

PARTING COMPANY

no. 4 late 1983

30p



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SEE P 10



WHO SAID..?

' Your Honour...on Thursday evening we were shown on the ABC (tv,Australia) a film called PLAIN AND SACRED RIGHT... It showed scenes which depicted the directors of RT-Z,including Sir Roderick Carnegie,a witness in this case twice, with what can only be described as Hitlerian visages,apparently immune or insensitive to the pleas of people purporting to be Aborigines,pleading for land rights or a fair go...we are looking closely as to whether it amounts to contempt of court"

ANSWER: Mr. Bennet, QC for Comalco in the Australian High Court on August 29th 1983,during a hearing against ABC-TV for screening an earlier attack on RT-Z called STRANGERS IN THEIR OWN LAND (Granada TV). PLAIN AND SACRED RIGHT,an Everyman film (BBC-TV) used stills from the RT-Z agm of 1982 taken by Phil Wolmuth.



P.7

Welcome!

This is the first PARTIZANS newsletter for six months. Just when Rio Tinto thought it was safe to go back in the mine, the opposition clambers to the surface with (hopefully) a few deep shafts of wit and wisdom! Parting Company is woefully late (or, if you prefer, well in time for the winter solstice) because - thanks to the expenses of the May agm, Partizans ran clean out of cash in June. Some sterling supporters helped bail us out, and we think we can promise revived campaigning (and more newsletters) well into 1984.

Meanwhile - thanks to you for continuing to support us, or - if you're a newcomer, for taking the time to find out what we are up to.

Please make as much use of the material here as you can.

How BP is lying about its concern for Aborigines...

OTHER Companies

Barclays' apartheid connection

Financial Times 18/4/83

SPRINGTIME IN Britain is the season when annual bank reports come through letter boxes to eager shareholders and stock market analysts.

Normally such annual accounts contain glowing statements from bank chairmen and chief executives who tell their readers how grateful they are for the co-operation of staff and customers.

The spring season has brought a rather unusual annual report, however, a distinctive gold-coloured document which carries the Barclays insignia but is entitled "The Barclays Shadow Report."

The Barclays Shadow Board has its own chairman, deputy chairman, 19 directors, and one company secretary. But in place of the name of Barclays chair-

man, Mr Timothy Bevan, the "shadow" board lists Mr Gerry Gillman, general secretary of the Society of Civil and Public Servants as its chairman.

The board of "shadow" directors includes: Julie Christie (the actress), the Right Reverend Stanley Booth-Clibborn (Bishop of Manchester), Mr Neil Kinnock (Labour MP for Redwelly), and Professor Peter Townsend (Professor of Social Policy, University of Bristol).

What brings these people together? Their shared opposition to the South African policy of apartheid and their conviction that Barclays Bank should withdraw from this country.

The 11-page report highlights such matters as Mr Bevan's visit this month to

South Africa and to Namibia. The trip, the report says, "would only be possible with a substantial military escort provided by the South African troops which illegally occupy

The Barclays link provides "a major prop to the South African regime."

the country in defiance of international law and the rulings of the United Nations."

Barclays Bank retains a 50 per cent stake in Barclays National, its South African subsidiary, and six British directors sit on the South African board. The Barclays

connection, in the words of Mr Gillman, provides "a major prop to the South African regime."

The Shadow Report shows how the bank sees itself as the banker to South Africa's armed forces. It reprints a Barclays advert which displays a pair of stomping army boots and the caption: "If you've received your marching orders we'll get you started on the right foot."

Mr Gillman's declared intention is to plug away at persuading Barclays to pull out of South Africa. "A lot of people in Britain who bank with Barclays may be unaware of the extent to which Barclays buttress the South African Government," he declares.

Back in the City of London, while some Barclays bankers

LORDS of the REALM



"An investigation of the Wealthy Families behind the Multi-Nationals."

IN THIS ISSUE

BRITAIN'S MERCHANT BANKERS

WALL STREET'S INVESTMENT BANKERS

THE DAILY MAIL

HONG KONG BANK

NEW YORK'S C.F.R.

A welcome - to a new journal which promises to uncover the real dirt on the powerful, white males who run the corporations and back them with their filthy lucre. No, not the Cecil Parkinsons so much as the Rothschilds and the Rothermeres.

LORDS OF THE REALM has come out with three succinct, well-written, well-produced issues so far, and we look forward to more.

Subscription is £4.00 for six issues (Britain/Ireland)

Write to: Pomodoro Pubs, 105 The Mall, Hyde, Cheshire, SK 14 2QT

SEC Alters Rules on Annual Meetings

By RICHARD L. HUDSON

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WASHINGTON—The Securities and Exchange Commission made it slightly harder for social activists and small stockholders to force votes on controversial issues at corporate annual meetings.

At a meeting yesterday, the commissioners voted 3-1 to adopt new rules governing the procedure by which questions come up for meeting votes. The provisions include a requirement that anyone advancing a proposal own at least \$1,000 of the company's stock or 1% of the stock outstanding, whichever amount is smaller. The rules also make it easier for a company to preclude consideration of proposals that haven't garnered many votes in past meetings.

The new SEC rules are aimed at cutting down slightly on what management considers frivolous or futile proposals that corporations must print in their proxy material and solicit shareholder votes on. The changes were strenuously urged by cores of big corporations, who have long complained that existing SEC rules are so liberal that they permit annual meetings to become soapboxes for activists opposed to such things as trade in South Africa, nuclear power and sales of infant formula in developing countries. WSJ 17/8/83

CORRUPTION GALORE IN MINING MNC'S!

