KEI TE WHENUA
TE WAI-U MO
NGA URI
WHAKATUPU

Land will provide
mother's milk for future
generations.
HOME BASE

Individuals, families, church and community groups and local bodies of New Zealanders throughout New Zealand have been using the Nuclear Weapon Free Zone declaration as a public declaration of their commitment to a nuclear weapon free world.

With the peace movement in New Zealand a major stimulus to this activity has been the HOME BASE project. Begun at the National Peace Forum in Wellington in 1980 and promoted through Pacific Magazine HOME BASE has offered people the idea and resources to declare NWFZ zones.

As more people and organisations take the action more are encouraged to do so, but also the cynics and the critics begin to cluster around the action to do their work of undermining or discouraging. Or, maybe the critics do not understand the action or have missed the point.

A DECLARATION OF HOPE AND COMMITMENT

A NWFZ New Zealand and world cannot be achieved without governments and military authorities being involved, transcending current divisions of ideology and international aspirations and alignments.

It seems a long way from a Kiwi householder or local mairie committee declaring their space a NWFZ zone. The enormous gap is the gap between the people's hope and struggle for peaceful human existence on this earth and the impossible task of governments struggling with the reality of a nuclear armed world.

Even now governments are making their own attempts towards nuclear arms limitation, but more sure that than is the growing crescendo of people's voices all over the world claiming life, claiming a future, claiming a world that is not ransomed to the idol of nuclear armament.

The declaration is political — and becomes more effective politically — each time another person or group makes it. People change governments, or at least change political policy in this country it is an achievable goal to set the policy of a major political party towards a NWFZ zone in New Zealand and the Pacific region. The possibilities are not an idle dream.

HOME BASE IN ACTION

Gathering friends and associates to share the Declaration Day has proved to be a moving and powerful way of expressing the voice of the people. After that kind of experience people are enlivened to encourage and support others in the action and to lobby for NWFZ zones at the local, national and international level.

The declaration seeks that HOME BASE is thoroughly committed and aligned: committed to a world free from nuclear weapons, aligned with the people of the whole human family who are unwitting victims of the nuclear arsenal.

Another goal of the project is to make a record of all those who have made the declaration so that it can be used as a political tool. So it is crucial to try and get people to register with HOME BASE when they make their declaration.

YOUR DECLARATION DAY

On the day you declare your body, your space, your pets, your property nuclear weapon free... YOU MAY do that in silence, or with just a few others, affix a button or a sticker or a flag and know inside yourself the significance of your action.

use the DECLARATION printed opposite, use poems, statements or other readings in a kind of ritual attended by your friends, relations, neighbours. Design your own ritual using this paper and other printed material, use silence, use dance, use songs, use some symbolic action. Have a simple meal with your friends to celebrate your choice for LIFE.

...start off some big or small action in your neighbourhood or among your friends. Use the DECLARATION and any ritual you design to include other people and encourage them to take the same kind of action.

WE HOPE...

...you will mark the event as a significant event in your life and in human history.

...you will make use of the HOME BASE Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Declaration in the form of a button, flag, sticker or plaque — in lieu of letters about your action.

...you will make a financial contribution to HOME BASE — perhaps you could have a collection for this purpose among the friends who gather around you at your DECLARATION.

The costs will increase as we service HOME BASE as it grows and as we begin to produce for PACIFIC PILGRIMAGE.

Please send your contributions to: HOME BASE — PACIFIC PILGRIMAGE, P.O. Box 8736, Wellington, N.Z.

Cable address: FREESQaad.

WE ASK YOU TO...

...think about the address above how many people and buildings, how much land and space has been declared Nuclear Weapon Free — what town, city, suburb or rural district are you in? With this information and the address, you can register instead of the NWFZ Zones. Nationwide. Send us your names only if you want to — most of all we need to know what you have declared Nuclear Weapon Free in...and where that is...keep in touch with HOME BASE — PACIFIC PILGRIMAGE.

...keep getting others to participate...

...it is your duty, your right to join, to participate, to face up to declaring their properties NWFZ Free.

...think about becoming a Pacific Pilgrim or sponsoring someone from your neighbourhood or community group to go on the pilgrimage.

FREE PACIFIC!

In this issue we give a brief update on the peace movement and the nuclear debate in New Zealand — with both very much alive. We examine the nuclear debate and find that at all levels and stages in the cycle those in power profit greatly, while the powerless and poor pay heavily: with their lives, land, society and security. Exploitation is sexist and racist.

