

# There's Gonna Be A SHOWDOWN

*The same year that has brought Americans the threat of the neutron bomb has also witnessed the development of a large-scale anti-nuclear energy movement. That movement is on the offensive this spring.*

*Brought together under the auspices of the Mobilization for Survival, a broad based coalition of national and local groups ranging from the seasoned War Resisters League to the still young Clamshell Alliance, the anti-nuclear spring offensive intends to let the world know—by peaceful protests and nonviolent assaults on nuclear facilities—that the use of nuclear power as a fuel and for weapons will not go unheeded.*

*The demonstrations consist of four national actions—Barnwell, S.C.; Rocky Flats, Colo.; Bangor, Wash.; and Seabrook, N.H.—and various regional actions. Actions have been organized locally, with some assistance from the national Mobilization for Survival.*

*The centerpiece of the spring actions will be a series of actions around the UN Special Session on Disarmament that convenes May 23 and continues for five weeks. The first international gathering of its kind, the special session was initiated by a group of non-aligned nations including 86 states, eight observer states and eight guest states.*

*The actions this spring are different from anti-nuclear protests in the late '50s and early '60s when Ban the Bomb was the anti-nuclear organization and protestors refused to go inside when the air raid drills sounded. These activists are directly confronting nuclear facilities, often using tactics of mass civil disobedience.*

*The protestors have another edge over their counterparts of 20 years ago. For a long time it was believed that there was a safe use of nuclear power. Now that people who were exposed to very limited degrees of radiation are dying of cancer it is harder to believe that nuclear energy can be used as a safe energy source. The thousands of people that will show up at each demonstration are demanding just that—no more nukes.*

—Liz Price

## IN ROCKY FLATS, COLORADO

By Timothy Lange

On April 29 a coalition of peace advocates, environmentalists, medical professionals, scientists and other concerned citizens will demonstrate here at the government's Rocky Flats nuclear weapons complex in the first of a nationwide series of spring protests against facilities engaged in research or production of various phases in the nuclear cycle. Rocky Flats, operated under contract by Rockwell International, fashions nuclear bomb "triggers" and has done preliminary work on the neutron bomb.

Endorsed by more than 40 groups ranging from the Cactus Alliance to the American Friends Service Committee, the Rocky Flats protest is, unlike the widely reported occupation of the Seabrook, N.H., nuclear plant site exactly one year earlier, and other anti-nuclear takeovers, "designed primarily as a legal demonstration," according to one of the organizers, Judy Hurley of the Mobilization for Survival of Boulder.

Although she and other protest leaders expect "more than a thousand" demonstrators to show up at Rocky Flats, only 100 or less, including anti-war activist Daniel Ellsberg, are likely to join a blockade of a railroad spur that leads into the city-sized weapons plant.

"The blockade is meant to be a symbolic act because nobody wants to meet a shipment of plutonium for health reasons," said another organizer, Pam Solo, a staff member of the four-year-old Rocky Flats Action Group, which is a prime mover in the demonstration and in educating about the hazards posed by the plant.

Those who take part in civil disobedience on the tracks will carry with them a banner signed with the names of protestors who do not participate in the blockade. The banner will also be taken to the United Nations during its Special Session on Disarmament later this summer.

Besides the blockade, the two-day protest here is scheduled to include workshops and appearances by local and national figures.

Solo, Hurley and another protest leader, Judy Danielson of the American Friends Service Committee, said the demonstration will be stronger than it might have been because of the interest of local environmentalists, whom they feel are beginning to understand the connection between building nuclear bombs and nuclear power plants. The three women's own anti-nuclear activism was spurred originally by anti-war concerns, but they see the whole nuclear cycle as a danger. "We're already under nuclear attack," said Solo.

Rockwell officials who were contacted by IN THESE TIMES would not say what their response would be to the blockade portion of the April 29th demonstration. A spokesman said the company has kept in touch with "federal agents" ever since the plans for the demonstration became known.

Since it began operating the plant three years ago, Rockwell has been very conscious of its public image, insisting that the bomb components it makes are ("unfortunately") needed for Americans' protection, initiating once-monthly public tours of unrestricted parts of the plant and once even sending a water truck to quench the thirst of 250 protesters just

outside the gates.

