

NUCLEAR FREE

and INDEPENDENT

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NO 1.

This is a long story I have to tell....

Not so long ago something happened in Bristol.WOW!! A group of individuals got together and squatted a building turning it into a cafe and meeting place.It all went very well-no hierachy,no leaders or committees;people organising themselves and making use of a neglected building for more useful,community activities. Perhaps you've seen it(The Demolition Diner)or visited it one time.

All went well while we were fighting the council's eviction order,we were together! All different people demanding a space,a place to share ideas to present alternatives,to do things! But after we won..... things were alright.It worked,but only for a while. Instead of using the building to it's maximum use,co-operation between people broke d down.

It's upsetting that this is how it turned out after starting with such enthusiasm such energy and so much promise People were hating each other back biting,spreading malicious gossip and actually physically attacking each other while the world outside the cafe door was much the same,So why take the double dose? Why have to incessantly justify your existance in a group of like minded individuals,friends!?(and be attacked just the same) when you are having to do it this everyday of your life anyway!

So there was a split. Some people stayed behind and carried on running the cafe but that has fragmented now.

One of the activities going on at the Diner was the Anarcho-Feminist group meetings & the production of a magazine called 'Hysteria'. When personal differences first arose within the @ group it didn't effect the @-F group.We were bringing out 'Hysteria' regularly, having wimmin's evenings, learned how to do some plumbing & held an Anarcho-Feminist conference.

Gradually, the strain of having to cope with the oppressive depressive atmosphere was too much to take.

I felt I could no longer contribute to the group,that 'Hysteria' could be different (give more news than 'feelings) There was bitterness creeping into everyone.So we split up as well.

Now that time has elapsed, people have organised themselves into smaller groupings.Just because there is a split it doesn't mean that is the end! You can build on that experience and do something constructive!(even the Diner has opened again)

I hear that 'Hysteria' will appear soon.Meanwhile @ wimmin bring out this little contribution.....

C O N T E N T S

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P 4. The Dark Side of Paradise....The story of the Pacific Region.

P 9. NF & IP - Bristol event- Two Pacific wimmin,speak.

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If you want to contribute,please write to @ Wimmin, BOX 10, 110 Cheltenham Rd Bristol 6. AVON.

WIMMIN BEWARE!

It cannot be stressed enough how dangerous Depo-Provera can be.It sounds such a great idea - 3 monthly injection,nothing to worry about,no mess no bother. Whatever lifestyle women lead it'd be great not to have to think about it or have any niggling doubts every time you have sex. "Is it safe?".It feels like that question has been asked for centuries,about the contraceptives that there are.There's always the same answer...Not all contraceptives are 100% safe.Neither are they healthy.Think about it,putting all those chemicals into our bodies,either by the Pill or by injection can't be doing us any good?

I remember watching a documentary some years ago where a woman,in the UK was talking about having the injection and how her periods had stopped completely.I thought they'd banned it!

Depo-Provera along with many other drugs are tried out on Third World countries, the 'guinea pigs' of the multi-national pharmaceutical industries.Now it seems with increased awareness, some communities and groups are refusing many of these drugs(Women in Bangladesh now refuse to be injected with D-P.

But,since April '84 D-P has had a long term licence for use in this country. Upjohn,the notorious multi-national company have been encouraging doctors to promote it.Of course the same racist attitudes that used wimmin in the Third World as experiments,are used in this country on Black and Asian wimmin.It must be noted that for them D-P is

useful if they don't want their husbands or family to find out.

Bristol Depo-Provera has been offered to womyn in Bristol for quite a while now(e.g. Hogg,Hogg & Hogg in Kingswood) and I know that a young pregnant woman had been offered it without knowing about the side effects or the possible danger to her child.

As well as Upjohn's Depo-Provera there are at least 4 other injectable contraceptives. NET-OEN(also known as Noristerat or Noriget) manufactured by Schering and only available in Britain for testing purposes.It has similar adverse effects as D-P but is injected every 2(instead of 3) months.So beware if you are offered this.

The other three are; FARLUTOL from Italy. PHENO M by Vesco Pharmaceuticals in Thailand and a Mexican produced monthly injection(name unknown) Little information is available on these three at the moment.



If you would like to get more information about Depo-Provera or share your own experiences of it contact; Bristol Women's Health group through the Wimmin's Centre, Bristol 22760

or Depo-Provera Group Bristol 541248

Also there is a useful and informative booklet available called 'Who needs Depo-Provera?' by Marge Berer from the Community Rights Project 157 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8XF. Price -£1.

This article written about the Pacific Region is intended as both a sharing of some information which seems scarce here in Europe and also to voice a concern that if we are to be successful in bringing about true peace then we cannot afford to ignore any part of the problem.

People striving for peace here in Europe must recognize the role that the Pacific Region plays in the global nuclear strategy and understand the immense importance of what the Pacific Peoples are contributing to world peace. It is no overstatement to say that if we can make the Pacific truly pacific (peaceful) again we will take a huge step towards Global Peace. Although European Peace Peoples are attempting to look beyond their own immediate problems to conceive of the problem as something greater than Cruise and Pershing Missiles this process is slow. As the nuclearization of the Pacific Region is directly linked to the nuclearization of Europe and thus affects the lives of all Europeans there is a danger of being single focussed on the Euro-missiles. We can so easily forget to look behind the screen that the media presents us with.

