

ANN conference



Anti-Nuclear Network conference

About thirty anti-nuclear activists from all over the country met in Cambridge on the Chernobyl anniversary weekend to discuss the state of the anti-nuclear power movement and plan for the future. There was a general feeling that the movement had declined in recent years. People may have become blasé about the issue, thinking wrongly that the industry is on its last legs. Other environmental issues such as the greenhouse effect, the rainforests and animal rights have come to the fore. Other activists have been putting their energy into political campaigns such as the anti-Poll Tax movement.

The big organisations such as Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace were criticised for not making the campaign against nuclear power a priority. A worker from Bristol CND spoke about the resolution on nuclear transport passed at the last CND conference.

The meeting broke up into three workshops (i) on health issues; (ii) on direct action; and (iii) on nuclear transport.

The health group discussed a questionnaire done by Dungeness Action Society of Hastings which received a favourable response from local doctors, who said a health survey should be done around the nuclear plant. Campaigning like this was a good way of involving people and putting the health risks of nuclear power across in an accessible way. Various pieces of official research into leukemias and childhood cancers have been done and political pressure should be put on the authorities to publish their findings. Many of these issues will be discussed at the forthcoming Low Level Radiation conference (see Diary).

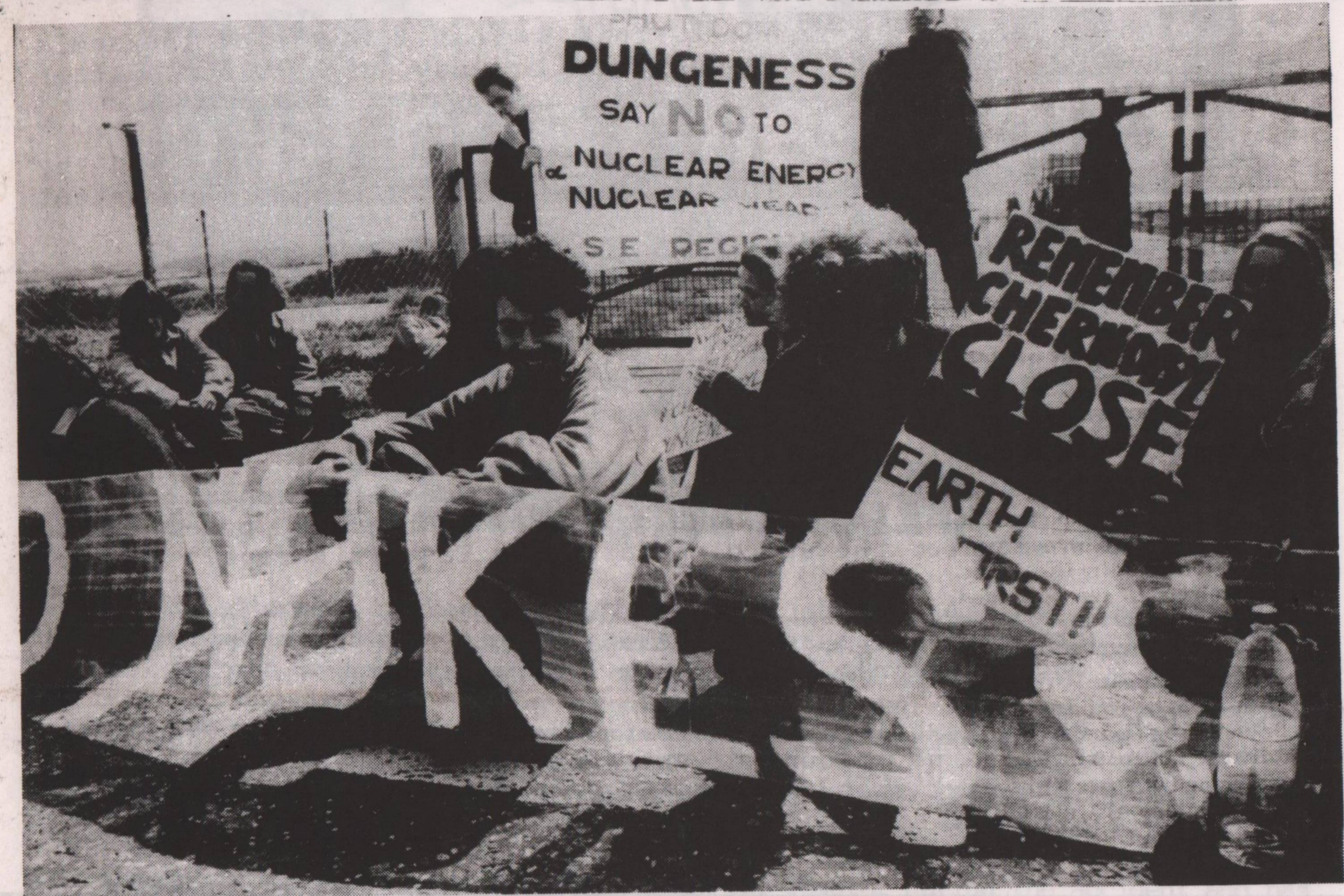
(ii) It was felt that a campaign of direct action was needed particularly around the PWR being built at Sizewell and at Sellafield. Firms supplying the Sizewell site could be picketed by groups in urban areas. The whole campaign against Sizewell needs to be revived again and the completion of the reactor should not be seen as inevitable.

