

GREEN LINE

Famine: death by design

Molesworth in pictures

Nitrate pollution-
special pull-out report

Festive recipes

No. 28 New Year 1985 40p



GREEN LINE

34 Cowley Road, Oxford
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TWELVE PAGES for 25p: that's how GL began almost three years ago. So at twenty pages for 40p after all that time, we think we're still good value for money.

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We're pleased to have a slowly rising circulation, too. We generally sell over 1600 copies.

There have been changes on the production side recently. Since Richard Hunt left us, design and illustration has been taken over by Andrzej Kaye, George Oldham and Sarah Tyzack. Their considerable talents and energy ensure that we continue to have an attractive and well-produced magazine each month.

Thanks to some hard work by Patricia Ashmore, we now also have an up-to-date set of books: lapses in accounting over the last month or two have now been put right, and we look forward to some of our readers and several bookshops clearing their debts when we start sending out statements again!

Green Line still has tremendous untapped potential. So many people are interested in the green message and want to read green ideas - and get involved in green action. We are touching only the tip of the iceberg. There is scope for more people in and around Oxford to get involved in the magazine: a first priority is a typist to help with the typesetting of each issue. We can also use people with some experience of paste-up (or who'd like to learn!). If you're not within reach of Oxford, there's still useful work you can do: getting more advertising, sending copies to potential subscribers, getting publicity through friendly organisations, and so on.

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Famine

Death by Design

I GET the impression that no green voices have been raised - and certainly none heard - on the matter of the Ethiopian famine. Yet again we seem to have been caught short by current events: our vision of the distant future is so clear, yet our perception of today and tomorrow is nothing if not blurred.

The West German greens have been very clear that we in the developed world are responsible for what is going on in the Third World, and have campaigned unashamedly on this basis. Here, we are more reticent. Yet the facts cross frontiers.

Ethiopia is not typical of the underdeveloped countries of the Third World. It is not so deeply in debt as some to western banks, nor is the acreage of cash crops quite so extensive. But with exports of coffee worth some £200m a year, it's up to us coffee drinkers to consider what this kind of intervention in Third World economies is achieving.

Even in Ethiopia, the allocation of prime arable land to cash crops (coffee in particular, but they've been exporting melons and peppers to us recently too) has meant that peasant farmers have had to move to slightly less fertile land. And it's a knock-on effect: at the end of the line the pastoralists have their grazing lands restricted, and hill farmers are forced onto virtually non-productive terrain or obliged to over-cultivate the land that remains to them, continuing a spiral of soil degradation and erosion.

But peasant agriculture receives no assistance from the state. The Ethiopian government puts its grant aid into the state farms, which account for only 5% of the country's cultivated land. Because of the civil war in Tigray the government has also placed restrictions on the internal movements of grain: it's prepared to starve out its own people if they're of the wrong political persuasion, an attitude not totally unfamiliar to victims of the new Thatcherite version of 'democracy' in this country.

Indeed, the Ethiopian government spends over 40% of its budget on the military.

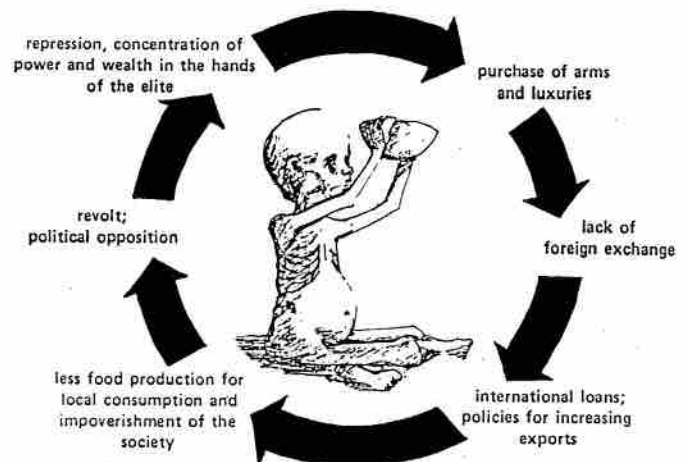
Nor are outside agencies interested in peasant farming. The laudable exceptions are some of the more enlightened aid charities, whose objective is generally to stimulate local self-sufficiency with the assistance of the lowest possible technology. Overseas governments and institutions such as the World Bank show no interest in peasant farming, simply because it shows no return on investment and does not win friends in Third World governments.

Most 'aid' goes into the development of agri-business, and the money 'given' is normally spent back in the West. We sell them arms to subjugate those peasants we've just been talking about, and the heavy machinery needed to build new roads (to transport the cash crops to the docks for export) and cultivate the land and spread the fertilisers and pesticides - these are all bought from us too. When we talk about 'growth' in this country designed to reduce unemployment, we must remember that the real object of the exercise is to export the unemployment to the Third World. There people are driven off the land - their rightful source of 'employment' - and forced to

huddle together in vast shanty towns, starving and sick. 90% of the population of Addis Ababa now lives in squatter settlements, so near the city yet untouched - as is the rural population - by the alleged benefits of aid and development. It is the tiny 10% who enjoy the fast cars, the central heating and air conditioning, the oil-based consumer economy. But these constitute the ruling elite: it is they who buy the arms and guarantee the steady supply of cash crops.

The famine in Ethiopia is only the beginning. Worse is to come. Elsewhere in Africa and in Bangladesh, people are going to die like flies because they lack the basic means to subsist. Their peasant economies have been turned into cash economies: denied access to land, they must earn money if they are to eat, for food is only available for those who can buy it. Giving food away only further undermines the local economy and bankrupts even those who might otherwise survive.

The anomalies are glaring. This year Zimbabwe is announcing record harvests of tobacco, soybeans and cotton, while importing 400,000 tonnes of maize. A severe drought threatens Kenya where strawberries and asparagus are grown for the European market. Soybean cultivation rose by a factor of five in India between 1974 and 1982. In the last two decades Africa has doubled its sugar output and quadrupled tea production - both crops of no nutritional value whatever. In Guinea Bissau peanut production is so important that domestic consumption is now forbidden by law (it is traditionally a valuable protein source in the local diet) so that the government can export the whole crop to help pay its debts and import oil and arms.



The Poverty-Repression-Militarisation Cycle

The British media have virtually ignored the causes of famine in their recent coverage of Ethiopia. If the nature of the problem is so ill-defined, no wonder the solutions proposed are quite unrealistic. Food 'aid' is largely a misnomer: Oxfam reckons that 70% of food aid ends up in the hands of the government, who sell the food to those who can afford to pay. The poor do not benefit from food aid any more than they do from oil imports or arms contracts. Yet still

today politicians calculate our responsibility towards the Third World in terms of 'aid'.

The truth is that the poor in the Third World (and in London and Bradford and Naples and New York) starve because of the patterns of consumption enjoyed by a minority of the world's population. This 'standard of living' is defended with guns, and the raw materials on which it is based were wrested from countries of the Third World centuries ago: the supplies continue today. The United States represents just 6% of the world's population yet consumes 35% of the world's resources. What more needs be said? Even with the US, many people consume very little indeed: a tiny minority there live off the rest.

While the problems are in some ways directly the responsibility of government, there is no doubt that we can clarify the real nature of the situation and our involvement in it by adjusting our own lifestyles so as to cut out exploitative practices wherever possible. After all, the exploitation

which takes place at the level of the World Bank and the multinationals is in response to our 'demand' - even though this demand is as often as not generated by advertising and social manipulation. Resisting these pressures and refusing to be part of the system - well, it's a start, and it's very helpful in reminding ourselves of the political reality. It's also very illustrative: you can explain to others what you're doing and why, and it's all very immediate and tangible.

In terms of lifestyle, the problem is on two fronts. We eat their food, and we use up their raw materials.

Food is the easier to overcome. By insisting that we eat food in season, concentrate almost entirely on British produce, reduce and eventually hopefully cut out altogether meat and animal products, we are making sure that we do not live off Third World land. We also make sure that our land can be used most efficiently, the object being to be self-sufficient in food. Our current level of meat consumption entails tremendous land wastage, plus the import of Third World cash crops as feed. How can it be justified?

