

DIRTY BIZNESS



PARTIZANS ALTERNATIVE REPORT

ROADS FROM RIO

RTZ IS THE WORLD'S SECOND BIGGEST MINING COMPANY, WITH INTERESTS IN VIRTUALLY EVERY METAL, MANUFACTURING, CHEMICALS, ENGINEERING, CONSTRUCTION AND THE EXPLOITATION OF OIL, GAS AND URANIUM. OPERATING IN MORE THAN 40 COUNTRIES, WITH AROUND 750 ASSOCIATES AND SUBSIDIARIES, IT EMPLOYS MORE THAN 75,000 PEOPLE WORLDWIDE.

IT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS "PROBABLY THE WORLD'S MOST DIVERSIFIED MINING COMPANY". 1985 WAS A GOOD YEAR FOR RTZ WITH NET ATTRIBUTABLE PROFITS OF £215 MILLION. BUT, WHO HAS PAID THE PRICE?

AS PARTIZANS * HAS CONSISTENTLY EMPHASISED, THE GREATEST COST HAS BEEN BORNE BY INDIGENOUS AND THIRD WORLD COMMUNITIES. ASPECTS OF RTZ'S GLOBAL ACTIVITIES, HIGHLIGHTED IN PAST YEARS, AND STILL CAUSES FOR CONCERN, INCLUDE THE ROSSING URANIUM MINE IN NAMIBIA, RTZ'S INVESTMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE WEIPA BAUXITE MINE IN ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIA.

BUT THIS YEAR OUR ALTERNATIVE REPORT IS SIGNIFICANTLY DIFFERENT. WE ARE NOW PUTTING RTZ'S ACTIVITIES AT HOME TO THE TOP OF THE AGENDA. ALAN DALTON OF THE LABOUR RESEARCH DEPARTMENT (A TRADE UNION FUNDED ORGANISATION) SHOWS CLEARLY THAT WORKERS AT THE ANGLESEY ALUMINIUM SMELTER AND RTZ'S AVONMOUTH PLANT HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO DEADLY POLLUTION. OBJECTIVE DATA ON THE DANGERS HAS BEEN RUTHLESSLY SUPPRESSED.

ACROSS THE ATLANTIC, WORKERS IN ANOTHER RTZ SUBSIDIARY AT RIO ALGOM HAVE OBTAINED SOME CONTROL OVER THEIR WORKING CONDITIONS, THANKS TO YEARS OF UNION MOBILISATION. HOWEVER - AS RECENT RESEARCH ON THE INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY DOWNSTREAM OF THE MINE SHOWS - THIS IS LITTLE PROTECTION AGAINST THE DEADLY EFFECTS OF IONIZING RADIATION CAUSED BY THE URANIUM MINES.

MEANWHILE, IN AUSTRALIA - HOME OF THE COMPANY'S MOST SUBSTANTIAL SUBSIDIARY, CRA - RTZ PERSONNEL LEAD THE POLITICAL BACKLASH AGAINST ABORIGINAL CONTROL OF THEIR RESOURCES. IN PRACTICE, THIS MEANS THAT EVEN MINIMAL SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC GUARANTEES TO ABORIGINAL PEOPLE DISRUPTED BY MINING ARE BEING DENIED: A REPORT FROM THE VASTLY RICH LAKE ARGYLE DIAMOND MINES GRAPHICALLY UNDERLINES THE POINT.

BUT MINORITY COMMUNITIES ARE NOT ALWAYS SQUASHED. A SMALL NATIVE COMMUNITY IN LABRADOR, ALLIED WITH OUTSIDE SUPPORTERS, BEAT BACK THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL URANIUM MINING COMPANY IN 1980 WHEN RTZ WAS REFUSED A LICENCE FOR A MINE. A FEW YEARS LATER, (AS OUR LAST ARTICLE DESCRIBES) A MAORI COMMUNITY IN AOTEOROA (NEW ZEALAND) DEFEATED THE MINING PLANS OF CRA IN A SIMILAR FASHION.

THIS REPORT LINKS INDIGENOUS PEOPLE STRUGGLING TO RETAIN CONTROL OF THE LAND THEY HAVE CARED FOR OVER MILLENIA, WITH WORKERS' STRUGGLE TO KNOW THE HAZARDS TO WHICH THEY ARE EXPOSED.

* PARTIZANS - PEOPLE AGAINST RIO TINTO ZINC AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES - IS AN UMBRELLA GROUP OF COMMUNITIES, ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS OPPOSED TO SOME OR ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RIO TINTO ZINC CORPORATION.

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Dying for a living

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Since the Counter Information Services (CIS) RTZ Anti-Report of 1972 most critiques of RTZ have concentrated on their overseas activity. As RTZ is a UK company this is somewhat surprising. The reasons lie with the facts that, by chance, most RTZ plants in Britain are located in high unemployment areas (eg Anglesey, Cornwall, Humberside, South Wales) or in areas where trade unionism is not that strong (eg Bristol). Of course, the recession has not helped and people are afraid to speak out in case they lose their jobs if they work for RTZ. Or lose someone else's job - (possibly) a family member's - if they live near an RTZ plant.

For the first time in the UK we now have a detailed case-study on an RTZ plant - Anglesey Aluminium - compiled by the Labour Research Department (LRD); an independent trade union sponsored research organisation (1).

Anglesey Aluminium

This plant was constructed in the 1960s and given a cheap source of electricity by the then Labour government, under Harold Wilson, from the near-by nuclear power station at Wylfa. Although originally owned by three groups (RTZ 43%, BICC 27% and Kaiser Aluminium of the US 30%) it is now owned two-thirds by Kaiser and one-third by RTZ. However it is RTZ who run the operation and are fully responsible for pollution controls both inside and outside the plant.

Aluminium smelting plants have long been known to be dangerous, both to workers inside the plant and to people (especially children) animals and plant life outside the plant. Many studies of the past 50 years proved these hazards. In 1943 a Scottish crofter, farming near Fort William, noticed a mysterious disease was maiming his sheep. It did not remain a mystery for long, a full scale investigation (2) by the Medical Research Council revealing that the sheep were being poisoned by fumes from a near-by aluminium



Anglesey Aluminium Metal Limited, is a joint venture, two-thirds owned by Kaiser Aluminium & Chemical Corporation of California, and one-third by The Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation of London. Producing 113,000 tonnes of primary aluminium a year, Anglesey Aluminium is a major contributor to the local economy.

Cyd fanter dau gorfforaeth rhyngwladol yw Alwminiwm Môn, sef Corfforaeth Alwminiwm a Chemegau Kaiser o Galifornia a Chorforaeth Rio Tinto-Zinc, Llundain. Fe gynhyrchir dros 113,000 tunnell o alwminiwm primaidd yn eiddonol gan y Cwmni. Mae Alwminiwm Môn yn un o'r prif gyfranwyr i'r economi leol.



Anglesey Aluminium Alwminiwm Môn

ANGLESEY ALUMINIUM METAL LIMITED
Penrhos Works, Holyhead, Gwynedd
Phone: 0467 3333

ALWMINIWM MÔN
Gwaith Penrhos, Caergybi, Gwynedd
Ffôn: 0467 3333

Smelter secrecy worries council

Councillors are unhappy that the results of tests carried out on workers at the Anglesey Aluminium plant at Holyhead are not being made public even though the company has agreed to make them available to the island's community medical officer.

The fluoride fumes destroyed young sheep and cattle's teeth making it impossible for them to eat and causing visible pain when they drank from cool mountain streams (the roots of their teeth being exposed). The study also showed concern for the workers in the plant and the children and people living near the plant and concluded: "It is only prudent to site new developments in such a way that, so far as possible, residents are kept out of the zone most liable to contamination".

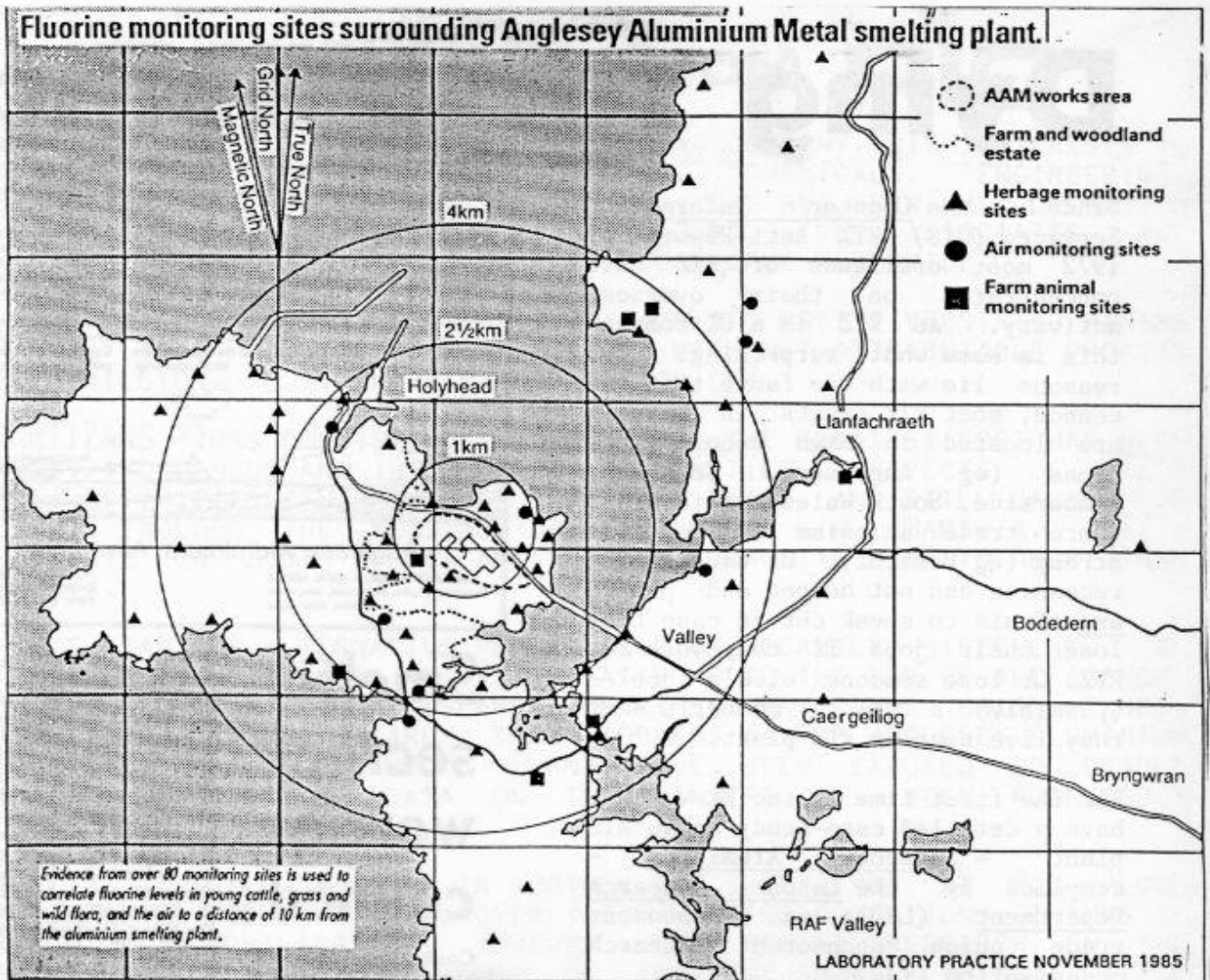
Armed with this information, twenty years later RTZ built their plant almost in Holyhead town with primary schools only a few hundred yards away and some 16,000 people living in the immediate area. The responsible face of RTZ again!

When the smelter went into

The firm had been asked to make the results known to members of the Anglesey Aluminium Consultative Committee which met last month, but members were told that the medical records of employees were confidential and could not be released although there was no objection to the medical officer, Dr Evan Richards, discussing the issue with the company doctor.

But at last week's meeting of Anglesey environmental health committee, Councillor Elwyn Schofield, said it was not satisfactory to keep the results of the tests on fluoride levels private. He said that he was not interested in

Flashback to Anglesey Chronicle
for December 1st, 1983



production in 1970, fluoride emissions from the main stack were three times more than the figures RTZ gave to a public enquiry in 1968. The chairman of the company, Duncan Dewdney, told a resident who had purchased some RTZ shares, that the level of pollution control originally promised by them (95%) would have cost an extra £250,000. (3) As the evidence below shows, nearly all aluminium smelter plants in the world operate at the 95% level; the Anglesey Aluminium plant is therefore one of the dirtiest plants in the world!

Poisoning bodies

LRD were alerted to the poisoning that was going on inside the RTZ aluminium smelter in Anglesey by a frightened worker who had been at the plant eight years. His urinary fluoride levels had been high for many years and he suffered from stomach pains and severe pains in his joints. He went to his GP who fobbed him off. (He was also the works doctor for Anglesey Alumin-

ium). The worker then contacted the factory inspector who was also little help. The company proposed to move him to a lower paid job which would have meant a loss of £34 a week. "Why should I lose money when it is the company who have poisoned me?" he asked. LRD, through adverts in the local paper, found another 13 current and ex-employees at the plant who told of ineffective ventilation, high urinary fluoride levels, cosmetic cleaning up for the factory inspectorate and various diseases and complaints that are known to be associated with aluminium production.

