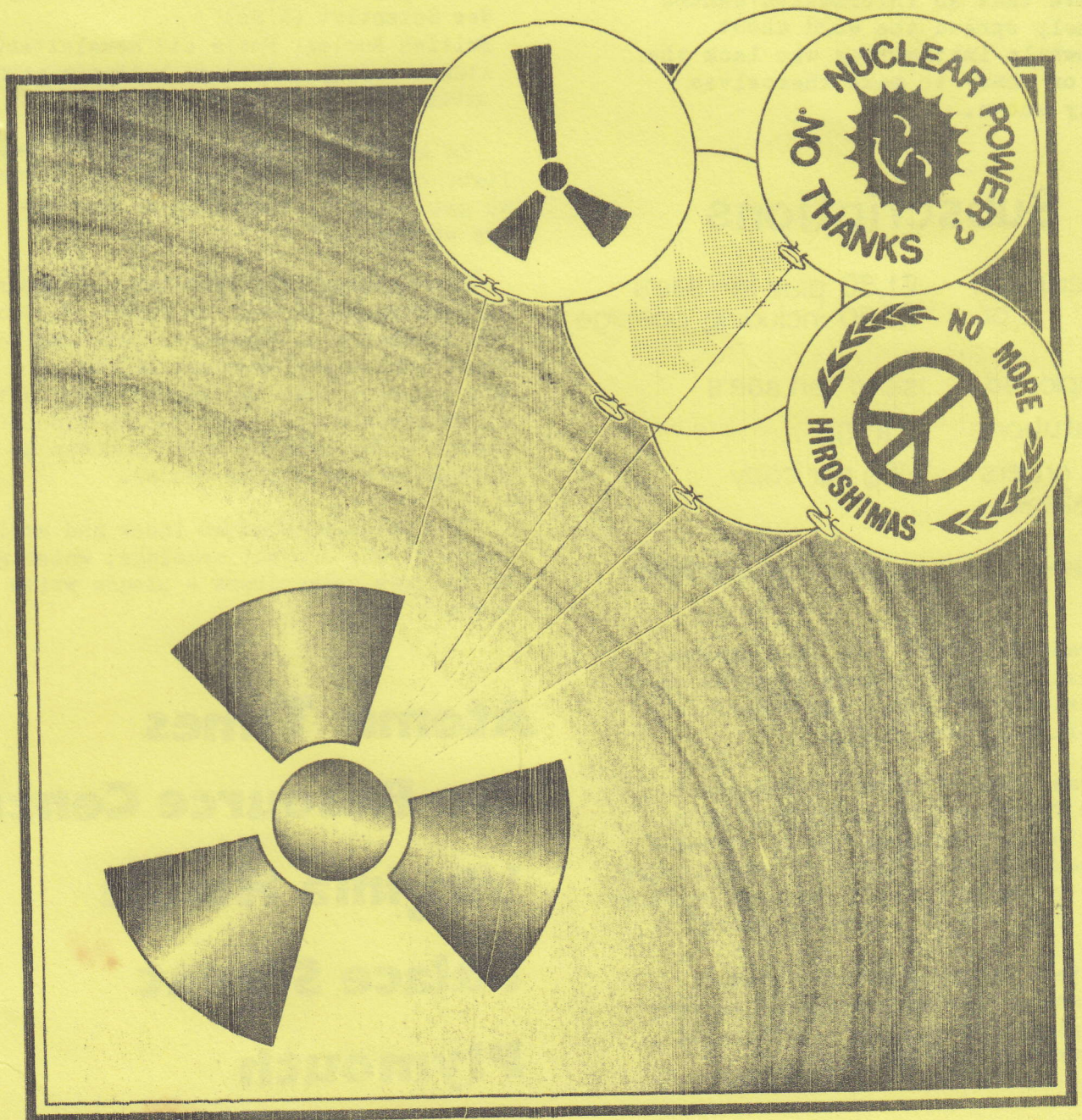


Atomic Times

20p

A Monthly Digest of Nuclear News



No 18 October 1981

Introduction

Atomic Times aims to act as an information source for the anti-nuclear movement 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! 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 - note well; 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.

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

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

The material not from the newspapers, in each issue 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 copies free of charge - the more specific you can be with details the better of course.

We have published an index and explanation of our subject headings, which goes to all new subscribers - please write for a copy.

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

Dear Reader,

Welcome to Atomic Times 18. This issue is late again so:

THIS MONTHS EXCUSES

We have all been moving house

We've had a car crash, but luckily(?) no-one was hurt(much)

Two of us have got jobs and one has returned to college

But enough of this snivelling. This issue is the first to be produced using a new and we hope more coherent indexing system - there is an explanation at the back. We have also started our long promised contacts list again: it will be expanded and revised next issue, onto two sides. The index will be sent to all new subscribers and to anyone who asks for it.

We want to take this opportunity to name some names. We get massive support from a lot of people who do not get the satisfaction of producing this thing each month, so the least we can do is record our thanks:

Martin Prestage in London who has sent us cuttings for months, usually without thanks or proper communication; D.M.Wilson in Scotland, Art Blockland in London for the Times and New Scientist, Sue Jones in Plymouth for the Daily Mirror, Sue Horwood for the Guardian and many others in the Peace Group who regularly provide material.

We're bound to have forgotten someone who's been labouring for months, but to one and all thank you.

Sorry about the hand-written cover price we forgot to put it in the art work!

INFORMATION, RESOURCES AND CAMPAIGNS

Local Group Directory Mark Stables at FOE, 9 Poland St, London W1, is producing a directory of local/national Safe Energy and Anti Nuclear power groups - please send in your entries. It's a shame they're not doing the whole anti-nuclear scene because it would save us doing the

DIRECTORY FOR SURVIVAL Atomic Times forthcoming listing of national and regional groups and contacts. Everything in one document classified into sections. We are not, however, doing local group addresses as we feel they change too fast. We would welcome any ideas and contributions please.

Labour on Nuclear A new Labour Party pamphlet has been produced on nuclear weapons - "an interesting read" (PN).

