

NUKE INFO TOKYO

Sept./Oct. 1988

No. 7

☞ Citizens' Nuclear Information Center

3F Watanabe Bldg., Higashiueno 2-23-22, Taito-ku, Tokyo 110, JAPAN

Phone: 03-832-1976, Facsimile: 03-832-4930

Vote No! Stop Tomari!

Hokkaido Citizens' Group to Freeze
Construction of Tomari Power Station

Toward the end of July, 115.8kg of nuclear fuel was brought in to feed the Tomari 1 Nuclear Reactor amid stiff opposition from anti-nuclear protestors. Test operation of Tomari 1 is scheduled to begin in October.

Various groups have attempted to halt the construction of the Tomari nuclear power stations, among them labor unions, anti-nuke citizens' groups, consumers' unions and farmers' groups. These groups have been engaged in intensive discussion since last summer and have now formed a new movement which aims to deal a decisive blow to the nuclear industry. We intend to demand that



Protestors climb up the wall on
the plant site

IN THIS ISSUE

Opposition to Fuel Rod Unloading	2
Mass Suit against Fuel Cycle	3
Contaminated Food Imports	5
Anti-Nuke Who's Who	6
Anti-Nuke "Boom"	7
Data: Exposure & Radwaste in 1987	8
NEWS WATCH:	9
Radioactivity in Uranium Waste/ FBR Plan/Leak at Takahama 2/Nu- clear Accident Compensation Law/ Two More Reactors Approved/Group Asks Court to Block Tomari	

the Hokkaido Parliament establish a new law to allow a referendum among Hokkaido citizens on the desirability of nuclear power generation. Tomari Genpatsu Toketsu! Domin no Kai (Hokkaido Citizens' Group to Freeze the Construction of Tomari Nuclear Reactors) was formed to work for the realization of this referendum.

Continued on pages 5 & 7

Strong Opposition to Unloading of Fuel Rod at Tomari

On July 21 nuclear fuel rods were unloaded at the Tomari nuclear power station, the first plant to be completed at a new site in Japan since the Chernobyl accident in April 1986, and the first of its kind in Hokkaido.

The construction of the Tamori plant, which had been given the go-ahead in 1969, started in 1984. The output of each of its two reactors is to be 579Mw, and the fuel rods were for the completed No.1 reactor. They had been shipped in defiance of strong opposition not only from residents of Hokkaido but also from people elsewhere in Japan who are worried about nuclear power generation and feel nuclear plants are unnecessary.

As early as the previous day, July 20, protesters began to gather at the site. They numbered about 2,000 by the early morning of July 21, when the Noto-maru with the rods on board appeared off the private port. There were a variety of protest actions including meetings and anti-nuke-kite-flying. Here I would like to report two of these actions.

First at 4:00am a group of citizens left the shore of a neighboring bathing beach aboard eight dinghies. The boats were only big enough for one or two people. But they carried a big nobori (banner) with words to express their opposition and got cheers from the people on the beach. The boats had no engines and had to be laboriously rowed out to sea, which made them a peaceful sight. The effect was a bit Quixotic when they failed to stop the Noto-maru, escorted by ten patrol boats of the Maritime Safety Agency. But this was the first ever demonstration of its kind other than those by fishermen. For this reason I think it was an epoch-making and significant event as well as a show of strength by our movement.

This action took some courage as people were washed by the waves and risked being carried out to sea. One demonstrator, back on the beach exhausted said with a mixture of frustration and satisfaction, "At least I've managed to express my feelings about nuclear power!" That's all that matters!

Around 6:00p.m. protesters climbed up the concrete wall, three or four meters high, and some twenty people sat down on the plant site. They went for the weakest point on the perimeter of the site while the guards were all busy defending the gate.

Demonstrations take many forms according to the time and place, but I think these two actions are examples of effective, non-violent, direct action. And they have encouraged people involved in the anti-nuclear movement all over the country and made a great contribution to future abolition of nuclear power plants.