While we shall be demanding organically grown produce, thus stimulating production (it's already happening), we shall also be moving away from the traditional 'wholefood' diet of imported beans and grains. 'Wholefood' shops are all too often stocked to the ceiling with cash crops - look at the country of origin on the labels (though many break the law and don't tell you). There's nothing 'wholesome' about this kind of food. If we are seeking justice on a global scale, we can't "think global" and eat Sudanese peanuts locally!

It's harder to make the point about other cash crops - cotton, timber, rubber etc - without some response from the big manufacturing companies and from government. We can try and avoid buying up tropical rainforest - look at where the timber has come from before you buy from your timber merchant. Cotton now covers 5% of the world's cultivated area: if we stopped devoting 90% of our own agricultural land to the rearing of livestock and used one tenth of the land to produce the same amount of food in vegetable form, we could re-invent (and of course improve on) the old technologies of flax, rayon, etc. And so much of what we import from the most fertile and best watered Third World land isn't useful in any shape or form: sugar, tea and coffee aren't foods, nor are they raw materials.

The argument can be continued almost indefinitely. The examples are countless. The whole subject has wide ramifications: energy plays a crucial part, for instance. But time and time again we return to this fundamental and unavoidable point: the more we live an ecological lifestyle within the limitations of our own environment, the less harm we shall do to others both in the Third World and here at home.

Of course lifestyle is not the whole answer. But at the same time, it cannot be shunned. It is up to us to find our own happy mediums, trying in our own ways to effect change on a global scale by beginning the seeds of that change right back at home. Moralising is a poor way of communicating the truth to others: the example of practice is a far better way. Too often politics is little more than moralising and piety: let's put politics into practice in our own kitchens and backyards.

Jon Carpenter

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POLITICS FOR LIFE (Ecology Party, 36pp.) 50p each, 5 for £2.

ECO-SOCIALISM IN A NUTSHELL (SERA, 24pp.) 50p each, 5 for £2.

SOCIALISM AND ECOLOGY, Raymond Williams (SERA, 20pp.) 75p each, 5 for £3.

DEMOCRACY AND PARLIAMENT, Raymond Williams (Socialist Society, 32pp.) 90p each, 5 for £3.75.

COAL AND ECONOMIC GROWTH, (Wales Ecology Party, 16pp.) 20p each, 5 for 80p.

FAIR VOTES GUIDE (Campaign for Fair Votes, 32pp.) Basic facts on PR. 95p each, 5 for £4.

EMBRACE THE EARTH (Green CND, 44pp.) Green view of peace. 90p each, 5 for £3.50

ETHICS AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS, Jeremy Naydler (Fox and Lantern Press, 22pp.) £1 each, 5 for £4.

GREEN SONGS (Evergreen Press, 24pp.) 50p each. Words and music.

SURVIVAL OF CIVILISATION, John Hamaker. Climate, ice ages and remineralisation. 236pp paperback, £5.95.

POSTCARDS

SIX DESIGNS in print ('Embrace the Earth' and 'Dove and Sunflower' will be reissued in the new year, possibly as greetings cards). Sample set of 6 cards, 75p post free. 50 assorted, £4.

BADGES and STICKERS

SUNFLOWER BADGES: seven designs, symbols of the green movement's unity-in-diversity. 1" badges in three colours and visible from afar: CND, feminist, yin-yang, anarchist, Christian, Eco, and FoE. Sample set £1 post free; 20 or more (assorted) 12p each; 100+ (assorted) 10p each.

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STOP ACID RAIN stickers (4½" diameter, yellow and black). 25p each, 10 for £1.75.

Shades of Green



IF ANY news of the European Election results in France filtered through to GL readers, you may well have been surprised to see two ecological "lists" - Les Verts who received 3.7% of the vote, and the Entente Radicale Ecologiste who received 3.4% of the vote. 5% is the minimum both in terms of getting people elected and of getting campaign money refunded, so by splitting the vote down the middle both groups did themselves a good deal of harm. The background of the split and the differing policies of the two groups is interesting in itself; and if the British Euro MPs are elected by PR next time round, it is a cautionary tale for British ecologists.

The first ecological electoral attempt in France was made in 1974 by Rene Dumont in the presidential elections. Since then a whole range of different groups and alliances have formed and reformed to put up candidates in local, national, assembly, presidential and European elections - in marked contrast to Britain's monolithic Ecology Party.

So, who are the Greens...?

Before the European elections there were two groups: "Les Verts - parti ecologiste", and "Les Verts - confederation ecologiste". These got together to put up a united list of candidates. United, yes - but it took a mixed commission from both groups a whole day to decide on the title for the list: Les Verts Confederation Ecologiste - Parti Ecologiste! And at the full-scale conference between the two groups the 143 people present spent half a day rediscussing the issue only to come up with the same answer! All this and then somewhere along the line the list got changed to "Les Verts - Europe Ecologie" (the latter being the title of the list at the last Euro-elections).

Who were the candidates? Of 81 candidates on the list, 65 were men. The list as a whole was solidly dominated by middle-aged men. There were about 15 teachers, but otherwise a fairly mixed range of jobs - though only 3 or 4 manual workers. Most were activists in some other green groups.

20 candidates were chosen by the conference, the rest by the regions. It is obvious that the movement is fairly strong in some regions (Rhone-Alpes, Ile-de-France, Bretagne, Alsace, Nord-Pas-de-Calais, and Normandie) and fairly non-existent in others.

What do they believe in? Les Verts adopted the common programme of the European Green Parties and their manifesto is not so different from that of the Ecology Party. Their election address stressed that they were neither right, left nor centre, and outlined their beliefs in decentralisation, a nonviolent defence policy for Europe, the need to uphold human rights in East and West, and the need for some new economic thinking.

Who are the Entente Radicale Ecologiste? Brice Lalonde may be a familiar name: he was the ecological candidate for the 1981 presidential

election and was leader of Amis de la Terre (Friends of the Earth). Since 1979 he has been going on about a coalition of ecologists, peace activists, libertarian socialists, liberal centrists, etc. - in fact everyone not on the right or on the Socialist Party/Communist Party/Marxist left. Unfortunately he had delusions of grandeur and saw the ecologists - and therefore naturally himself - as the centre of all this. One party, the PSU (Parti Socialiste Unifie) refused to cooperate and stood with other non-aligned left candidates in the Euro-elections and managed a measly 2%. Brice Lalonde and a few ecological supporters basically joined forces with the MRG (Mouvement Radicale de la Gauche), a small liberal centre party not unlike the SDP in its beliefs.

Their platform contained nothing at all about ecology, and the main thrust of their campaign was for a "United States of Europe". But they only mean Western Europe, and they want a president! They are strongly for private enterprise, and Lalonde has written elsewhere that unilateral nuclear disarmament is naive and dangerous! Their economic ideas seem to rest on Europe leading the world in high technology, and thereby people being freed from boring and unpleasant work. They called themselves radical and ecological, but as far as I can see they were neither.

So what does the future hold? Les Verts have immediate problems paying for the campaign which cost between £60,000 and £70,000; and they will have problems holding together what is basically an electoral alliance after the disappointing election results. Brice Lalonde will no doubt go on posing as the leader of the ecologists in France, but with less and less credibility. But greens in France have the same problem as greens in Britain. How to build a locally based mass movement from what is essentially a small group of highly motivated political activists. Activists who spend far too much time on politics and far too little time spreading understanding. The greens in France are too much like traditional parties to get widespread support, and they fail to speak to the worries of ordinary people who are too easily wooed by the fascists (the National Front got 11% of the European vote).

My overall impression of the ecological movement in France is of a movement riven by misunderstanding, mistrust and competition. But to end on a positive note, the green movement in France is strong enough to make a political impact; and if they can sort out their internal differences they should start to have some electoral success. Chris Savory



Jonathon Porritt
"Seeing Green"

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THE NEW ECONOMIC AGENDA —



A conference held at Findhorn, October 13 - 20

DEVELOPING A coherent economics appropriate to the green politics that is now bursting out all round us - whether it be called 'new age', 'green' or whatever - is an urgent task which is only just beginning to be tackled. TOES started earlier in the year, and the week at Findhorn was an important follow-up.