'No Cruise, No Trident, No Nuclear Weapons' available from:
The Labour Party, 150 Walworth Rd, London SE17 (60p plus postage) PN 2/10

British Overkill A Peace News centr page pull out - 'British Overkill - a guide to nuclear weapons' by Paul Rogers.

Single copies 10p plus postage, bulk orders 25 copies £1.50 plus 30p postage
100 copies £4.00 plus 16p postage
from Peace News, 8 Elm Avenue, Nottingham

Also available by same author 'Global Overkill' country by country run down of present day n.weapons, same prices as above. PN 2/10

Alert all Health Workers! Manchester health workers have formed an anti-missile group, feeling that govt plans for health care after the bomb are slightly silly! They are interested in hearing from those in North West who work in the Health Service and similar groups elsewhere in the country.

Contact: Health Workers Against The Missiles, 9 Birch Hall Lane, Longsight, Manchester 13. PN 2/10

WONT London WONT groups suggest that women going in the women's section of CND demo Oct 24th should wear purple and green(suffragette colours). PN 2/10

Guardians of The Mountain

An active campaign has been going on for over a year at Glen Etive overseeing the activities of the Institute of Geological Sciences. The area is one of those proposed for radioactive waste dumping. Their boat was mysteriously holed whilst lying offshore and is now completely lost. The IGS have now taken to using other people's land rovers - eg Ancient Monuments, Red Deer Commission.

Donations can be sent to:

Guardians of the Mountain, Clydesdale Bank, Account No: 629401, Dollar, Scotland.

Atom Free Embassy

4th Australian Bicycle Ride Against Uranium took place in May. Cyclists established Atom Free Embassy on the Parliament House Lawns. They need support so postcards to:

Atom Free Embassy, Parliament House Lawns, Parliament House, Canberra, 2600,
Australia SEB Aug/sept

Nuclear Future? - A guide to the fightback

SANE have produced a big poster (A2) with information on the reverse about Rio Tinto Zinc, waste transport, power stations, etc etc. 15p from SANE 9 Poond St, London W1

WEAPONS OF WAR

Cruise threatens NATO

Doubts and decisions not to accept (Holland and Belgium seem likely) Cruise are upsetting the Americans, rumblings that if Europe does not go ahead with cruise then US may withdraw from Europe's Central Front, and hence threaten Atlantic Alliance. Sunday Times 6/9/81

Labour Party and Cruise Interesting letter in New Statesman raises some points about attitude of Parliamentary Labour Party. Decision that Cruise missiles to be based in Britain was announced after Gen Election in 1979. However some months before public got the information it was common knowledge in High Wycombe area that work of installing electronic hardware in Cruise control centre (underground at HW) had been going on for several months before hand hence:

- i) Americans had anticipated Tory victory and went ahead with work unknown to the then Labour admin?
- ii) Presence of Cruise in Britain had been agreed between Callaghan and Americans without knowledge or consensus of Cabinet?
- iii) Cabinet was privy to what Americans were doing and kept quiet? NS 4/9/81

SS 20 swap for cruise and Pershing?

Foot and Healey returned from Russia saying that Brezhnev had offered to withdraw some SS-20s in return for a NATO change of heart on cruise and Pershing missile deployment. But Douglas Hurd of Foreign Office said that same offer had been made before, prior to 1979. Foot challenged Carrington to produce evidence of this whilst Hurd says that B's offer was simply for gullible European socialists. G 21/9/81

W Germany having doubts about missiles

W Germany want to delay date for acceptance of Pershing 2 missiles (1,000 mile range). They were scheduled to be placed in Germany by December 1983 at same time as American 1,500 mile range cruise missiles were to be placed in England. By delaying the deployment date until 1984, April, they arrive same time as cruise in Italy. W Germany also due to have cruise, but W G will not accept them until a second NATO power apart from Italy agrees to have them. T 14/9 and S 19/9/81

Britain opts for more expensive Trident

As yet no confirmation on govt decision to buy the Trident D5 system (£6,000m) to be in line with Americans, instead of the Trident-I system (£5,000m). Nott already under attack for pushing ahead with £5,000m package. T 7/9 and DM 4/10/81

Old US battleships 'better' than new

Old American battleship re-enters service in 1983 and is said to be superior to new Soviet battle cruiser and cheaper than building a ship like the nuclear powered Kirov. T 9/9/81

WOW

MX not so marvellous after all All proposals so far for basing MX missile have serious flaws - 300 page report from Office of Technology Assessment
US is losing its lead on key technologies. T 11/9 and G 26/9
and DM 3/10

Neutron news

SNP have expressed deep concern at Reagan's decision, and are implacably opposed to siting of n weapons on Scottish soil. S 19/9

Weinberger has been expounding neutron's advantages again, says it gives "a badly needed credibility" to NATO's defence against Soviet tank superiority. T 5/9/81

US flag burned at demo in Berlin whilst Alexander Haig spoke at a lunch, 30,000 people were protesting over plans to build neutron bomb and base more nuclear weapons in Europe. DM 14/9/81

Haig promised that neutron bomb will not be deployed in Europe without consultation, after talks in Bonn. He also promised not to put biological warfare into practice. DM 15/9/81

Reagan cuts arms spending Big split in cabinet is embarrassing for Reagan, so he is cutting £7 billion from America's military spending plans. DM 14/9/81

Cuts in Navy leave money for newer weapons Nott's plans for reductions in number of frigates and destroyers may in fact be a blessing (!). Money not being spent on ships and subs will be available for new up to date weapons. T 14/9/81

Navy replacing civil service Govt planning to introduce naval personnel into jobs at present done by civil servants in key areas of Polaris sub bases on Clyde to avoid the disruption caused during civil servant strike. 9/9/81

Govt buying British Govt is going to order torpedoes made by GEC-Marconi, instead of a much cheaper weapon, but this choice saves 5,000 jobs in Leicester and Merseyside. New one is based on the present Stingray. DM 9/9/81