Ms. Naoko Nozawa



Getting ready to go out to sea

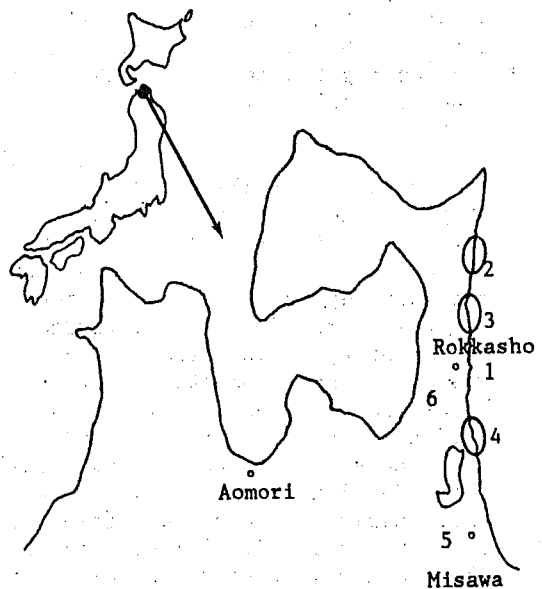
Mass Suit against Nuclear Fuel Cycle Facilities

On August 6 we organized the "Group of Ten Thousand Plaintiffs for the Lawsuit to Stop the Nuclear Fuel Cycle." This is because it looks as though approval will soon be granted for the construction of a uranium enrichment plant that Japan Nuclear Fuel Industries, Inc. (JNFI) applied for last May.

About four years ago the Federation of Electric Power Companies (FEPC), which comprises Japan's nine electric power companies, asked to locate the nuclear fuel cycle facilities in a village called Rokkasho Mura in Aomori Prefecture. Many of Aomori's citizens, laborers, farmers, and fishermen initiated an opposition movement in order to protect the lives of their families and descendents, as well as the abundant natural environment of their homeland, from radioactivity. They acted thus from the fear that the nuclear fuel facilities - in particular the reprocessing plant and the high-level nuclear waste storage facility, for which safe technologies have yet to be developed anywhere in the world - would be Japan's first such commercial facilities, and because the final repository for low-level nuclear wastes and the uranium enrichment plant would be located in the same place.

In addition, Rokkasho Mura is quite inappropriate as a location for nuclear power facilities. Needless to say, "nuclear garbage dumps" and reprocessing plants should be built neither in Rokkasho Mura nor anywhere else, but the natural and social environments of Rokkasho Mura make for a particularly poor site. For example, the ground at the construction site is soft, and geologically has a high water permeability. In the vicinity

there is an active fault which can trigger earthquakes, with as many as 45 earthquakes of magnitude 6 or more on the Richter scale occurring just since the end of the Meiji Era (1912). Moreover, located nearby are Misawa Air Base - said to be the hub of the Far East - as well as a firing and bombing range, with frequent flights of military aircraft in the area. The results of a study on this matter were exposed, and showed that aircraft overflights of the site numbered approximately



1. Nuclear Fuel Cycle Complex
2. Ballistic Test Range (Self Defense Forces)
3. Surface to Air Firing Range (Self Defense Forces)
4. Air to Surface Firing Range (US Air Force)
5. Air Force Base (USAF and SDFJ)
6. Petroleum Complex

43,000 in 1987, and this made prefectural residents to shudder with fear. To date, there have been about 60 crashes and forced landings of military aircraft in the vicinity of the construction site, and nearly 80 misfirings on bombing runs. Destruction of the nuclear fuel cycle facilities by the crash of military aircraft is not just a possibility, but an actual problem to be dealt with, and one would therefore have to say that the probability of an accident is extremely high. Should an accident occur, it would be a catastrophe for not only Aomori Prefecture, but for the entire earth. Could anyone believe that there is in fact such a dangerous plan?

Because of these dangers, prefectural residents have expressed much insecurity and raised many doubts, but the governor agreed to locating the facilities there after considering the matter for the short space of only eight and one-half months.

In response to this, the fishermen of Rokkasho Mura have staged a continuing life-and-death battle to stop the ocean surveys. Mothers joined the opposition because they do not want to impart to their children an environment contaminated with deadly nuclear wastes. Environmental organizations, as well as organizations of scientists and lawyers, pointed out the dangers of the nuclear fuel cycle facilities and sounded warnings against locating them in Rokkasho Mura. It was only recently that farmers, under the slogan "The nuclear fuel cycle facilities are all harm and no good for agriculture," presented the governor with approximately 150,000 opposing signatures, thereby shocking him, for he had firmly believed until then that the farmers were the very foundation of his support. Consumers' organization also collected signatures from 60,000 opposing citizens. In addition, housewives were instrumental in collecting about 400,000 "Stop the Nuclear Fuel

Cycle Facilities" signatures from all over the country.