But Anglesey Aluminium are not satisfied with poisoning the bodies of the workers inside the plant. They are also, according to the evidence of their own vet, poisoning the cattle near the plant. In addition, according to the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology at Bangor, they are poisoning foxes, voles and field mice. Not content with this massacre they are also killing near-by trees and lichens!

Poisoning Minds

LRD asked for help and advice from 'our' protectors: the factory inspectorate, the Industrial Air Pollution Inspectorate, local doctors and plant specialists. The replies (or non-replies) they received are very revealing.

The factory inspectorate refused to supply any information and even sent a recorded delivery letter to LRD asking for their sources. The Industrial Air Pollution Inspectorate gave RTZ a glowing testimonial in their annual report for 1983. And yet during twice-yearly 'liason committee' meetings with the company in 8 out of 10 instances the same inspectorate was unhappy with the pollution levels from the factory. Figures from the company for their own pollution, supplied to LRD by the local council, showed total emissions levels of fluoride in 1985 at 25% higher than they were in 1972; spewing out around 600,000 tonnes of fluoride into Anglesey each year. LRD also found industry figures showing that the current levels of pollution from this plant are **six times the world average!**

Three out of 13 employees and ex-employees had a GP who was also an Anglesey Aluminium works doctor. One mentioned that some of the key doctors at the local hospital, where he was being treated, were consultants to Anglesey Aluminium. Not surprisingly a locum GP thought there was a conflict of interest. One worker tried to sue the company for compensation and was advised against it by a local solicitor. But it seemed the solicitor's partner did most of the legal work for Anglesey Aluminium. "Was there a connection?", he asked.

LRD asked the Institute for Terrestrial Ecology for an opinion on all the pollution they had observed in animal and plants. We are only academics they replied in effect; ask someone else. The top person on the effects of pollution on plant life in this country is Dr. A W Davidson of the Department of Plant

Biology, University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, who has edited the major work on fluoride pollution (4) for the World Health Organisation (WHO). Contacted he promised more information; none has been forthcoming. Little wonder - he is a consultant to Anglesey Angluminium and was used by the company to attack the reports of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology. "Those who pay the piper call the tune".

Prosecute RTZ?

Fourteen years ago the CIS anti-report on RTZ observed, in connection with the Anglesey Aluminium plant: "On the evidence of Avonmouth and Swansea the residents have little reason to feel that their interests are properly protected by a combination of RTZ and the Industrial Air Pollution Inspectorate." How right they were. On the basis of the LRD evidence alone the following must be done immediately:

* A full scale, independent and published **medical survey** of all traceable past and present workers at Anglesey Aluminium and people (especially children) living around the plant. Full compensation for anyone whose illness are shown to be caused by, or aggravated by, working at or living near the plant. There must be continued follow-up since further diseases may show.

* A **public enquiry**, with disciplinary recommendations and prosecution, into the role of our protectors (factory inspectorate, industrial air pollution inspectorate, doctors, academics) who are clearly not protecting workers or environmental health.

* The pollution, inbuilt over many years, is clearly sanctioned at the highest level. Therefore prosecution under section 37 of the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act, in the Crown Courts, with a possibility of an unlimited fine and up to two years imprisonment, should be taken by the Health and Safety Executive against Sir Alistair Frame, chairman of RTZ.

Cancer Cover-up

RTZ's lead and zinc smelter in Avonmouth, Bristol has a long and dirty history. In 1969 many workers were diagnosed as suffering from lead poisoning and there was a government enquiry into the plant (5). In 1972 Duncan Dewdney, then Chief Executive of RTZ in the UK, "openly confessed that the plant's initial construction was skimped, that corners were cut and that it should have cost at least two million pounds more." (6)

Now we can exclusively reveal that RTZ have been suppressing for almost a year a report by Dr George Kazantis of the TUC Centenary Institute of Occupational Health, University of London, showing increased lung cancers at the plant, for almost a year. In 1983 a medical study (7) on lung cancers among cadmium metal workers demonstrated an increase risk of lung cancer. Many of the study group for this research came from, "one plant situated in an urban area in the South-West". This is the RTZ Bristol plant.

The follow-up study to this one, which shows a definite increase in lung cancer at the plant, was ready for publication last July. But RTZ were not happy with the results; their plant might be identified. So they quibbled with the researchers and even threatened them by withdrawal of money and access to any UK plants for study. The researchers remain quiet; they too make a good living out of increased lung cancers! In the meantime valuable chances to clean-up the plant are lost; more workers suffer from lung cancer and the families of those who have died do not receive any compensation. The trade unions at the plant know of this study but have done little either; the age old fear of job loss ("We'll close the plant down if you let that one out").

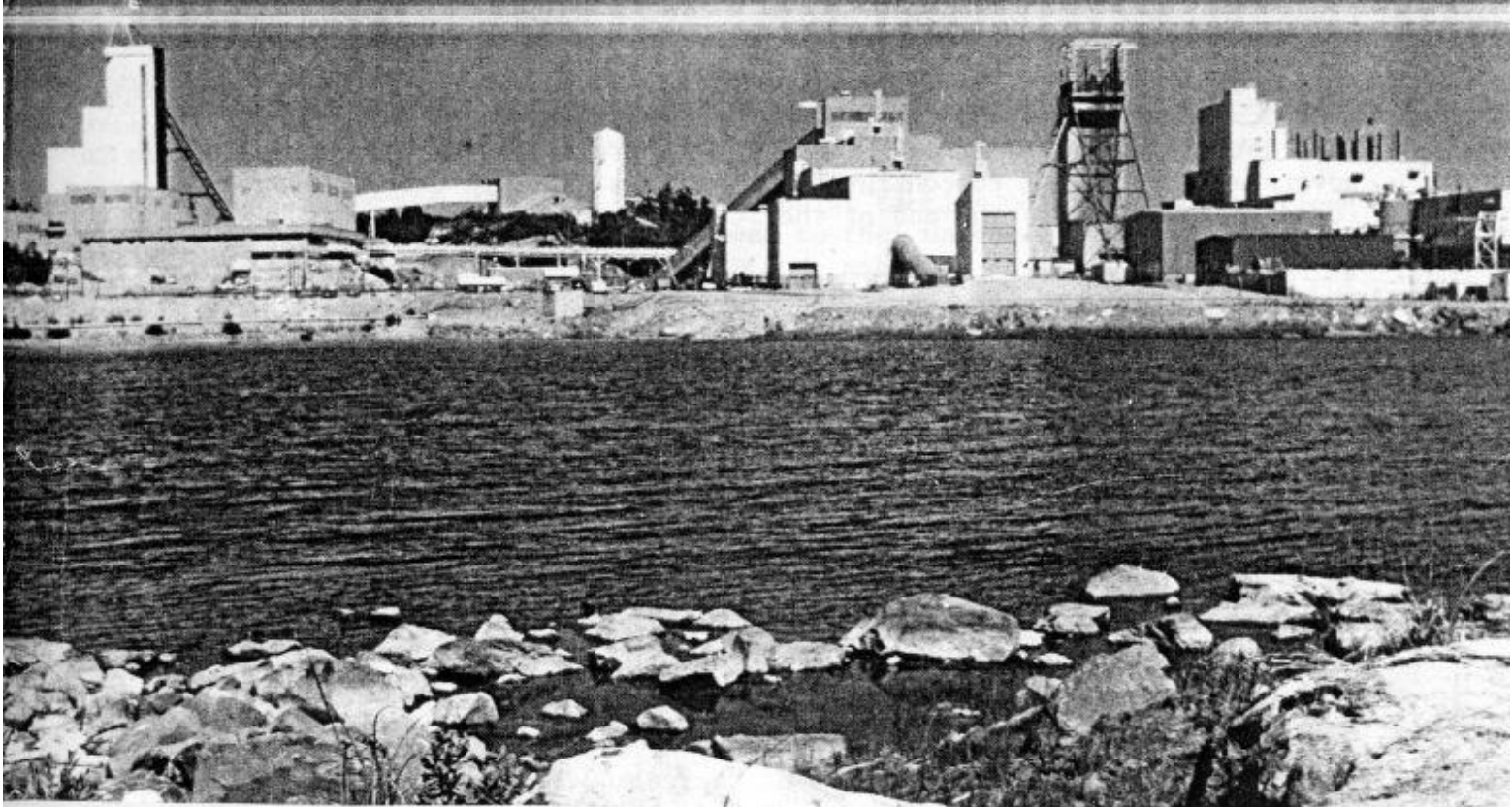
The final irony of this cover-up is the speech (8) given by Dr Joe Barbour, Environmental Scientist at RTZ, to local council Environmental Health Officers, at a meeting entitled, 'Chemical Hazards in the Environment' in November 1985. He said, "There are very few discernible effects in lead and cadmium workers." Lies! And we know why: because his company (and presumably himself) are suppressing the results. Another case for personal prosecution by the Health and Safety Executive.

As with Anglesey Aluminium the demands must be the same; not just for RTZ workers but for the sake of all workers. If RTZ can muzzle the academics then what hope is there for any other studies?

RTZ in Cornwall

In 1979 RTZ moved into Cornish tin. The group currently owns four tin mines: Wheal Jane, Mount Wellington, South Crofty and Wheal Pendarves; employing about 1500 in all. From evidence given to a recent House of Commons Select Committee on the tin crisis (9) RTZ say they were 'not too keen' to move into Cornwall. However, out of the goodness of their well-known soft hearts, they did. Or was it because their supply of cheap Bolivian tin for their Capper Pass tin smelter, near Hull, was drying up? At the same time the price of tin was very high. Now with the collapse of tin - aided by the city and banks and RTZ itself (10) - the company is pulling out of Cornwall from the 1st August 1986. But surely this means the loss of around 1000 jobs at Capper Pass too? Well, no. For RTZ has just brought 'on stream' a lower cost Canadian tin mine at East Kemptville, Nova Scotia to feed Capper Pass. So onward marches RTZ leaving the Cornish tin miners with a 50% unemployment rate, a devastated community, deadly radon gas and silica dust in their lungs, exhausted and in some cases partially deaf.

One Chernobyl Each Year



Rio Algom, RTZ Canadian subsidiary, is one of the world's biggest uranium producers. In order to meet highly favourable contracts (especially to Ontario Hydro) the company has rehabilitated and expanded its mines in the Elliot Lake region of Ontario to such an extent that production soared from around 4.5 million lbs uranium oxide (U308) in 1979 to almost 6.8 million lbs in 1982. (1)

Production in 1985 was 7.4 million lbs U308 (2). In comparison the world's largest uranium mine at Key Lake, Saskatchewan, produced around 11 million lbs U308. (3)

All uranium mines leave highly radioactive "tailings" which endanger groundwater, fisheries, plant life and the quality of air near the mine. While the danger to miners is most immediate, that to neighbouring communities can become profound and horrendous over the many years required before radon and its "daughter" isotopes stabilise as lead. (4)

One highly respected public research group has estimated that the potential effects of radon releases

from the Elliot Lake tailings piles (both Rio Algom's and those created by Denison Mines) will be 60,000 premature cancers over the next 111,000 years. That's an awful lot of Chernobyls. (5)

Nor do such calculations allow for accidents - of which there have been several in the Elliot Lake area. On October 20th 1979, for example, "...a tailings line leading from the new mill to the waste disposal area broke, resulting in liquid and solid contamination to Quirke Lake" testified the United Steelworkers of America union in 1980. (6)

In 1976 a secret report on water quality in the Serpent River basin (the main recipient of radioactive and other contaminants from Elliot Lake) showed that the entire river system had been severely polluted. Radium contamination was so considerable that the water was unfit for human use and fish life had been exterminated. (7)

No less than four years after this investigation, the international Joint Commission on the Great Lakes (IJC) declared that radium-226, thorium and heavy metal cont-

amination of Lake Huron (into which Serpent River flows) was well above the maximum IJC levels. (8) Although the radium contamination of Quirke Lake - adjacent to Rio Algom's Panel mine - did reduce during the early 1970s, thanks largely to a slump in mining, its picocurie/litre level was still nearly twice the government's "target concentration" for drinking water by the end of the decade. (9)

The Serpent River Band of native Canadians (Indians) is dependent on river water and land affected by the Elliot Lake mines; some of their members also work in the mine and the sulphuric acid plant.

Between 1982 and 1984, the Serpent River Band participated in a comprehensive Environmental Impact Protection Program, together with two other native bands not affected by uranium mining. Partizans has been able to study the results of this program and although final conclusions have not yet been received, the interim conclusions make disturbing reading.

* About twice as many young adults (36 years and under) reported **chronic disease** at Serpent River as at the other two reserves (Mississagi and Spanish River)

* The Serpent River band also reported the **largest proportion** of participants of all ages with chronic disease.

