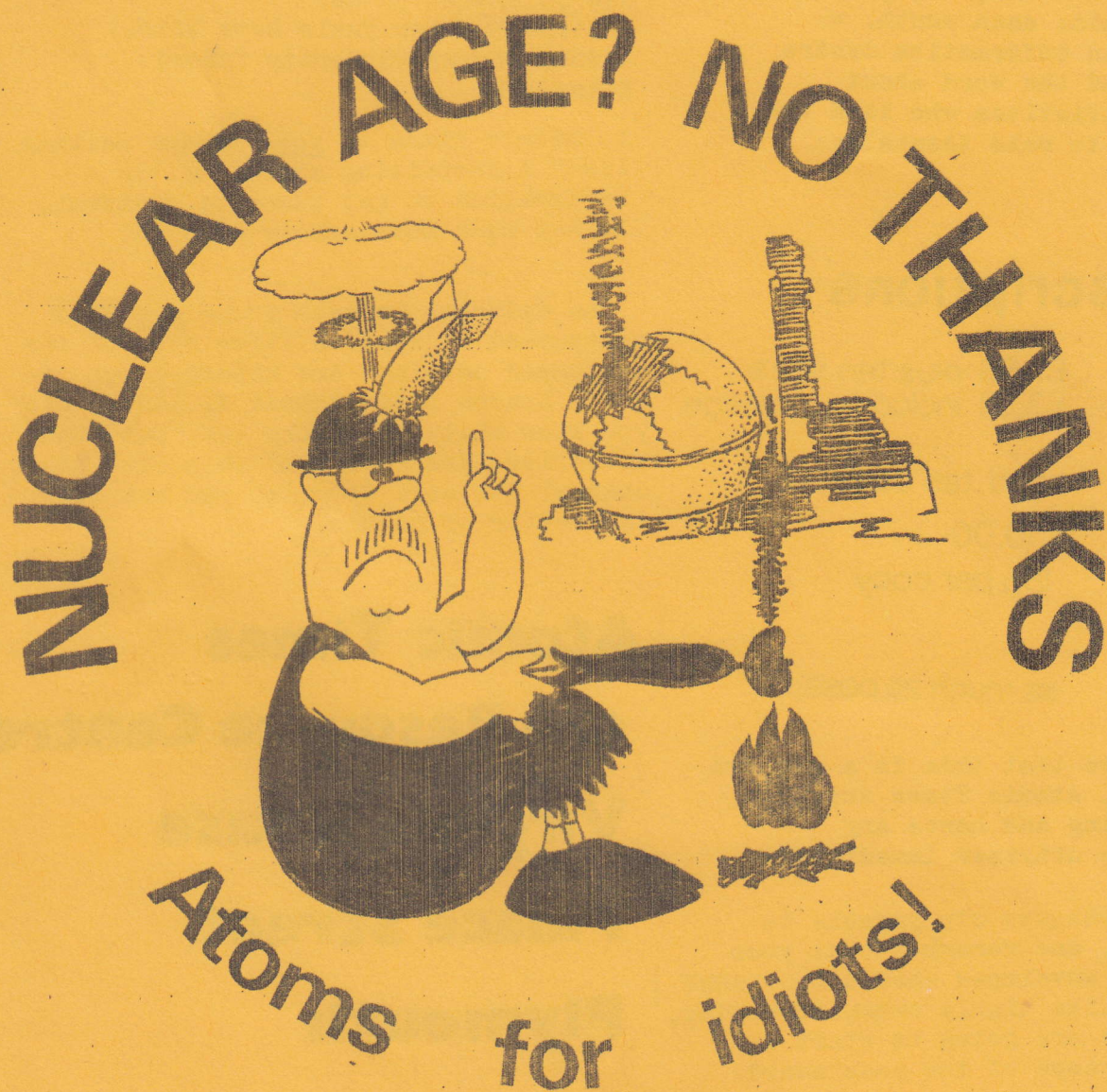


Atomic Times

A Monthly Digest of Nuclear News

20p



No 17 September 1981

Introduction

Atomic Times aims to act as an information source for the anti - nuclear movement nuclear and alternative movements. We have two closely related ideas: (1) to regularly scan as wide a range of material as possible, and give a month by month digest of the news and developments in the nuclear war and energy fields, including the alternatives, and (2) to provide as comprehensive a listing as possible of the campaigns, journals and groups active in the opposition to the nuclear state. We will use Atomic Times to publish information about as many groups as we can, and publish an information guide each month. We believe that an information centre can help spread the word about worthwhile initiatives who lack the time or money to make themselves widely known.

Subscriptions

subscription	£1.50 plus ten sae's
or	£3.50 including postage
unemployed	send ten sae's
Institutions	£10.00
bulk orders	15p per copy
(5 copies plus)	
donations	as much as possible

Please note that this is a minimum subscription, Atomic Times survives on a shoestring and hence any donations are utilised immediately.

Please make cheques etc payable to Atomic Times, and remember that your subscription envelopes should be LARGE -unless you like highly crumpled copies, of course. We are going to start a "useless envelope of the year" award: results later.

Letters received without stamped addressed envelopes are liable to very long delays for replies- you have been warned!

Material

The following journals are being covered for Atomic Times. The letters in brackets are the abbreviations used in the text.

