



STOP URENCO

alliance

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PRESS RELEASE: ATTN. NEWS EDITOR

July_I4th/I5th_Direct_action_against_URENCO

On the weekend of July I4th/I5th members of anti-nuclear groups from around the country will come to Cheshire for up to 48-hours of actions against the URENCO uranium enrichment plant at Capenhurst (6 miles from Chester). The actions will include leafletting in Ellesmere Port and Chester; a torchlight procession around the walls of Chester; an all-night vigil outside the Capenhurst plant - and direct action.

URENCO is a joint enterprise between British, Dutch and West German governments and nuclear industries. It provides enriched uranium for Britain's AGRs, and is stockpiling enriched uranium for export, specifically to Brazil.

The STOP URENCO ALLIANCE, which is organising the weekend's actions, was formed in early I978 and held its first demonstration outside the Capenhurst plant in June last year.

Over the last year, there has not only been great public concern about the development of Britain's AGRs and possible licence for a pressurised water reactor (PWR) - all of which would require URENCO's services - but also about URENCO's role in the proliferation of nuclear weapons and its violation of UN resolutions.

STOP URENCO campaigners specifically accuse the company of being responsible for assisting Pakistan in acquiring technology to build an enriched uranium bomb. "URENCO has admitted that a Pakistani scientist stole its supposedly top secret blueprints" says STOP URENCO spokes-person, Roger Moody. "While we don't suggest URENCO was intentionally involved, this major incident demonstrates conclusively that no nuclear technology is safe from proliferation, and that the Non-Proliferation Treaty is unworkable."

Anti-apartheid campaigners will be joining with members of anti-nuclear groups to condemn URENCO's import of Namibian uranium,

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uranium, /

/in defiance of a United Nations Decree specifically banning such imports.

"When we ask URENCO where their uranium comes from " says Roger Moody "they claim not to know. However, URENCO is managed in this country by British Nuclear Fuels Ltd (BNFL) - a government body - and at least one third of BNFL's total supplies of uranium comes from Namibia."

The actions next weekend will start in Ellesmere Port and Chester at 10 am. At 10pm one group of campaigners will walk around Chester's ancient city walls, holding torches, while another vigils at the URENCO enrichment plant at Capenhurst.

On Sunday July 15th, from the morning onwards, direct action takes place at the plant itself. The final form of the action has yet to be decided. "It will be," says Stop Urenco spokesperson Colin Archer of Manchester, "a vigorous display of public opposition to the plant. Last year's demonstration took only one afternoon and involved a simple march and public meeting. This year we are escalating, to meet URENCO's own escalation of its production and technology."

Further information on URENCO from: Roger Moody 01-226 3479
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Further information on the WEEKEND ACTIONS from: Rob Francis (as above)

or, in Chester: Elaine Harper 0244-317759 or 0244-23401
Reporters/photographers intending to cover Sunday's direct action are asked to contact Rob Francis (061 -273 2044) in advance. Thankyou!