Continuing the section on the nuclear fuel cycle, we look at uranium mining and the close link with exploitation of indigenous people, finding that we ignore at our peril their cultural wisdom. (Green Aotearoa, p.7).

We also find with little difficulty that some governments are far from carrying out with fervour UN resolutions to seek a more peaceful and just world — colluding with other governments and transnational to keep and gain profit. These governments are dangerously ignorant or corrupt and people are recognising the destructive role they play in working to achieve nuclear disarmament.

Those in power fear the growing strength of people seeking just solutions with repressive measures.

EDITORIAL...

Peace Movement Challenges Politicians


Prominent among his reasons is his realisation that the politicians and officials he once advised were woefully ignorant of the weapons systems and destructive effects of these systems at the centre of their top-level gatherings for debate and decision. Those responsible for development and deployment of nuclear armaments did not know what they were doing because they did not really know what they were doing it with.

Molander's realisation, which impelled him into a life-changing shift in his work and commitment should be a spur to people throughout the world to wake up to the layers of mystery and ignorance surrounding nuclear weaponry debates at national and international levels. Locked in the maze of national ideologies and party political pressures world leaders huddle into discussions about nuclear weapons, agitated further these days by people all over the world calling for an end to nuclear madness.

The intuition is that the peace movements and the people have a better grip on the reality of nuclear weaponry and its consequences than do the officials who hold positions and trigger.

For the peace movement in New Zealand a vital area which must be revived and renewed is the ANZUS debate. This involves issues of nuclear weaponry, the poisonous reality of nuclear-testing and the whole nuclear cycle through to the dumping of radioactive waste. The US must be viewed alongside the Soviet Union, France and any other nuclear-armed nation as holding a massive threat to peace and healthy human living in our Pacific region.

There is a task ahead to demystify the ANZUS treaty and recognise that the fundamental danger to our existence lies in the presence and propagation of nuclear weapons.

ANZUS serves to implicate us in the very threat of horrific destruction that our leaders claim is there to protect us from, just one example of the nonsense becoming familiar in our nuclear-armed world.

As the struggle for a nuclear-weapon-free New Zealand and Pacific continues the people of the region will demand a higher standard of intelligence and integrity from political leaders as they debate and decide nuclear issues. Unquestionably national and regional security is a high priority. But equally there is no question that more and more New Zealanders want to see that security maintained without the mounting implications in the ultimate insecurity of nuclear weaponry.

IN SOLIDARITY WITH the poor of the world who suffer because of the massive excesses of the rich.

IN SOLIDARITY WITH those of our forebears who, within the vision of their times, lived and worked for justice and freedom in our world.

LET THE COMMUNITY OF ALL PEOPLE OF THE Pacific for whom lifestyle, access to land, and social harmony have been disrupted and destroyed by the invading forces of other nations and cultures.

I (we) the human beings in this place declare the following:

We wish to choose Life for ourselves and for the World.

We wish that our bodies be not ‘defended’ by dropping nuclear bombs on other people — whether they are soldiers or civilians, children, women or men.

We wish that neither ourselves nor anything that is ours be made ‘safe’ by threatening to use such weapons against people who ‘threaten’ us.

We do not want any part of any nuclear weapon system to be helped by us or by our money by the political system to which we belong.

We wish to join ourselves and our possessions to dismantle nuclear weapons and nuclear weapon systems which are in the Pacific Zone already, replacing them with human sharing, work, friendship and understanding.

We want this to happen NOW.

We will not leave this to other people to do for us. We will find ways (in partnership with others) of doing something about it ourselves.

AND NECESSARY TO SAY

We wish that it not come to pass that our own land or bodies, or the bones of our forefathers, or the bodies of our great grandparents or grandparents, or the bodies of our parents or children, or the bodies of our grandchildren or of our offspring into the future be vapourised, torn apart or mutated by any of these bombs going off over us.

WE NAME OURSELVES AND ALL THAT IS OURS AND THIS PLACE WHERE WE STAND AS A NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE FOR EVER.

KA WHAIHATU TONU MATOU

AKE! AKE! AKE! AKE!

June 1982
REGIONAL ROUND-UP

Wellington: Recent development in Wellington has seen a CND group formed with a wide variety of members including students with experience of the European scene. The group will have a high political and media profile with the aim of investigating peace groups, research and education groups. There was strong opposition to the visit of President Trawick last month with about thirty boats out on the harbour to show their opposition.

