

RADICALS attack MNC's

Earlier this year, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) held the tenth anniversary meeting of its historic Stockholm conference on the Human Environment.

Radical ecologists from 55 countries also met in Nairobi - and attacked the assumptions on which UNEP's programme is based. While UNEP goes for "consensus" and minor changes in attitudes, the radicals take a holistic approach: they call for social and political change, including "...organic agriculture, renewable sources of energy, new forms of public transport, and recycling of materials."

They also deplore the fact that UNEP referred in its official Nairobi document only once to the threat from multinational corporations. The NGO counter-statement tried to redress the imbalance, and demand

mnc's immediately halt the following:

- *exportation of dangerous products, eg pesticides...banned in the home country
- *unbridled extraction or over-exploitation of natural resources in both developed and developing countries
- *relocation of predominantly pollutive activities in developing countries to circumvent environmental constraints
- *creation of artificial market forces which promote local demand for foreign products
- *suppression of development and application of appropriate technology strategies within both urban and rural environment
- *production and export to developing countries of products with built-in obsolescence.

(Source: PARTICIPATION (IYP) 1982, number 3.)

AUSTRALIA:

Sacred sites: new threat

The huge Jabiluka mine, in Australia's Northern Territory, has been given the final government go-ahead - although within days of the announcement in August, there were strong doubts expressed about the mine's financial viability.

Co-owned by Pancontinental and Getty Oil (US) the mine is completely on Aboriginal land. Despite agreement to the project by the conservative Northern Land Council, traditional owners maintain sacred sites will be irreparably damaged by the mine: indeed the pit itself is directly on top of a Dreaming Place.

Hundreds of white workers are already invading the area to build the Jabiru township for the mine.

And who is responsible for the Jabiru township? MINENCO - which is 100% owned by RTZ's CRA. (sources: MJ 13/8/82 & 20/8/82 and deep frote.)

Mit Paredes!

Yet another coup in Panama has brought an anti-communist to power, in place of Aristides Royo who was toppled in early August.

General Paredes, commander of the country's National Guard, the army, and the police force has apparently told land-owners in the Cerro Colorado area to ignore Royo's moratorium on land sales. This was partly introduced to prevent even more encroachment on the land of the Guaymi, who're threatened by the Cerro Colorado copper mine. (RTZ holds a minority interest in the project, but stands to gain the major benefit. see back issues of PARTICIPATION)

Greater London Con-sell? p.2

Zugger daddies

"Who will follow Evelyn to Zug?" was the headline in THE OBSERVER business news on August 8th. Apparently, Evelyn Rothschild - one of that band of rogues who "manage" the Bank of the same name - has set up an offshore holding company there, to escape British tax and "surveillance network." It means that shareholders get the benefit of high dividends on low-taxed subsidiaries, even though they live in Britain: income and capital gains tax doesn't have to be paid on remittances not made through this country. What's perhaps even more surprising is that Rothschild Continuation, the company concerned, has only transferred 40% of its capital to Switzerland to benefit from the dodge. And dear old Evelyn continues to live it up in England.

So - who will follow Rothschilds to Zug? Rio Tinto? They don't have to! Through RTZ Mineral Services - the paper company which handles illegal and politically dangerous uranium deals from Rossing - our favourite company already has a base in Zug. (Rothschilds has an undisclosed interest in RT-Z, probably as high as 10%.)

Who said..?

"The great dilemma for RTZ is that we are such a power for good, but people don't know what's good for them. It's really very difficult to force a mother to give up her child for proper medical treatment, when she doesn't trust us - but it's something we have to do"

ANSWER: Lord Shackleton, former vice-chair of RTZ

GLC sellout?

Is there a rift in the GLC (Greater London Council) over the sale of "sensitive" shares - specifically the 2.5 million pounds worth which the country's largest local authority holds in RT-2? An article in TIME OUT of June 16-24th suggested there was...

GLC leader Ken Livingstone is facing mounting opposition from an unexpected source - the left wing of the London Labour party. Prominent activists claim that his leftist rhetoric over issues where he has no power like Ireland and the Falklands, conceals a series of right-wing 'sell outs' at County Hall.

Resentment came to a head on Monday, when the Executive Committee of the London Regional Party passed a motion deploring the fact that the GLC still retains investments in Rio-Tinto more than a year after Labour came to power at County Hall and voted unanimously to abandon the investments in that company at its first meeting after the election.

Although the former Finance Committee chair, Tony Hart, would have handled the details of selling the shares, one executive member commented: 'Ken as leader must bear the responsibility for failing to carry out the policy.'

What we do know however, is that the GLC - since taking the decision to sell off its RT2 holding, and meeting the objections of its finance committee - has actually doubled its holding in the company!

In response to public demands that the Council NOT put its money where its mouth is, the GLC held an Open Forum in May, just before the AGM of RT-2, to discuss options. No conclusions were reached - though a week later ex-finance chairperson, Tony Hart, sallied forth on NATIONWIDE to tilt at the Wicked Witch of Rio, yet again.