The Pacific Region, one third of the Earth's surface and consisting of Australia, New Zealand; Japan, the Philippines and Hawaii as well as the North and South Pacific Islands, is that area of the world that has been, and continues to be, inflicted with every aspect of the nuclear power and armaments industry. From Uranium-mining to Nuclear Weapons Deployment this includes uranium-processing, nuclear power plants and 'fast breeders' waste dumping, testing of nuclear weapons and missiles, Command/Control/Co-ordination/Navigation and Intelligence Facilities, and the Transport and Stationing of nuclear powered and armed submarines, ships, and airplanes. And above all this is the colonial imperialism and oppression of a gentle, peaceful people, the indigenous peoples of the Pacific, now nomadic refugees in their own world and forced to live in slums where life is meaningless and diseased. It is this colonial control by European and American governments that allows the actuality of a nuclear war, now 38 years old, to be practiced against the Pacific Peoples and allows that region to become a First-Strike Target in the event of Global Nuclear War.

The reality of the Pacific Region is in direct contrast to that portrayed by the tourist posters. The reality is the DARK SIDE OF PARADISE!

Although it is not possible here to go into detail on each aspect of the nuclear cycle as found in the Pacific Region the opportunity is taken to point out that whilst it is in the Northern Hemisphere that the main nuclear armed Nations lie it is in the Southern Hemisphere and Central Pacific that the production and support of the weapons systems are to be found. One should remember that all parts of the nuclear cycle are inextricably linked, no one part can be ignored.

The nuclear cycle begins with Uranium Mining. Australia, a rim country of the Pacific Region, has 20% of the western world's reserves of high-grade uranium ore and although at present it only supplies 2% it has contracts with many European countries with the USA, Canada, Japan and South Korea and is indirectly linked with many others. Australia also supplies 33 other strategic minerals the most important being Zircon, needed in the nuclear-fuel cycle and thus directly linked with nuclear weapons, of which it has 97% of the Western World's supply. Although there are other places within the Pacific Region supplying these primary ores of the armaments industry Australia, with the world's largest deposits, has a particular responsibility. There are many problems associated with uranium mining but the most unique to Australia is the oppression of the Aboriginal People. The blatant destruction of the environment and the desecration of their sacred places which has occurred throughout the 200 years that Australia has been colonized by white Europeans, and continues today, has caused the destruction of much of the Aboriginal culture and economy and is aiming towards the total elimination of a whole people. Uranium-mining is a major and effective step towards that goal.

The next step, for the Pacific Region, in the nuclear cycle are the nuclear power stations and 'fast breeders'. Located in the USA, Korea, Japan, China and the Philippines these stations are polluting the Pacific Ocean and affecting all life in that region. In addition to this threat is the possibility of building ocean platforms for nuclear power plants which is presently being researched. There is no need to stress the problems arising from these power industries because they are found in Europe too.

From the power industries however come nuclear waste and it is the dumping of this in the Pacific Ocean that causes a problem unique to the region. Since nuclear waste dumping began in 1946 with the USA government extremely high levels of radiation have occurred in many places, often polluting rich fishing waters and thereby entering the food-chain of the Pacific Community. In 1981 the Japanese government, despite wide spread protest from other Pacific Countries, began dumping it's waste in the Northern Mariana Islands (south of Japan). But the USA and Japan are not alone, all the main nuclear powers have been charged with dumping their nuclear wastes into the Pacific and/or Atlantic Oceans. In addition to this dumping are the radioactive liquid waste discharged by the nuclear powered submarines and warships based and operating in the Pacific and the threat of the USA Navy planning to dump 100 decommissioned nuclear submarines into the Eastern Pacific. The polluting effects of this dumping on human and planetary life has been recognised by the European Peoples as so severe that they have continuously refused permission for it to occur in the European Arena. Now European voices must join in protest with those of the Pacific Peoples being poisoned by a waste they did not create, nor are responsible for.

The next step is Testing of Nuclear Weapons. Although there is a growing European awareness of the French involvement in the Polynesian Islands (called 'French' Polynesia) there is still little known of the activities of the USA, Britain, China or the USSR. Since testing was begun in 1945 at Hiroshima and Nagasaki by the USA there have been over 220 tests. An average of 6 each year! This is tantamount to a 38 year old nuclear war! While France continues it's nuclear tests at Moruroa, Polynesia, at a rate of 12 each year and the USSR and China test fire their missiles into the area the USA tests both bombs and missiles into the North Pacific mainly at Kwajalein Atoll, in the Marshall Islands, which is also the testing site of the MX missile. The history of USA testing in the Marshall Islands is a study of 66 explosions all much more powerful than the Hiroshima/Nagasaki bombs which have caused the total evaporation of 6 islands and a birth deformity rate of 75%. In the 1950s the British also tested in the Pacific Region, in particular in Central Australia where without warning to the Aboriginal People who were living in that region they conducted 9 nuclear tests. No compensation has yet been given to these people for the sufferings these tests have caused. Everywhere nuclear tests have been made in the Pacific the indigenous peoples have not been consulted or warned and no concern has been given to their well-being. In reality the Pacific Peoples are being used as guinea pigs in a nuclear experimentation. Again this would never be allowed in Europe.

Yet paramount to all of this is the concern that the Pacific is a major site of massive USA deployment of nuclear systems designed to form a First-Strike Option. Only through the construction of an extensive network of bases, ports, airfields and communication facilities has the USA been able to progress towards it's First-Strike capability. And nowhere is this network more evident than in the Pacific. Here is based the Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) weapons system and major Command/Control/Communication and Intelligence (C³I) operations for the global strategic plan. As a weapons system is only as effective as it's C³I support and for a First-Strike to be successful the destruction of the opponents ballistic missile submarines is essential these bases have implications which should be of particular concern to Europeans involved in any attempts to overcome the problem of the possibility of First-Strike.

