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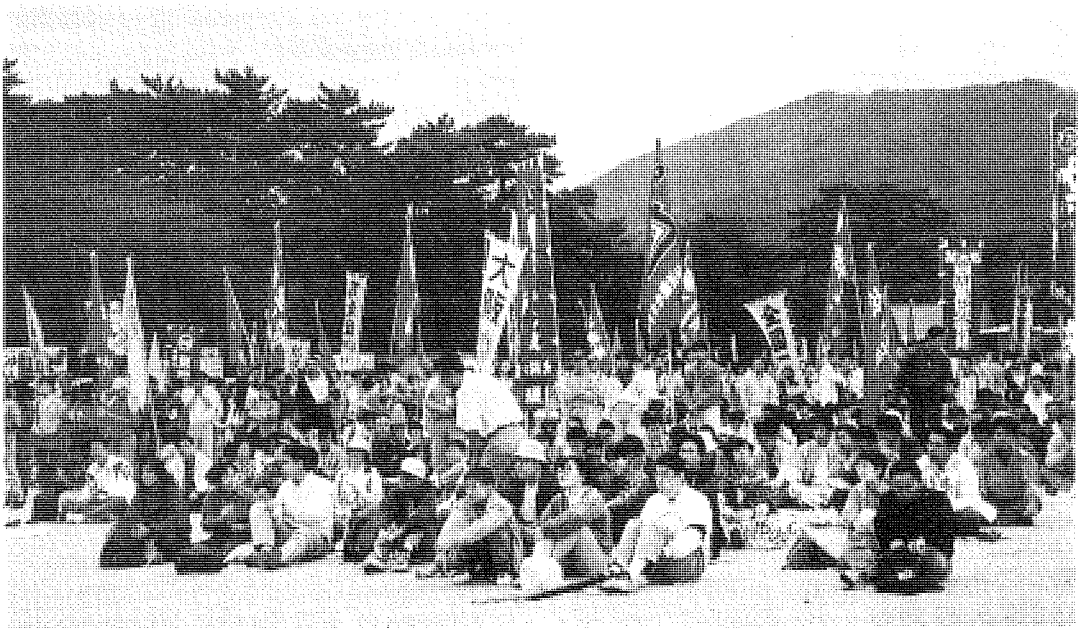
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Stop MONJU Nationwide Rally



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A nationwide rally against the FBR Monju was held on October 3 at Tsuruga, Fukui prefecture, where Monju is sited. About 5,000 people came from across the nation, and demonstrated throughout the city. Mr. Kim from Korea came to speak on behalf of all the Asian countries, and more than 70 messages of solidarity were received from 14 countries, most of them from France, UK, Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, and Germany.

N-Weapons Used As Bargaining Chips in Asia

The Chinese government released a statement on October 5 in which it acknowledged that it had on that day conducted a nuclear test for the first time in a year. At the same time, the announcement called upon governments to sign a total nuclear test ban treaty no later than 1996, and said China would conduct no further tests after the treaty was signed and took effect. Still, China's defiance of international public opinion in going through with the test will induce other nuclear powers to reevaluate their test freezes, and incite other Asian countries to develop nuclear weapons. It is hoped that China will not conduct any more tests.

In Pakistan on October 20 Prime Minister Bhutto, who has regained power after three years, made the following statement in a speech on state-run television: "We shall stand by our peaceful nuclear plan, and shall not let anyone harm our national interests." Owing to a confrontational relationship with India, which has nuclear power plants and reprocessing plants, and conducted a nuclear test in May 1974, Pakistan is developing nuclear power that involves military use. Because Pakistan is not a signatory to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, it cannot obtain cooperation from other countries and its development program is far behind schedule, but a decision has been made to import the country's second nuclear plant from China, and work began on August 1. Pakistan's effort to bring in a reprocessing plant from France has miscarried. But the country has bought parts from here and there around the globe to build its uranium enrichment plant.

Amid suspicions that North Korea was developing nuclear weapons, meanwhile, resolutions pressuring the country to allow

nuclear inspections were adopted by the IAEA on October 1 and the UN General Assembly on November 1. IAEA secretary-general Hans Blix says, "We cannot be sure that North Korea is extracting nuclear material for nuclear weapons, but the country is limiting inspections and we are less sure of what's going on," and said that negotiations would continue. In response to this, North Korea says, "If there is some kind of progress in discussions with the United States, we are prepared to consider resuming inspections." While care must be taken internationally not to drive North Korea into a corner, North Korea should not use the acceptance of inspections as a political bargaining chip.

