
NUKE INFO TOKYO

July/Aug. 1988

No.6

☞ Citizens' Nuclear Information Center

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A Proposal for a Movement to Establish a "Denuclearization Law"

by TAKAGI Jinzaburo

Over 20,000 people, a number which exceeded the expectations of the sponsors, participated in the national anti-nuclear power action on April 23 and 24, which was a fabulous success. This is an indication of the present enormous ground swell in Japan's anti-nuke movement. It would be safe to declare that, whenever there is a plan to build a nuclear power plant in a new location, our movement can almost certainly crush it. However, this will not shut down the presently operating plants, and it is also difficult to halt plans for additions to existing facilities.

With this being the situation, and having received a stimulus from the victory of the anti-nuclear power faction in Italy's national



referendum, there are now more strident demands in Japan as well for a movement involving the entire populace which would make the total abolition of nuclear power a reality. However, Japan's legal system does not provide for national referenda, and that is why at the April national gathering there was a proposal for a movement to establish a "denuclearization law" to bring about what would amount to a national referendum within the framework of our present legal institutions. As one of the people who proposed this law, I intend to promote its establishment while encouraging vigorous discussion on this movement.

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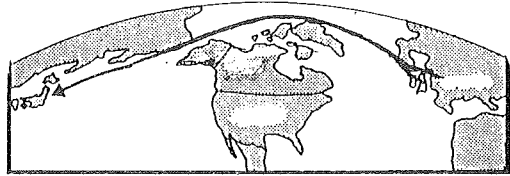
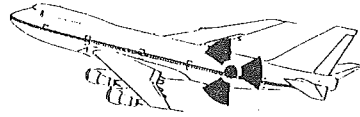
Plutonium Air-Lift Opposed

In May, 1988 the Diet ratified the new U.S.-Japan Nuclear Agreement which included regulations concerning the air-lift of plutonium. It took only about a month for the new Agreement to pass the Diet, and no thorough study was carried out in the process. The new Agreement had already encountered strong opposition in the U.S. Congress but representatives from the Japanese Ministry of Science and Technology and the Federation of Electric Power Companies (FEPC) made several visits to the United States to explain their intentions. It is no wonder that there are still differences of opinion between Japan and the U.S. on how to interpret the plutonium air-lift regulations contained in Annex 5 of the new Agreement.

After studying the Diet debate on the new Agreement and meeting with personnel from the Ministry of Science and Technology, we discovered the following:

- 1) Crews carrying plutonium must be accompanied by armed guards. All communication between the airplane and the operation centers on the ground is to be carried out by these guards and not by the crew. Ultimate authority rests with the armed guards. But there is a difference of opinion regarding the nature of these guards. The Japanese Government claims that guard duties will be carried out by the police. The U.S., on the other hand, assumes only the military can be depended on to cope with a possible international nuclear-hijacking. If the Japanese military were to take part in the air-lift, which is essentially a militaristic operation outside Japanese territory, this would constitute a blatant violation of the Japanese Constitution prohibiting armed forces.

- 2) There is no guarantee that the



plutonium containers will be sufficiently strong. Such containers must withstand the impact of a possible accident to the carrier airplane and the very high water pressure they would be subjected to if they should fall into the sea. Of course they should also be proof against a nuclear explosion. Japan has not yet established safety regulations for containers of this kind. PNC (Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp.) is now trying to develop a method to overcome difficulties of construction so that the U.S. NRC regulations for such containers can be satisfied. The depth of the sea near Japan, however, exceeds that assumed by the NRC standards. In the Upper House Foreign Affairs Commission, the Ministry of Science and Technology was questioned as to whether it was possible to manufacture a container strong enough to resist the water-pressure at a depth of 10,000 meters. The Ministry answered, "We shall make one," without providing any scientific basis for such an irresponsible assertion. No one with any knowledge of the level of technical progress in this area can take their reply seriously.

Besides the above problems the air-routes themselves have not yet been finalized even though the U.S. is pushing for routes to be agreed. The special plane (Boeing 747-400

air-cargo) to be used for the air-lift has not even been built yet.

The new Agreement, however, ignores all these problems and contradictions between Japan and the United States. A special project team has been created by the anti-nuke people here to repeal the new Agreement. News of the plutonium air-lift is now spreading among the Japanese anti-nuke movement, which is showing a powerful upsurge. We must stop the plutonium air-lift plan before a plane carrying plutonium falls on our heads and causes an unprecedented disaster. We must repeal the new Agreement before it leads us down the road to plutonium fascism.

