The Ecologist

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CAMPAIGNS

Citizens Block US Incinerators

COMPANIES have recently abandoned plans for four commercial hazardous waste incinerators in the United States, after determined citizen resistance and new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) measures. Meanwhile, campaigners are urging readers to send Vice-President Al Gore's copies of his book, *Earth In The Balance*, for having broken a pledge to halt an incinerator in Ohio.

On hearing of the cancellation of a 50,000-ton-per-year incinerator that residents of 21 North Carolina counties fought against for eleven years, defiant local campaigner Therese Vick said: "ThermalKEM thought our poor, rural, racially-mixed community would just roll over; well, we lasted one day longer than they did". One of the reasons for the victory was the formation of NCWARN, a statewide coalition formed in 1988 to spread information and stage civil disobedience protests to stop the facility wherever it was sited.

Scott Brown, a Greenpeace toxics campaigner, commented: "Attention in North Carolina can now turn to pollution prevention and stopping Carolina Solite's poisoning of Stanly County." People living downwind of the Solite aggregate plant, which burns hazardous waste as a fuel, have elevated rates of emphysema, sinus trouble and sleep-rousing or morning coughs, complaints Brown believes must be linked with Solite's operations.

A safety review of hazardous waste incincerators announced by the EPA in May appears to have been a factor in the cancellation of Chemical Waste Management's planned incinerator in California's Kettleman Hills, and of plants proposed by Envotech in Michigan, and DuPont in New Jersey. Others may follow, as the EPA disclosed in late September that over $22 million is being sought in civil damages from companies accused of violating combustion regulations.

An incinerator operated by Waste Technologies Industries (WTI) in East Liverpool, Ohio has, however, been allowed to continue emitting fumes containing lead, mercury and dioxins just 1,000 feet from an elementary school. This is in spite of failing its trial burn and being fined $65,000 for not having a valid permit.



Matthew Draper

President Clinton and Vice-President Gore are both implicated in this scandal. Jackson Stephens, chairman of Little Rock, Arkansas-based Stephens Inc., which established WTI, raised $100,000 for the Clinton Presidential Campaign, and a bank part-owned by his family extended a further $2 million in credit.

Al Gore pledged last December that the new administration would deny the WTI incinerator a test burn until after a full congressional investigation. As this was not honoured, protesters are returning copies of his book *Earth In The Balance* with messages written in them. In May, 53 activists were arrested for chaining themselves to a fake incinerator blocking Pennsylvania Avenue opposite the White House. The anniversary of Gore's pledge, December 7th, will see further national protests.

● To help "ban the burn" for good, write demanding that the WTI incinerator is shut down permanently, that no new permits for commercial hazardous waste incincerators are issued and that the Administration supports the Pollution Prevention and Incineration Alternatives Act of 1993.

SEND LETTERS or copies of *Earth In The Balance* to: Vice-President Al Gore, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20500, USA. Write to your representative, US House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

CAMPAIGNER CONTACTS: On Solite and ThermalKEM, Scott Brown, Greenpeace, 20 13th Street NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30309, USA, Tel: +1 (404) 876-8256. On WTI, Beth Newman, Greenpeace, Tel: +1 (412) 488 1450.

SUBSCRIBE TO: *Waste Not*, a two-page update published 48 times a year. Address: 82 Judson Street, Canton, NY 13617, USA.

COMING SOON from *The Ecologist* and Third World Network: *The Toxics File, A Resource Manual For Fighting Waste*, 2 volumes compiled by Triana Silton.

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The Ecologist CAMPAIGNS

This section highlights current campaigns, suggests how to support them and gives updates on feature articles. Send details of any campaigns to:

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Himalayan "Baby" Scheme Condemned

The World Bank is about to approve money for a dam in Nepal which is ironically known as "Baby Arun", although it would cost one and a half times the country's national annual budget and be three times the size of any existing power project in the country.



Arun has been doggedly championed by its donors, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and Japanese and European bilateral agencies; construction would rely entirely on foreign technologies and contractors, as Nepal lacks the capacity for a project of this size. British companies Kier and Balfour Douglas are among those bidding for contracts.

An even larger dam originally planned for this valley, which descends from Mt. Everest, was dropped after a Nepali Government Task Force found that World Bank studies used to promote Arun had arbitrarily increased the cost of alternative power projects by between 25 and 30 per cent. Power cuts and the IMF structural adjustment package, however, forced the Nepali Government to double electricity tariffs and food prices in April 1992, and allowed Arun's donors to try again with the new "Baby" scheme.

In spite of the World Bank category "A" environmental impact assessment rating, there has been no public hearing on Arun and the assessment has not been made public by the Bank.