(iii) The workshop on transport agreed to support a nationwide "marking the routes" day on October 12th (Windscale fire anniversary) called by CND and designed to highlight all nuclear transport routes both "civil" and "military" and the links between the two. Road, rail and sea routes were to be a focus for local actions. In preparation a network of contacts along the nuclear routes needs to be developed and links made with Polaris and Cruise Watch activists. Nuclear waste is now being transported on roll on- roll off passenger ferries across the channel and nuclear juggernauts are travelling along main roads, increasing the risks of accidents. With the THORP plant at Sellafield due to open soon the traffic from other countries will increase. If you want to join the transport network contact Claire Benjamin, Bristol CND on 0272 - 724 559.

The following groups attended the conference: Cambridge Anti-Nuclear Group, Cambridge Green Party; Cambridge FOE; East Anglian Alliance Against Nuclear Power; Norwich Sea Action; Brighton Sea Action; Earth First, Hastings; North London ANG; Hinkley Action Group; Pontyfract ANG; Bristol CND; Norwich CND.

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Members of the recently formed Earth First! group blockade the Dungeness power station to mark the fifth anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. See story Page 2.

THE BIG LIE

Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda minister, had a philosophy that went: "If you tell a big enough lie people will believe you." The world's nukiller mafia seems to invent its own propaganda in the same fashion. The International Atomic Energy Agency has just completed a report which incredibly claims that the Chernobyl accident produced "no health disorders that could be attributed directly to radiation exposure."

The I.A.E.A. established in 1957 to 'enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace health and prosperity throughout the world' is now propagating a scientific lie which ranks alongside 'the myth of the holocaust' as one of the biggest whoppers of the twentieth century.

The I.A.E.A. conclusion that "no health disorders could be attributed directly to radiation exposure" is hardly surprising since

Cont Page 2.

*The report excludes from the study over 700,000 people who were directly affected by the Chernobyl accident including 600,000 soldiers and miners involved in clean up operations and 100,000 people evacuated from Chernobyl after the accident.(virtually everybody directly affected by the accident)

* Researchers had no access to pre-accident health records, and were therefore unable to compare pre & post accident levels of illness.

*Researchers failed to acknowledge that increased levels of leukaemia would peak ten years after the accident and may not be visible after five years.

Thankfully other evidence exists apart from than that supplied by the I.A.E.A. to give the lie to their grossly incompetent report.

HOW does the I.A.E.A. explain that Vladimir Chernousenko the scientific director in charge of the 30km exclusion zone states that between 7000 & 10,000 people have died since the disaster, mainly soldiers and miners working to clean up the site?(Indeed Mr Chernousenko himself aged 50 has been given between two and four years to live because of his exposure to radiation.)

WHAT is the motivation of the I.A.E.A. to produce this report? Could it be that that I.A.E.A. seeks to promote nuclear power as a form cheap energy for the emerging market in Eastern Europe?

WHY did the I.A.E.A. refuse to admit Greenpeace observer John Willis (until he arrived and refused to leave) when Greenpeace International operates a medical clinic for victims of the disaster in Kiev?

The A.N.N. and the whole anti-nuclear movement knows the answer to these questions- no amount of whitewash can disguise the Chernobyl sarcophagus. The next step is to consign nuclear power to the dustbin of history.

EARTH FIRST! BLOCKADES DUNGENESS NUCLEAR POWER STATION.