Whanganui/Northland: Much time and hard work is being done by NUCPE in Whanganui in January which drew about a thousand people from around the area.

A heartening sign of progress in raising Northlanders' consciousness of peace issues are the anti-nuclear events which began in the far North after a meeting in early February at the Ngapuhi Marae, attended by about 120 from all parts of Northland. Since then, there have been a number of smaller meetings.

Nelson: NACLA, the Nelson Action Committee on International Affairs has sponsored a variety of peace initiatives over the past months, actively promoting the nuclear-weapon-free declaration throughout the whole of Nelson region. Amongst the declarations is the Nile River Festival which took place near Westport in March, which covered over 3000 people as well as a number of horses, goats and dogs!

Nelson people also supported Christchurch activities in Auckland in March relating to the Black Bird US military installation.

Christchurch: An attempt to co-ordinate all peace groups in Christchurch through a Peace Collective is currently working well. With meetings held on a monthly basis, once every two months, it provides a forum for discussing and co-ordinating ideas and activities.

Nuclear weapon-free area

This is a new nuclear-free zone

Individuals and groups have made nuclear weapon-free declarations. Some are working towards having their city or town or area declared Nuclear Weapon Free.


Whanganui: Sue Shortt, 2 Kahihi St., Whanganui.

Auckland: Home Base Pacific Pilgrimage, P.O. Box 6736, Auckland.

Tauranga: F.A.C.T., P.O. Box 2340, Tauranga.

Opoiti

Napier: Environment Centre, P.O. Box 717, Napier.

Wellington: David Bulter, Peace News NZ, P.O. Box 9563, Wellington.

Christchurch: Peace Collective, P.O. Box 254, Christchurch.

June 1982

A private member's bill that would have banned all nuclear weapons from New Zealand and its territorial waters, introduced in late April by Mr Richard Prebble (Lab, Auckland Central) was defeated 35-36 when the Government used its one-vote majority. Advanced by Mr Prebble as "a law to protect our country from the horror of nuclear war," the bill was termed "anti-American" by Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr Warren Cooper. It was anti-American in its consequences if not in its objective, he said. "It is simply not in the best interests of New Zealand. If this bill passed we are virtually alone."


- Debate over whether Manukau City in South Auckland should be declared nuclear-free shows some of the spectrum of opinion being discussed at the present. Mrs Jill Amos, Orakei ward councillor put forward the motion since she felt Manukau City could be one of the areas where the world has made the declaration and because..."we have a responsibility for people in this city who want an uncontaminated city." She stressed her motion did not cover radioactive isotopes for medical purposes, but to ban nuclear-powered ships or building nuclear establishments in Manukau city.

'Peacemaker' in Hawaii

Pacific Peacekeepers, an Australian yacht spent about six weeks in New Zealand early in the year on its journey through the Pacific to the West Coast of the US to the base of the Trident submarine, the Ohio, to protest its inherent deployment in the Pacific.

Currently Peacemaker is in Hawaii, having been cleared of responsibility for a ramming incident involving a French naval tug, within the 12-mile territorial limit around Mururoa atoll.

Crewed by Bill and Lorriane Echeh - both ex-Royal Navy - their children, Nina (three years), Leo (six), Kate (seven) and Scott (eight and a half), and a representative Pacific crew which has so far included three New Zealanders, Peacemaker desperately needs financial support.

Immediate finance is needed to meet the $15,000 cost of the recent ramming incident as well as ongoing finance during the rest of the journey. Send your contributions or enquiries to: PACIFIC PEACEMAKER, P.O. Box 6736, Wellesley St, Auckland.

RESOURCES...

The following may be helpful.

Contact Peace Movement New Zealand: P.O. Box 5087, Dunedin for a more comprehensive list.

Two journals of the global anti-nuclear movement: WISE (World Information Service on Energy) available from WISE-Glen Alpin, P.O. Box 87, Glen Alpin, Queensland 4381 (Aust 11a) and Disarmament Campaign Monthly - postbox 18747, Anna Paulowna 3, 2902, the Hague, Netherlands. Peace News New Zealand: P.O. Box 9563, Courtenay Place, Wellington.

New Zealand Foundation for Peace Studies Inc: CPO Box 4110 Auckland, 29 Princes St, Auckland 1. Ph 371379. An independent, non-partisan, non-profit organisation, with no political affiliation, the foundation aims to stimulate education at every level concerning the organisation and maintenance of peace; to act as a clearing house for ideas and information and to assist any group with similar objectives.