Built at the height of the Cold War in 1952, the weapons complex was run by Dow Chemical under the auspices of the Atomic Energy Commission until 1974 when the Energy Research and Development Administration and Rockwell took over. Until 1955 Denver-area residents didn't even know the facility made weapons.

Dow operated with maximum secrecy, enabling it to cover ineptitude and to brag about its safety record without admitting numerous "mistakes" and near catastrophes. Together with the AEC, Dow also lied about levels of contamination caused by "unplanned releases of radiation."

In 1957, for example, officials claimed a spontaneous fire at the facility caused "no spread of radioactive contamination of consequence" outside the plant. Years later, this statement was admitted to be untrue.

As revealed in October 1975 by an investigative task force established by Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm and Rep. Tim Wirth, whose 2nd District encompasses Rocky Flats, more than 200 fires have occurred at the plant, including one in 1969 that consumed more than \$20 million of plutonium.

Rusty barrels leaked radioactive oil into surrounding soil in 1968, but officials kept this secret for years. About 11,000 acres of land around Rocky Flats have been radioactively contaminated in one manner or another during the plant's operation.

When radioactive tritium was discovered in the nearby city of Broomfield's water supply five years ago, Dow and the AEC flatly denied the material could have come from Rocky Flats. Their claim was false.

After pointing out the plant should never have been built so near a dense urban center in the first place, the Lamm-Wirth Task Force concluded its 1975 report with a recommendation that Rocky Flats be phased out and its functions carried on in some out-of-the-way place.

But an environmental impact statement (EIS) issued eight months ago by ERDA argued the plant is safe, that the cost of relocating it would be \$2.2 billion plus a loss of \$114 million to the Denver economy and the 2,800 jobs Rocky Flats provides.

One goal of Rocky Flats opponents has been to convince workers there that they support new jobs and retraining if the plant is closed, but this attempt to bridge the gap has been unsuccessful. Since Rockwell's takeover, some employees have become vocal participants in community discussions about the plant, asserting that Rocky Flats opponents

don't know what they're talking about and that the plant is safe and necessary for national security.

ERDA's EIS claimed consequences of contact between plutonium and humans is "necessarily indirect and highly uncertain," that radiation from the plant is less than normal background radiation and that—with the exception of accidents that have contaminated 171 Rocky Flats Workers over the past 26 years of the facility's operation—employees at the plant face little health hazard.

ERDA's analysis has been challenged by the results of still-incomplete studies. One, an on-going survey of mortality rates and causes among 5,400 former employees, has so far shown similar results to a survey conducted by Dr. Samuel Milham on deceased employees of the government's reactor complex at Hanford, Wash. Though the Flats survey results are extremely tentative because of the small sample of death certificates examined to date, Rocky Flats workers appear to have a higher rate of cancer deaths than is normal.

There are also the controversial studies of Dr. Carl Johnson, the director of health for Jefferson County, in which Rocky Flats is located. When housing developers asked for a rezoning of land near Rocky Flats two years ago, Johnson irked them, his own health board and officials by claiming soil samples he had taken from the sites to be rezoned contained plutonium levels 3,300 times higher than normal. Other samplers, including some from the Colorado Health Department, said Johnson was in error and his testing methods inappropriate. Despite almost being censured by the Jeffco Health Board for releasing his findings to the media over the board's objections, Johnson has continued his studies.

In early April, the doctor announced early results of a survey of birth defects among infants in Arvada, a bedroom community of 80,000 near Rocky Flats. Congenital malformations coded at birth, Johnson claimed, were 14.5 per 1,000 births in Arvada and 10.4 per 1,000 in areas of the county more distant from the plant. In earlier studies, he found significant increases in leukemia and lung cancer rates among people living closer to the plant.