Nearly 200 people from 20 different countries came for the week-long event, with speakers from the US, Chile, Brazil and India as well as community projects in Glasgow and other parts of Scotland, and representatives of multinationals and the EEC.

A lot of emphasis was placed on local economic strategies, thinking globally, acting locally. The importance of business was also stressed. With 200 people it was never likely or desirable that there would be unanimity on the best way forward, but what was more surprising was that there were widely diverging views of what constituted moving forward at all. The substantial American representation was much stronger on "new age" business (i.e. socially responsible, or capitalism with a human face) than on green economics. Some were heard to argue that government had no role to play in the

ECO AND THE MINERS —

FOR A LONG time the Ecology Party has been accused of too much utopian theorising about a future sustainable society while shying away from the nitty-gritty of today's realities. If this was once a fair comment, the party's reactions to the miners' strike show that it certainly isn't any more.

Unfortunately the national conference resolution supporting the miners, printed in full in last month's GL, was most disappointing. If the Ecology Party hadn't actually been mentioned by name in the text, you could never have guessed from the wording that it came from people who claim to have a distinctively green outlook.

The resolution condemns the government, declares support for the miners, deploras violence, sets itself against the new policing methods, and calls for a wider definition of an exhausted pit. Apart from the briefest mention of pollution and nuclear power, a vague and ambiguous phrase about "the strategic value of the remaining coal" in a pit is the only hint in 300 words plus of any green thinking whatever. There is nothing really to disagree with in the resolution, but it could have been passed by any group of people with a sense of social responsibility.

If the national conference thinks that to deal with current realities means to abandon its green perspective, the Wales Ecology Party doesn't. Their booklet "Coal and Economic Growth" grasps every nettle growing out of the dispute and comes up with unashamedly green answers.

Here the coal industry is analysed from a green point of view and with a great deal of factual back-up. The booklet is worth reading for its informative value alone. For example it reveals that in our most "economic" mines as little as 25% of the coal is recovered, 75% being left underground for ever.

The authors resist the easy course of blindly

blaming all on the "baddies" - i.e. the government. They admit that the "real cause of the trouble lies with us all." We demand economic growth, which means cheap coal, which means closing uneconomic pits and opening new ones. All governments have done the same, in response to the national will. The responsibility lies with us.

The basic ecological truth, that if life on earth is to survive we must curtail our greed, is clearly stated. Specific proposals for a coal policy are made. Among them is a green answer to the question at the heart of the strike: when should a pit be closed? It is: when the coal becomes so difficult to get that the energy used in mining and transporting it is equal to the energy yielded by it.

It's quite possible to criticise Coal and Economic Growth - for example when it justifies the NUM's failure to hold a ballot on the grounds that British parliamentary elections are undemocratic. But, without excluding points which are common ground between ecologists and others, the unique ecological contribution is there, it's well put, and it's central.

It is not there in the conference resolution. When the very Earth is being destroyed around us, it's the height of irresponsibility for the national conference of the Ecology Party not to raise its voice in her defence. Otherwise, why does it exist?

Patrick Whitefield

**GREENS
SUPPORT THE
MINERS**



economy and that business could provide everything including funding the arts, welfare, etc. Questions of accountability didn't arise.

Shell's chief planner Peter Schwartz's contribution was one of the most controversial. He argued that because business couldn't predict the outcomes of actions - that even good intentions might have bad outcomes - there wasn't any point in doing things with good intentions. Others argued that this was a recipe for moral abdication by multinationals, and that good motives in such circumstances were all the more important. He also argued that the wealth created by MNCs was a good thing because it increased diversity in our culture, something hotly disputed by those who said that Coke and hamburgers were the same from Santiago to Stockholm, but defended by others who argued that increased wealth had led to "the greater diversity of the human potential movement".

It was on the question of defining and then trying to develop strategies to satisfy basic human needs that the most fundamental differences arose. Essentially, the "green perspective" put forward by Paul Ekins in a workshop argues that it is necessary to redefine basic human needs along the lines proposed by Chilean economist Manfred Max-Neef in his book "Experiences in Barefoot

Economics". This was opposed by a "spiritual tendency" (prosperous westerners) who argued that even identifying basic human needs was a waste of time because if people gave out the right spiritual energy they would receive back all they needed. I feel that you don't even have to look as far as the starving in Ethiopia, or the mothers of the disappeared in Argentina, to recognise this as no more than spiritual imperialism. It is also an interesting reflection on a spirituality which seems to me to take a very western approach, namely that "spirituality delivers the goods".

Essentially the problem was that some (greens) were primarily interested in reformulating the "mind set" that people approach economics with, while others (new age) are primarily interested in making people "be nice" to each other - employers should treat their employees fairly, love them even. Unfortunately there weren't any employees there to say how they felt about this. This all leads on the one hand to a Gaian economics approach, the economics of the ecosphere, and on the other to people who equate "economics" with "business". The former is the new economics; the latter seems to be very much what we have at the moment, the old economics.

Martin Stott

JAN McHARRY of WISE (World Information Service on Energy) attended an international meeting of anti-nuclear activists in Denmark in September...

THE SITUATION was unique. The three-day meeting was held in a country with no nuclear power stations; where energy conservation plays an important part in Government energy planning; and where, as we talked, the faint sounds of Kolding High School's wind generator could be heard overhead.

Representatives from many European countries were present, along with Japan, Australia and Canada, meaning that a valuable exchange of up-to-date information took place. WISE had its beginnings at a similar international meeting in 1977 where it was felt that there was an urgent need for international communication amongst people working for a safe energy future. What was glaringly obvious from the recent meeting was that seven years on, the need for this communication has grown even stronger. The warmth and sense of solidarity present at the meeting demonstrated that people and communities facing the nuclear threat are still in a fighting spirit,

The main issues discussed including the upcoming Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in September 1985, acid rain, countering the arguments used by the nuclear power industry (particularly the "economic" justifications), nuclear waste disposal and transport, the export of nuclear technologies to the Third World, and the plutonium economy. Emphasis was also placed on alternative energy planning and the need to present energy strategies that could be accepted by the general public - to stress that viable alternatives do exist. On all these issues it appears that the safe energy movement is making progress.

Also heartening is the greater degree of national and international co-operation between groups which recognise that WISE has an important part to play in acting as a channel of information especially on the issues of non-proliferation, acid rain and nuclear transport. As a result of this co-operation an international nuclear waste transport alarm

ALL AGAINST NUKES! =====

system has been set up using the Greenpeace Telex network to relay information about shipments to groups who may wish to plan actions. A handbook on the worldwide movement of waste materials is also being prepared by WISE, as the Mon Luis uranium hexafluoride accident appears to have heightened awareness of the possible hazards surrounding the movement of nuclear materials.

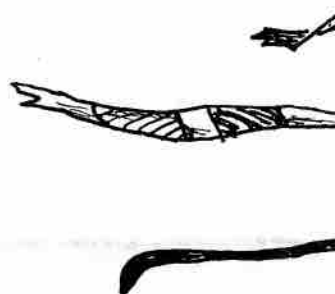
One point repeatedly raised was that much more attention needs to be paid to the issue of indigenous peoples and native rights. Information came firsthand from Miles Goldstick of Canada (Uranium Traffic Network) regarding the treatment of Canadian and Australian "uranium refugees" in the hands of uranium mining companies.

The meeting also provided a valuable support for groups fighting the nuclear industry. An activist from the Gorleben area in Germany gave a firsthand account of their campaign to stop the import of spent nuclear fuel into the area for underground waste storage. A plea for letters of support was made since a massive police campaign has been launched in an attempt to suffocate and stop the campaign. Conspiracy laws which have never before been used are being invoked, and participation in "criminal actions" such as leafletting carry threats of 5 years' imprisonment.

In all ways the meeting was truly inspiring. As a welcome change, everyone listened and gave equal respect to people when they were speaking - a situation that does not always arise at events in Britain, especially mixed events. It was agreed that a further meeting in a couple of years' time would be beneficial: I would hope that more people from Britain would be able to attend this time.

