Editorial - British Coal and RTZ

One of the chief tenets of Thatcherism has been the privatisation of British Coal. It is the logical extension of the British government's determination, since the early eighties, to close down the deep pits, and thus break the back of the National Union of Mineworkers. Although the Major administration will probably not float British Coal, in the same way that it has already disastrously privatised water and electricity utilities, there are now fears that it will sell off parts - or else despatch the entire edifice to a single private buyer. Among the front runners, either for the bits or the whole piece, are Hanson plc and RTZ.

The consequences of this would be disastrous. Hanson epitomises the predator asset-stripper, for whom instant profits come before any shred of human or environmental commitment. Since Hanson's takeover of Peabody Coal in the USA, the company has been responsible for continued ravages of Navejo land, water supplies, burial sites - and blatant disregard for the safety of its workforce (many of them native American). Moreover, Hanson purchased Peabody in 1990, largely because it was a source of cheap, low-sulphur coal which would replace domestic British supplies. Entrusting the future of traditional coal mining to such a buyer, would be like entrusting the proverbial turkeyhouse to Bernard Matthews.

RTZ is not the equal of Hanson. In some respects it is better; in others (especially the impact of its operations on indigenous peoples and greenfield sites) it is worse. When it stepped in to revive the Cornish tin mining industry in 1979 - and again, six years later - it was widely applauded. Certainly RTZ kept the pits working, when they otherwise might have closed. But, in the long run, RTZ's priorities were clearly elsewhere: with new tin coming in from the East Kemptville mine in Nova Scotia, and Capper Pass well supplied with feed, it pulled out of Cornish tin. Anyone who thinks that the company would be well disposed to saving - let alone, reviving - the fortunes of British coal (or British Coal) should recall
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the Cornish lesson well. And, although RTZ is not readily identified as a coal producer, CRA (RTZ:49%) is a major coal plunderer in its own right. (Rio Algom also has coal interests). With the coming on-stream of Kaltim Prima, in rainforested Kalimantan, and production expanding in Australia, CRA could soon be looking for coal markets in Britain. No prizes, for guessing which pit pony RTZ will back if it comes to the crunch.

The future of coal in Britain - indeed anywhere in the world, but especially in countries which have already exhausted their theoretical carbon "fund" - is open to debate. Closure of deep pits, in areas of traditional dependence on the collieries, is manifestly a political act, aimed partly at the country's most militant trade unionists: according to latest intelligent estimates, two thirds of such mines could be closed, under a "restructuring" of British Coal. To encourage the opening-up of more open-cut mines, with the huge devastation they cause, is also clearly incompatible with sustainable development in any sense of the term.

However, there are supplies in abundance, of low-sulphur, high-calorific coal, which could be imported more cheaply than it will cost to keep many of Britain's mines open. Environmentalists may be tempted to suggest that, on these grounds alone, British deep pits should soon go the way that pack-horses and pit-children have gone before. This would be short-sighted indeed. The British government has continued to hold back proper funding for flue-gas desulphurisation (which could cut out almost all pollution from high-sulphur domestic coal). To say the least, it has been lukewarm in pressing the European Commission for subsidies to keep British Coal viable.

What is now required is support for the British coal industry which is both environmentally appropriate and socially just.

The alternative is the spectre of the industry being taken over, and savaged, by those who have shown themselves least able to salvage (or even to recognise) national assets.

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Parting Company

SOUTH AFRICA

Storm over the Bay

Reconstructing the Dunes, Richards Bay

Since the minor political "opening up" of South Africa in 1950, environmental issues have begun to take the spotlight in the country's recent history. Nelson Mandela has declared that protection of the country's untraversed National Parks will be a key element of any ANC-controlled government's policy - even though they were carved out of black lands, and often in the face of massive opposition from impoverished indigenous South Africans.

And there is no current "national parks" issue in the country with a stronger profile than that of St. Lucia. This is the unique wetlands region, into which Richards Bay Minerals is now hoping to expand its mineral sands mining. Richards Bay is the world's largest producer of titanium, zircon and high-purity iron. The company is 50% owned and completely controlled by RTZ. In 1990, the company completed construction of new milling facilities, which will double production capacity of zircon and rutile (from which titanium is derived). It has also built a new smelter for titanium slag. Now it needs more raw material.

Richards Bay is planning to expand into the St. Lucia bay area, a move which has provoked both national and international protests. According to Vance Martin, President of the International Wilderness Foundation, this region is one of "international importance". According to local environmental groups such as SLAC (St. Lucia Action Group) and ZEAL (Zululand Environmental Alliance), mining will irreparably damage coastal dunes and wetlands which should be preserved for the benefit of all South Africans. While some of the "green" vigour directed against the proposal seems to be motivated by white self-preservation, there are undoubtedly many black South Africans who agree - both farmers and fishermen who are equally alarmed at RTZ's plans: a petition against the expansion which was circulated in the past year has secured around two-thirds of a million signatures, according to its organisers.

(There is more than a corporate link between RTZ and Richards Bay. Earlier this year, the South African press revealed that former RTZ chair, Sir Alistair Fraser, had just been appointed a director of Old Mutual, the huge South African insurance company. Old Mutual itself has an 8% holding in Richards Bay - over and above RTZ's 50% share.) See story on Frame's other corporate interests, in this issue.

(Sources: Robyn Simpson, Star newspaper, Mining Journal, SLAC, ZEAL, South African Financial Mail, BNG Wildlife.)

Barefaced in Bolivia

RTZ's interest in mining in Bolivia (as distinct from exploiting Bolivian tin, with which it had a long association until the tin market collapse in the mid-eighties) is a relatively recent one. Two years ago it entered a joint venture with the company, Consur, to investigate a gold prospect near San Ramon, which has so far apparently not yielded much of significance. Then, earlier this year, the Bolivian government announced a new Mining Code, which would open the door to increased foreign investment - indeed foreign control of vast mining areas, for the first time in many years. The "plum" in the murky pudding is probably the legendary Bolivar deposit, with vast potential for zinc, silver, tin antimony and lead production. RTZ has tendered for this mine.

Other companies are being offered control over the tailings dumps, from mines which have been worked since the conquistadores. These dumps have been worked in recent years by Bolivian miners and their families, literally as a matter of survival: their future is now uncertain, to say the least.

TRANSNATIONAL PROTESTS!

“We’re going to be here forever”: Lac Courte Oreilles chairman Gaiaashkibos at the Flambeau Mining office.

