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ACHILLES' HEEL

About those Indian Point Guerrillas...

DAILY NEWS: "A multimillion-dollar fire that wrecked an auxiliary building at Consolidated Edison's nuclear generating complex on the Hudson River south of Peekskill Nov. 4 was determined yesterday to have been deliberately set...it was learned that a 'prime suspect' has been identified and an arrest is expected shortly."

They're bluffing. They don't have the slightest idea which guerrillas did this!

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On November 4, 1971 a fire caused approximately $10 million of damage to electrical equipment in connection with the construction of Consolidated Edison Company's new nuclear power plant No. 2 at Buchanan, N.Y. The cause of the fire was described as "suspicious" and "possible arson" by police and insurance officials. In the meantime, two conservation groups had petitioned the AEC to stop construction of nuclear plant No. 3 contending that the Indian Point area cannot take the impact of three nuclear plants and two additional nuclear plants planned for the future. The arrogant criminals of the AEC and Consolidated Edison conspired to go ahead with construction although a full environmental review of the facility had not been completed. Such legal machinations by lawyers representing environmental groups are naive and utterly ineffective. If the American people wish to save themselves and their children from murder planned by the AEC and the utility companies, including designers and constructors of nuclear power plants, it will require more positive methods such as sabotage or arson. Here is why.

Albert Speer, Hitler's Minister of Armaments, in a recent Playboy interview stated, "There is, unfortunately, no necessary correlation between intelligence and decency; the genius and the moron are equally susceptible to corruption." Capitalist America produces more than 50% of the world's goods and is literally trampling upon the Earth, polluting the air, water and earth with wastes from its industries. There may be only 30 years left to control "normal pollution," but the pollution is reversible and can be stopped, although we stand at a point where the very survival of man is being threatened.

However, there is one form of pollution that is not reversible or controllable and is the ultimate catastrophe awaiting life and the environment on this planet. And that is "radiation pollution!" Aside from a nuclear war, which would completely destroy all life, the next most dangerous "radiation pollution" is that radioactivity resulting from the industrial use of atomic energy for electric power generators. These atomic power reactors are so dangerous that insurance companies will not cover them; Congress pays $500 million of insurance on each plant in case of a nuclear accident. The dangers from the so-called peaceful uses of atomic energy stem from three sources: the possibility of

a nuclear accident, the disposal of nuclear wastes and the dispersal of radioactive gaseous wastes to the air at the site or discharge into water including thermal pollution of nearby lakes and rivers.

Government Frankenstein scientists-engineers of the Atomic Energy Commision, including the criminals of the Congressional Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, have been stifling any criticism of the atomic energy program and have purposely lied in order to underestimate the risks from nuclear radiation. The AEC had arbitrarily set a radiation tolerance of 0.17 Rads (Radiation Absorbed Dose) per year as a permissible radiation dosage for human beings. John Gofman, a professor of medical physics at Berkeley and a research associate of the AEC's Lawrence Radiation Laboratory, disagreed with this arbitray determination and stated, "The statement that there's some number that's safe is an absolute, unmitigated lie." Scientists such as Ernest J. Sternglass, professor of radiation physics, have contended that nuclear reactors at Indian Point and at Brookhaven National Laboratory have increased infant mortality in the surrounding areas.

Accidents with serious release of radioactive material into the environment have occurred in England and America. In 1969 the reactor core of the Enrico Fermi breeder-test plant near Detroit melted down when a coolant line became clogged. On May 11, 1969 a plant located in Rocky Flats near Denver, Colorado had a fire that burned $20 million worth of plutonium. This AEC plant fabricated plutonium into nuclear triggers for hydrogen bombs. There is a long history of explosions, fires and plutonium spills occurring at this plant with many workers overexposed to plutonium. AEC-sanctioned nuclear enterprises have contaminated the Colorado River, Lake Mead, Great Salt Lake and the Columbia River. It was the AEC criminals who permitted the removal of more than 300,000 tons of uranium mill tailings to be used as construction fill in towns like Grand Junction, Colorado. With a history of criminal negligence going back to the 1940's, can we accept the word of the AEC concerning the safety of nuclear reactors when such reactors have shut down due to "malfunctions" in Michigan, New Jersey, New York and Minnesota?

