

Between the Lines

Nuremberg Actions, P.O.Box 13, Boulder Creek CA 95006

Sept. 92 #23

NEXT YEAR IS THE 501ST

By Jennifer Viereck

As the pageantry and protests begin to unfold for October 12, 1992, many people think of Columbus Day issues as 500 years in the past. But to the nearly 2 million surviving original North Americans and indigenous people the world over, the tenets of the Columbus-led invasion are still firmly entrenched. In the United States, racism and economic exploitation are highly visible from Pine Ridge to Baghdad to South-Central L.A. Like the attitudes of Europeans toward their colonies of old, current U.S. and other governments' policies are geared to secure control of peoples and resources. In Spain of 1492, the small nobility owned 95% of the land. In the United States of 1992, the richest 1% holds 40% of the wealth, up from 37% just a few years ago.

Little has been done to date by non-native Americans to support the modern day struggles of native peoples. Recently, numerous media and public events have indulged in some soul searching and discussions of multi-culturalism, but even these remain incredibly shallow when faced with the enormity of the genocide, pillage and oppression that continues today.

Many are outraged by the razing of homes in the Palestinian territories, but not in Big Mountain, Arizona. Some are quick to speak out against military intervention in Grenada, Panama and Iraq, but not against the Lakota or the Mohawk Nations. We decry the fate of political prisoners in South Africa or El Salvador, but not in Pleasanton or in Leavenworth. Many are horrified by the effects of radiation from Three Mile Island or Chernobyl, but are not aware of the effects of radiation poisoning from uranium mining, processing, and weapons testing on indigenous communities world-wide. Few recognize that although severe poverty and environmental hazards are more extreme for native peoples, they are indicative of what is coming for everyone.

TO BE NATIVE AMERICAN TODAY

Native Americans are not even treated as human beings by the U.S. government. The Bureau of Indian Affairs is a subdivision of the Interior Department, which manages such non-human resources as parks and monuments. Methods used to determine tribal eligibility are those used to establish bloodlines in race horses. Cultural repression through the banning of religious practices, forced boarding schools, and the destruction of traditional food sources has been severe.

Traditional forms of self-government were undermined or banned, and replaced with a neo-colonial tribal government system designed to serve U.S. government and development interests. Reservations see only 11 cents of every dollar allotted to them. (In 1989, a Senate panel recommended that



federal programs be dismantled and grants made directly to self-governing 'tribes', following a two year study which revealed incredible federal incompetence.)

Forty-five percent of all Native Americans live in poverty and 35% are unemployed. More than 50% have no toilet and 20% lack telephones. The most economically depressed ethnic group in the country, they have the highest teen suicide rate. While some Native Americans prefer to live in a traditionally simpler way, the choice is rarely their own. Rather, it is often in the hands of unchecked and often corrupt bureaucrats whose decisions are swayed by personal economic interests or those of development companies seeking native lands.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

1992 is the 500th year of the pillage of the Americas, but 1993 is the 501st. By uniting the far-seeing wisdom of the traditional indigenous approach with non-native movements, by working together in a respectful manner to overcome the distrust of the past, we may yet find a way for all of us to survive in the future. By restoring stolen and abused lands to the rightful stewardship of the original people, they may remain habitable at least in part for the generations to come. If the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley with the Western Shoshone was upheld, there would be no Nevada Test Site or Yucca Mt. nuclear dump. If the Fort Laramie Treaty and others were honored, there would be no uranium to fuel our headlong rush toward extinction.

In some areas around the U.S., Columbus Day events are taking place that are truly Native-planned and led. Participation in these events is one way to let the dialogue truly begin.

RADIATION: THE NEWEST SMALLPOX BLANKET

by Jennifer Viereck



Nowhere is the conflict of values between the conquerors and the survivors of the Columbus Enterprise more apparent than in their attitudes toward the land itself. The European mind-set sees the Earth and her creatures as property to be exploited for immediate economic gain. The traditional indigenous person reveres natural balance and harmony above all things, and looks far to the future to determine the consequence of any action. Open interaction with the natural world gives a depth of understanding that no scientist or priest can hope to achieve.