Mining companies are viewed by foreign diplomats as being the worst kind of multinational. That's the conclusion of a recent survey carried out on 30 London-based diplomatic missions from the Third World, by the Corporate Responsibility Centre.

Ironically the Dutch company UNILEVER, which has strong British components, emerged as the corporation with the best reputation - despite its pre-eminent colonial past and its depredations of the present.

The survey showed that foreign diplomats have a distinctly more critical view of mnc's than corporate bodies themselves:

- 60% of diplomats thought mnc's behaved badly. (79% of corporate officers thought they didn't)

- A third of the diplomats thought mnc's actively conspired to topple hostile governments. (Naturally the vast majority of corporate officers thought otherwise)

- 50% of diplomats doubted mnc's performed well commercially. (85% of corporate doyens thought they did)

- 80% of diplomats thought mnc's corrupting - specifically through bribes. (The majority of corporate fiddlers disagreed, although just over a third did admit it was true.)

The CRC recommends that multinationals now clean up their act and thus "...permit maximum use of private sector capital!"

International Companies and World Development. CRC £27.50

HUNDREDS of leading Japanese companies are girding for a showdown with a peculiar breed of racketeers who may seek to disrupt their shareholders' meetings at the end of June.

For years they have paid large sums of hush money to the "sokaiya" to avert embarrassing revelations at the annual or half-yearly corporate meetings. In return the sokaiya, or professional shareholders, silenced anyone who tried to complain about company policies, using force when necessary.

But this year, for the first time, the stockholders' meetings are being held under a revised commercial code which aims to eliminate the rent-a-thug racket. It is now illegal for companies to pay off the sokaiya, but anyone holding 1.00 shares (the minimum limit has been raised) is entitled to attend the meetings, and what is more the amended law enhances the right of shareholders to question directors

Companies lose their favourite gangsters

and expect a satisfactory answer.

Since the change in the law the "cooperation money" paid by firms to the sokaiya has dried up, and their number — put at 6,000 a year ago — is dwindling as they switch to new rackets. The new law has also caused handwringing among company executives. Instead of rejoicing at the millions of dollars saved in hush money, they are nervous about the dirty linen that will be exposed at shareholders' meetings by the sokaiya, who are determined to flex their muscles.

The racketeers have already vented their bile over the loss of squeeze money by raising awkward

questions at several shareholders' meetings. Query after query was fired at directors concerning business results, executive salaries, entertaining expenses and countless other minutiae.

As a result the general meeting of Sapporo Breweries lasted seven hours in March, that of Matsuya department store in May took eight hours and 45 minutes. In previous years the average duration was 22 minutes, thanks to the practice of paying sokaiya to keep their own and other peoples' mouths shut. "We save firms time and trouble" says Yasunobu Kumagai, who controls a sokaiya ring. "Companies have so many things they need to hide."

Be it profiteering by deter-

gent manufacturers, a mechanical defect in a company's cars, the nasty side effects of a drug—in these and many other instances, sokaiya have earned their fees by suppressing, or minimising fuss from disgruntled shareholders at general meetings.

This is why large companies prefer paying protection money, why they consider the sokaiya as a "necessary evil," in the words of one senior executive, and why they are less than enthusiastic about the change in the law.

"The longer a meeting lasts, it means the more points are raised about bad performance and planning by the managers," said Mr

Kumagai. "It means management cannot manage."

It is not surprising, therefore, that the managers of general affairs departments in nearly 700 listed companies with general meetings in the last days of June are sweating at the prospect of sokaiya delaying tactics, and have spent weeks planning timetables aimed at getting the ordeal over in two hours at the very most—with no pause even for senior executives who need to visit the toilet, the manager of one large firm said.

Banks with outstanding loans to businesses that have collapsed are especially vulnerable to awkward questions. "If the sokaiya make a fuss at the meetings of large banks, it might trigger selling of shares, and a drop in share prices," says one insider, "and the senior executives will lose out on the amount of their retirement pay, which is decided at the general meeting."

Guardian 28/6/83

ON THE (ZINC) SCRAP HEAP



The TUC has called for fundamental changes in the administration of union pension funds which if implemented, would result in money being channelled to British industry and not predominantly into multinational coffers overseas. Guardian 19/7/83

Dis-Investment

For a year now, the National Union of Mineworkers Pension Fund has made no new investment - thanks to a policy pioneered by Arthur Scargill of trying to take control out of the hands of professional, conservative, Fund managers and put it in the hands of Unionists. Basically, this means trying to build up investment in home-based industry and stop the flow of workers' cash to foreign "drains". The NUM currently holds 12% of its equity portfolio in Shell and BP and 15% in overseas investments - none directly in South Africa but clearly with companies which do considerable business in the apartheid state. Now the trustees of the National Coal Board are considering whether to take the NUM to court to try and restore the status quo ante. Watch this space!

A Church of England theological college is selling £15,000 of shares in six British companies which have substantial 'links' with South Africa. (RT-Z isn't believed to be one of them.) At the same time it's holding on to its Barclays current account - though the student body has voted to sell all investments. Westcott College, Cambridge, has at least taken one bull by the horns. The Church Commissioners, on the other hand, have still not sold their shares in companies with South African interests (believed almost certainly to include Rio Tinto-Zinc) - despite a synod resolution calling for this more than a year ago. At its annual conference in April this year the Banking, Insurance and Finance Union condemned its executive for not deciding to recommend dis-investment from South Africa.

After the sea-bed, the desert, the rain forests and the National Parks - what else? Oh yes! - THE ANTARCTIC!