* The most frequently reported diseases on all three reserves were diabetes, cardio-vascular diseases, arthritis and deafness. However, diabetes and cardio-vascular disease appear to affect the Serpent River band at a **significantly younger age**.

* Just as chronic diseases are more frequent at Serpent River so are pregnancies which end in fetal death. (10)

The report also analysed diseases in terms of occupational exposures and concluded:

* In males over 45 years "ill health" is reported by more men with occupational exposure to the acid plant or uranium mine (75%) than not exposed (43%)

* There is a higher than expected number of unexplained fetal deaths and abnormal live births among uranium miners, relative to non-uranium miners under 45 years old. There also seems to be an elevated rate of unexplained fetal deaths and subnormalities in live born offspring for acid workers in the same age group. (11)

Although the study is necessarily limited - and cannot expect to show up radiation-induced cancers which take 30 years to develop - its conclusions are that "Occupational exposure appears to have a significant effect on Band members. The costs may well outweigh any benefits derived from nearby resource developments." (12) The major new developments are those of Rio Algom.



Elliot Lake uranium mines are unionised by the United Steelworkers of America. These mines first came into production in 1956 and since that time nearly 200 miners have died from lung cancer due to radon gas (13). An illegal three week strike at one of the uranium mines (Denison, not part of the RTZ group) in 1974 led to a Royal Commission investigation of health and safety at the mines. Since that time the miners have taken an active interest in health and safety and their contracts are often used as examples to other trade unionists in Canada. For example, in 1981 the union won the right for their own, paid inspectors. In 1984 they negotiated the right for 10 minutes an hour off when working on VDUs. But the union are not satisfied. They are demanding (14) the investigation of workers who were subject, without their consent, to useless 'aluminium dust' therapy for silicosis in the years 1943 to 1979 (when the union stopped it) and they want their own 'Workers' Health Centre' based on 1.5% of the direct annual cost of workman's compensation.

GREAT AUSSIE LAND GRAB ⁹

A remarkable revolution has recently taken place in Australia. A small number of expertly trained, highly motivated and determined people with millions of pounds and total backing from foreign interests has virtually hijacked the national government and further succeeded in manipulating a significant section of the Australian community into supporting their obsession with 'progress'.

Experts had warned that the infiltrationist tactics of this demonic clique, the mining lobby, would successfully lead to the unrestricted and unimpeded exploration and extraction of oils and minerals without regard to the environment, long-term economic and social impact and especially, without respect for Aboriginal ties with the land. A Land Rights Movement aimed at restoring all-Australian control over their lives and lands was mounted under the leadership of the Aboriginal people. This movement won the support of both Liberal and Labor governments, the hearts and minds of the majority of Australians, the churches, the unions and international opinion.

After a long and difficult struggle the Movement succeeded in thwarting the evil plans of the mining lobby in areas of the Northern Territory, South Australia and New South Wales. Did the lobby admit defeat against this progressive force of a united people? No! They returned with renewed obsessive vigor and cunning.

One of the Lobby's most heinous members, Hugh Morgan, executive director of Western Mining Corp., burst into the open in May 1984 claiming that the Land Rights Movement was "anti-Christian" and would wreck the mining industry. Morgan's bold move was supported by that shifty operator, Rod Carnegie chairman of CRA. Carnegie went so far as to suggest that if the lobby were restricted then "resource-hungry Asians" would invade! What abominable lengths these devils go to. The lobby further marshalled its forces to mount the most massive and distorted campaign of half-truths and racist libel the country has ever seen. Led by the WA Chamber of Mines and the AMIC (1) they propounded the principle "that mining industry wishes the government to exercise its power over minerals so as to give mining interests paramountcy over Aboriginal interests in land, and for that matter most other interests in land" (2)

The pressure brought by the lobby induced the Prime Minister to reverse without reference to anyone, the government's commitment to the Aboriginal veto over mining on their land. The most courageous, poorest and most fundamentally dispossessed force in the Land Rights Movement struggled to roll back the massed power of such scourges as BP, Western Mining, BHP, RTZ and its surrogates CRA and Comalco. But if the democratically elected governments had been almost completely subverted by this single-minded clique, what hope was there for these peoples?

The exact extent of the lobby's victory became clear when the government proposed a national Land Rights model which broke with three of the five principles of their previous policy and which aimed to dilute existing Land Rights of nearly half the Australian Aboriginal population. The Western Australian government, in almost complete subjugation to the Chamber of Mines, had promised "confrontation of all sorts" with the Land Rights Movement. In March 1986 the government completely abandoned any attempt to legislate for nation-wide Land Rights.

The progressive peoples of Australia under the leadership of the Aboriginal people, are rallying their forces against this exploitative and self-interested gang of robber barons. The struggle will continue for those who want a future where all Australians will guide development into a harmonious balance between nature and need.

»» IMPOVERISHING THE

The Argyle Diamond project in Western Australia's East Kimberley region has been developed by RTZ's largest subsidiary, Conzinc Rio Tinto Australia (CRA) and CRAE (Exploration). Argyle Diamond Mines Pty Ltd (ADM) is 56% owned by CRA. (1)

The technologically advanced diamond mine and treatment plant is expected to make full production in 1986. Annually it is expected to produce "about 15 million tons of material which will yield 25 million carats (5 tonnes of diamonds).(2)

CRA bases its success on "strong commitment to winning"(3) coupled with company policy that it is "primarily a commercial enterprise and not a welfare body".

This comes as no surprise to the Aboriginal communities around Lake Argyle who have been the prime victims of the mining project. Indeed, the dispute between these communities and the company has highlighted several glaring deficiencies in existing legislative and administrative structures in Western Australia - all of which seem to work to CRA's advantage. The mines have proceeded largely unchecked, unmonitored and unevaluated. Notwithstanding the promise of the company's own Environmental Research and Management Programme (ERMP), and conditions placed on the company by a Western Australian Cabinet memorandum of 17 May 1983, it has become clear that the government's criteria are unenforceable. Of course, we should not expect that any company would willingly sponsor research critical of its activities.

Nor - if the research proves embarrassing - that the company would openly publish it. Efforts by Aboriginal organisations to obtain "Background papers to social and economic impact" of the project, prepared by ADM consultants and quoted in the press as available to "all interested parties", have consistently failed. Nor has the



Glen Hill so-called "agreement", on which exploitation of Aboriginal land is based, ever been fully divulged.

The Western Australia Museum - the body legally empowered to protect Aboriginal sacred sites in the State - also seems to take the line of least resistance. Although the Museum has the power to declare company obstruction an offence (sec.51,1 & 54,2 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act), its opinion is that the company cannot be obliged to divulge information harmful to its interests (1). While section 60,2 of the same Act puts the onus on a defendant company to show that the law doesn't apply to its activities, the museum has concluded that a court case is unlikely to succeed. And so, the weak have colluded with the powerful, to dispossess the rest.

Some of the events leading up to the granting of government permission for the diamond mine are outlined in the box accompanying this article. They show an extraordinary mixture of manipulation and deception on the company's part, together with culpable vacillation and cowardice on the part of the WA Museum - the body supposedly protecting Aboriginal interests.

OOOR: CRA at Lake Argyle¹¹

November 1979 Aboriginal stockmen discover damage to sacred Aboriginal site of Devil Devil Springs. Telegram to CRA Exploration (CRAE). Museum contacted. Company stops work. Museum agrees initial survey if CRAE provides funds. CRAE agrees: 3 hour reconnaissance in helicopter. 58 sites listed, 3 within mineral claims, one on periphery.

Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 empowers the museum to protect sacred sites. Companies must apply to Museum trustees for permission to utilise sites.

December 1979 Survey received by CRAE

January 1980 Company activity on registered site number 25 - the Baramundi, womens sacred dreaming site. Letter from museum to CRA under section 18(2) of Heritage Act notes company must get permission to disturb site.

February Ashton Joint Venture (AJV) asks museum to evaluate significance of 3 sites within mineral claims. Company and government discuss royalty payments. State government discuss construction of plant. Museum telegraphs postponement of proper survey indefinitely.

March AJV work commences. Warmun community applies to have sites entered on register of National Estate. Kimberley anthropologist notes more activity of CRAE at Devil Devil Springs. Survey of Barramundi site exceeds one kilometer of agreed boundary. Eight Kimberley communities demand protection of Argyle sites.

April Telegram from Warmun community to Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies (AIAS) notes damage to 3 sites. Minister for Cultural Affairs, Mr Graydon, asserts "East Kimberley Aborigines are detribalised, and three sites are no longer important". Admission by CRA that CRAE responsible for site damage. CRAE stops work. Two mile extent of Barramundi site mapped out for visiting CRA adviser at Warmun community meeting.

May AIAS survey conducted by Williams/Palmer. AIAS team includes one woman and one man: the first time Aboriginal womens perspective on land and living included. Sir Roderick Carnegie, chairman of CRA, admits Argyle operations have damaged Barramundi. Letters from Warmun community to Aboriginal Legal Service seeking advice on site desecration. Earth moving operations on Barramundi site cease. Formal complaint against CRAE by John Toby from Mandangala. Hearing set for June 6. Inter-community meeting reaffirms opposition. Heavy machinery still at Devil Devil Springs.

July Toby withdraws complaint in favour of legal action by Museum. Mr Graydon, Minister of Cultural Affairs, admits asking museum to defer action on Barramundi site. Museum succumbs to political pressure deferring legal action until after amendment of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972. CRAE stifle opposition to site disturbance, making significant offers to certain custodians. Unable to obtain recognition of their claims or redress for desecration of sites through normal legal and administrative channels, some members of Mandangala sign an agreement. Legal advisors refuse to act in the circumstances, demanding notice of meeting to all affected people. CRA fly Mandangala people to Perth and engage alternative counsel. The so-called Glen Hill agreement signed. Aborigines protest they now have no clear recollection of what they signed.

Warmun community seek investigation by Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations for 1) failure of museum to protect site and 2) inordinate delays in site evaluation and recommendations for protection.

August Questions in Western Australian Parliament regarding sites and site work.

September The Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972 is amended. During the Parliamentary debate it becomes apparent that under the Act, AJV could have been required to forfeit their tenements at Argyle. Amendments to the Act remove this threat. Letter from Warmun community to Registrar of Sites of the West Australia Museum regarding unrepresentativeness of Glen Hill agreement. Only half traditional owners were present. Half from Turkey Creek get no benefits. AJV arrives unannounced at Devil Devil Springs by helicopter to discuss fence around site. Minister Graydon announces permission for CRAE to utilize Barramundi Hole, Barramundi site and Canteen hole. Promise to declare 14 sites temporarily protected. Promise never honoured. Museum inform Turkey Creek that CRA refuse to divulge information regarding these sites.

November Leaked document spells out objective of AJV public relations programme in 1981: "Sustaining the Argyle agreement signed with Glen Hill community, isolating the agreement from general debate on Aboriginal Land Rights, while encouraging acceptance of company's policies toward its Aboriginal neighbors... The AJV should undertake vigorous lobbying programme in state and Federal circles.. to ensure our position regarding Aboriginal issue is fully appreciated among key decision makers". Director of Museum advises no legal action could be taken against CRAE. Warmun community challenge this, stating there is prima facie evidence.

January 1981 AJV report that diamond deposits of Upper Smoke Creek and Kimberlite pipe should provide A\$ 22 million yearly for evaluation/exploration costs within AJV tenements.

June Trustees of Western Australia museum recommend in light of "agreement" between senior members of Aboriginal community and the company, and the Ministers assurance that 55 sites would be given protected status, that three sites be utilized, while 14 should be declared temporary protected areas.

July Woolah and Warmun receive from AJV offers under a Good Neighbor Policy of on-going capital for A\$ 40,000 and A\$ 100,000.

September Parliamentary Commissioner of Administrative Investigations dismisses Warmun community case against museum. His findings remain confidential.

November Warmun worries about CRA camp at Sugar Bag Yard. At community meeting with AJV, communities press for formal agreement with AJV; request denied.

February 1982 AJV officials defend company refusal to allow Good Neighbor money to be used for purchase of pastoral station. AJV again rejects community demand for properly negotiated settlement.

May Argyle diamond Mines (ADM) - the leaders of the AJV and Aboriginals meet to discuss Environmental Impact Study. Proposed procedure rejected by ADM.