Guardian (G)
Financial Times (FT)
Daily Telegraph (DT)
SCRAM Energy Bulletin (SEB)
WISE Bulletin (WISE)
Undercurrents (UC)
Peace NEWS (PN)
Observer (Ob)
Scotsman (S)
Electrical Review (ER)
Nuclear Engineering International (NEI)
Construction News (CN)
Morning Star (MS)
New Scientist (N Sc)
British Nuclear Fuels News (BNFL)
Atomic Energy Authority (Atom)
Nature (N)

Is Atomic Times on your groups mailing list? A surprising amount of the information we get comes by accident, so how much more are we missing?

The material in each issue not from newspapers is kept on file- most of the newspaper cuttings are returned to South London Anti-Nuclear Alliance. Did you know that the papers keep cuttings libraries, and will send them free of charge? The more specific you can be, the better of course.

Atomic Times
c/o Resource Centre
Virginia House
Palace Street
Plymouth

Dear Reader,

Welcome to Atomic Times 17. It is our fervent hope that there will be a goodly number of people reading this for the first time- our brand new advertising campaign will, we hope, be starting to bite. The Atomic Times staff have been having a series of talks with various groups about the way they see our role: we hope that this is summarised reasonably well in the introduction. We apologise for the awful paper colours used this issue- Plymouth Resource Centre, where the work is done, is in a state of flux and we are scraping the barrel a little! This issue also omits the promised information sheet- we aimed to get this issue out quickly, and so had to put off the work needed. It'll be worth waiting for!

Astute readers will have noticed that this issue, consecutively numbered after the last, reads 'September' and not 'August'. We were getting so far behind with each month that each issue appeared in the last week of the month- we will henceforth cover the previous month's news in the first week of the month following. All clear?

Your attention is also drawn to our parlous financial condition: at the moment, each issue is financed entirely from new subscriptions, which should really be kept to cover the future issues. We are therefore asking our richer subscribers for larger payments, in the hope that we can create enough 'capital' to secure our future. Ta very much,

Atomic Times.

ANTI-NUCLEAR ACTIVITY

Directory for Survival

Atomic Times is to produce a fully classified directory of anti-nuclear groups: a complete address list, and then a classified section cross referenced and divided as follows: anti-weapons, anti-power, alternative technology, civil liberties, (including media campaigns, natural peoples rights, freedom of information) regional contacts, selling groups, waste (transport and dumping), international, and a miscellaneous section for publishers, pro-nuke groups, etc. We are asking all such groups to send us 30 words each, with their preferred classification, and preferably also a donation to cover our costs. We hope that the first draft will be available in late November. We won't be publishing local group contacts, as there are just too many and they age too fast.

Authors in Arms plea

150 European writers, including 24 East Germans, have signed an appeal for the end to the arms race. T 21/8/81

Spain reaffirms nuke ban

Spain has reacted to Rayguns announcement about neutron by reiterating its position: there are no nuclear weapons on Spanish soil, and will be none in future. T, 12/8/81

New letter campaign

The Irish Nobel Peace Prize winner, Sean McBride, has drafted a letter to be sent to Presidents Reagan and Breshnev, urging them to spend arms money on a world peace fund. Full text printed in T, 6/8/81: McBride is urging people to copy the letter and send it off.

6,000 Rally at Hiroshima

6,000 marchers from 33 countries passed through Tokyo protesting against the arms race. T 5/8/81

Council for Arms Control

Don't be fooled! This new body includes leading propagandists for NATO, and is apparently run by a man whose last job included 'the bulk of £5000 per year' from NATO for his press agency. The group are at present canvassing for support: expect to see expensive ads in the colour supplements!

New Statesman, 28/8/81

TUC asked to support Labour

This years TUC conference will be asked to back the unilateralist stance of Labour by the TGWU, ASLEF, and others. T, 3/8/81

Anti-nuclear activity cont'd

Anti Nuclear theatre

CAST, the socialist theatre group, are putting on a show called Hotel Sunshine, a 'two act farce suitable for audiences in need of a laugh before the nuclear holocaust'. Cost about £150 per night, touring from November. Contact CAST, PO Box 294, London NW1. Tel. 01 487 3440

"Hotel Sunshine is the nuclear home for the nuclear future. But who lives there? Why were they chosen? Would you qualify for the survival treatment?"

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Freedom Ain't no bowl of cherries, performed by New Yorks 4th Wall Repertory Company, is touring Britain this October to raise support for the CND rally on October 24th. The show is a 'political, musical comedy: full details from No Nukes Music, Martin Goldschmidt or Craig Arnall, 14 Peto Place London W1, 01-486-4564.

Peace Pagoda Festival

Sunday 20th September, Milton Keynes Peace Pagoda. Our only contact is via Campaign Atom, 37 Cowley Rd, Oxford. Oxford 726441

Hungry for Peace

Oxfam is one of many sponsoring a hungry for peace Fast during the week of October 16th-23rd, intended to protest thousands of deaths from hunger in the face of massive spending on the arms race. Oxfam News, July 81.

Banbury CND wrecks shelter plan

Banbury CND have uncovered a local fallout shelter seller as being wanted by the police. He is now in prison and his company, H. Gooch & Co, discredited. Mediawatch Newsletter I.

No More War Games

The BBC has stopped the British Film Institute from making any more copies of the War Game. (There are 51 in circulation at present, all fairly booked up....) Mediawatch N/1tr I.