It was once said that RT-Z encircled the globe - all except for Antarctica. Whether or not Britain's largest mining multinational is donning its furry boots and thermaseal parkas plunge into the icy south, it's certainly been eyeing the area. Among the fourteen countries party to the Antarctic Treaty, only two - Argentina and Chile - can in any sense be called "third world"; and among the rest, Britain and France are now urging the establishing of "normal mineral rights" to this huge untapped zone. It's virtually a carbon-copy of the policy that Britain, France, the USA and West Germany are pursuing over resources at the bottom of the sea. The problems of getting to antarctic minerals under 2,000 metre ice-caps are enormous, and

not much has been found as yet - at least that's what the companies would have us believe. Robert Rice, consulting geologist to RT-Z, tells us that "The economics of Antarctic hard minerals seems impossible" On the other hand, it would be naive not to believe that RT-Z isn't playing some role in recent secret talks aimed at "de-naturalising" the Antarctic. These talks were blown by Greenpeace Ltd back in June, when it published proposals drawn up by Chris Beby, chair of a preliminary Treaty meeting. These draft proposals quite clearly - in the words of the Guardian (17/6) "...suggest the establishment of an exploitation regime which avoids seventy issues yet permits prospecting and extraction applications from the 14 Treaty nations..."

A year ago Europe's major zinc producers (RT-Z prominent among them of course) got together to discuss voluntary cutbacks, to reduce the excess smelting capacity in western Europe. Apart from AM&S (actually owned by CRA), there was Billiton (Royal Dutch Shell's mining arm) Metallgesellschaft - the huge west German mining concern, two French mnc's and Belgium's mining giant Union Miniere. At the time it was thought that AM&S's Avonmouth smelter would be the prime candidate for closure - under which the company would benefit from considerable compensation though several hundred jobs would go out the window. (see PC 2/83). AM&S had to present its plans for closure before July 9th. It didn't. Instead it cut 300 jobs - conveniently left until after the General Election, as the Guardian was quick to point out - and has promised discussions on saving others. Meanwhile the European deadline for closures has been put back. As of now (October 15) it was still not clear whether AM&S would opt to join the scheme. RTZ has a third share of Anglesey

ATLANTIC WORLD COLLEGE

One of the teachers at the Atlantic World College in Wales - an institution funded to a large extent by Rio Tinto-Zinc is planning an expose of the company (not the college which has a good reputation). WOULD ANY PRESENT OR PAST STUDENTS/TEACHERS OF ATLANTIC COLLEGE contact us at PARTIZANS

FROM POISON GIRLS THE NEW SINGLE 'ONE GOOD REASON' OUT NOW FROM ALL GOOD RECORD SHOPS

RTZ lines up with Tricentrol

SUNDAY TIMES 18 SEPT. 1983

THE LONG arm of coincidence could carry quite a punch on Wednesday this week - or so some of the market's more cynical customers believe. For on that day Tricentrol is due to report its six months earnings figures - at just about the same time as Rio Tinto-Zinc publishes its own. And, as every marketman knows, RTZ has been an avid buyer of Tricentrol shares, holding, it is believed, just short of 5% of the oil company. The plot, however, thickens. Tricentrol's figures should have been published

a month ago. Instead they were deferred to September 21 - and at the time no one realised that RTZ was also scheduled to report. The excuse for the delay? "We're bringing the figures into line with the SSAP 20 accounting standard," say tricentrol. SSAP 20 relates to foreign currency translation and is a beast of a standard. But enough to mean a delay of a month? Marketmen looking for an offer from RTZ at between £3 and £4 a share were busy pushing Tricentrol back towards its 240p late last week. Hold on tight.

POISON GIRLS - who've given a lot of support to our campaign, and whose lead singer Vi Subversa led off the critical questioning at this year's AGM with a powerful rendering of "Rio Disco Stinks" - is willing to do a gig for us! WE NEED SUPPORTERS IN Bristol or Birmingham to help put one together. Please get in touch if you can help.

Under mining BP

BP - or not BP? That was the question! To be precise - a question asked of our shareholders a few months back, when considering the lessons of this year's RT-Z agm. Should we spread ourselves more thinly on the ground and take on Britain's biggest multinational? More by accident than design, we now have.

Twice in recent weeks, Partizans London Greenpeace, Aboriginal Commission to Europe supporters, assisted by CIMRA, have staged direct actions against BP's 49% Share in the Roxby Downs mine in South Australia. As the latest issue of CIMRA's NATIVE PEOPLES NEWS points out, BP and RT-Z now have joint ventures in several countries where specifically, the land rights of indigenous peoples are in jeopardy.

Get NFN (issue 9) for the full details. Meanwhile here's the alarming run-down:

- * BP and RT-Z both have shares in parts of the huge Carajas project in Brazil which threatens to convert one sixth of the Amazon into an industrial zone. More than 20 native "reserves" are in the project zone - with nearly 13,000 "Indians!"

- * BP and RT-Z are trying to get mineral stakes in the Canadian arctic specifically on Inuit, Dene and Innu land

- * BP and RT-Z have a joint 750,000 acre concession in Kalimantan (Borneo) which the Indonesian fascist regime is opening-up to virtually all comers



photo: Philip Wainwright

Part of the protests against BP in London on August 29

UK sit-in over Roxby

LONDON, Monday. — Aboriginal land rights demonstrators today invaded the Australian High Commission premises, Australia House, and staged a sit-in.

According to an Australia House spokesman, scores of protesters flooded in through the front door and threw themselves down on the marble floor in the main foyer.