His studies, he now claims, show Rocky Flats has a potential for creating 160 extra annual cancer deaths and 1.5 percent additional birth defects in the Denver area. ERDA's EIS, on the contrary, said only one extra cancer death and one extra birth defect a year are likely to result because of the plant's radioactive releases. ■  
*Timothy Lange works as a printer and free-lance writer in Denver.*

## IN BARNWELL, S. CAROLINA

By Bob McMahon

When it was begun in 1971 the Barnwell nuclear fuel reprocessing plant here was seen as a triumph of technology, the basis for a new stage of development in the nuclear power industry.

Seven years and \$250 million later, the plant remains unfinished. Whether it will ever be completed or used for the purposes for which it was built is in question.

The Allied General Nuclear Services or Barnwell plant was one of three com-

mercial reprocessing plants licensed by the Atomic Energy Commission. The plants were to accept used nuclear fuel and separate plutonium and reusable uranium from nuclear wastes. The recycled uranium would stretch available supplies, now estimated as sufficient for only the next two decades. The plutonium would go into breeder reactors, where it would provide energy while converting uranium-238 into more plutonium.

Plans for reprocessing and breeder reactors drew steady fire from nuclear opponents, who pointed to safety problems



with the breeder and to the danger of diversion of plutonium for nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile, economic and technological problems mounted for commercial reprocessing. One reprocessing site in Morris, Ill., was abandoned after a \$64 million investment when it was found unworkable. A second, in West Valley, N.Y., was ordered closed because of severe contamination problems, leaving the state of New York with a half billion dollar clean-up bill. Barnwell's cost soared from \$70 million to \$250 million, with at least as much further investment required for facilities to solidify plutonium and radioactive wastes.

The final blow for Barnwell came when President Carter ordered a halt to reprocessing and plutonium fuel plans while the U.S. seeks international safeguards against nuclear proliferation. Today, Allied General Nuclear Services officials admit they do not expect to see the plant operate commercially.

Barnwell is currently being kept alive by \$14 million in federal grants to research proliferation resistant safeguards at the plant and to evaluate its usefulness for handling alternate nuclear fuels.

Supporters of the Barnwell plant in Congress, like Idaho Sen. Frank Church, chairman of the Senate energy research and development subcommittee, have proposed the plant be taken over to be operated under international controls as a model reprocessing center for fuel from all over the world.

The project's opponents see a federal takeover of the plant as an imminent danger, which would make stopping operations of the plant much more difficult.

To dramatize the opposition the Palmetto Alliance, a coalition of South Carolina environmental groups, has called for a national demonstration at the plant April 30-May 1. A legal rally in the Barnwell community on April 30 will be followed by a nonviolent "blockade" of the plant gates leading to arrest.

Palmetto Alliance activists are hopeful of a good reception in the nearby communities. Already, reports activist Rita Fellers, "We've met a good many people in the area that we didn't know were there. They felt like voices crying in a wilderness."

The counties around Barnwell have been a center for farm strike activity in South Carolina, Fellers says: "After the farm strike, when protesters were arrested, the idea of direct action and civil disobedience is less alien."

The Barnwell area is a center of nuclear facilities, with the reprocessing site, the military's Savannah River Plant and a commercial dump for low-level wastes all clustered nearby. According to Emmet Laitala, "There's already some concern about radiation—people are seeing mutant animals and wondering," although specific knowledge of the dangers from Barnwell is low.

The Barnwell reprocessing Plant will be allowed to give off higher levels of "routine" low-level radiation than any other nuclear plant operating, environmental activists charge. Dr. Ernest Sternglass, director of the Radiological Department of the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, has concluded from the projected emissions that people living around the plant will be exposed to regular radiation doses many times higher than "safe" levels set by the government.

"It simply means people exposed around the Barnwell plant won't live as long. The life span will be cut by the early onset of stroke, heart disease or cancer," Sternglass says.

Possible damage from accidental release of nuclear materials held at Barnwell will also be higher than from an ordinary power plant. After five years of operation, Barnwell will hold approximately the radioactivity that would be left from a large, full-scale nuclear war.

Organizers for the Barnwell demonstrations, whose theme is "Draw the line against a nuclear economy," hope to draw a large number of activists from around the South to demonstrate their opposition to the proliferation of nuclear plants in that region of the country.