C³I facilities in the Pacific and Indian Oceans will play an indispensable role in any US launched First-Strike attack. Hawaii basing the largest C³I center in the Pacific and is headquarters of the US Military Command (PACOM) which governs almost one half, 50%, of the Earth's surface is in direct support of the Rapid Deployment Force designed to operate any where in the world but particularly focussed on the Middle East, a possible starting point of a global nuclear war.

MARIANAS TRENCH

- * Japan plans to dump 60 million gals. of RADIOACTIVE WASTE per year from 1985.
- * Will become the nuclear powers' 'solution' to the unsolved disposal problem.
- * Radiation will build up in the food chain causing increased incidence of still births, handicapped children, thyroid cancer and leukaemia.

MICRONESIA

- * Micronesia has been a UN 'Strategic' Trust Territory of the US since 1947.
- * The Micronesians have since come to realise that Americans have turned them into guinea pigs and are destroying their culture and ecosystem, while preventing independence.

MARSHALL ISLANDS

- * Islanders removed from their homelands.
- * Site of 66 nuclear tests since '47 by US.
- * March 1 1954 1st H bomb tested on Bikini Is. - wind direction caused fall-out on nearby Rongelap.
- * 6 islands completely 'evaporated'.
- * 75% native food contaminated
- * 90% of children who were under 12 in 1954 suffer from thyroid tumours.
- * 8,000 displaced islanders on 66 acres of Ebeye Is. - called 'slum of the Pacific'. Lagoon so polluted that US public health declared it 25,000 times above min. safety standard.

JAPAN and PHILIPPINES

- * NUCLEAR REACTORS sited in areas of high volcanic activity.

GUAM

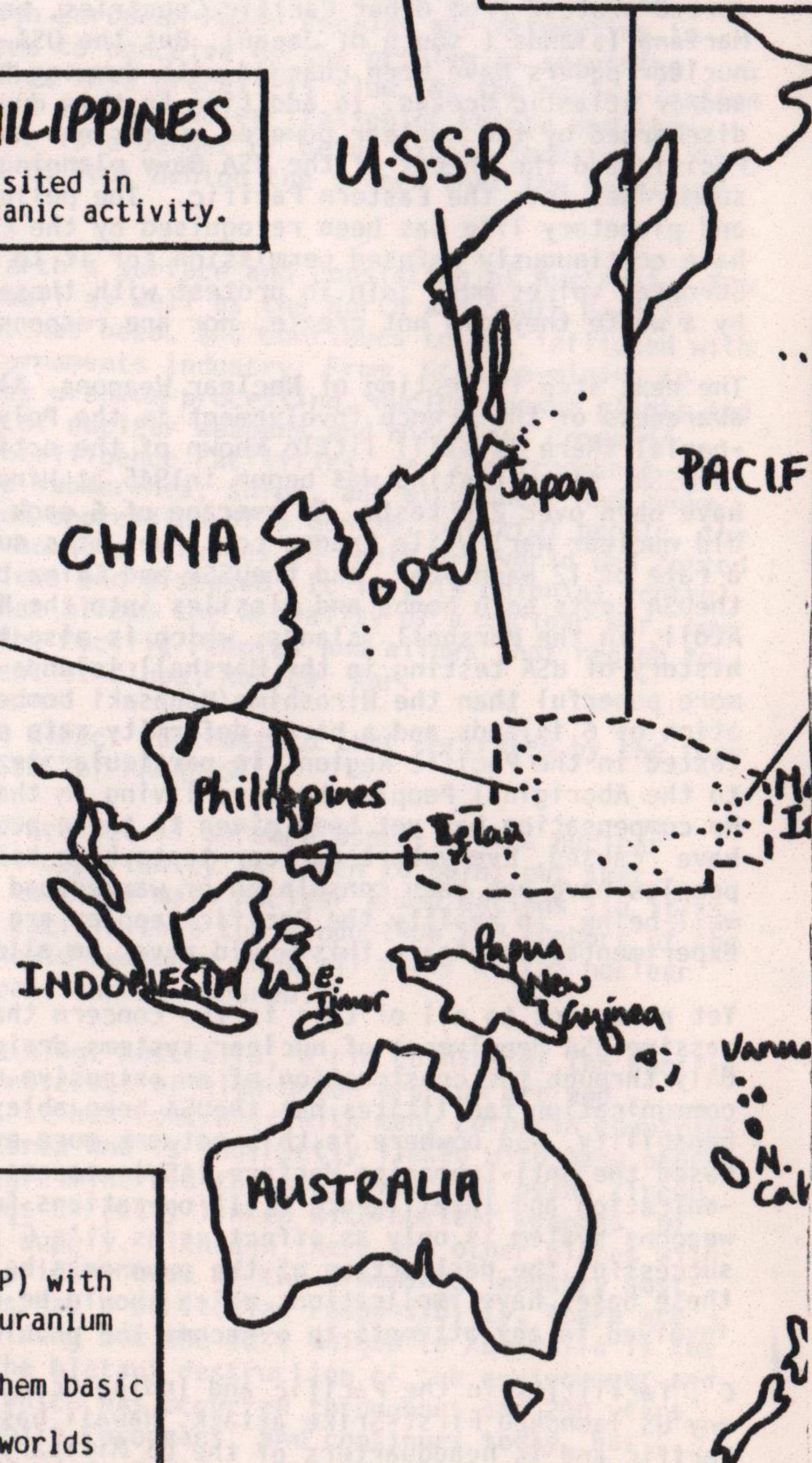
- * US colony and military base.
- * Base for TRIDENT
- * Impact of US military includes poverty, drug addiction and child prostitution.