They are protesting about the development of Roxby Downs in

South Australia, claiming the area belongs to the Kokatha people and that sacred sites are being damaged and others are under threat.

Special police squads were called to try to control the demonstrators.

According to the protesters, who come from a number of environmental protection groups, Western Mining and BP have acted callously in their bulldozing of some sites to develop what could become the world's largest uranium mine.

* And (of course) both RT-Z and BP are benefitting from lack of land rights in Australia, to start up new uranium, diamond and other mines.

Blacks accuse WA Labor over mining

The State Labor Government of Western Australia has dropped its "facade of concern" for Aborigines and bowed to pressure from mining companies, an Aboriginal group says.

The Kimberley Land Council is angry that the Government has approved an environmental review and management program by the \$450 million Argyle diamond mine joint venture.

The document, which sets out the compensation to be paid to Aboriginal communities near the mine site in the East Kimberleys, was approved by State Cabinet last week.

The council says most of the compensation agreements are not legally enforceable, and local Aborigines were not given enough chance to put their views.

The partners in the Argyle project, Ashton Mining, CRA and Northern Mining, have signed agreements with Aboriginal communities under which the partners undertake to finance capital works for the communities. But in some cases there are no legal documents.

A statement last week by the Minister for Economic Development and Resources, Mr Bryce, said the Government was "concerned about informal arrangements entered into by the company with local Aboriginal communities. The management of these arrangements has caused social disruption in the Kimberleys."

Rio Tinto-Zinc's Lake Argyle mine is already the world's biggest diamond producer. Its attempts to profit even further from the project, and explore in other areas, at the expense of Aborigines has recently increased the determination of the Kimberley Land Council and other Aboriginal groups to bring the consortium to heel.

On this page we report statements made by the KLC since May 1983, and bring readers up to date on developments in further plunder of one of the most sacred areas of Australasia.

May 1983. Western Australian state government approves the "environmental review and management programme" submitted by Ashton Joint Venture for Lake Argyle diamond mine

(West Australian 20/5/83)

August 1983: CRA, as leading partner (56.8%) in the Argyle diamond project awards \$235 million to four banks to finance its share of the "development". The banks are: Continental Illinois, Westpac, Societe General and Toronto-Dominion.

The Bond Corporation acquires the 9% stake in Argyle previously held by its subsidiary Northern Mining.

(FT 10/8/83, Australian 10/8/83)

Oct The West Australian government approves development of the second and most important phase of the project. Production from Argyle is expected to rise from 5m carats to 25 million by 1985/86

The west Australian government buys Northern Mining's stake in the project - predicting an A\$12 million income to state coffers at full mine output

(FT 11/10/83)

CRA faces Kimberley land rights opposition

FINANCIAL REVIEW (Aus) 19/5/83

CRA Ltd has applied for exploration licences covering 13,000 sq km of the Kimberley region, but is being opposed by the local Aboriginal Land Council.

The 117 applications for diamond exploration cover a vast area along the Drysdale, Gibb and Carson rivers.

Some exploration companies see the move as a defensive one, to block others from getting close to what CRA regards as promising areas.

CRA is the manager of the Argyle joint venture, which hopes to make a decision to mine the Kimberlite pipe by the end of next month.

Mining of the alluvial deposits began five months ago.

The Kimberley Land Council is objecting to the applications, claiming that there would be considerable risk to sacred sites in the region.

The applications will be

heard by a Warden's Court in Kununurra on August 15.

CRA has said it will contest the objections, and is continuing to carry out aerial mapping and surveying.

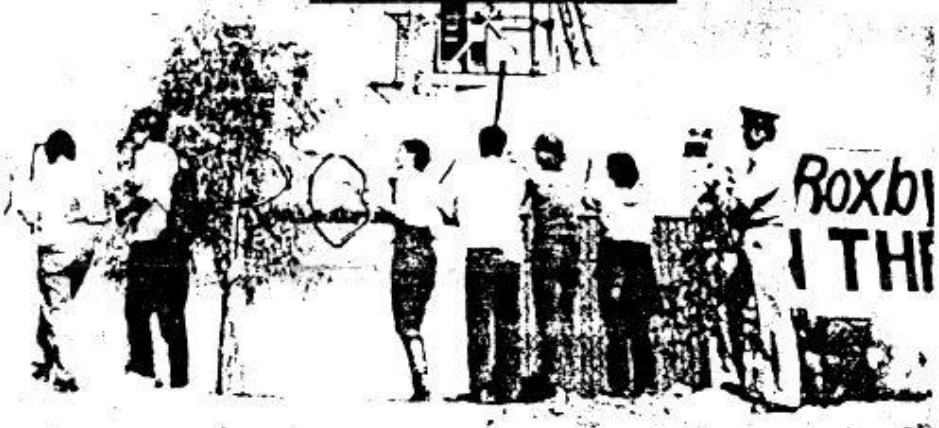
It will be a particularly delicate issue, because the new Labor Government has indicated a much more generous attitude towards Aboriginal land rights than the previous one.

CRA's interest in the big area, which partly covers a national park, stems from a conviction among many explorers that other diamondiferous pipes exist in the region.

— John McIlwraith

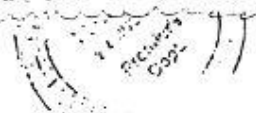
We don't need

ROXBY



MINUTES June ENCLOSURE to ... N&R 5/6/116

It is recommended that the ethnographic survey referred to in recommendation 4 of the Department for the Environment, be not required and that the attached letter be forwarded to assure the company on this and related issues.