Nuclear war is being fought every day by the United States, but only one side is fighting. The other side, the victims, are just trying to survive. Before the nuclear bombs ever reach the bunkers of Concord Naval Weapons Station, ready to be leveled at Bush's latest demonized foe, the innocent are already dying. They suffer from leukemia, myriad forms of cancer and tumor growths, bone and muscle pain and deformity, blood disease, neurological and psychological disorders, and more. Some can never have children, and some must bury those they have. All of them live within the borders of the continental United States, and most are Native Americans. Nuclear testing has always taken place on indigenous peoples and their traditional lands. The U.S. first tested on Pacific Islanders, and now tests on the Western Shoshone nation of Neve Segobia. But indigenous people are threatened and endangered throughout the nuclear weapons and nuclear energy cycles.

URANIUM MINING

Ironically, many lands thought by the U.S. government to be worthless enough to leave in Indian hands are now found to lie on the dry crust of the Grants Mineral Belt, stretching from Saskatchewan to New Mexico and Arizona. Twenty-three native nations hold lands containing 1/3 of "U.S." coal, 2/3 of its uranium and much of its oil and gas. (This does not even include oil-rich Alaska.) Natives have largely been excluded from the profits on these resources, as well as timber, fishing, ranching and other agricultural concerns on native lands. But they are taking a far higher share of most of the risks incurred.

In addition to the location of uranium deposits, the complex overlapping jurisdictions of federal, state and tribal governments result in an absence of effective oversight and health monitoring systems that is very appealing to profit motivated development corporations government contractors. As early as 1948, Kerr-McGee, which controls 1/3 of U.S. uranium leases, had sunk the first mine on Navajo lands near Shiprock, New Mexico. Native miners were given no warnings, no respiratory masks, and no uncontaminated drinking water. Sent into unventilated mines still choked with dust from blasting, they often drank 'hot' water from puddles on mine floors, and were given contaminated water to take home to their families. Within a few years after Kerr-

McGee pulled out in 1966, 25 Navajo miners had died from anaplastic cancer of the lungs, and many more were dead or dying from radioactive dust poisoning. The Navajo language has no words for 'radiation' or 'cancer', and public education is still difficult today.

By 1973, uranium mining in the Southwest was affecting Ute, Apache, Hopi, Navajo, Papago, Zuni and Acoma lands. In the Black Hills, 5,000 uranium leases to 21 companies have been documented at government offices, covering hundreds of thousands of acres, for up to \$200 billion in potential ore. In Canada, Inuit, Cree and Athabasca Dine are poisoned with tailings piles, and deadly sludge is dumped in lake systems. Canadian policies have forced convicts and welfare recipients to work in the mines. In Brazil, poisoned food and dynamite have been dropped on Yanomami villages to open up lands for mining. In Columbia, the Guahibo were hunted and slaughtered as mining moved into the southeast provinces. In Australia, where many indigenous people were fatally affected due to British nuclear tests, they are once again being poisoned by radioactivity from uranium mines to fuel new tests on other native lands.

Uranium releases radiation whenever it is exposed to oxygen, as it is during the entire mining and milling process. Tailings, or the 'sand' that is left over, retain up to 85% of the radioactivity of the original ore. These piles are left heaped up, to spill into waterways or blow in the wind. A 1978 Dept. of energy study found unsafe and dangerous storage conditions at all 22 of the inactive tailings sites in 8 western states. Thousands of unplugged exploratory bore holes are also releasing radon into the atmosphere, as are abandoned underground uranium mines.

In Grants, New Mexico, tailings were used in the construction of Indian schools and other public buildings, the apparent cause of birth defects in over 100 babies in only five years. This has been likened by many to the U.S. Cavalry method of genocide by distributing small-pox infested blankets to native prisoners. However, radiation does not just kill the recipient; it is far more insidious. It alters the genetic structure of all unborn generations to come.

In Edgemont, South Dakota, tailings were used in the school and about 200 other sites. One Lakota family found readings in their home of over 4 times the highest amount permitted for miners, who are exposed only 8 hours a day. In numerous areas in Utah and Colorado, tailings were used for landfill, and in Durango, a 2,300 foot high tailings pile blowing over the town is blamed for a marked increase in acute and chronic respiratory diseases in children. In Salt Lake City, a city fire station built on radioactive landfill had to be disposed of and replaced at a cost of around ten million dollars. A 900,000 ton tailings pile near the Wind River Arapaho reservation is thought to have caused cancer, birth defects and other illnesses in the small town of St. Stephens, Wyoming. Everywhere, people tell stories of children playing in tailings piles and burying each other in the radioactive sand. In many families, the death rate was higher among children than among miners themselves.