BELAU

- * US military plan to take over 1/3 of island in opposition to popular nuclear free constitution.
- * Will be forward base for TRIDENT.

AUSTRALIA

- * Multinationals (eg. RTZ and now BP) with co-operation from the Govt. mine uranium on Aboriginal land - ignore their culture and deny them basic human rights.
- * Newest mine, Roxby Downs, will be worlds largest.
- * Many vital subterranean water supplies are now radioactive.



been a UN 'Strategic' administered by the

at first welcomed 'peacemaking' admin., but to realise that they had turned them into guinea pigs and are destroying their culture and ecosystem, any real Micronesian

CALIFORNIAN COAST

- * RADIOACTIVE WASTE dumped between '46 - '69 found to have:
 - broken out of drums
 - radiated marine life to 5,000 times normal level.
 - contaminated seabed to 2,000 times background plutonium levels.

HAWAII

- * 110 US military installations on the islands, 3,000 Nuclear weapons.
- * Over past 15 years nuclear subs. in Pearl Harbour have discharged 5 million gals. of radioactive waste.
- * US colony/State
- * RIMPAC military exercises bomb sacred island of Kaho'olawe
- * Will be Pacific base for TRIDENT

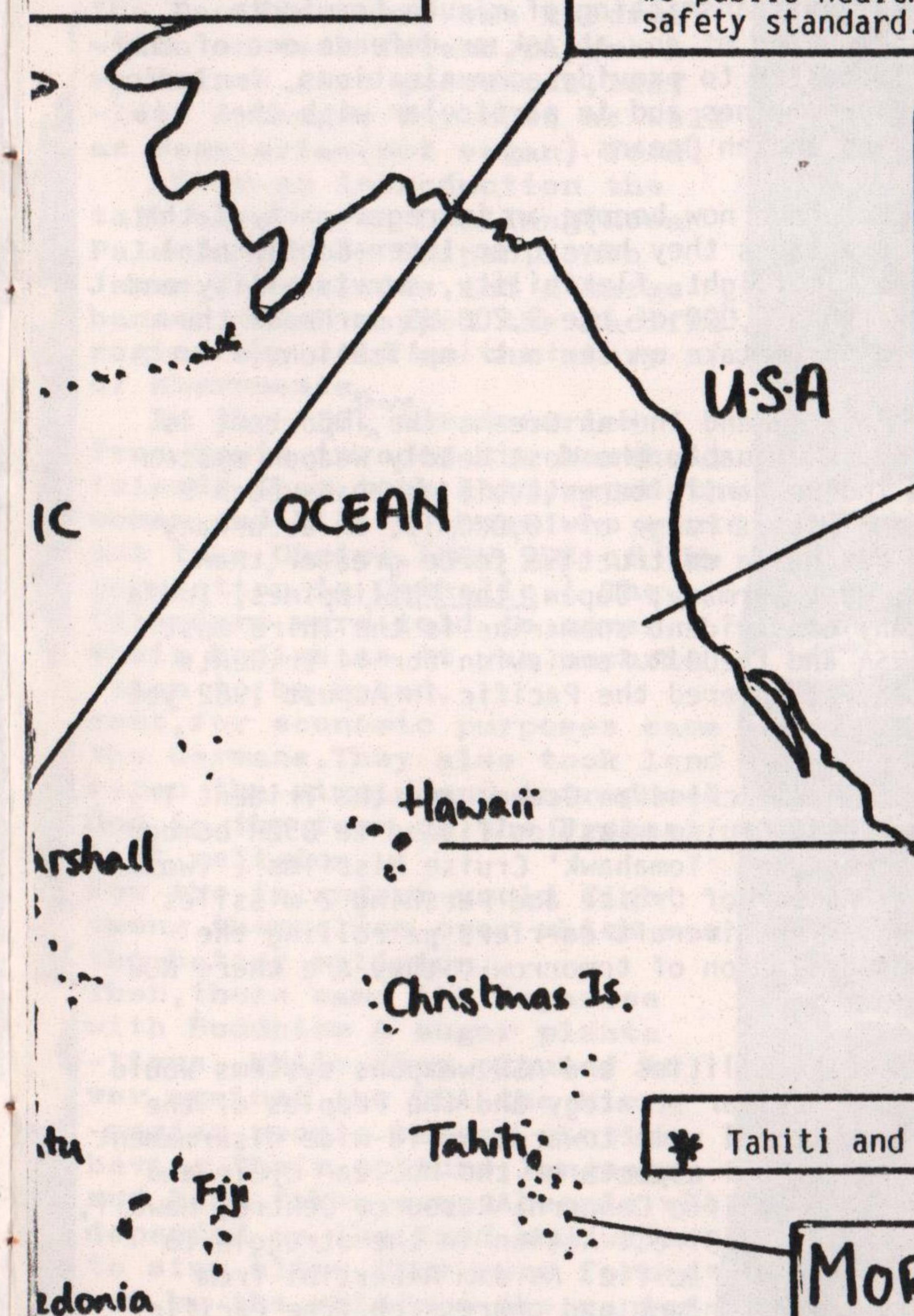
* Tahiti and New Caledonia are French colonies.

MORUROA

- * French still testing on Moruroa atoll.
- * 41 atmospheric tests, stopped in 1974, over 60 underground tests since.
- * The coral base to the island is crumbling as a result.
- * Around Tahiti, due to radioactivity, miscarriages are frequent, marine life dangerous to eat.
- * French military restricting scientific investigations.