Stingray in church A stingray torpedo was on display in St Andrew's church Plymouth as part of Harvest Festival celebrations - local opinion was that this was perfectly acceptable as long as a prayer was offered up to avoid it being used! Plymouth Star 2/10/81

The Shape of wars to come Star Raker - new space ship, planned successor to present space shuttle. New book called The Shape... suggests that it could relegate Trident to primitive inside 15 years. DM 30/9/81

Air Crashes Retired USAF general said that air crash at RAF Lakenheath in 1956 could have made a desert out of Eastern England. This incident is the only known 'broken arrow' in Britain. Ob 9/8/81
Turkish air force fighter crashed into a military bivouac area as troops prepared for NATO exercises. DM 23/9/81

Accusations of chemical warfare Alexander Haig claims that US has evidence that Russians were using CBW in SE Asia and Afghanistan. Russians called it "a big lie". G 20/9/81

Labour Party Wrangles

4.6 million for, 2.3 million against for a commitment by Labour to work for unilateral nuclear disarmament at next election. This includes closing down all nuclear bases in Britain, but a call for next Labour govt to quit NATO was defeated by 5.2 million to 1.6 million. DM 1/10/81

Foot plans to scrap n weapons

Foot made it clear that he will push ahead with plans to pull out of Common Market and scrap nuclear weapons. DM 5/10/81

Liberals reject Cruise

At party assembly in Llandudno Liberals committed themselves to rejecting and campaigning against siting of Cruise missiles in Britain. A motion was carried entitled "Towards a non-nuclear Europe", motion said Britain should take initiative in calling for European nuclear free zone. Liberals also condemned Reagan's decision to proceed with neutron and resolved to campaign against their introduction into British and Western European defence systems. T 18/9/81

This motion by Liberals is against the defence policy as put forward by SDP, William Rodgers regretted the decision(leading SDP). This motion by Libs went against leadership who favoured deferral of deployment of cruise. Lib defence policy now includes; gen and complete disarmament to be achieved progressively, opposition to independent British deterrent, opposition to Trident but continued membership of NATO, strengthening of conventional armaments, European nuclear free zone, opposition to cruise, opposition to neutron. T 18/9

Liberals defecting to Labour Party

Liberals in Torbay and North Cornwall are defecting to Labour Party says Colin Hayday prospective Lab candidate for N Cornwall, because David Steele said that MPs would take no notice of the assembly decision. Western Evening Herald

2/10/81

SDP " rag bag of wets "

Peace campaigner Lord Noel-Baker called David Owen and SDP "a ragbag of assorted wets" speaking at Labour Party conference in Brighton. David Owen, speaking in Plymouth, said SDP committed to multi lateral disarmament, because " people will not support a party that puts the country's security at risk." WEH 30/9/81

SDP have rejected unilateral disarmament as likely to mean a pre-emptive surrender to Soviet Union, in a pamphlet entitled "Neither Red nor Dead"

G 16/9/81

TUC General Council swing towards unilateralism

Len Murray, gen sec TUC, argued that Gen Council was reflecting a move in public opinion; in advocating unilateral disarmament and withdrawal from Common Market. T 6/9/81

Congress votes for uni lat dis

Larry Smith (TGWU) moved the motion and congress voted for it.

Tom Jackson pledged that unions will resist neutron bomb. G 11/9/81
T 11/9/81

Nott attacks TUC

John Nott defending Britain's nuclear deterrent attacked TUC unilateralist stance as being out of line with feelings of people. Willie Whitelaw said same thing. G 12/9/81 and T 12/9/81

Warning that Iron Curtain will soon stretch to Lands End

Armed Forces Minister Peter Blaker said that if CND "had their way there would soon be nothing to prevent the Russians moving the Iron Curtain to a line running from the Hebrides to Lands End." Plymouth would be handed over to the Russians. Western Evening Herald 2/10/81

Deterrent theory the "astrology of our time" Said EP Thompson, and is being used to justify every weapon that can be produced, yet it has no rational basis. This happened during a symposium on nuclear war being held at a British Association meeting. "It attracts ambitious men and women who aspire to be advisers to presidents." He said that the greatest peril lay in the way deterrence freezes diplomatic and political processes and corrupts the cultures of opposing societies. G 2/9

Best scientists employed in arms race

More than half the world's best scientists and engineers are employed in arms race, thus was pointed out by Prof John Humphrey. He argued that few scientists had thought clearly about the implications

G 6/9

Weeders to shift atomic backlog

Whitehall has launched an initiative to screen, declassify and release as many documents as possible on the original decision to develop and manufacture a British atomic bomb. MOD has recruited two men from Aldermaston to review the backlog of files that have failed to appear on time at Public Record Office under 30-year rule. Ministry's departmental records officer says that it is purely coincidental that there is growing public interest in nuclear weapons. Minutes of meeting at which Clement Attlee and a small group of ministers authorized the construction of the bomb are available in Cabinet Office papers at Public Records Office, but ministry's own internal files have been hardly touched by 'weeders' since 1947. T 21/9/81

Foot and Healey in Moscow

Foot and Healey headed a nine member delegation of Labour MPs to Moscow. Idea was to explore with Soviet leaders ways of speeding up and assisting negotiations on nuclear missiles in Europe. T 16/9
Russians regard visit as support for Soviet campaigns for negotiations on nuclear missiles in Europe and to stop Americans going ahead with neutron bomb. T 17/9/81

Russians ready to withdraw missiles from western Russia provided NATO did not go ahead with deployment of new missiles in western Europe. Russians also ready to publish in Soviet Union a breakdown of arms balance on both sides, but Russians could not contemplate unilateral disarmament themselves.

also G 19/9/81

T 18/9/81

Foot said that progress had been made and that all NATO countries would be pleased, but this was dismissed by Douglas Hurd as "Ludicrous chatter" T 19/9
For comments on Foot's dress sense and the lack of vodka they received in Russia read G 20/9/81