CND Annual Conference.

Friday 13th-Sun 15th November, Great Hall, Queen Mary college, London E1. Details are in Campaign!-2; conference is open to all CND groups.

Paddle Power Against Nukes

An Oxford University graduate, Simon Cowton, should by now have finished a sponsored paddle from Bradford to Oxford raising money for the Luxulyan Occupation. More news as we get it.

No Nukes Music Tour

No Nukes Music are offering a tour with the Poison Girls and support, possibly European Theatre of War, to raise money for the CND rally. Details from No Nukes Music, as given above.

Labour Conference

There are over 90 resolutions at the provisional agenda for this autumn's Labour Party conference: the next largest number of resolutions are 50 on Ulster. Labour Weekly, 24/7/81

Pax Christi goes Unilateral

The British Section of Pax Christi, the international Catholic peace movement, in a new publication called Christians in support of Disarmament, argues the moral imperative to reject Cruise and stop Trident. From Pax Christi, Southampton Rd, London NW5, 50p plus postage. Catholic Herald, 218/81

Archbishop denounces Trident

Archbishop Hunthausen of Seattle has called for unilateral disarmament by the US- his diocese includes the Trident factories and base. The Universe, 21/8/81.

New Book

No Nukes! by Robin Cook MP is an examination of the British Nuclear industry, aimed particularly at the labour movement. 75p from the Fabians, 11 Dartmouth St, London SW1, 75p.

German Demo

60,000 people attended a rally near the Reichstag protesting at Reagan's neutron decision. T, 31/8/81

what happened to the Gem. Greenpeace were forced to give up their attempts to stop the Gem dumping radioactive waste into the Atlantic: they found that the Gem crew were prepared to risk dropping the 2 ton containers on them. They then tried to catch a drum as it was dumped, but the Gem crew hit the inflatable and destroyed an engine. Greenpeace withdrew when the crew of the Gem started aiming grappling hooks at people as they thought someone could get killed. ANC Waste Dumping N/lttr, Jly/A

Dutch Dumping stopped

Dutch environmental organizations have stopped the government dumping waste by filing a legal suit against a license issued by the Dutch Minister of Environment and Public Health. While the case is being heard, no dumping can take place and the weather will be too rough by the time it is over. Belgium and Switzerland use the same ship and have therefore also been stopped from dumping.

ANC Waste Dumping Newsletter, Jul/Aug

Information Request

Andrew Kelly at Bradford University is trying to do an update on CND's "Study War No More", looking for information on military and nuclear research in UK universities: details of research urgently needed from staff and students around the country, to Andrew Kelly, Peace Studies, Bradford University, Bradford West Yorks.

RAF didn't harass festival

An MOD spokesperson has described as "Utterly ridiculous" a suggestion that a jet bomber harassed an ecumenical youth festival on Lincoln showground by flying over it very low, following a silent vigil for peace outside RAF Scampton. Church Times, 21/8/81

More muddle for Beeb

Following the fiasco over EP Thomson and the Dimbleby lecture, the BBC have apparently enjoyed the publicity so much that they went on and vetoed Thompson from the Bronowski lecture too, and then selected Dr Nicholas Humphrey, also an ardent unilateralist, in his place. T, 29/8/81

Teach-ins

Dr Charles Wakstein, nuclear engineer and campaigner would like to make his technical knowledge more widely available to the anti-nuclear movement. He is offering to hold one day teach-ins for groups of about a dozen on Waste Transport, Reprocessing, and/or PWR's. Dr Wakstein, 302a Westbourne Park Rd, London W11, tel 01-229-0307

REACTOR TECHNOLOGY

Pro-nuke demo!

Mitterand's government faces increasing problems over its decision to suspend work on five more nuclear power stations. Angry workers have stopped trains and blocked the motorway near the power station. Mitterand has assured the workers that there will be no lay-offs and that work will go on until the fate of the site is decided at the Governments energy debate in September. T, 7/8/81

Brazil-Italy FBR deal

Brazil and Italy have signed contracts providing for the development of fast reactors in Brazil. Brazil has not signed the Non-proliferation treaty, and says it reserves the right to develop nuclear explosives for peaceful purposes such as widening shipping channels. FT, 31/7/81

..and CANDU for Romania

The government owned Atomic Energy of Canada are to build a second Candu reactor in Romania. FT, 28/7/81

Italy goes Nuke

The Italian government hopes to persuade parliament to approve a plan to build up to nine reactors by the early 1990's. N Sc 20/8/81.

Clinch River criticised

Mr Ernest Fitzgerald, hired by Congress to investigate the Fast Breeder project at Clinch River Tennessee, says the project has been mismanaged fundamentally and has absorbed unwarranted amounts of time and money. He says that the contracts between Westinghouse and the Government failed to impose any deadlines for cost, timetable or technical performance. FT, 21/7/81

US will try harder

The US is going to try AND BE A MORE reliable supplier of conventional arms and other inducements to strengthen the Non-Proliferation treaty. The Reagan administration will do nothing to hinder the 'natural developement' of fast breeder or reprocessing facilities among nations with advanced nuclear programmes. The inducements also include sharing information about 'sensitive' countries and equipment. NEI Aug 8I

Wonderful CANDU

Ontario Hydro has calculated that PWR's operating at above present world average levels would still give unit costs well above those currently being obtained with CANDU plant. NEI Aug 8I.

