

May 8, 1980

Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION  
ACT REQUEST

FOIA-80-276

REC'D 5-23-80

Gentlemen:

Under the freedom of information act I would like to obtain a copy of the report (or summary) of the NRC inspection of Atomic International and the allegations of Stanley Schechter.

I am attempting to beat down the conviction of a local college person that radiation is deforming babies all over the country. She is a very intelligent person and subscriber to the "Alliance for Survival," 712 South Grandview St., Los Angeles, Ca. 90057

You might do well to subscribe to it so that you can schedule ahead. According to the San Fernando Valley News the NRC entered the AI case after the Alliance for Survival took up the Schechter case.

I hope you people are concerned. After a 12 billion dollar balance of payments deficit, mostly because of oil, there has been a tremendous reduction in planned nuclear plants in the U.S. thanks to these groups and the exposure they get

from the media. I believe that it is  
the eleventh hour already, militarily and  
the dependence upon oil tankers is  
frightening.

I've included a few articles from the  
Mar-April 80 issue of A. P. J. and hope  
that you would comment upon them.

1. Pennsylvania state health officials are investigating  
an increase in dwarfism and mental retardation  
close to Three Mile Island.
2. Does the NRC now call for evacuation  
plans for areas within 50 miles of nuclear  
plants? Is this a change in requirements?  
Why?
3. Care to comment on the statement of  
Dr. Michio Kaku that a small nuclear  
explosion could happen at A.I.? Is there  
a Dr. Kaku?
4. What is your information regarding the  
"pocket of leukemia" around the AI reactor?
5. Finally, when you give licensure approval  
to Diablo Canyon, you can expect the  
Alliance to plan a nationwide blockade  
of the plant. If you don't go on the offensive,  
these kids will make the NRC look silly and  
the country can't stand much more of this  
at the Federal level.

Sincerely,  
Tom Miller

# Three Mile Island Anniversary Actions Set



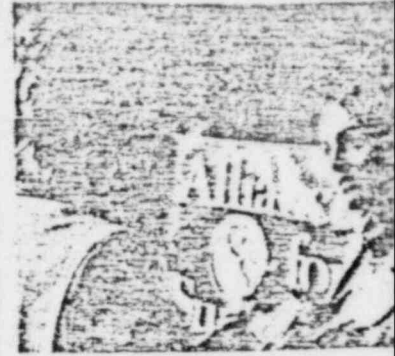
Diverse local actions will greet the first anniversary of the near-meltdown at Harrisburg last March. On Friday, March 28, there will be a noon picket line at the So. Calif. Edison office in Santa Ana (601 City Center Dr. West); then leafletting from 3-5 p.m. at the San Onofre plant (Basilone exit off I-5). The same day, a rally is set for noon at Cal State Long Beach. And that evening, labor union leaders will speak on TMI at the United Teachers of LA office, 2511 W. 3rd St. in L.A. at 7:30 p.m.

On Saturday, March 29 there'll be a vigil from 12-2 p.m. in Laguna Beach (PCH and Main Beach). In the Valley, look for leafletting and billboarding from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Ventura and Van Nuys Blvds. On Sunday, March 30, there's a rally outside the Venice Pavilion from 12-4 p.m. (Windward & Ocean Front).

## Dwarfism, Mental Retardation On Rise Near 3 Mile Island; Leaks Continue

Pennsylvania state health officials are investigating an apparent increase in babies born with thyroid problems leading to dwarfism and mental retardation in Lancaster County, close to the Three Mile Island nuclear plant. Dr. George Tokuhata said the rate of hypothyroidism—in which babies are born with missing or misplaced thyroid glands—appears to be five times the rate before the historic March 28 accident there.

The crippled plant suffered two more radiation leaks in January. In one, the reactor released 200,000 to 300,000 microcuries of krypton-85 gas. One microcurie is the maximum weekly dose to the public permitted by federal rules. Plant officials downplayed the release, saying the plant contains 50 billion microcuries of krypton-85. The gas causes lung cancer. —GB



## Supervisors Reject Pro-Diablo Plan

The L.A. County Board of supervisors rejected a suggestion county's Energy Commission that Supervisors vigorously support completion of the Diablo nuclear power plant. The decision came after Alliance for Supervisors held a press conference (photo) and picket line to call for conservation and renewable sources as alternatives to the billion dollar nuclear plant near Luis Obispo. Drawn only reluctantly into the nuclear debate, the supervisors suggested open hearing

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# Meltdown Escape No Easy Matter, Planners Told

Anti-nuclear representatives pointed out so many deficiencies in an L.A. County Disaster Office evacuation plan for the San Onofre nuclear plant that the disaster planners temporarily shelved the plan for further review. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission now calls for evacuation plans for areas within 50 miles of nuclear plants.

Testifying before a committee of the L.A. County Board of Supervisors, C.E.D. activist Bill Bradley and Alliance for Survival staffer David Lumian pointed to a lack of medical training and facilities available, the underestimation of the radiation's danger, the loss of planning if other disasters occur simultaneously (i.e. floods, earthquakes), and possible entrapment of radioactive dust in a smog inversion layer situation, as well as problems with the plant itself.