Whether it be China, Pakistan, or North Korea, the tendency to use nuclear weapons as a political bargaining chip has engendered a mounting zeal for nuclear weapons development and led to tensions in Asia. Another exacerbating factor is the reactor sales pitches being made to Asian nations by Western and Japanese nuclear reactor makers, who now have no hope of new orders in their own countries, as well as by Russia and China.

On September 2 Indonesia's Nuclear Power Agency announced that in early 1995 it will accept bids for the Muria nuclear power project, for which Japan's New Japan Engineering Consultants, Inc. (NEWJEC) is now conducting a feasibility study. Japan and Western countries intend to bid on this project. Although Thailand is still at the stage of a preliminary feasibility study, Japanese makers are trying to get a foot in the door by selling research reactors.

Plutonium Inventory Disclosed

Japan's Plutonium Surplus Increasing

In reply to written questions submitted by T. Akiba, a member of the House of Representatives, the government made public on October 1 the cumulative plutonium supply and demand figures, some of which had not hitherto been accessible to the public. This disclosure can be regarded as reflecting the change in the government's policy concerning freedom of information. The disclosed data, however, contained some ambiguities, which have subsequently been made clear by oral answers to questions we put to the STA (Science and Technology Agency).

All the plutonium inventory data the government has made available to CNIC are compiled in the table on the next page, which, we believe, is the first of its kind to be drawn up in Japan. The new data eliminates some of the previous ambiguities surrounding Japan's plutonium supply and demand, but gives rise to new doubts and concerns, which are summarized below.

1. Japan's plutonium surplus is significant and going to increase further.

As of the end of 1992, Japan's plutonium surplus amounts to 4.5 t (all plutonium figures are for plutonium fissile), of which 2.9 t is stockpiled in the U.K. and France. Of the 1.6 t stockpiled in Japan 1.06 t is attributed to the plutonium transported from France on board the Akatsuki-maru. This surplus is sure to increase during the coming years as the reprocessing at La Hague and Tokai, and also probably at THORP, proceeds, and despite claims of "urgency" made by PNC last year for the shipment of plutonium from France, there will be no essential need for the Akatsuki-maru plutonium until after the first reloading of Monju which is likely to take place in 1996.

2. Questioning of STA officials has

revealed the existence of an ongoing and very controversial plutonium transaction between the utilities and PNC (Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Development Corp). Of the 2.6 t plutonium which PNC has obtained from the utilities after reprocessing of spent fuel at Tokai, only 1.37 t has been purchased by PNC while the remaining 1.23 t has been "loaned free of charge." While this loaned plutonium has been and will continue to be consumed, STA explains that PNC is obligated under the terms of a contract between the two parties to return an equivalent amount of fissile plutonium to the utilities in the near future. This transaction appears very controversial from the point of plutonium management because no information has been made public concerning when and how this plutonium is to be returned. It is difficult to believe that PNC will be able to acquire enough plutonium from sources other than the utilities to return the "borrowed" amount in the near future.

3. The recovery of plutonium at reprocessing plants is unaccountably low, as indicated in the table. The reason for the low recovery has yet to be clarified.

4. While not indicated in the table, there is considerable fluctuation in the price at which PNC buys plutonium from the utilities. Whereas in earlier transactions, the price was higher than 6 million yen per kg Pu, it was less than 1 million yen in the latest transaction (Pu transported by Akatsuki-maru). This large fluctuation in the price, together with the fact that the utilities have loaned some plutonium to PNC free of charge, gives us the impression that plutonium dealings between the two parties are very random and irresponsible.

JAPAN'S CUMULATIVE

SPENT FUEL		Amt. Spent Fuel (t)		Puf Recovered (kg)	Pu Recovery (%)
		Sent	Re-processed		
From Utilities	To BNFL	3430 (GCR1130, THORP2300)	1100 (GCR)	1560	0.14
	To COGEMA	2340	770 (UP2:150, UP3:620)	3260	0.42
	To Tokai-mura	689	645	2840	0.44
From PNC	To Tokai-mura	26	26	80	0.31
From JAERI	To Tokai-mura	9	9	5(*4)	0.06
Purchased Overseas					
TOTAL 320		6494	2550	7745	0.30

* Compiled by CNIC (Citizens' Nuclear Information Center, Tokyo) based mainly on government written answers to Tadatoshi Akiba, Member, House of Representatives, Japanese Diet, with supplementary data supplied to CNIC by STA.