Pacific Concerns Resource Centre: P.O. Box 27692, Honolulu, Hawaii 96827, 570 Ahuhi St, rm. 222B, Honolulu, Hawaii. An information centre with a regular newsletter, networking information throughout the Pacific.

Micronesia Bulletin: Published by the Micronesia support committee on a quarterly basis has news and analysis on political, social and economic developments throughout Micronesia, 1211 University Ave, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96825.

Greenspace: Has offices in Auckland, Napier, Wellington and Christchurch. Contact these for environmental and related issues. (Possibly branches in Hamilton and Whanganui.)

Environmental centres at 27 Alma Lane Nelson, P.O. Box 715, ph 89390; at the Christchurch Art Centre, Car Montréal and Hereford Sts, P.O. Box 2574, ph 792-257. Dunedin Environmental Access, 245 Moray Pl, Ph 770-923.

Pacific Peoples Anti-Nuclear Action Committee: P.O. Box 61865, Otara, Auckland, ph 2747-019

Home Base Pacific Pilgrimage: P.O. Box 6736, Auckland.

Freeenews - 3
EMERGING EUROPE

Something is changing in Europe. It is happening in both the eastern bloc and the western bloc. The changes appear to be irreversible as a weakness in their systems and a thirst which is inspired by the West.

"It is neither - it is driven by the peoples of Europe for control of their fates. It is a national concern but since it can be found in a variety of forms in most nations of Europe, its international character is strong. Popular movements exist or are beginning out of a desire for a voice in how their lives are governed - and by whom. Whether it is the free trade union movement in Poland or calls for unilateral nuclear disarmament in Britain, the common thread of self determination is apparent. This is no international conspiracy - seldom have there been so many real internationals.

The lies and myths abound. "Nationalism" becomes a swear word, "internationalism" harks darkly of a fourth Reich, "counter-revolution" sounds like peaceful "catching up with the rest of the world". An East German who adopts the West German peace movement slogans "Make Peace Without Weapons." (Freißen Schaffen Ohne Waffen). The East German government sponsors its own rally under the banner of "Peace with Arms" while the US government continues to call for "Arming to Disarm."

The alliances are clear. Just as "progressives" have a communist plot, "Polandita" is not a capitalist plot - no matter how it is portrayed. The European movements must be recognised for what they are - European movements. People see that their lives and homes are controlled by powers that have no real international interest. Resistance and attempts at self-realisation are inevitable.

East Germany - The peace movement in Eastern Germany represents a significant departure from the traditional bloc. In West Berlin where Pacifism has existed as a propaganda tool to be used emerging from the state. Their tactic is to hold officially approved peace forums to confront government officials, to demonstrate, and to build-up the communist East as well as the western bloc.

In Dresden, on the anniversary of the city's virtual destruction by the virtual destruction of its museum, the city turned its image of swords into plowshares. They carried lighted candles and during a five-hour vigil held under the government's policy of compulsory military service and the right to control anti-war demonstrations. A petition circulated in Dresden and a proposal was signed by 35 prominent East Germans to abolish the nuclear power zones of the nuclear free zone and the view on the issue have been generally made known in international and diplomatic circles and will continue to be made known.

Russia - Three Soviet feminists were expelled from the Soviet Union in July for being associated with an international publication called "Women and Russia."

Japan - 200,000 attended the Hiroshima rally against nuclear arms in March.

Tokyo - Women activists are engaged in a nationwide anti-war movement, street demonstrations and also in a Signature Collection Campaign, 1500 women took part. The anti-war, anti-nuclear appeal is directed to the Japanese Government and the United Nations. One woman by name of Takahashi in her address "We women hadn't the right to vote (until the end of World War II). And we didn't have the power to prevent war from starting. It's time the women protect peace by our own power."

THE PACIFIC

The South Pacific Environment Conference, Rarotonga, March 82 - called for a complete ban on nuclear testing in the South Pacific region. There is a connection between political independence and opposition to nuclear testing by the people of the area.

Asian Students backed recent South Pacific students conference for a free and independent Pacific. The links stretch from South East Asia. The refusal of France and the USA to grant independence to their last colonies on the grounds that they are unwilling to give up their military bases in Micronesia and Polynesia, clearly show that the anti-nuclear and pro-independence movements are two aspects of the same issue.