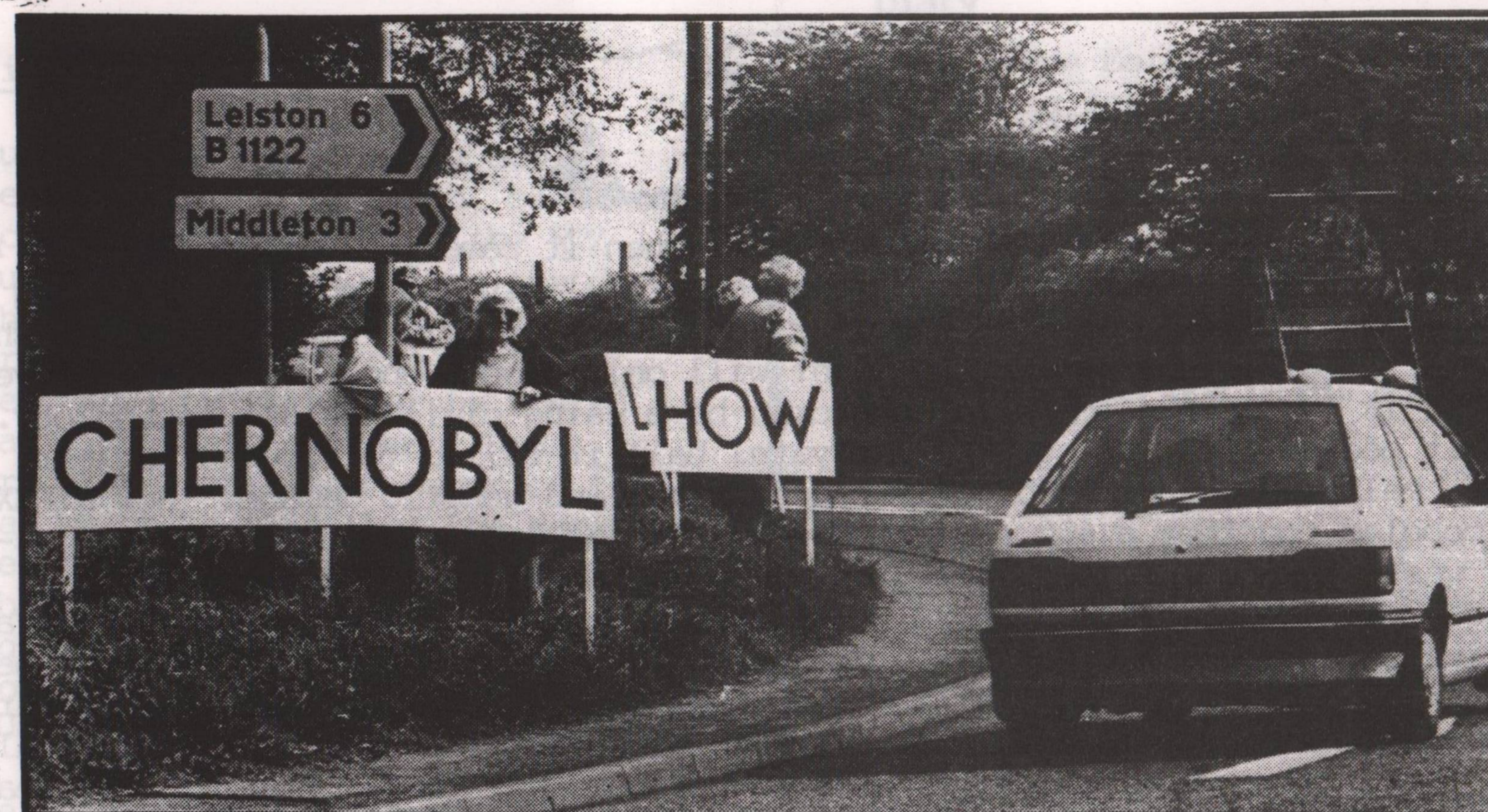
Earth First activists from Sussex and London blockaded Dungeness nuclear power station on the fifth anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The group of thirty people succeeded in stopping the flow of traffic into the power station for 90 minutes. There were no arrests.

Nuclear Electric has recently proposed to extend the life of the two Magnox reactors within Dungeness 'A' by a further fifteen years. This would bring the intended lifespan of the reactors to twice that for which they were designed. Earth First is campaigning for the immediate decommissioning of both Dungeness 'A' and 'B' power stations which have both suffered numerous leaks, shutdowns and other accidents since they were built.

Nuclear power is not the only threat to the fragile ecology of the Dungeness area. The Dungeness shingle bank is home to over 600 species of flora and fauna some of which are rare. The area is recognised as a Grade 1 Site of Special Scientific Interest (S.S.S.I).

Despite this, the activities of the Ministry of Defence at Lydd ranges and the aggregate mining operations of Amey Roadstone Co and others, continue to destroy the unique environment at Dungeness.

For more information on Earth First, the Dungeness action camp and other anti-nuclear activities please contact: Earth First, 107 Manor Road, Hastings, E.Sussex. Or phone Jake on 0424 444048.