“So am I!” says De Agon Fly, as s/he protests at RTZ headquarters, supported by various Partizans people.
Native American Court Action Stops Mine

Construction on the Flambeau copper mine in northern Wisconsin [USA] has been temporarily halted by legal action taken by Lac Courte Oreilles Chippewa and the Sierra Club. The action follows discovery of three endangered species near the Flambeau river; the purple warty back clam, the bullhead clam and a dragonfly.

Partisans may remember that chief Gaiashkibos came to London in 1989 to protest against the mine at the RTZ annual general meeting. "It is a clear victory for the Clams, the environment and all the concerned citizens of this state", said Gaiashkibos after the ruling.

Legal Action
This is the latest in a long line of legal and campaigning moves to stop Flambeau Mining (100% owned by Kennecott, which is 100% owned by RTZ) extracting 1.9 million tons of copper and gold from a 225-foot deep open pit mine on the banks of the Flambeau river.

The clam was discovered (rediscovered?) in June. Officials at the Department of Natural Resources (DNR, the State government body which issues mining permits and has responsibility for the environment) were unsure whether the discovery of the clam would delay the mine. One complacent official said, "We are quite sure our processes provide adequate protection for the clams".

Expert Clams Up
The DNR did not act on a 1989 recommendation from the Bureau of Endangered Resources to carry out a survey for endangered species. This recommendation, and the failure of the DNR to act on it, were never made public. The DNR denied it a cover up. As one representative asked, "what else has it been convenient or inconvenient to release in relation to the development of the mine in Ladysmith?" Later a biologist employed by the DNR was forbidden to talk about the clams; this caused the Secretary of state to suggest "they are clearly trying to cover up".

Flambeau Summer
Action against the mine has been continuing all summer, organised by an umbrella group composed of native Americans, Northern Shield, Earth First, Wisconsin Resources Protection Council, Wisconsin Greens, Midwest Treaty Network, Greenpeace and Anishinabe Niijii.

The culmination of this protest was an occupation of the site on 6th July. Three hundred mine opponents turned up at Grant town hall to hear speakers who said the mine would pollute the Flambeau River and ground water, and damage the region's reputation for recreation. About 600 people turned up to protest. Joyce Melville, one of the protesters, said "everything is interconnected. The clams eat the poison and the clam gets eaten by an eagle and there is an accumulation of poisons right up the food chain."

Bruce Keys of Chippewa Falls said that his wife and daughter can't eat the fish from the lakes fed by the Flambeau River because of pollution left by the paper companies.

"They're gone now", he continued, "and they left a mess. I don't want the same thing to happen... That's why I'm here. I'm here for the future".

The propaganda war hots up as well. The local press is full of accusation and counter accusation from Flambeau Mining and the anti-mining coalition. Larry Mercando, the head of Flambeau Mining projects his "nature loving" image by parading a list of animal rights organisations to which he and his wife Jackie belong.

Partisans Protest
Partisans in London got in on the act with the discovery of the dragonfly. A larger-than-life model dragonfly which had been nesting in the 'garden' at 218 was hastily repainted and flown off to the steps of 5 St James Square, the headquarters of RTZ. The message Dr Agon Fly brought to RTZ was one of opposition to the Kennecott/Flambeau mine in Wisconsin.

Whose Law?
Laws that the DNR are now trying to implement were written by mining company lobbyists in the 1970s. This happened after Kennecott was refused a mining permit in 1976 on environmental grounds. Kennecott and Exxon then got together with the public intervenor, the State Department of Justice and the Department of Natural Resources to agree on these new mining laws. Any environmental group that did not accept the basic legitimacy of the mining company drafting the legislation was excluded from the process! Despite this, the legislation was presented as the product of consensus. That is why some legislators want a two year moratorium on mining in Wisconsin, so that they can evaluate all these mining laws.
ROOTS

"Uprooting trainees temporarily and removing them from the cultural and political pressures of their own country" might seem a formula for brainwashing. In fact it is one of the aims of RTZ's Southern Africa Advanced Education Project (SAAEP), as advanced by RTZ chair Derek Birkin at a recent London conference. (Mining Journal, 16 August 1991)

The purpose is to return trainees to Africa fit to serve "the interests of the wider community" But also, of course, those of RTZ's own operations.

Partizans members will be interested to know that its sister group, Minewatch, has taken Sir Derek at his word (for once!). It is just about to welcome a trainee from the Philippines to work at Liverpool Road for three months, on mining issues affecting people in the Cordillera region. Of course, the purpose is slightly different to that outlined by Sir Derek and may not meet with his approval. Far from being uprooted from the cultural and political milieu of his own country, Eugene Yocogan will bring with him his people's problems, aspirations and experience. One of the main projects on which he will be working with both Minewatch and Partizans concerns the Far Southeast Gold Scheme (see Philippines article), in which RTZ has an interest through its 49% holding in CRA.

Steel Framed

Is there no end to hubris? (Well, the higher they climb, the harder they fall!) Alistair Frame is to become non-executive chair of British Steel, a role he rejected eight years ago for fear of "political" interference. He rejected an invitation from Thatcher to head the National Coal Board for similar reasons. Sir Alistair resigned as chair of RTZ earlier this year - but remains as a director.

As the Financial Times said in September: "The move could open the way for a far-reaching reorganisation of the steel manufacturer's senior management". Frame, after all, never does things by half.

This appointment makes Alistair Frame one of the most powerful executives in British industry. He holds onto his chairmanship of the drugs-AIDS exploitation-animal vivisection conglomerate, Wellcome, although he resigned from the engineering group, Davy Corp. when it founndered on the rocks earlier this year.

As we have said in the past, Frame certainly knows how to pick'em (or more accurately, perhaps "they" know how to pick him!) British Steel has acquired an unsavoury reputation for being partly responsible for the highest rates of asthma and premature deaths from lung cancer and bronchitis in Britain; at Grangetown, on Teesside. (The Guardian, 22 August 1990) As head of RTZ during its battles to keep quiet the incidence of lung and other cancers around the Capper Pass smelter, Frame will be well suited to steer British Steel through controversial waters. And if he fails, he can always do a Davy and resign!
A GREEN Land Much Longer?

RTZ is rolling back the frontiers in a fashion which will be all too familiar to long-standing supporters of PARTIZANS. Not only is it amongst the front-runners for new prospects in the former USSR - particularly the far eastern region, where CRA has already identified exploration interests. It is also now investigating pristine parts of Greenland.

Together with Platina Resources, in July 1991, RTZ signed a joint agreement to explore and possibly develop four mineral zones on the eastern seaboard, including the Kap Edward Holm near Skærgard. By mid-1991, the Skærgard gold-platinum property was being drilled.