Vanuatu - A David and Goliath type confrontation with far-reaching implications occurred in February, when the Vanuatu government informed the United States government that the visit of two United States warships would not be acceptable to Vanuatu. The reason: the United States was in accordnance with longstanding policy, would neither confirm nor deny whether the vessels were carrying weapons. The Vanuatu government, has consistently supported the concept of the South Pacific as a nuclear free zone and its views on the issue have been generally made known in international and diplomatic circles and will continue to be made known.

Bush Sao, Vanuatu's attorney for Foreign Affairs, said that his country condemned any kind of nuclear activity in the region whether it was testing, dumping of the waste, or the transport of nuclear arms. Throughout the Pacific, the oppression of indigenous people is linked directly to the nuclear industry," he said. He urged the Vanuatu government to recognise the total unacceptable any of policies of outside powers which could prejudice the environmental integrity of the area.

Pakistan

U.S.S.R.

Japan - First nuclear free constitution.

Belarus - First nuclear free constitution.

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Pacific Trade Union Forum: Called for a nuclear test ban. An international forum was held in New Caledonia. The forum's choice of New Caledonia shows the mogroup's intention to play a major role in Pacific politics.

Australia - For many years, different groups have been working for a nuclear-free Pacific. To co-ordinate activities, a coalition has been formed called People for Nuclear Disarmament. It has grown to a coalition of 40 Peace, Trade Union, Women's Educational and Professional organisations with a common desire for nuclear disarmament.

Moruroa

In Polynesia, Moruroa means "place of a great secret." In the past two decades however, it "unknown indigenous native secret" of the coral atoll bearing this name has been overtaken by a modern secret beyond the imaginations of the ancient islanders.

Most of us we think of Pacific Islands, think of blue lagoons, palm trees and cloudless skies and smiling people with flowers in their hair. Yet for a small minority the thought of a Pacific Island produces an urge to blot it out with nuclear weapons. Since 1966, Moruroa has been subjected to more than 80 nuclear explosions, at the request of the French Government. By the end of 1981 Moruroa had become an island of isolation and disgustingly "secret" but also some of the secrets radioactive corollaries. By this land paradise become a blot on the Pacific?

The CEP moved into the Tuamoto atolls of Moruroa and Fangataufa in 1964 and set up airstrip, wharf and other facilities. The test was terminated on July 2 1966. Charles de Gaulle was there to watch the second on September 10. However, the wind direction was unfavorable and would have carried fallout to all the Pacific. The following day, the test was just as unfavorable however de Gaulle, declaring he was a busy man, insisted the test go on. A 120 kiloton device was duly triggered, delivering fallout at least as far as Western Samoa nearly 8000 kilometres downwind.

The lofty cufflessness of this exercise was to set the pattern for the coming years. The Polynesians themselves were told nothing about fallout or other radioactive contamination or its possible public health effects. Until June 1966 public health statistics for Polynesia were used monthly with details of cancers, diseases and epidemics. Just before the first nuclear tests were the regular publication of the health statistics ceased and has never been resumed. This was one of the only measures that was used by the French Authorities of the CEP to keep their Polynesian hosts in the dark about French nuclear activity.

The French, however, in less than two weeks, had discovered the social fabric of French Polynesia

June 1982
International Nuclear Free Pacific week March 1-7. Actions to inform the public on the Pacific situation were held in cities across Europe.

Nuclear-Free Pacific march Port-Vila Petition was presented to the French ambassador, pre-testing against French testing. It accused the French of seeking to become 'nuclear sovereign' of the Pacific through its claims to the 200 nautical mile economic zones around its Pacific territories.

BELAU

Belau is the world's first nuclear free buffer state. It is inhabited by over 92 percent of the population on 92 separate islands. The United States has not permitted the use of the area as a storage dump for nuclear, biological, and conventional weapons and as a safe harbor for its new Trident submarine fleet. The US is the first country in the world to enforce the nuclear-free zone on the American group on the islands. There has been also been economic assistance from the United States, tourists and US funded radio and TV advertising. The United States has consistently tried hard to influence the drafting of the Belau constitution and to get changes made to meet its military interest but with no success. Dissatisfied with the elected leaders, the US proposed a referendum, hoping that it would persuade enough voters to go against the constitution. However, the 15,000 population of Belau turned in an overwhelming 'yes' for the constitution. The Belauans do not want nuclear weapons and storage facilities on their islands. In January 1982 the constitution was ratified. The United States has not made a new or old offer to Belau to recognize the legitimacy of the constitution and wants another referendum on the Constitution and its relationship with the states. With the discovery of an illegal shipment of weapons, Belau is facing the threat of a nuclear attack.