Lord Bowden says we should go for CANDU in Britain for its reliability, G, 9/7/8I

British plant: Not very good, try harder.

A yearly tabulation of reactor performance (500MW capacity and over) puts Britains best at only 105- Wylfa, the Welsh Magnox. Hunterston B weighs in at 113th, and Three Mile Island (post incident) is at 115. G 9/7/8I

Sizewell Doings

The Westinghouse PWR'S, of the same design as that now proposed for Sizewell B come in at 38, 53, 65, 73, 77, 93 and 97th in the above table.

The Suffolk Association of Architects has entered an official objection to the plant on grounds of visual intrusion and the need for investment in energy conservation rather than generation. Building design, 24/7/8I

A new reference design is expected for the Sizewell plant from the National Nuclear Corporation based on as much proven technology as possible from US plants, plus extra requirements as indicated by British safety standards: the designs are based on the Standardised Nuclear Unit Power Plant Systems project started in 1973. ER 21/28 Aug.

If you still haven't sent in your objection to the PWR at Sizewell, do it today. Send a short, formal letter of objection to Dept of Energy, Electricity Division, Thames House South, Millbank, London SW1.

BNFL News

BNFL's profits are down by £3 million this year, from £16million in 1979. NEI for August provides a long article on BNFL's expansion programme, and Sir John Hill, BNFL Chairperson, tells us (T,27/8/8I) that "Further business expansion for BNFL is tied inextricably to the future of nuclear power." We're rooting for you, John.

Old CANDU plant OK

The Canadian Atomic Energy Control Board says new safety systems designed for the Darlington plant in Ontario need not be applied to existing, older nuclear plants. The existing plants were judged safe when built, and nothing has happened to change that belief. NEI August.

Anti-earthquake plant tested

Hopkinsons Ltd of Huddersfield are building earthquake resistant valve and actuator units for the Canadian Bruce B reactor. NEI Aug 8I

NNC COULD sell Magnox

A new design based on the Magnox reactor at Oldbury in Glos might be a new export earner, according to RD Vaughan of the NNC. Its quick to build, avoids the need to use strategic materials and high technology components (?) and is simple to operate. Ah for the good old days.... NEI July.

Nuclear CHP is in

The USSR is to start work on nuclear combined heat and power plants based on reactors in cities providing heat only. ER 21/28 Aug.

China goes Nuke

Six reactors are to be built in China, 900MW each. ER 21/28 Aug.

....and Australia Doesn't

The Government of the Northern territories has decided to abandon plans for a nuke, on cost grounds and lack of support from the Federal Government. NEI Aug 8I

For Sale in US

37% of the Seabrook, New Hampshire, plant in the US is for sale, and buyers have only been found for 10% of it. The utilities are finding the nuclear plant a major financial millstone, and all are having trouble selling. More figures from us- taken from New England Business, February 1981.

Atomic Agency Split

The international Atomic Energy Agency has decided to seek a fresh candidate for director-general, after deciding that the two candidates could not sway allegiances to achieve the necessary two-thirds vote. (See last issue) T 26/8/81

Fusion Power!

Long piece in Sunday Times weekly Review, 16/8/81 gives the history of co-operation on Fusion technology research between East and West, pointing out these links even in times of tension, and demonstrating the Cold War as a public relations exercise. For anyone who thinks fusion is all about cheap energy: "The pioneers (in fusion research) were in fact British, and they were motivated not by high-minded notions of solving the world's energy problems but by a combination of military and pure scientific interest. From the military point of view, for instance, (fusion) seemed to offer a copious source of the neutrons essential for weapons research."

NRC gets nasty

The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission has warned New York State to clear the political arguments over who is responsible for emergency evacuation plans or face possible shutdown of its five nuclear power stations. NEI Aug

Power Costs

Charles Komanoff in NEI says that nuclear power plants will cost 75% more than coal-fired ones in the 80's, using figures based on reactors and coal plant built in the US in the 70's. This will offset the lower fuel cost of Nuclear and make it 25% more expensive than its coal equivalent. NEI July 81

Cost of Closures

Reactor closures at Berkeley Nuke are costing £50,000 per day in replacement generating costs, according to a CREGB spokesperson- they are hopeful that repairs to the cooling system of one of the reactors will be finished by Christmas.

Gloucester Citizen, 21/8/81.

Fast Breeder News

India hopes to have "a few FBR's" commissioned by the end of the century, to exploit its thorium and uranium reserves. NEI July.

NEI July 81: It would appear that elements within the nuclear industry want to push the fast reactor through quickly. There is an expert design team in the country which might be broken up for lack of work, the nuclear industry is going to die as uranium runs out unless FBR is developed, and other countries are committing themselves to commercial FBR programmes which means Britain would get left behind. The government are committed to an enquiry on PWR and FBR, and are committed to the PWR enquiry now. Thus the enquiry into the fast breeder might be years coming, slowing down the case for the FBR. The industry wants to see the first commercial reactor built before the enquiry, especially as Caithness Council have indicated that they will approve planning permission.

Dr SHN Bowie suggests that there is 100,000 tonnes uranium per year maximum production available: the International Atomic Energy Agency estimates demand at between 95,000 and 200,000 tonnes per year to the year 2000. On a high projection, 300,000 tonnes uranium per year will be called for in 2000-2025- requiring a total of 4-8 million tonnes uranium, greater than total known reserves. The time lapse from prospecting to production is 15 years at present, and as prices fall this time lag will grow as it becomes less economic to prospect. NEI July 1981

US goes ahead with Clinch River.