AOTEAROA (NEW ZEALAND)

- * Maori population calling for sovereignty and land rights



Two Pacific Wimmin Speak



Amongst the hundreds of similar facilities in the Pacific Regions some of the most vital to USA interests and the most powerful and largest of their kind are located in Australia. These bases which must be in Australia to be effective are directly linked to the First-Strike Strategy. Whilst they have the tasks of Early Warning signals, Post Attack intelligence and the receiving and transmitting of minute-to-minute accuracy data all essential to the co-ordination of any attack or defence one of the main purposes of the Australian C³I facilities is to provide communications, including firing signals, with US ballistic missile submarines and in particular with the Trident 2 submarine based in the Pacific and Indian Oceans.

Submarine Launched Ballistic Missiles (SLBM) have now become an integral part of the US counterforce strategy because of the advantages they have over Inter-Continental Ballistic Missiles. When one considers the timeflight, flexibility, survivability and mobility of SLBMs and that they carry more than 5,000 of the 9,200 US warheads the for US global strategy of this network begins to take on serious implications.

Of the First-Strike weapons bases in the Pacific and Indian Oceans the ^{most} important is the Trident 2 Submarine. The Trident 2 SLBM is arguably the most deadly weapon system yet devised. Each submarine carrying 408 independantly targettable warheads each 5 times more powerful than the Hiroshima bomb with a range of 10,000 miles, an accuracy of 25 meters and a 'killing capacity' of 80% has a destructive force greater than Britain, Italy, Spain, Brazil, Argentina, West Germany, Japan, the Philippines, India and Pakistan combined. The Commander of any one Trident submarine is the Third most powerful man after the Presidents of the USA and the USSR. Permission for 14 Tridents has already been granted with the first having entered the Pacific in August 1982 yet the US Navy is pressuring for 16 more.

Other elements of First-Strike based in the Pacific/Indian Oceans are the Trident 1 SLBM fitted to Polaris submarines, Cruise missiles fitted to B52H bomber planes and reconstructed ancient warships carrying 'Tomahawk' Cruise Missiles (two of these vessels carry more than the total number of Cruise and Pershing 2 missiles being planned for Europe) and the anti-submarine aircraft carriers patrolling the Pacific. These weapons systems are not a speculation of tomorrow...they are there NOW and they are on constant alert!

Removal from the Pacific Region of the US C³I facilities and ASW weapons systems would seriously reduce the effectiveness of the US nuclear strategy and the Peoples of the Pacific Region increasingly aware of their critical role towards world-wide disarmament are striving towards this goal and to an end of all aspects of the nuclear cycle and the associated colonialism. Linked through the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, Hawaii, since 1975 we have seen an increase in Non-Violent Direct Action in the struggle to create and maintain a Nuclear Free and Independant Pacific. As Jim Albertini from Hawaii said: "The issues of a nuclear free, independant and oppression free Pacific are as closely linked as the issues of nuclear weapons and nuclear waste. In truth peace, justice and freedom are one."

Because of the isolation from the activity center of Europe and the media blockading of information it is hard to bridge the support network between European and Pacific Peace Peoples. But both substantial support and a growing awareness of each others problems are very much needed and must be balanced with an understanding of the plight of the Pacific Indigenous Peoples caused by European invasion of their lands. As the message goes: "IF IT'S SAFE..DUMP IT IN TOKYO,TEST IT IN PARIS,STORE IT IN WASHINGTON,BUT... KEEP MY PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE..."

collated by Zohl de Ishtar, Australian.

Recently (March 29th) two wimmin came to Bristol from the Pacific islands, as part of their ten city tour of Britain, to raise international awareness of their struggle against nuclear colonialism. The whole tour was organised by the wimmin from Greenham Common, the peace camp being the inspiration for the event.

On arrival there was much to look at with a large exhibition about the Nuclear presence in the Pacific. There was information on each island, papers & magazines. Also postcards, leaflets & badges for sale as well as vegetarian (not vegan) food.

After an introduction the talk began with Chailang (Rosa Palacios) from Saipan, South Japan. With slides and a large banner which mapped the Pacific region she told us the story of Micronesia.

In the 15th C. missionaries from Spain invaded the Marshall islands. They took land, raped the women and killed those who would not take Christ. (NOW 97% of the population is Catholic.) The islanders were told to cover their bodies as it was unchristian to be naked.

Next, for economic purposes came the Germans. They also took land, raped the wimmin and introduced God in the form of the Protestant religion.

Now the islanders would fight among themselves over which was the better religion.

Then, there came the Japanese with Buddhism & sugar plantations. While they planned to war against the USA the Micronesian people became victims having their culture, language and land taken away. A people who depended on the land and water to stay alive, they were forced off by the soldiers who wanted their homes to live in. The islanders were put to work far from home to dig bunkers but were expected to race home in time when the alarm went off.

The Micronesians welcomed the U.S. 'peace-keeping' forces after WW2 but soon found they were like any other force. Using God again they tested the first H bomb on Bikini Atoll (March 1st 1954) No-ome on the islands were told

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about the bombs being tested. Six islands evaporated, on others people burned and died while reports by the United Nations said people were just suffering from starvation. For each woman, she'd have many miscarriages (between 6-11) If she had children at all they were very badly deformed.

The islanders live as extended families in one house and use the land for growing food. Each family then exchanges food in the clan. Now the Americans buy up the land. The islanders are put to live on Ebeye Island 'the slum of the Pacific' while the Americans enjoy & have everything.

The rich American wives have maids (islanders) to work for them - buying food from the military stores, which are cheaper than the other shops. The islanders now stripped of their resources are living below the poverty line but are barred from the cheaper stores. When they demonstrate about the U.S. & Nuclear presence they lose their jobs, and have had their water supply cut off.