Greenland is the world's largest island. It is also interesting to note that RTZ and affiliate CRA are the most prominent companies operating in the world's second and third largest islands - Kalimantan and Madagascar.

It is struggling to shed its dependence on Denmark as the erstwhile colonial power. The majority of Greenlanders are of Inuit heritage, making it the world's largest indigenous nation in terms of resources. Left-wing Greenlanders have long opposed the involvement of foreign multinationals in their economy; taking issue with AMAX in late 1970s, for example, at a time when the US company and CRA were closely linked with the exploitation of Aboriginal land in Australia.

Earlier this year we received the following report from the environmental (and pro-Indian) group ARCOIRIS, which is located in southern Ecuador. Although - after both national and international protests - RTZ seems to have withdrawn from prospecting in the famed Podocarpus National Park, it has far from left the country. Arcoiris have identified at least three other major areas in which the company is now prospecting.

HELP! CERRO MINAS WILL DISAPPEAR!

In our fine village of Malacatos, mining concessions have been given for the extraction of various metals, by means of 'open cast' mining. This means that the 'Cerro Minas' (Mineral Hill) will be gradually demolished. The British company, RTZ (Rio Tinto Zinc), has already built a road to the summit, from which (they say) it is their intention to carry out 'reconnaissance'. They will begin the demolition from there.

The environmental and social impacts of this project will be major ones for the people of Malacatos; their quiet life will be irrevocably altered. Doubtless, there will be relative economic advantages in the short term - for the salary the miners get paid will be higher than those in the agricultural sector, which is predominant in the region.

However, when the mining 'cake' is eaten, the villages will end up being polluted and abandoned - as happens to all villages which sell their "heart".
Capper Cancer Corner

Rilba Jones, a health visitor and founder member of Humberside Action on Child cancers is a long-time critic of RTZ. In a recent speech she explores the possible links and causes of cancers near industrial plants and comes up with some interesting conclusions. Capper Pass, the notorious RTZ tin smelter is now officially closed.

There has been considerable research into the problems of childhood cancers in villages to the west of Hull. This research has involved a wide range of experts including the National Radiological Protection Board and the Leeds branch of the Leukaemia Research Fund (LRF). At times, there appears to have been a weakness of co-ordination in the organisation of these investigations, due to a lack of a coherent strategy. Had there been an independent inquiry along the lines proposed by Sir Douglas Black in his report into the incidence of childhood leukaemias at Seascale, Cumbria, investigations might have been centrally funded and provided greater clarity and power of analysis.

The publication of reports such as the LRF’s epidemiological study in July 1988, and Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Pollution’s (HMIP) in the same year, was given adequate publicity. Latterly, the public has been less well served, and at times the process of research and publication has appeared haphazard; for example, in respect of the paper by Alexander et al. in the current Journal of Public Health Medicine. This paper demonstrates a statistical link between Central Nervous System tumours in adults and children, and solid tumours in children, and Capper Pass as a point source. Dr. Ray Cartwright of the LRF is reported in the Yorkshire Post (after HACC had alerted the Post to its publication) as describing the finding as "striking", and he called for further research. The national survey of central nervous system tumours he recommended in 1988 is still awaited, although Virginia Bottomley, Junior Health Minister, assured HACC that it was under consideration nearly a year ago.

It is established that an increased incidence of child cancers existed in North Ferriby and surrounding villages during the 1970s. Problems of industrial pollution at that time were dealt with by extending the height of the Capper Pass stack from 60m to its present 180m, in 1971. It is noteworthy that during the 1980s a statistically significant increase in child cancers occurred in Willerby, Anlaby and Kirkella, villages 7km to the north-east of the Capper Pass chimney. It is this 'cluster' for which there is a significant increase in risk close to the smelter, but it not possible to identify any aspect of the smelter or feature in its vicinity as causative", according to the paper in this quarter's Journal of Public Health Medicine. This is particularly interesting in the light of a paper called Epidemiology of the Lymphomas in the United Kingdom: Recent Developments (Baillere's Clinical Haematology, 1987), by Dr. Cartwright and colleagues. They report that while there are increases in lymphomas in some areas of Yorkshire and Humberside, there is a significant deficit of lymphomas in the local authority district of East Yorkshire, among others. "It is clear that they (the lymphomas) are in no way linked to environmentally suspicious industrial plants", the authors state. In the more recent study in the Journal of Public Health Medicine, shows that despite the fact that the lymphomas, of which it has
already been stated there is a deficit in the district, are combined with the solid tumours (including central nervous system tumours), there is none the less an excess in this type of cancer. In addition, an earlier study by LRF showed a tendency to 'spatial clustering' in the area. Is there a relationship between the deficit of one type of tumour and the excess of another? Has any attempt been made (other than the study with Tastrak, and that of parental occupation) to consider possible links with environmental carcinogens e.g. herbicides, pesticides, heavy metals or dioxins?

In July 1988 it was reported in the Independent that Dr. Cartwright of LRF had stated there were a number of other unpublished 'clusters' in Humberside. HACC has been contacted by families in other areas, including North Cave, with reports of occurrences of cancers in young people. We are aware that values for atmospheric lead in North Cave peaked in 1988 above the 2 micrograms per cubic m level, and that it was in this year that planning permission for an electrostatic precipitator was sought, for the local lead smelter. Is work continuing to identify possible links between environmental pollutants and incidence of disease in Humberside?

In 1988, in the wake of the Dispatches programme 'Radioactive Britain', environmental monitoring which was commenced in 1985 (after the granting of authorisation under the terms of the Radioactive Substances Act of 1960) appears to have been reinforced, and modelling studies of emissions were commissioned. It is not this period which is of greatest concern to our members, but the level of discharges during those years before the granting of the authorisation, and the installation of the new electrostatic precipitator in 1985, when it is known that discharge levels were higher. Are any studies under way to ascertain levels of different radionuclides discharged during the period of operation before 1985? Has the NRPB commissioned further studies to confirm the finding of the Scottish Universities Research and Reactor Centre, that a quantity of radium is not accounted for in the inventory of radioactive materials?