NOTE:

1. 320 kg from U.K., 5 kg from France, 60 kg from Germany, 100 kg from U.S.A.
2. Current Stockpile (March 31, 1993) is 4530 kg, of which 1630 kg is in Japan. Of this 1630 kg, 1470 kg belongs to PNC (of which 1060 kg is from the Akatsuki Maru shipment), and 160 kg to the electric utilities.

PLUTONIUM INVENTORY

(as of December 31, 1992)*

Electric Utilities Puf Stockpile (kg)	Puf Acquired by PNC (kg)	Portion of Puf Purchased by PNC (kg)	PNC Puf Stockpile (kg)	Cumulative Puf Consumed (kg)		Remarks	
				Power Reactors	R & D		
900 (in U.K.)	620	620	(Aka-tsuki Maru) 1060 Others 300	3200	Mox for Mihama 1 40		
2000 (in France)	1250	1250		Joyo 1100		10kg Decay Correction	
240	2600	1370		Monju 1100	Mox for Tsuruga 1 4(*3)	1230kg "loaned" to PNC from Utilities (*5)	
	85			Fugen 1000			
					180 (DCA, Mox etc.)		
					300 (mainly for FCA, LCA)		
	485(*1) (incl. JAERI's)	485 (incl. JAERI's)					
3140	5040 (incl. JAERI's)	3725 (incl. JAERI's)	1360	3724 (3680 + 44)		Total Stockpile (*2) 4500 (of which 2900 is in U.K. and France)	

3,4. Figures are generally rounded off to 10 kg but these figures are rounded off to the closest kilogram.

5. Figure calculated from verbal explanation given by STA.

JAERI: Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute, LCA: Light Water Critical Assembly, DCA: Deuterium Water Critical Assembly, Tokaimura: Tokaimura Reprocessing Plant, FCA: Fast Critical Assembly.

"From PA (Public Acceptance) to PD (Public Decision)"

"For technology to be utilized for the public benefit, it is very important that we, the general public, and not only the specialists, keep a close eye on the development and use of technology. What is even more important is to establish a system in which the general public can participate in the decision making process. We hope hereafter that both organizations, the Japan Atomic Industrial Forum and the Citizens' Nuclear Information Center which co-sponsored this symposium seek to move away from simply PA (public acceptance) of the industry towards PD (public decision)."

These were the closing remarks from the chairperson of the symposium, 'Why Plutonium Now?' held on September 25 in Osaka.

The symposium, the first of its kind in which pro and anti-nuclear sides got together and held an open debate, attracted great interest and more than 5,000 people applied for just 100 seats. More than 90% of the applications came from the government/industry side, and as a result most of the seats in the symposium hall were filled by them.

The symposium focused on 4 themes, each of which was addressed by panel speakers from both sides, followed by a discussion involving the audience. The themes were 1) Plutonium Utilization, 2) Can Plutonium Be Handled Safely? 3) Nuclear Fuel Recycling, and 4) Social Impacts of Plutonium Utilization.

Saburo Kikuchi of Power Reactor and Nuclear Fuel Corp (PNC) said plutonium would become a vital energy source for the next century when the world population will grow to 2 or 3 times its current level. In order to secure the necessary energy sources, it was essential to recycle plutonium in FBRs, due to safety, environment, and non-

proliferation considerations. Japan abided by the IAEA's inspection standards and had adopted technology to extract plutonium together with uranium, so that the plutonium bred in FBRs could not be used for weapons.

Jinzaburo Takagi, on the other hand, declared FBRs to be an unrealistic dream. To supply just 5% of Japan's energy needs would require 30 to 40 FBRs, 3 to 4 reprocessing plants for FBR spent fuel, and several MOX fuel fabricating plants. It would eventually bring plutonium development competition in the Asian region, and lead to nuclear proliferation.

He also indicated that more than 90% of the Japanese government's R&D budget is allocated to nuclear energy, with just a few percent for renewable energy sources. This would make it difficult for Japan to acquire various sources of energy and it would eventually lose its energy supply flexibility.

Keiji Kobayashi of Kyoto University elaborated on the dangers of FBRs, using Monju as an example.

Futaba Ono of Tokyo University followed by saying plutonium was dangerous but safety could be assured by learning more about its dangers and taking the necessary





safety precautions.