US Congress has voted 206-186 to continue work on the Clinch River fast breeder, despite claims that its design is technically obsolete. The project will be carefully scrutinised for money wasting- see piece on p3. ER 21/28A

Japan/US co-operation: a new agreement will extend co-operation on FBR research to fuel development. NEI August.

Fast reactors are unlikely to be ordered commercially for at least 25 years, according to the Electricity Council's Medium Term Development Plan, 1981-88. ER 7/14 Aug

Malaysian reactor soon

The Tun Ismail atomic research centre will be completed by June 1982, and will be used strictly for research and peaceful purposes. Malaysia does not need nuclear energy as it has other resources adequate to its energy needs.

NEI July 81

THIRD WORLD WAR NEWS- POLITICS OF WAR

Time to join the real world

"Britain has spent nearly £1000 million on a complex nuclear warhead called Chevaline, which, if it works at all, will see service for less than a decade. Japan, meanwhile, is preparing to fork out £200 million for inspired research which may produce a wonderful "computer for the future" but is certain to result in many useful innovations which its electronics industry can harness." Thus starts an editorial in New Scientist (16/8/81) "Are the two nations", the article continues, "living in the same world?"

Nato is as confused as CND

seems to be the theme of a series of articles in the Times. (17, 18, 19/8/81) The writer, John Barry, seems to be saying that the anti-nuclear protesters are utopians, NATO is a shambles, and we're only hanging on by luck. Quite heartening, curiously enough- he at least takes the anti-missile movement seriously.

Poland Invasion, please

In a long piece on neutralism, (G, 31/8/81), EP Thompson quotes an American journalists writings after talking to Reagan's advisers:

"The last thing Reagan officials say they want to do is calm public opinion..... some high ranking officials say that if the Russians did invade Poland it would at least make clear who are the good guys and bad guys and would mobilise the West.

Nuclear Free Zones

The Soviet Union and Bulgaria have said that the Balkans could be included in any European network of nuclear free zones. S, 8/8/81
Brezhnev has said that the USSR would be prepared to talk about a Nordic NFZ- it would mean their giving up the strategically important Kola peninsula, the base for most of Russia's nuclear submarines- this seems unlikely, though they might contemplate removing their tactical weapons from the area. G, 25/8/81

Soviets seek trade security

Moscow says that British commerce will suffer if the Government maintains its support for US policies- they would be unwilling to place large, longterm contracts in the face of possible trade boycotts later. T, 24/8/81

NPT post Israel

Dr Sigvard Eklund, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency says that "It is the Agency's safeguards system that has also been attacked." when the Israelis destroyed Iraq's reactor. Confidence, a central plank in the Non Proliferation Treaty, has been steadily eroded over the years, and just when things were looking up, this happens. From the article's writer: "Right from the beginning, countries that had signed the treaty found themselves being treated no differently from those who had not." NEI July.

Dr Eklund has defended the IAEA's safeguards, saying that any attempt to start producing plutonium would have been detected "with a very high probability". NEI, Jul

Germans none too pleased

Reagan's decision on the neutron bomb came just as it looked as though Helmut Schmidt was getting the anti-missile lobby under control- the cruellest blow being to not let on beforehand. Prof. Horst Ehmke has warned the US that its criticism of Europe's defence efforts was counterproductive, (T, 22/8/81 and FT 24/8/81 respectively) and the Germans are also miffed at Mitterand's stirring support for the US proposals. FT 21/7/81
The SPD (Social Democrats) in some parts are actively campaigning against neutron, and there will be strong resistance if the US tries to bring the weapons in without consultation. T, 20/8/81

Spanish vote soon on NATO

The Spanish Government has announced that it will bring a vote to join NATO before Parliament next month- it has rejected a call for a referendum by Socialist and Communist opposition. 21/8/81, FT

South Atlantic Treaty Organisation?

With the advent of the new Reagan line on Southern Africa, (Security not Human Rights) the prospect of SATO taking shape again raises its ugly head- the happy participants would be the US, South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, and maybe Chile and Uruguay. Terrific, huh? Labour Weekly, 3/7/81

Third World War News cont'd

Pakistan fears Indian Raid

Public concern is growing in Pakistan about the danger of risk of an Israeli-style attack on Pakistan's nuclear research centre. Leading Pakistani newspapers say that the Indians have contacted the Israelis for details. S, 3/8/81.