The Nepali campaigning coalition "Alliance For Energy" recommends that Nepal build a series of smaller (1-50 megawatt) hydro plants instead of 210 MW Arun. This "Small is Powerful" approach would be cheaper, completed sooner and could be built and managed by local people, keeping money in the country and encouraging the growth of an indigenous small-scale hydro industry.

WRITE BEFORE 1st December to your Executive Director at the World Bank or to your Parliamentary representative demanding a vote against Baby Arun. Address: 1818 H Street, NW, Washington DC 20433, USA.

CONTACT: Alliance For Energy, PO Box 2772, Baluwater, Kathmandu, NEPAL, Fax: +977 (1) 411933 or Intermediate Technology Development Group, Myson House, Rugby, CV21 3HT, UK.

Indonesian Dam Protesters Shot

Four people were killed, including a 14-year old student and a 51-year-old widow, and four others injured, when Indonesian security forces opened fire on a peaceful demonstration against the Nipah irrigation dam on the island of Madura, East Java.

This project would flood 710 hectares in Sampang District, including three villages. People losing land would not be paid compensation.

On 24 September this year, a Sampang District National Land Board team, accompanied by security personnel armed with US-supplied M-16 rifles, arrived in Bayuates village to begin clearing land. Five hundred residents, mainly women and children, confronted the officials to demand that the project be abandoned. The protesters refused to disperse and continued shouting slogans, such as "We want to live!" when suddenly the security forces started firing indiscriminately into the crowd and continued to fire even at those trying to help the wounded.

• The Indonesian Legal Aid Foundation, which carried out a fact-finding mission, has asked people to write letters demanding that all project work cease until the Indonesian Government forms an independent commission to produce a public report on the killings, brings the perpetrators of the shooting to trial and resolves the issue of land rights in consultation with local people.

SEND LETTERS to: General Faisal Tanjung, Panglima ABRI, Markas Besar ABRI, Cilangkap, Jakarta Timor, INDONESIA, Fax: +62 21 36 1471.

General (Pol) Drs Banurusman, Kepala Polisi Republic Indonesia, Markas Besar POLRI, Jl Trunojoyo 3, Jakarta Selatan, INDONESIA.

SEND COPIES to: Yayasan LBH Indonesia, Jl Diponegoro 74, Jakarta 10320, INDONESIA, Fax: +62 21 330 140.

PNG Police Alarm

Almost a quarter of the Australian aid budget goes to Papua New Guinea. While this is largely in the form of untied aid, a large proportion of project money is spent in the "law and order" sector. Aidwatch, an Australian NGO, is opposing contributions to the PNG police from the Australian International Development Assistance Bureau (AIDAB).

A 1990 mid-term review of the police loan criticized the lack of police discipline, including drunkenness on duty, rape of women prisoners and killing livestock in tribal areas, yet a further Aus$62.1 million was approved.

Australian taxpayers pay for heavy gun training and Australian advisers train police to attack villages from the air. Military tactics are now being regularly used by police. A land dispute over sago palm felling in an East Sepik Province village was recently resolved, not by mediation, but by police riot officers who assaulted people with rifle butts and tried to abduct three women.

The root causes of the rising crime rate, especially rising poverty levels and the rapid spread of mining and logging in tribal areas, remain unaddressed by the Australian aid establishment. AIDAB's new Director, Philip Flood, recently supported the PNG Government's plans to slash minimum wages for unskilled workers, saying this would increase international competitiveness. Critics say AIDAB should not just use community policing rhetoric, but support NGO law and order initiatives, such as using village courts and employing "peace officers".

WRITE PROTEST LETTERS to: Gordon Bilney, Development Cooperation Minister, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600, AUSTRALIA.

FOR CAMPAIGN DETAILS contact: Aidwatch, PO Box 652, Woolahra, NSW 2025, AUSTRALIA. Fax: +61 (2) 344 0078.

• MEASURES ANNOUNCED in October to reduce timber cutting in PNG, including log export restrictions, are threatened by logging interests such as Rimbunan Hijau, a Malaysian company which controls over 80% of PNG log exports, and the looming GATT deal.

WRITE in support of forest reform to: Minister of Forests Tim Neville, PO Box 5055 Boroko, NCD, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, Fax: (675) 25 4433.

WRITE to your trade minister protesting about the effects of GATT "free" trade measures on forest conservation.

Shares Cropped

Campaigners recently sent international investors a briefing sheet on the devastating record of Barito Pacific Timber, Indonesia's largest timber company, in an attempt to disrupt its share issue. The offer was, in fact, oversubscribed but the campaign succeeded in embarassing Barito officials and the Indonesian Government.