** More details available from WISE, 34 Cowley Road, Oxford (s.a.e. essential, and donations towards costs welcome).

IMAGE



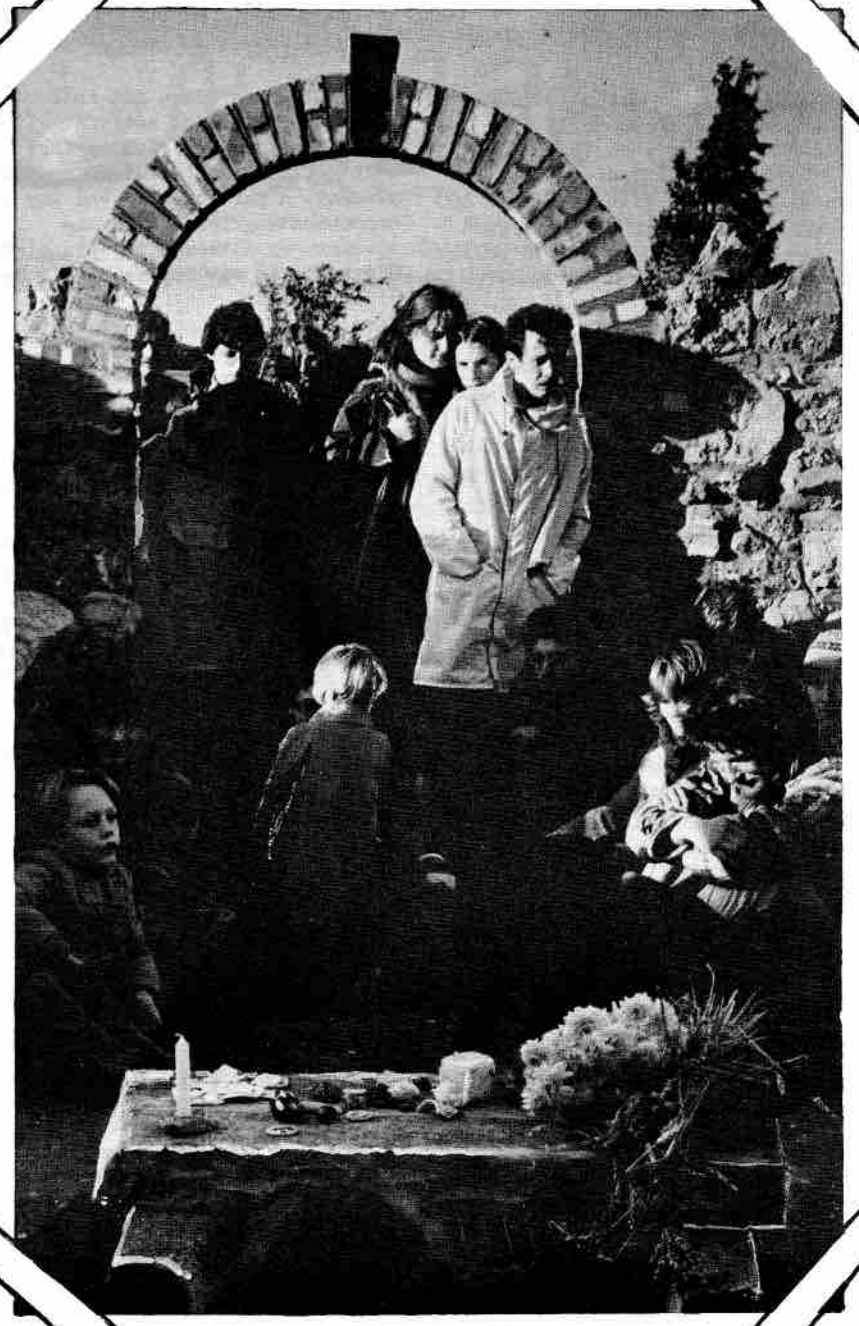
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MOLESWORTH
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US OF PEACE



Photographs taken at Molesworth 'Harvest for the Hungry', Saturday October 20th. Far left and top: the roadside sign, and sowing the new corn. Below: commemorating Caroline Taylor in the peace chapel.



NITRATE POLLUTION

Prevention or Cure?

THERE HAS BEEN increasing concern in recent years over the problem of growing nitrate levels in drinking water. From July 1985 Britain will be bound by the European Commission "Directive relating to the Quality of Water for Human Consumption" (80/778/EEC). This Directive lays down maximum permitted levels for various substances in drinking water, including nitrates.

There is growing evidence that the UK government is seeking to avoid the full implications of the Directive. In concert with Water Authorities, the Department of the Environment is interpreting crucial clauses in the Directive in such a way as to undermine the effectiveness of the legislation. The effect of this will be to sanction frequent

breaches of the recommended levels of nitrate in drinking water, with possible implications for the health of the community.

This paper draws on a wide range of sources to outline the causes and effects of high nitrate levels in the water supply. It also raises questions on the legality of the DoE's approach to breaches of recommended nitrate levels. Such questions may ultimately have to be tested in the courts of the UK and the EEC.

The aim of this paper is to enable concerned groups, organisations and individuals to challenge current attempts by Water Authorities to push through enabling Derogations which will result in breaches of EEC safety levels. The body of this

paper is necessarily detailed. Information is also constantly being amended and updated as further research is carried out and new sources of information are tapped.

The DoE and the Water Authorities are relying on ignorance of the issues to handicap their opponents. Some councils have already expressed disquiet about breaches of safety levels (or have registered objections), but have been subjected to bland assurances and subtle manipulation by the Water Authorities. It is to be hoped that the following information will enable opponents of such moves to pinpoint the essential issues and formulate meaningful questions which will bring about an informed debate on the subject.

WHAT ARE NITRATES?

Nitrates are formed naturally by the breakdown of plant and animal tissue, as part of the nitrogen cycle. They are simple chemical compounds. High levels of nitrates are often found in effluent discharged from sewage works. Nitrates can also be made synthetically, and are used in inorganic fertiliser. In small quantities in rivers and lakes nitrates are used as food by algae, although large quantities cause rapid algae growth leaving water lifeless and evil smelling. This process, called eutrophication, affects lakes and slow-moving rivers.

cause of high nitrate levels in rivers, accounting for roughly half the nitrates present.

(3) Use of inorganic nitrate fertiliser. A major cause of nitrate pollution in rivers and groundwater supplies. Since 1960 there has been a six- to ten-fold increase in the use of such fertilisers. About 1.2 million tonnes are applied to farmland in the UK each year. Rainfall forms soluble compounds which either percolate down to groundwater, or are swept off into rivers and streams.

SOURCES OF NITRATE POLLUTION

There are three main causes of excess nitrate levels in water supplies:

(1) Ploughing of grassland. This has increased dramatically since 1945. Large quantities of nitrate are bound up in traditional grasslands, and are released by ploughing. Rainfall then forms soluble compounds which move slowly down through the soil and into the underlying rock, eventually reaching groundwater supplies.

(2) Discharge from sewage works. This is a major

THE SCALE OF THE PROBLEM

Drinking water supplies come from three main sources:

(1) Upland reservoirs and streams. These are only marginally affected by nitrate pollution.

(2) Lowland rivers. There are serious problems with this source in many areas. East Anglia, Essex, Lincolnshire and the East Midlands are the worst affected, with the rest of the Midlands and Southern England also having major problems. A Joint Committee of the DoE and the National Water Council (STAC) monitored nitrate levels in 23 English rivers, nearly all used for drinking water. Concentrations had doubled over the past 20 years.

The Stour in Essex exceeded 50 milligrammes of nitrate per litre on 400 days between 1974 and 1977. STAC estimated that the average nitrate concentrations in lowland rivers would increase by between 8 and 13 mg per litre over the next 10 - 20 years. This would be sufficient to breach the World Health Organisation's lower safety limit (50mg per litre) at half the river quality monitoring stations in the Anglian, Thames and Severn-Trent Water Authority areas. In East Anglia the upper WHO limit (100 mg per litre) would be breached regularly to extended periods, probably within 15 years. Furthermore, a senior scientist in the government Water Data Unit has estimated that many lowland rivers will average more than 50mg per litre by the mid-1980s.

(3) Groundwater. This is water trapped in pores and fissures in underground rock. About 30% of water supplies in England and Wales come from groundwater, though in some areas such as East Anglia the proportion is greater.