"Five years since Chernobyl - how long till Sizewell?" was the message carried by members of the Shut Down Sizewell Campaign on the A12 at Yoxford on 26th April. Four people were arrested the following day at the site and charged with criminal damage.

REMEMBER

The horrific aftermath of Chernobyl was back to us in May when two programmes "Inside the Sarcophagus" and "The Children of Chernobyl" were shown on television. Perhaps this will help to overcome the present apathy in the anti-nuclear movement and persuade people of the importance of the fight against nuclear power. Everyone in this country is within 100 miles of a nuclear reactor. It could happen. How easily we forget.

The first programme showed the dangerous and impossible task facing scientists who are trying to contain the fallout from the stricken reactor. We watched men dressed in totally inadequate protective clothing - cotton wool masks and woolen gloves - tracking the radioactive molten lava which erupted from the reactor during the accident and has penetrated deep into the centre of the building. Some of these men are sick - 7-10 thousand are thought to have died - mostly miners and soldiers who were brought in to clear up the immediate aftermath of the explosion. The sarcophagus building is breaking apart. Birds fly in and out through giant holes. The reactor lid is perched precariously over huge swathes of radioactive dust containing plutonium, uranium, strontium and caesium, and is set to fall - kicking up a huge radioactive cloud.

The second programme was about the Russian children who have been born and grown up since the accident. Five days after the disaster the people of nearby Kiev, turned out to cheer the Mayday parade. No-one had warned them about the contamination. In Pripjat and Yanov, only a few kilometres away from Chernobyl, inhabitants were evacuated but only after they had received hours of exposure to high radiation levels. Thousands of pregnant women were advised to have abortions and many children have developed cancer as a result of Chernobyl. The programme showed youngsters dying of cancers and prevented from walking or playing in a countryside that has become a nuclear waste site.

This is the legacy of Chernobyl. The fifth anniversary should be a time to renew our campaign against the newkiller madness.

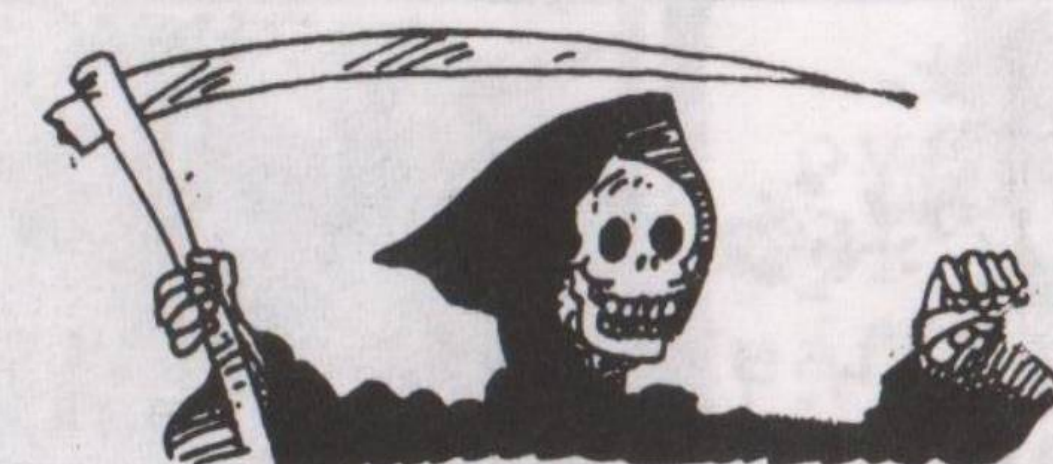
CHERNOBYL

Tales from the Sarcophagus

Time Bandits

The nukiller power mafia is no Nostradamus when it comes to foretelling the future. Indeed its prophecies have proved spectacularly and consistently wrong - consider the following gems: "nuclear energy will provide electricity too cheap to meter", "a serious nuclear accident will only happen once every 100,000 years" and "it is impossible to build an atomic bomb using civil nuclear technology." When it peered into its corporate crystal ball it failed to foresee nuclear fires, meltdowns, increased child cancer rates and genetic damage. Now NIREX has cobbled together a 600 page assessment of the long term behaviour of nuclear waste taking into consideration climatic, geological and demographic change over the next 5,000 years! All this to prove that its safe to build a massive underground nuclear waste dump at Sellafield. The Government and the nuclear gang claim the dump will only result in 0.1 MSV a year for any of our descendants who have managed to survive until AD 10,000. This in itself would be a moral and ecological crime but when you consider that Sellafield has leaked like a sieve over the past 35 years it seems almost certain that an accident involving major radioactive contamination of the environment will occur long before the next Ice Age.