Barito, with concessions of five million hectares of forest, persistently breaks the law. In August this year its licence to log 50,000 hectares of forest in Irian Jaya was revoked because of failure to comply with Government standards, and in 1991 the company was fined US$6 million for logging in a restricted area of East Kalimantan. The company, which is connected with President Suharto's family, refused to pay and the matter was dropped. Its connections have also been helpful in securing transmigrants to work as "modern slaves" in its major pulp and paper development in South Sumatra.

The Managing Director of Crosby Securities UK, the company organizing the share issue, admitted that campaigners "targeted the fund managers very well" but unfortunately most City brokers followed the Crosby assessment that Barito would be profitable and turned a blind eye to how the money would be made. One fund manager said campaigners approaching the City with such information would get a better response if their documents were "less emotive".

Sarawak Violence

On October 3rd, the Malaysian police and air force violently broke up the nine month peaceful blockade at Long Mobul in Sarawak and arrested 28 Penan trying to defend their homelands from loggers.

Eight supporters of the indigenous peoples' two year long blockades in the Long Ajeng area were arrested in London in July, when they blockaded the Malaysian Embassy. Their court appearance on December 16th/17th will be the occasion for another major solidarity action at the Embassy.

FOR DETAILS CONTACT: Sarawak Solidarity Campaign, 84 Long Lane, London SE1 4AU, UK, Tel: 071-403 2876.

Christmas Shopping Hampered

Activists in Britain plan to disrupt the orgy of consumerism that has taken over the traditional religious and family festival of Christmas. A Manchester-based group has declared Saturday December 4th, one of the busiest shopping days before Christmas as, "National No Shop Day".



The activists are inspired by Gandhi's saying: "There is enough in the world for our need but not for our greed". They cite cash crop plantations which deprive people of their livelihood and the fact that people in the North use on average 50 times as much energy as those in the South. TVs and cars are destroying communities and excess food is damaging health. Christmas in Britain now celebrates just these things: TV and food and thousands of unwanted presents that are bought, wrapped, given and then discarded.

Campaigners urge supporters to perform street theatre, make posters and leaflets or use the media to publicize the damaging effects of consumerism. Alternatively, people can use tactics such as filling supermarket trolleys with goods at a busy time, then refusing to pay once the items have been entered into the cash till. While the confusion is sorted out there is time to explain "No Shop Day" to shoppers and staff.

RESOURCES such as stickers and leaflets are available from ENOUGH, c/o The One World Centre, 13 Paton Street, Piccadilly, Manchester M1 2BA, UK. Send SAE and donation.

Mahogany Stolen — Then Stolen Back

CRISP officers have an unusual attitude to shop security: they remove furniture without paying for it. The Citizens Recovery For Indigenous Peoples' Stolen Property campaigners seize mahogany products made with wood from Brazilian Indigenous and Biological Reserves, then take them to the police, asking that they be returned to their rightful owners.

CRISP tactics to avoid prosecution for theft could be widely copied by other campaigners. Simultaneously with CRISP seizures, signed statements are handed to the police saying that mahogany items removed from stores will be transferred to the police pending a court ruling on who is the rightful owner of the allegedly stolen property. CRISP officers on duty are also accompanied by supporters, who take notes and are ready to act as witnesses in case of any prosecution for shoplifting.

The CRISP actions have been requested by indigenous groups because, while US and UK demand for mahogany remains high, the courts and the government Indian authority — FUNAI — cannot prevent powerful logging interests invading indigenous areas (see *CAMPAIGNS*, Jan/Feb 1993). A breakthrough was recently achieved, however, when a Brazilian court ruled against companies logging in indigenous areas covering an area larger than Belgium in South Pará. The three companies — Parachi, Maginco and Impar — were on the approved list of the discredited UK Timber Trades Federation.

British campaigners pledge that CRISP and other enforcement actions "will take place over the entire country until all illegal mahogany has been taken off the shelves".

FOR A CRISP campaign pack, and to be kept in touch with future actions write to: 48 Bethel Street, Norwich NR2 1NR, UK, Tel: 0603 631 007.

Fastbreeder Report Condemned

A public inquiry has concluded that it would not be "particularly dangerous" to reopen the Superphénix fastbreeder reactor in Western France. After 76 accidents, the Creys-Malville plant has been shut since 1989.

Européens Contre Superphénix, a pan-European coalition, is now stepping up its call for this power station, site in 1977 of one of the largest demonstrations ever held in France, to be shut for ever.

Jean-Luc Thierry of Greenpeace France said of the public inquiry, which is crucial for the future of the French nuclear programme, "everything was done to prevent any beginning of an authentic debate." Campaigners are calling for Superphénix, which has 50 billion francs tied up in its construction and maintenance costs, to be cancelled. In the spring of 1994 there will be a march from Malville to Matignon and the Government will continue to be inundated with cards and letters calling for a halt to the discredited fastbreeder programme.