Ploughing of grassland and heavy use of inorganic fertilisers contribute to pollution of groundwater supplies. The movement of nitrates into groundwater is very slow, with the "nitrate front" advancing at the rate of a yard or two a year. The STAC report demonstrates a correlation between intensive arable cropping, using large inputs of inorganic fertiliser, and high rates of nitrate leaching into groundwater. Levels in excess of 100mg per litre have been widely encountered in the unsaturated zone and in the upper parts of the saturated zone, in permeable arable catchments with relatively shallow groundwater tables.

At least 100 groundwater sources already exceed the 50mg/litre limit consistently or intermittently. More seriously, the main effects of the advancing nitrate front are yet to come. A report of the Organisation for European Cooperation and Development (OECD) predicts that this process will eventually cause most of Britain's groundwater supplies to exceed the 50mg/litre limit. Some scientists have called this effect the "nitrate time bomb".

NITRATE AND HUMAN HEALTH

(a) The Cancer Link

There have been regular suggestions that in recent years nitrates could be linked with cancer. Under certain conditions nitrates can combine with substances in food to form chemicals called N-nitrosamines. These are known to cause stomach cancer in animals. Water is only one source of nitrates. High levels of nitrate have been found in vegetables grown with the aid of inorganic fertilisers; and nitrates are added to cheese, cooked meats and bacon to prevent the growth of bacteria. The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution calculated that someone on an average diet would receive 55% of their nitrate intake from water if the water contained 50mg/litre of nitrate. If the water contained 100mg/litre, the proportion would rise to 71%.

Attempts to monitor the effects of high nitrate levels on human health have yielded contradictory results. The WHO findings in the early 1970s resulted in a recommended standard of 50mg/litre and an upper limit of 100mg/litre, providing a

safety margin. The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution carried out a review in 1979 which broadly confirmed these findings, whilst noting that nitrate trends needed watching closely.

Later reports have questioned these findings. The International Agency for Cancer Research has claimed that data relating national nitrate intakes with stomach cancer showed a positive association. In the town of Aalborg, Denmark, a study showed a correlation sustained for over 30 years between high nitrate levels and stomach cancer. Nitrate levels in Aalborg's drinking water averaged 30mg/litre, compared with neighbouring towns with low-nitrate water. However, British researchers have pointed out that East Anglia, which has high levels of nitrate in drinking water, has a low rate of stomach cancer. They agreed however that there is a long latency period for cancer, and that this ruled out any valid conclusion (high nitrate levels are a fairly recent development in East Anglian water supplies).

In 1984, the Joint Committee on Medical Aspects of Water Quality advised that current levels of nitrate in drinking water did not pose a significant cancer risk, but concluded that "where the theoretical possibility of an association between nitrate ingestion and cancer remains, it would be prudent to continue to restrict concentrations of nitrate in drinking water".

Bearing in mind the sharp rise in nitrate pollution forecast for the next 10 - 15 years, there is still a considerable doubt about the ultimate effect on human health.

(b) Infant Methaemoglobinaemia

Whatever the significance of research linking nitrates with cancer, there is a well-established risk to infants and children of methaemoglobinaemia. Nitrates can be transformed to more dangerous nitrites either (i) in improperly stored and processed food, or (ii) under conditions of low acidity in the stomach and intestines. In both cases bacterial conversion occurs. The most important toxic effect in the short term is the formation of methaemoglobin in the blood, leading to anoxia - lack of oxygen. Infants are particularly susceptible to this because their stomachs secrete less acid (see (ii) above); they do not have enzyme methaemoglobin reductase; and foetal haemoglobin reacts more readily with nitrites.

Methaemoglobin formation from ingested nitrates is not only confined to infants, although they are more susceptible. Four studies in the Soviet Union have correlated abnormal methaemoglobin levels in older children with high nitrate levels in water. In the USA the permitted level of nitrate in drinking water is only 10mg/litre. This level is set to prevent infant methaemoglobinaemia. The levels which are safe from the point of view of the formation of carcinogenic nitrosamines have not been set by the USA Environmental Protection Agency.

Although at present the occurrence of methaemoglobinaemia is rare in Britain, the increasing and cumulative body load of nitrates and nitrites over a period of time could lead to an escalation of the problem. Currently, Water Authorities are required to notify doctors in the affected area when nitrate levels rise above 50mg/litre, to enable them to monitor for infant methaemoglobinaemia.

THE LEGISLATION: EC DIRECTIVE 80/778/EEC

The provision of drinking water in the UK is governed by the EC Directive relating to the Quality of Water intended for Human Consumption (80/778/EEC). Among other things, this lays down the minimum and maximum levels for a variety of substances in drinking water.

Member governments are required to bring into effect any laws, regulations and administrative provisions necessary to comply with the Directive by 18 July 1982. Full compliance is required by 18 July 1985.

The level for nitrate is set out under Annex I of the Directive, under the heading "Parameters concerning substances undesirable in excessive amounts". The Maximum Admissible Concentration (MAC) for nitrate is 50mg/litre. The MAC is defined as "the concentration in water below which a substance is not expected, in the course of regular ingestion, to cause or directly result in an identifiable effect harmful to the health in a statistically representative sample of the population concerned."

The MAC for most substances is identical to the WHO guideline - in this case the lower value of 50mg/litre rather than the WHO upper limit of 100 mg/litre. This is presumably in recognition that the WHO figures are sufficiently outmoded by later research to merit a cautious approach. Furthermore the EC Directive sets a "Guide Level" for nitrate of only 25mg/litre. The Directive states that it is "desirable" that members' states adopt as their standards the values adopted as a Guide Level.

The legislation on nitrate levels is therefore quite unambiguous: 25mg/litre is the standard to aim for, and the 50mg/litre level is the one which should not be exceeded at any time. The DoE and the Water Authorities are, however, attempting to circumvent the legislation in two ways:

(1) Averaging of nitrate levels. The DoE in a 1982 circular issued to Water Authorities advised that the EEC limit should be treated as an average (Water Authorities are further taking this to mean an annual average) to which concentrations may rise. This should be understood in the context of widely fluctuating nitrate levels throughout the year, with very high levels in winter (as rains wash out nitrate fertilisers) and low levels in the spring. The European Commission have already indicated that the DoE's advice appears to be a clear breach of the Directive. In fact, references to annual averages which were contained in a draft of the Directive were dropped during negotiations in Brussels.

(2) Derogations under Article 9 of the Directive. It seems that some Water Authorities are attempting to by-pass the clear requirements to keep water supplies below 50mg/litre by applying for a derogation under Article 9 of the Directive. The text of this article is as follows:

A member state may make provision for derogations from this Directive in order to take account of:

(a) Situations arising from the nature and structure of the ground in the area from which the supply emanates. Where a Member State decides to make such a derogation, it shall inform the Commission accordingly within two months of its decision, stating the reasons for

such derogation.

(b) Situations arising from exceptional meteorological conditions. Where a Member State decides to make such a derogation, it shall inform the Commission accordingly within 15 days of its decision stating the reasons for its derogation and its duration.

Some Water Authorities are attempting to use the provision of Article 9.1(a) to cover a general increase in nitrate levels above the MAC. The duration of such increases is not specified. Furthermore, the new level applied for in the derogation is often used only as a working figure, with actual levels sometimes even rising above that (again complicated by annual averaging).

The provisions of Article 9.1(a) are clearly not appropriate for a derogation on nitrate levels in the UK, which do not arise from the nature and structure of the ground but from the wholly unnatural application of huge amounts of inorganic nitrate to farm land. European Commission officials have already indicated that they are sceptical of the UK's plans to use this Article to by-pass MAC levels for nitrate. In the final analysis, derogations granted by the DoE under this Article could well be illegal.

The only alternative for the UK government would be to allow increases above the MAC levels under Article 10 which covers emergencies. This would require a fairly broad interpretation of the word "emergency" which again could be disputed by EC officials.

Furthermore, the government is required to be satisfied that the new levels did not "constitute an unacceptable risk to public health". Undoubtedly they would put great stress on the findings of the Joint Committee on Medical Aspects of Water Quality, previously mentioned. Opponents could well counter with other evidence, however, leading to a bitter and unwelcome public wrangle.

