

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 In February the outdated N reactor at Hanford, Washington, was shut down due to safety and management problems; in August the Savannah River plant in South Carolina was closed after a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.