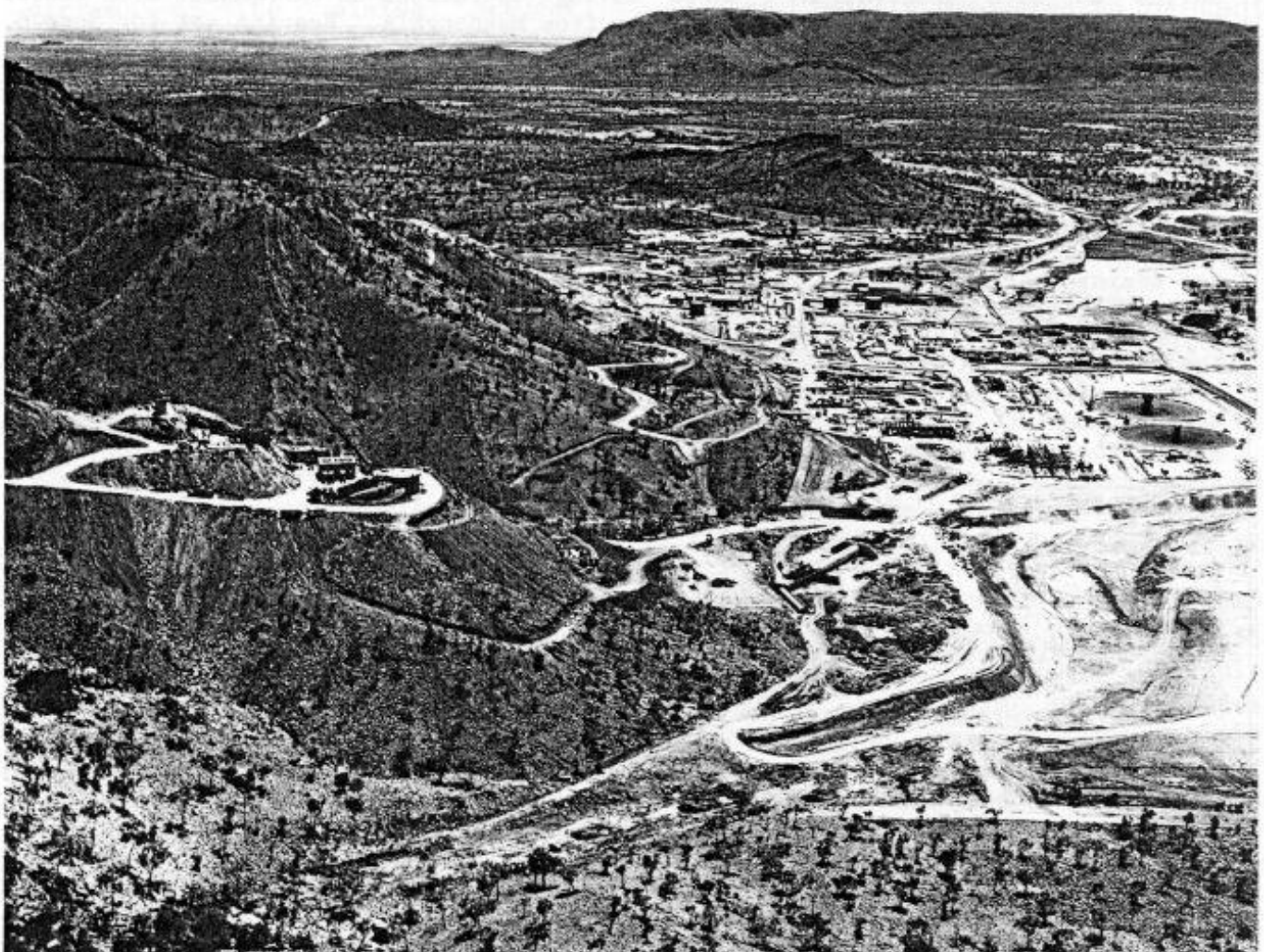
July Letter from ADM contains thinly-veiled threats to end Good Neighbor disbursements if agitation for formal agreement continues. Communities concerned at water being pumped from Mount Pitt without museum approval.

August Inter-community meeting insists need for negotiated settlement.

November Museum officials visit, note despoliation of Flying Fox hole.

December Concern expressed by community at damage done to Kumunangka a very special site related to rainbow serpent. Complaint forwarded to museum and relayed to ADM. Dismissed by ADM official who insists "no further survey is necessary and no museum involvement is required, because existing system of consultation is adequate". This is rejected by Warmun men who question the knowledge of persons consulted by ADM.

Below: Lake Argyle region in 1984: Barramundi is to the left



Conditions not met

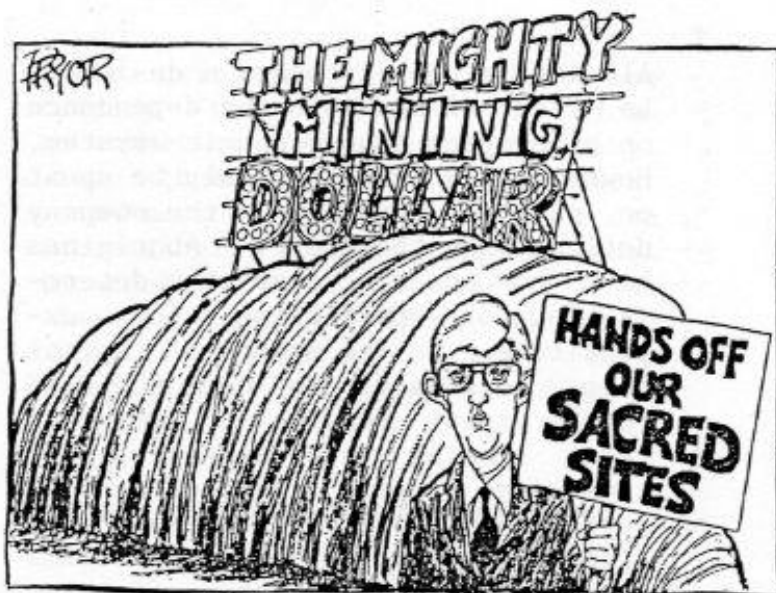
In 1982 ADM commissioned an Environmental Research and Management Programme (ERMP) (4) which admitted that five areas of spiritual significance and no less than 17 archeological sites had been destroyed as a direct result of the company's activities. The ERMP also recognised the considerable fears of Aboriginal people that they would lose access to their land (about 5,500 hectares was initially required for the mine development), and have to compete with whites for the use of their fishing holes, swimming holes, camp sites and hunting as well as social areas.

Despite this, in May the following year, the Western Australian government still gave permission for the mine to proceed - subject to eight conditions being met. Nine months later, the government also proposed an ex gratia \$1,000,000 payment to affected Aboriginal communities for a minimum of five years. But it did not address the questions who would decide the criteria, of "affected" communities, or how money could be distributed so as to maximise Aboriginal self-management.

Two of the conditions laid down in ADM's own report have not been fulfilled. Namely those relating to Aboriginal site protection and management and the employment of Aborigines at the mine. (1) Of the eight laid down by the government three are worth quoting here:

(4)...(That) the company closely monitors social impacts, especially during construction phase. It should cooperate with private and government agencies to overcome adverse impacts.

(6)...(That) An Impact Assessment group be established...including Aboriginal groups...with a view to further development of Government and company social programmes.. which will pave the way to avoid conflict and confrontation.



(8)...(That)... the company consults with government and local Aboriginal groups, with a view to changing the management of funds contributed under the "Good Neighbour Policy".

In July 1984, respected representatives of four major bodies (Centre for Resource and Environmental Studies, of the Australian National University, Australian Institute of Aboriginal Studies, Anthropology Department University of Western Australia and the Academy of Social Sciences in Australia) visited the Lake Argyle region. In a report to the Kimberley Land Council (KLC) and the National Aboriginal Conference, they delivered a profound indictment of the way in which the company had implemented (rather, failed to implement) the conditions laid down for the ERPM. Among their conclusions (and we have determined they are still valid in 1986) are:

* The Good Neighbour Programme has actively denied Aboriginal aspirations to land, refusing funds which could enable them to develop outstations (an essential antidote to social disintegration). The overall effect of the GNP has been to increase the company's social and political control of Aboriginal affairs and dampen potential Aboriginal opposition.

All Aborigines expressed a desire to be free of handouts and dependance on a European-type economic system. However, GNP funds can only be spent on capital works and the company defines what these are. Aborigines have no control over the determination of priorities for expenditure. As the number of capital items increases, so does the need for recurrent funding to maintain them, making an already poor community poorer. Exclusion of Aboriginal opinion/management reduces the people to passive victims which in turn preempts effective Aboriginal leadership.

* There is now competition for fishing and recreation sports from mine workers. Important Aboriginal food sources are being exploited and in some places destroyed.

* Kununarra (the township nearby), is such that land suitable for residential purposes is limited. Company proposals to house staff and dependants will place housing out of reach of many Aboriginal families. One result of this has been the enforced eviction of the Lily Creek people, for whom derogatory compensation arrived in the form of one Toyota!

* The clear signal from the company has been that favourable decisions and fund releases depend on maintenance of good interpersonal relationships and deference to company agents. These personnel now exercise an influence over the direction of Aboriginal affairs in the region that rivals the Department of Aboriginal Affairs (DAA) or Aboriginal Development Commission (ADC) approach to block funding and entirely eclipses the State's community welfare and Aboriginal planning authority. Since the company's Aboriginal affairs policy tends to operate against government policy, this should be a matter of concern to both State and Federal governments.

* At no time has the company entered into discussions with the communities in respect of Aboriginal employment. The ERMP does not elaborate here - rather it suggests "Training facilities, direct access to jobs for skilled and semi-skilled and contract services". Aboriginal people represent 56% of the local population, but of the ADM workforce of approximately 1,000, only 8 are Aboriginal, 3 of them locals, with 4 Aboriginal apprentices (government subsidised).

Training in semi-skilled occupations is non-existent. Six people have been offered menial work for a few weeks. Wages are not equivalent to those of white workers. As a consequence, the main mine settlement is kept predominantly white.

* As pressure increases on both formal and informal systems of control, so does the sense of alienation felt by some Aboriginal youth. Nothing has been done to prevent this. The Warringarri 'drop-in centre' was sold from under the young peoples' feet, and no such facilities now exist.

* ADM senior personnel demand more academic subjects in the District High School so, with limited resources, other areas of the school programme will be lost. No government or company action is taken to prevent this. The number of Aboriginal children leaving the education system has increased.

* Increased tourism puts pressure on land in direct conflict with the need of Aboriginal communities. Tourist interests do not want Land Rights granted.

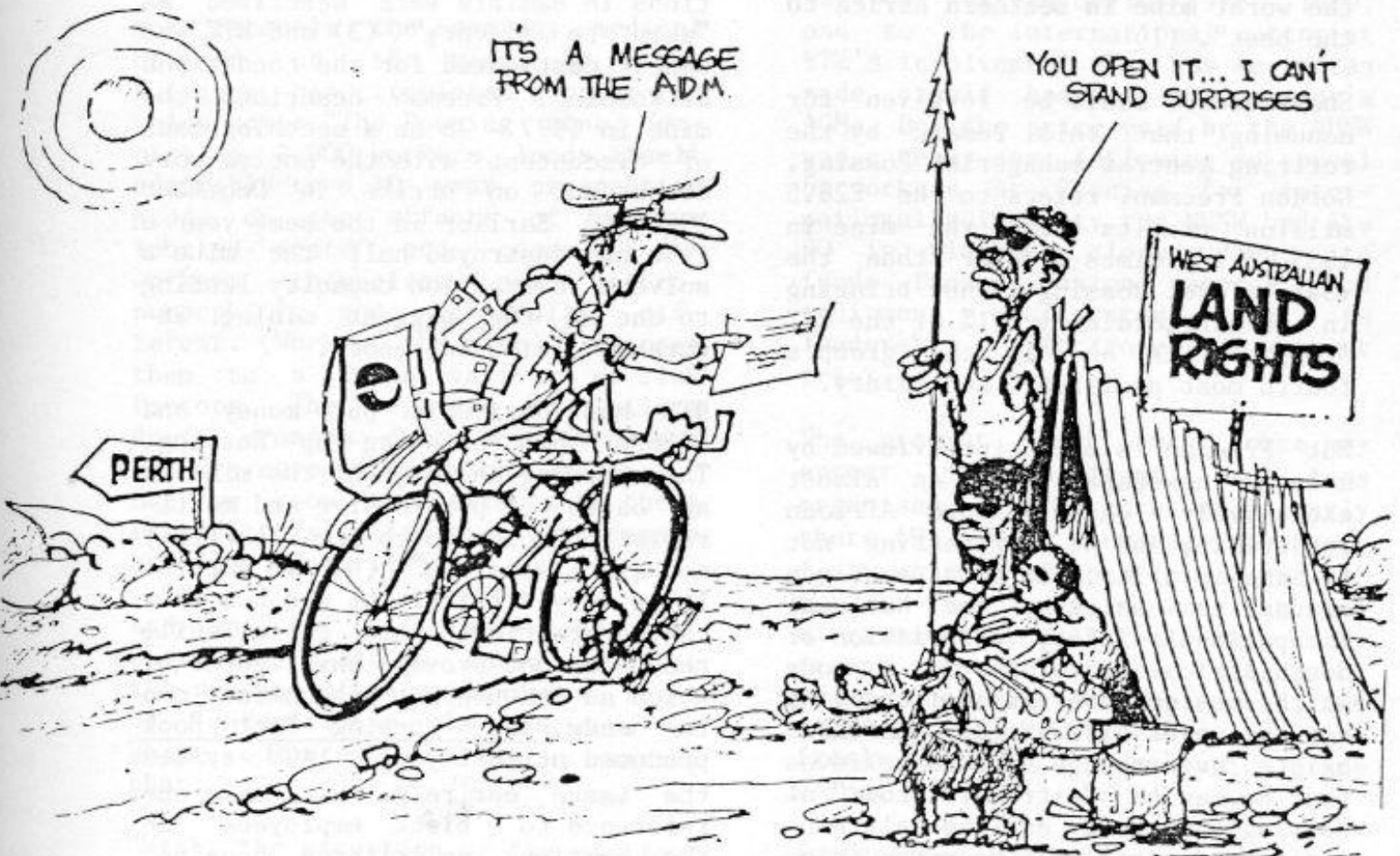
* Family-based community decision-making structures are breaking down. In a 34-day period the Warmun community was required to be involved in 42 meetings. Although ADM does have a working relationship with John Toby and other men of the Mandangala community, the company

does not enjoy the confidence of the majority of Aboriginal communities in the region. It is without Aboriginal contacts needed to obtain information on which to base an impact evaluation. It has no competence in the field of Aboriginal Affairs.