On July 16, 1979, the largest known radioactive spill took place as 95 trillion gallons of contaminated water and 1,100 tons of sediment poured into the Rio Puerco from a uranium mill at Church Rock, New Mexico. The water supply of

over 10,000 Navajo was affected, as well as all wildlife and ranch animals for hundreds of miles downstream. Government officials found cleanup efforts satisfactory, but recent readings were 100 times higher than Arizona maximum limits. In 1962, 200 tons of tailings spilled into the Cheyenne River in the Black Hills, and in recent years 14,000 tons were washed downstream by the Green River in Utah.

On January 4, 1986, an explosion in a Kerr-McGee plant dispersed uranium by-products throughout the area near Gore, Oklahoma. Cherokee families report serious problems with cancer and tumors. Susquehanna Fuel, the current operator of the plant, has 15,000 safety violations. In 1988, the federal government finally acknowledged deliberate atmospheric radiation releases from 1944-47, and releases into the Columbia River in 1964, from Hanford, WA, on Yakima land.

of the Indians' great care and regard for Nature's resources, Indians are the logical people to care for the nuclear waste. Radioactive materials have half-lives of thousands of years [and] it is the Native American culture and perspective that is best designed to correctly consider and balance the benefits and burdens." He has also offered an amazing array of economic incentives to financially strapped tribal officials, and claims to have authority to be "as flexible as the wind and the tides" regarding potential tribal benefits.

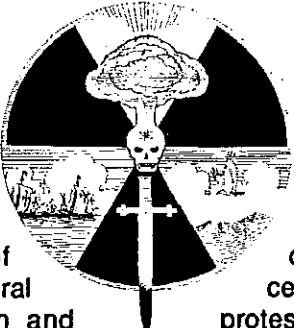
Tribal members are not being informed about the dangers of radiation contamination, but the cat is getting out of the bag. In May of 1992, 55 representatives from 14 tribes met in Albuquerque at a fact-finding conference, hosted by Native Americans for a Clean Environment and the Water Information Network.

Plutonium, the product of fuel rod use in nuclear power plants, is "the single most dangerous and cancer-causing material known to man", according to Dr. Arjun Makhijani, a radiation expert. After only 4-5 years of use, fuel rods are depleted. At 1,300 degrees F, they must be stored in cooled water for several years before above ground storage can even begin. They continue to emit deadly radiation for 250,000 years.

The Western Shoshone National Council & the Global Anti-Nuclear Alliance call to

HEALING GLOBAL WOUNDS

OCTOBER 2-12, 1992 LAS VEGAS/NEVADA TEST SITE



10 days of commemoration and cultural celebration, non-violent action and protest, Indigenous People's Forum, healing ceremony, camp out and a four-day walk to stop nuclear testing on Native land, end 500 years of injustice.

For information contact: **Healing Global Wounds**
PO Box 4082, Las Vegas, NV 89127 (702) 386-8696

ARTWORK BY JACK MALOTTE

OTHER 'WHITE TRASH'

Permanent high-level nuclear waste storage is planned on native lands as well. In New Mexico, where Los Alamos and Sandia nuclear labs and the White Sands missile range are already located, a U.S. district Court Judge set things back in November 1991 by finding that Secretary of the Interior Lujan had exceeded his authority in handing over lands to the Dept. of Energy. Yucca Mountain, on Western Shoshone land in Nevada, is the likeliest site right now. Already the hosts of the Nevada Nuclear Test Site, where radiation is forcibly injected into the Earth by bomb detonation, and the Nellis Gunnery Range, the Shoshone have more than their share of "white trash".

Tribal, as well as city and county governments, find themselves also at odds with the Feds over nuclear transportation routes. Native Shoshone-Bannock police in Idaho stopped a truck on Oct. 16, 1991, which turned out to be the third of 247 planned shipments of spent fuel rods across the reservation. An ordinance banning such shipments was in effect for over a year. Only a month before, a container had fallen off a truck in another part of the country, and went undetected for 10 hours. One hour's exposure would be lethal.

Within a two year period, 50 different tribes across the country were approached with plans for high-level toxic incinerators and landfills. Usually disguised as "development plans", such million dollar deals are hard to resist for financially starved and isolated communities. Excellent Native environmental organizations are springing up out of necessity, to counter such propaganda campaigns.

If non-native peoples and organizations do not sit up and take notice soon, uniting their strength with native groups fighting for environmental survival and physical well-being, there will soon be little left to fight for. In a mere 50 years, so called "civilized man" has made vast tracts of the Earth uninhabitable for untold generations to come. We may not have another 50 years, let alone 500.

