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☞ Citizens' Nuclear Information Center

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Anti-Nukes Urge Cancellation of IAEA Tokyo Seminar



Protesters against IAEA Seminar

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On June 28, the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) held a seminar on the results of its study on the Chernobyl accident. Some 50 protesters from 74 anti-nuclear groups, mainly from Tokyo, stood in front of the seminar hall, demanded that the meeting be cancelled. They distributed fliers and placed banners on the pavement. The report of the study greatly underestimated the damage to the

victims' health and misrepresented the aftermath of the accident. At a conference at the IAEA headquarters in Vienna from May 21-24, the report was so severely criticized and protested by the Byelorussia and Ukraine Republics that the IAEA had to cancel their planned presentation of the report in the Soviet Union. The Tokyo seminar was the first occasion for the IAEA to publicize the report.

The following is an example of the flier we distributed to the participants at the seminar:

CANCEL TODAY'S MEETING

IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) is about to hold today, June 28, 1991, a seminar on the results of the Chernobyl accident study. This is to officially publicize the result of the study, titled "Assessment of Radiological Consequences and Evaluation of Protective Measures" conducted by the Agency. Even though the study was carried out at the request of the Government of the Soviet Union, the Agency had to give up the idea of having a seminar inside the Soviet Union. Instead, they have chosen Tokyo and kept the audience limited to the pro-nuclear people, which is simply showing what the study was aimed for. In fact, at a wrapup conference at IAEA headquarters in Vienna May 21-24, officials from Byelorussia and the Ukraine disagreed over the results and lodged a strong protest.

We were also shocked to find the results so unscientific and felt anger towards the politics behind them. In the affected area in the Soviet Union a number of people are suffering from various diseases and medical doctors are making every effort to save the children having thyroid disorder and lowered immunity. Medical supplies, equipment, and other necessary items are seriously in short supply and both republics have been asking the rest of the world for help.

Quite a few NGO groups are also giving support in every possible way. Ignoring all these activities, IAEA concluded after the short and irresponsible study that the Chernobyl disaster produced "no health disorders that could be attributed directly to radiation exposure" and that "the current policy of annual physical examinations is conceptually adequate for the health needs of the general population in the contaminated areas of concern."

Followings are the six major flaws we found in the report.

- 1: 600,000 or 700,000 "liquidators" -those who cleaned up after Chernobyl- were excluded in their research.
- 2: Neither the 30km zone nor the people evacuated from the zone were examined. Hot spot areas were also excluded.
- 3: The way to choose villages for research was arbitrary and intentional.
- 4: Exposure dose, especially life time dose (70 years) was greatly underestimated and the external dose estimate is considered to be only one third or one fourth and the internal dose one tenth of the actual dose.
- 5: The research methodology of health effects is not described well enough to give credibility and the way of deciding the control groups is also unclear.
- 6: Nothing is mentioned about the "sarcophagus" which is now subjected to serious deterioration. The contamination of water supply is anticipated as a consequence.

It is now clear that this report is incredibly unfair and unscientific.

We strongly express our anger against IAEA which produced such a report ignoring the people suffering from various diseases. We ask IAEA to cancel today's seminar which is intended to force people of the Soviet Union to accept such a report.

The chairperson of today's session is Itsuzou Shigematsu, the director of Radiation Effects Research Foundation

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Tomari 1 Resumes Operation After Mere Makeshift Repairs

In April, at Hokkaido Electric Power Co.'s Tomari 1 (PWR, 579MW), a regular inspection turned up many cracks in a generator's low-pressure turbine. Turbines have been provided with parts called stationary blades that stabilize air flow, and a total of 617 cracks were found in the stationary blades of this turbine.

On May 30, Hokkaido Electric announced that the cause of the cracks was a "structural flaw" which involved inadequate rigidity and welding thickness in the stationary blades. However, while admitting to the "structural flaw," the company's solution was supposedly just to re-weld the cracked portions. Hokkaido Electric's idea is to put off the needed fundamental countermeasures until the next regular inspection, which is scheduled for the summer of 1992.



Cracks in the Stationary Blades

In some parts of Japan commercial power is 50Hz, and in others it is 60Hz. Tomari is the first PWR built in a 50Hz area. The plant's design was modeled after PWRs in 60Hz regions such as those of Kansai Electric Power Co., but because of the different frequency the number of turbine revolutions changes, and for this reason some modifications were made necessary. Mitsubishi Heavy Industries which supplied the turbine-generator system, however, did not make necessary modifications to the stationary blades. Hokkaido Electric explains that this is the cause of the problem of the cracks.