From the outset of the project it has been clear that Aboriginal groups would be profoundly affected both by the direct effect of mining and exploration and by the policies devised by the company to deal with the local communities, who have little recourse against the arbitrary actions and policy decisions of the Argyle developers. The repercussions of this major development leave the Aboriginal groups isolated, disadvantaged and powerless, without means to articulate

their grievances and with the company not subject to close government or public scrutiny. Since there has been no independent assessment of ADM, it has become increasingly urgent that Aboriginal interests are not rendered invisible. As of 1986, still no effective structure had been established by State or Federal governments to monitor the effects of the mine.

"The distribution of Good Neighbour money is currently controlled by a committee; the money is never seen, only items purchased from applications gaining approval. There remains no direct control of this money by Aboriginal people affected", East Kimberly Land Council - 7.4.86.



16 Rossing Cosmetics



Armoured column moves through the streets of Windhoek, capital of Namibia. Five years ago RTZ admitted its own "private army" at Rossing

"We have progressed in 8 years from the worst mine in southern Africa to the best". (1)

Shareholders could be forgiven for assuming that this remark by the retiring general manager at Rossing, Gordon Freeman, refers to the £26.5 million profits from the mine in 1985, 3 1/2 times greater than the year before. Rossing is now bringing in an extraordinary 11% of the RTZ Group profits and is the group's fourth most profitable subsidiary.

But Freeman is being interviewed by a local newspaper with an almost exclusively white South African readership, and he is referring not to the profits, but to an accolade awarded to Rossing by the National Occupational Safety Association of South Africa. (2) This is a body which has no international standing now and never will while apartheid exists, even though Freeman believes that he can be "extremely proud" of Rossing's status as "the only non-racial and socially integrated mine in southern Africa".

As recently as 1979 labour conditions in Namibia were described as "akin to slavery" (3) and RTZ was widely castigated for the conditions at Rossing. Freeman describes the mine in 1977 - 78 as a seething mass of discontent with the entire work force out on strike in December 1978. (4) Earlier in the same year a fire had destroyed half the mine's solvent extraction capacity leading to one of the biggest mining insurance claims on record.

RTZ has obviously put money and effort into cleaning up Rossing. They promote an image of the mine as an oasis of progressive and multi-racial policies which are "entirely non-discriminatory" (5) in nature. It is very difficult to see how they can substantiate this claim while they do not provide any figures by which an independent assessment can be made. The Rossing Fact Book produced at last year's AGM evades the issue entirely, with only one reference to 'black employees' in the sections on training, housing, and health care.

It is impossible to see how they can make such a claim while the mine operates in the context of a country under military occupation by South Africa.

On the specific issue of health, uranium mining generally is well documented by independent, internationally recognised authorities. On the one occasion Rossing have claimed to bring in an independent expert to assess health and safety at the mine, early in 1984, their choice of professional, Dr Robert Murray, had a reputation as an apologist for the asbestos industry in Britain.

His five-page, double-spaced report, entitled Rossing Uranium Limited: Medical Services, includes no data on dust, radiation or noise, there are no facts or figures on the incidences of death, disease or disability, and there are no comparisons. The report is merely a description of Rossing's medical services presented in terms of the equipment and facilities available to it.

More recently the company medical officer at the mine, Dr Wotan Swiegers, has circulated a paper (6) which says: "The Rossing mine, employing 2,900 workers, lends itself admirably to a 10 year prospective study on the effects of various inhaled dusts and gases.. the workers themselves are anthropomorphically and ethnically different. (Work at the mine).. exposes them to a large variety of risk factors. The exposure to silica dust, uranium dust, acid fumes and vapours associated with welding.." But we know the effects of these risk factors: silicosis, lung damage and lung cancer.(7)

And who but a practitioner of apartheid medicine could evaluate the results of lung function tests by categorising the subjects as White, Coloured, or Black, saying that:

"With the exception of the residual volume and the peak inspiratory flow

in blacks, an acceptable correlation was found in respect of all lung function measurements. It is probable that the low inspiratory flow in blacks is a true representation, considering the fact that the flow volume contour in this ethnic group is otherwise also suggestive of a restrictive flow pattern."

The absence of any documented cases of lung carcinoma is in itself suspicious, as in a workforce of between 2,500 and 3,200 in nearly a decade, one would expect to see at least some incidence of lung cancer, if only related to the employee's previous development of the disease.

It is only some 15 to 20 years after the beginning of uranium mining, that the cancers associated with it come into full clinical manifestation. Rossing produced its first uranium in 1976.

Any efforts that may have been made by management to improve conditions can certainly be considered a response to activity by the SWAPO affiliated National Union of Namibian Workers during 1978 - 1980, and to the international outcry at RTZ's involvement that has so often made itself heard at the company's AGMs. But the price paid by the NUNW was a heavy one: following an appeal by workers at Rossing for international solidarity, the NUNW had its HQ in Windhoek closed down, its funds frozen, union records and equipment confiscated, and its leadership imprisoned without trial.(8)

The present black work force may appear less militant and less organised, yet grievances are clearly there.(9) These include the very features that RTZ has presented to us as fine examples of its non-discriminatory policies: the Patterson system of job evaluation, wages, conditions of employment, the right for black workers to organise freely within a democratic trade union.

In December 1985 a meeting was held to discuss the formation of a new

trade union at the mine, which would approach the South African National Union of Mineworkers for advice and assistance. The organisers, who were unwilling to be identified for fear of reprisals, were refused permission to hire a hall at the company's Arandis township and there was a rumour at the mine that one of them had been arrested by the security police.

The response from the Transitional Government of National Unity to this and to increasing militancy by other workers, was to introduce in March of this year legislation known as the Wages and Industrial Conciliation Amendment Bill. (10) It completely prohibits any non-residents of the territory from participating in any way in trade union activity in Namibia. As it stands, neither the South African mineworkers union nor, for example, a TGWU branch from one of RTZ's British operations, could send a speaker to address a union meeting at Rossing or anywhere else in Namibia. Financial assistance is also prohibited. The Southern Africa Trade Union Coordinating Council, which agreed in January to set up a solidarity fund for unions in Namibia and South Africa, (11) could not donate so much as a paper clip were this legislation to be passed.

Rossing prides itself on the R2 million annual budget of the Rossing Foundation, (12) an educational programme that sees its objectives as "based on the premise that the most urgent need of the country is greater educational opportunity for its people". Not an end to military occupation by South Africa, to torture, "disappearances", and detention without trial - but a chance for Rossing to take on the role of multinational-as-missionary.

Compared to SWAPO's enormous responsibility for the education of 80,000 refugees in Angola and Zambia, the Windhoek Adult Education Centre (with all the resources of Britains's biggest mining company to draw on) has had 1,000 students attending its part-time courses since 1979. (13)

MULTINATIONAL AS MISSIONARY: part of RTZ's advertising in 1983

Benefits of

In his statement to shareholders, Sir Anthony Take...
"Multinationals have been subjected to a great deal of criticism ideological in origin and much of it ill-informed. Corporations make certain that their policies are correct and in tune with current thinking. It is not enough for international companies to shelter the laws of the country in which they invest; their responsibilities go beyond that.

Any foreign investor has a clear responsibility to its employees and their families and, in the case of a mining company, to the local community, especially the indigenous population. The question both we as investors and the people who will be affected by a new operation must ask is, whether the benefits of major investment outweigh the disadvantages change may bring.

We do believe that the advantages overwhelmingly outweigh the disadvantages as we see the rising standards of living in the areas where we operate. These are evidenced by the high quality of housing, education, health and medical care, training and opportunity for advancement, as well as benefits to the wider community, especially in third world countries, of new sources of revenue and foreign exchange, together with educational and training opportunities from the independent foundations that have been established locally from the profits earned.



Much of the Rossing Foundation's activity is the recruitment of a pliant and youthful elite for university entrance. While there is no formal commitment to work for Rossing on completion of their studies, they must return to Namibia. Many will work for Rossing and others will join the ranks of those working for the South African appointed colonial government. David Godfrey, the Foundation's Director, himself has a pretty good record as a colonialist - he is an ex-instructor of jungle warfare in Burma.

To put the 2 million Rand budget into some perspective, it is worth noting that it is:

* only half of the R4 million which Rossing will save each year after the introduction of its new water recycling scheme, (14)

* slightly less than the total amount of public funds spent on building and maintaining roads to the mine in the period 1976 - 1982. (15)

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Growing vegetables in the back garden is one of the new skills taught by the Rossing Foundation to families in Namibia.

In the same period Rossing

* exported minerals worth more than R1.4 billion

* paid no tax on its sales

* and delivered £89.1 million profits for RTZ's shareholders, almost all of them not Namibian.

According to the mine's general manager (16) divulging information on the tonnage of uranium produced, its grade and cost, is prohibited under the South African Atomic Secrets Act. But, apart from this there is nothing secret about the mine's operations. South African security legislation in many areas, and not just those related to its nuclear industry, makes a mockery of the claim RTZ is able to operate more or less independently of apartheid legislation and all its political implications.

Information given by RTZ to the Thirion Commission was only heard in closed session after the public had been ordered out. The report by Mr

Justice P.W. Thirion, a South African Supreme Court judge appointed to investigate malpractice and corruption, has little information on Rossing, concentrating on the activities of Namibia's diamond industry. CDM suffered greatly from evidence presented by a whistle blowing ex-employee, and from their own extraordinary complacency and over-confidence, which led them to present evidence described by Thirion as "an insult to even the lowliest intelligence".

Thirion's findings were that "the state's control in SWA over the mining and marketing of minerals was so deficient that the state was dependent on the good faith of the mines". (17) This makes it very hard to know what to believe when RTZ advances the argument that the money it spends on taxes, salaries and the purchase of goods and services somehow more than compensates for the value of the minerals it takes out, and the profits that leave the country.

Sir Alistair Frame has thrown down the gauntlet and challenged its critics to come and see Rossing for themselves. For one recent visitor this involved being vetted in London by South African Embassy officials and included lunch with a certain Mr André Pelser - they say that those who sup with the devil should use a long spoon.

As First Secretary in London in April 1984, Pelser waived his diplomatic immunity to obtain bail totalling R1.2 million for four South African agents charged with arms smuggling offences in Britain. Bail was granted against the strenuous opposition of customs officials, and only after Pelser gave a solemn undertaking that, if the men returned to South Africa and defaulted on their bail, they would be sent back for trial in Britain. Default they did, extradited they were not. Pelser is now working in Windhoek as the South African colonial governor's most senior official.

Blackburn's whitewash

The latest annual report of Comalco (CRA 67.04%) puts it on record:

"In February 1985, the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory held that Comalco had been defamed by the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) in a Four Corners programme in May 1979, and awarded Comalco total damages of \$295,000."(1)

But the real "Comalco case" is belied by these neutral tones.

For a start, the ABC programme was substantially a Granada TV documentary, screened in Britain to wide acclaim in 1979. This continues to be distributed under the title "Strangers in our own land"(2) and RTZ (the parent company of CRA), has done nothing to prevent it.

Second, the Supreme Court judgement was delivered by Justice Blackburn, the judge who, 15 years earlier, had rejected Aboriginal claims against the Nabalco mining consortium, on the grounds that black Australians couldn't hold communal title to what was, clearly, their traditional land.(3)

In ruling against the ABC last year, Blackburn disallowed a defence that the company was justified in criticising Comalco, to be based on evidence provided by Granada, which arrived at court rather late in the day. Instead, the judge found that the ABC had regurgitated Granada's "libels" without proper checking. They were therefore guilty of malice. Such a partial, and indeed tautologous ruling, gave ABC grounds for appeal: in November 1985. Judgement has been reserved.

In this account of the Comalco trial, we draw primarily on material provided by **Jan Roberts**, the author of *Massacres to Mining* (4), an observer of the case, and a highly respected researcher who has lived among Aboriginal communities in

northern Queensland.