Emergencies are by definition of limited duration, and it is difficult to see how derogations granted under this Article could run for many years and against a background of steadily rising nitrate levels.

ALTERNATIVES TO RAISING SAFETY LEVELS

There are of course alternatives to simply raising safety levels as nitrate pollution increases. They are not attractive to the DoE because they would involve the outlay of a lot of money, or would offend the powerful agricultural lobby, or both.

At the root of the nitrate problem lies the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), which encourages ever increasing production of grain and dairy products - which in most cases go to add to the huge dairy and grain mountains of the EEC. Much of the grain grown on what used to be traditional grassland, with the aid of inorganic fertilisers (nitrates), is now exported to the EEC. Some of it is even being denatured to make it unfit for human consumption. The agricultural lobby will no doubt resist any suggestion that they should bear some of the responsibility for high nitrate levels, or bear some of the cost of reducing them.

(1) Tackle the problem at source. This is a long-term solution because nothing can be done about

the nitrate already in the soil, which will certainly cause major pollution of ground water over the next 20 years. Under the "the polluter pays" principle which has been adopted to deal with other environmental problems, the agricultural sector could be subjected to a levy which would partly finance water treatment. The principle is well stated in the EEC's third environmental action programme:

Apportioning the costs of protecting the environment to polluters constitutes an incentive to them to reduce the pollution caused by their activities, and to discover less polluting products or technologies.

The most obvious way to apply this principle to the nitrate problem would be to impose a levy on fertiliser sales. This would encourage farmers to reduce fertiliser use, whilst simultaneously raising revenue for water treatment.

(2) Biological denitrification and raw water storage. Research is continuing to make progress in this area, but it is a relatively expensive solution. Latest estimates put the cost of major reorganisation of water supplies at £200m over the next 20 - 30 years, with half the costs falling in the East Anglian region (which currently has about 40 sources with nitrate problems). This solution would almost certainly have to be linked with measures such as (1) above.

(3) Encouraging modified farming practices. A significant reduction in run-off and pollution of groundwater could be made by using "minimal cultivation" methods such as direct drilling. This would reduce mineralisation of organic nitrogen, and has been shown to halve annual nitrate leaching rates. The shallow ploughing of grassland (as opposed to deep ploughing) can also reduce nitrate losses.

(4) Reducing nitrate levels in sewage effluent. This would reduce nitrate pollution in rivers. Again, an expensive solution; but with much of our sewage and effluent treatment system needing urgent repair or replacement, the additional costs of a "denitrifying" stage in sewage treatment would not add substantially to the cost.

The balance of costs between controls and levies on agriculture and water treatment is complex and variable. In practice it is likely that action on both fronts will be necessary to make a significant impact on nitrate pollution.

ACTION TO STOP BREACHES OF THE "MAXIMUM ADMISSIBLE CONCENTRATION"

A number of ideas flow from the above analysis. The actual machinery of granting a derogation requires two stages:

(1) Notification to borough and district councils in the area affected. The Water Authority has to notify the councils of the intention to breach the MAC. It should indicate the new level established for nitrate concentrations, though this figure may well be only a "working figure" liable to be exceeded as and when necessary. Note that councils are not required actually to approve the applica-

tion, merely to "note" it. This has not prevented some councils from registering objections with the DoE. Many councillors are unhappy when faced with breaches of EEC safety limits, but lack the facts to counter the Water Authority. Make sure that all councillors have access to this paper, and lobby them to register an objection to the DoE.

(2) Application to the DoE. The Department will give formal approval to breach the MAC. Currently there are a number of applications lodged with the DoE, which does not seem to be in a great hurry to approve them. Individual organisations and objectors should lodge objections with the DoE, along with council objections. It might also be worthwhile to ask the DoE for information on how it plans to reconcile derogation granted under Article 9.1(a) of the Directive with the clear-cut requirements to maintain nitrate levels below the MAC, when the high nitrate levels are clearly nothing to do with the "nature and structure of the ground".

MPs and MEPs should be lobbied and asked to raise the above points with the DoE, as well as in parliament and in the European parliament. The media are always interested in anything to do with drinking water, and attempts should be made to stimulate a wide-ranging debate on the issues.

For those with the money and the patience, it might be worth challenging any attempt to grant derogations under Article 9 or 10 in the UK and European courts.

FINALLY

Clean drinking water is a precious resource which is always under pressure from increased demand. With the Directive coming into force in July 1985, this is a crucial period. Unless a way can be found to prevent the DoE and the Water Authorities from breaching the MAC limit, the prospect of further serious pollution of water supplies seems unavoidable.

** Report written by Bob Allen for Southend and District Ecology Party.

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Published by Green Line. Printed by Dot Press, Folly Bridge Workshops, Thames Street, Oxford.



Peace March from Mutlangen to Bonn, August 6 to September 10

THE MARCH began on Hiroshima Day at Mutlangen where Pershing II is installed. There were three days of fasting and blockades, and several arrests. Five weeks and 600 kilometres later the march arrived in Bonn with an escort of 150 police and a media blackout.

During the five weeks about 130 - 150 people had taken part in the march, some going the whole way, others just a day. As well as about 100 Germans, 10 Danes, 8 Dutch, 2 Americans, 1 Canadian, 1 Welshwoman and 4 English people had been some of the way with the march, giving it an international flavour.

Our route came west from Mutlangen to Stuttgart, north to Heidelberg, west again to near the French border, then north to Koblenz, the Rhine and Bonn. We passed huge bases, nuclear weapons bases, US army and German barracks, training grounds, chemical weapons and conventional arms depots, command centres, small stores hidden inside hills. The route could hardly have passed a huger armoury, a greater proof that Germany is an occupied country.

Perhaps because most of the people on the march were under 30 and half under 25, there were a lot of direct actions. With so many bases to choose, we were in danger of overstretching ourselves with too many badly thought-out actions. We usually rose to the occasion with the big bases.

Several people knew each other from the Dortmund - Brussels march last year. The English speakers and the Danish group got to know each other well and we formed informal affinity

groups. Later on we got into affinity groups for actions. It speeded up the decision-making, but a lot of time was spent in unwieldy plenums; a particularly bad way of communicating for non-German speakers as although the translators did well, it was impossible to know exactly what was being said and to find a space to speak. Decisions tended to be taken by small planning groups. Living together communally was tried but there really wasn't enough space to get an early night, and the food was scrambled for rather than shared equally.

We did make friends very fast though. People were open to each other's feelings and friendships formed, so you could count on a hug if you needed one. This physical closeness helped when actions got tense. We were a closely-knit group even though we had our differences, and this spirit made us strong.

Some actions were daring, some difficult, some dangerous. One speciality was the spontaneous blockading of military vehicles on the road. Another was the small, secret action - as for example when, after surveillance all day by the civil police ("zivis"), a peace gate was cut in the fence at Miesau, the second biggest US weapons/ammunition store in Europe.

Usually the whole march joined in with actions. We did several blockades, vigils and die-ins. One effective tactic was to enter a town near a base in black clothes with our faces painted white, to walk slowly and silently, then to

"die" in the town centre. We also held a couple of "Last Suppers" this way outside bases.

Media coverage was disappointing. Local papers usually carried a picture and a small report. Local radio and TV just don't exist in the same quantities as in Britain. National newspapers take their news mainly from a central agency. 27 people entered Hasselbach (where 96 Cruise missiles are scheduled) and planted a peace symbol in flowers inside the security area. They were arrested and released after giving personal details. It had some effect in the media, but its main result was directed at the base.

The policing of the march was heavy. We had a two-car escort every day, and often several motorbikes. The zivis spied on us daily, and there were several confrontations when



we caught them taking photos of us secretly. They were unsuccessful in stopping us taking action, even though they could deploy 6 van loads of police outside bases. The repression aspects of their policing are frightening thoughts.

Going through the Pfalz, a rural area where the US had built many bases with little opposition, we attracted a lot of fairly hostile curiosity. People depend on the Americans for jobs on bases, in service industries and in shops. Their economy only thrives on American money. We posed a direct threat to them, so arguments were heated, but often people stayed and discussed at length and dialogues began. It was difficult but very important to reach people who normally bury their heads in the sand, 363 days of the year.