June 30, 1988
 The Project Team to
 Stop the Plutonium
 Air-Lift
 TAKEMURA Yoshiaki

A PROPOSAL FOR A MOVEMENT ...

Continued from page 1

To make this movement a reality we the citizens will first of all create the outline of a law for the abolition of nuclear power, and then organize a citizens' movement aimed at bringing the law into existence. The next step is to gather signatures from many people all over Japan for a formal request that will ask the Diet to pass the law. Diet members in agreement with the law will then submit the bill to the Diet, whereupon we shall push for its passage.

The general framework of the law shall probably be as follows.

- a. Plans for nuclear power plants under construction and in the planning stage shall be immediately abandoned.
- b. Operating plants shall be completely shut down and decommissioned within the time period specified as part of interim measures. Research for

decommissioning measures presenting the least amount of danger shall be permitted.

- c. Nuclear fuel cycle facilities other than nuclear power plants, as well as nuclear powered ships, shall be completely shut down, and their development plans terminated.
- d. The law shall not allow the disposal of nuclear wastes underground, in the ocean, or in any other state in which they are impossible to administer. Wastes shall be kept in a state possible to administer, and the parties who produced the wastes shall assume the responsibility for their administration.
- e. The government must not rely upon nuclear energy, and must endeavor to take the responsibility for the formulation of an energy policy which is not environmentally destructive.

Japanese law makes no provisions for any petition to become the subject of deliberation in the Diet even with a great number of petitioners, but if we can gather signatures which number in the tens of millions then Diet members will be forced to act, and, to a certain extent, to act in a nonpartisan manner. This kind of movement for a denuclearization bill is attractive because, unlike the usual petition drive, it is possible, while increasing the number of supporters, to continually appeal to Diet members and increase our supporters in the Diet, and to do this over a long period of time.

Various other means are conceivable, but if we do not ultimately make the abolition of nuclear power a subject of debate in the Diet, there will be no way to shut down the nuclear power plants, and the way proposed here is therefore one effective approach. I would like to begin by initiating a lively discussion throughout Japan for constructive criticism of this idea.

□

Nuclear Free Asia-Pacific Conference Held in Hong Kong

The first conference for a nuclear free Asia-Pacific (CONFAP) was held in Hong Kong from June 8 to 12. Hosted by the Conservancy Association of Hong Kong, which is campaigning actively against the Chinese Daya Bay Nuclear Plant project, the conference represents the first attempt to network the various movements against nuclear power and the nuclear fuel cycle in the Asian part of the Pacific region. Participants came from 9 Asian countries: India, Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Belau, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan. Researchers and activists from France, West Germany and England also took part.

One of the key objectives was the exchange and sharing of information on the nuclear industry and anti-nuke movements and at least in this area the meeting was felt by all participants to have been a great success. Despite different developments in the various Asian countries, the general trend seems to be remarkably similar.

1) The first world nuclear industry has stepped up its sales offensive in the region (China, South Korea, India, Indonesia, Taiwan). There is also concern among third world native peoples about ongoing radwaste dumping in Malaysia and planned or rumored dumping in the Gobi desert, the Pacific Islands and Australia.

2) In most Asian countries nuclear power is closely related to nuclear weapons development. Many governments want to introduce a nuclear power program so that they can acquire nuclear weapons capabilities and nuclear power development is therefore building up new tensions in the region. For the same reason information on nuclear power plants is treated as a national secret and citizens' anti-nuke movements are in general subjected to strong suppres-

sion.

3) Despite these difficult conditions, there has been a marked increase in citizens'/residents' anti-nuke movements in this region, especially since Chernobyl, encouraged by growing concern about the dangers of nuclear power. Particularly impressive to the author is the rise of awareness among people in India and Taiwan.

All participants agreed on the necessity of setting up an international anti-nuke network in the Asia-Pacific region. The conference ended with a decision to hold the next CONFAP meeting in Malaysia in 1989.