SEND LETTERS calling for an end to the technical and financial disaster of Superphénix to: M. Edouard Balladur, Premier Ministre, 57 Rue de Varenne, 75700, Paris, FRANCE.

CONTACT: Européens Contre Superphénix, 4 rue Bodin, 69001, Lyon, FRANCE. Tel: +33 78 28 29 22, Fax: +33 72 07 70 04.

US Toxic Waste Floods Bangladesh

Two years ago US companies secretly mixed 1,000 tons of hazardous waste into a consignment of fertilizer which Bangladesh bought with assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). UBINIG (Policy Research For Development Alternative) and other Bangladeshi activists are seeking support in their call for this waste to be returned to the US.

Farmers, who were not aware of the contamination, applied 1,000 tons of the fertilizer containing heavy metals to their fields. The remaining 2,000 tons are being held in warehouses. The US Government has indicted the companies on a technicality of failing to notify Bangladesh about the waste, but has refused to take further action. Bangladeshi campaigners demand that the waste be returned to show that their country must not be used as a dumping ground and that US companies should introduce cleaner technologies.

ADB policy states that borrower countries cannot assess the safety or quality of fertilizers but must always accept the cheapest. Responding to pressure earlier this year, the ADB said it would adopt a policy forbidding its money being used for international waste trade schemes and that it would help remove the Bangladesh waste, but the Bank now says it has "temporarily shelved" these commitments.

TO ENCOURAGE the return of the waste write to: President Clinton, The White House, Washington DC 20500, USA and to The President, Asian Development Bank, 6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong, M.M., PO Box 789, 1099, Manila, PHILIPPINES.

FOR CAMPAIGN information contact: UBINIG, 5/3 Barabo Mahanpur, Ring Road, Shaymoli, Dhaka 1207, BANGLADESH, Fax: +880 (2) 813 065.

Asians Face Extradition From UK

People in Britain as well as in India are suffering from the Indo-British special economic relationship. Karamjit Singh Chalal, a 43-year-old Sikh, who has lived in Britain for twenty years, was refused a final appeal for asylum on 22 October and now faces deportation to India.

The Government has ignored evidence collected by Amnesty International and others that, on a visit to India in 1984, he was tortured by the Indian authorities after attending a peaceful demonstration for more autonomy for the Punjab. Chalal had previously been kept in prison for three years on vague grounds of "national security", and has never been informed of the charges against him.

The British Government can already detain indefinitely and deport without charge, but pressure applied by India recently won House of Commons approval for a draconian new Indo-British extradition treaty which will be used to clamp down on UK-based campaigning for political and human rights in India.

WRITE protesting against the treaty and Chalal's treatment to: Michael Howard, Home Secretary, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1, UK.

CONTACT: Solidarity Against Extradition, PO Box 45, Southall, Middlesex UB2 4SP, UK. Tel: 081-577 5834.

Fishers' Island

Iwaï-Kuma, a Japanese island 50 miles south of Hiroshima with 12 kilometres of coastline, is threatened by a planned nuclear power station.

The 950 inhabitants live from fishing and farming. They have held protests against the power station every Monday evening for eleven years, bought a hectare of land right in the middle of the proposed development and refused to allow an environmental impact assessment or a public meeting to take place.

WRITE in support of the islanders to the scheme's promoter, Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp., Sankaido Building, 1-9-13 Akasaka, Minato-ku, Tokyo 107, JAPAN.

IN BRIEF

● TURKISH NUKE THREAT

The Turkish Government recently announced plans for seven new nuclear power stations. In response, groups formed the Anti-Nuclear Platform of Turkey which held protests, including musical and artistic displays, from October 11-17, during the Nuclear Congress in Ankara.

CONTACT: Anti-nuclear Platform of Turkey, Fax: +90 4 380 89 79. or Agakakan & SOS AKDENIZ, Buerosu, P.K. 53 Konak, TR-35252 Izmir, TURKEY, Tel/Fax: +90-232 422 5240.

● LONDON LINK ANGER

Work has started on the M11 Link Road, which will bulldoze hundreds of homes in north-east London. Squatters are moving in to prevent houses being destroyed when residents are evicted. One houseowner will stand with his head in the noose of the gallows he has built on his roof if a demolition crew arrives. There were 13 arrests at a day of action on 18th October.

PUT YOUR NAME on the M11 mailing list. Tel: 081-558 2638.

● US CUTS BANK FUNDS

After months of hearings and debates the US Congress cut $215 million from its planned 1994 contribution to the World Bank and made the third year of funding conditional on the Bank improving its Disclosure of Information Policy, which only guarantees the release of selected documents, and its Inspection Panel, which is not sufficiently independent to investigate complaints about Bank projects.