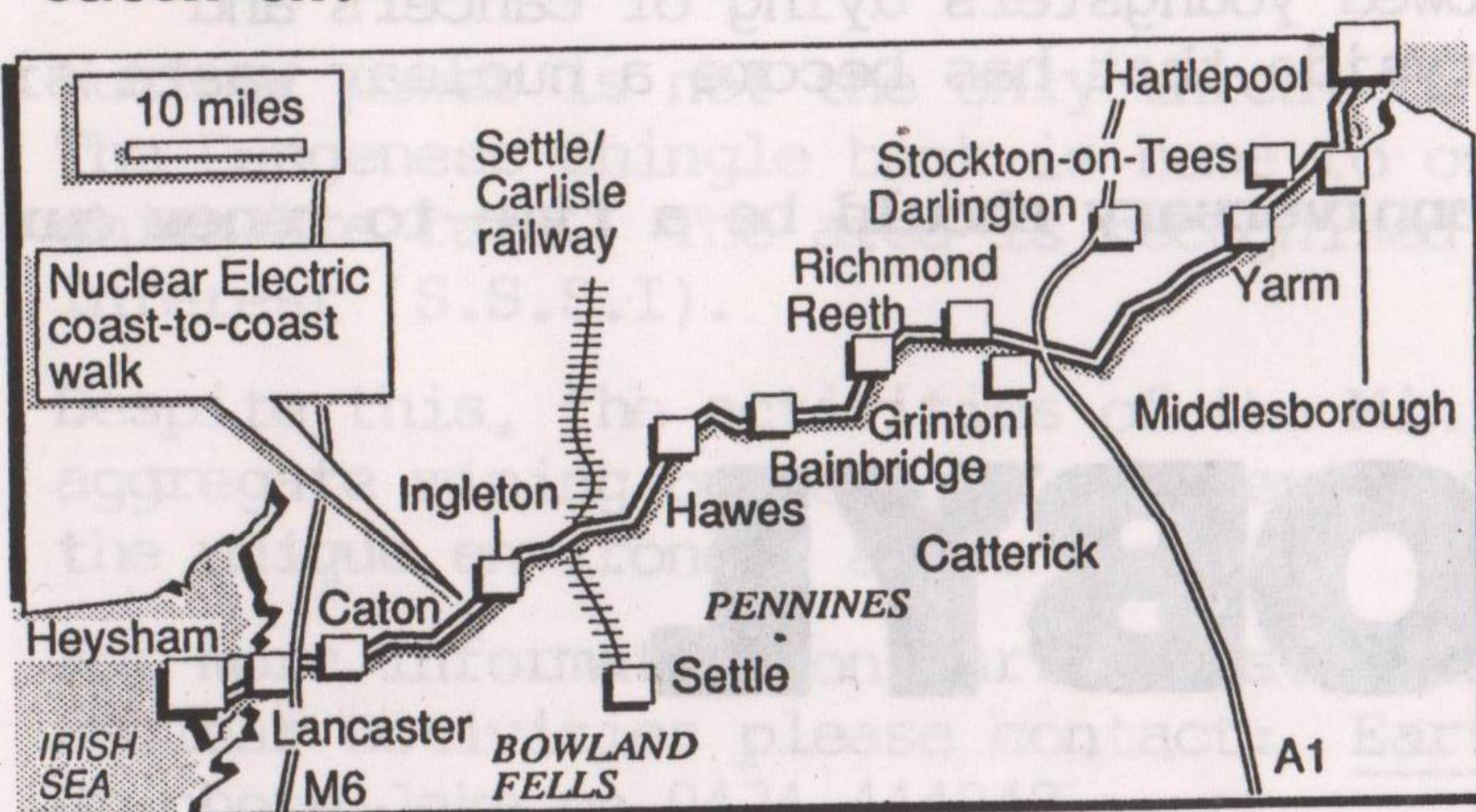
Demon Strater



The Nuclear Ramble

"I'm a rambler, I'm a rambler
From Hartlepool way.
I'm glowing all over
On the long nuclear way.
I walk down to Heysham on Sunday
And I'm radioactive on Monday."

The new nuclear coast to coast foot path from Hartlepool to Heysham, spanning 100 miles, is now open. Nuclear activists may like to put on their boots and see for themselves how well nuclear power stations blend with the landscape and enhance the countryside! So whose mad idea was this? The answer is a certain Dr Peter Nolan, whose job it is to sell a clean image of Nuclear Electric, the part of the electricity industry which the Government was unable to sell. Given that most rambblers have an interest in preserving the environment, this particular footpath seems unlikely to catch on.



