GREENHAM WOMEN CLOSE RIO TINTO

Greenham against RT-Z is a new initiative, taken by three Greenham women to dramatise the links between weapons and big business. Already they've succeeded in closing down the main entrance to 6 St. James' Square. They'll be outside the HQ every Monday - indefinitely. Women(only) can contact the group at the Main Gate to Greenham base, or through Partizans (tel 01-609 1852).

RED LIGHT DISTRICT
MARCH 29TH

On September 29, over 1,500 people peacefully disrupted the financial heart of the War Machine; the "city" of London - talking with workers, blockading the Stock Exchange, picketing and performing street theatre and music.

Encouraged by our (relative) success, we're repeating the action. The theme is PEOPLE NOT PROFIT - "the city" creates and thrives on Poverty, Ecological destruction and international Repression. Countrywide organising, and agitating in all social movements has already started JOIN IN! Inform, regional contacts: Bex STC, c/o 6 Ennobleigh St., London WCI tel: (01) 281 0719

TOON reprod. from THE JOKE WORKS: The political cartoons of Phil Evans - page book available from Bookmarks, 253 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 6nrs. 75p postage. This is one of a set of 16 cards, price £1.75.
...withstand any conceivable economic shock"

Anywhere that dubious profits are to be made - and RT-Z (Rie Tinto Zinc) can't be far behind.

As witness the attempts by Britain's biggest multinational mining corporation to diversify into oil and gas exploration on its (eur) "home ground.

RT-Z Oil and Gas is a relatively recent entry in the company's stables and while there's no doubt RT-Z is following the normal pattern among more successful smc's, of spreading its investment over a wide portfolio, there's more to it than that.

By acquiring interests in working oil fields, RT-Z can achieve three things.

First, it gets immediate cash. Second, it can offset the costs of its own explorations offshore, against the petroleum revenue tax it has to pay on its new ventures.

Third, and most important, by expanding its domestic interests, it can generate capital investment which it then uses as a tax cover for profits repatriated from abroad.

In other words, RT-Z can burn the candle at both ends: creaming the cake in areas of low tax, low costs, cheap labour overseas - and binging on the bonanza back home.

So far RT-Z has bought 1% of stable-mate BP's holding in the famed Forties field, but been stymied in its attempt to get hold of 5% of the Maureen field, also in the north sea. Originally its £60,000,000 bid appeared to be acceptable to British Electric Traction, (BET), but in December 1983 BET chose instead to sell to two of its existing partners, Ulmaran and Century.

Not to be outdone, RT-Z now appears to be bidding for the whole of Candecca Resources, an oil and gas group which not only has part of the Forties field but also substantial onshore oil and gas interests. According to the Financial Times (31/12/83) RT-Z has looked Candecca over along with Trafalgar House.

RTZ long ago outgrew its popular image as a copper stock, subject only to the fluctuations in the price of that one metal. Interests now include uranium, precious metals, aluminium, diamonds, chemicals and cement, to name only the most significant.

The latest acquisitions should go a long way towards convincing shareholders that RTZ is now a mature natural resources group, with an earnings base which should be sufficiently widely diversified to withstand just about any conceivable economic shock.

Whatever comes out of its current maneuverings in the north sea, one thing is now beyond dispute.

RT-Z has more than fulfilled the dream of its original backers twenty years ago.

It has become the most diversified "natural resource" company (based on mining) in the world, thanks to a breath-taking repertoire of tactics which range from land-theft, through blatant violation of international law to deception and chicanery.

(sources: FT 12/11/83, 31/12/83, M.J. II/II/83 et al)

WHO SAID....

"Since the mining region was occupied by General France's forces, there have been no further labour problems. With a smaller workforce than before, production has increased by 30,000 tonnes per month.

Miners, found guilty of trouble-making are court-martialled and shot!"

---

ANSWER: Sir Archibald Goodbody's speech.

"Several years later to know you again...

am married with came into majority of the time was the company with
the time was the time etc.

to have the better for the good

from conversation (12/5/1962) to material... of the time... reprende...
Farms to be probed

Almost all the farmland in the Westport area is under prospect by mining companies. By far the largest licence holder is CRA's Rio Tinto of Australia. The main reason mineral is gold but they are also interested in ilmenite and zircon.

CRA is prospecting Buller Minerals' licence under a joint venture agreement.

CRA's head office is in Melbournes employs 4,000 people and has a turnover of $2.5 billion. But CRA is just a pub company, compared to its parent, Rio Tinto Zinc, one of the largest mining companies in the world.

Mr. Hamilton, President for CRA Explorations in NZ, started work in the Geological Survey in Greymouth. He has worked for Kennecott's and other large scale miners, both here and overseas.

His plan is to see the mining industry re-established in NZ. He says we operate a very strong tradition of mining, especially on the Coast.

CRA is working on an agreement to compensate farmers for prospecting on their land. It has been thrashed out with the Westport branch and national executive of Federated Farmers over the last three years.