MRS: THE LATEST INDIAN GIVING

Monitored Retrievable Storage (MRS) is the latest thing in high-level nuclear waste storage, even though the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs recommended in February, 1992 that the Dept. of Energy be ordered to stop its pursuit of MRS facilities on Native lands. Since citizens all over the country have so far remained successful in preventing a permanent nuclear storage site from locating in their back yard, the government is pushing the MRS concept. Each proposed 450 acre site could hold 10,000 tons of spent fuel rods from the nation's 111 nuclear power plants, thus putting the problem on hold for the next 40-50 years. And where better, they thought, than those reservations whose inability to prevent uranium mining permitted the growth of the nuclear industry in the first place? Just give it back.

The Dept. of Energy is spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to attract tribal governments to apply for MRS facilities. David Leroy, the federal nuclear waste peddler known as Mr. Deep Pockets, is pursuing his work with the zeal of a snake-oil salesman. He closed his speech to a Native American conference in Dec. 1991 with these words: "Because

TRACK RECORD

September 1, 1992, is the 1,909th day of consecutive effort by U.S. citizens and others to stop U.S. war crimes and crimes against peace at the Concord Naval Weapons Station. It also marks the fifth anniversary of the day CNWS ran down Brian Willson with a weapons train. About 60 people gathered at the base to speak out, pray, sing, and enter the base with offerings of bread to replace the bombs usually shipped from Concord. Twelve were arrested. (More next issue)

Sixteen train movements were recorded between July 20th and Aug. 20th, with only 38 loaded munitions cars. Arrested for blockading weapons shipments at CNWS were: Greg Getty, David Duncombe, and Dorothy Brownold.

PEACE FARMERS CULTIVATE CONCORD

On August 9, the 45th anniversary of the U.S. bombing of Nagasaki, four women calling themselves the Global Peace Farmers entered the base to plant fruit trees and seeds as a symbol of life. Using foldable ladders to scale two fences on the south perimeter of the base, they climbed atop bunker #101, hung banners, and began gardening.

Large 4x8 ft. signs said: "Send Food, Not Weapons", "Federal Budget: Military 54%, Schools 2.5%", and "Nagasaki Begins Here". Supporters passed out leaflets titled REMEMBERING NAGASAKI which began: "We 4 women, ranging in age from 29 to 50, a nurse, a teacher, a musician, and a community organizer, come here today out of deep concern. For here are uncountable numbers of deadly munitions in bunkers situated only a few hundred feet from this community which includes homes, playgrounds, a nursing home, schools and churches."

The women, Sunshine Appleby, Susan Crane, Sherry Larsen-Beville, and Maxina Ventura, remained over 5 hours, before being arrested by Dept. of Defense officers.

Two and a half weeks later, the Global Peace Farmers were back. Having delivered an order to base Commander Richard Owens the day before to cease violations of international and constitutional law, the inspection team of Susan Crane and

Sunshine Appleby entered the waterfront Nuclear Weapons Area to look for signs of compliance. Again scaling a series of fences, they hung a banner reading "Nukes Make Dust of All Our Dreams". Observing an open door, they entered the "Lethal Force in Effect" zone and knelt in prayer for 10 minutes before being arrested.

1ST 'AUTHORIZED' PLANTING

In response to a request by Greg Getty, base commander Captain Richard Owens invited Getty, David Duncombe and Abraham Zwickel to come onto the base on August 27th to plant a young olive tree (which had survived a year at the Nuremberg Actions vigil site) next to the base chapel. Following a brief prayer and ceremony, the tree was planted, and unlike previous "unauthorized" plantings, it will be watered and cared for by base personnel. Owens leaves his command on Sept. 10th, and this was a thoughtful final gesture to mark his efforts in maintaining rapport with peace activists during his two years at Concord. Owens will be replaced by Alan M. Nibbs.

CALENDAR



AT THE BASE:

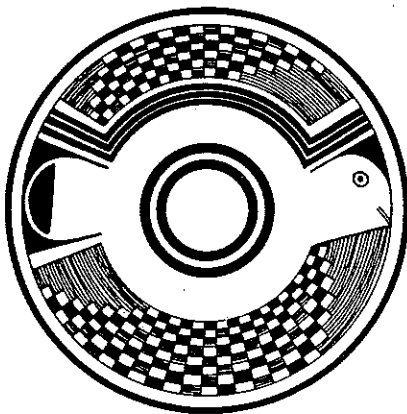
9/10---9:00 am. Redwood Friends, Sonoma Co. Taxes for Peace
Morning circle, orientation, weapons blockade.
Orientation and training available each Thursday, 9-noon.