According to the company's explanation, when output is at about 30% and condenser vacuum passes the "special operation range" of approximately 730 mmHg, steam turbulence arises and the stationary blades begin to vibrate abnormally. Hokkaido Electric says the metal fatigue produced at this time caused the cracks. Although there are doubts about the truth of this explanation, a more significant problem is the attitude of Hokkaido Electric in pushing ahead by resuming operation without taking proper measures. There is no doubt about the "structural flaw," and the company should have completely revamped the design. Yet it did not. Instead, it resumed operation after mere makeshift repairs.

What is more, despite the possibility of similar cracks in Unit 2, which is of the same design, the company continues to operate it under the excuse that it will "enhance monitoring." Here again we are given a glimpse of the electric companies' true nature, in which profit takes precedence over everything.

Artificial Rock Bed in Kashiwazaki Creates Concern

On May 15, the Minister of MITI (Ministry of International Trade and Industries) gave TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Company) a permit to add a 6th and 7th nuclear power plant to the Kashiwazaki power station in Niigata Prefecture. These two reactors are 1,356MW ABWR (Advanced Boiling Water Reactor) and the permit was the first for this type of reactor in the world. Compared with Kashiwazaki 1 to 5, which are ordinary BWRs of 1,000MW, ABWRs have 20% more output and their containment vessel is 10% smaller than that of the ordinary BWR. Also the containment vessel of the ABWR will be built of reinforced concrete instead of ordinary steel. The recirculation pumps, normally hung outside the pressure vessel, are contained within the vessel.

Now that the building cost is skyrocketing, TEPCO tried hard to reduce the cost as much as possible in the ABWR planning.

TEPCO hopes to keep the building cost as low as 250,000¥/KW for ABWR whereas the cost for ordinary BWR is ¥300,000. This creates concern over the strength of the containment and pressure vessels as well as the inspection method of internal pumps.

Another concern is over the artificial rock bed on which the No. 6 and 7 reactors will be built. Numerous active faults have been located near Kashiwazaki nuclear power station. TEPCO has been building reactors, hiding the fact of the faults. Right underneath the planned site for No.7, active faults are running in all directions and there is no way that TEPCO could build it. So TEPCO came up with the idea of building an artificial rock bed. Is it really safe to build nuclear reactors on an artificial rock bed when reactors usually require a solid rock bed? Local people are now preparing a law suit to protest the permit and to ask for cancellation.

Protesters Urge Japan to Refuse Indonesian Feasibility Study Order

It is considered very likely that Japanese companies are to receive the feasibility study order for nuclear power plants (total 7,200MW) on the Island of Java planned by the Indonesian government. Bechtel (US), Canatom (Canada), Sofratome (France), and NEWJEC (New Japan Engineering Consultant Incorporation) had participated in the bids the Nuclear Agency of Indonesia called for. NEWJEC won the first bid and negotiations have been carried out since May 29. NEWJEC is 100% owned by Kansai Electric Power Co. and has strong ties with Mitsubishi Corporation.

It has been reported that the total cost

will be 11 million dollars and that NEWJEC will ask the Export-Import Bank of Japan for funding since it will be arranged on a deferred payment basis. On July 4, a group of people fighting against nuclear power exports to Asia by Japanese companies visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), and the Ex/Im Bank of Japan and urged them not to fund this project. The comments of the bank & the MFA were as follows:

1. Even though NEWJEC won the first bid, it doesn't necessarily mean the contract will be signed.

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International Conference on Plutonium

As has been reported in our last issue the International Conference of Plutonium will be held this autumn. Details are as follows:

Date: Nov. 2-4, 1991
 Place: Omiya city, Saitama Pref.
 Expected Participants: 150
 Admission Fee: ¥20,000(including papers and simultaneous interpretation)
 Organizers: Greenpeace International/
 Citizens' Nuclear Information Center
 Representative: Dr. Jinzaburo Takagi

The secretariat and the organizing committee have been extremely busy contacting expected speakers arranging programs. Thanks to the cooperation and kind assistance of many people, the speakers have finally been determined and the program has been set. Just looking at the list of the speakers and the program, the International Conference on Plutonium already looks as though it will be a big success.

More than 20 distinguished speakers will come and give lectures and speeches on plutonium issues during the three days. The program is as follows:

Saturday, November 2 (10 a.m.-6 p.m.)