Reagan takes responsibility

Reagan has admitted that he personally authorised the US manoeuvres which led to two shot down Libyan aircraft- he said that he had decided to challenge Gaddafi's claim to the Gulf of Sidra. Mirror, 22/8/81

Carter's Pentagon Study

Prior to releasing Presidential Directive 59 (which signified the end of deterrence as a theory) Carter had ordered another 3-pronged study: 1) Determine the nuclear strategy that would eliminate the USSR as a functioning national entity; 2) investigate promoting separatism by destroying areas in the USSR which support the present government; 3) Identify the targets which would "paralyse, disrupt and dismember" the Soviet government by annihilating the ruling group. This first appeared in Chicago Sun-Times for 12/2/79. Letter to the G, 14/8/81

CIA Co-ordinating arms for Afghan rebels

In a complex operation involving five countries and more than \$100 million. The result is an emerging anti-Soviet alliance the US, China, Pakistan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. G 3/8/81

US Arms Cut-back

Not that you'd notice, but the Reagan administration is now saying that the 7% planned increase on arms spending was a maximum figure- advisors are recommending cuts of between \$20,000million and \$40,000million from the five year budget of \$1500,000million. T, 27/8/81

Foot mithering

The leader of the Labour Party is to go to the USSR to talk disarmament with Brezhnev- he says that this is why he didn't want the NEC to approve the unilateralist motion. G 6/8/81

Company sues US Navy

General Dynamics is preparing to sue the US navy for its losses incurred building Trident and other submarines. FT 26/8/81

No Cruise for Holland

A Captain Meindert Stelling, Dutch Air Force and peace campaigner, has clashed with a superior officer on TV over unilateralism in Holland. He has been fighting a court case for a year trying to force the Dutch MOD to release details of Holland's fate under nuclear attack. G 1/9/81
The Dutch foreign minister has said that Holland is against taking neutron, but does not unconditionally refuse them. g, 25/8/81

Huang discusses US arms.

The Chinese Foreign Minister is to have talks with the Reagan administration in October, focussing largely on US sales of arms to China
G 4/8/81

THE URANIUM CYCLE

Uranium Supply

The Ranger mine, Australia, is likely to become the biggest in the world, replacing Rossing in Namibia. It will come in to production on 1st October. The contracts are with shareholders in West Germany, Sweden and Japan. NEI August
See Fast Breeder news, p5, for figures on uranium reserves: article, NEI August
Japan says it must improve its supplies to meet an expected shortfall of 130,000 tonnes by 1990. NEI August
Westinghouse has now settled the last of its cases with the 29 uranium suppliers, Englehard Minerals, with an out-of-court settlement involving cash and favourable terms on supply. The case has its origins in the early 70's when Westinghouse, sued by US utilities for not meeting supply commitments sued the uranium producers for operating a cartel and restricting uranium supply. NEI July.
The US imported Soviet uranium last year- £22million worth. T, 19/8/81

Libya has bought unusually large amounts of uranium from Niger in the first half of this year- speculation suggests it is buying for other Arab states. T, 29/8

Fuel Enrichment/Fabrication

The Japanese Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp. has shipped its first delivery of enriched uranium (uranium hexafluoride) -NEI August. Four Japanese companies have announced their plans to expand their fuel fabrication plant. Their combined capacity will be about twice the expected demand in 1985. NEI July

The Navy have frozen plans for a factory at Capenhurst to provide fuel for their submarine PWR's. Up till now, the Navy has swapped uranium fuel for plutonium with the US: the US may be developing their own capacity to produce weapons-grade plutonium: so the RN must pay cash or build its own plant. FT 27/8/81

The Australia Uranium Enrichment Group, four companies, is to go ahead with a 2½ year study to see if a local commercial uranium enrichment facility is feasible.

NEI, July

The US is hoping to become a reliable supplier of nuclear fuel to Brazil. FT 21/7

Transportation

Ivybridge & district Labour Party alleges that nuclear material is being moved through Devon at night- no comment can be had from MOD or British Rail. South Devon Times, 25/6/81

Reprocessing

The US and Japan are to hold discussions over Japans continuing reprocessing of US waste. NEI July. Meanwhile, France has told the US that it can save them a great deal of money by reprocessing waste for them. NEI July

Wethen, between Diemelstadt and Volkmarsen in West Germany has been approved as the site for Germany's first reprocessing plant. NEI July.

More Transportation, Sorry...

Demonstrators held up a wagon of irradiated fuel in W.Germany on the way to Le Hague in a Normandy rail marshalling yard. FT, 27/8/81

Waste Dumping

Some of Germany's politicians want to see any further development in nuclear energy, especially reprocessing, made dependent on final results from the proposed Gorbelen salt dome, the subject of a controversial set of preliminary findings. This would amount to a 10-12 year nuclear moratorium. NEI July

The International Stripa project, a programme of investigations into geological disposal of waste has been officially launched. The project will run in Sweden, financed by Finland, Japan, Sweden Switzerland and the US, France and Canada as associate members. Details, NEI July.

Tom King, Minister for Local Government and Environmental Services says that above-ground storage of waste would be a good thing. He doesn't actually mention the opposition, but one wonders.... NEI July

Heseltine thinks waste dumping is not a problem...".. read why in FT, 25/8/81. A long and fairly awful piece on why us lot are ignorant fools, and so on.

A useful if frightening antony Tucker article on build up of plutonium-241 appears in G, 16/7/81 tells us that unregulated Pu-241 is decaying into Americium 241, then to Neptunium-237: a total half-life period of 2,000,000 years+

LOW-LEVEL RADIATION

Hiroshima Death Toll Trebles

A committee of Japanese scholars, financed by the Hiroshima and Nagasaki councils, have published a survey showing that the death tolls for the nuclear attacks ought now to be reasonably set at 200,000 for Hiroshima and 140,000 for Nagasaki. G, 2/8/81

The national Radiological Protection Board is recommending that plans to tell people to stay indoors, and distribution of iodine tablets ought to begin within twelve hours of an emergency and be implemented at an earlier stage; its their version of safety measures. Close 'em down! DT 28/7/81

Radiation Hazards monitoring devices, limits, and average exposures are covered in a centre page spread in the BSSRS Hazards Bulletin, September 1981.