MINISTER OF MINES AND ENERGY

24/7/80

BP Australia Limited



RDV:NRW:PT

10th August, 1983.

From the very outset of the Olympic Dam project, both Joint Venturers have been fully alive to the importance which the aboriginal community places upon its sacred sites. Consequently ever since 1981 representatives from the project management company Roxby Management Services have made repeated efforts to secure the co-operation of the people representing the Kokatha aboriginal community in surveys to locate sites of anthropological significance. Unfortunately all such efforts have to date been unsuccessful.



The biggest blockade of a uranium mine (indeed, possibly any mine anywhere) took place at Roxby Down, South Australia between the 27 August and September 4 1983, when 800 people blocked roads, took over parts of the mine site, held discussions with workers and acted in strong solidarity with the Aboriginal people whose sacred sites are threatened by the mining partners, Western Mining (Aus) and British Petroleum (BP)

Many arrests occurred in the opening days of the occupation - reported with some gusto in the British press. After that - blatant silence. And nothing since.

But the Aboriginal occupation of Cane Grass Dam continues, and is growing. So far the miners haven't been able to build their approach road to the north. And the South Australian government has, oh so belatedly - agreed to finance an independent anthropologist to report on Aboriginal sites.

The mining companies produced some elderly Aborigines from Coober Pedy back in September, who duly told the press that Cane Grass didn't lie on Aboriginal land. Mamangurumpa, a secretive body operating both as a mining company and a religious organisation has its claws in there somewhere. (Its director, Peter Daniels, is a real estate agent and a strong supporter of the Festival of Light).

Most disturbing, perhaps, is news that back in 1980, when South Australia was ruled by a Liberal (ie conservative) state government, the Dept. of the Environment recommended an ethnographic study of Kokatha land claims in the project area which was then directly overturned by the Ministry of Mines who told Western Mining Corporation that they needn't bother about the Aborigines. It's now quite clear that both WMC and BP took this "assurance" warmly to heart.

CIMRA - which jointly organised with PARTIZANS the BP protest in August (see PC this issue), along with Greenpeace London and the Aboriginal support group - has been told by BP Australia that the companies were "fully alive" to the "importance which the aboriginal community places upon its sacred sites..." BP professes to have "made repeated efforts to secure the cooperation of the people representing the Kokatha aboriginal community in surveys to locate sites of anthropological significance."

In the light of Western Australian cabinet papers (reproduced partly, here) this claim is manifestly a lie.

(NB. The documents about this issue were released by CANE in Adelaide in September and immediately repressed by a court order which prevents them being published in Australia. We urge every reader of this newsletter outside Australia to reprint this material where they can.)

This article has been compiled from information supplied by CANE (Adelaide) and a press release from Kokatha, Arabuna, Yankandura and Pitjandjara people meeting at Cane Grass dam on October 3/4 1983

Farmers and conservationists demonstrate at Eastville in Victoria (Australia) where RTZ's subsidiary CRA is now planning to use chloride and chlorine, instead of potassium cyanide, in its gold leaching exploits.

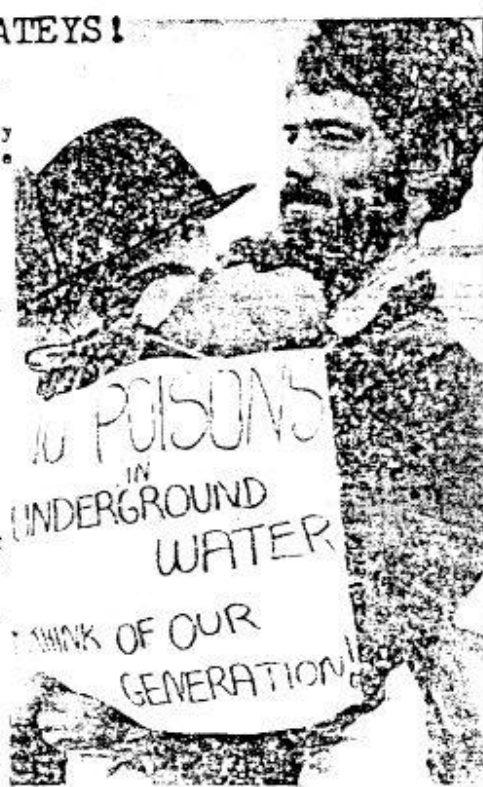
The demonstration took place in May 1983.

Opponents of CRA claim the chemicals, contained in hydrochloric acid, will release deadly arsenic and copper into the groundwater.

CRA's proposals would automatically be banned in the USA.

According to Partizans reporter Vivien Dewes, CRA is planning mining in two Victorian shires (or counties) one of which - Lexton - has already opposed the company's illegal drilling (see story here)

Another shire, Maldon, has unfortunately granted a permit to the company, but this is being challenged at a public hearing on December 5th.



CRA sought permission from the Shire of Lexton to drill some exploration holes. CRA started drilling without the Shire's approval. GPS members queried the Shire and the Shire Engineer visited the site and told CRA to stop drilling. It is uncertain whether CRA did immediately stop, but they pulled up stakes quickly after the incident.

CRA's drilling rig was parked overnight at the side of the road. Imagine the horror when the drillers arrived in the morning to find all the rig's windows smashed and a large sign painted on the road, demanding "Piss off CRA".

The GPS and FOE do not condone this callous destruction of CRA's valuable machinery. FOE demands that CRA stop their death wish experiments with our groundwater, experiments that are continuing without approval.