**Bob McMahon** is a free-lance writer in North Carolina.



*This mutant goat is evidence of the genetic threat of radioactive pollution emanating from the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant.*

## CALENDAR

**April 28-29: National Action at Rocky Flats, CO.** Saturday: 10:00 a.m. Rally at Federal Building, Downtown Denver. Speakers include Stokely Carmichael, Sidney Lens and Rep. Ron Dellums (D-CA).

11:30 a.m. Car pools to Rocky Flats for gathering at west gate of nuclear plant.

1:00 p.m. Rally at Rocky Flats for "conversion of Rocky Flats and nuclear hazards." Speakers include: Dr. Helen Caldicott of Boston's Children's Hospital, Daniel Ellsberg and Richard Barnet of the Institute for Policy Studies. At this time there will be, according to Judy Danielson, an organizer of the rally, "a symbolic walk to the railroad tracks where the nuclear weaponry passes through once a week." Danielson considers that "this will be the only act of civil disobedience the entire weekend."

Sunday: In the morning there will be a "Celebration of Life" at the Denver Civic Center. The afternoon will be taken up by workshops on organizing tactics.

*For further information contact: Rocky Flats National Action, 1428 Lafayette, Denver, CO 80218 or (303) 832-1676.*

**April 30-May 1: National Action at Barnwell, SC.** Saturday will be a day of preparation and an encampment near the plant. On Sunday there will be a symbolic storming of the plants' gates to deliver the human petition. The petitioners have vowed to stay until the plant is converted to non-atomic uses or until they are arrested.

*For further information contact: Palmetto Alliance, 328 Whaley, Columbia, SC 80218 or (802) 254-8132.*

**May 21: Survival Festival to End the Arms Race in Hollywood Bowl, Los Angeles, CA**

Two days before the UN Special Session on Disarmament opens Los Angeles will be the site of a "festival to demand an end to the arms race." The festival will include Helen Caldicott, Peter, Paul and Mary, Holly Near, Keith Carridine and Tom Paxton.

*For information contact: Alliance for Survival, 5529 West Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90010 or (213) 937-0240.*

**May 22: Mass Civil Disobedience at Trident Base at Bangor, WA.**

The Trident submarine can carry enough nuclear warheads to annihilate an entire country. The action at the Trident base in Bangor will begin on May 20 when civil disobedience training begins. According to Betty Grant of Live Without Trident, "The action is being organized to the point of being arrested." On May 22 the demonstrators will move on to the base to await arrest.

**May 22: Support Demonstration by Trident Conversion Campaign at Groton, CT.**

This will be the East Coast link to Bangor action. The theme of this action, according to Chris Nieman of CNVA, centers on security: "There is no security for people to have food or housing because of what our priorities in this country are."

The demonstration will convene in New Haven, Conn., and will be followed by a walk to the submarine base.

**May 27: Mass Rally in San Francisco.**

The rally will begin with a march from Union Square to United Nations Plaza where the UN are scheduled to run from

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will include speakers and singers.

*For further information contact Alliance for Survival, 1360 Howard St., San Francisco, CA 94103 or (415) 626-6796.*

**May 27: Mass Demonstration at the United Nations, New York, NY.**

The march will begin both at 86th Street and Broadway and at Union Square and the marchers will converge at the United Nations for "a day of massive actions for disarmament."

*For information contact: War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette Street, New York 10012 or (212) 228-0450.*

**June 12: Civil Disobedience at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, New York, NY.**

The War Resisters League has called for the June 12 action if, as one spokesperson said, "our demands are not met at the UN Special Session." The participants will try to get as close to the U.S. Mission as possible and when the police begin to set up barricades they will refuse to leave and face arrest.

**June 24: Occupation at Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant Site, NH.**

The Clamshell Alliance is sponsoring another occupation of the proposed nuclear power plant at Seabrook. While plans for the demonstration are still in the planning stage, affinity groups, like last year, are going to be the basic unit of organization. Affinity groups are required to undergo nonviolent training together.