Much of the literature on central nervous system tumours that we have studied is from the USA. From this it is apparent that the latency period of these tumours is very long. Many of the studies have centred on petro-chemical plants in East Texas, in the area of Texas City, where there has been a significant excess of gliomas in workers at one plant in particular. It appears that those living in the residential town of La Marque, due west of Texas City, have a greater odds of developing a glioma than residents of neighbouring towns. Exposure to hazardous chemicals at work does not appear to present a significant risk factor. The literature is extensive and recent studies are sometimes hard to come by; evidence on childhood cancer is so far only available for a much wider geographical area than the more localised research on worker’s health. It should be noted that at the time Capper Pass was acquired by its present owners in 1967, it was announced that the firm would be able to process the low-grade Bolivian ore which was formerly smelted at the Texas Tin Smelter near Texas City. This plant, which was instrumental in the US war effort, is still in operation but no longer dedicated to the same production process. It may well be a simple coincidence that two areas associated with this unusual industrial process have both experienced an increase in central nervous system tumours. We hope that it will be possible to investigate whether or not there is a common factor involved.
Philippines Interview

The following article is based on a lengthy discussion with Manny Na-Oy, who attended the RTZ AGM from the Philippines earlier this year. He did not have time to write a contribution to Parting Company himself before he left Britain.

Manny felt that one of the most important things Partizans could do was to keep people aware of what was happening in the Cordillera - "to keep the fires burning" - so that the people of the Cordillera and their struggle against the mining companies would not be forgotten. Furthermore, it was in everybody's interest, on a global scale, to be concerned about mining in places like the Cordillera because the environmental damage caused is so far-reaching and long-term in its effects.

Manny was anxious to make clear that what he said in the discussion were his own personal views, and did not necessarily reflect the views of the rest of his community.

He pointed out that tourist advertisements give a false impression of life in the Philippines to people in the West. The Cordillera is an area which attracts tourists because of its pleasant climate, scenic beauty and apparently easy-going lifestyle. All the mines in the area, bar one which was closed in the 1980s, are not visible to visitors. Out of sight, out of mind....

Difficult Choices
As he saw it, the people of the Cordillera are faced with a difficult choice; something of a Hobson's Choice, in fact. On the one hand are the apparent gains brought by mining - such as employment, consumer goods and the promise of a better standard of living. On the other are the losses - environmental disaster, ill health, and the destruction of communities and traditional ways of life based on mutual respect and co-operation rather than competitive greed and consumerism.

In Manny's view, mining had not really brought many benefits to his community at all. People were still going hungry and had to leave the Philippines to find work. And, while working for the mining industry meant that people could afford to buy consumer goods, the real, basic needs of the community were still not being met. For example, the only decent roads in the area are the ones which service the mines. The community at large does not get the benefits of a good road network.

As far as Manny could see, the only people to gain from mining in the Cordillera were the investors and management of the Lepanto Mining Company. He pointed out, that in the long term, the people of the Cordillera have more to lose than to gain from mining by multinational companies in the area. They lose their health and even their lives.

'Copper disease' is a common phenomenon in the area caused by inadequate ventilation in the copper mines. 'Copper disease' affects the respiratory system and the skin and causes premature death in many cases. Soon after Manny left school he was tempted to get a job in one of the mines. His mother's response was 'OK, if you want to die young.'

Often, miners with symptoms of 'copper disease' are advised by the mining company hospital to resign. They are led to believe that they will be dismissed if they are ill and will not be able to get another job - a ploy to get rid of people in poor health so that the company is not liable for health care.
Health care is only for those fit and able to work. So-called 'economic development' is failing to meet another basic need in the community and health care exists to service the needs of the mining company rather, than the needs of the people.

Lifestyle
The lives of the people of the Cordillera are being altered beyond recognition. Money and a dependency on consumer goods have come to dominate people's relationships. They forget many of their old values based on mutual respect and cooperation. Young people are losing their respect for old people. More people can afford to buy alcohol and alcohol-related violence is becoming more prevalent. The community is becoming divided between those people who do the better-paid jobs in the mining company, and the more poorly paid miners. This is reflected in housing and education, where the sons or daughters of government or mining company officials usually get better school reports, regardless of ability, than the children of miners. In times of shortage of basic necessities such as gas for cooking stoves, the better paid employees can usually get access to what they need plus extra supplies which they give or sell to relatives, while the less well-off workers go without. An element of "keeping up with the Joneses" has entered the community as families and individuals compete to acquire more consumer goods.

Unions Banned
Multinational mining in the Cordillera consistently tries to deny the people of the area the right even to organise to defend themselves against its excesses, let alone determine their own futures and the future of their environment. The Lepanto mining company has always suppressed any unions other than the Lepanto Employee's Union, which is in effect a management union. In 1989, an opposition union was formed to represent the rights of the miners. All mines held by this union were threatened with closure and the members with redundancy. Miners were encouraged, bribed even, into not voting for this union to be their official representative body. The mining companies tried to emotionally blackmail the miners into voting for the official company union by pointing out that the women and children would suffer if they persisted in risking their jobs by voting for the opposition union.

As far as Manny was concerned, the benefits of mining to the people of the Cordillera are short-term only. A job lasts only as long as the economy is doing well. In times of recession, unemployment is high and people have no alternative to fall back on. Worse still, when the mining is finished, what are the people of the Cordillera to be left with? A devastated environment, an alienated lifestyle and nothing to pass on to their children. We have much to learn from the people of the Cordillera. It is a tribute to their courage, vision and organisational ability that they are able to build a strong and united resistance to multinational mining in the face of great difficulties (including military harassment in recent months). The deserve all the support we can give them.

Eugene Yoocogan, from the Cordillera Peoples Alliance will be visiting Britain to work with Partizans and Minewatch from now until Christmas. He is the Education Officer of the CPA and is interested in forming links with groups in this country to support people in the Philippines. If you would like to meet him or arrange a meeting with your group, please contact the Partizans Office on 071-609 1852.
RTZ FAR OFF COURSE IN Philippines

CRA's leading role in the Far South East gold project, along with its Philippines partner Lepanto Mining, figured prominently in this year's RTZ annual general meeting. Initially the company flanelled, astonishing intelligent shareholders with its assertion that the Philippines project had virtually nothing to do with the company. Later, two representatives of Christian Aid (a prominent British aid agency) met with two representatives of RTZ. They discussed concerns expressed by both Manny Na-Oy (see interview in this issue) and by many groups in the country, that Far South East would be a social and environmental disaster. According to RTZ in September this year, the following were the 'facts' in the case:

1. That only 20 families are affected by the new Far South East Gold Resources project.
2. That in any case, the land was originally bought by Lepanto 40 years ago.
3. That, so far, only half the families have been relocated.
4. That they have been allocated better housing than they had before.
5. That all this has happened after full consultation with the community concerned.
6. Waste Disposal: RTZ claim that a new tailings dam, to be built below the old Lepanto dam and which will be completed in three years' time, will prevent any further pollution.
7. Copper Dryer: This has been replaced by a new 'Filter Press' which, RTZ claim, is monitored by the Philippines Department of the Environment and Natural Resources.
8. Reforestation: Lepanto claim a capacity to plant up to one million new seedlings per annum.
9. Trades Unions: RTZ claim that there are no Company Unions in the Philippines and that their own policy is one of free Trade Union membership.