Our supporters in New Zealand have long campaigned against the vicarious support which New Zealand taxpayers give to Comalco (about a third owned by RTZ)

This is through the Tiwai Point smelter getting electricity far cheaper than the ordinary household consumer. And anyone who doubts that the aluminium companies (especially in a period of oversupply) need cheap power - realise this! An incredible 16,500 kilowatt hours of electric power is needed to produce just one tonne of primary aluminium. That's about as much as an average householder will consume in ten years!

Successive questioners at RTZ agms have demanded to know the real price paid by Comalco for Tiwai Point and both the companies and the New Zealand government have refused to spill the beans. Now, however, the prestigious New Zealand Consumers Institute has backed the protestors. Director Dick Smithies states that the main reason domestic New Zealand power prices are too high is "...because of the special pwer price for the Tiwai Point aluminium smelter" (CAFCINZ newsletter May 1983)

TIWAI TARGET?

International New Zealand peace researcher Owen Wilkes (who was last year outrageously arrested in Sweden for "spying") has recently compiled a list of likely nuclear targets world-wide, along with members of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Eight sure-fire targets are listed for New Zealand, but there's one additional "chance" target added for good measure.

Termed a "choke point" of the economy, Comalco's TIWAI POINT smelter is also named. Says Wilkes: hitting steel plants is a way of hobbling the economy, but there's lots of them. In the case of aluminium - also vital to a modern economy - there are fewer smelters and therefore they're possibly likelier targets.

(Cafcinz's Watchdog August 1983)



Although the Mary Kathleen uranium mine closed in 1981, shareholders continue to reap the deadly profits - 11.8p per share at the last hand-out. Uranium sales from the company stockpile wan't stop till the end of 1983 (FT 27/9/83)

During its (considerably interrupted) 26 years of operation, MKU produced thirty-one million tons of rock, from which only 9,000 tons of uranium oxide was ever recovered.

On a rough calculation, that's about 3,500 times as much radioactive rubbish as uranium.

MKU ltd - with the connivance of the neo-fascist Queensland regime - is now "rehabilitating" the mine tailings site by simply chucking rocks over the radon/radium/thorium emitting wastes, and letting "mother" Nature deal with the radioactive run-off water. (see PC no. 16/1982)

P-SS OFF CRA

FOE-Australia Ballista Aug-Sept 83

Raw Materials Report

An international quarterly magazine on the political economy of natural resources. Published in English by the Raw Materials Group in Sweden to alert general opinion world wide of the economic, political and military implications of the present struggle for raw materials.

The focus is on metals and non-renewable minerals as well as on forestry resources and agricultural products.

Vol 1 No 2 (Winter 1982)
 World Economy: The new resource wars
 Area report: Brazil
 Company report: Companhia Vale do Rio Doce and Krupp - two giants in the iron and steel industry
 Special report: The Grande Carajás and the internationalization of the Amazon - the first in depth critical analysis of the world's most important resource project in the 1980s
 Military: Modern Metals and the War Industry
 Interview: Maurice Nyagumbo, minister of mines Zimbabwe
 Book reviews: Basic reading on minerals and forest markets.

The following issues of Vol 1 will focus on resources policies and transnational power in Southern Africa, Canada and South East Asia; the struggle for the riches of the sea etc.

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Raw Materials Report
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REMELTING ALLY

Comalco (now 67% owned by CRA, in turn 52.9% owned by RTZ) has developed a new computer-controlled remelting process for aluminium. Supposedly the most modern in the world, the Yennora plant in Sydney, New South Wales (Australia) will achieve 40% fuel efficiency.

According to Comalco's managing director, Mark Rayner, the saving is likely to be wiped out, however - by an increase of 100% in NSW electricity charges made since 1981. (E & MJ (USA) August 1983)

HAMMERLEY HAMMERS

Following a dispute over workers' claims, the strike-ridden Hamersley Iron ore co (CRA: 93.7%) laid off 1,400 workers at its Paraburdoo and Mount Tom Price mines in Western Australia in September. (MJ 9/9/83)

GOLD DRILLS

CRA is carrying out a half a million dollar gold exploration programme north of Wattle Gully in Western Australia (MJ 10/6/83)

It's no good pretending it was a whopping success...the 1983 annual general meeting of Rio Tinto-Zinc was carefully, and massively loaded against us, the "dissidents!"

It opened at 2.30 in the afternoon - which meant that discussion could "reasonably" be curtailed at 6pm without the Board fearing accusations of a deliberate block on criticism. And whatever happened the press would have gone home by then and nothing short of an armed attack would make the headlines next morning.

Most of the shareholders would have gone home too, leaving the oh-so-patient tolerant denizens of RT-Z faced with thinning ranks of exhausting protestors: taking whatever action was thrown at them from the floor, in the benign haze of men who know they've thirty-odd million proxies tucked beneath their belts...

As it turned out, this is almost exactly what happened. Yes, there were press reports (one in the Guardian, a tibia in the Financial Times). But Rafiq Mughal had quit the hall before Tuke once again arbitrarily stopped the questions and called for the vote. So he didn't report that many questions had still gone unanswered, nor that shareholders tore up their glossy annual reports in disgust.

Worse still, the Guardian's Financial "Notebook" recorded Tuke's excessive wisdom and humanity in tolerating its critics this year - instead of bunking them through the doors as securitymen and cops had done in 1982. Hamish McRae has a short memory: in 1982 his column demanded that company chairmen should sit tight answering critics' questions "...until the sun comes down if necessary" (Meteorological note: the sun didn't set until 21.01pm on May 26th)

On the other hand, we did anticipate some of this repressive tolerance and however much preparation or foreknowledge we might have had, there seems little we could have done about it.