*For information contact: Clamshell Alliance, 62 Congress Street, Portsmouth, NH 03801 or (603) 436-5414.*



## U.S./CHILE



# Banks under attack for Chile loans

By Jeffrey Stein

WASHINGTON

**P**PRIVATE BANKS WHOSE LOAN policies appear to be undermining congressional efforts to impose sanctions on human rights violators have come under double-barreled attack on Capitol Hill. Simultaneously, details have surfaced on the largest U.S. bank loan package to Chile since the 1973 coup that installed dictator Augusto Pinochet.

On April 12, Rep. Henry Reuss (D-WI), House Banking Committee chairman, asked the presidents of six large American banks to explain why they have lent Chile almost a billion dollars at a time when Congress has been cutting aid to that country because of human rights violations. "Your lending actions," Reuss said in a telegram, "are not helpful to the U.S. policy of restricting loans to countries found to be in violations of human rights.... I hope you will give the American people a full explanation."

Just the day before, Rep. Thomas Harkin (D-IA), a consistent standard bearer for human rights in the Congress, announced that he planned to introduce legislation that would require American banks to disclose their loans to human rights violators to the Congress every three months. "Banks should not be allowed to undermine our efforts to reestablish basic human rights in these countries and at the same time pretend they are aiding our endeavors," Harkin said in a statement released April 11.

Harkin also took aim at a statement made by Jimmy Carter at his Brazilian press conference at the end of March that free enterprise was compatible with the administration's quest for human rights abroad. "I cannot agree with the recent Carter assertion...that the American business community supports completely the commitment of our nation to human rights," Harkin said. "Such statements are...incompatible with the facts."

## A green light to Pinochet.

The two lawmakers' actions were touched off by a private study released this week which showed that six large American banks had put together lending packages totaling \$927 million to Chile over the past five years since the military dictatorship came to power there. That study did not include the latest loan for Chile, a \$210 million package involving 40 U.S. and foreign banks led by Morgan Guaranty Trust of New York.

The big six identified in the study included Bankers Trust of New York (\$180 million), Chemical Bank of New York (\$125 million), the Wells Fargo Bank of San Francisco (\$125 million), Citicorp of New York (\$86 million), Morgan Guaranty Trust of New York (\$150 million) and First Chicago (\$75 million)—all of which were targets of chairman Reuss' wrath.

The study was written by Michael Moffit and Isabel Letelier of the Transnational Institute in Washington, D.C., a private think tank.

It asserted that efforts by the Carter administration and Congress to influence the human rights conduct of the Chilean regime have been undercut by large-scale private U.S. investments in Chile. Since the Carter inauguration, almost all direct aid to Chile has been eliminated. But the big six U.S. banks, the authors found, gave the Pinochet government, "a green light to thumb its nose at international pressure...because the junta has private sources of financing at its disposal other than governments that have attached tough human rights criteria to their foreign assistance programs."

Most of the foreign loans to Chile, Moffit and Letelier said, have gone to financing repayment of debts to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund

and other multilateral lending institutions, as well as to underwrite imports of luxury goods.

Since the U.S. Congress slapped a \$27.4 million aid ceiling on Chile in 1976, loans from private banks increased 500 percent over the previous year, their figures show. Total private loans now account for more than 90 percent of Chile's total borrowing.

Chile has been able to attract foreign investment because of its austere fiscal policy, Moffit said, which emphasizes an export-led economy and cuts in social services.

Ms. Letelier pointed out that unemployment in Chile currently stands at about 20 percent, while malnutrition, unknown in modern times there, is "widespread."

The recent Morgan Guaranty Trust-led loan package is the single largest loan by private banks since the Pinochet government seized power in a U.S. supported

military coup in September 1973. Commenting on that loan and last week's criticism of banking practices by Reps. Harkin and Reuss, Morgan Guaranty's spokesman, John Morris, said that the banks' loans "do not imply a statement of approval of social and political conditions in any country. We think that the proper role of private institutions' operations are in international trade. Foreign policies are made by governments."

Moffit and Letelier, meanwhile, disclosed in a press conference that they had written to David Rockefeller, chairman of the board of the Chase Manhattan Bank, as well as to other bank executives, asking them to implement a moratorium on loans to Chile as long as the Chilean secret police is suspected by the Justice department of having a hand in the murders of their spouses.

Jeffrey Stein is the Washington correspondent of the Boston Phoenix.