During the long, tortuous court case, extraordinary details came to light about the operations of Comalco and the divisions now racking the Aboriginal communities of the north. It was revealed that-

* Comalco had smashed down an Aboriginal cemetery and (perhaps unwittingly) burned Aboriginal corpses

* Comalco hired academic staff after a Monash University Conference to set up a three-generation social engineering programme to change Aboriginal culture by influencing the infants

* Aboriginal families are being pitted against each other - with the principal Aboriginal witnesses for Comalco and the ABC being a husband and wife respectively.

Blackburn's ruling went against many of the accepted tenets of Federal Government policy on Aboriginal affairs when he concluded (for example) that-

* "It is entirely false to say that Aborigines who used to live at Weipa have been put out of possession of land which they possessed before the mining operation began."

* it is "not true" that "mining has meant destruction of their way of life"

* "it is not true" that "the land is the Aboriginal people's"

* it is "not a true factual statement" that "when they destroy the land they destroy the Aboriginal people"

* it was false to say "mining has meant broken promises" for Weipa Aborigines.

Therefore, the ABC's defence of fair comment failed since it was not based on statements of fact.



Comalco's operations are based on red aluminium-rich clays underlying monsoon forests of Cape York in northern Queensland. They hold a 2,590 square kilometre lease where they run one of the world's largest mines, scraping off the top eight feet of clay from thousands of hectares for bauxite to smelt into aluminium. This lease, once part of the largest Aboriginal Reserve in eastern Australia, covers much of the tribal lands of the Weipa Aborigines who now live on a 123 hectare reserve called "Weipa South" within the mining area.

For Comalco appeared the mining industry's heavyweights, Sir Rod Carnegie and Mr Hugh Morgan of Western Mining Corporation (WMC), plus Mr Porter, former Minister of the Queensland Government and two Aborigines.

Sir Roderick Carnegie, Chairman of CRA, whose company now owns nearly 70% of Comalco (and at the time of the film, 45%) stated in court: "Accusations of racial discrimination would have a particularly adverse impact... where projects were dependent on sales to Asia." (p.1356) (5) "The largest single market (for Comalco) is Japan." He said, "I have been questioned personally by bankers on such matters." (p.1359,1374)

Mrs Hall, a Justice of the Peace and resident of the Aboriginal settlement of Weipa South, gave evidence for the ABC. Her statement in the Granada film that Comalco had treated black Australians "like dogs" was one of the principal grounds for Comalco's defamation action. Asked about the Aboriginal cemetery, she started and stopped, tongue-tied by emotion, and had to leave the court to recover. When she returned, she said:

"Since the mining come, a real sacred place was destroyed...that is where the bodies, the deads, were put up on the trees. In our own traditional ways, the bodies are not buried. They are put up into the trees until the grease is down...left to dry before we could go back. This was destroyed when they burnt and knocked the trees down. They did not know it was there. Of course whiteman should know better. Ask first."(p.2338) Her evidence on this was unchallenged by Comalco. She spoke too of other sacred places that were destroyed.

Mr John Tonkin Comalco's former General Manager of Personnel, admitted that, in 1978, conditions in the Aboriginal settlement were "highly undesirable" and "tragic" and there was a high degree of unemployment. He said that since the company started operations, there had been "a massive increase in alcoholism."

Only two Aborigines gave evidence for Comalco. One of them, Joyce Hall's husband Ernest, had nothing but praise for the company. However, under cross-examination, he was forced to admit that he feared giving a bad image of an Aboriginal community to the outside world. He agreed with the ABC counsel that if he was too critical "it would affect (his) chance of securing a better future at Weipa South."

The only other Aborigine to give evidence for Comalco, Mrs Jean George, said that mining Aboriginal sacred sites would matter "to our ancestors, not to us, because we are civilised."(p.1092) She too, like Mr Hall, was a Council Member of the Weipa Aboriginal Society. This Society is at the core of Comalco's management strategy for Aboriginal Affairs at Weipa.

Mr Tonkin explained why the company got involved in Aboriginal Affairs:

"We had a view that the development of a community drive...towards things that might be considered Caucasian was essential, and we needed the direction of the minds of the people towards adaptation to a society that was going to settle nearby."(p.464)

To utilise this under-used local labour resource, as they saw it, they set up a project to direct Aboriginal minds, a very long term project in keeping with the over 100 year duration of their mine.

Said Mr Tonkin: "When we undertook this programme we were told by the world's experts...that we could expect two or three generations to go by before there would be a noticeable equality with the product of our normal societies." (p.606)

The next move was to set up the Weipa Aboriginal Society. This was, despite its name, a Comalco initiative recommended by Mr Tonkin to Comalco's Board and funded half by Comalco, a quarter each by the State and Federal Governments, to carry out normal local government responsibilities - such as pre-school education, sewerage and roads. Mr Hall, the Chairman, admitted that they had no power to sign cheques and that he did not even know where the bank account was kept. The power resided with the four trustees in Melbourne, two representatives of Comalco and one from each of the Governments involved.

Mr Keefe told the court that, when he as a Senator for Queensland visited Weipa, he repeatedly requested to see the accounts of the Weipa Aboriginal Society but never with any success. He said he regarded it as a "secret society" and was "concerned about all organisations that do not make their balance sheets public."(p.2793)

John Tonkin explained the extent of Comalco's control over the Society:

"I cannot recall a major objective which it undertook and succeeded in which was not specifically conceived by company officials."

The first project of the Weipa Aboriginal Society was the construction of a pre-school. This put into effect plans Comalco had already developed through an experimental school at Burke at which the racist "repetitive language" theory of De Lacey and Nurkham was promulgated. The theory encapsulated, stated: "...there were barriers to (Aboriginal) assimilation purely on the grounds of language, in that such people tend not to have deductive reasoning in their language..." (p.460)

It was the two educationalists who sought funding from the mining industry - and Comalco which gave two thirds of the money needed.

Mr Tonkin agreed Comalco hindered Aboriginal traditional cultural activities. "Failure to attend work because of corroborees was absenteeism that would not be permitted." (p.784) He also astonished observers by stating that the Weipa Aborigines, whose Reserve had shrunk from thousands of square kilometres to under one and a half square kilometres, had not been "dispossessed" because they had access to much of Comalco's mining lease^o

Justice Blackburn's condemnation of the ABC for malice against Comalco hinged, to an extent, on the "inaccuracies" in Joyce Hall's evidence, in particular a statement that the only compensation provided for the Aboriginal Community was a derogatory A\$150,000 for sub-standard housing. In fact, this was all that a lot of the community did receive. Other minor services were mentioned in the rest of the film. Then there were allegations that three important promises made by Comalco had been broken: to raise the standard of living in all three

of the Aboriginal missions on or near the mining lease; to build a trade school; and to employ most of Aborigines.

Despite testimony by the Rev. Sweet (for more than two decades Secretary of Missions for the Queensland Presbyterians), Judge Blackburn dismissed these undertakings as "hearsay", "misunderstanding" and, in the case of the trade school "an offer", not a promise. (p.97)

The testimonies of Senator O'Keefe (on the poor state of roads in the settlement), of Professor Fred Hollows (on the poor health of the Aboriginal people), the well-known anthropologist Von Sturmer (on the devastation by Comalco of Aboriginal sacred sites), (p.2705) were all dismissed by Blackburn as "biased" or "unreliable."

More important, so were the testimonies of nine Aboriginal people from Weipa:

Gertrude Motton told how the mining had destroyed their hunting and of how their homes flooded in the wet season. Andrew Miller said that the animals could not return as Comalco was not re-planting the local varieties of plants. Stanley Budbury said they had to walk now about twenty miles in order to hunt pigs. Peggy Parry said, "the Comalco film did not tell lies". She had to live "like a pig" at Weipa, too poor even to buy mattresses but she still believed the old culture and taught it to her children. Enid Callope, like the others, spoke of the demoralisation of the Weipa community, of the chronic drinking and the violence.

In the end, as an anti-land rights judge lined up with a plundering multinational, it was inevitable that the everyday experience of an oppressed and dispossessed people would be dismissed as unreliable and biased. But, as Enid Callope clearly stated: "We all know what is in the film is true."

Crying all the way to the Bank



CAFCINZ* published internal Comalco documents in 1980, revealing its extensive domestic and international armtwisting in the mid '70s to sabotage the Muldoon government's intent to dramatically increase the power price for the Tiwai Point smelter.

Now CAFCINZ claims that "the bastards are up to their old tricks again". It all started with the 25% increase in power prices from 1 April 1985. Comalco found out to its shock that, unlike previous increases that fell on domestic users, this one included bulk industrial users. And at approximately 13% used, of the entire electricity generated in New Zealand 365 days per year, Tiwai Point is the very bulkiest in the country.

This wasn't going to be taken lying down, certainly not by a multinational like Comalco, which has a privileged place in New Zealand industrial history. Its power price is secret to this day and media attempts to secure it under the Official Information Act have been rebuffed by the Ombudsman.

Firstly Comalco announced that it wouldn't replace smelting pots that shut down for repairs. At that stage (April) it solemnly swore that redundancies were out of the question. In reply to a letter in the *Press* by CAFCINZ stalwart, Bill Rosenberg, Comalco's general manager M B Bevvett stated "Comalco is not trying to renegotiate its present power prices" (1). There was more to Comalco's manoeuvrings than simply New Zealand power prices - the world aluminium market is depressed and Comalco has incurred substantial debts by buying a US smelter from US multinational Martin Marietta. So the *Star* had a headline: "Comalco warns on future profit trends" (2).

The pressure stepped up in June 1985. The *Press* stated "Fifty pots may be shut down" (3) while the *Star* had "Comalco 'not bluffing' on power" (4). Mark Rayner, Comalco's chief executive said, "You don't bluff with people's jobs". Remember that quote. The talk was all of redeployment and a sinking lid policy.

* Campaign against Foreign Control in New Zealand (Christchurch, NZ)

By July things were looking up for Comalco. The *Press* under a headline "Tiwai smelter power price agreement" (5) said: "The agreement will restore, in part, the principle of the smelter paying less for its power in times of depressed world markets - such as now - and vice versa. Neither the company nor the officials would go into details but they agreed the new price indexing system was fair and equitable. It will not mean any immediate change to the smelter's policy of not rebuilding pots as they burn out however". So the pressure was still on.

In August Comalco went on the offensive. Commented the *Star* "A powerful private sector group has advised the Government that private ownership of New Zealand Electricity is the best way to run the country's power... The New Zealand Business Round Table has presented a package of recommendations for running New Zealand Electricity more efficiently. The group's chairman is Sir Ronald Trotter, also chairman of Fletcher Challenge and most of its members are managing directors of New Zealand's largest companies... It claimed its recommendations would drive down the price of electricity to that of March 1984. They would also put efficiency into the electricity system. The submission was prepared by member companies, Comalco and a number of independent consultants" (6). So New Zealand big business lined up with multinationals.

In September 1985 the offensive was in full swing with Comalco running media junkets through the smelter and releasing its own specially commissioned "national economic benefits of the smelter", done by consultants Brown, Copeland and Co. Ltd. The headlines told the company's story "Smelter seeks new deal on power supply" (7) and "Comalco curbed by high prices" (8).

The *Press* story detailed how Comalco wanted the power price renegotiated - a mere five months after its general manager stated in the same paper "that it didn't want to renegotiate".



The consultants' report put the returns from the smelter over its projected lifetime at NZ\$ 1.36 billion and stated that the third potline was the only Think Big project to exceed the Treasury's guideline of a 10% per annum profit margin. Kerry McDonald, its general manager of business systems (former head of the NZ Institute of Economic Research) bewailed the fact that the smelter's power price had gone up 900% since 1970, including Muldoon's 450% hike in 1977 (the subject of much previous arm-twisting). It still rankled that the Government had "reneged" on its agreement to raise Lake Manapouri during dry spells (The Save Manapouri petition was then the biggest in New Zealand's history (9).) but the media had to take all this on trust because Comalco still refused to reveal its power price - on grounds of commercial sensitivity: political embarrassment would be more likely.

The *New Zealand Times* decided to analyse this consultants' report which it did in two stories (10). It was revealing: "Using Comalco's admission that it pays 50% tax on profits, the consortium therefore makes a NZ\$ 1 billion profit. However the profit is obviously much higher - at least NZ\$ 1.5 billion when the tax contribution to the

stated 10% return is taken into account". The consultants' report had claimed that New Zealand was reaping a bonanza from poor old Comalco - in actual fact it's laughing all the way to the Swiss bank. The **New Zealand Times** analysis was scathing: "But the Comalco analysis is also thin on detail. Assumptions are made about obvious variables: labour, foreign exchange rates, inflation, aluminium costs, power prices and so on, to determine the net project value. But yet again the consortium has shrouded in secrecy the key details needed to check the analysis. Nowhere, for instance, are the operating costs, wages bill, sales income, output figures, tax payments, or the amount the consortium takes by way of profit" (10). **New Zealand Times** pointed out that the consultants' report was timed to influence the Government: "It's a standard Comalco tactic in the negotiating game. A similar study was commissioned from Brown Copeland on Comalco's Boyne Island smelter to underline the importance of that project to Australia" (10).