The above points are being scrutinised by people in the Philippines, but we can make a few comments now.

Firstly, at least 150 people will be (or have already been) removed for the mine. Although underground, Far South East is intended to be the biggest gold producer in the Philippines. Inevitably, more land will be required from 1995 onwards, if production increases.

Secondly, the argument that Lepanto is owner of the land is both irrelevant and untrue. The land occupied by the mine is the ancestral domain of Igorot (indigenous) people. One of the main reasons for opposing CRA's link with Lepanto is that the Philippines company has for more than thirty years shown its utter disregard of indigenous land rights.

Thirdly, 'better housing' means very little to people who are being removed to less fertile land. RTZ has also not addressed the critical issue of destruction and 'transplanting' of graves and desecration of burial sites.

Fourthly, even if the community has been "fully consulted", this means nothing in the context of their refusal - despite the pressures to date - to sign a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), for the mine construction to go ahead. And even if they signed such an MoA, this means almost nothing in the Philippines context.

Fifthly, whatever the operations of the new tailings dam, Far South East will be contributing to the pressures on the ecology in a region already ravaged by mining. They will be working with a company which is among the worst in Asia, when it comes to environmental planning or controls.

Sixth, whatever Lepanto's claims about its intentions to reforest, it stands indicted as a company which has long denuded the surrounding mountainsides of Standing trees.

Lastly, to assert that there are "no company Unions" in the Philippines is simply rubbish. Lepanto has had a company-inspired and manipulated union for many years (see Birds of Prey, from MCDC and CLEAR, Baguio 1988). Indeed, the latest Amnesty International Report on human rights for workers in the Philippines makes the comment that violence, including killings, against trades unions affiliated with the KMU (a left-wing union) has often come from rival unions, 'acting with or without the help of management' (Philippines Human Rights Violations and the Labour Movement, Amnesty International London, June 1991).

All in all, RTZ's defence for its involvement (through CRA) in the Far South East project is as threadbare as we would expect after long experience of the company elsewhere in the Asia-Pacific region.
A Round-up of RTZ News

ROSSING ON THE ROCKS?

As the Rossing uranium mine in Namibia faces a 50% cutback in its rated capacity, the Mineworkers Union of Namibia has become embroiled in a 'do or die' battle with the mine's management.

When Namibian independence loomed in 1989, so RTZ (as manager of the world's most notorious uranium project) hastily took steps to set right its relationship with the future incumbents in government, and confidently predicted that Rossing would secure new contracts from countries which had previously embargoed Namibian supplies. But the onward march of environmentalism in the USSR, and the defeat of state capitalism, has led to large quantities of uranium flooding onto the world market. It is now doubtful that Rossing will secure a substantial new contract at any time in the future, although it recently concluded a 4,720 tonne contract with EdF of France, the state electricity utility.

But, in fact, this downturn in the company's fortunes may not be entirely unwelcome to RTZ. No longer protected by longterm contracts with Britain or Japan (Rossing's major customers to date), and with the grade of ore almost certainly diminishing, the life of the mine is a circumscribed one. Even if the world was not currently awash with "yellowcake", the chances are that Rossing would be scaling-down during the nineties, and possibly closed early in the next century.

Moreover - and perhaps most important - increasing militancy among the workforce at the mine does not augur well for the company's longterm prospects. The MUN has long been critical of RTZ's management and its very presence as a neo-colonial anachronism in the world's newest nation. Documents recently leaked from Rossing suggest that health and safety standards have been well below accepted international norms. If the mine were to be faced with renewed international criticism, or the imposition of costly new regulations, then keeping it open could cost RTZ considerably more, than running it into the ground.

In September this year, the management laid off 750 workers - almost one-third of the entire workforce. The news was greeted with alarm by the MUN, which has also roundly criticised the Namibian government for failing to implement new labour legislation, empowering the Unions to negotiate on behalf of their membership. The MUN believes that Rossing has withheld vital information from the Union, while the National Union of Namibian Workers (NUNW) has come out in support of the MUN.

(Sources: information from the MUN, September 1991; Mining Journal September 20 1991, and Mining Journal October 11 1991)

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EAST KEMPTVILLE GOES WEST

Canada's only primary tin producer is close early in 1992. Owned by RTZ subsidiary, Rio Algom, the mine was opened in 1988, largely to supply tin to Capper Pass - the reviled smelter on north Humberside, in England. Capper's closed earlier this year.

STILL WEEPING

In a final blow to Aboriginal hopes, the Queensland government has declared that land at Weipa - site of the world's most notorious bauxite mine, operated by Comalco (67% CRA) - will not be available for claim by its traditional owners, even though it is vacant Crown land. In 1963, Comalco virtually stole a huge tract of Aboriginal land in Cape York province, under an arrangement with the rightwing Queensland government. Although the indigenous owners have never directly secured a single cent from the mine (the world's biggest of its kind), the new Labor administration in the state is clearly not inclined to change the situation. (source: Aboriginal Law Bulletin June 1991).

BULLSHIT SHOPPING IN CHINA

Argyle Diamonds, the CRA subsidiary which operates the world's biggest diamond mine (on Aboriginal land in Western Australia), is opening a cutting and polishing factory in China. The company therefore now has a vast new potential market for its vanity output. CRA sealed a new agreement with Anglo-De Beers earlier this year, which extended the influence of the South African giant over Argyle's marketing outlets.

(Ethics) AVOID SOUTH AFRICA

Whatever the gloss put upon recent events in South Africa by the white-dominated media, most "ethical investors" in Britain still refuse to invest in the apartheid state. That's the news according to EIRIS, the ethical investment advice centre, which recently carried out a survey of investing institutions. RTZ, along with Shell, BP, GEC, ICI, and BTR, have been singled out to stay on the shelf, at least in the short-term. (Financial Times, August 10 1991)
ABORIGINES STAND UP TO MINERS (CRA)

Aboriginal people in remote areas of Western Australia are confronted with mining, railways and tourist developments on their traditional lands. Despite any land rights legislation, they have little power to control the onslaught.