250 bombs have been exploded. The U.S. have built power plants. Now Japan wants to dump nuclear waste in the sea. The seas are polluted already and slowly killing the people with CANCER. The people who remember WW2 realise the threat of war with the constant bomb tests. "If there is another war you won't have to hide" as a relation of Chailang told her. She has lost all her family due to cancer. Why has it taken 40 years for people to realise what is really going on in the Pacific?

Titewhal Harawira from Aotea-roa (New Zealand) had the same story again, the invaders being British missionaries and an armed force, killing and taking land and cutting down the population from 66 million to 2 million. The 1840 Waitangi treaty and all the other promises made ever since have never been honoured. The Maoris refused to fight for the British in World War 1, but

changed their minds by WW2. The wimmin left behind had to move to the cities to exist—selling the farms they lived on. At the end of the war those men who did did come back had to migrate to the cities also—for work. Maori society is matrilineal and men and women work together. After the missionaries came and colonial laws laid down the men and wimmin were divided. Only the English language could be spoken—the schools teaching the Maori children this, against their parents wishes.

Did you know that British soldiers were given extra stripes if they captured a Maori chiefs' head (distinguished by the tatoos down each side of the head)? These heads are now seen in museums and collections in Britain. The Maoris want them back.

They want their land back their rights back and the British out. They now number 9 million, 75% being under 25 and 65% are wimmin. They are young and strong and look back in anger at what Great Britain (!) has done.

It has been 150 years of OPPRESSION for the Maoris. 150 years of Colonialism, Racism, Sexism and Christianity. On top of that they've been used as 8 guinea pigs' for testing bombs. They are not going to take any more.

For ten years, wimmin have campaigned and have the start for a Nuclear policy in Aotea-roa (40,000 wimmin at one rally) For Titewhal it seemed like only the wimmin were doing anything against the Nuclear threat and urged us to be aware that while we may not want Nuclear bases and bombs in this country, neither did the Pacific want it. In other words, "Destroy yourself by all means but don't take us with you!" "Don't send them back to us".

After the second talk questions were invited. We were then informed there wouldn't be much time for this because the caretaker was impatient to close up the building (Transport House) This was very disheartening and frustrating, especially for the two speakers. Think about it,

they'd travelled thousands of miles to tell us about their situation, to make contact, to exchange views & ideas with different womens' (& mixed) groups, Then they're told to pack up and go home now—must keep to the rules! I suppose this is what you have to expect from such a corrupt bunch (T.G.W.U.)

Apart from this occurrence the evening went well. Even though it was a mixed event, more wimmin attended, — some from Greenham. People also came from Cirencester, Bath, Andover and Bristol! (not very many though out of 200)

Something needs to be done

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ADDRESSES FOR A NUCLEAR FREE AND INDEPENDENT PACIFIC !!!

PACIFIC ADDRESSES:

- * PACIFIC CONCERNS RESOURCE CENTER, the major center for the NUCLEAR FREE AND INDEPENDENT PACIFIC movement. POBox 27692 Honolulu, HAWAI'I 96827
- * VANUATU PACIFIC COMMUNITY CENTER POBox 807, Port Vila, VANUATU
- * BELAU PACIFIC CENTER POBox 176, Koror, BELAU 96940
- * KWAJALEIN ATOLL CORPORATION POBox 5220, Ebeye, KWAJALEIN 96970
- * MICRONESIAN SOLIDARITY COUNCIL POBox 2831, Agana, GUAM 96910
- * POLYNESIAN ACTION, W WILFP, LIFPL, BP.4427, Papeete, TAHITI
- * SOUTH PACIFIC COMMISSION, PACIFIC WOMENS RESOURCE BUREAU Hilda Lini, BP D5 Noumea, Cedex, NEW CALEDONIA
- * TIA BELAUD MOVEMENT, POBox 569, Koror, BELAU 96940
- * HAWAI'I CATHOLIC ACTION OF HAWAI'I 1918 University Ave., Honolulu, Hawai'i 96827
- Micronesian Support Committee, 1212 University Ave, Honolulu, Hawaii 96826 USA.

PACIFIC RIM COUNTRIES - INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

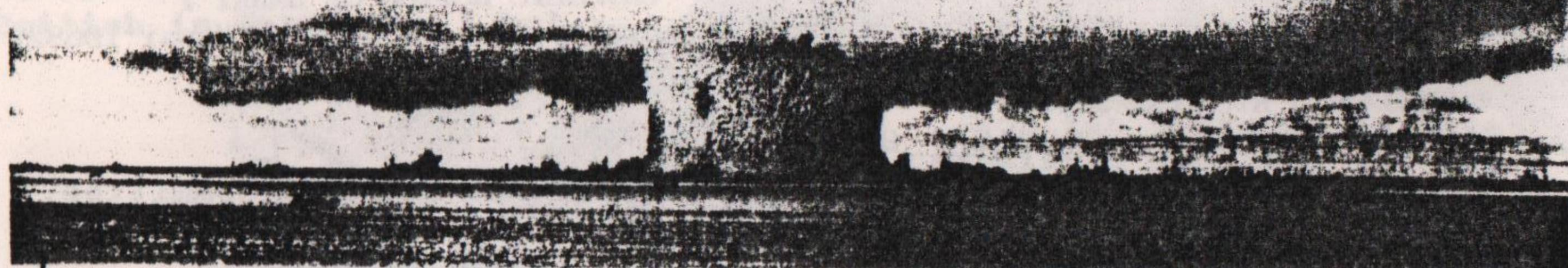
- * WAITANGI ACTION COMMITTEE Maori Land Rights Struggle POBox 61140 Otago, AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND
- * PITJANTJATJARA COUNCIL Aboriginal Land Rights Struggle POBox 2189, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, AUSTRALIA
- * PACIFIC PEOPLES ANTI-NUCLEAR ACTION COMMITTEE as with Waitangi Action Committee