Russians are just as pleased with talks as Foot and also uninterested in Labour Party's internal wrangles. As pressure to get arms talks going builds up in west: Moscow can be expected to seek other allies to keep up momentum. T 22/9
Foreign Office not impressed with Foot's news. T 24/9/81

Mad Hatters Tea Party

Eric Fawcett, Prof Physics, Toronto Uni says that Reagan admin have no more contact with reality and are no more to be trusted than the Mad Hatter's tea party. G 2/9/81

NATO games

250,000 Allied troops taking part in NATO's annual exercises. T 2/9/81

French Socialist Hawk

Mitterand is being just like his predecessors over east-west relations and France's own military strength. France is as keen as ever on the US retaining parity with the Soviet Union, also strong US presence in Europe means that France's nuclear deterrent is for France's use only, decisions on neutron bomb not finalised but French officials have refrained from criticizing Reagan's decision to manufacture neutron warhead. Communist Party has been organizing demonstrations and statements denouncing Reagan's decision. T 2/9/81

Nukes for Libya- sans tops

The Soviet Union has supplied Libya 12 medium range missiles without the nuclear warheads- one megaton weapons. Analysts believe the Russians will keep some control to stop the Libyans using them against NATO bases in the Mediterranean. T, 25/9/81

Isreal threatened

An Islamic move to ban Israel from the International Atomic Energy Authority is gaining ground- 14 countries out of 77 has called for a ban. T, 25/9/81

Warsaw Pact about to invade

The figures published by the International Institute for Strategic Studies suggest that the Warsaw Pact have massive superiority in virtually everything, etc, etc. If you're interested, see T 24/9/81

Mexican Snub

The President of Mexico has called the neutron bomb "the worst thing invented by mankind". 2/9/81 T

US changing counting system

US proposal to count nuclear weapons by number of warheads and not the number of missiles. This means that Russia would have to give up three of its warheads for every one relinquished by the US. TI4/9/8I

US bases on Israeli soil

In return for \$350million increase in military aid to Israel, Begin says that US can have military bases on Israeli soil. DM 10/9/8I

Reagan tells the Russians!

Reagan told Russians to cut back their military spending or face "an arms race they can't win" DM 4/9/8I

US says it can destroy anything Libya could throw at it

US admin said it would not be intimidated by threats from Gaddafi to attack American nuclear bases. US would continue to carry out naval exercises in Gulf of Sirte. T 3/9/8I

Arms race is crippling Soviet economy

Russians thought to be spending between 12 and 14% of GNP on defence and that this could rise to 15% by 1985. Since military programme is expanding more rapidly than economy as a whole, Russia's present 5 year economic plan could be adversely affected unless defence growth rate is trimmed. Russians say that whatever Reagan says they will not let him win an arm race. T 4/9/8I

Schmidt reassures America

Schmidt said that Reagan was invited to West Germany and would see that "Germans and Americans are friends" despite indications to the opposite at riots in Berlin when Haig went visiting, and the attempted assassination of Gen Kroesen - US Army Commander in Europe. T 19/9/8I

Missile mishap

An American Army Lance missile and its launcher crashed through a guard rail and fell from a highway intersection in Bonn injuring 5 people. Army said missile was disarmed and never in any danger of exploding. T 22/9/8I

Reagan moves to appease Russians

After a long criticism of US foreign Policy by Andrei Gromyko at UN, spokesman said that R had sent a letter to Brezhnev suggesting that the two nations start respecting each others interests. T 23/9
Haig and Gromyko have apparently agreed to start negotiations in November on limiting short range n weapons in Europe. T 24/9/8I

Nuclear Free Zones

David Owen advocated a nuclear free zone in Europe, along with a treaty with Soviet Union agreeing "no first use" of n weapons. T 2/9/8I

Scandinavian foreign ministers discussed a nordic NFZ in Copenhagen. T 7/9/8I

Tyne and Wear Council, Labour controlled, has told Home Office that it will not build a new county emergency nuclear HQ because it is a NFZ. G 19/9/8I

GIs lacking on the PT!

American GIs are not up to scratch physically! US defence dept blames lack of PT, whereas Russian soldiers get a daily dose of gruelling exercise and concentrate on building up the stamina. DM 2/9/8I

MISCELLANEOUS

Addition to page three

Piece entitled "Navy replacing Civil Service" is from the T.

Why Canon Collins voted Tory

A long article, T 12/9/8I on why Canon Collins, the E P Thompson of the fifties (it says here) voted for Thatcher, what he thinks of this and that, and what he's doing these days.

Catholics Against the Bomb

The National Conference of Priests has passed a resolution by 43 to 2, 12 abstentions, saying that the church is not giving a clear enough lead on the possession of nuclear weapons. T 12/9/8I

NUCLEAR PLANT

Quote of the month

Two of the operators from the Three Mile Island plant have resigned and their colleagues must resit their operator's license tests again after the two were caught cheating in the tests. ER 11/9/81

Other TMI news

It seems possible that the undamaged plant at Harrisburg, TMI-I, may be allowed to re-open later this year. ER 11/9/81
Mason Willrich, Vice-president of Pacific Gas and Electric, says its the federal governments fault that TMI isn't being cleaned up, and a rate demand increase of "less than 25% would pay for it." Mason says its because of the slow clean-up of the plant that other utilities don't want to invest in nukes- nowt to do with the accident itself, of course. ER 11/9/81

Sabotage at Torness?

Sabotage may have caused up to £2 million worth of damage from defective concrete which must be replaced at Torness. CN 1/10/81

Local Hostility to Torness

Hidden in the same article on Torness, above, is a paragraph saying that local hostility is growing in the face of growing failure by the contractors to maintain promised local staffing levels. Berwick and East Lothian MP J H Robertson says "the promise of jobs from building Torness is the biggest let-down of all."

Windscale Leak

Milk has not been destroyed following a leak of radiation from Windscale-Bellafield: the emitted radiation levels exceeded the International Commission for Radiological Protection's limits- but BNFL say these are working limits not danger limits, so not to worry. The chemical separation plant which leaked was closed for 24 hrs.... We will have more on this next month when the technical press report on the incident.