CONFAP passed the following resolution on the Plutonium Transport Plan

On November 4 last year, Japan and the United States signed a new U.S.-Japan Nuclear Power Cooperation Agreement. The new agreement permits Japan to transport its plutonium from reprocessing plants in France and Britain back to Japan by air. The plutonium cargo will be flown from Europe, possibly by using a non-stop polar route to Japan. As much as 250 kg of plutonium will be shipped once every two weeks.

In view of the extreme toxicity of plutonium as well as the frequency of airplane accidents, the shipment plan poses enormous risks not only to Japanese people but to people all over the world. One leakage accident can cause a lethal hazard to hundreds of thousands of people.

We, gathering here in the hope of creating a nuclear-free Asia and Pacific, are gravely concerned over the danger involved in this transport of plutonium and thus demand that the governments of Japan, U.S., France and the United Kingdom abandon it immediately. □

International Uranium Congress

The First International Uranium Congress was held in Saskatchewan, Canada, from June 16 to 21. The aim of the Congress was to exchange information among anti-uranium and anti-nuclear groups, and to set up a worldwide network to stop uranium mining - the first stage of the nuclear fuel and weapons cycle. Among the 200 participants, about a dozen people were from Europe and from Japan, where uranium from Saskatchewan has been exported. Two aborigines from Australia and several native people from the United States and the Northwest Territories of Canada also attended. These people are also facing the problems related to uranium mining at home.

Canada has been the world's number 1 producer and exporter of uranium since 1984. At present there are three mines in Northern Saskatchewan, which accounts for about 75% of Canada's uranium production.

Saskatchewan has the potential to become the Persian Gulf of uranium, since grade of its deposits is unusually high. And the heavy involvement of the Saskatchewan government as well as the federal Canadian government in the mining development also helps the whole operation to get into full gear. The weak public opposition is another factor making Saskatchewan the most important production site for the global uranium industry. Although the demand for uranium and its price have been low for the last several years, four new mine projects have just received approval from the Saskatchewan government. These will threaten native peoples and cause further damage to the natural environment in the North, which has already been badly affected by thirty years of mining operations.

One of these new mines, Cigar



Lake, is the world's richest uranium deposit and has an average grade of 12%, and 40% to 60% in hot spots! This compares to ore of a 0.5% to 2% grade in most other uranium mines in the world.

The three others will pose an even larger pollution risk, since they will be the first open-pit mines to be constructed and operated several hundred yards out into a major water body, Wollaston Lake.

Adele Ratt, a native Cree Indian woman from Northern Saskatchewan, condemned the Saskatchewan government, saying, "the government has given permission to mine uranium in Wollaston Lake in the knowledge that it will pollute our drinking water and lead to the genocide of our people!"

Lil Sanderson, another Cree woman from the North, described the drastic change in their way of life over the last fifteen years. "I used to live traditionally with my family up until I was ten. We survived by fishing, hunting, trapping, and gardening and were fully self-sufficient. Then foreigners started to come up, proposed mining and other development, and promised us jobs. Now I find among our people alcohol and drug abuse, family violence, physical and sexual abuse, and suicide. We've lost self-dignity as well as our culture and language."

Participants exchanged information and filled each other in on many important facts and data. They also discussed how to coordinate their work to end uranium mining and agreed to set up an international network for the purpose. They were determined to work hard. "Keep uranium in the ground!" □

Citizens Say "No" to Nuclear Power at 3-day Rally in Noto

Hundreds of concerned people participated in a "June Great Rally" from June 10-12, held in Toyama and Ishikawa Prefectures, to oppose the construction of the Noto Nuclear Power Plant by the Hokuriku Electric Power Company. Organized by a coalition of several citizen's groups in the area, the rally protested plans to build Hokuriku Electric's first nuke plant at Akazumi, Shika town, in the Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture. The company is expected to obtain the final go-ahead from MITI in the near future, with construction to start as early as December 1988. The Ishikawa Prefectural Government has been vigorously promoting the scheme.

The rally drew over 400 people from various parts of Japan. The area around the company's headquarters was crowded with people carrying banners. They demanded that the company enter into a dialogue with the public on the Noto issue, and consequently, 15 rally participants were allowed to meet with company officials inside the building.