More pointed questioning, yes: a united front in the face of even more lies and evasion than before...But, given we'd decided to get as many shareholders into the agm with questions to ask (about 70 "dissidents" in all - surely a world record) we had effectively circumscribed our own freedom of manoeuvre.

A questionnaire sent out to our own shareholders elicited a dozen responses, and verbal comments from a number of others. We won't publish these here - many contained suggestions on which we might want to act in 1984.

They were not as pessimistic as others might have thought, however. Virtually all respondents believed we should continue to attend RT-Z agm's in some form or other. After all, this year we did get in questions on more aspects of RT-Z's operations than ever before (Indeed, than all previous years put together.) That this is now having its effect on "ordinary" shareholders was evidenced by the presence of a GLC spokesperson at the 1983 agm and - more important? - two investors who spoke out against the corporation's practises. One of these roundly condemned the Rossing mine for violating international law; the other commented on troublesome discrepancies between what the company said, and what its critics alleged.

In the end, perhaps, history will record a more favourable verdict on our actions at the 1983 agm than the press (or we ourselves) now give it.

66

THE CHELSEA Flower Show has come and gone, the FA Cup Final has been decided (with the by now customary delay), and rain has stopped play at the first cricket matches of the season. Summer is indeed with us, at last.

In the world of mining, the advent of summer is customarily marked by two events, the publication of Consolidated Gold Fields' annual survey of the gold market, and the disruption of Rio Tinto-Zinc's annual meeting by dissident shareholders.

There was something different about this week's RTZ meeting, however. In an effort to avoid a repetition of the violent scenes which accompanied the somewhat abrupt closure of last year's meeting at about one o'clock, the group opted for a 2.30 start.

This allowed the whole afternoon for the dissidents to express their objections to RTZ's involvement in South Africa, Namibia, Australia and elsewhere, and the meeting ended quietly at about 6.45.

Sir Anthony Tuke, chairman, deserves congratulation for the peaceful course of the meeting, and for the courteous manner in which he allowed shareholders to make whatever points they wished about the group's activities.

FT 28th May 1983

Take-over or taken in?

AGM
'83

DISSIDENT SHAREHOLDERS TAKE OVER RTZ MEETING IN LONDON (18.2.1198) Partizans

Seventy dissident shareholders took over the RTZ Annual General Meeting (AGM) in London on May 26 and bombarded the directors with three hours of questions and declarations. Protestors included members of Partizans, the Namibia Support Committee, the National Federation of Aboriginal Land Councils, Judy Monk from the Aboriginal Mining Information Center in Melbourne, Australia, a native Mapuche from South America and Shorty O'Neill, the Aboriginal Consul to Europe. They were also joined by Bryn Davies, representative of the Greater London Council which holds more than four million pounds worth of Rio Tinto Zinc shares. Davies attacked the company's operations worldwide for willful disregard of human rights.

This year's meeting was scheduled for 2:30 p.m., an unprecedented break with tradition. Usually RTZ AGMs begin in the morning. The Chairperson of RTZ, Sir Anthony Tuke, claimed this was to facilitate critical discussion: protestors claimed it was to preempt media coverage the day after.

Abandoning the customary address to shareholders, Tuke launched into discussion of the annual report just 10 minutes after the meeting opened. From then until

6 o'clock, critics launched an unabated attack on the company's practices in Australia, Namibia, New Zealand, North and Central America, Europe and Britain.

At 6 o'clock, Chairperson Tuke once again abruptly closed the meeting before questioning was completed at which point dissidents called for a vote on closure. The dissidents lost by 49 to 58 million (the number of postal proxies held by the chair). Protestors then tore up their annual reports and stormed out of the Europa Hotel.

Said Roger Moody, spokesperson for the Partizans, "This is the first time the AGM of a mining company has been totally dominated by its critics. Even so, many areas were not covered before Tuke once again pulled down the shutters on discussion. Most notably was his refusal to take any questions on the uranium trade--RTZ in the world's biggest private producer--on grounds that this was 'commercial information'. Since Tuke also ruled out much other discussion, for example on investments in Chile and the U.S.'s condemnation of RTZ in Namibia, the AGM developed from the company's point of view into a lengthy maneuver to keep us good humored but dissatisfied. Tuke avoided confronting any of the major questions on health dangers from uranium, recognition of aboriginal landrights and the use of RTZ uranium in nuclear weapons."

Partizans is now proposing a change of tactics before next year's AGM. "We're in danger," said Roger Moody, "of being repressively tolerated--of just being a spectacle that draws conventional shareholders who still vote with the company so that nothing changes. Nonetheless, we think it's important to keep some presence at AGM's. This year for the first time ever, we discovered ordinary shareholders quite unconnected with us getting to their feet to raise awkward questions. One of them, from West Germany, told us afterwards that while he didn't approve all our extremist tactics, he was very disturbed at the discrepancy between RTZ's public declarations and what he believed the company was doing."

Partizans is now trying to raise funds to publish the taped proceedings of the 1983 AGM and issue a cassette of selected highlights for anti-nuclear concerned shareholders and landrights groups worldwide.

Contact: Partizans, 218 Liverpool Road, London N1, U.K. Tel: 1-6091852.