In spite of all this opposition, the national government issued permission for the uranium enrichment facility on August 10. Next year permission will be given for the low-level disposal facility, and this autumn will see the application for permission to build the reprocessing plant - that facility which we fear most.

Due to these circumstances we made the decision to stop the nuclear fuel cycle facilities plan of the national government and the companies in court, and to thoroughly question the danger and criminality of the plan. Although the suit will involve long years and many difficulties, we have chosen to stop the plan in court.

The group of plaintiffs is a citizens' movement in which people participates as individuals, and is not subject to any certain controlling ideology. The fundamental policy is that this movement, based on the perception that nuclear power plants must be immediately shut down, and that new construction must not be allowed, will constitute a vehicle which does not limit itself to the lawsuit, but sustains a broad-based struggle against nuclear fuel facilities and nuclear power. Also, since we believe that the nuclear fuel facility issue concerns not only Rokkasho Mura and Aomori Prefecture, we would like people from all over Japan to join as plaintiffs. And in consideration of the fact that the damage done by the nuclear fuel cycle facilities does not end with our generation, we would also like children to participate. Our target is "10,000 plaintiffs." We firmly believe that, when this goal has been met by those who care for life and the environment, construction of the nuclear fuel cycle facilities will have been stopped.

Koji Asaishi
(Lawyer for the Group
of Ten Thousand
Plaintiffs) □

Contaminated Food Imports Continue

On July 4 a cargo of beef extract arriving at Osaka port from Hong Kong was found during the radiation inspection by the Ministry of Health and Welfare to contain radioactive cesium above the Japanese regulation level set for imported food from Europe, and the cargo was shipped back. The regulation level is 370 Bq/kg or Bq/l for Cs-137 plus Cs-134. It was the eighth food item this year that had to be shipped back because of contamination due to the Chernobyl accident. (see table below)

This event has given rise to particular concern in that the contaminated food came not directly from Europe but from elsewhere in Asia. Contaminated raw beef was imported from Ireland to Hong Kong,

where it was processed into the beef extract product. Apparently, no contamination inspection was carried out in Hong Kong, nor was the news of Japan's refusal to import the product even reported.

According to the Citizen's Measurement Center for Contaminated Foods in Tokyo, contaminated foods continue to be imported. Their cesium concentrations are mostly in the 1 to 20 becquerel range, a level that gives cause for serious concern though much lower than the regulation level. Imported foods found to be contaminated include, in addition to those listed below, chocolate from various European countries, spaghetti from Italy and jams from East Europe. □

Imported Foods Contaminated above Regulation Level*

date	food	producer	Cs content (Bq/kg)
Jan. 20	mushroom	France	636
Feb. 15	dry herb	Yugoslavia	385
	herb tea	Romania	467
	mushroom	France	755
Jun. 2	dry herb	Yugoslavia	423
	dry herb	France	776
Jun. 14	sage	France	423
Jul. 4	beef ext.	Hong Kong	379
Sep. 5	sage	Greece	397

*370 Bq/kg or Bq/l

VOTE NO! STOP TOMARI!

Continued from page 1

There have been other movements in Japan demanding referenda on plans to construct nuclear power stations. Ours is unprecedented,

however, in demanding that the government respect people's opinions regarding nuclear power stations already under construction. The nuclear policy makers have until now ignored people's opinions. Awareness of the nuclear power issue has now grown so strong, however, that