KARL Z. MORGAN (USA) (Keynote Address)
 'Evolution of Radiation Protection Standards for Plutonium and Other Actinide Elements'
 MARTIN FORWOOD (UK)
 'Radioactive Environment Caused by Sellafield Nuclear Complex'
 HELMUT HIRSCH (Germany)
 'Reprocessing and MOX Program in Germany--With Special Emphasis on the Problems of Reprocessing Wastes Returning from Abroad'
 JEAN-PAUL SCHAPIRA (France)
 'Safety Issues Related to the Options of the Backend of N-Cycle and N-

Wastes with Special Regard to French Nuclear Program'
 DAVID LOWRY (UK)
 'Plutonium Policy of UK'
 HELEN KINGHANN (Ireland)
 'Irish Opposition to Sellafield and Dounreay's Nuclear Complexes'
 EVGENY PETRYAEV (USSR)
 'Presence of Plutonium & Hot Particles in Human Lungs as a Result of Chernobyl Disaster'

Sunday, November 3 (9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.)

THOMAS COCHRAN (USA) (Keynote Address)
 'Risks of Plutonium Utilization Associated with the FBR Programs'
 JINZABURO TAKAGI (Japan)
 'Overall Critiques on the Plutonium Utilization Programs of Japan, with Reference to the Rokkasho-mura Project'
 MIWAKO OGISO/
 KIMIKO FUKUTAKE (Japan)
 'Suit Against FBR Monju'
 YUMIKO OSHITA/KOJI ASAISHI (Japan)
 'Suit Against N-Fuel Cycle Project'
 THEODORE TAYLOR (USA)
 'N-Weapons Programs with Special Regard to the Social Risks of Pu'
 PAUL LEVENTHAL (USA)
 'International Concern over Japanese Plutonium Stockpiling'
 MYCLE SCHNEIDER (France)
 'Industrial and Strategic Aspects of the Pu Fuel Cycle in France'
 TADAO ISHIBASHI (Japan)
 'Japanese Plutonium Policy and N-Proliferation with Regard to US-Japan N-Cooperation Agreement'
 NILS-AXEL MÖRNER (Sweden)
 'Geological Consideration of N-Waste Management'

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Monday, November 4 (9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.)

JOHN LARGE (UK)

'Transportation of Plutonium, Hazards and Risks'

DAMON MOGLEN (Holland)

'International Campaign Against Transportation of Highly Radioactive Material'

SANTIAGO DAM LAU (Panama)

'Panamanian Opposition to Spent Fuel Transport'

MANAMI SUZUKI (Japan)

'Japanese Reprocessing Contract and Nuclear Fuel Transport'

Protesters Urge Japan to Refuse Indonesian Feasibility Study Order

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2. Request for funding should be submitted only when the contract is signed, but NEWJEC HAS contacted us and asked for consultation.
3. Payment for feasibility studies is usually done on the spot, and not on a deferred payment basis. If a deferred payment is the case this time and funding is asked for, it has to be seen as an exceptional case.
4. If funding is asked for, we will deal with it cautiously.

Protesters are against the feasibility study itself, regardless of the request for funding, since such a study would be the first step towards building nuclear power plants.

In Osaka, on the same day, a group of protesters urged NEWJEC not to receive the feasibility study order.

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(RERF) in Hiroshima and also the head of International Chernobyl Project which conducted the research. Another reporter today will be Jun Kuramoto, the director of Research Institute for Nuclear Medicine and Biology in Hiroshima University Hospital. The fact that the effects of radiation in Hiroshima and Nagasaki are far more serious than previously believed is now being revealed based on the research partly by RERF itself. We would never let IAEA bury Chernobyl in the past as well as Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Representatives from 74 anti-nuclear groups.
c/o Citizens' Nuclear Information Center

The protesters also held a press conference and Dr. Jinzaburo Takagi, head of the Citizens' Nuclear Information Center (CNIC) condemned the report as well as the Tokyo seminar. Meanwhile, the IAEA told the press that the study conducted by the International Chernobyl Project (ICP) was an independent project and that the results did not necessarily represent the views of the IAEA. This was quite a surprising remark since the ICP was appointed by the IAEA. It is very likely that the mounting criticism and protests from various organizations, including the governments of the two republics, led the IAEA to make such a comment.

Dr. Takagi analyzed the report as soon as it was available to the media and published a 16-page critique. The English version of the critique is now available from CNIC.