Mitsuhiro Yokote of Kansai Electric Company stressed the necessity of reprocessing and recycling plutonium. He admitted that reprocessing was more expensive than direct disposal, but said that recycling in general was expensive anyway. He also admitted that reprocessing would create more nuclear waste but said that this could either be recycled or disposed of properly.

Miwako Ogiso, general director of Fukui Prefecture People's Council Against Nuclear Power, criticized the government for limiting public access to information about nuclear materials. She cited the example of STA persuading local governments and utilities to withhold information on the transport of nuclear fuel, which had until then been made public under a safety agreement between the utilities and local governments. This was clearly a violation of people's right to know, she said. She quoted the survey conducted by Asahi Newspaper in September, which revealed that 65% of Fukui residents are against the operation of Monju. It showed how Japan's energy policy was formed without any public consensus. The Japanese people were never given enough information to fully discuss the issue or participate in the

decision making procedure, especially on the issue of the nuclear fuel cycle and plutonium utilization.

Both Kikuchi and Kazuhisa Mori, the executive managing director of JAIF, admitted that improvements should be made in the disclosure of information.

In the end the symposium closed with common agreement that 'public access to more information is vital to a democratic policy-making process.'

The symposium marked the first step toward citizen participation in the decision making process.

All the major newspapers as well as local papers in Fukui and Aomori prefectures gave the symposium wide coverage. All stressed that it was the FIRST time the advocates and opponents of nuclear power had sat down at the same table and talked. It clearly pointed out the lack of such a kind of debate to date in Japan, and how badly it is needed now. Local papers in Fukui and Aomori both asked for the next symposium to be held at local areas where Monju and the Rokkasho Nuclear Fuel Cycle Facilities are sited. Similar projects have already taken place on TVs and in newspapers since then.

ANTI-NUKE GROUPS ACTIVE AROUND JAPAN

No Nukes Asia Forum Japan

After the 1st No Nukes Asia Forum held in Japan last June (see NIT 36), we decided to continue exchanging information, to strengthen our solidarity, and to hold the next forum in '94 in South Korea and the 3rd in '95 in Taiwan. The country to host the next forum would publish a quarterly newsletter covering the latest nuclear issues in each nation.

The greatest advantage of the forum was that we were able to meet so many people and establish many good relationships. Since June there have been an increasing number of mutual exchange visits.

In September the executive committee of No Nukes Asia Forum Kansai visited Indonesia where a subsidiary of the Kansai Electric Power Company is doing a feasibility study for the nation's first nuclear power plant. We met a lot of people trying to build a movement to halt construction of the plant despite living under the harsh conditions of a military dictatorship. Many Indonesian NGOs joined forces to form a network this year. They have designated next year "anti-nuclear power year" and plan to take various actions.

Meanwhile in Taiwan, an urgent rally against the nation's 4th nuclear power plant

was held on September 29. Four people from our organization (Komura, Kawada, Yamane, and Sato) and Prof. Park Hyun-Seo of Korea participated. There is now a massive movement against construction of the plant (Taiwan's 7th and 8th reactors), headed by the Environment Protection League. The issue is also being debated extensively in Parliament. Meanwhile Mr. Wang Yui-Lin who took part in the Forum and 14 other residents of the Min-sei Mansion in Taipei which was contaminated with radioactivity (NIT No.36) came to Hiroshima to undergo a medical examination.

Anti-nuclear activists from South Korea, where there is a growing movement against the nation's nuclear waste storage facility often come to Japan to strengthen ties with Japanese activists in various parts of the country. Mr. Kim Won-Sik, from the executive committee of the No Nukes Asia Forum Korea, came to the nationwide rally against FBR Monju held on Oct. 3 in Tsuruga. He addressed the rally and once again made clear his deep concern over the possibility of Japan's nuclear militarization.

The name of our organization, the executive committee of No Nukes Asia Forum has been changed to No Nukes Asia Forum Japan. We held a national conference on Nov. 6 and 7, and formally launched a campaign to stop Japan's first nuclear export to Indonesia.

The Japanese government has been holding an "International Conference for Nuclear Cooperation in Asia" in Japan every year since 1990, inviting all the pro-nuclear Asian countries. These nations plan to form an "Organization for Asian Nuclear Cooperation" next year. We have to strengthen our network to confront such developments.