At a conference called by the Western Australian Mining Union, Aboriginal land councils and organisations representing remote communities across the state demanded restraint from the miners and land justice. The Kimberley Land Council sent this article to Land Rights News to spread the word of the increasing struggle in Australia’s north-west.

“On our own land we are sitting down. They reckon we are squatters,” said Bobby Roberts from the Western Desert Puntukumupara Council. “We got a big problem about Rudall River. Not only with the mines but the National Park as well.”

The Rudall River National Park—the largest in the state—is 3,500 kilometres square south east of Port Hedland on the traditional lands of the Martu people. But the Martu have no secure tenure and no rights to the land. Kaṕu Keppey of the Aboriginal mining site has been excised by the government.

“We want our land first. We want secure tenure then we will talk to the other interests,” said Mr Roberts.

“The Premier said she will give us an answer soon. We are waiting.

“While we are waiting, the miners are on our land now digging around.”

Mr Roberts participated in a mining consultative meeting hosted by the Kimberley Land Council (KLC). In May, the forum was the first of its kind and was organised so the WA Premier, Mr Carlaw, could get informed advice about Aboriginal concerns through the state government’s Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority (AAPA).

In a letter to the KLC, the Premier assured that the forum should identify the policies and concerns of Aboriginal people: develop an appropriate code of conduct for mineral explorers; develop methods of consultation with Aboriginal communities; provide for the identification and protection of areas important to Aboriginal cultural heritage; and seek ways of increasing the economic benefit to Aboriginal communities from mining activities and, address the potential social and cultural impacts on Aboriginal communities from mining activities.

Pat Dodson, the Executive Director of the KLC, said, “Aboriginal people in WA are now living in a mining environment. They have little real capacity to deal with exploration and mining licences that affect land that they have no title to, cultural, traditional and historical links with. Government should exercise more power and control over matters that impact upon our lives, culture and law.

“The opportunity to deal with these types of issues with representatives from Land Rights News—July 1991

More than 100 Martu people drove the 2,500 kilometres from Karraminyup to protest at their lack of tenure over their land and the Government’s plans for mining at Kaliamny (Rudall River National Park). Local Aboriginal people, trade unionists, conservationists and the general public joined the rally. They are still waiting for a promised answer to their concerns from the WA Premier.

In an open letter to the Chairman of the KLC, Slim Parker, said: “We are concerned about the future prospects and effect of uncontrolled mining on our land.”

“Regrettably we have to accept that Marandoo. But how many more times are jobs to cost our culture and the living of Aboriginal culture?”

“We do not oppose all mining, but we do oppose the mining of all.”

We ask that more control be exercised over the large number of mining tenements in the area. We are concerned about the proposed infrastructure corridor through the KLC’s land.

“We are concerned that the history of mining in the Pilbara should not be repeated. Aboriginal workers must be employed along with other workers. We want employment, not welfare.”

The concerns of the KLC mirror those of Aboriginal people throughout WA who are still without legislative means to control what happens on their lands.

The Nganyarlajarra people from the desert lands near the Northern Territory and South Australian border have no secure tenure, nor are they interested in mining companies. “Mining companies will come onto our lands at the time,” Teddy Porter said. “At the moment there are about twelve.”

The forum discussed these many concerns and it became evident that more consultative forums would be needed if the Premier was to be fully advised.

AAPA Commissioner Cedric Wyatt said the consultation must continue and the next meeting would develop rules and guidelines to protect all interests. Meanwhile, the land councils will make draft proposals for prompt consideration.

Pat Dodson summed up the mood of the meeting. “For years Aboriginal people in WA have been trying to get a better level of understanding through to governments and the mining industry about our relationships and responsibilities to the land. Too often we have seen the way Aboriginal people and our cultural law are treated with disrespect. Hopefully out of this it begins and the work that needs to go on it in the future, we will see better ways of dealing with these important matters.”

Helen Martin from Nganyarlajarra Council and Turkal Moirari from the Kinga Land Council were at the conference to speak up for their country.

Nyapili (Peter) Rowlands (left) and Teddy Biljabu were last month elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Parnngurr community, 750 km east of Port Hedland.

At the general meeting of the Parnngurr community, known as Cotton Creek, community, health and community issues were discussed at length and new office bearers were elected. They are Chairperson: Nyapili (Peter) Rowlands; Vice-Chairperson: Teddy Biljabu; Treasurer: Ivy Atwood; Committee members: Thelma Judson, Len Watson, Macilu Judson, Dapne Biljabu, Sidney Tinker.

Nyoongar (Peter) Rowlands (left) and Teddy Biljabu were last month elected Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Parnngurr community, 750 km east of Port Hedland.

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Bougainville: From our own correspondent

JIM BEATSON is a former treasurer of Partizans. He returned earlier this year from three weeks on Bougainville island, the recently-declared Republic, from which CRA was expelled in 1990, by a "revolutionary" force.

Rimmed by the misty jungles of the Panguna mountains Bougainville Copper Limited's mine stands silent under the beating sun, like a vast dried out tropical ulcer, three kilometres in diameter. The only sound comes from workshops as members of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) turn out rifles using water pipe for barrels.

Operating or not, the mine is always at the centre of political debate on the island. If Bougainville's population is quite certain it was right to free itself from Papua New Guinea, it lacks universal conviction over closing the mine.

Even Francis Ona, the 39 year old self-declared President of the Republic of Bougainville, who shut down the mine prompting a bloody guerrilla war with PNG, refuses to say whether it will again roar.

Ona has made the few mine buildings, which escaped the torches of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army, into headquarters for himself and his advisers. He tells visitors: "We can survive without the mine", but when pressed, qualifies: "If the mine is to reopen we have to sort out the political problem first. Then we can look into that matter later on. I'll leave it up to the people. We are setting up village level government. I'll leave it up to them to decide."

Panguna makes an eerily incongruous seat of government, even for Bougainville, a country deserving of Air New Guinea's slogan, "Land of the Unexpected".

Shops stand empty of goods and customers. Roofs and walls from the homes of ex-patriots, who departed a year or more ago, have been ripped off to repair the hundreds of houses damaged or destroyed during the war. Petrol stations, government buildings, engineering shops, the radio station, telephone exchange, airport, and police stations are burnt out. Only the dozens of Catholic, United and Seventh Day Adventist, churches appear undamaged.

The decision by Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, Rabib Namaliu, to blockade this island of 160,000 people twelve months ago, the day after Francis Ona declared Bougainville a Republic, on May 17 1990, has turned Bougainville into a ghost country. A ghost country where the people remain but the necessities of life are absent.