According to local chairman Bruce Hamilton, CRA's only interest is to sign the agreement seeking to sign the agreement.
CRA ORDERED TO STOP EXPLORING

Environmentalists, Aborigines and local farmers have won the latest round in a battle to stop CRA, RT-Z's major subsidiary, solution mining for gold in Victoria, Australia. (See PM last two issues).

A preliminary meeting of the state Planning Appeals Board has ruled that the company must wait for a permit to explore. The Shire of Maldon which initially let CRA on its land has now agreed with the objectors.

In the absence of the permit, says FeE (Aus) spokesperson John Kirby, a strict legal interpretation suggests that "...all the operations of CRA Ltd including the erection of buildings, drilling rig and the injection of exploratory chemicals, has been illegal! CRA may now appeal to the Supreme Court (Thanks to FeE Melbourne for this story)

KOKATHA RESISTANCE GROWS

The Kokatha people, with Aboriginal supporters from other communities, are continuing their seven month occupation of 'Canegrow Swamp in the Roxby Downs mining area (see PC last issue). A meeting attended by 150 Kokatha people - the first such meeting since the late forties when the tribe was forcibly removed by British and Australian governments to make way for the Weemara rocket range - has called for a national (Australian) boycott of BP and Western Mining.

BP holds 49% of Roxby Downs. Meanwhile the Australian Labor government (so-called) has given Roxby Downs the green light, though holding the moratorium on development of new uranium projects, until a government enquiry reports by May.

(Thanks to ALRSG newsletter Dec 83)

GLEE FOR GEEVOR

Geevor - a Cornish tin mine in which our favourite company holds 17.87% along with south African interests and others - has made a killing, thanks to a quirk in international trading practices.

Since Britain is classified as a consumer of tin, it's not bound to reduce production in line with cutbacks recently agreed by the International Tin Council.

So the price has risen, and Geevor's profits have as well.

(PT 7/12/83)

Eiris: a new ramrod!

Ethical Investment Research and Information Service (funded by the Quakers, Rewtrex trusts, Oxfam and some churches) has monitored more than 500 British companies for their involvement in South Africa and with the arms trade. The information (and basic company details) are on computer and available to trade unions, public interest groups and others.

In the future EIRIS intends to monitor company performances in the fields of environment and employment. Contact: EIRIS, 266 Pentenville Rd., London N1 (tel: 01 837 8656)

STOP PRESS! Birmingham WOMEN OPPOSE THE NUCLEAR THREAT (WONT) are planning a major conference to examine local authority investment in RT-Z and specifically get the West Midlands CC to disinvest. Speakers/films from PARTIZANS, CANUC, SWAPO etc. March 17th 1984, 11 - 5 pm at CENTRAL HALL, Corporation Street BIRMINGHAM. 4. telephone Heather (021) 449 - 7729 or Helen (021) 449 8854 for further details. CRECHE and DISABLED ACCESS
DON'T FORGET: PARTIZANS TAKES ON RT-Z IN WESTMINSTER COUNTY COURT FROM FEB. 28th. BOOK YOUR PLACE OUTSIDE THE COURT NOW!

CHILE CON CARNAGE

Workers have clashed with police during protests over Chile's new mining law, which opens the door to foreign multinationals.

Traffic came to a standstill in Santiago on December 13th, as protesters were pursued by police using water cannon and batons.

One of the chief foreign mnc's to benefit from the new law is RT-Z with its Cerro Colorado copper mine (see PC last issue).

source: Jamehiriya Int.Report Dec.24th 1983

RT-Z RE-OPENS KILLER MINE

As uranium mines fall like 9-pins throughout the USA, RT-Z's Rio Algom subsidiary is about to reopen one which has lain dormant for several years.

Mi Vida in southeast Utah was one of the major mines during the uranium boom of the 1950's. It was run down in the 70's.

Rio Algom's current mine in Lisbon, Utah is being run down too - Mi Vida will be re-opened using workers from Lisbon and supplying ore to the Lisbon Valley mill.

(ERMJ (USA) October 1983)

PALABORA: IT'S THE PITS!

It's already produced two thousand MILLION tons of waste and ore. It's the world's second largest man-made open pit. It's the largest part-owned foreign mine in South Africa.

It's the only foreign part-owned uranium mine in the apartheid state.

Yes, folks, it's all in the hands of RT-Z, so we can sleep easy at night, knowing that problems of radioactive contamination, let alone political rights, are all being taken care of.

In fact so confident is RT-Z, that it's expanding the Palabora mine in the north-east Transvaal.

GOING DUTCH

Rio Tinto-Zinc Finance, a Netherlands based subsidiary of RT-Z has issued bonds worth $100 million, to raise money for group companies. They'll be issued on the London Stock Exchange. Don't all rush at once!

(MJ 7/10/83)

Parting Company is published by People against Rio Tinto-Zinc and Subsidiaries at 218 Liverpool Rd., London N1 9L.
(tel: 01 609 1852)

Marshall Farts

"I expect to get approval in about a year's time. By that time the British public will be bored to tears by nuclear power. That, of course, is the purpose of having a public inquiry."

(Walter Marshall, chair of the CEGB quoted in FORBES magazine - reprint from the Guardian 7/12/83. Of course he's talking about Sizewell)