Diablo Canyon Diary

15th Sept: at least 50 demonstrators arrested while scaling fences at the plant. Another 25 were unable to get close enough to position swimmers in front of the water intakes. T 16/9/81

17th Sept: workers airlifted in by helicopter to get round the protesters blockade. About 140 arrests. (About 500 arrested the day before)

23rd Sept: Government gives approval to begin low-power testing of plant. T, 17-18/9/81, 23/9/81

There were a total of 1650 arrested during the blockade- the protesters say that "ongoing civil disobedience" is planned. Further information: Diablo Project Office, 452 Higuera St, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, USA.

Reactor Simulators

Operational simulators for the Dungeness and Hinkley Point AGR's are now in service at the CECB's nuclear training centre at Oldbury. There are two exact replicas of the control rooms costing £2 million each. ER 18/9/81

First Soviet 1000MW on line

The first PWR rated to 1000MW has reached its design capacity at the Soviet training plant at Novovoronezh. (Rolls off the tongue, doesn't it?) NEI Sept 81

1000 jobs Go

The Eurodif gas diffusion plant, for enriched fuel fabrication, is nearing completion- it will mean unemployment for the 1,000 site workers within the next six months. The contractors are hoping for work on solar energy projects.....

ER 11/9/81

NEI will Build Torness reactors

Northern Engineering Industries have won a £15 million contract for electrical equipmeny for the Torness reactors. ER 11/9/81

Nuclear Station Achievement

NEI for September carries a rating chart for the 191 nuclear stations of 150MW or over for the quarter ending June 1981. Britains record is as follows: 37th, Hunterston A; 52nd, Hinkley Point A; 90th, Oldbury; 94th Wylfa

Nuclear Plant cont'd

Sizewell

Unbiased advice? The Suffolk Coastal District Council's advisor on Sizewell is at present one Prof. David Leslie, formerly Hon Treasurer of a group called A Power for Good- joining APG involved signing a declaration: "I support the continued developement of nuclear power for peaceful purposes and apply to join APG." Sir Kelvin Spencer, formerly Chief Scientist at the Ministry of Power in the Fifties, has sent us a list of APG's Advisory Council Members.

Luxulyan

No decision as we go to press from the appeal court- some good quotes though. Glyn England, CEGB chairperson says the action is costing them about £1,000 a day, but hasn't mentioned how much the court case is costing, the police advocate says these aren't your normal hooligans, milord, but ordinary decent folk, and the justices find it hard to believe that people can care enough to be knocked about by drillers and still not react. If the CEGB lose this one, the House of Lords is next, unless they go for the blitzkrieg..... Don't miss next weeks thrilling episode. Press reports: T, 25,26/9/81, DT same dates.

Reactor Design Fun

The CEGB/National Nuclear Corporation are to work much more closely with the four American utilities involved in the Standardised Nuclear Unit Power Plant System, SNUPPS, in exchange for US access to British experience on safety and operation. The new design for the Sizewell PWR is expected at the end of September- to be much closer to the American Model than the original NNC design, thrown out as too expensive. As the article says- all very nice, but why were the NNC allowed to spend so much time and money on a wildly costly design? NEI Sept.

Iraqi Pressure on France

Political and commercial pressure is being brought to bear on France to rebuild the Osirak reactor. The Iraqi president says "we shall approach other partners if the French refuse their nuclear co-operation". ER 4/9/81

Westinhouse in Italy

New agreements with Italian firms mean a standardised westinghouse PWR for future Italian Nuclear plants. ER 4/9/81

and in Japan

Mitsubishi and Westinghouse are to co-operate on designing a PWR of at least 1300MW: it will be marketed seperately. ER 11/9/81

New License in Germany?

A new application for the Hamm 1300MW PWR has been put in by the company concerned- the licensing procedure must begin again, but previous objection will be taken into account. The plant licensing fee is probably also to rise- from DM 225 000 to DM 3 million. NEI sept 81

Confusion in France

The parliamentary debate on the French Energy Future should be under way- in the meantime, Electricite de France are carrying on with work at Golfech in SW France, since they say they have no government instructions to the contrary. Long useful piece in NEI for Sept; also see ER 4/9/81

Rust & Radiation

Previously unsuspected levels of damage caused to reactor casings by radiation may mean early closure of up to 17 reactors in the US- all but two designed and built by Westinghouse. Consolidated Edisons annual report says "the company is presently unable to determine the remaining service life of the steam generators." Reports vary suprising wildy on the problem- is it the reactor shell itself? Is it the coolant system? or both? Neutron bombardment of steel makes it far more sensitive to heat and pressure changes; problems for both the shells and the coolant pipes. As above, more details when the technical press cover it- but see T, 23/9/81, G 22/9/81, International Herald Tribune 28/9/81

Violence at Dutch protest

Baton charges, tear gas etc were used to clear attempts at blockades at one of Holland's two nuclear plants- and local people stopped the intended week long action after four days by threatening to take the law into their own hands and burn the protesters tents down. The locals were apparently protesting at damage done by the demonstrators. T, 21, 23/9/81.