Continued on page 7

Anti-Nuke Who's Who



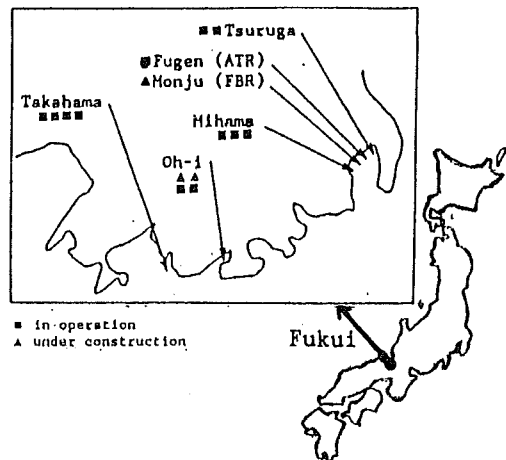
Ms. Miwako Ogiso of Fukui

Miwako Ogiso is a longtime activist in Fukui, where one of the two largest Japanese nuclear power stations is located. There are twelve reactors in operation in this area and three more are under construction. When the first reactor went into operation in 1970, Miwako was living in the neighboring prefecture and knew very little about the danger of nuclear power. Then came the incident at Mihama 1 involving tube defects. Miwako accompanied an investigating team organized by the Japan Socialist Party and became quite concerned, since the explanation given by the utility officials was not at all clear. She realized that nuclear technology wasn't anything like the advanced scientific wizardry it claimed to be.

More reactors continued to be built, and an anti-nuclear power group was formed in 1976. Miwako has been the director of this organization, The League of Fukui Citizens, since the beginning. The League is mainly based on workers unions and has about 40,000 members. In the late '70s the utility companies started to have difficulty obtaining new locations for nuclear power stations since Japanese people

in general had become more aware of the problems they created. What the companies did then was to install more reactors on existing sites. And Fukui was one of them. So the League campaigned against the installation of any further reactors in Fukui. In spite of their struggles, however, Fukui has been chosen as a site for special types of reactors such as the fast breeder and the advanced thermal reactor. A prototype FBR, Monju is now under construction and concerned people in Fukui took the case to court in April, 1986. They sued the Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Co. (PNC) and tried to have the court halt construction. Monju is fueled by plutonium, so a whole nuclear fuel cycle has to be established, posing even greater dangers. Miwako is hoping to turn this trial into a forum where the general public can debate the nuclear fuel cycle as well as the FBR itself.

Through her long years of campaigning Miwako has found that nuclear power stations not only pollute the environment but also destroy relationships among people in the community. She feels saddened to see how people have been divided and turned against each other. Nuclear power stations have destroyed the sense of community and belonging to the land which people used to feel. She sincerely hopes that no other community in Japan will become like Fukui. □



The Recent Anti-Nuke "Boom"

The nuclear power issue has recently drawn an unprecedented amount of attention in Japan. More than ten new books on the issue were published in the two-month period of July and August. Television, newspapers and magazines have carried news on the nuclear power issue and a number of letters from readers have appeared in the papers. Some of the magazines running stories on nuclear power, such as women's magazines, had never touched the issue before.

Recently Toshiba Co. cancelled the release of a new record by RC Succession, one of the most popular Japanese rock groups, giving no specific reasons. The record had a strong anti-nuclear message and Toshiba is known to have been heavily involved in the manufacture of nuclear reactors. Hence it was clear to everyone that the company had blocked its release because of its anti-nuclear content and this caused Toshiba some embarrassment.

Hirose Takashi, a novelist who has sold more than 300,000 copies of his anti-nuclear book, "A Dangerous Story," has been heavily criticized by the pro-nuclear power lobby as being unscientific.

These incidents have fueled the controversy and drawn even more attention to the anti-nuclear movement.

Recent events indicate just how wide a range of people has become concerned with the nuclear issue. The contamination of food with radiation from the Chernobyl accident has brought it home to large numbers of new people worried about the possibility of the same type of accident occurring in Japan.

The utility companies and the government have refused to listen to what the anti-nuclear people are

Continued on page 10

VOTE NO! STOP TOMARI!

Continued from page 5
people's opinions can no longer be dismissed so lightly.

TMI and Chernobyl had a tremendous effect on public opinion. In Hokkaido also, people are not as docile as they were years ago when the Tomari plan was approved.