Consider the subject of the burial of radioactive wastes from nuclear reactors in special AEC storage caves or in barrels dumped far out to sea. At the proposed atomic waste disposal dump near Lyons, Kansas of an abandoned salt mine, geologists found that water could seep into the atomic burial areas. Geologists contend that such areas must be water free; if not, the salt may dissolve and allow radioactivity from the nuclear waste to move to the surface. Some subterranean emissions may continue for hundreds of thousands of years. In the town of Lewiston, near Niagara Falls, federal radiation experts found radioactive "hot spots" in a field where contaminated radioactive equipment (tank drums, pipes, etc.) were stored. The level of radioactivity showed some levels of 5 millirads an hour whereas the AEC considers 1 millirad an hour the maximum permissible level. The magazine Ecologist has pointed out that of 183 atomic waste storage tanks in the states of Washington, South Carolina and Idaho, nine have failed so far! These failures occurred less than 20 years and yet the contents of the tanks are utterly lethal for thousands of years.

The loss of the nuclear submarine Thresher in 1963 contributed to the radioactive pollution of the oceans. The oceans are being polluted through leaks and discharges from atomic ships and power plants. Embryo fishes with deformed backbones have been found in the Irish Sea due to theradioactive pollution caused by the Windscale nuclear power station on the British coast. A Dr. Jerold M. Lowenstein of the University of California Medical Center at San Francisco stated, "Every living thing on and under the sea is being ppisoned with radioactive wastes." Containers of high-level radioactive wastes mixed with concrete are being dumped into international waters whose hazards are yet to be reckoned with by future generations. Lord Ritchie-Calder, president of the Conservation Society of England in an interview on Nov. 23, 1968 stated, "When scientists and decision-makers (read capitalists and AEC) act out of ignorance and pretend it is knowledge, then they are putting the whole world in hazard."

There are 22 conventional nuclear-powered plants now in operation in the U.S. These reactor plants are of the boiling-water type where the heat of a reactor is used to convert water into steam, which then drives turbine generators to produce electricity. A new type breeder-reactor is being developed that also uses fission to make both steam and more fissionable material such as plutonium 239. In these breeder plants, liquid sodium would be used to carry the heat from the reactor to the plant's turbo-generators. However, extreme caution must be used to keep the sodium from coming in contact with air or water, as it bursts violently into flame on contact. Another danger is that breeder plants tend to clog and cause melting of the core, as happened in the Enrico Fermi plant. But the AEC decision makers are very optimistic that these reactors can be designed and built to keep these catastrophes from happening. Boiling-water reactors depend on emergency coolant waters to reach the reactor core to prevent a melt down. Recent tests conducted in a mock-up reactor last November and December (1970) at Idaho Testing Site showed that in <u>six</u> straight tests, where the plant's primary cooling loop was ruptured, the emergency coolant waters failed to get through to the reactor because of steam accumulations. Ralph E. Lapp, a nuclear physicist, stated that <u>future</u> nuclear power plants should be designed and constructed to insure that the coolant reaches the reactor core within <u>ten</u> seconds. Any longer, he contends, might mean a violent chemical explosion that could spread radioactive materials for miles. If this is true of the boiling-water type reactor, imagine the extreme danger that would result from liquid metal fast breeder reactors where no coolant, like water, can be used under any circumstances.

Why has the AEC spent more than $600 million on the development of liquid metal fast breeder reactors? The reasons are that by the end of the century the world's available supply of uranium may be exhausted. The fast breeder reactor, which converts uranium 238 to plutonium 239, is expected to produce enough plutonium 239 not only to replenish itself but also produce enough for another reactor (boiling-water type) over a period of 20 years.

In the U.S. the total electric utility installed capacity as of Dec. 31, 1970 amounted to 335 million kilowatts. Of this total, 7.5 million kilowatts are operable nuclear plant capacity. 44 million kilowatts

representing 53 nuclear plants are presently being constructed. 35 million kilowatts representing 36 nuclear plants are planned (reactors ordered).