Nuclear Plant cont'd Browns Ferry

The unit 3 reactor at Browns Ferry, Alabama was shut down on May 22 when a primary coolant leak was found to be releasing 27 gallons a minute- 10 000 gallons of radioactive water had collected in the containment before the leak was located. WISE Sept 81

Tsugara

A Japanese anti-nuclear group is filing a petition for permanent closure of the Tsugara No 1 plant following its accident. WISE Sept 81

US Mishaps

A report issued by the Critical Mass Energy Project at the end of July says that there were more than 3,804 incidents at US power plants in 1980- a 20% increase over 1979. WISE Sept 81

Fast Reactor News

Funding problems: No solution has yet been found to the financing problems facing the German-Dutch-Belgian FBR prototype, SNR 300. The utilities won't put up more money, since the responsible ministries refuse to allow electricity prices to rise to compensate. Also, there is no political guarantee in Germany that the FBR will be allowed to go commercial. NEI Sept 81

Britains New FBR: The UKAEA say they have designed a "simple and elegant" fast reactor, costing only 20% more than a thermal reactor....such as the AGR. The AGR? Its still getting costlier every year. Walter Marshall says the French design (Super-Phenix) will be about 70% more expensive than a PWR, and the UKAEA would very much like a decision from the government on the long-term prospects for the commercial FBR. Quote from Walt: "Without fast reactors, nuclear power can make a useful but comparatively short-lived contribution to the world's energy supply." Short-lived means 20-40 years, depending on your view and who you listen to. See ER 18/9/81, T, 10/9/81. (PS: Walt's estimate is 20 years)

Soviets series-build FBR: The USSR's reactor factory is to start production of 1600MW FBR's, according to Soviet Weekly. Quoted in Morning Star, 20/7/81

India chooses fifth site

India has said that its fifth nuke will be at Kakrapara in the west- two 235MW Candu reactors. NEI Sept 81

Canada to export power?

New Brunswick Premier Richard Hatfield has approached the Canadian government with a plan to build a second reactor devoted primarily to exporting energy to the US- against previous state policy. NEI Sept 81

Still nowt on wastewater

The Times, 11/9/81, points out that the enquiry on more water for Windscale still hasn't reported its decision- 20 months after the inquiry. The National Trust, which owns some of the land concerned, would "almost certainly" take Parliamentary action to stop the proposals- they hold land under inalienable right, requiring act of parliament to change.

NUCLEAR PROGRAMME

Fusion News

A report on Joint European Torus (JET) by a panel of experts, calls for much higher spending on fusion research- it suggests that fusion power might be with us in 20 years. ER 11/9/81

The Reagan administration intends to prove the scientific and engineering feasibility of fusion power- funded with public money. NEI Sept 81

The end of RFX: The UKAEA have closed down their RFX fusion research plant, which was costing £20 million. The West Germans have also closed their Zephyr venture. N Sc, 24/9/81

CEGB to close more plant

The CEGB will close 1,891MW of plant permanently and mothball another 1,417 MW, losing 1,700 jobs. These plans bring job losses to 5,000 in two years, and are explained as effects of the recession. Dungeness B, Hartlepool B and Heysham B AGR's will all be on stream within the next 18 months. Closures are in addition to some 20 plants due to be shut down next month. ER 11/9/81

Nuclear Programme cont'd

Spanish reaffirm Nukes commitment

As Almaraz I, the new Spanish PWR comes on stream the government have again emphasised their commitment to nuclear power. Their next plant is Lemoniz I- Basque separatists permitting. ETA have been bombing the plant's contractors and installations for years. NEI Sept 8I

Coal prepares for the Nuclear Age

"when the nuclear component becomes significant" says CEEB's regional director of engineering (our emphasis) coal power stations can and will go on to two-shift operation- the nuclear plant will provide the base load, and coal stations will be fueled up for peak use only. This will improve operating lives of fossil fuel stations, improving their viability: the article says no incentive to build new fossil plant due to low efficiency, but manages to avoid mention of Combined Heat and Power and of Fluidised Bed Combustion. Long piece: ER 18/9/8I

US DOE anti-nuke?

A long article in NEI Sept alleges all sorts of things about how anti-nuclear Carter's administration was- files destroyed or lost, solar power pushed much harder than coal or nuclear etc. Tish tish tish- good job our nuclear lads don't do that sort of thing.

NEA disappointed

The Nuclear Energy Agency has once again expressed disappointment that its member governments are doing so little to reinforce their nuclear programmes- except for France. Gold star, France. NEI Sept 8I

ENERGY TRENDS, COSTS AND ALTERNATIVES

Why no Gas Line?

In a letter to the Times, 17/9/8I, Martin Ryle asks: why was the plan to bring released gas ashore from the North Sea not implemented? The project would have cost £2,7bn and provided an estimated £25bn in gas values (£1 million-worth is flared off every day). Ryle gives us a calculation that the gas line would give us energy six to eight times more cost-effective than the proposed PWRs- and its labour intensive, and its work for the steel industry.

Oil to Coal says US study

A 206 page report says a major programme to convert oil-fired plant to coal would be commercially attractive and create a big new market for equipment and services. 11/9/8I

Nuclear Output Down

Last Year, nuclear output accounted for 10.7% of all generated electricity, compared with 11.4% the year before. The fall is due mainly to extended shut-downs at Magnox stations following cracks in coolant pipes. BNFL Sept 8I

US Production Up

Electricity generation has gone up in the US for the first year since Three Mile Island. An 8% increase is forecast for this year. Nuclear generation will rise by 16.4% due to new units coming on line. NEI Sept 8I

Pumped Storage from France

An ambitious programme for pumped storage will provide France an extra 5,000MW capacity by 1985. ER 4/9/8I

High mpg Cars

Mixed Petrol-electric cars would be capable of better than 100mpg- with a petrol engine providing some traction and a charge for batteries. Ob 13/9/8I

Heat Pumps

The Building Research Establishment says heat pumps could be economic for use in the home, with modification to radiator design. ER 18/9/8I

Wind

Two major wind projects in California will provide 1.5MW, with an ultimate goal of enough electricity to supply 40,000 people. ER 18/9/8I

The Danish Government were presented a plan in May for a large number of 630MW windmills which could produce 4,000,000 Mw hrs per year: roughly the equivalent of the operating capacity of a 1000 MW Nuclear Reactor. WISE Sept 8I

Windscale Extensive tests to be carried out on uranium process worker after he inhaled radioactivity above "control limits", following his shift in the "active area".
The Journal 5/9/81

NRPB Mr H J Dunster has been appointed a new director from July 1982, Mr Dunster is at present Director of Nuclear Safety and Deputy Director of the Health & Safety Executive.
NRPB Press Release 15/9/81

Radiation Detectors Detection instruments have been made more sensitive and more reliable. In particular, those monitoring alpha and beta particles have been improved for use in the atmosphere. they have been licensed for manufacture by BNFL
UKAEA Press release 9/9/81