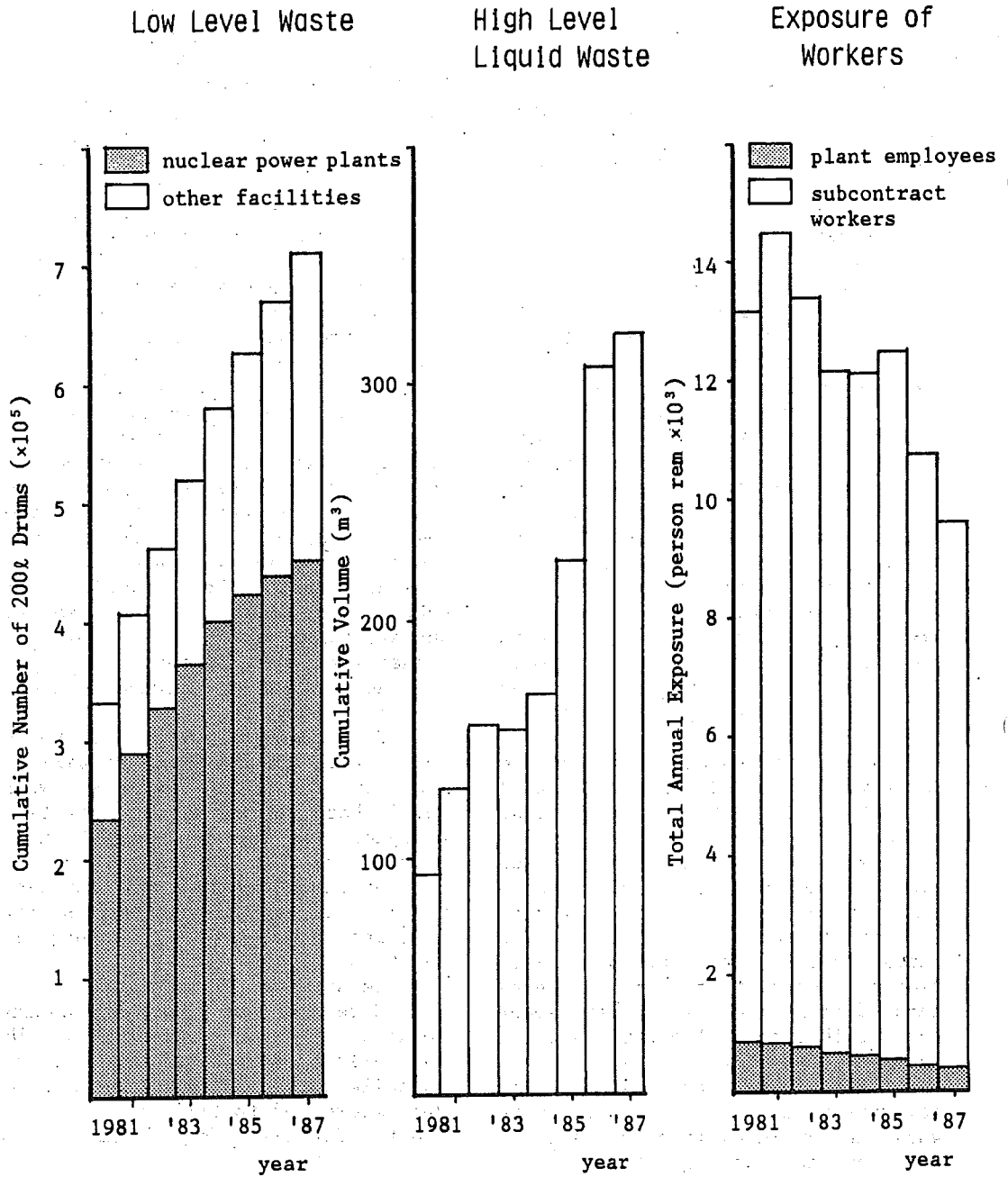
It is no exaggeration to say that the Tomari Nuclear Power Stations pose a grave threat to the future of Hokkaido as a food supplier. The citizens of Hokkaido should be given a chance to decide their own future. The result of the referendum must be formally delivered by the Governor of Hokkaido to the power company and the national government. Since we have been denied any legal recourse to stop Tomari, the only option left open to us is to redefine the legality of the issue by political means.

Since the referendum is not expected to bring an immediate halt to the construction or operation of the plants, our petition has been criticized as being nothing more than an opinion poll on nuclear power. We believe, however, by showing that the majority of Hokkaido citizens are opposed to nuclear power we will be able to corner the power company and leave them no choice but to abandon their nuclear policy.

Considering the fact that we do not have enough delegates in parliament on our side, we must work really hard to have our petition accepted. We believe, though, that if we succeed in collecting over one million signatures for the petition within the coming two months the political atmosphere will change in our favor.