Many people believe that nuclear disarmament is the most urgent priority for worldwide agreement and action, that the South Pacific should be declared a Nuclear-Free Zone and that the Government should give money and backing to education for disarmament. Yet the Government doesn't feel it is sufficiently important enough to sign and representation at the highest level to the SSDII. If there are not broad based delegations from each country backing this in the government's deep commitment to disarmament then all does not bode well for the future.

For the session to end in an atmosphere of failure would be a failure for the United Nations and a failure for all. If the meeting fails it is up to the governments of peoples worldwide desires for peace.

The New Zealand government may not be committed but individuals are. Laura will be a member of the New Zealand National Committee on Disarmament. The New Zealand government has decided it will not attend the Special Session. The New Zealand government has decided it will not attend the Special Session. The New Zealand government has decided it will not attend the Special Session. The New Zealand government has decided it will not attend the Special Session.

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Nuclear Energy & Nuclear Weapon Proliferation

The peaceful and military aspects of nuclear energy are intrinsically linked and it is impossible to separate them. The links are psychological, historical and factual. Psychologically, the first time the public at large learned about the release of nuclear energy on a practical scale was the announcement in August 1945 of the destruction of Hiroshima by an atomic bomb.

Historically the first nuclear reactors, in the USA, the USSR and the UK, were built not to generate electricity but to manufacture plutonium for nuclear weapons. Factually, to generate electricity in a peaceful nuclear reactor is impossible at the same time using or manufacturing materials which could be used for nuclear weapons.

Any nation which acquires nuclear reactors for peaceful purposes will have personnel trained in nuclear reactor technology, from which it is only a short step to the acquisition of nuclear weapon technology. If the materials for making nuclear weapons were also available, such a nation would be armed with nuclear weapons at once.

Today, the widespread use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is likely to lead to "horizontal proliferation," that is an increase in the number of nuclear weapon states. Such proliferation constitutes a grave threat to the security of all as it greatly increases the probability of the outbreak of a nuclear war.

The Exploitation of Indigenous People

One of the great ironies of the nuclear age is that some of the people who have suffered the most are those who have lost the most and gained the least. Three of the largest regions of uranium mining in the world — the southwestern United States, the Australian outback and Namibia, rely on the cheap labour of the people who were once the sole occupants of the land.

One region that has been exploited by the nuclear power industry thus laying to waste large areas of sensible land, and polluting rivers and streams. Ultimately there is the destruction of the natural ecosystems which the aboriginal people rely on to live.

Uranium ore is mined from both underground and surface mines. It is found mineralized in sandstone deposits and other rock formations. High grade ore is rapidly being exhausted so that ore with minimal amounts of uranium is being mined.

During the mining of uranium, two carcinogenic radioactive substances are released, radium and radon gas. Radium affects the bone marrow and radon gas is a danger to the lungs and the body as a whole. Through the physical impact of uranium mining as severe as coal mining, it presents an impact coal mining does not — radiation. Uranium is extracted by several methods:

- Less than 3 percent is leached in situ. This is the injection and extraction of chemicals that dissolve the uranium from the rock. This produces no surface wastes and requires no milling. The mined ore contains radium with radiocesium, salts, heavy metals, and radioactive solids.

- The remaining 97 percent of uranium extracted is mined either underground or on the surface by open pit and strip techniques. Underground mines require ventilation in the form of shafts and blowers to remove radon.

- Underground and pit mines require removal of water from the bottom, or lowering the water table by pumping from wells. The air from all mining operations is contaminated with radioactive dust and radon gas. The water removed from the mines or flowing through the strip mine is contaminated with salts, salts heavy metals, and radioactive solids. This contamination could spread for hundreds of miles downstream and downwind.

- The ore in the ground is relatively harmless, but mining and milling expose the elements to the air by the necessary crushing of the rock. This allows the radon to escape to the atmosphere instead of staying trapped within the rock where it would continue breaking down, naturally. Because of the very low concentration of uranium in the ore, practically the whole of it remains in the tailings, at the milling plant. They are generally dumped into piles near the mills. Due to the residual radioactivity in the tailings, from which radon escapes into the atmosphere, the tailings pile constitutes a radiation hazard for the population in the vicinity.