Between 1970 and 1990 the utilities are expected to increase their capacity from 335 million kilowatts to 1.1 billion kilowatts. In 1969 the AEC estimated that this additional capacity will require at least 255 new sites of 500,000 kilowatt plant capacity, of which 164 are expected to be nuclear plants. In the Northeast alone, about 100 nuclear plants will have to be built where fewer than ten are now operating. If these plans are carried out, every major body of water in the Northeast will be rimmed with nuclear plants. The total estimated cost for all new utility construction is somewhere between $300 million and $350 million.

Government investment in fission research for 1971 amounted to $103 million whereas its investment in fusion research amounted to $28 million, which had to be reduced by $400,000 from the previous year. By this determination the government had indicated its preference for "radiation pollution" in attempting to get a demonstration breeder system by 1980 rather than invest in obtaining a positively "clean" reactor which is only possible under the fusion process.

There are at least ten fusion reactions being considered for reactors. In one of the fusion reactions, light atoms such as deuterium and tritium, which are forms of hydrogen, are fused or combined to form heavier atoms such as helium and a single neutron which is ejected at 14.1 million electric volts. To gain energy from this process, the neutron penetrates and heats a lithium blanket around the reactor which is then circulated through a heat exchanger to produce steam for power generation. Unlike the fission process which is "dirty" and manufactures a variety of "radioactive" by-products dangerous to man, fusion is a "clean" process and produces no "radioactive" material at all. Fission involves the splitting of atoms and is so incredibly complex that it requires nonstop monitoring by automatic instruments and nonstop monitoring of the instruments by men. At the end of the fission reaction the spent fuel is so dangerous that it must be stored in underground tanks for hundreds of years. Despite this, truckloads of this waste are driven through towns.

In fusion processes there is no danger whatsoever of a "runaway" or "accident" as is possible in a fission plant where the core can melt and release radioactive fumes. Fusion, on the other hand, is so dependent on a difficult to achieve combination of factors that any accident would shut down such a plant, not turn it loose in a rampage. There is another gain or asset from fusion reactors in that they may "burn up" some of the radioactive wastes from fission reactors, and also there would be reduced thermal pollution because of improved efficiencies from use of high temperatures and direct conversion to electricity.

There has been significant progress made in controlled fusion research within the last few years in both the Soviet Union and the U.S. The best estimates are that a fusion demonstration reactor could be constructed by 1985, sooner with a crash program, and with significant commercial impact by the year 2000. If the difference in achieving a breeder reactor by 1980 and/or a fusion reactor by 1986 amounts to a ban

years, then the emphasis placed by government and industry on the "radiation pollution" breeder plant is nothing less than murder.

Until such time as fusion reactors are developed on a commercial scale, all fission plant research, development and construction must be stopped, and all existing fission plants must be dismantled or destroyed or sabotaged as occurred recently at the Indian Point plant. The murder must be stopped by any means since the arrogant morons and "genius"-hoodlum scientist-enigineers will not listen to any logical, scientific studies or pleas showing that their activities are detrimental to mankind. Research companies such as General Electric, Westinghouse, Babcock and Wilcox and Bechtel Corporation must cease work on fission research or they will be held accountable for their crimes. The scientist-engineers employed on such projects should seek other employment or transfer to non-nuclear research. Anarchistic science (!) coupled with anarchistic capitalism(!) will not be tolerated.

The development of non-nuclear conventional plants such as hydroelectric or steam plants using low sulphur content coal will be permitted to be constructed. However, the control of pollution at these plants must be so rigid as to prevent arrogant bastards from violating strong anti-pollution laws. Federal, state or local boards responsible for cleaning up the country's air and water pollution must not be permitted to continue to cover up for the criminals. They, in fact, are the representatives of the corporations who have been destroying the environment. These corporations have planted their stooges on 35 state boards and have, in fact, increased pollution. Air pollution has increased within the last four years from 142 million tons of contaminants to well over 200 million tons.

As the president of the Monsanto Enviro-Chems Systems recently stated, "We are all living in a fool's paradise if we think that industry will do anything until it is forced to."

<u>The time has come to force them</u>.

The effective guerrilla attack on Con Ed's Indian Point Nuclear Plant No. 2 indicates that some people agree with this. It also indicates that they know the right time and place.

(Pass this on.)

Issued by

<u>Project: Achilles' Heel</u>