Anti-Nuke Groups

Active Around Japan

Nuclear Free TEPCO Shareholders Movement

On January 6, 1989 a serious accident happened at Fukushima II-3. A 100kg ring attached to the baring of the pump became dislocated and damaged the vanes of the recirculation pump. Metal pieces weighing as much as 30 to 40kg found their way into the reactor vessel. At the end of March, a group of concerned people came up with an idea of participating in the annual shareholders' meeting of TEPCO (Tokyo Electric Power Company) and of asking for disclosure of the facts and information on the accident. This is how the anti-nuclear shareholders' movement in Tokyo started.

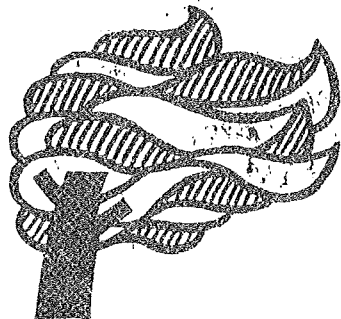
Six people managed to obtain enough shares to get in the shareholders' meeting and submitted 125 questions beforehand. At the meeting in June the company officials answered all of these questions at high speed taking nearly 2 hours. As shareholders' meetings for Japanese companies are generally very short and more like a ritual, it was highly unusual that the meeting lasted over two hours.

Encouraged by this, as many as 250 people obtained shares to get in the meeting next year and submitted well over 1,000 questions, hoping to make the meeting last all day. However, TEPCO officials only gave the briefest answers and tried to ignore the anti-nuclear activists. Around 12 noon, the meeting was declared finished. Anti-nuclear shareholders, deceived and upset, decided to file a law suit to ask for cancellation of the meeting's resolutions. The suit is now going on.

This year they had a new tactic, reflecting last year's experience, which was

to purchase 30,000 shares, --enough to have a right to make proposals at the shareholders' meeting. After a series of discussions, four proposals, including a halt to nuclear energy and introduction of Valdez Principles, were submitted to TEPCO. They were included in the proposals sent by TEPCO to its 760,579 shareholders along with a meeting notice.

At the meeting on June 28, with about 250 anti-nuclear shareholders present, the meeting started. Representatives of the 250 were given some time to explain what these four proposals were about and to urge TEPCO to abandon nuclear energy. It was rejected, but as many as 37,928 shareholders, including absentees who had voted beforehand, supported the nuclear free proposal. Now anti-nuclear shareholders are writing down all the names of these 37,928 people from the company's papers since TEPCO wouldn't let them xerox the papers. They are hoping to get in touch with every one of these 37,928 people and ask them to work together.



Significant Incidents at Nuclear Plants

(July - December 1990)

date	plant	short description of event
July 16	Mutsu	Malfunction of steam flow meter of steam generator (during test voyage).
July 18	Takahama 2	New damage found to steam generator tubes (during periodical inspection; hereafter p.i. for short).
July 25	Mutsu	Reactor scram due to malfunction of primary coolant temperature monitor (during test voyage).
July 26	Ohi 2	Feedwater pump failure due to feedwater flow control valve malfunction.
July 26	Fukushima I-3	High reactor water level due to feedwater flow control valve malfunction; reactor manually stopped (during p.i.).
July 28	Mutsu	Noise appeared in the control signal circuit; reactor manually stopped (during test voyage).
Aug. 10	Fukushima I-6	Reactor protection circuit malfunction due to breaker failure.
Aug. 15	Tokai I	Power reduced due to condenser tube leak.
Aug. 24	Tsuruga 1	Increase of containment floor drain water (reactor shutdown on 15 Sep.).
Sep. 7	Takahama 3	Leak at condenser circulation pump motor.
Sep. 9	Fukushima I-3	Neutron flux high due to main steam isolation valve failure; reactor scrammed.
Sep. 11	Tokai I	A fuel rod dropped erroneously during fuel replacement.
Sep. 25	Genkai 1	New damage found to steam generator tubes (during p.i.).
Sep. 30	Ohi 1	Radioactivity leak from fuel rod found (during p.i.).
Oct. 2	Tsuruga 2	Damage found to steam generator tubes (during p.i.).
Oct. 9	Hamaoka 1	Radioactivity leak from fuel rod found (during p.i.).
Oct. 17	Fukushima I-1	Abnormal vibration of turbine shaft; reactor manually stopped.
Oct. 19	Ikata 1	New damage found to steam generator tubes (during p.i.).
Oct. 21	Fugen	Reactor scrammed due to operator's error.
Oct. 30	Mutsu	Malfunction of steam flow meter.
Nov. 13	Tokai II	2 of 3 circulation water pumps stopped; power reduced.
Nov. 15	Ohi 2	Defect of primary coolant pump found during repairing outage.
Nov. 19	Onagawa 1	Turbine bearing temperature rise; reactor manually stopped (during p.i.).
Nov. 19	Shimane 2	Lubricant level drop at recirculation pump motor bearing; reactor manually stopped.
Nov. 26	PNC Tokai	Error function of criticality alarm at plutonium fuel development lab. No. 3.
Nov. 29	Tokai II	Increase of containment floor drain water; reactor manually stopped.
Dec. 4	Shimane 2	Main steam valve closed due to operational error; reactor scrammed.
Dec. 6	Tokai I	One generator stopped due to condenser leak.