We started our movement on July 25. More and more people are coming to help us collect signatures. We have printed enough petition sheets to collect two million names and we are determined to fill up every last sheet! For life, for our future! □

Data: Workers' Exposure & Radwaste in 1987





High Radioactivity Detected in Uranium Soil Waste

Uranium ore was mined at Ningyo Toge in Okayama Prefecture from 1957 to 1972 and the soil excavated during the mining operations was disposed of at eight locales in Okayama and Tottori prefectures. A local newspaper revealed on August 15, however, that 0.1-0.6mR/h of radioactivity had been detected in the soil. Uranium mining at Ningyo Toge was carried out by the Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp. (PNC) and, since PNC has been active in uranium mining overseas, it is feared that soil wastes there have also been carelessly handled.

New FBR Development Plan

On August 25 the Nuclear Safety Commission's Specialist Committee on FBR Development submitted a report to the commission on a future FBR development plan. According to the report, construction of a demonstration reactor is scheduled to begin in the late 1990s, with its basic specifications to be determined by 1990. However, since the location has yet to be decided, and the utilities are reluctant to finance construction, the plan is widely considered to be nothing more than a pipedream.

Radioactivity Leak at Takahama 2

A leakage of radioactivity occurred on August 17 at Kansai Electric Power Co.'s Takahama 2 nuclear power plant (PWR, 826MW), in Fukui Prefecture, when primary cooling water leaked into the secondary cooling water due to cracks developing in the small tubes of one of the three steam generators. The leakage caused radioactive gas to be released into the air through the stacks, (according to Kansai Electric less than one millicurie of radioactivity was released), and the reactor was shut down manually. Since the reactor went through a regular inspection only in March 1988, the incident has called the regular inspection procedure into question.

Nuclear Accident Compensation Law to Be Reviewed

The Atomic Energy Commission decided on August 2 to establish a working committee to study the system of compensation for nuclear power-related damages. At present the maximum indemnity for a nuclear accident is 10 billion yen, and the government is obliged to assist with compensation in excess of this amount by means of a grant-in-aid or low-interest loan. The provision of governmental assistance is supposed to be a temporary measure up to the end of December 1999. The extension of this provision and an increase in the maximum indemnity are therefore major problems for the special committee to discuss.

Government Approves Construction of Two More Reactors

The Minister of International Trade and Industry approved construction of two new reactors in August. Approval was granted Hamaoka No.4 reactor (BWR, 1,137MW) on August 10, and Noto No.1 reactor (BWR, 540MW), shortly afterwards. Noto No.1 was first proposed 21 years ago, indicating the strength of local opposition. This was the first approval of a No.1 reactor since the Chernobyl accident.

Group Asks Court to Block Tomari Nuclear Plant

A group of 1,152 citizens filed a suit on August 31 against Hokkaido Electric Power Co. in the Sapporo district court. The plaintiffs are seeking a court order to stop further construction of a nuclear power plant in Tomari, Hokkaido, and its scheduled operation in October.

The plaintiffs, although mostly local residents, are "representatives" selected from about 50,000 people throughout Japan registered to support the suit. They plan to proceed with the suit without counsel but as principals, and are

demanding a mammoth court capable of accommodating the more than 1,000 plaintiffs. □

ANTI-NUKE "BOOM"

Continued from page 7
saying and continue to hype nuclear power. They have refused to publish accident data and the information they finally did put out had crucial data erased. They are also spending millions of dollars putting regular ads in the papers and on TV. This attitude seems to have made people even more skeptical of the safety of nuclear power.

The media have responded to all this activity with the label "anti-nuclear boom." Although the anti-nuclear power movement has grown to the dimensions of a "boom," problems do exist. The possibility of huge accidents like Chernobyl is talked about a bit too sensationally. Some people in the anti-nuclear power movement are utterly preoccupied with the possibility of accidents and seem oblivious to the wider social and political implications.

What is needed now is to develop this anti-nuclear "boom" into a more solid and deep-rooted movement which addresses not only the danger of accidents and radiation but also the energy and environmental aspects of the issue.

(K)

*

*

*

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: supporting subscriber \$40/year, subscriber \$20/year). We would also appreciate receiving information and newsletters from groups abroad in exchange for this newsletter.

NUKE INFO TOKYO Publishing Committee
c/o Citizens' Nuclear Information Center
3F Watanabe Bldg., Higashiueno 2-23-22,
Taito-ku, Tokyo 110, JAPAN,
Phone: 03-832-1976,
Facsimile: 03-832-4930
Bank Account: Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank 089-1080344
Hangenpatsu News