Fission chip supper

Foods like pizza containing compound ingredients, such as spicy sausage with irradiated herbs and spices will not have to carry the irradiation label - unless the compound ingredient was added at 25% or above, according to the Ministry of Agribusiness & Fucked-up Food.

Spices seemed to be one area where the nukiller industry backing food irradiation had won the argument. The previous method of cleaning herbs and spices used ethylene oxide, which leaves behind a potentially cancer causing residue, and was banned by the EC in 1989. Although the EC Parliament rejected food irradiation at the last discussion, an exception was made in the case of herbs and spices. Now, however there are several processes being patented which use steam processes to kill bacteria.

Britain is one of the countries pushing the EC Parliament to extend food irradiation across Europe, claiming that countries such as Germany and Sweden which still ban irradiated food are erecting artificial trade barriers.

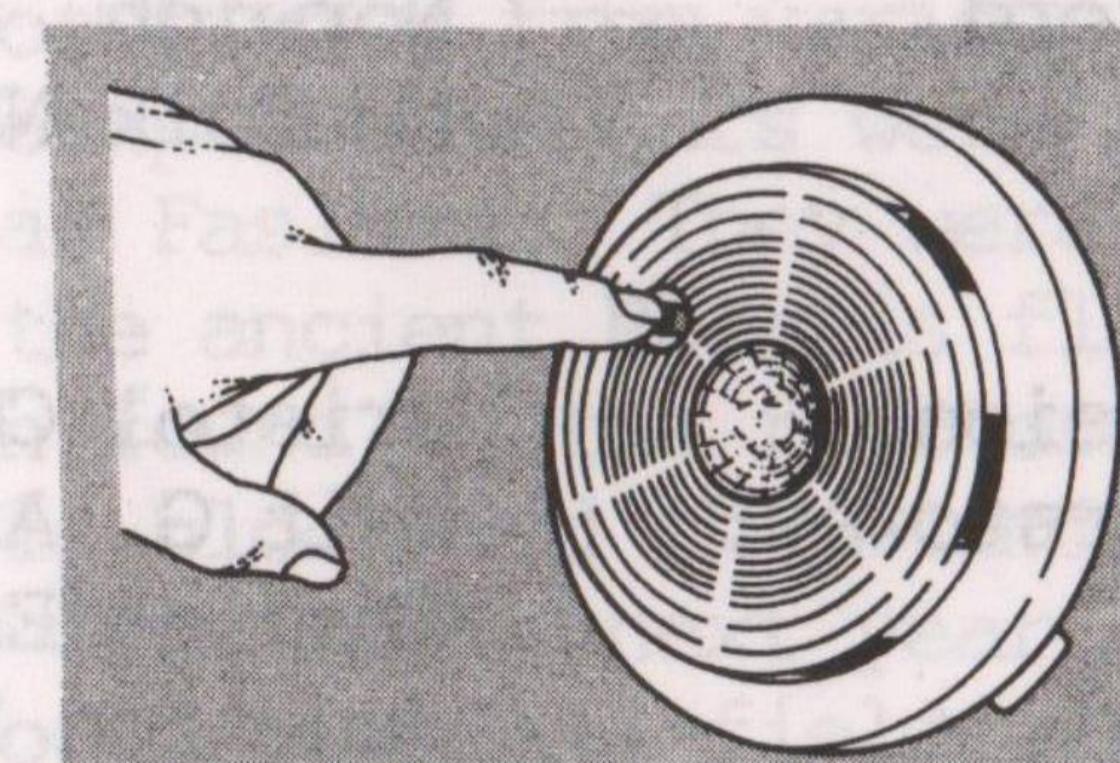
For more information contact: London Food Commission, tel 071-253 9513.



Play it again, Sam.

Sam Nujoma, President of the newly independent state of Namibia, seems to have changed his tune about the RTZ uranium mine at Rossing since the days when he was a SWAPO militant fighting the previous South African backed regime. Earlier this year he hosted a special dinner at Government House in honour of the retiring manager of the mine at which he said that the Namibian people were "extremely proud of Rossing" and that "not enough" people were buying Rossing uranium. He appealed to the world to buy Namibian uranium now that UN sanctions have been lifted.

Whether his enthusiasm is shared by the workforce at Rossing who have just lodged a 21% pay claim, is another story. The National Union of Mineworkers claim that RTZ have been paying white workers more for the same work as blacks and that blacks have been repeatedly passed over for promotion. When challenged at this years AGM, RTZ chairman Alistair Frame claimed that RTZ has "no discrimination in its workforce in any operation anywhere in the world". So that's alright then. Source - PARTIZANS



Smoke signals

The Smoke Detectors Bill, which is going through Parliament at the moment, will require all new homes in England & Wales to be built with the devices fitted. Unfortunately, the majority of smoke detectors (those which work on an ionisation principle) contain a small radioactive source of Americium 241. Although the source is shielded in the alarm, eventually the detectors will be disposed of, most probably ending up on municipal dumps where the Americium 241 will leach into the soil. With many millions of smoke alarms now installed this could become a serious problem. There are other types of detectors which work on a photoelectric principle but these are generally more expensive and it is unlikely that builders will install them as standard in new homes. Three photoelectric types on the market and tested by "Which" are BRK 2001 I; First Alert SA 2001 I and Superswitch 1352.