(Daisuke Sato)



In Taiwan

NEWS WATCH

Japan Votes for Total Ban on Sea Dumping of R-Waste

Russia's dumping of liquid radioactive waste in the Sea of Japan on October 17 prompted Japan to protest and urge the Russian Government to halt the program. By taking such an action Japan put itself in a position to abandon the option of sea dumping as well. The Japan Atomic Energy Commission made the decision to vote on November 12 for an amendment of the London Convention to ban nuclear waste dumping at sea.

Japan once intended to dump nuclear waste in the Northern Pacific, but abandoned the plan due to strong protest by the Pacific islanders and the international community. It then took the alternative measure of burying waste in the ground in Rokkasho-mura, Aomori prefecture. Under Japanese law it is still possible to dump at sea, but the government is likely to amend the regulations soon.

Power Companies Donating to LDP

It was revealed on October 5 that the Federation of Electric Power Companies had been making political contributions to the Liberal Democratic Party in the guise of payment for advertising. The Power industries used to be one of the three major donors to the LDP in the business community. Consumers then started a campaign not to contribute to the donations through their electricity payments when the industry announced an electricity

bill hike in 1980. The industry decided to stop making donations to the LDP, but in fact it secretly continued to make donations disguised as payment for advertising in the LDP newsletter. Since 1983 these donations have amounted to 6.5 billion yen (the amount up to 1983 is unknown). There have actually been no advertisements in the newsletter except for a few articles and reports on the power industry.

The Federation of Electric Power Companies on October 13 announced it would abolish advertising payments to all political parties.

Plutonium Fuel Loading Starts

Plutonium fuel has been loaded into Monju, Japan's fast breeder reactor sited in Tsuruga City, Fukui prefecture. One hundred and eight (108) inner core fuel assemblies were loaded between October 13 and November 4. The loading of 90 outer core fuel assemblies is scheduled to start in February 1994. Production of outer core fuel pellets has been delayed and is not yet completed due to trouble with the pelletizing machines.

According to plans, Monju is supposed to achieve minimum criticality in April next year with 180 fuel assemblies; achieve full criticality in June with 198 fuel assemblies; start power generation in April 1995; and complete a test run to begin full-scale operation in December 1995. However, it has been reported that since the supply of plutonium is now excessive, "after confirming its breeding efficiency, the blanket fuel assemblies will be removed and Monju will be used for a study of TRU combustion."

Strong Opposition to Feasibility Study for Kushima

The Kushima City Council in Miyazaki prefecture on October 5 resolved to ask Kyushu Electric Power Co. to conduct a feasibility study for the construction of a nuclear plant. At the same time the council passed an ordinance to hold a referendum on the plant. The plan to build a new nuclear plant in Kushima was revealed in February 1992. Farming and stock-raising are major industries in the region, and opposition to the plan is growing among farmers. The community adjacent to the planned site on October 18 decided to oppose the plan.

Japanese MPs urged to renegotiate THORP Contract

18 members of the Japanese Diet sent an open letter dated October 18 to the members of the British Parliament urging them to renegotiate Japan's contract with THORP. The letter was signed by members of four of the seven parties making up the ruling coalition, including prime min-

ister Hosokawa's Japan New Party.

The letter stressed that under current contracts with THORP, Japan will accumulate a very large surplus of plutonium, because 'Japan's plutonium utilization programme has suffered major delays.' It concluded that the two governments should sit down to negotiate the various contingencies concerning THORP to avoid the separating of surplus plutonium and large economic losses.

The letter came as a blow to BNFL, but even more so to the Japanese government and the Japanese utilities. Mr. Eda, the head of the Science & Technology Agency, commented that "There is no problem in discussing nuclear policy within the Diet, but it is a shame that members of the government questioned its policy abroad."

The utilities then put another one-page ad titled 'We don't just support THORP. We need it' in 5 major British newspapers. STA wrote a letter to the Financial Times emphasizing that Japan would maintain a policy of not having any surplus plutonium, including that from THORP.

Meanwhile, members of the British Parliament submitted notices of motions that the House agreed that both governments should negotiate to prevent the production of surplus plutonium, and called upon the UK Government to respond positively to this request as a matter of urgency.

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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 a subscription (subscription rate: supporting subscriber \$40/year or ¥5,000/year, subscriber \$20/year or ¥3,000/year). The subscription fee should be remitted from a post office to our post office account No:Tokyo 6-185799, HANGENPATU-NEWS by postal money order. We would also appreciate receiving information and newsletters from groups abroad in exchange for this newsletter.

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