ELSEWHERE:

10/2-12---HEALING GLOBAL WOUNDS events in Nevada. See page 3.
Contact Nuremberg Actions office for more info.
10/11---12 noon. MARCH TO COMMEMORATE 500 YEARS OF RESISTANCE
Gather at Fort Mason, march to Civil Center for 1:00 pm rally. Volunteers needed! Call American Indian Movement at 415-552-1992 to help or have table at rally.
20/29---7:00 pm. Democracy for the Few or the Many? Michael Parenti, Sara Diamond, Norman Solomon at Palo Alto Unity Church, 3391 Middlefield Rd. \$5-15. Peninsula Peace Center for info, 415-326-8837

Nuremberg Actions
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(408) 338-9416

BULK RATE
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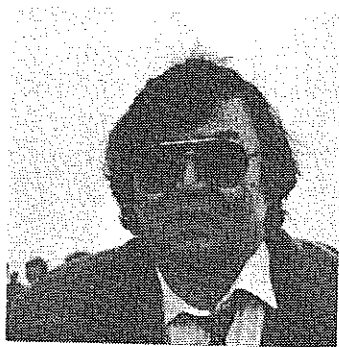


NUCLEAR COLONIALISM



"One day we saw a flash of lightning. Then a dull clap of thunder followed, and the earth beneath our feet trembled. We had no idea what was going on, and the next day our mother took us to the desert to pray and try to understand what we had seen and felt. It was much later when we heard that we had experienced the first atomic bomb test, on the Nevada Test Site; here, right on our land."

(Speaking about 1/27/51)
Pauline Esteves, Western
Shoshone National Council



"No defense reasons can justify the silent nuclear war of the government against its own people. Let the fate of millions of living people not depend on the solution of those who sit in their cabinets. Only by uniting our efforts may we, the people, help ourselves survive in this still green world."

Olzhas Suleimenov, Kazakhstan

COLONIALISM: *The policy of a nation seeking to extend its power over other territories. Origin: Cristobal Colon, also known as Christopher Columbus.*

All nuclear weapons states explode their bombs on unconsenting nations. No nuclear state tests bombs on its own lands and people. The victims span the globe in every phase of the process, from taking the uranium from the ground, creating weapons of mass destruction, shoving them back into someone else's ground to blow them up, and then storing the nuclear garbage in yet someone else's back yard. Thousands of military personnel were deliberately exposed as well. They are suffering from lung, bone, throat, tongue and bladder cancer, leukemia, and thyroid disease. Their children are born with unbelievable deformities, and many die in their arms. Although human life has been on the earth nearly 2 1/2 million years, in the last half century, 'civilized' man has made vast tracts of the earth uninhabitable for untold generations to come.

NAMIBIA/SOUTH AFRICA Roessing is the biggest uranium mine in the world. It operates in spite of a UN prohibition, and almost all industrial countries participate in the profit. For the more than 2000 Black miners, there is no protection from radiation. Water, air and ground are contaminated. In South Africa, uranium is a by-product of gold mining. 800 Black workers are killed in the mines each year. Radioactive dust from the tailings is carried by the wind over nearby townships.

JAPAN Atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki wiped out both cities and killed 300,000 people, among them 70,000 Korean forced laborers. Genetic consequences are affecting the third generation. Each year, radiation sickness breaks out in thousands more.

POLYNESIA France has been conducting nuclear tests there since 1966. After close to 200 tests, Moruroa Atoll is in danger of breaking apart. Through rock fissures, radioactivity is leaking out into the ocean. A hurricane washed 20 years of containerized nuclear waste into the sea. Eating fish will lead to Ciguatera disease. Breast cancer is rampant.

NAVAJO NATION More than 70% of US uranium mining is on Indian lands. Children play on tailings, old mines were left open, and miners were uninformed of dangers. Cancer victims were studied but not treated. Tailings were used to build homes, schools and streets. In 1979, a tailings dam broke near Churchrock, NM. 359 million liters of radioactive mud flew into the Puerco River, the only source of water for the Navajo.

CHELYABINSK/USSR An explosion in a plutonium production plant in 1957, kept secret for 30 years, has contaminated an area of several thousand square km. in Bashkirian, on Tartar land. It was evacuated and sealed off. Radioactive liquids were drained into the nearby Techa River and Karachai Lake in such quantities that no one is allowed to stay near them. Radioactivity is found even 1200 km downstream.