PACIFIC RIM COUNTRIES:

- * U.S. PACIFIC ISSUES NETWORK 7203 Smith Tower, Seattle, WA 98704, USA works beside the PCRC as major networking body, lobbies US Congress
- * NUCLEAR FREE AND INDEPENDENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE POBox A243 South Sydney NSW AUSTRALIA
- * NUCLEAR FREE PHILIPPINES COALITION La Ignaciana, Pedro Gil St., Santa Ana, Manila, PHILIPPINES
- * JAPAN PACIFIC ASIA RESOURCE CENTER POBox 5250 Tokyo - International, JAPAN
- * PACIFIC TRADE UNION FORUM CO-ORD COMMITTEE c/o ACTU 254 La Trobe St., Melbourne 3000 Vic., AUSTRALIA.
- * COALITION FOR A NUCLEAR FREE AUSTRALIA 291 Morphett St., Adelaide SA AUSTRALIA
- * PEACE MOVEMENT AOTEAROA POBox 9314, Wellington, AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND



In 1946 the United States ordered the inhabitants of Bikini Atoll to vacate the Island to make way for nuclear bomb testing. Twenty-two years later they returned to find their home a barren waste.



ASIA & INDIAN OCEAN REGION

- * MAURITIUS PEACE COUNCIL
44 Abbe de la Caille St., Curepipe Rd Port Louis MAURITIUS
- * SAHABAT ALAM MALAYSIA (FOE)
37 Lorong Birch, Penang, MALAYSIA

INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS ACTIVE IN BRITAIN:

- * LYNDA MEDWELL, audio-visual artist involved in creating NIGHTMARE
TV PARADISE (taped slide show on Pacific)
BIRCHWOOD HALL Storridge, Nr Malvern, Worces., Tel: 088 - 64203
- * SIGRID SHAYER, for Aotearoan issues,
30 Holmesdale Rd., Windmill Hill Bristol 3 Tel: 0272-661221
- * ABORIGINAL SUPPORT GROUP, ROBYN HOLDER
72 Cricketfield Rd London E5 8NS Tel: 9860102
- * PHILIPPINES SUPPORT GROUP, MARA,
BMBox 758, London WC 1N
NF & IP support group,
(Nuclear free & Independent Pacific)
82, Colston St,
BRISTOL 1.
- * TAPOL. (East Timor/West Papua)
8a Treport St London SW18.
- * CIMRA (Colonialism & Indigenous Minorities Research Action)
218 Liverpool Rd London
- * CAMPAIGN for the DEMILITARISATION of the INDIAN OCEAN (CDIO)
Moirs, 29 Elsie Rd London SE22
- * JEAN HUTCHINSON, available to speak on Micronesia
15 East St., St. Ives, Huntingdon Tel: 0480-300907
- * ZOIL DE'ISHTAR & BRIDGET ROBERTS, WOMYN SUPPORT PACIFIC STRUGGLES.
Greenham Common Womyns Peace Camp, Nr. Newbury. BERKS.

THESE ARE SIMPLY A FEW OF THE GROUPS & INDIVIDUALS ACTIVE FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE AND INDEPENDENT PACIFIC...THEY ARE ONLY A STARTING POINT ... YOU MAY EASILY FIND MORE THERE SEEMS NO END TO THE ISSUES INVOLVED IN THE PACIFIC STRUGGLES!!!



'EMMA GOLDMAN:AN INTIMATE LIFE'by Alice Wexler (Virago)

When I was asked to review this book I was keen to see for myself what all the controversy was all about. I knew that the discovery of letters written to Ben Reitman had been the reason 'to (re-)examine the Goldman legend' but had been led to believe that it was an attack on Goldman's private life or the story of her obsession with pricks".

Well, it's neither of those things. For those who know nothing about Emma Goldman and her beliefs it's quite a good introduction and for those who do, it fills in many of the background details to 'Living my life' (Goldman's autobiography)

It delves into the myth, 'the demonic legend...an image created partly by a hostile government and sensationalizing press, but one that she herself exploited to popularize her ideas! and shows the "all too human" personality.

It begins with her childhood in Russia. After the assassination of the Tzar in 1881, by the Narodnaya Volya (The Peoples' Will), revolutionary groups were repressed and there were many attacks on the Jews. This situation plus the need to escape from her dominating father led Emma to move to America where she spent most of her life (33 yrs.)

After the Haymarket tragedy, she became involved in the Anarchist movement campaigning for "the philosophy of a new social order based on liberty unrestricted by man-made law; the theory that all forms of government rest on violence, and are therefore wrong and harmful, as well as unnecessary"., women's emancipation, sexual freedom, birth control, antimilitarism (opposing the draft in WW1) and for many workers struggles, including the Industrial Workers of the World (the Wobblies)

Apart from this she spent 12 years producing an Anarchist magazine called 'Mother Earth', printed volumes of her essays and went on many lecture tours.

Her unceasing energy, courage and her ability to cope with constant persecution by the Government was a great inspiration to many people including those outside the Anarchist movement.