## Net closing on Letelier killers

By John T. Alves and Saul Landau

**T**WO CUBAN EXILE TERRORISTS linked by federal investigators to the bombing murders of Orlando Letelier and Ronni Karpen Moffitt (ITT, Apr. 19), were arrested April 14 after meeting at a Miami airport hotel. Although the two were not charged specifically with the Letelier-Moffitt bombing, their arrests were reliably reported to be part of a government strategy in that case. Guillermo Novo Sampol and Alvin Ross Diaz, both with previous bombing arrests, were picked up by the FBI and officers of the Dade County Organized Crime Bureau along with a third man, Manuel Mendez.

Novo was arrested on a fugitive warrant, charged with violating parole provisions and unlawful flight to escape arrest. He had been on parole after an 11-month jail stint for bombing Cuban diplomatic offices in Montreal. Ross Diaz, who has reportedly been implicated in recent New Jersey bombings of Cuban and Soviet targets, was charged with five counts of possession of explosives. Both men are members of the ultra-right-wing Cuban Nationalist Movement. Mendez, also a Cuban exile, was booked for possession of cocaine.

Along with approximately a kilogram of cocaine, estimated to have a value of \$250,000, police discovered four firearms, quantities of potassium permanganate, blasting powder and detonator caps, as well as several wigs and makeup kits.

Reliable sources say the arrests of Novo and Ross are linked to the incarceration of Michael Vernon Townley, who presently is being held by federal authorities as a material witness in the Letelier-Moffitt murders. Townley was expelled from Chile by Gen. Augusto Pinochet in 1977

after he had refused to answer a series of 53 questions submitted to him under a "letters rogatory" procedure by the American government. (ITT, Apr. 19.)

## The Letelier case is putting increasing pressure on Pinochet, forcing him to reform.

The expulsion of Townley, who has been linked to the Chilean secret police, DINA, was only one of a series of maneuvers initiated by Pinochet to undercut a rising tide of criticism and opposition. Pinochet also forced the resignation of Gen. Manuel Contreras Sepulveda, head of DINA and one of the Chilean strongman's closest associates. One Justice department official familiar with the case commented that for Pinochet to give up Contreras was like "Nixon giving up Haldeman, Ehrlichman and Colson all at once."

Contreras' departure did not end the criticism. The press carried a host of rumors linking the resignation to the "Letelier affair" and continued to point out that Pinochet, by decree, was responsible for DINA's operations. More threatening, however, was a challenge from within the junta itself. Air Force Gen. Gustavo Leigh Guzman publicly called for the resignation of the present military commanders and their substitution by new men who, along with a civilian president, would pave the way for civilian rule. The Air Force officer corps, some high government officials and, reportedly, even some members of the Army were sympathetic to Leigh's proposal.

Pinochet responded by accelerating the pace of his "reform" initiatives. He announced the formation of a Council of Labor, designed to facilitate the previously taboo process of collective bargaining. On April 5 he appeared on national radio and TV and announced that a new constitution would be submitted to a national plebiscite in 1979. Only three months earlier, he had assured the nation that there would be "no more elections for ten years."

One week later Pinochet accepted the resignation of the cabinet and, in a cosmetic gesture, designated a civilian as Minister of Interior, assigning him the task of selecting a new, predominantly civilian cabinet. Pinochet also announced that Defense Minister Gen. Hermann Brady, in that post since the 1973 coup that overthrew the elected government of Salvador Allende, had resigned to take an "important post." When asked which post, Pinochet replied, "I don't remember."

In what may be the most important measure yet, the junta leader on April 19 decreed a general amnesty for all persons convicted by military tribunals since Sept. 11, 1973, including all those in exile abroad. As IN THESE TIMES went to press the exact details of this amnesty decree and the response of exile groups were unclear, but Chilean observers predicted that it could have widespread consequences.

What was clear was that Gen. Pinochet was in big trouble and that he was desperately trying to rid himself of all those who could tie him to the Letelier-Moffitt killings and to stabilize a rapidly deteriorating political position.

John Alves and Saul Landau are associated with the Transnational Institute in Washington.