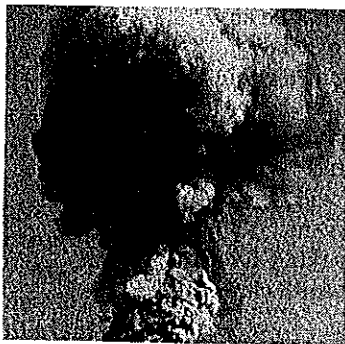
KAZAKHSTAN About 800 nuclear bomb tests have contaminated more than half a million people. 100,000 have died. Every third child is born with birth defects.

SASKATCHEWAN/CANADA Uranium resources are the richest in the world. In spite of valid Native rights, the government has leased land to mining companies. Fifteen lakes have been emptied to get at the ore. Waste contaminates rivers, lakes and wildlife. Hunting and fur trade, traditional economy of the Cree Indians, is impossible. They do not benefit financially in any way.



"The island (Mururoa) has plenty holes inside like cheese from all the tests, 120 tests, and one day the island will be broken. They put up two big walls of concrete around the island to keep it standing up. We don't want all this nuclear contamination."

Marguerite Tetuanui, Polynesian Liberation Front (5th and only sister to survive breast cancer)



"After hearing an explosion and seeing 'a black mist' sweeping across their land, the people dug holes for their children and the old people covered them with their bodies. Two days later 'everyone was vomiting and had diarrhea and people were laid out everywhere. Next day people had very sore eyes, red with tears and I could not open my eyes... Five days after the black cloud came, the old people started dying."

Yankunytjatjara survivor of 1953 British test in Australia

ALGERIA From 1960 to 1966, France detonated 17 nuclear bombs in the Algerian desert. For cleanup work, Berber and Tuareg people from the area were hired. Nobody was informed about the dangers.

NIGER Once an agricultural state, Niger has become an underdeveloped country because of uranium mining. The mines are owned by foreign companies, all uranium is exported. Grazing lands and water holes of the Tuareg and Peulh desert nomads are contaminated and drying out. Radioactive dust is sometimes blown as far as Europe.

SIBERIA The Nenets people, indigenous to the Arctic island of Novaya Zemlya, were removed for nuclear tests in 1954. In 1961, the biggest detonation ever released by man took place there, contaminating the entire northern hemisphere. In Yakutia, nuclear explosions were used to break up permafrost in search of oil reserves. The Chukchi people of Eastern Siberia are struck with the highest cancer death rate in the world. As a result of radiation-induced immune system deficiency, 90% of them have tuberculosis. In the uranium mining town of Kaokhinskaya, life expectancy has dropped to 28 years.

AUSTRALIA Until 1957, Great Britain detonated nuclear bombs affecting at least 11 indigenous nations, as well as tens of thousands of their own soldiers. No one was warned and the after effects were kept secret until recently. Australia is one of the biggest uranium producers in the world. Government and mining corporations take the land away from the aborigines, destroy their sacred places and contaminate rivers and water holes as well as large national parks.

YAKIMA NATION/HANFORD, WA On Yakima land, the US military established in 1943 the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, where 2/3 of all US plutonium for US nuclear bombs has been produced. It includes 9 reactors, two fast breeders, and a giant nuclear waste storage facility. For many years, very high doses of radiation were released into the air, at times only for experimentation. 450 million liters of highly radioactive liquids are stored in 162 leaking tanks. 900 Billion liters of low-level radioactive liquids were drained into the ground. Cancer and birth defects in human beings and animals are epidemic.

WEST AFRICA From Gabon, little is known about the uranium activities of the former colonial power, France. The Pygmies have been forced away from their original homes. Taking advantage of African poverty, France is also 'selling' nuclear waste to the state of Benin, where it is being stored in the open, without security precautions.

CHINA 210,000 people fell victim to Chinese tests on Uygur lands (Xingjiang Autonomous Region). The 16 uranium mines and 10 nuclear power plants are exclusively for military production.

MICRONESIA On Bikini and Enewetok Atolls, The US exploded 66 nuclear bombs, contaminating the Pacific several thousand kilometers around. Atoll populations were consciously exposed to the fallout, as well as U.S. sailors. Many died from cancer and nearly all islanders had to undergo thyroid cancer operations.

SHOSHONE NATION/NEVADA Since 1951, over 700 nuclear bombs have been detonated on Shoshone land, the most bombed nation in the world. Cancer rates are 40% higher than the national average. 250,000 soldiers were used as guinea pigs. Data on radiation exposure and disease has been kept secret or deliberately manipulated.

Sources: 2nd Global Radiation Victims Conference and various other sources.