British Society for Social Responsibility in Science, 3 Surrey Place, Sheffield S1

Only a few cancers from Windscale

A report by Peter Taylor of Political Ecology Research Group, commissioned by US Union of Concerned Scientists, says that only 10 to 20 people will have died of cancer as a result of Windscale fire in 1957. This over a 10 to 20 year period beginning in the late 1970's ie such a small number would be statistically invisible. Report has got pat on back from NRPB, N SC 20/8/81
But Denver tells another story...

Another plant had a fire in 1957 - the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant -

This together with "routine" emissions has caused constant plutonium air pollution with levels 60x those of New York City. The report, carried out by Dr Carl Johnson, shows that people living closest to the plant have 16% more cancers of all types than would be expected, and 24% higher amongst men, particularly of cancers like lymphoma and leukaemia. N Sc 20/8/81 and G 21/8/81

Cancer Increases in Chinese N-test area

China is only major nuclear power that still tests above ground at the test site at Lop Nur, which has been in almost constant use for last 20 years. Reports of contamination and the increasing incidence of liver, lung and skin cancer - officials are sceptical. FT 24/8/81

PWR Dangerous

Sir Alan Cottrell says even British modified PWR possesses in-built danger factors: The possibility of a catastrophic rupture "at almost the speed of sound" of the 8 - inch thick pressure vessel housing the radio-active core. This could result from the growth of small internal cracks in the vessel which could go undetected until they reached a critical stage when they could rip the material apart "in a fraction of a second." A second and major break would involve a major accident - "loss of coolant, breakdown of most controls, possible destruction of the outer reactor building by large flying pieces and exposure of the core to the general environment." MS 29/6/81

ENERGY- TRENDS, COSTS & ALTERNATIVES

Consumption falls again

The Dept of Energy's annual figures show that fuel production rose by 2% last year, while energy consumption dropped by 7.8%. The primary fuel input based consumption of nuclear electricity shows a fall of 3.1% for 1980 compared to 1979. DoE figures.

Comparison to US

From a letter in the FT, 19/8/81:
percentage increases for UK energy prices over US prices are electricity +50%, Natural Gas plus 50%, Fuel Oil plus 50%, Coal plus 50%, Coke plus 200%. Comparison based on average 1980 costs and consumption data and an exchange rate of \$2.34-£1

Solar

Britain could save up to £1,000 million annually by using solar domestic heating, says Dr Anthony Challis, Chief Scientist at the Dept of Energy. (10 million tonnes coal equivalent per year). DT 24/8/81

Brighton's Solar Energy Forum says Solar OK: "the presence of some of the world's biggest multinationals indicates a hard-headed business approach to the field rather than the idealistic "eco-freak" image under which it often labours."

FT- unreferenced.

Geothermal

The second stage of the geothermal research being undertaken in Cornwall is under way - a bore is to be drilled 6,500 ft to pump cold water down and brought up T. 18/8/81

Southampton is to be the site of Britain's first commercial exploitation of geothermal energy - a £3 million scheme to tap a reservoir of 70 degrees centigrade water, providing heat for a large shop and office complex. FT 14/8/81.

Wind

The experimental aerogenerator on Papa Stour, Shetland, has been damaged. It could not be adjusted in zero wind conditions, and was damaged while braked when a Force 6 wind blew up overnight. S 4/8/81

Renewables Survey

FT, 4/8/81 carries a listing of the alternative energy sources and their potential.

Dutch Poll shows opposition to Cruise An opinion poll in the Netherlands showed that 58% of those polled were opposed to the 48 missiles that NATO has assigned to N'lands. Only 14% were in favour. Survey was conducted in May by Catholic Broadcasting Organisation.
FT 18/8/81

Italy supporting Cruise Sig Emilio Colombo, Italian Foreign Minister, says that delays in modernising NATO's theatre nuclear weapons would make Moscow less inclined to start arms reduction talks. 112 cruise missiles are to be sited in Sicily being Italy's allocation, but not until 1984.
FT 21/8/81

MX Likely to become airborne Much opposition to the siting of MX missiles on the 'race - track' system in Utah and Nevada.: Citizens of Utah and Nevada don't want the environmental impact in their 'backyard'. So latest idea is to keep them in specially-built aircraft which are continuously in the air. There is opposition to this idea on grounds of expense and practicability. Also fears that it would fuel opposition in Europe, esp W. Germany, to stationing of American theatre missiles on European soil. But so far there has been no official statement on which deployment method is going to be used.
DT 18/8/81, T 3/8/81, FT 3/8/81 & 14/8/81
and big article in FT 18/8/81 p 13

Reagan rejects airborne MX The Casper Weinberger plan to have airborne missiles has been rejected by Reagan - US airforce said it was technically inefficient. Instead R has decided on a scaled down version of the land based system.
T 26/8/81

Latest jump-jet to deliver nuclear weapons £1,500 million deal to build AV -8B, + this is capable of carrying and delivering nuclear weapons whereas its predecessor the SV - 8A was not. This represents a serious increase in Anglo-American nuclear strength at the tactical level.
G 26/8/81

New spy plane US have new manned spy plane, codename TR-I fleet of 35
D Mirror 1/9/81