—RD

An Arizona water quality employee checks the Rio Purco River in late 1979 for possible radioactive contamination. A dam break in New Mexico poured 95 million gallons of radioactive water into the river last July. The river flows into the Little Colorado River, which runs into the Colorado River—a major source of drinking water for Southern California.

The Metropolitan Water District found that its water from the Colorado doubled in radioactivity last year, rising from 10% to 20% of the maximum safe level. But the water agency will cut its testing down by 90% in June—to save money, they say.

—GB

# Nuke Accident Potential Cited For S.F. Valley

A small nuclear explosion could occur at Rockwell's Atomic International facility in Canoga Park, according to New York nuclear physicist Dr. Michio Kaku. At a recent press conference, he said a "criticality accident" can happen when two quantities of enriched uranium or plutonium are placed close enough and in the right pattern.

The result, Dr. Kaku said, could blow the roof off a building and scatter radioactivity over a wide area. A quarter million people live within 5 miles of the facility. He said federal reports show that about 30 such accidents—with 7 fatalities—have been reported, all in remote areas.

With Dr. Kaku at the press briefing was Stan Schechter, a Senior Maintenance Mechanic at the firm, who called the radiation safety training he was given "totally inadequate" to prevent a criticality accident.

The press conference was sponsored by the San Fernando Valley Alliance for Survival and the Committee to Bridge the Gap.

—MC

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# Leukemia Near Valley Nuke

High levels of leukemia are being reported around a disabled experimental nuclear plant in the San Fernando Valley which suffered a partial meltdown in the late '50's. According to KNBC-TV, this "pocket of leukemia" may far exceed the normal rate of 2 cases per 100,000 people. One woman whose child died of the disease told the station that she personally knew 13 people in that area who had been affected by the often-fatal cancer.

Atomics International is still dismantling the crippled plant. The firm has a license to have as much as a ton and a half of highly-radioactive enriched uranium on the Simi Valley site. Owned by Rockwell International, a maker of the nuclear MX missile, Atomics International also runs a Canoga Park facility where radioactive materials are handled. (See page 5)

On Valentine's Day in Canoga Park, a crowd of 100 people huddled together between cold winds and rainstorms to listen to speakers and give their support to the conversion of Rockwell to non-nuclear civilian-oriented activities. The demonstration was one of many held across the country in association with the Rockwell shareholders' meeting taking place in Tulsa, Oklahoma the same day. Shareholders cast 1.6 million votes for converting Rockwell's nuclear bomb plant in Rocky Flats, Colorado into a peace-oriented industry. The proposal lost, but activists who came from around the U.S. termed it a good beginning. Info: (213) 989-5003. —DB,SS

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# Alliance Backs Peaceful Stance

The Alliance for Survival reaffirmed its philosophy of non-violence in February in response to concerns raised after an attacker shoved a pie into the face of Edward Teller during the pro-nuclear physicist's speech at UCLA.

"Who needs this kind of thing?" one Alliance staffer said. "Anyone who does something like that is not working for our goals."

Non-violence and calm have been characteristic of all major Alliance-sponsored events. Staffers quickly disavowed a flag-burning incident by another group after the February 8 vigil. The Alliance Steering Committee issued the reaffirmation of non-violence. —GB

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## Summer Diablo Blockade Likely

The latest prediction by statewide no-nuke groups foresees the granting of the operating license for Diablo Canyon and the subsequent blockade to most likely occur this summer.

Originally the nuclear plant was expected to go on line two or three months after completion of the licensing hearings in February 1979. But after the accident at Three Mile Island, the NRC initiated a temporary freeze on all construction permits and operating licenses for nuclear power plants. After the release of the Kemeny Report on TMI, the NRC last November announced another licensing "pause." But NRC chief John Ahearne told Congress in late February that the pause will probably end soon.

The statewide Abalone Alliance is actively planning a nationwide blockade of the plant when the operating license is granted. For info: (213) 738-1041. —AK



Anny Semonoco, who has cerebral palsy, walked 10 miles across Hollywood on February 3 to show her support for the Alliance for Survival and the Easter Seal Society. Sponsored by the Alliance's Hollywood chapter, the 13-hour walk reflected her belief that we all must act—"to whatever degree we can."

## Anti-Rights Bill Threatens Movement

Fines of a quarter million dollars and jail terms of five years could be slapped on protest organizers if a rally at a nuclear plant resulted in property damage or violence—regardless of who committed those deeds. That's just one of many parts of Congressional bill (S-1722) which, if passed, could tie up the survival movement in costly court battles for years.

Urging people not to register for the draft—whether the suggestion was followed or not—could result in the same stiff penalties for individuals. Organizations could be fined up to a million dollars for such activities.

Military authorities could severely punish anti-war civilians who are "cited" trouble among those in uniform.

A massive letter-writing campaign against the bill—which the Senate soon consider—is being led by Friends Committee on Legislation (213-798-4605).

California's Senators—Cranston and Hayakawa—may be written to U.S. Senate, Washington 20510.

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