During the 90-minute meeting, representatives of the citizens' movement pointed out that the company had neglected safety considerations in its promotion of the Noto scheme. It had been leveling the site although the plant had not yet been officially authorized, and it had distributed large sums of money to influential residents of Akazumi in order to gain support for the nuclear project. The company insisted that it had proceeded in accordance with the law and that Japanese nuclear power plants were equipped with "multi-safeguard systems," and therefore safe, unlike the plants at Three Mile Island and Chernobyl.

Representatives of the rally handed over a petition containing

the signatures of 102,440 citizens opposing the Noto plant, but the company refused to sign a note acknowledging receipt of the petition. During the meeting, some of the participants held a sit-in in front of the gate of the headquarters building, and police attempted to dislodge them.

On the morning of the 11th, three prefectural government officials in charge of the Noto Nuclear Plant Scheme agreed to meet with a limited number of rally organizers. Refusing to provide any meaningful response to various questions raised by the representatives, these officials tried to close the meeting, saying that the time was up.

On the 12th, an inauguration ceremony was conducted in Akazumi for a Tower built by movement members to symbolize the people's opposition to nuclear power in Noto. Participants in the rally climbed up the tower and reconfirmed their commitment to halt the Noto Scheme.

(Masami Saito, CWAN)

CWAN Concerned Women's Association of Noto

CWAN is an independent organization consisting of women who believe that the Noto Nuclear Power Plant will contribute to the worldwide hazard of transporting radioactive substances. Bearing in mind the global implications of the Noto Scheme, we members of CWAN have been distributing documents in English among our foreign friends, informing them about the scheme and asking them to send letters expressing their opposition to Hokuriku Electric Power Company, and to the prefectural government of Ishikawa.

Masami Saito, Representative of CWAN, Kanebo-machi 7-9, Takaoka City, Toyama Prefecture, Japan 933.□

ANTI-NUKE GROUPS ACTIVE AROUND JAPAN

Kashiwazaki Anti-Nuke Alliance

Kashiwazaki is a city of 80,000 people in Niigata Prefecture 250km northwest of Tokyo on the Japan Sea coast.

In 1969 the Tokyo Electric Power Company announced its plan to build a third nuclear power station in the area of Kashiwazaki and Kariwa. (Its first and second nuclear plants are in Fukushima Prefecture on the Pacific coast.)

Some 80,000 people live within a 10km radius of the plant and 300,000 within a 30km radius.

Its planned capacity is 8,212MW - five 1,100 MW reactors and two 1,356MW reactors.

Immediately after the plan was revealed, people near the site started to protest against it. However, the national and local governments passed a series of laws enabling them to grant massive subsidies to the company. The police force suppressed the protest unlawfully, and the company was able to go ahead with construction.

The No.1 reactor has now been in operation for three years, four more reactors are under construction, and a further two are planned.

Serious problems have been caused by the construction and operation of the reactors. For instance in Kariwa, a small community of only 5,000 people, the water supply is endangered by the large number of construction workers engaged in the project.

Tokyo Electric Power Company eventually intends to channel excess water from the Shinano River system into the Tone River system which supplies water to the Tokyo region. It aims to accomplish this by

building a series of dams and pumping water up to them using night time surplus power from the Kashiwazaki nuclear reactors.

The dams will connect with a 84 km-long water tunnel between Niigata Prefecture and the Kanto Area (Tokyo-city and its vicinity). Tokyo Electric says this project will solve the summertime water shortage in the Kanto Area. The construction costs will be covered by the water rates paid by people in the Kanto Area.

This scheme has been devised to cope with the surplus of electricity produced by the Kashiwazaki nuclear plant and will cause further environmental destruction and drastic changes in the landscape. We are strongly opposed to the plan and it is also being fought by national nature conservation groups and the water conservation group in Tokyo.