Current finance chairperson, John McDonnell has announced a meeting in October to discuss, with other I.A.'s and interested bodies, lobbying for a change in the law so that local authority pension funds can be invested in socially useful ventures, rather than profit-making multinationals. A laudable aim no doubt. But so far, we've heard nothing more about this conference. And it's one and a quarter years since GLC vice-chair, Charlie Rossi promised his Council would dis-invest.

SHARES GALORE! BUY NOW WHILE STOCKS
LAST !!

ONCE AGAIN A PARTIZANS SUPPORTER HAS OFFERED A LARGE NUMBER OF SHARES TO BE USED FOR CAMPAIGNING. SEE LEAFLET ENCLOSED WITH THIS ISSUE OF "P.Co."

Left's black magic plagues the City

For real anti-apartheid action, look to Rowntree Mackintosh. The Black Magic people are warlocks as far as South African lobbyists are concerned.

Since 1980 Rowntree's subsidiary there, Wilson-Rowntree, have been racked by labour disputes led by the black militant South African Allied Workers Union, which the company will not recognise.

Wilson-Rowntree deal with the multi-racial Sweet Workers Union, and Rowntree Mackintosh humbly said in this year's annual report that they have achieved much more in terms of integration of the workforce than might have seemed possible to critics of South Africa. Nevertheless, the objectors intended to force a vote at May's annual meeting damning Wilson-Rowntree.

Pressure

As it turned out, no motion was put and no questions asked. But Rowntree have not escaped. We are in the midst of a week of protests - in case you haven't noticed - timed to coincide with the anniversary of the Soweto riots. So far the biggest body blow Rowntree have suffered is the ceremonial burning of their products by the Labour-controlled Camden Borough Council.

It's easy to make light of the Third World pressure groups' squalling and sniping. But their tactics gradually wear down resistance like water on stone, and their success could encourage a wider offensive by the Left against firms whose policies affront their internationalist and anti-capitalist sensibilities.

Guerillas

Consider BAT Industries, our third biggest company and an enormous target for the City's urban guerillas. They make one in five of the cigarettes sold in the

non-Communist world. Some of their main markets are developing countries such as India, Kenya and Nigeria. They also make cosmetics. High tar, lolling tobacco growers, beauty without cruelty: opportunities for shouting the odds are unlimited.

Like RTZ, BAT may goad their gaddies by their very tacturnity on matters of controversy. The link between small flip-top boxes and large ones is not raised even to be dismissed in BAT's handsomely illustrated accounts and brochures.

Came their June 8 annual meeting in Musical St John's, Smith Square. The 'World Development Movement' had devised a motion to make BAT cough up information about the way cigarettes are sold to smokers in countries where ILM's warning goes unheard.

BAT's retiring chairman, Sir Peter Macadam, offered to furnish some details if the motion were to be withdrawn. His offer was refused, and the motion (which was unaggressively worded) was thrown out by the usual vast majority. But among its backers were the pension funds of three large local authorities: the Greater London Council, and West Midlands and Nottinghamshire County Councils.

Realistic

That is a sign of the times. The Labour council-ees who serve as trustees of such funds are ready recruits to 'progressive' crusades. They have been softened up by the publicity units. It costs the fund members nothing - at least in the short run - if the weight of their shareholdings is put behind a concourse cossetting cause.

Left Wing pension fund trustees feel frustrated. Their lawyers have told them that they cannot

cream off many millions to finance municipal laundries or Black Lesbian Cottage Workshops, because trustees are duty bound to invest council employees' contributions where they will earn a realistic return.

But at least they can wield their Stock Exchange shareholdings as a stick to beat the wicked multinationals.

As more and more shares sit up in the hands of collective investment institutions like these, the 'pension fund socialism' which Milton Friedman used to warn us about may become a more literal reality than even he imagined.

At the same time, the Third World lobby - RTZ's tormentors apart - is becoming more diplomatic and cranny in its demands on directors.

The case for pulling British capital out of Southern Africa and into developing countries is being presented as a smart bit of long-term planning, not just a moral gesture.

We've exchanged Callaghan for Thatcher since the mid-Seventies, yet we've slipped from first to third among South Africa's trading partners.

Are the directors of our great companies quite sure that slogan shouters and bullying boycotters have nothing to do with that?

From: Daily Mail
Business
Section
June 12th
1982

BANS...

The Philadelphia City Council has approved a Bill banning investment of municipal pension funds in companies doing business in South Africa...The Council for World Missions (originally the London Missionary Society) sent Livingstone to Africa. Now, it's withdrawing its shareholdings from companies trading in the apartheid state.

(sources: Eastern Province Herald (SA) 5/6/82 CWM, II Carteret St, London SW1)

wagon

Islington Council (Labour) has agreed to ban council investments in South Africa and goods from the apartheid state. Anti-apartheid and other organisations will be allowed to advertise on the Council noticeboards.

(source: Islington Voice, Summer 1982)

Dow's index

Who says protests aren't effective? DOW CHEMICALS has decided not to renew its contract at Rocky Flats (where the components of nuclear warheads are produced). "We're trying not to get involved in discussions of nuclear weapons" said a Dow spokesperson, Phillip Schneider. And UNION CARBIDE has withdrawn its contract from the Y-12 plant at Oak Ridge Tennessee, at least partly because of "the public relations liability"

(source: VEDA news, Oregon, USA)

Walk out!