Power and profit

Canada sold 400 pounds of Uranium to Russia in 1980. India also got the materials it needed to develop its nuclear bomb from the same source.

South Africa was able to get nuclear materials from those nations that are its greatest critics - Britain, Germany, the U.S.A. and France.

1976 - Westinghouse sold two nuclear reactors to South Africa through its French subsidiary, Framatome.
AUSTRALIA

The AAEc (Australian Atomic Energy Commission) was set up in the 1940s, its beginnings as elsewhere rooted in military applications. Under its supervision, subsidiary companies of the giant Anglo-American Corporation which markets most of the world's uranium, through its subsidiary, the De Beers Consolidated Mining Company. The mining of uranium becomes a big domestic product leaves the country every year.

The country itself is non-discriminatory, in South African-controlled Namibia it is the blacks that suffer more than the whites.

There is no restoration plan for these black sediments been used by these companies in Namibia.

THE GREEN ANT MYTH

Over 40,000 years the Aboriginal people of Australia have developed a relationship with the land, living in very close harmony with it. This harmony with their natural environment was both spiritual and physical. One of the most famous of these is the Groote Eylandt, which was discovered in 1790 is close by the sacred “Gabo-Djarg” site. This means “Green Ant Dreaming”. It is the place where Aboriginals believe the “eggs” of the Great Green Ant have been dormant since the Dreamtime. (The area is strowned with numerous round and egglike boulders). Legend has it that after the ants have disturbed, the Great Green Ant will re-emerge and consume the Earth. It is ironic that it is the mining on uranium, which may indeed bring greater misfortune to all people, that threatens the time-honored relationship.

Another sacred area is Mt Brockenham. Because of its unusual vertical divisions, this spectacular mountain inspires awe in most people who view it. According to the Aboriginals associated with the area, Brockenham contains giant serpents. If disturbed with too much thumping, the Great Green Ant will re-emerge and consume the Earth. Legend has it that after the ants have disturbed, the Great Green Ant will re-emerge and consume the Earth. It is ironic that it is the mining on uranium, which may indeed bring greater misfortune to all people, that threatens the time-honored relationship.

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AOTEOARA

If nuclear war did not threaten to kill us all would you bother to fight for indigenous peoples?

U.S.A.

Miners who have died and are dying of cancer in the northern tip of the vast Navajo Nation and largest reservation in the USA are victims of uranium mining. In the early days of uranium mining no one knew (or no one was telling) what the effects of radiation exposure were. The lists of dangers and tragedies (in the Black Hills of the Dakotas as well as the Southwest) speak of no-decades exposed tailing piles where waste was free to go wherever the wind and rain took it, citizens playing in pools of radioactive water and then breaking out in boils, miners being sent into bluish areas where radioactive dust had settled, miners working in underground mines where they inhaled radioactive dust (in the 70's, ventilators were put in so now the dust is blown out into the community).

After 20 years of mining in Shiprock, New Mexico, Kerr-McGee Corporation left behind a uranium mill. About 40 terminals in Navajo miners and a community where the risk of lung cancer has increased by 100 per cent. There has been no compensation. Huge piles of radioactive uranium tailings — a total of ten million tons in four separate sites on the Navajo nation — untold tonnes less than a stone throw from Navajo homes.

In fact many communities — never warned of the dangers of the wastes — have constructed their homes and schools from the grey cement-like radioactive material. In recent years Native Americans have been fighting back.

In northern New Mexico, close to three-quarters of a million acres of Indian land is leased for uranium exploration and development. Fourteen energy companies have holdings on Indian land in northwestern New Mexico. New Mexico Golf Minerals, Continental Oil, Amcanono, Grace, Homestake, Humbolt Oil, Hydro Nuclear, Kerr McGee, Mobil Oil, Panax Nuclear, Western Nuclear, Phillips Petroleum, Marathon Oil and the world's largest corporation, Exxon. Exxon also has a 50,000-acre exploration lease in the area surrounding Red Rock.

Northwestern New Mexico is the largest uranium producing region in the world, supplying about half of the country's mined and milled uranium. About 47 per cent of that uranium comes from Indian land.

The Oompelli people took action in the course: an injunction to stop the commencement of mining at Ranger because not all Aboriginal elders were in agreement with mining proceeding, and ii) an injunction to prevent a mining company from using a particular road which ran close to an Aboriginal settlement.