We must have been a strange sight at times, a sort of travelling festival or circus. The amount of talent on the march for music, street theatre, juggling and fire eating was astonishing. Sometimes our energy levels were very low. Rain every day of the last week didn't help. It was depressing to see the extent of the militarisation of Germany, and how much it is a puppet of the US. And the police were a constant hassle.

But we did action after action. People responded to us. We outmanoeuvred the police. Most of all our good energy held us together. I left the march with warm, loving hugs embracing me - and I hope I can sustain this strong spirit until next year's march.

Caroline

Class Analysis...

THE COMMENTS of Patrick Whitefield (letters GL27) on my article in issue 26 only serve to emphasise the point I was trying to make.

"Green consciousness," he says, "comes from the heart. Once we have discovered it we must first live by it ourselves and then communicate it to others."

His letter, and indeed Porritt's book *Seeing Green*, seem to be full of this kind of middle class elitism.

Living an ecological lifestyle is often beyond the means of most working class families. Actually buying the books to discover 'green consciousness' and then living an organic wholefood lifestyle costs money.

Even the understanding of many of the complex concepts and issues behind this 'consciousness' requires a level of education which is still mainly enjoyed by the middle class.

However, I do agree with Whitefield that my idea of a summit meeting of Greens would be irrelevant. For if Greens persist with the notion that the politics of class are over, then I see no hope of a true social movement emerging from the Green perspective. How can such a claim be made when all around us we have ample examples of class politics and the effect this is having on the environment.

The Tory government have no money for miners' communities yet can give almost £2,000m each year to farmers. There is £300m available for the M40 extension but nothing to help public transport. While the poor struggle to heat their homes the government can find no money to help them insulate their homes or provide them with cheap fuel. Yet £1,200m is available to build a PWR. How can these environmental issues be seen and understood outside of class politics?

To deny a class analysis of politics is leading the Greens away from a true understanding of many environmental problems and towards irrelevant policies. A good example of this is population control. Nobody would deny that

life would be easier if there were fewer mouths to feed, but it's poverty and not numbers which is pushing people back on their environment. Even if we had a quarter of the present world population, while food is produced to create profit, those without money would still go hungry.

There is enough food and enough fuel in the world, yet ecological disasters are happening because poor people are forced to plunder their environment to survive. Population control will not stop this happening, nor will 'enlightened self-interest' or the emergence of a Green consciousness 'which comes from the heart'. The only thing that will be the emancipation of poor people, which will require social struggle.

Until there is a greater understanding of this among Greens, I for one will remain a Friend of the Earth but will certainly not join an irrelevant Green movement.

Joe Weston
58 Mickle Way, Forest Hill, Oxford

This is not to imply that I regard the situation in South Africa as unimportant or entirely unrelated to our own. But in comparison with ecological issues it has received an inordinate amount of publicity over the past twenty years and it would seem more relevant to spend Ecology Party meetings working out ways of putting our own house in order. Looking around the room that evening I had the distinct feeling of being back in one of those authoritarian institutions, everyone listening in mute docility to the expert of the day expounding upon his or her favourite topic.

Sometime later I received the election literature amongst which was a poster headed "Lettuce Make Brussels Sprout". Now, I'm not implying any criticism of the person who thought up this no-doubt brilliant slogan, or the dedicated hardworking few who spent all their spare time designing, printing and distributing the poster; I'm sure the deficiency is entirely mine, but I couldn't bring myself to put it up in my window because I couldn't think how I would explain it if anyone asked what it meant. Is it a command? - "Lettuce, make Brussels

of a Limp Leaf

I CAN'T FIND any reference to "lack of impact" in the letter from Penny Newsome (GL 26), so perhaps Cynthia Warth (GL 27) is expressing her own feeling about the Ecology Party in her letter.

Certainly I would agree that the Ecology Party does appear to lack impact, and this could be partly due to the fact that many people who subscribe to green aims nevertheless feel that voting for any political party is in itself unconstructive as it merely helps to perpetuate the patriarchal system of power. Despite my own inclination to this view I did join the Ecology Party on the basis of their 1983 General Election manifesto, using the reasoning that since the system exists it's probably more effective to work for change from the inside than to opt out altogether.

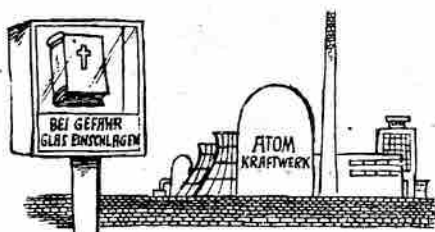
A few weeks after joining I turned up for a local party meeting, not with any particular expectations but certainly unprepared for what I found - a group of people willing to sit for an entire evening listening to a monologue from a white South African who took the opportunity to enthuse at great length upon the problems of his countrymen (no mention of the plight of their women, of course).

Sprout!" Or is it a statement - Lettuce make Brussels Sprout. Even if the grammar were improved by putting the nouns in the plural it would still be biologically inaccurate despite modern advances in genetic engineering. If lettuces made brussels sprouts they wouldn't be lettuces any more, would they?

Apparently the Ecology Party were pleased with the results of that election, so presumably the literature had the desired effect. My own feeling is one of concern that the green movement is represented by a political party which has all the impact of a limp leaf, and even more concern that this public image appears to be deliberate. I still haven't sent my card back, but I shall definitely not have it renewed when the subscription expires.

Genevieve Bridgeman
25 Rathcoole Avenue, London N8 9LY

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In emergency, break glass ...

Molesworth's Rainbow Village

DESPITE COLD WINDS and driving rain, the Rainbow Fields Village at Molesworth is continuing to grow and thrive, with a steady stream of newcomers adding to our numbers.

Preliminary work on the proposed cruise missile base has begun, with surveyors appearing on the finer days to do the necessary measuring up. Whenever they are spotted, a cry of "Surveyors!" goes up, and Rainbow villagers leave their tipis, benders, trucks and buses to come out and make life as difficult as possible for them.

The surveyors, who come from Engineering Services Ltd of Southampton (HAMPSHIRE READERS PLEASE NOTE!) have often had some difficulty in lining up their theodolite readings, and have required a protection squad of about 30 MOD police on hand at all times to give them an unobstructed line of sight. This has no doubt considerably increased the cost of the operation, probably delayed it to at least some

extent, and has resulted in five arrests so far. Summonses are expected to allege "conduct likely to cause a breach of the peace."

When the surveying is completed, the next move is unlikely to take place until weather conditions are favourable for pouring concrete. MOD police do not expect this to be before the end of February (or so they say). A mole reports that concrete fence posts have been ordered, although we do not know yet from whom.