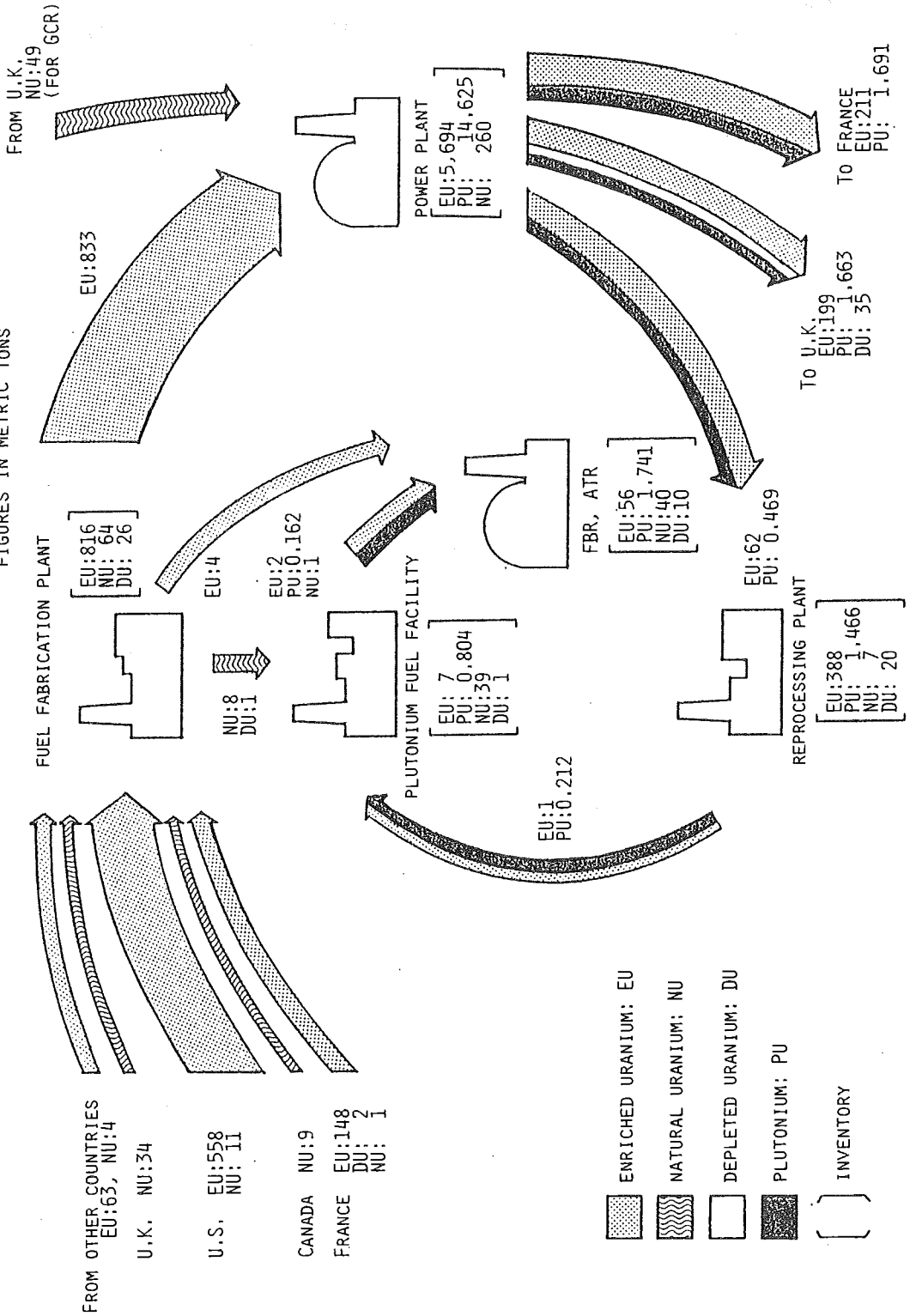
The anti-nuke movement in Niigata has formed a coalition with the nature conservation movement in Tokyo and the rest of Japan.

Besides our group in Kashiwazaki, two other anti-nuke groups have recently been formed in Niigata Prefecture, one in Niigata City, 80km north of Kashiwazaki, and one in Nagaoka, 20km east of Kashiwazaki.

We hope to cooperate with these groups to strengthen our fight against the Kashiwazaki nuclear power station. □

NUCLEAR FUEL FLOW IN JAPAN (1987)

FIGURES IN METRIC TONS





Expansions and Thinning of Control Rod Cladding Observed

During recent periodic inspections of pressurized water reactors, problems were found in every control rod cluster inspected. The tips of the control rods had expanded and the cladding had thinned. These problems were found in Takahama 2 and Ikata 1 reactors in March, then in Ohi 1 on June 23. Some of the cladding was so thin that the rods were almost exposed.

In addition, in Ohi 1, 18 of the 58 guide tubes of the neutron flux detector were found to have thinned. Four of these tubes were worn down to as little as 30% of their original thickness and another four to 50%.