NEWS WATCH

Reprocessing Plant Construction is Delayed

Japan Nuclear Fuel Service Co. Ltd., which plans to construct a nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in Rokkasho-mura, Aomori Prefecture, acknowledged that it is not possible to start construction, as originally planned for December of this year, or even within this fiscal year which ends in March 1992.

Surveys on High-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal

The Nuclear Safety Commission (NSC) and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) one after another instructed their respective specialists to conduct surveys and discussions on the geological disposal of high-level radioactive wastes. The AEC, on June 4, asked for a concrete investigation into the method and schedule of disposal, --who will do it, where it will be done, what are the costs, etc. The NSC asked for an examination of its basic safety policy.

The AEC plans to revise "the long-term program on the development of nuclear power" next year, and the outcome of the above examination will be reflected in the revise.

Plutonium Transport Escort Ship Launched

A launching ceremony of the Shikishima, the Maritime Safety Agency's patrol ship, was held on June 27 at Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industry's shipyard in Tokyo. This boat is going to escort the plutonium shipment from France and Great Britain to Japan, scheduled to begin in the fall of next year. The Shikishima is 6,500 tons gross, with a speed of over 25 knots and endurance of over 37,000km. It is loaded with two 35-mm machineguns and two 20-mm machineguns. It will also carry two middle-sized helicopters.

Ironically, Shikishima was the name of a Japanese warship used during Russo-Japanese War.

N-Power Cooperation with Developing Countries

A report of the results of a questionnaire called "A fact-finding questionnaire on nuclear power cooperation with the developing countries" for 1990 was published by Japan Atomic Industrial Forum Inc. (JAIF). According to the report, in terms of personnel exchange, Japan sent out 209 people that year and accepted 312, which means an increase of

those sent out compared to the number in the previous year. Though the money for the project was supplied mostly by Japan --about 70 percent including 21 percent by the Science & Technology Agency and 13 percent by the Japan International Cooperation Agency-- the sum of the money spent by the developing countries is on the increase. The 28 countries, including 16 in Asia, which took part in the project and supplied money are: China 25 percent, Indonesia 22 percent, Korea 12 percent, Thailand, Taiwan, Malaysia 8 percent respectively, Philippines 4 percent and so on. Nearly half --46 percent-- of the students came from Indonesia.

North Korean Defector Admits to Recycling Facility

It had been disclosed that a recycling facility had been built in Yongbyon, North Korea through pictures taken from satellites by America and France. At last a witness who confirmed the fact appeared in the July issue of "Weolgan Chosun," a Korean general monthly. It was a former

highranking official in the Ministry of Public Security of DPRK who sought political asylum in the Republic of Korea. The defector claimed to have been a procurement officer for the Yongbyon facility from 1983 to 1987.

On June 13, the government of DPRK expressed its intention, before the Board of IAEA, to sign the IAEA agreement on the inspection of Yongbyon facility.

A Fishermen's Co-op Refuses to Set up Negotiation Committee

On June 12, a local fishermen's cooperative --Okoppe Co-op-- voted against the proposal to set up a committee to negotiate for fishery compensation. There is another co-op in that town, Ohma, in Aomori Prefecture and this one --called Ohma Co-op-- set a negotiation committee in 1989. A committee on nuclear development of Okoppe Co-op made a report which concluded that fishing and nukes can live together," and submitted this report only to lose, with a narrow victory for the anti-nukes of 91 votes for, 96 against and 2 null and void.

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NUKE INFO TOKYO is a bi-monthly newsletter which aims to provide foreign friends with up-to-date information on the Japanese nuclear industry, as well as on the movements against this industry in Japan. Please write to us for a subscription (subscription rate: supporting subscriber \$40/year or 5,000¥/year, subscriber \$20/year or 3,000 ¥/year). The subscription fee should be remitted from a post office to our post office account No:Tokyo 6-185799, HANGENPATU-NEWS by postal money order. We would also appreciate receiving information and newsletters from groups abroad in exchange for this newsletter.

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