RTZ IN PANAMA GUAYMI STARVING

Very recently one of Partizans key supporters visited Panama and met members of the Guaymi community threatened by the huge CERRO COLORADO copper mine, as well as RT-Z employees and officials of the state mining company CODEMIN. The disquieting report sent back makes it clear that i) the Guaymi are as far from getting true land rights now as they were 18 months ago when their struggle received international attention, ii) the mine is only 'on hold' and RT-Z certainly has not relinquished its intention of plundering the world's largest copper deposit, when the market is favourable, iii) already the building of a road through Guaymi territory has exposed the Guaymi to sickness and death through induced starvation. RT-Z controls the road; the company is sickeningly silent on its responsibility for the consequences.

The full report - this is only an extract - is available from PARTIZANS. Meanwhile, the Guaymi support group is reviving its campaign for Guaymi land rights (the comarca), and can be reached at: 7 Rectory Rd, London E 17

The RTZ man seemed naive and rather ill-informed to say the least, with the additional information that I got from personal at the mine. They said when I asked them about the cost of keeping the road in care and maintenance until the mine reopened, that if it did reopen they would need to build a completely new road which (by the sounds of it) would cut even more of Guaymi land up. So, I asked what was the point?, and they gave me the distinct impression that the SOLE reason for keeping the road open was to provide 'social services' to the Guaymi communities. Additionally they told me that there were 7 people at most at the mine (usually less) and they were working for the Empresa (E.C.C.C.) whereas Rubert & Burgos told me quite distinctly that it was separate personnel - what has happened to the other 15 people who are supposed to be working at the site?

I was in Panama at the time of the so-called negotiations between various Guaymi and the government on the Comarca. There are 5 articles to be finalised:

- The demarcation/size of the territory.
- The nature of the Comarca: whether it will recognise private property.
- The internal governing and organising of the Comarca.
- Their position in relation to the question of natural resources.

The discussions finished on Friday afternoon with basically nothing resolved, except a clear statement from the

government that they would not defend any position of no private property within the Comarca. It seems it was a finished case before it started and the Guaymi were not as well organised or prepared as they should have been - and the government intimidated and patronised.

The Guaymi position is very firmly one in which basically they're demanding that the government reobtain the land from the big cattleowners and landowners and give it to the Guaymi for their collective use; the government of course wants to retain private property within the Comarca (although the government proposal is somewhat contradictory). Similarly the Guaymi stand in relation to all JNC's projects including Cerro Colorado is that nothing will go ahead until the Comarca has been finished and ratified.

Padre Chena told me that the so-called horticulture and fish-pond projects (from his version of the story MIDA is sponsoring/paying for the projects but RT-Z are basically in control of them since they have control of the road and the transport) are causing many problems. Many Guaymi a bit further away from the mine are literally dying of hunger, and many of the men who've been working as seasonal labour for coffee plantations are dying or becoming very sick as a result of the use of fertilisers and insecticides.

*Director of CODEMIN and General Manager of RTZ Panama

KISS-OF-DEATHINGER and CARRIONGTON CROWS a fable for our times..

Where do live businessmen go - when they've made a bundle out of the rest of us? Into high office, of course - as witness those corporate Tri-later commissioners drafted into Carter's administration in the 70's and the high-fliers of the Bechtel corporate who currently hold sway in Raygun's cabinet.

But where do dead politicians go when they're thrown out of office? Into Big Business, of course!

Henry Kissinger set up Kissinger Associates to carry on US foreign policy by private means. And Lord Carrington - forced out of office by the "Falklands factor" soon found a niche as head of Britain's GEC.

Inevitably the two men have come together, under Kissinger Associates. According to an article in the Sunday Times colour supplement (25/9/83) the company has "one or two" British corporate clients.

No prizes for guessing who one of these is very likely to be!

MIDLAND HYPOCRISY

The Midland Bank has thrown out the Pedophile Information Exchange (PIE) purely as a result of recent witch-hunting in the gutter press. Clearly it thinks PIE damaging to children, and the "listening bank" wouldn't have anything to do with that would they?

On the other hand, the Midland continues to be the banker for RT-Z and to our knowledge, none in the Midland has even dreamed of closing their account - or even threatening to do so, should the interns of 6 St James Square continue to radiate children in Namibia, pollute their playgrounds in Canada, Australia and Europe and blight their future in Panama South Africa, New Zealand and elsewhere.

The Midland's hypocrisy has already provoked one Partizans supporter into closing his own account with them.

A. FRAME UP?

RTZ's chief executioner - whoops! executive - Sir ALLSTAIR FRAME, has become one of the Tory party's biggest rising stars. After public rumour sabotaged his prospects of heading the steel industry, he became Thatcher's nominee on the board of BRITOLIL (successor to BNO). More recently he's been seen at the Sizewell Inquiry, testifying for the CEGB - and who knows where he'll turn up next?

Suggestions on a postcard, please to: A. Tuke, 6 St. James Square, London SW1



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P.C. is published by People against Rio Tinto-Zinc and subsidiaries, at 218 Liverpool Rd, London N1 1LE.

IS IT CRICKET..?

From the Guardian 14/7/83
report on the debate at
MCC on touring South Afr.

Mr Carlisle's speech was cogent and well-received, especially when he made the traditional point about the different attitudes to business and sporting links.

There must be many in this room who have substantial business interests in South Africa and good luck to them. Good luck to the directors of RTZ and Barclays Bank. This drew a special cheer from people who could not all have been directors of either, though not from the President of MCC, Sir Anthony Tuke, who is a director of both.

BURYING STREATFEILD IN CONCRETE

RTZ has put former company secretary D.A. Streatfeild (sic) in charge of RTZ CEMENT and made P.S. Wigley the new company dogsbody (MJ 30/9/83)

Wig! Wig!