Militarised Space Daniel O'Graham, an American general, has said that West should exploit its lead in space technology over the Soviet Union and decried the West's 'malaise of Spirit' and said a ballistic missile defence space system could be established within five years 'provided the West had the guts to devote the necessary resources to it'
DT 4/8/81

French test N bomb France has exploded underground at Mururoa atoll in the Pacific.
G 5/8/81

The Neutron Bomb

First of all a word from Caspar Weinberger: Neutron weapons add to the credibility of our deterrent, reduce the likelihood that N weapons would ever be used in a European war. Opposition to it is based on an abundance of misinformation, most of it "deliberately disseminated by a well orchestrated propaganda campaign based in Moscow". Thus President's decision to proceed with production of neutron weapons.... was bound to be controversial, especially in Europe which has been the centre of a Soviet Propaganda campaign"

Casper Weinberger in G 24/8/81
Reagan's decision to go ahead with production of neutron bomb is being condemned by everyone - Lord Noel - Baker, W German SDP, foreign ministry of Norway, Japan, Poland, Czechoslovak Communist Party, etc
T 11, 13 /8/81

Head of US bishops has questioned Reagan decision, saying that their production may "gravely impair future prospects for reversing the arms race" Catholic Herald
21/8/81

Details of the Enhanced Radiation Warhead its deployment and effects are given in an article in the Times 10/8/81

Soviet Union called for the Geneva disarmament conference to begin work on a treaty outlawing neutron weapons.
FT 19/8/81

Lack of consultation with NATO allies has upset many in West over decision to produce the neutron bomb, especially in the Netherlands. Pentagon has dismissed the anti-neutron bomb sentiments in West Europe which led Carter to shelve the project. Dutch churches have influenced Dutch public opinion - the slogan "Ban nuclear weapons from the world, starting with The Netherlands." T 14/8/81

France may test neutron bombs said M Hernu the defence minister, France had been conducting research into the bomb. Test centre is at Mururoa atoll and thousands of letters of protest from the islanders have been received, and apparently ignored. T 3/8/81
French claim that Soviets already working on neutron bomb and have been since 1978. T 11/8/81

Announcement that Reagan is going ahead with neutron bomb is misleading as bomb has already been in production for almost three years and stocks are almost certainly already in Europe. Now it is technically feasible to make a bomb which can be converted from ordinary to 'enhanced' radiation. US Arms Control Statement commented that "battlefield nuclear systems must be deployed near the front lines to be effective" but the front line is some distance from Texas ie the bombs which have been made for Europe are probably already here. In 1978 Callaghan did not dispute claims that govt had already agreed to GB's deployment of the N-bomb. Duncan Campbell in New Statesman 14/8/81

Weapons Sales to the Third World Sales to the third world have been increasing over the period 1974 - 1979. A table of sales figures and the types of weapons delivered is in New York Times 21/6/81 or from AT on request.

The Times has a whole page devoted to Hiroshima and the effects of the bomb - 7/8/81
Scientific American has a long article on precision guided weapons - it underlines conventional weapons and outlines the developments which will change battle field techniques from heavy tanks to light mobile vehicles. August 1981
PGWs are cheaper and NATO acknowledges that these will offset the tank deficit of NATO as against the Warsaw Pact. So why do we need the neutron bomb?

Pakistan builds One

Pakistan will have constructed its first bomb by the end of the summer, and is negotiating for a Chinese site to test it, according to American and Israeli intelligence experts. The Pakistani plant is able to deliver 20-40lb plutonium per year, enough for three weapons in the kiloton range. DT 27/7/81

Arms Ordering Review

The all-party Commons Select Committee on Defence is to investigate the efficiency of the MOD Procurement Executive. The group spends £5,850 million a year, 48% of defence spending, on equipment for the forces. T 3/8/81

Cruise Yes, Trident No

A correspondent to the DT, 27/7/81, says that Trident is too costly and a basic error- the missiles rather than the launching platforms will be the vulnerable points as space-based anti-missiles technology improves. The writer says that ten or even 20 B 52's with 10 Cruise each deployed in Britain could be off the ground before any missile attack could arrive, and would cost the same as Trident. DT 27/7/81

Dutch Opinion Poll

58% of Dutch people polled opposed the Cruise deployment in the Netherlands. Only 14% were in favour, 21 % said they would accept fewer missiles. FT, 18/8
Queen Beatrix has been formally advised to order the formation of a coalition government, which would be uncommitted to taking Cruise, by three top politicians in their report on how best to form a government. T, 4/8/81

Weinberger's New Toys

The US Defense Secretary has presented a plan involving a new version of the B1 bomber; continued Trident deployment, with accelerated development of the new Trident-2; strengthening of the command and communications network given high priority. He had also included the airborne MX ploy, but has found no favour. These measures are worth \$ 207,000 million.

LATE ADDITIONS TO ANTI-NUCLEAR ACTIVITY SECTION

Caldicott Slideshow The Manchester group of Women Oppose Nuclear Threat has a copy of Dr Helen Caldicott's slideshow "I have three children of my own" about the medical risks of nuclear power and its weapon links, and will show it around Greater Manchester for petrol expenses. Contact WOMT c/o Grass Roots Books, 1 Newton St, Manchester 1. 061-236-3112 or 061 224 4339 evenings.