Sewerage and town water systems remain, but lack fuel to run them. "Plentiful rivers and good rainfall are a blessing" explains Martin Miriori, formerly an administrator with South Pacific Forum, and now Coordinator of the Republic's Interim Government. "But we lack the things that go with them: soap, detergent, toilet paper."

A people once used to one of the Pacific's highest standards of living are making do. Jim Tausire, Commander of the BRA in Waukumai, on Bougainville's north east coast, sounds as proud at having made petrol from coconut milk and washing detergent from cocoa beans, as describing the BRA successes in fighting the PNG Defence Forces. "We make two kinds of fuel, a wet one for kerosene lamps and a more complicated drier process for diesel and petrol," he says, adding: "we also make a pretty good home brew from pineapples." His enthusiasm is presented as a welcome respite from resumption of hostilities with PNG.

"It is inevitable. We believe the PNGDF will try to invent some diversion or confusion to create a new invasion. We believe the war will start again."

Like most people on Bougainville, Tausire believes that successful secession has three unacceptable implications for PNG: encouragement to others to claim unacceptable levels of compensation at half a dozen more major PNG mineral projects underway or being negotiated; encouragement to other potential tribal break-aways on New Ireland and New Britain islands; substantial loss to Government revenues, which has already fuelled social unrest leading to imposition of a dawn to dusk curfew in Port Moresby.
Mood swings on the island are as changeable as the tropical weather. Without a radio station, telephones, and only limited fuel for transport, rumours abound. Each day its citizens listen angrily to PNG radio stations which they claim misrepresent the strength of their commitment to secession, and hope for announcements from Australian and New Zealand governments and non-government agencies of aid or pressure on PNG to lift the blockade.

Improvisation cannot be used to solve a medical crisis. In the street of eight houses where I stayed in the former provincial capital, Arawa, three people were suffering from malaria. 22 of Bougainville's 23 local medical centres are operating but most, like the one in Wakanai, are missing basic drugs and cannot cope with the stream of patients suffering from normally curable diseases like malaria, tuberculosis and dysentery.

Dr Charles Loubai, the head of Bougainville Red Cross, who explains his moods over the past twelve months as switching from anger, to frustration, to depression says: "The dramatic increase in the number of malaria cases results from a lack of malarials and the ending of spraying of mosquito breeding areas after the blockade."

Francis Ona simply says: "We don't want aid. We want the blockade to end. We want the ability to trade." Closure of the mine has turned Bougainville into a cocoa bean economy, and this is sufficient, Ona says. "Cocoa gives us 30 million kina a year (around $A35 million), which is enough to enable us to run this country."

Bougainville's cocoa economy provides an average annual income for the Republic's people of 300 kina, with the possibility of doubling that, as total agricultural exports grow with better utilisation of resources.

To reopen the mine, at PNG's previous tax and dividend return rate, would generate an increase of 1,200 to 1,500 kina, as well as employment for two to three thousand.

If analysis of potential mining revenues is a conversational rarity on Bougainville, the general point is not lost among a population aware that an aerial survey, undertaken before the mine's closure, revealed good mining prospects elsewhere on the island.

In Arawa, where most of the island's tertiary educated population live, there is a belief that, once the crisis ends, a more secure future is needed. Martin Miriori would like the mine to be reopened with a new mining company "but coming in on our terms," with less pollution, using a larger workforce and smaller profits.

"Maybe we can look at the kind of technology employed when we restart the mine. Some months ago we wrote to the Chinese government expressing our interest that, if they recognise our UDI we could consider adopting Chinese technology, where there is a massive labour force rather than huge machinery operating 24 hours a day." He laughs: "We did not get a reply."

Justin Monona, secretary to national BRA commander General Sam Kaouna, put the view of most people I met, saying "huge mining operations conflict with tribal culture."

"Each of the hundreds of tribes on Bougainville is identified with a bird or animal, a plant and a natural phenomenon, the sea, clouds, rain or another. If I step on a the excreta of the Singiru (a small marsupial) it could give me a boil or sickness. There are many traditions and obligations in which we believe. Francis Ona had the courage to say the mine is spoiling our environment and destroying our cultural values."

"Our law develops up from the village as a service, unlike Western law, which comes down from above and is often manipulated and corrupt. Rarely does it come as a service. When the BCL royalties were handed down to traditional land owners many became educated and isolated from their people. They had abandoned the Melanesian way in favour of Western philosophy. As a result some people got a new four wheel drive car and others didn't even get a new pair of thongs."

"Before the Europeans came our people had a well structured system of village government. If you look at it closely it is part democratic, part Presidential and part dictatorship."

This has become Ona's strategy. All over the island, ceremonies are taking place to inaugurate local government by village chiefs, a traditional level of government ignored by PNG. It is an attempt to create a power-base which reports directly to the President, pre-empting the growth of a Western style culture, while successfully avoiding the thorny issue of what to do with Panguna in the process.
PNG Update

RTZ is being pressured by the PNG government to proceed with the development of the Lihir Island gold project. The Minerals and Energy Minister, Patterson Iova has given the joint venturers (RTZ 80%, Niugini Mining 20%) until March next year to submit a feasibility study and a project development plan. Already there have been disputes with the local landowners over the level of payment for gravel extracted from the site. They have also asked that the perimeter fence, which separates company land from traditional land, be removed. If this project goes ahead tailings will be deposited outside the lagoon via submarine pipelines and 50,000 tonnes/day of waste rock will be dumped directly into the lagoon. With reserves estimated at 25 million ounces, Lihir could become one of the world’s largest gold mines.

However, according to Reuters:  
"There is a real paranoia in the RTZ group about PNG ... but I think it is too good a deposit to give up lightly," said a senior resources analyst.

However CRA shows no signs of remorse for the trail of disaster it precipitated on Bougainville and continues to bulldoze forward with its usual brash confidence. A statement on the 5th of September by the acting managing director of CRA Minerals (PNG) Pty Ltd, Moseley Moramoro, stated that "CRA's commitment to its current activities was exemplified in its extensive exploration programs in the Hidden Valley, Wafi and Mount Kare areas, although the Mt Kare drilling program has been suspended pending renewal of its prospecting authority."