Seepage The migration of radionuclides in effluents has been carefully studied since the beginning of the nuclear era. This knowledge is of particular interest in the case of long-lived radionuclides and for the disposal of radio active wastes.
NEI 9/81

URANIUM CYCLE

Nuclear Transport The FoE branch in Sth Shields, Tyne & Wear, protested about the movement of waste through built-up Tyneside; which will occur following the opening of a nuclear power station in Hartlepool in January 1982. They marched along the route, that will be used for the transport of the waste from the power station to Windscale for reprocessing, as far as Gateshead.
Sth Shields Gazette 4/9/81
Sth Shields Journal 5/9/81

BR Cover Up 1 Thousands of Midlanders are furious at what they see as a cover up by BR at "nuclear junction", between Walsall and Sandwell in W.Mids. In a recent accident, an engine crashed into a nuclear waste carrying wagon. A separate incident two weeks previously, resulted in the warning of 3000 families after the overturning of a highly inflammable petroleum tanker.
D.M. 29/9/81

BR Cover Up 2 An accident involving a train transporting N-waste through residential areas of Bristol and surrounding areas could mean the evacuation of up to 10000 people following such an incident ; Avon County Council's public protection committee were told.
Dursley Gazette 19/9/81

BR Cover Up 3A special train, escorted by Ministry of Defense police, and carrying nuclear WEAPONS was held up for 20 mins on the Leeds-Shipley line on Sept 8

Schedules, routes, and ALL other details of N-weapon movement are kept "top secret"; this is the same for N-waste. The dangers of the cargo are such that they warrant top secrecy and an armed escort, yet we (Leeds Other Paper) were able to come within a stones throw and talk to the railwaymen on the train. From the shape and size of the cargo, LOP speculates that this train that passed through Leeds was carrying the top end of a Polaris missile. Speculation apart, Leeds has been declared a NUCLEAR FREE ZONE.
Leeds Other Paper 11/9/81

U.S. Dept. Of Transportation has admitted they NEVER have inspected ANY irradiated nuclear fuel shipping casks or any facilities shipping waste fuel. Also, Nuclear Regulatory Commission conducted a grand total(?) of TWO inspections in 1980.

Both these showed serious non compliance with NRC Regulations
WISE Sept.81

For information on 2nd European Anti-Uranium Conference held in W Germany in June, contact: G&G Winkler, Bahnhof strasse 37, 8664 Stammbach, W Germany.

Uranium Cycle cont'd Uranium from seawater?

A small pilot plant for recovering uranium from seawater is being built by the metal mining agency of Japan. The plant will yield 10kg per year, and the company plan to move toward commercial exploitation by the mid 1990's. The total uranium content of the oceans is estimated to be about 4 billion tonnes; 0.003 parts per million. NEI Sept 81

India/US fail to agree

No agreement has been reached between the two countries over supply of enriched uranium to India- further talks will take place in Washington soon. The US want rights to reprocess (ie extract the plutonium) India's waste. NEI Sept 81

Uranium Supply

September's NEI carries a long discussion on the Uranium Institute's report on supply and demand: roughly, they say things will be OK until the new century. We'll be stockpiling until the mid-80's, and using more thereafter. NEI Sept.

REPROCESSING

Gorleben goes on

Work on the reprocessing plant at Gorleben, W Germany, is expected to go ahead despite a refusal for planning permission. SERA News Autumn 81

Eurochemic to re-open?

This reprocessing plant in Belgium which operated from 1966-74 is under consideration to be re-opened by the government. A former worker who left in 1972 has published alarming and informative stories highlighting the inefficiency of the mechanical systems and the operators. The need for constant repairs and replacements gives rise to large quantities of contaminated waste and greater risk to workers. WISE Sept 81

WASTE

Assessing Waste Management Options

A detailed if inconclusive article on the West German research into the two alternatives (reprocessing or dumping of spent fuel) appears in NEI for September. Good quote: "If three fuel elements are stored per borehole, there is no hazard of criticality..... but whether it is technically possible to achieve a distance of 3m between boreholes needs to be examined more thoroughly." Great eh? We could be burying time-bombs.....

UKAEA seek waste dumps

The AEA is seeking land locations for permanent disposal of intermediate level nuclear waste, such as irradiated fuel casings, says Harwell's director of Research. They say heavy investment will soon be needed by BNFL and the generating boards to increase above-ground storage facilities unless dumping grounds are found. ER 18/9/81

Indian Waste Plant

The waste immobilization plant for highly active waste from Tarapur reprocessing plant is at an advanced stage of construction and should be commissioned next year. Underground dumping is intended in the long term. NEI Sept.

Sea Dumping

Campaign Against Sea Dumping says that the London Dumping Convention, Britain's basis for sea dumping, requires monitoring of dumping sites, which Britain is not doing, and also requires 'a justification as against land-based alternatives', which Britain has not given.

ATOM for September carries a long piece on dumping at sea, telling us how its quite alright- it doesn't mention the above, of course.

Local ecologists around Galacia in Spain are urging monitoring of the effects of dumping by Holland, Belgium, Luxemborg and Switzerland: local authorities in the area are pressing for more information to assure the public that fish from the area is safe to eat. T 22/9/81

WE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO HOLD OVER OUR SECTION " THE STATE, THE BUNKERS AND YOU"
'COS WE'VE RUN OUT OF SPACE.....IT'LL BE IN NEXT MONTH, PROMISE.

ATOMIC TIMES INDEXING

The idea of this indexing system is based on the assumption that people are using Atomic Times for information on specific and definable topics. This means that we are trying to ensure that everything on a specific topic will appear under one heading. Thus any conference resolutions on Cruise, say, technical developments, speeches in favour by Haig, long discussion articles will be found under the "Cruise" heading.

This system may mean that those using AT in a different way, eg for information about US Foreign Policy, will have to read through several sections: we will be cross-referencing at least the important stuff. The material is divided into the following sections, evolved from the old AT headings: we will try and keep sections in this order in the mag.