Diary

21-23 June Earth First! summer solstice gathering for Green & peace activists. The Hollow Field, Pannel Lane, Pett nr Hastings, East Sussex. Please bring camping gear, food, firewood, water & enthusiasm. Contact Jake 0424-444048.

22/23 June International Standing Conference on Low Level Radiation & Health. The Council House, College Green, Bristol. Info: 0272-223344.

20/21 July Action against Military Tattoo at Fairford, Gloucestershire. Contact Dave Polden 071-700 2393. Mobilisation pack from Bristol CND (see address list) - please send SAE.

12 October Marking the routes day of action on nuclear transport. See conference article, back page.

2 November The 1991 London Greenpeace Fair. Help needed to organise this usually successful event - see address list for contact.

The Anti-Nuclear Network can now send and receive E-mail (electronic mail). Anyone who is a subscriber to GreenNet or who can access GreenNet from another system (e.g Telecom Gold, Prestel or Janet) can communicate with the anti-nuclear newsletter using the GreenNet address - annews (use lower case). All electronic and non-electronic communications welcome!

Please note our new address

Anti-Nuclear Network
c/o 265 Seven Sisters Rd,
Finsbury Park
London N4 2DE

affiliate/subscribe

- I/We support the aims of the Anti-Nuclear Network and wish to affiliate to the campaign
- I wish to subscribe to the Anti-Nuclear Network Newsletter
- I wish to get involved with a local group

Name.....

Organisation.....

Address.....

Tel.....

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

Anti-Nuclear groups in Britain

This is a list of groups known to be still active. If you want to be included in the next list or correct any mistakes please contact us. If you are interested in setting up a local then we have a list of contacts in most areas.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Anti-Nuclear Network
c/o 265 Seven Sisters Road,
London N4 2DE. | Greenpeace International,
30-31 Islington Green,
London N1 8XE.
071- 354 5100 | Friends of the Earth,
26-28 Underwood Street,
London N1.
071-490 1555 |
| Campaign for Nuclear Disarm-
ament,
162 Holloway Road,
London N7 8DQ.
071-700 2393. | Consumers Against Nuclear
Energy,
PO Box 697,
London NW1 8YQ. | People Against Rio Tinto
Zinc AND its Subsidiaries,
218 Liverpool Road,
London N1 1LE.
071-609 1852 |
| Food Irradiation Campaign,
London Food Commission,
88 Old Street, London EC1.
071-253 9513 | London Greenpeace,
5 Caledonian Road,
London N1.
071-837 7557 | Cambridge ANG,
c/o FOE, Bath House,
Gwydir Street,
Cambridge. |
| Earth First!,
107 Manor Road,
Hastings,
East Sussex TN34 3LP.
0424-444 048 | Dungeness Action Society
of Hastings,
201 Priory Road,
Hastings,
East Sussex TN34 3JB.
0424-429 795 | Brighton Sea Action,
c/o The Peace Centre,
28 Trafalgar Street,
Brighton,
East Sussex BN1 4ED. |
| Shut Down Sizewell Campaign,
Tudor House,
St. James Street, Dunwich,
Suffolk IP17 3DU.
0728-73 300 | East Anglian Alliance
Against Nuclear Power,
12 Groveside, Yoxford,
Suffolk IP17 3HT.
0728-778 105 | The Greenhouse,
48 Bethel Street,
Norwich,
Norfolk NR2 1NR. |
| Hinkley Action Group,
11 Britannia Road,
Easton,
Bristol BS5. | Stop Hinkley Expansion,
Hockpitt Farm, Overstowey,
Bridgewater,
Somerset TA5 1EX. | Bristol CND,
Unit G, Amos Castle
Trading Estate,
Junction Road,
Bristol BS4.
0272-724 559 |
| Exeter ANN,
Box 186, Flying Post,
1 Parliament Street,
Exeter, Devon. | Plymouth ANN,
PO Box 105,
Plymouth, Devon. | Plymouth Nuclear Dump
Information Group,
71 Copse Road,
Drunken Bridge Road,
Underwood, Plympton,
Plymouth PL7 3QB.
0752-337 482 |
| Tavistock Peace Action
Group,
51 West Street,
Tavistock, Devon. | Mid-Somerset CND
12 Neales Way,
Evercreech, Shepton Mallet,
Somerset BA4 6LA. | |
| Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance,
PO Box 1,
Llandrindrod,
Powys LD1 5AA.
09824- 362 | POW CND/NOW! Group,
c/o Students Union,
Biko Mandela Building,
Forest Grove, Trefforest,
Pontypridd, Mid-Glamorgan. | People Against Wylfa B,
10 Tan y Bonc,
Porthaethy,
Gwynedd. |
| CND Cymru,
56 Bryn Aeron,
Dunvant, Swansea SA2.
0222-832 275 | West Midlands CND,
54 Allison Street,
Digbeth, Birmingham B5.
021-643 4617 | Merseyside NVDA group,
c/o 24 Hardman Street,
Liverpool L1 9AX.
051-708 7764 |
| Spotlight on Springfields,
18 Yewlands Drive,
Garstang, Lancs. | Campaign Against Plutonium
Transportation,
26 Morris Road, Prestwick. | Lancashire Against Nuclear
Dumping, 35 Ullswater Ave,
Morecambe, Lancs. |

