

ly-located and poorly-maintained mountain roads in these already 'unstable' situations have added to the problem.

It is for these reasons that I have trouble in accepting that this major disaster was caused by deforestation. Other statements have appeared on other occasions to the effect that over 400 million people in the South Asia lowlands are being held hostage by 46 million peasant farmers in the uplands. Such accusations are not only inaccurate but also harmful, because in finding a scapegoat, people have found a reason for not doing anything about their own contribution to the problem. There are many eminently valid and

desirable reasons for stopping conversion of mountain forests into abusive agriculture, but blaming logging and peasant farming for these floods in lower Bangladesh is not one of them.

LAWRENCE S. HAMILTON, *Research Associate
Environment & Policy Institute
East-West Center
1777 East-West Road
Honolulu
Hawaii 96848
USA.*

'The United States' Nuclear Defense Industry' Updated

Shortly before 'The United States' Nuclear Defense Industry' went to press*, there was a flurry of public outrage in the United States which led to defence-plant closings around the country. It is unfortunate that these situations seem to end inevitably in human tragedy at least on the economic scale.

During 1988, the US Department of Energy was forced to close four major defence facilities which were involved in nuclear weapons' production efforts. In February the out-dated N reactor at Hanford, Washington, was shut down due to safety and management problems; in August the Savannah River plant in South Carolina was closed after a long history of mismanagement and equipment failures; in early October the Rocky Flats plant at Golden, Colorado, was shut down following the exposure of three workers to radioactivity; and the Feed Materials Production Center at Fernald, Ohio, was closed also in early October following a strike by workers demanding higher wages and safer working conditions (Budiansky & Cook, 1988; Noble, 1988).

In an apparent effort to avoid expensive litigation, the US Department of Energy acknowledged that 'the Government knew full well that the normal operation of the Fernald plant would result in emissions of uranium and other substances' (Noble, 1988 p. 1). Revelations that, over the last several decades, government officials had been aware that 'thousands of tons of radioactive uranium waste' were being released into ground-water and into the atmosphere, came to light as a result of a recent US Supreme Court decision (Boyle *versus* United Technologies, June 1988) which protected government contractors from prosecution for death or injuries resulting from faulty equipment (Noble, 1988 p. 1).

* Now published on pp. 264-6 of our Autumn issue.—Ed.

In addition to the dangers associated with stationary defence industry facilities, during the last 12 years there have been no fewer than 178 accidents involving Department of Energy trucks transporting nuclear materials among the various facilities (Resnikoff, 1988).

What does the future hold for the United States' nuclear defence industry? In March 1988, public hearings were held in Idaho regarding a Department of Energy proposal to construct a Special Plutonium Isotope Separation plant at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory near Idaho Falls. This plant would represent the first of a new generation of nuclear weapons' production facilities, signifying a US commitment to at least another 30 years of nuclear weapons' production (Paul, 1988).

REFERENCES

- BUDIANSKY, S. & COOK, W.J. (1988). The year the bomb makers went boom. *U.S. News & World Report* (Washington, DC), October 31, pp. 35-6.
- NOBLE, K.B. (1988). US for decades let uranium leak at weapon plant. *The New York Times*, October 15, pp. 1, 6.
- PAUL, E. (1988). Proposed bomb plant gets chilly reception from Idahoans. *RWC Waste Paper* (New York), 10(2), pp. 6-7.
- RESNIKOFF, M. (1988). Fallout on the freeway. *RWC Waste Paper* (New York), 10(1), pp. 9-10.

ROLAND J. LAMARINE, *Assistant Professor
Department of Health and Community Services
California State University
Chico
California 95929-0505
USA.*

Trieste Resolution on, and Network Proposal for, Increasing the Flow of Scientific Literature to Third-world Institutions

Resolution

Recognizing the fundamental importance of science and technology to social, economic, and cultural, development and to the well-being of the Earth, and that the availability of scientific information is essential to any scientific and technological activity, the participants in the *Workshop on Increasing the Flow of Scientific Literature to Third-world Institutions*, meeting today [2 November 1988] in Trieste, Italy, emphasize that it is crucial to ensure that in each developing country at least one library, accessible to all scientists working in that country, be kept up-to-date through the acquisition of relevant journals and books in

science and technology, [and hence strongly endorse the following]:

NETWORK PROPOSAL

In order to enhance the flow of books, journals, and related materials, on science and technology to Third-world Institutions, the participants at the Trieste Workshop agree to establish a cooperative information NETWORK ON SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL LITERATURE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (ST-LITNET).

The establishment of the Network will permit the effective exchange of information among organizations now separately providing these materials.