Information, Resources, Campaigns

Which group has which film for hire, new groups starting up, speakers available, useful publishers, and so on.

Weapons of War

Neutron, Cruise, MX, Trident, Chemical & Biological, theatre weapons, and so on. This section should be simple to write and to follow. It will also include material about the Non Proliferation Treaty (including stuff about the Iraqi reactor attack)

Third World War News

The diplomatic stuff. Nuclear Free Zones, NATO, US Foreign Policy (in general, rather than specific terms). War in the third world. What Gaddafi said, and what Reagan said next, etc.

The State, the Bunkers and You.

Civil Defence, civil liberties, nuclear police, media bias, minority rights, surveillance.

Radiation and Health

Low level radiation risks, fallout, medical evidence against weapons, aftermath of Hiroshima/Nagasaki.

Uranium Cycle

Sections on: Uranium mining & milling, Enrichment & Fuel fabrication, Transportation, Reprocessing, Waste Dumping. Stuff on Windscale will, however, appear under Nuclear Plant; cross-reading will be essential.

Nuclear Plant

Discussions of Safety matters; the nuclear plants world wide taken one by one. Major sections for Three Mile Island, Windscale, Sizewell, Magnox, etc. A section for Fast Reactors giving everything on that topic.

Nuclear Programme

Which country is buying what, and why, the National Nuclear Corporation/CEGB/UKAEA controversies, leaked Cabinet minutes, the International Atomic Energy Agency, and so on.

Energy Trends, Costs and Alternatives

Reports such as "Nuclear costs more than coal" (or vice versa!) Dept. of Energy statistics, and a classification of alternative energy news by type: solar, wind, geothermal etc.

Miscellaneous

Anything we can't fit in. We hope this section will be a short one!.

Our files of material will be based on this system, eventually sub-divided to make retrieval as easy as possible. This may all look very impressive, but it in fact will not be anything like adequate. However, we hope that it will at least make material a bit easier to find: we assume that users of Atomic Times will re-reference pieces as they see fit, eg with notes in the margins or whatever.

Atomic Times isn't ever going to have all the material involved on its own files- but at least we should know who has.

information sources

This listing is an attempt to provide a set of contact points for people searching for information on specific topics: we have had to invent virtually all the entries as our plea for information went largely unheeded. If you consider that your group constitutes a valuable information source, please tell us about it in as few words as you can..... If you are trying to organise your information, you must subscribe to Peace News, SCRAM Energy Bulletin, WISE, ADIU, Campaign!, oh and Atomic Times. Should you be limiting yourself to weapons or energy, choose any three out of five!

Alternative Times 35 Wedmore St, London N19, covers alternative energy happenings and more- £5 per year inc. post.

Alternative Research Bulletin lists research projects and ideas looking for workers, who's written what etc. c/o Energy Workshop, Dept. of Physical Sciences, Sunderland Poly, Chester Rd, Sunderland SRY 35D

Anti-Nuclear Campaign has a campaign bulletin for groups, a contacts list and library. Details from ANU, PO Box 216, Sheffield S1.

Armsament & Disarmament Information Unit, AFBU, Mantell Building, Sussex University, Brighton, do a bi-monthly bulletin. Its primary function is the collection, collation and dissemination of information relating to defence, disarmament and arms control. The report is free (I think)

Atom is the FREE monthly from the Atomic Energy Authority. Its mostly a propaganda sheet, but has some useful material and lovely glossy pictures. Every home should have one: Atom, Information Services Branch, UKAEA, 11 Charles II St, London SW1.

The BBC Send complaints about no War Game showing, etc, to Head of Programme Correspondence, BBC, Broadcasting House, London W1A 1AA.

Campaign! is the new CND groups journal. It is the maximum amount of information possible for its size, free to CND groups, 15p each bulk order- write for details. 11 Goodwin St, London N4.

Energy Trends comes free from the dept of Energy- pure statistics on energy use and distribution. DP (Direct Mail) Ltd, Unit 4, Mitcham Industrial Estate, Streatham Rd, Mitcham, Surrey.

Mediawatch aims to co-ordinate a really effective campaign against media bias on the issue of nuclear disarmament. Our particular aim is to help local peace groups to counter-act wilful distortions/smeared and inaccuracy due to ignorance, in both local and national media. If you wish to be on our mailing list, please send £2: see for more details. c/o CND, 6 Endsleigh St, London WCI

NATTA Network for Alternative Technology and Technological Assessment, does a bi-monthly bulletin of AT news and ideas, and has a lot of useful contacts: NATTA, ATG, Open Univers Milton Keynes, Bucks.

PARTIZANS People Against Rio Tinto Zinc and its Subsidiaries do a newsletter and have extensive contacts: 218 Liverpool Rd, London W1.

Peace News for non-violent revolution is a fortnightly, lots of anti-nuke material, events listing, useful articles. 30p, £1.50 for 5-issue trial, £10.80 per year. Peace News, 8 Elm Ave, Nottingham.

Routing Out Information sheet on waste transportation, information centre and contact point. 61a Strathleven Rd, London E2.

SCRAM Energy Bulletin is a bi-monthly journal for the anti-nuclear movement. Packed full of material, 30p per issue, £4 per year from SCRAM, 30 Frederick St Edinburgh EH2.

SERA Socialist Environment Resources Assoc are at 9 Poland St, London W1- quarterly journal, local groups working on aspects of environmental action.

Students Against Nuclear Energy 9 Poland St London W1 will direct you to their contact colleges, and help with any information.

Undercurrents The magazine of radical alternatives and Community Technology, is about to go monthly: full of useful articles on technological change, reviews etc. 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1. 60p- ask for sub details.

WISE World Information Service on Energy, Cowley Rd, Oxford OX4, publish a bi-monthly guide to anti-nuclear and alternative energy doings worldwide, distribute Keep It In the Ground (Uranium Mining) and have a news communiques service.

Atomic Times
Virginia House
Palace St.
Plymouth