New Zealand Times tackled some of Comalco's figures, particularly the projected aluminium price of US\$ 1,300 per tonne, pointing out that the consultants' report said that a 10% cut in this would wipe NZ\$ 340 million off the smelter's current net value. Similar discrepancies exist in the highly volatile field of foreign exchange rates.

But Comalco may have met its match in the monetarist Lange Labour government ("May the market forces be with you"). The **Star** quoted a letter from Lange to the Southland United Council stating the obvious - that the price of electricity was only one factor in Comalco's decision not to re-build pots. "I would note that the Government is in the business of selling energy, not in the business of the production and marketing of aluminium". He pointed out that the secret power price was "very competitive on an international basis", and said the Government was concerned with the long term relationship, not the currently depressed spot market for aluminium (11).



Comalco then played an old card - international pressure. **New Zealand Aluminium Smelters Ltd** (the operators of the smelter) is 58.7% owned by Comalco and 41% by two Japanese companies. So, sure enough, the Japan-New Zealand Business Council meeting in Christchurch, expressed deep concern at power prices for the two big Japanese joint ventures; Tiwai Point and the Carter Holt-Oji Panpac pulp mill (12).

Having said it wasn't bluffing with people's jobs, Comalco now proceeded to show it wasn't. The **Star** headlined "Smelter cuts salaried staff by 27" (13). Comalco was very decent about it, providing taxis to and from the smelter for relevant whitecollar workers to be ushered up the back stairs and told they were immediately redundant. It hasn't finished there. Norman Jones, National MP for Invercargill, claims "the top brass" told him up to 200 jobs could go (14).

So in a few months, Comalco went from saying it doesn't want to renegotiate its power price to doing its darndest to achieve just that, and from saying nobody would be made redundant to actually sacking staff.

How New Zealand Maoris...

In July 1984 the Conservative New Zealand government was defeated by Lange and the Labour Party. It has taken some action against large scale mining operations thanks partly to Maori opposition to a CRA project, as recounted here by Betty Williams, a Maori activist.

The specific goal of the campaign was to stop CRA acquiring an exploration licence to explore for minerals in our traditional fishing grounds, at Manaia Harbour, the Hauraki gulf, and the Manala river, on the Coromandel peninsula of Aotearoa. We maintained a no compromise stand.

The action was aimed at;

* CRA, a foreign company, which we had no knowledge of. Because of its foreignness, we felt very strongly that their values of, and attitudes to land and water would conflict with ours which were spiritually based. History of the rape of Maori land, since white settlers colonised our country 140 years ago, made us particularly sensitive to the intent of this new surge of interest in mining in our region.

* New Zealand's Mining and Town & Country Planning legislation and policies which ignore Maori traditional and spiritual values and attitudes to land and water despite the intent of the second clause of the Treaty Waitangi (signed 1840) which guaranteed to the Maori people full possession of their lands, fisheries and forests.

* Highlighting the injustices of the past century where Maori land was ceded to the Crown for gold mining purposes and where, the subsequent failure of the Crown to restore particular parcels of land to descendants of the original owners, precipitated the owners into lengthy complex legal battles.

* The White majority of New Zealanders whose value systems alone are translated into the laws of this

country (Indigenous Maori population 281,700, Non-Maori population 2,914,100 in 1981).

* The New Zealand government's resource development strategies which aimed at capital intensive development of energy resources and which sought the involvement of private enterprise in what were traditionally state owned development projects. At the time unemployment (particularly Maori unemployment) began a rapid increase and Maori people, urbanised during the 1950s, began clamoring for the wherewithal to return to their ancestral base to develop their land and water resources.

Corporate practises targetted

The entire operations of the mining company were targetted. Exploration would lead to prospecting and eventually to mining. Gold prices in 1980 were at a premium. The mining frenzy which accompanied this raised very serious concerns about the impact of profit-driven development on the natural, physical, social, cultural and spiritual environment of the Maori people.

Enviromental concerns

Maori response to the environment is based in Maori spirituality, the Maori concept of the Creation. People's survival depended upon resource survival. Accordingly, survival for both the Maori and their natural environment was assured through the highly sacred institution of RAHUI TAPU(1) which relates to the protection of a resource (or persons) through the systematic imposition of prohibitions on the use of a resource in a particular environment or location and at specific stages in the life cycle of a species. While RAHUI TAPU conserved the environment it also regulated Maori society and kept the social systems intact.

The principle concerns of the Maori

...organised against CRA

people were that mining operations would firstly destroy Maori tribal traditional fishing grounds and shellfish beds already seriously depleted by the commercial fishing industry. As one elder simply stated, "What use is gold? we can't eat it". Secondly mining would seriously disrupt established lifestyles that are intricately related to the sea. Important customs and traditions evolved from the Maoris' intimate relationship with their water regimes which are an integral part of Maori spiritual heritage. Mining would also interfere with Maori aspirations to utilize their marine and river resources. Marine farming would give natural stock the chance to regenerate, while at the same time it would sustain the Maori community. Mining would interfere with Maori traditional recreational pursuits. Swimming, camping, fishing, shellfish gathering, diving, boating etc were all traditional seasonal pursuits. And finally mining would desecrate sacred sites and various places on land and at sea.

Brief chronology of the action taken

We held a meeting of all members of the small Maori community occupying ancestral land on the gulf perimeter to:

- 1) Inform them of CRA's application
- 2) Organise tribal action and set up action group.
- 3) Analyse legislative procedures and requirements.

We immediately submitted formal objections to the respective authorities, thereby complying with the law. Notified the Minister of Energy of our opposition to the granting of any mining privileges in our traditional fishing grounds. We informed four Maori MPs and asked that they support us.

We sought sympathetic alliances nationwide with the emphasis on Maori organisations. These included related tribes occupying other territories around the Hauraki Gulf's

perimeter, the New Zealand Maori Council (the statutory voice of Maori people), the Maori section of the national Council of Churches and the independent Maori Land Rights Movement. Support from all organisations was instantaneous. The Crown was notified of this.

We sought non-Maori alliances involved in environmental and conservation issues, not to participate in determining action or policy but to help with technicalities and matters of law. Expert opinion on marine biology and other scientific details came through these groups.

We publicised the issue in newspapers, magazines and journals; television to a lesser degree. We held and attended public meetings to debate the issue. We invited Ministers of Energy and the Environment to look at and discuss the detrimental effects of mining on Maori traditional fishing grounds. We kept up correspondence with all Ministers of the Crown who were in any way connected to energy development and lobbied the opposition for support.

We rejected pleas from the mining company to allow them to visit us on our marae (traditional meeting place), on the grounds that they would use the visit as a public relations exercise. We demanded that they first acquaint themselves with and recognise Maori spiritual relationships with land and water.

We attended an Aboriginal conference in Canberra, Australia, to establish links with the Aboriginal Mining Information Centre in Melbourne whose representatives attended the Annual General Meeting of CRA in Melbourne and asked a question on our behalf - "Would CRA guarantee NZ\$ 3,000,000 to return the land to the Maori people in its natural state after mining operations ceased?" Their reply was that is a matter for the NZ Government.

and beat back the bludgers!

We compiled lengthy submissions to parliament seeking changes in the Mining Act that would recognise the special relationships Maori people have with their land and waters, Maori conservation principles and Maori notification procedures. We also worked personally at a secret level with Maori and non-Maori political activists on strategies for confrontation should all else fail.

Participants

The action was initiated and organised by the flax roots Maori people in the community, supported by national Maori non-government organisations. Non-Maori organisations certainly helped publicise the issue but we did not want to involve them too deeply as we did not want them to intellectualise the issue and have it detract from basic Maori philosophy underlying Maori environmental concerns which we wanted recognised in law.

Strengths and weaknesses of action taken

Overall the action taken was only partially successful in that, although CRA withdrew their application in 1982, the action did not achieve any of the basic underlying changes which we sought.

1) the Mining Act, though amend still does not recognise the special relationships Maori people have with their land and water regimes, Maori conservation principles, or traditional Maori notification procedures.

2) The white majority of New Zealanders are still basically unaware of Maori spirituality and Maori philosophy.

3) The mining company's attitudes remain the same.

Tactics that worked were seeking Maori alliances, thereby unifying Maori voice and reinforcing the call of Maoridom for recognition of the indigenous culture and for the enactment of bi-cultural links. It

was seen that opposition to mining development did not come from one tiny Maori community with its own peculiar philosophy but from all Maori people having a common philosophy. Publicity and a dialogue with non-Maori organisations along with formal submissions also worked.

Tactics that did not work included communication with MPs who found ways to skirt around the issue, public speaking to groups who were white and mainly the converted, and writing articles for magazines with limited circulation. In short a lot of wasted energy.

Corporate Reaction

Mining companies are reorganising their corporate structure and presenting a "local" front, while still maintaining links with the major foreign mining corporations. To counter the cry of anti-mining lobbyists opposed to large scale open cast mining, companies are seeking privileges for small scale underground mining and, in order to cover a larger area, have increased their applications. They are also selling minority shares to the public.

Unemployment, lack of capital and technology to develop Maori land and water resources, and the government's strategies for capital-intensive energy resource development, has brought about dramatic changes in Maori attitudes to mining today. While many still maintain a no-compromise stand, others have succumbed.

Although some Maori communities are divided on the mining issue, those who remain in a no-compromise situation are beginning to seek association with non-Maori anti-mining organisations who have recently amalgamated into a national coalition to save the Coromandel Peninsula from the ravages of mining.

TAKING STOCK OF(F) RIO!

A campaign assessed

Below you will find a list of many (not all) of the major shareholders in RTZ who, in our opinion, should disinvest from the company for moral reasons.

The names are drawn from the latest RTZ shareholders register, which is available for public scrutiny at Companies' House in London. Partizans tooth-combed more than 90,000 shareholders, then sent information on RTZ to all major local authorities, Nuclear Free Zone (NFZ) councils and selected charitable bodies, urging them to question RTZ's activities. Due to this continuing pressure some have indeed disinvested; most notable the former GLC.

RTZ Shareholders List

April 1986

NFZ Name	SH 1982/83	SH 1983/84	SH 1984/85
Hospitals			
National Heart and Chest Hospital	8,500	3,750	3,000
Blue Cross Animal Hospital	5,144	6,001	6,320
Guys Hospital	7,500	7,650	9,650
St Thomas Hospital	22,200	25,900	25,900
St George's Hospital (Grosvenor Wing)	10,000	11,666	16,666
St Bartholomew's Hospital Nominees	6,500	4,083	4,583
Local Authorities Scotland			
Dumfries and Galloway Regional Council	30,000	40,333	40,833
Grampian Regional Council	150,000	17,500	175,000
Tayside Regional Council	115,000	134,166	150,000
Orkney Islands Council	6,800	7,933	7,933
Local Authorities London			
Barnet (Mayor & Burghers)	110,000	206,000	143,000
Bexley Health Authority	800	800	800
Harrow Borough Council	40,000	52,500	52,500
Barking Dagenham Borough Council	45,000	58,333	7,667
Enfield Borough Council	40,000	46,666	46,666
City of Westminster Borough Council	145,000	169,100	169,166
Croydon Borough Council	87,000	10,150	101,500
Redbridge Borough Council	53,500	62,416	62,416
North West Thames Regional Health Authority	2,660	3,103	3,103
Merton Borough Council	25,147	40,722	40,832
NFZ Hounslow (Mayor & Burghers)	40,000	52,499	60,000
NFZ Lewisham Borough Council	10,000	10,000	10,000
Local Authorities North			
NFZ Cleveland County Council	197,010	233,999	233,999
Isle of Man Government Board		75,883	19,883 ?
NFZ West Midlands Regional Health Authority	1,082	1,262	1,262
NFZ Leicestershire County Council	185,276	201,389	201,389