The entire workforce at RTZ's Parabordeo iron ore mine has walked out on strike over union membership (ie denial of it.) We wonder if the British Trade Union Congress (TUC), which last year resolved to boycott companies denying trade union rights overseas, will now move to boycott RTZ imports into Britain?

Hamersley has long been rent by discontent. Earlier this year, a former worker at Parabordeo told PARTIZANS that the management had tried to kill two black workers, by throwing them off moving machinery; he believed this was because RTZ wanted to stop iron production at Hamersley in view of depressed metal prices, using strikes as an excuse for doing so.

LATE NEWS: Hamersley workforce return to work.

This newsletter is published by PARTIZANS (People against Rio Tinto Zinc and Subsidiaries) and is available to supporters for £2 a year subscription.

Contact: 218 Liverpool Road, London N1 1LE England (01-609 1852)

LES RUSSELL

LES RUSSELL has gone blind. Despite a serious heart condition, he insisted on working at the Aboriginal Mining Information Centre in Melbourne over the past two years and building it into the world's only full-time organisation, run completely by indigenous people to oppose mining on native lands.

A few weeks ago, he was struck on the back of the head by a falling block of wood: hospital tests are pessimistic that he will ever see again.

It is impossible to condense into a few sentences what Les' work has meant for Aboriginal communities, or the extent to which he both personally and politically supported Partizans. Despite his ill-health he testified at the TRIBUNAL on RTZ in May 1981, and launched a powerful attack on the company at its AGM that same year. He was instrumental in exposing RTZ/CRA's links with apartheid over the Ashton Joint Venture at Lake Argyle. And he knew more about CRA's desecration of Aboriginal sacred sites than perhaps anyone.

Incredibly, he continues to devote his life to the cause of Aboriginal Land Rights and to expose the connections between multinational power and destruction of native communities worldwide.

CRA once, it seems, tried to do away with Les. They didn't succeed. Despite this biggest blow to his life so far, those who know him realise he will continue to struggle for justice - through research transnational organising, direct action and testimony - until there's literally no breath left in his body.

Those wishing to send messages of solidarity and love to Les can do so through PARTIZANS: we will forward everything received.

"Return to me my land. Return to me my spirit. And come on! Let's fight for what is right!"

(Les Russell's concluding remarks to the 1981 Tribunal on RT-Z.)

HYACINTH CUNNINGHAM has died. Implacable opponent of racism, nuclear power, and hypocrisy in every form, she was a founder member of Hackney Anti-Nuclear group and leading light in the SUNPOWER BOOKSHOP. Partizans supporters will particularly remember her support during the Week of Action in 1981.

RUTH FIRST was killed by a South Africa letter bomb in Mozambique in August. Though not directly connected with PARTIZANS, she was one of the strongest fighters against apartheid: some current workers in P'zans will recall her support for the Operation Namibia nonviolent direct action project.

* Resource

RTZ : CAUSE FOR CONCERN? is a well-produced four-page leaflet designed by a Partizans supporter to appeal specifically to existing RT-Z shareholders. It marshals opinions already expressed by international bodies, like the UN, World Council of Churches, Survival International, that the only moral and practical way of influencing RTZ's activities is to dis-invest. It's available to our supporters free of charge for use in campaigning (Otherwise it's IOp each.) **WHY NOT GET A FEW AND SEND TO SELECTED SHAREHOLDERS? WE can supply addresses.**

"ROUGHRIIDE AT RIO" is a one-hour documentary, originally broadcast by London Open Radio (IO3.8 Mhz) on August 4th, and soon to be broadcast on Public Broadcasting stations in the USA, Canada, Australia and Eire. It's a detailed expose of RTZ's worldwide activities, with excerpts from the 1981 and 1982 agm's, interviews, comment, and music. **AVAILABLE FROM PARTIZANS NOW!** It's ideal for student, hospital, broadcasting etc.

This one will run...

RIO DISCO STINKS! That's the title of a new song, just recorded by POISON GIRLS which will soon feature on their first album (to be released by Xntrix.) Those who've heard it agree it's a winner. It may not reach the Top 20, but it'll surely reach many hearts and minds. Uncompromising, foot-tapping, hand-slapping, mind-blowing... **LOOK OUT FOR THE ALBUM IN OCTOBER!**

... for years and years!

PARTIZANS - and CINRA - have a BUS! It's a 20-seater warhorse which Angie and friends are now busily re-fitting, so it can be used for exhibitions, Festival, etc. and hold video and recording equipment. Any mechanics, welders, electricians who can help make **PARTIZANS** mobile should call Angie on 01 969 5590. Thanks!

It's a Vet's Life!

We badly need supporters to vet the latest RTZ shareholders' list and compile a new directory. The work involves going to Companies' House in London and spending a day (or half-day) with pen and paper at a desk. Those able to help should call **ANDREW** on 01-609 1852 or write to **PARTIZANS**.