NEWS ROUND-UP

April

- 9: Officers on six nuclear waste ships heading for Sellafield ended their strike.
- 10: Bulgaria has been allowed by the World Atomic Energy Producers to use parts from a clapped out East German nuclear plant (closed last year for safety reasons).
- 11: Germany's supreme court has ordered the Red/Green government of Lower Saxony to proceed with plans to store nuclear waste in a disused iron-ore mine.
- 17: Soviet scientists have expressed fears that a second nuclear accident could happen at Chernobyl. They have evidence that the steel and concrete sarcophagus built around the stricken reactor is starting to crumble.
- 19: The UKAEA, playing down stories that 10,000 people have already died in the USSR as a result of Chernobyl, claim that as "few" as 40,000 are likely to die worldwide.
- 26: More than half a million sheep on 738 farms in Britain are still "restricted" owing to their continuing contamination with Caesium 137 from Chernobyl.
- 26: Mr Ryan, speaking for a British consortium engaged in resettling victims of Chernobyl, has said that up to 5 million people will still have to be evacuated from Byelorussia and the Ukraine. Kiev, a city of 3 million people, may have to be abandoned.
- 28: Algeria has embarked on a nuclear program which will produce enough plutonium to build one nuclear bomb per year. China is providing technical assistance.
- 30: The Health & Safety Executive have said that radiation doses for nuclear workers should be cut by a third to 15 millisiverts per year.

May

- 16: Tests in Melbourne on 47 children from the Chernobyl area found that 70% had enlarged thyroid glands and symptoms of radiation sickness.
- 6: Scottish councils are to hire a Soviet research ship to check the coastal waters for radioactivity from various nuclear facilities including Sellafield.
- 14: Three Greenpeace members were arrested after boarding the nuclear submarine Revenge at Faslane. They were protesting against the Government's policy of keeping the ancient Polaris fleet at sea - despite reports that serious cracks have been found in the reactors.
- 15: 400 people blockaded the Birmingham Arms Fair. The council has agreed not to hold the fair again next year.
- 16: GEC is to supply Sellafield with a Combined Heat & Power station.
- 22: An IAEA report claims that "stress caused by Perestroika" is responsible for health problems around Chernobyl.
- 28: Czechoslovakia is to close the nuclear plant at Jaslovske on the Austrian border.

June

- 3: NIREX has selected Sellafield rather than Dounreay as the site for an underground dump for highly radioactive waste.

Anti-Nuclear groups in Britain (continued)

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| Crewe ANN,
58 Flag Lane,
Crewe, Cheshire. | Chester CND,
39 Watling Crescent,
Handbridge, Chester,
Cheshire CH4 7HD. | Cumbrians Opposed to a
Radioactive Environment,
98 Church Street,
Barrow in Furness,
Cumbria LA14 2JH. |
| Cleveland Against a
Radioactive Environment,
15 Cliff Terrace,
Hartlepool TS24 0PU. | Tyneside Anti-Nuclear
Campaign,
1 Charlotte Square,
Newcastle Upon Tyne NE4 6EB. | Chapelcross Watchdog &
Action Group,
Bankhead Cottage,
Canonbie,
Dumfriesshire. |
| Scottish Campaign to
Resist the Atomic Menace,
11 Forth Street,
Edinburgh EH1 3LE.
031-557 4283 | Highland ANG,
Kirkness, Milton,
Drumadrochit,
Inverness-shire. | |