Data Inventory

NFZ Name	SH 1982/83	SH 1983/84	SH 1984/85
NFZ Lincolnshire County Council	100,000	116,666	116,666
NFZ Durham County Council	278,000	324,333	300,000
NFZ Cumbria County Council	112,500	131,250	131,250
NFZ Humberside County Council	232,000	280,666	280,666
NFZ East Cumbria Health Authority		600	600
NFZ Liverpool Council Social Services	2,760	3,220	3,220
NFZ South Manchester Health Authority	8,979	6,000	500
Warwickshire County Council	70,000	120,000	140,000
NFZ Northumberland County Council	80,000	93,333	93,333
Northampton Borough Council	3,600	4,200	4,200
NFZ Staffordshire County Council	151,000	176,166	176,166
NFZ North Manchester Health Authority	1,385	1,615	1,615
Suffolk County Council	119,800	184,000	230,000
Local Authorities South			
Surrey County Council	10,000	99,999	99,999
West Sussex County Council	95,000	111,416	111,416
Dorset County Council	194,500	270,000	230,000
Devon County Council	210,000	311,166	281,165
East Sussex County Council	185,000	239,332	239,332
Essex County Council	268,725	413,512	413,512
Berkshire County Council	277,000	323,166	340,000
Bedfordshire County Council	180,000	260,000	265,000
Cornwall County Council	87,000	83,333	83,333
Cambridgeshire County Council	49,875	83,187	49,887
Oxfordshire County Council	40,000	86,666	86,666
Kent County Council	280,000	321,933	266,000
Shropshire County Council	60,000	85,000	85,000
Plymouth Health Authority		1,440	1,440
Gloucester County Council	117,333	156,880	156,888
Hampshire County Council	279,693	233,719	306,667
Isle of Wight Council	20,000	23,333	23,333
NFZ Hereford and Worcester County Council	116,875	125,000	125,000
Local Authorities Wales			
NFZ West Glamorgan County Council	159,000	197,166	157,165
NFZ Gwynedd County Council	76,250	98,958	73,958
NFZ Mid Glamorgan County Council	75,015	87,517	87,517
NFZ Gwent County Council (Cwmbran)	109,000	127,165	107,165
NFZ Clwyd County Council	100,000	126,666	106,666
NFZ Dyfed County Council	135,000	157,500	110,000
NFZ Powys County Council	41,000	47,833	47,833
NFZ South Glamorgan Health Authority	1,601	1,867	1,867
NFZ South Glamorgan County Council	90,000	125,000	125,000
Other Bodies			
Church of England Children's Society	8,000	9,333	9,333
Official Custodian for Charities	445,817	533,482	541,135
Official Solicitor to Supreme Court	4,224	3,777	4,220
National Farmers Union (Mutual Insurance)	314,066	344,060	334,066
Iraq Petroleum Pension Funds	100,000	200,000	200,000
Cancer Research	13,876	16,713	16,713
Lucas Staff/Work Pension Trust	14,770,664	1,789,241	1,809,241
National Coal Board Pension Fund	2,553,311	3,028,862	4,244,012
Kuwait Oil Company Trustees	20,000	23,333	23,333
The Leprosy Mission Corporation	4,700	5,483	5,483

TAKING STOCK OF (P) RIO

NFZ Name	SH 1982/83	SH 1983/84	SH 1984/85
Cleaning Tokens Ltd	100,000	100,000	100,000
The Law Society		99,166	99,166
Marie Curie Memorial Fund		7,869	10,615
Grove Charity Trust		6,000	6,000
Dr Barnardo's		855	2,443
Gestener Pensions		75,833	75,833
Glaxo Trustees		14,000	14,000
Littlewoods		164,000	164,000
Zoological Society of London		5,250	5,250
Mason Trust Company		12,000	12,000
Secretary of State for Defence		17,333	17,333
BSC Pension Fund		4,625,000	4,625,000
Rowntree and Mackintosh Pension	80,000	100,000	100,000
Railway Pension Investment Ltd	1,155,000	1,155,000	1,705,000
BNF Fund Trustees		7,000	7,000
BP Trust Ltd		2,712,900	2,712,900
Thorn EMI Pension Trust	225,000	150,000	150,000
Sports Council	900	1,050	1,050
Esso Pension Trust	242,618	363,177	234,149
Bank of England	6,625,000	4,216,666	3,978,666 ?
Babcocks Staff Pension Trust	100,000	100,000	100,000
Barclays Bank		huge holdings	
Consolidated Gold	125,000	100,833	251,000
Co-operative Insurance Society Manchester	2,616,743	3,097,700	3,064,700
Bristol United Press	14,625	17,062	17,062
Birmingham Post and Mail Staff Pension Fund	20,000	28,333	28,333
BP Oil and BP Pension Trustees	105,660	115,000	157,916
Universities			
Queens College		9,187	9,974 ?
Cambridge University		204,166	204,166
St Catherine's College	6,000	12,000	Sold
Christ College	8,000	9,333	9,333
Clare College	39,700	36,316	31,316
St Mary Magdalane	2,070	2,415	2,415
College for Holy Trinity undivided	5,700	6,650	6,650
Dean and Chapter of Christchurch	99,000	25,666	34,000
Oxford University		89,833	89,833
Hertford College	14,000	16,332	16,332
Brasenose College	511	611	6
St Hilda's College	8,000	8,333	Sold
Corpus Christi	7,000	8,166	8,166
University of York Pension Fund	2,500	2,916	2,916
University of Liverpool Pension Fund	14,000	16,333	35,484 ?
London University	22,875	26,249	20,133
University of Durham	18,000	14,000	Sold
Nottingham University	20,000	23,333	28,333
Lady Frances Sidney		10,000	11,666
St John the Evangelist	40,000	46,666	46,666
Downing College	5,000	5,833	5,833
Bristol University	20,000	23,333	23,333
Wolfson		6,500	5,833
Emmanuel		1,666	14,000

Disinvestors

NFZ Name	SH 1982/83	SH 1983/84	SH 1984/85
Harrow Borough Council		27,700	Sold
NFZ Greater London Council		63,000	Sold
Bexley Borough Council		55,000	Sold
NFZ Greenwich Borough Council	90,000	Sold	-
Highland Health Board (Inverness)	2,898	Sold	-
Cleveland County Council		233,999	Sold
North Yorkshire County Council	80,950	Sold	-
NFZ Tyne and Wear County Council	195,000	Sold	-
Shropshire County Council	52,112	Sold	-
Moorfields Eye Hospital	4,000	4,666	Sold
NFZ Newham Health Authority	262	262	Sold
NFZ Stirling Central Regional Council	70,427	82,217	Sold
Inverness Harbour Trust		1,283	Sold
London Association for the Blind		2,442	Sold
Edinburgh Investment Trust plc		400,000	Sold
Huntly and Palmer Food Pensions Ltd		66,500	Sold
Institute of Child Health Research		13,084	Sold
London and Manchester Pension Fund		14,000	Sold
Royal Society of the Blind		6,125	Sold
Tottenham Gas Pension Fund Trustee Corp		2,500	Sold
Methodist Missionary Trust Association		3,900	Sold
London Trust plc		50,000	Sold
Furness Witty Pension Trustees Ltd		105,000	Sold
Trident Television Group Pension	35,500	Sold	-
Penguin Pension Trustees	5,000	Sold	-
Associated British Industries		5,000	Sold
Tilbury Container Services	5,600	Sold	-
Imperial Cancer Research Fund	44,990	Sold	-
Co-operative Insurance Society London	271,250	Sold	-
London Transport Trustees	150,000	Sold	-
Guildmaster Pilot and Seamen (Humberside)		6,000	Sold
Biochemical Society		2,333	Sold
Gold and Base Metal Mines plc		4,500	Sold
Exchange Telegraph Pension Fund		35,000	Sold
Bookers Pension Ltd		8,500	Sold
Carreras Superannuation Trustees		145,833	Sold
Consolidated Goldfields		50,000	Sold
Lady Margret College	8,666	Sold	-
Wadham College	5,305	Sold	-
London School of Economics		4,000	Sold
Clifton College Bristol Nominees	1,800	Sold	-
Inverness Harbour Trust	1,100	1,283	Sold

FOOTNOTES

Dying for a living

- 1 Partizans is grateful that the LRD has allowed us to see a draft of the article before full publication, in the June issue of their monthly magazine Labour Research. We would urge readers and shareholders to obtain a copy of this magazine from Labour Research, 78 Blackfriars Road, London SE1 8HF. It costs £1.25 inc p & p.
- 2 Industrial Fluorosis, MRC Memorandum 22 HMSO (1949)
- 3 CIS RTZ Anti-Report, pages 18-19 (1972)
- 4 Fluorine and Fluorides, Environmental Health Criteria book 36, WHO Geneva 1984
- 5 see CIS RTZ Anti-Report 1972
- 6 Observer, London, 30 January 1972
- 7 Mortality of Cadmium Workers, Armstrong and Kazantis, The Lancet, London, pages 1424-1427 (1983)
- 8 reported in Environmental Health, March 1986
- 9 The Tin Crisis, House of Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry, 2nd Report, HMSO London 1986
- 10 Background to the tin crisis see Labour Research, Op cit, pp 15-19, May 1986

One Chernobyl each year

- 1 The Nuclear Free Press, Peterborough, issue 17, Spring 1983
- 2 Rio Algom Annual Report 1985, Toronto 1986
- 3 Engineering and Mining Journal, New York, March 1986
- 4 The Health Dangers of Uranium Mining and Jurisdictional Questions, British Columbia Medical Association 1981
- 5 Energy Probe research; quoted in Birch Bark Alliance, Peterborough, Winter 1981
- 6 Testimony to the British Columbia Royal Commission on Uranium Mining (RCUM) by United Steelworkers of America, January 1980
- 7 Status Report on Water Pollution in the Serpent River Basin, Ministry of the Environment, Toronto 1976
- 8 Statement by Nelson Conroy, Ministry of the Environment, to the British Columbia RCUM, 5/2/80, Transcript vol 65, p11859.
- 9 Dr. V Bates, Elliot Lake. Report to RCUM 8/5/79.
- 10 Joint Health Report - Spanish River, Mississagi and Serpent River reserves, Jesuit Centre, Ontario, January 1984
- 11 Health Survey Report, Serpent River Band, Jesuit Centre, September 1983
- 12 Environmental Impact Protection Program,

Summary Progress Report, Jesuit Centre, Ontario

- 13 United Steelworkers of America
- 14 Standard, 22 Dec 1985, The Sudbury Star, 2 April 1986 plus bulletins and agreements form United Steelworkers of America.

Great Aussie Land Grab

- 1 Australia Mining Industry Council, whose senior vice-president is Carnegie and one of whose directors is Mr Rayner the managing director and chief executive of Comalco.
- 2 Seaman Inquiry 1984

Impoverishing the Poor: CRA at Lake Argyle

- 1 Dr Christensen, Aborigines and the Argyle Diamond project submission to the Aboriginal Land Enquiry; East Kimberley Working Paper no. 3, 1983
- 2 Mick O'Leary, Managing Director Argyle Diamond mines, in CRA report to shareholders 1985
- 3 CRA Melbourne 1985 shareholders' report
- 4 CRA report
- 5 Ashton Joint Venture, 1982 Environmental Review and Management Programme: Argyle Diamond Project, Dames & Moore, Perth.
- 6 R A Dixon, C Elderton, S Irvine, I Kirkby A Preliminary Indication of some effects of Argyle Diamond mine on Aboriginal Communities in the region. A Report to the Kimberley Land Council and the National Aboriginal Conference East Kimberley Working Paper no. 8, 1984

From the worst mine to the best?

- 1 Interview in Namib Times, Swakopmund and Walvis Bay, 5/7/85
- 2 Five star award as the safest open cast mine employing more than 500 people in South Africa. NOSA regards Rossing as coming under its Northern Transvaal region. Namib Times 2/7/85
- 3 The Workers of Namibia Gillian and Suzanne Cronje, London, 1979
- 4 Namib Times 5/7/85
- 5 The Rossing Fact Book, Rossing Uranium Ltd., Windhoek, 1985
- 6 The Application of Modern Methodology to the Clinical Assessment of Pulmonary Damage in an Uranium Mine, paper by M.A. de Kock, W.R.S. Swiegers, and C.M. Lewis, Rossing Uranium Ltd., Swakopmund, (undated)
- 7 Thanks to Alan Dalton, Labour Research, for contributing information.
- 8 The Struggle for Trade Union Rights in

FOOTNOTES

Namibia, SWAPO Dept. of Labour, Luanda, 1984

9 The Namibian, Windhoek, 6/12/85

10 The Namibian, 22/11/85

11 The Namibian, 24/1/86

12 The Namibian, 13/12/85

13 Opinion by Dr. Zed Ngavirue, The Namibian, 21/3/86

14 Dr. Steve Kesler, Rossing's metallurgical manager, Namib Times, 5/7/85

15 Windhoek Advertiser, 10/3/86, quoting from the Thirion Report

16 Interview with Gordon Freeman, Namib Times, 5/7/85

17 Windhoek Advertiser, 10,3,86

Blackburn's Whitewash

1 Comalco, Annual Report Melbourne, 1986

2 Available from Concord Films, 201 Felixstowe Rd., Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9BJ

3 Jan Roberts, From Massacres to Mining, published by War on Want and CIMRA, London 1978, Massacres to Mining Dove Communications, Blackburn, 1981

4 Roberts, *ibid.* p.164

5 All page numbers in brackets refer to the official court record of the Australian Supreme Court.

Crying all the way to the bank

1 Press, Wellington 24/4/85

2 Star 22/4/85

3 Press 6/6/85

4 Star 19/6/85

5 Press 12/7/85

6 Star 3/8/85

7 Press 7/9/85

8 Star 7/9/85

9 One of New Zealand's most beautiful lakes which, under the Comalco agreement, would be raised no less than 84 feet, flooding much of a National Park area. The huge campaign to 'Save Manapuri' at least temporarily averted the threat to people and environment.

10 New Zealand Times 8/9/85

11 Star 4/10/85

12 Press 19/10/85

13 Star 11/10/85

14 Star 4/10/85

How New Zealand's Maoris organised against CRA and beat back the bludgers

1 RAHUI - meeting time, TAPU - prohibition

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*The morality
that pollution
is criminal
only after
legal conviction
is the morality
that causes
pollution.*

Eugene & Aileen Smith