Wexler studies the 'personality behind the heroic exterior (which) is likely to be a disheartening experience'. She wasn't the great mother figure or tragic heroine. Goldman would question her motivation, whether the ideal had dictated the course to take or, was she doing it to work out the "turbulence of my being"? That she wrote down her every mood and feeling is evident by the extracts of the letters she wrote to Reitman. It seems she astounded even herself by such explicitness and passion for "the Great Grand Passion" of her life'.

It is these letters that most people seem to have reacted to because of their erotic intensity which along with Wexler's study has gone some way to reveal the human/personal side of Emma Goldman and break down the image of the heroic mother Earth, often placed on a pedestal for us all to stand in awe of.

Although highly priced at £5.95 it is well worth reading as is Emma Goldman's autobiography 'Living my life' 2 vols. (Dover Press) -also highly priced because of the fluctuating dollar!

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THE SCOURGE OF SMOKERS

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I think that we live in a pretty sick society, and compared to some of the things that go on, smoking is probably very much of a lesser evil. However, despite the fact that the question of smoking raises some important political issues, and I think some pretty obvious contradictions, it has been largely side stepped or ignored by Anarchists (and lefties). At a time when smoking is becoming increasingly fashionable in wider society, particularly among the working class, and to an even greater extent among the young, this is not mirrored in Anarchist circles. In Sheffield, at least, the majority of Anarchists seem to smoke. There must be some deep sociological for this, but I am not sure if it is left-over, mis-guided, juvenile 'behind the bike sheds' rebelliousness, plain trendyism, or what. However I think it does show up a gap in political consciousness - at a time when we are increasingly thinking about things like authority roles, covert sexual harassment, dominance within relationships, etc. the fairly obvious one-sided oppressive relationship between smokers and non-smokers is ignored. Even the supposedly considerate attitude of some smokers is transparently false. When smokers lay their fags on the table and say "Is it alright if I smoke?" they are really saying "Am I going to get my way, or are you determined enough to kick up a fuss and cause an unpleasant scene?". Surely there are parities between this and some forms of rape.

The third world is starving to feed your habit. Good land, badly needed to grow crops is squandered in order to provide your fags. Last year Ethiopia produced 1,375,000,000 cigarettes.

Smokers pollute the air, and are walking refuse-tips. At the Anarchist Centre the smokers there "never" dropped their fag butts on the floor for other people to sweep up, yet the floor, and everything else, was always covered with fag-ends, cigarette ash and dead matches - and somebody dropped them.

The accidents caused by smokers are considerable, every year people die and are injured in fires caused by smokers.

Anarchists have a higher chance than most people of being imprisoned, and in prison your tobacco addiction will be used as a punishment and a way of controlling you. Prison is not a good place to stop smoking, so why not stop now, before your habit compromises you further?

What about the testing of the effects of smoking on animals in vivisection laboratories? Changing brands or smoking roll-ups simply side-steps the issue. Animals are being tortured, not only for 'quality control', but in order to try and find cures for cancer ridden smokers. Vegans who spend their time tirelessly searching the backs of crisps and biscuits packets for the offensive 'E's' conveniently ignore the fact that the gum on their Rizla papers* is made from boiled animal bones.

The society of the spectacle tries to con us into believing we need so many useless commodities to make us happy. T.V.'s, fast cars, fashionable clothes, etc. all are used as trinkets to buy us off. They try to convince us we need this junk to be happy, in order that we will devote our lives to a never-ending quest for the next great 'commodity'. 'Bread and Circuses' on a grand scale, and they laugh all the way to the bank. Few commodities are pushed as much as (or can be as useless as) cigarettes, and smokers have fallen hook, line and sinker for the image the tobacco ads feed us.

By smoking in public places, smokers not only aid the advertisers in selling smoking to another generation of nicotine addicts, but they also pass on their ill health to everyone else. It's bad enough not being able to go upstairs on a bus without coughing your guts up, but when Anarchists cannot be more considerate there

is something seriously wrong. The risks to the health of non-smokers caused by smokers are considerable, not to mention the sheer unpleasantness of being drowned in smoke. Every week after the Sheffield Anarchists meeting, I come home smelling like an ashtray and when I smell my clothes the next day, I nearly heave so badly that I have no choice, but to change them. If the choice is either to put up with this or not attend meetings, then they aren't Anarchist meetings.

Even those too young to object have to put up with the selfish and oppressive ways of the tobacco tyrants. Before the recent National Anarchist conference in Sheffield we discussed the issue of smoking. We decided that we would ask smokers to sit to the right of the room we were meeting in. A notice was put on the door asking smokers to do this, and card signs saying "No smoking please" were placed on the tables to the left of the room. I came to the conference with a 5 week old baby, and sat at one of the no smoking tables. Within minutes 2 people sat directly on either side of her (the baby) and lit up. I moved, and put the baby's pram in the corner of the room. 5 minutes later she was joined by yet another group of inconsiderate smokers. It is a wonder that her health is not already irreparably damaged, as before she was born, smoking Anarchists were just as inconsiderate with her pregnant mother.

It has taken me a lot of time to finally get to writing an article about the tyranny of tobacco, although I doubt if my words will have any great effect, these things have to be said. Smoking is real oppression - here and now, and if you choose to ignore it then you're a bloody poor Anarchist.

Footnote; I would like to make it clear that there are one or two smoking Anarchists who I have found to be genuinely considerate and who take responsibility for their habit to a large extent. I have also noticed that since I told people that I had written an article about smoking, there has been an increase in the amount of consideration being shown by some smokers, I hope that this trend continues. It's just a shame that these things have to be said first, before smokers stop and think about their selfish ways.

*Rizla papers are vegan - but that's no excuse for being less guilt-ridden.

from The Sheffield Anarchist (Spring '85)



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