Hikigawa Elects Anti-Nuke Mayor

Mr. Shigeo Mikura, standing on a platform of opposition to the proposed nuclear power plant, won the July 3 mayoral election at Hikigawa, Wakayama Prefecture, defeating the incumbent pro-nuke mayor. All seven of the opposition candidates were elected to the 16-seat town council. It was only recently, on March 30, that the Hidaka fishermen's cooperative in the same prefecture passed a resolution of non-cooperation with the nuclear power plant project. Thus, Kansai Electric Power Co. has been thwarted in its attempt to set up a nuclear plant in Wakayama Prefec-

ture.

The driving force behind the election of an anti-nuke mayor was women. Members of the Hikigawa "Women's Group to Protect Our Home Town" were very active in the election campaign and received warm support from women all over the country.

Primary Coolant Leaks at Genkai

On June 6, an increase in containment sump water was observed during the initial stage of reoperation following the annual inspection of the Genkai 1 nuclear power plant and the reactor was shut down manually.

According to the preliminary investigation by the Kyushu Electric Power Company, the leak was through a 2mm long crack in a weld in the residual heat removal system piping. As much as 1,100 liters of radioactive primary coolant had leaked. Rather unusually, the company announced it would conduct a thorough 70 day-long investigation and carry out repair work after removing fuel from the core.

What has focused public attention on the incident is that it occurred soon after the end of the periodic inspection, suggesting that the inspection failed to find any evidence of the incipient crack.

Bolt Damage Found in PWRs

On June 1, the Agency of Natural Resources and Energy issued a directive requiring nuclear power companies to replace certain bolts used in PWR (pressurized water

reactor) primary coolant pumps. The bolt at issue is a stainless steel bolt, 260mm long and 38mm in diameter, used to fix the outlet blades of the primary coolant pumps of PWRs. 23 to 24 bolts are used in each pump.

During the annual inspection of Ohi 1 this March, 20 bolts were found to have developed cracks. Subsequently, similar bolt damage was detected during the inspections of three other PWRs. The percentage of damaged bolts was 88, 85, 85, 75, 56 and 44% respectively for Genkai 1, Mihama 3, Takahama 1, Ohi 1, Genkai 2 and Ikata 2.

The cracks develop from just under the bolt head, extend downwards as much as 98mm and are up to 12mm deep. According to the Agency, the cracks are caused by clamping of the bolts in fitting the blades, which, coupled with high primary coolant pressure and the weight of the blades, has accelerated stress corrosion of the bolts.

The Kansai Electric Power Company, which operates 9 PWRs, claims that Westinghouse is responsible for the inadequate clamping design. However, Japanese power companies are also to blame because they were not aware of the possibility of damage until informed by Westinghouse of similar bolt damage in PWRs in other countries. If the damaged bolts continued to be used, they would soon disintegrate completely and the broken pieces might possibly enter the reactor core. Also, the blade fixed by the bolts

could become, in the worst case, detached from the pump body, which could lead to the destruction of the pump itself.

All the bolts in the above-mentioned four plants have been replaced with new bolts of improved quality applying reduced clamping force. But old bolts, which may have sustained similar damage, are still used in other PWRs and are to be replaced only at the next or subsequent inspection.

Helicopter Crash Near Nuke Plant

On June 25, a CH-53 U.S. Marine helicopter crashed and burned up on a hillside orange orchard, only 1 kilometer away from the Ikata nuclear power plant in Ehime Prefecture. The plant is operated by Shikoku Electric Power Co., Ltd, and has two 566MW PWR reactors. Though the neighboring towns Honai and Misaki have experienced emergency landings of U.S. helicopters, this is the first case of a crash in the vicinity of the plant. Residents shudder at the thought of what might have happened if it had hit the plant itself.

The containment of the reactor is made of stainless steel and its ceiling is no more than 19mm thick. The turbine building and the auxiliary building are even more weakly constructed, making them more vulnerable to an accidental crash. □

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NUKE INFO TOKYO is a bi-monthly newsletter which aims to provide foreign friends with up-to-date information on the Japanese nuclear industry, as well as on the movements against this industry in Japan. Please write to us for subscription (subscription rate: \$60/year, \$10/year for individuals). We would also appreciate receiving information and newsletters from groups abroad in exchange for this newsletter.

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Hangenpatsu News