In response, the Federal Government amended Section 23 of the Land Rights enabling Land Councils to assess mining agreements on behalf of the local Aboriginal communities without first gaining consent from all the local Aboriginal communities. As an Aboriginal explained: “When we things get difficult for government, they simply bring in new law” and in the case of the agreement to mine at Narbarak, the government introduced a new law and made it retrospective to prevent the Aboriginals from taking legal action... WCC Report

Australian Aboriginals, exterminated by cultural genocide, now only two percent of the national population. Aboriginals were herded like animals onto untracted reserves. However, a recent government report has been found in these reserves. Aboriginal people struggle to stop mining not only because it chases to take away land, but they also know that uranium is needed in the nuclear fuel cycle. This year the Aboriginal people face a mammoth confrontation in the uranium mining in Brisbane. Aboriginals are forbidden near the games, and any Aboriginal participation would be committed to a moral institution for an indefinite period of time. "..."
ANZUS — ARE WE COMMITTED TO A NUCLEAR CLAUSE?

A nation has no permanent friends and no permanent enemies, only permanent interests — an understanding of practical foreign relations which was embodied in our "mother country's" protec-tor relationship with Great Brit-ain up to the Singapore debacle, [1941], and possibly transferred to the United States.

It is a matter of historical fact that the US forces committed to the Japanese advance in the 1940's with British-led forces apply-able pressure to South East Asia (e.g. Burma). In our fol-lowing Singapore's fall to the Japanese was a shock forcing the New Zealanders to realise how untrustworthy the British were. In fact, New Zealand Gov-ernment was told in June 1940 by the British Government, 18 months before the fall of Singapore, that it was most improbable that we would send adequate reinforcements to the Far East, and that the United States would have to rely on the United States of America to safeguard our common interests.

Some New Zealand's at-titude is "the USA is our friend, right?" (unquestionable) and the United States of America is superpower in the context of events in the Pacific in the early 1970's, the Battle of the Coral Sea (May 1942); Midway (June 1942) de-stroyed Japan's hopes of maintaining US naval power in the Pacific and so making a Japanese invasion of NZ diffi-cult.

Many questions are being asked at the moment about the "Black Birch" facility being built by the US Navy in Marlborough, near Blenheim. It will provide very accurate orbital maps. But what for?

David Baker's statement in the latest issue of Peace News New Zealand, "The Black Birch Air Force Military Construction Approp-riation for 1982 - clearly states the objective, "destruction of other strategic military purposes" (Report of hearings before a subcommittee in App-ropriations Committee of the House of Represen-tatives pages 1237 - 124). Taking all this into account the quotion remains: Why has the US embassy misrepresented the purpose of the Transit Circle, and why do prominent New Zea-land politicians not acknowledge the military purpose?

Minister of Defence, Mr. Thompson, was reported in the Auckland Star, (April 6, 1982) as saying: "There are moreover no US (or any country's) military bases or communication facilities located in this country."

Contrary to those statements is that of Robert C. Aldridge, an aerospace engineer who spent six years designing US submarine-launched strategic missiles, including early work on "Transit Circle" will provide the new generation of supercomputer-nned to guide submarine launched Tran-sit missiles to their pinpoint targets."

Aldridge continues "I am a little surprised at the crude rhetoric used by a representative of so prestigious an agency as the US embassy. It seems that in New Zealand as in the US, the men- tion of the word "nuclear" is supposed to discredit any discussion."

A document reproduced in the Peace New Zealand party's facility will be used to greatly increase the acruacy of strategic systems, in par-ticular the Transit Circle launch of Ballistic Missile (SLBM) carried by Trident submarines," has been released by Secretary Charles Bell, public affairs officer, for the United States International Com-merce Commission, Washington, as "Undermining public support for the good relations our two countries enjoy," calling it a "Disinformation campaign," and linking it to "efforts of local community opposition."

Both Prime Minister, Robert Muldoon, and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Brian Talboys have said in correspondence of the project: "The project has not been conceived for any military purpose and it has been made clear to us by US military authorities that no military purposes will be applied to the data collection at the Black Birch Observatory."

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In the next issue we look at: among other things - the next step in the development of the United National Special Session on Disarmament, from government to non-governmental perspectives; the medical consequences of nuclear war and the role of the New Zealand Government's role; and a special feature, THE WETA STORY.