Brazil

MORE GOLD IN THEM THERE HILLS...
RTZ is to increase its involvement in gold mining in Brazil. It will not only expand production at its Morro do Ouro mine in Minas Gerais (the country's second biggest corporate producer of the damnable metal), but is soon to open up a new gold-copper-silver mine at Cabacal. This project - inherited when RTZ took over BP Minerals in 1989 - is located in the Amazon rainforest, in the state of Matto Grosso.  
(source: Engineering and Mining Journal, USA, March 1991)

Ireland

...AND MORE SHENANIGANS IN IRELAND
Although RTZ withdrew from the Cavanacaw gold prospect in County Tyrone, Ireland, last year, it is renewing interest in other possible sites south of the border. Earlier this year it announced that it would be investigating some 15 base-metal prospects held by Celtic Gold, covering more than half a thousand square kilometers in the Galway-Mayo-Roscommon area.
(source: E&MJ February 1991)
REVIEWs

ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES FOR AFRICA vol 2: Environment/Women
(ed. Mohamed Sulieman)

Excellent production from the groundbreaking Institute for African Alternatives, which deals with the general ravages caused by uncontrolled colonialist exploitation of Africa, specific case studies and strategies for recovery. Many of the contributors are women.

RECOLONIZATION: GATT, the Uruguay Round & The Third World (Zed Books and TWN)
Western corporate power - linked with the G7 governments - are poised to take control of world trade, extending GATT into areas (like services and intellectual property rights) previously untouched. Meanwhile the "south" gets even shorter shrift. This book is a timely and comprehensive examination of the issues from the perspective of the victim peoples. And for those readers of this newsletter who still don't feel this is an important issue, it's worth pointing out that a letter to The Times was in support of GATT was published earlier this year by a consortium of British companies, including BP and Shell, and led by RTZ.

Women and the World Economic Crisis (prepared by Jeanne Vickers) (Zed Books)
Very well-presented and cogently argued book which graphically shows the impact of indebtedness on a majority of the world's women. Uses case studies from Ghana, Mexico, the Philippines, Zambia and Jamaica, and includes pithy "Guide to education and action."

Miles Goldstick THE HEX CONNECTION: some problems and hazards associated with the transportation of uranium hexafluoride (Sveriges Lantbruksuniversitet)
Perhaps not a world-shattering issue, but one which nonetheless concerns many workers and members of the public, and reveals one of the most hidden aspects of the world's nuclear industry: the handling, transportation, and problems (including accidents) associated with one of the world's most dangerous substances. Another thorough job by Miles Goldstick.

Andrew Rees THE POCKET GREEN BOOK Zed Books
Trenchant, comprehensive, full of gut-grabbing information, and not short on ideas. However, it is far too elliptical and draws on too few key sources to be absolutely convincing. More of a prayer book than a green bible.

The first Secretary-General of the Uranium Institute is not likely to pen a critical examination of one of the world's most controversial subjects, but Terence Price is far from a dry academic, and his book resounds with interesting and illuminating insights. Unfortunately his money is on the "wrong" horse and he can't see it. Ah well - another of those well-meaning dissertations to shove in the time capsule.

DEFAULT ISN'T TOURS!
A question for our 'Dear Leader':
When you went to the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund - with your hot little country - in whose name did you go?

If you want in the name of your people how come we were not asked?

from: WOMEN AND THE WORLD ECONOMIC CRISIS

Page 16
Remember Jimmy Goldsmith? Ten and more years ago, he was an arch-criminal to the burgeoning environmentalist movement. With his interests in forest destruction and fast food, he engaged Private Eye in the longest-running feud in the history of that satirical magazine.

To Latin-America watchers, he epitomised the exploitation of the continent's indigenous workers, through slave-like working conditions and the suppression of free trades unions.

Then, last year, Goldsmith got green gospel! In a deal with Hanson (chair: James Hanson, robber baron supreme) he shed his Cavenham food and forest empire. Goldsmith's desecrating days were apparently over. He reaffirmed his opposition to nuclear power ("Satan's work"), embraced his ECOLOGIST-founding brother Edward, and had soon given away a million quid to a variety of greenie groups.

But what had Jimmy got from James? - A supposedly sleeping interest in Newmont Mining, the largest gold miner outside of South Africa. Newmont itself holds substantial shares and management interests in the Australian company, Newcrest. And Newcrest has been at the centre of the biggest recent controversy over Aboriginal land rights. The Jawoyn people were trying to stop the company clambering all over their sacred sites in Bula-Bula country (Coronation Hill), in the Northern Territory's Kakadu National Park. They won their battle - at least partially - a few months ago. Soon afterwards, Goldsmith announced that he would be joining the Board of Newmont, and accepting the chairmanship of a new "Strategic Committee" set up by the American Company. Clearly the sleeping partner had woken up with a jolt!

To cap it all, Jimmy declared that "gold will have its day, and gold mining company shares will have their day, and then everyone will want to buy gold shares and there will be a shortage." (Financial Times, July 25 1991)

Well (you might feel) - that's the way it goes with big predatory businessmen: why not let the vultures get on with it, swapping their stinking carcasses and squabbling over who gets to be top dingo? True - except for one small thing. Just after Goldsmith took a front seat at Newmont, THE ECOLOGIST magazine produced a stupendous double-volume publication condemning nuclear power in all its manifestations, including uranium mining - a sport in which Newmont has recently dabbled, along with RTZ. And who financed this megawork? None other than the Goldsmith Foundation. You guessed it! The Foundation is a pool into which James puts his surplus cash, so that he can perpetuate his image as a godsend to the eco-movement.

To be fair to Jimmy G., he's actually put quite a bit of cash the way of THE ECOLOGIST over the past few years and has never severed connections with his younger brother. But where does all this leave THE ECOLOGIST, Britain's premier green journal and a leader in environmental philosophy? Perhaps - to quote one of Goldsmith's own favourite remarks - its "a bit like winning a rubber of bridge in the card room of the Titanic".
text by Roger Moody

Here is what a few people thought of it...

"Thoroughly well researched and... well presented" Mining Journal

"A chilling critical study of the world's biggest mining company" Time Out

"An extremely detailed and authoritative account of RTZ's appallingly irresponsible commercial activities, its staggering negligence of human rights and its utter disregard for the natural environment... Plunder will prove an invaluable reference work" Norfolk FoE Journal

"Important and well-written" Work on Waste, USA

"RTZ - perhaps the world's most unpopular mining company and the subject of a revealing new book, Plunder!" Private Eye

"A damning exposé of the mining industry's worst exploiter of indigenous lands" Green Left, New Zealand

"A wealth of information about RTZ's organisation and mode of operation. With this book communities affected by RTZ can plan effective corporate counter strategies" Friends of the Earth Newsletter, Australia

Buy Now! while stocks last!

As you see Partizans has been distributing Plunder! to people the world over at the sharp end of the RTZ Bulldozer! It cost £220 to send another 100 copies to Australia recently. Any donations towards these cost gratefully received!

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