The funds needed to create and maintain the Network will be sought from external sources, so that the limited finances now available for the distribution of scientific literature to developing countries will not be reduced.

The immediate objectives of the Network will be:

- 1) To coordinate information on:
 - a) organizations that are active in donation programmes,
 - b) the institutions which they serve, and
 - c) the materials, especially journals, which they provide,
 in order to avoid duplication of efforts and to increase the impact of limited resources;
- 2) To offer information on appropriate programmes and procedures to organizations and individuals wishing to provide books, journals, or related materials;
- 3) To explore additional sources of literature;
- 4) To advise on sources of the funding needed to expand

the scope of existing distribution programmes and to launch new ones; and

- 5) To identify additional needs and opportunities.

Long-term objectives of the Network include:

1. Supporting scientific publishing in the South; and
2. Increasing the distribution to other regions of scientific materials produced in the South.

The network will be coordinated through ICTP/TWAS (Trieste), a pioneer in this field. Membership is open to all interested organizations and institutions.

H.R. DALAFI

International Centre for Theoretical Physics

P.O.B. 586

Miramare

Strade Costiera II

34100 Trieste

Italy.

Sierra Club's International Activities Directed by Michael McCloskey

One of the Sierra Club's long-time executives has changed his position with the organization. Dr J. Michael McCloskey is now the Club's Chairman and is operating out of the Club's Washington, DC, office, which has recently been relocated at 408 C Street Northeast, Washington, DC 20002, USA.

McCloskey served as the Club's Executive Director for 17 years in its San Francisco offices and before then was its Conservation Director. He turned over the job of running the organization on a day-to-day basis to Douglas Wheeler in 1985, but when Wheeler left unexpectedly in 1986, McCloskey returned to serve a second time in that position until another person, Michael Fischer, could be found to occupy it. Since 1987, McCloskey has been back in Washington in his new capacity.

McCloskey serves as a general spokesman for the Club, maintains wide-ranging contacts with those interested in its work, and is running the Club's Earthcare Network. That Network now embraces over a hundred environmental organizations world-wide which are committed to helping each other on their major campaigns. The Network publishes a newsletter entitled *Earthcare Appeals*.

Also directed by McCloskey is the Sierra Club's Natural Value Mapping Project, which has just completed a global inventory of the world's main *de facto* wilderness areas. We wonder privately whether this could form the basis of a World Wilderness Alliance such as we have long advocated—of established and maintained wilderness areas adherents of which would be sufficiently organized at least to get together in defence of any of their counterparts which might be at all seriously threatened in any way.

Currently Dr McCloskey also serves as the Vice-Chairman of the American Committee for International Conservation and as an Adjunct Professor of Policy at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources. He is a member of both the law and parks commissions of IUCN, and altogether is an admirably busy executive operating in a number of important directions—including sponsorship of a much-needed *World Directory of Environmental Organizations and Institutions* which should be usefully complementary to our own planned *World Who's Who in Environment & Conservation: Leading Specialists, Administrators, and Benefactors*.

N.P.

New Competition Launched for Conservation Expeditions

The International Council for Bird Preservation (ICBP) and the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society (FFPS) have established a new competition to stimulate expedition groups to adopt a conservation objective for their work. Expeditions are often in a position to collect useful up-to-date information on many aspects of wildlife conservation in parts of the world that are rarely visited by wildlife professionals. ICBP and FFPS also encourage these expeditions, because of their importance in motivating young scientists to become the 'conservationists of tomorrow'.

The competition is a development and extension of the one run by ICBP since 1985 for ornithological expeditions. Since then seven expeditions have received prizes and carried out successful projects leading to significant conservation action. Thus for example 1987 winners visited Pakistan in search of the rare Western Tragopan (*Tragopan melanocephalus*) which is listed in the *Red Data Book* as endangered. This is the rarest Himalayan pheasant, with no

more than 5,000 individuals left in the wild, and possibly fewer than 1,600. The team located the pheasants in three valleys in Indus Kohistan and were able to identify their key habitat requirements, the main threats (timber extraction and hunting) to their survival, and potential protected areas. As a result of the expedition, a large-scale project is being developed in collaboration with the National Council for Conservation of Wildlife in Pakistan—to establish protected areas, train Pakistani personnel, and conduct educational and publicity work. One of the two 1988 winning expeditions has just returned from a successful trip to Venezuela, where work was carried out in a little-studied National Park which stimulated interest in its continued protection.

The ICBP/FFPS competition will be open annually henceforth to expeditions consisting of young people—preferably undergraduate students—and taking place in a country outside Europe and North America. The project must