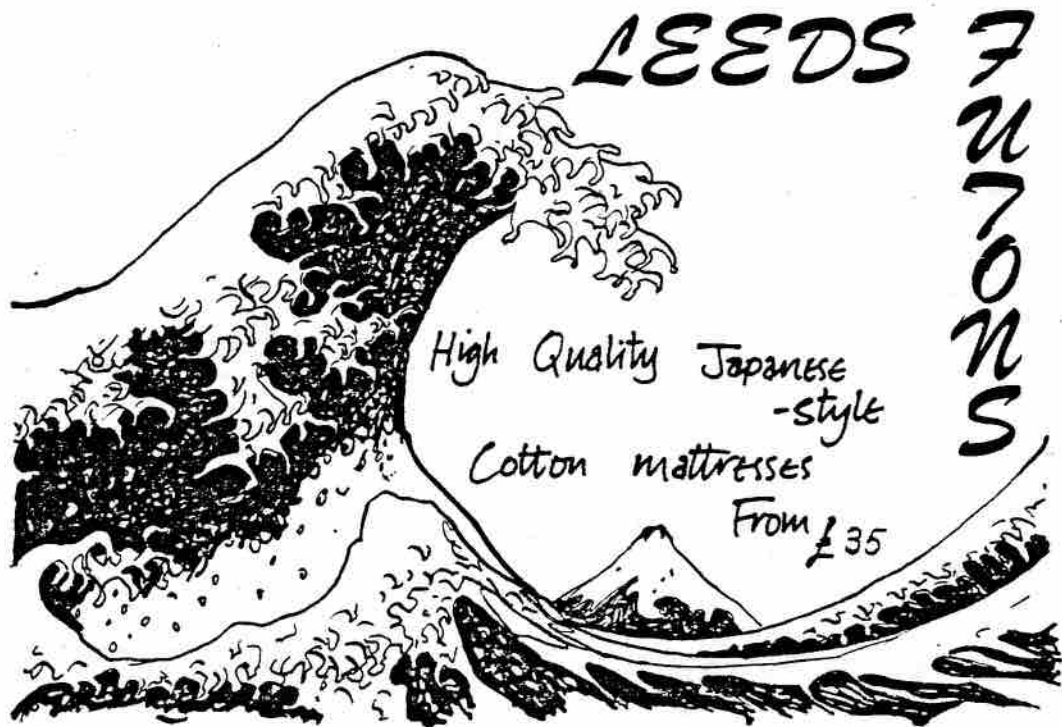
We have the winter months in which to build up the village, and to build up the Peace Movement's commitment to Molesworth and to the concept of a campaign of nonviolent direct action to stop construction work. An important part of building this commitment will be our 12-day midwinter celebration from December 21 to January 1, which we hope will bring many more people to visit Molesworth and form a personal bond with the place and the campaign.

CND is launching the Molesworth Pledge Campaign to build up a network of activists prepared to come to Molesworth as soon as construction work starts. Pledge forms are available from CND at 11, Goodwin Street, London N4 3BR. CND's Easter event will be a double march to Molesworth from Coventry and Watford with a rally and other attractions planned for the base itself.

What's in a name?

Regular GL readers may be puzzled by the change of name from Green Village to Rainbow Fields. This change took place at the beginning of October after a poll of residents and came about for a number of reasons.

On a political level, it was felt that it would be a mistake to adopt a name which could be interpreted as sectarian or exclusive in any way. The real chance of turning the tide against cruise is too important not to involve the whole spectrum of the peace movement, and we don't anyone



33 Clarendon Rd. Leeds 2.(0532)455782

to feel that Molesworth is not their place.

The people who are living here already constitute a broad spectrum, and although many would consider themselves 'green', others are more comfortable under a wider banner. Nevertheless, for those who do identify with the political sense of the term, the Rainbow Village is still clearly a 'green' place in its concept, its ideals and its practice. The change in name certainly does not imply any change in philosophy or rejection of green ideas.

On the symbolic level, I am reminded of the rainbow in the story of Noah. After the flood, the rainbow was said to be the symbol of God's promise not to destroy the earth. Now, while mankind threatens to destroy the earth with nuclear weapons, our positive constructive action at Molesworth is a symbol of our faith that this ultimate madness can be prevented.

On a mystical level, it must be noted that when the decision was made to change the name, a double rainbow appeared over the base.

Brig Oubridge



Molesworth

RAINBOW FIELDS VILLAGE at Molesworth invites you to share twelve days of celebration and fasting with them this Christmas.

Starting on Solstice Eve (Friday 21st), the celebration will run on until New Year's Day - the start of Molesworth Year. Christian CND are holding a Carol Service there on Sunday 23rd; the third anniversary of the Molesworth Peace Camp will be celebrated on Friday 28th; and the weekend of 29th/30th will be a 'children's weekend'.

People will be fasting throughout the 12 days, and it is hoped that visitors will join the fast for at least one day. On December 25 the fast will be held outside the gates of nearby USAF Alconbury.

Rio Tinto still Stinks

A LEGAL dispute which began shortly after RTZ's Annual General Meeting in June 1982 finally drew to a close in October with a legal victory for RTZ. Costs of £550 were awarded against the unsuccessful plaintiffs by Westminster County Court.

As shareholders, Peter Lennard and David Berry had accused RTZ of assault after they were physically ejected from the 1982 AGM. The meeting had ended in uproar when chairman Anthony Tuke, formerly of Barclays Bank, arbitrarily refused to answer any more questions about the company's dubious activities all over the world. Two Aboriginal representatives who had travelled all the way from Australia to protest about the desecration of aboriginal sacred sites by RTZ's subsidiary CRA were therefore not allowed to speak.

For what was at issue here was broader than alleged assault against two English people. Rio Tinto Zinc is one of the largest mining companies in the world, and PARTIZANS (People Against Rio Tinto Zinc And Subsidiaries) is at the head of a campaign to bring them to book for activities that have already induced many individuals and organi-

sations to disinvest. Some examples:

- organising an illegal price-fixing uranium cartel in the 70s.
- showing total disregard for the land rights of indigenous peoples in Papua New Guinea, Australia and Panama.
- importing uranium into Britain from Namibia, which is under illegal military occupation by South Africa; and employing labour practices there which have given rise to charges of apartheid.
- polluting the Serpent River system in Canada with radioactive waste, to the extent that TEN lakes have been declared beyond recovery by the Ontario Environmental Assessment Board.

You can help David Berry and Peter Lennard pay off their costs by sending cheques (payable to 'Berry-Lennard Appeal Fund') to David Berry, 13 Clifton Street, Brighton, E Sussex BN1 3PH.

If you would like to support PARTIZANS, or to know more about their campaigns and publications, write to them at 218 Liverpool Road, London N1.

Ride for Life 1985

FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS of the Ride for Life 1984, which cycled round Wales, we are planning something different for 1985. Several rides, in fact, all simultaneous, and all ending at Molesworth Rainbow Village. Star Rides, if you like! The rides will culminate in a tree planting weekend on April 27/28. Back-up vehicles will bring the trees along with luggage, etc.

So, wanted are: cyclists, organisers to take on Rides from different parts of the UK. I'll willingly coordinate the whole thing, but will principally sort out the Ride from Wales (probably from Brawdy). Also needed are vans, drivers, and overnight accommodation along the way. Details and offers of help to Tony Fletcher, Rainbow's End, 27 Portia Terrace, Mount Pleasant, Swansea SA1 6XW (phone Swansea 49825 or 468500 (day)).

Tony Fletcher

CHIMERA MEDIA COLLECTIVE - A STATEMENT

- 1) THAT a revolution has begun, not by us but with us.
- 2) That a determining factor in its resolution will be the influence of the media (viz. U.S. election farce).
- 3) That for power to remain with local communities, communications are vital.
- 4) CHIMERA will promote and distribute Green-based art, music, IDEAS, in a widening context, embracing all forms of non-destructive communications technology.
- 5) CHIMERA is music, peace shadow plays, video, writing, art, meditation.
- 6) We live separately, and sometimes think together.
- 7) 1985 will be the year - if we can help you, or you can help us, write, phone, or shout.
- 8) A happy Christmas and a Green New Year to all.

CHIMERA - 103 Rockingham Road, Kettering (0536)511842



FoE's Fight for the Buses

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH's Transport Campaign is opposing the government's new proposals for the buses. The campaign lists the Tories' objectives as:

- to break up the present pattern of bus transport
- to allow anyone with a PSV licence to run a bus at any time on any route anywhere
- to force the National Bus Company and the town and city operators to sell off their buses
- to take away from County Councils their powers to co-ordinate public transport
- to refuse to allow unprofitable services (e.g. rural, suburban,

evenings and weekends) to be supported by the profitable - to slash the money available to all operators.

FoE gives "ten good reasons" why public transport is a major environmental issue. More roads mean less agricultural land; in peak hours the bus is eight times more energy efficient than the car; congestion costs the country up to £3bn annually; there is lead in petrol but not in diesel; the nitrogen oxides in car exhausts are a component of acid rain; 16 people die daily from traffic accidents in Britain, mostly involving private vehicles; buses and trains

link well with cycling and walking modes; the background roar of traffic in towns is an underestimated stress factor (by official standards two-thirds of our town populations suffer from an unacceptable noise level); planning based round private transport encourages urban sprawl; and the government wants to divert the money at present used to subsidise buses for road building instead.

Another briefing sheet lists 10 questions to ask your MP.

Details from Don Mathew, FoE, 377 City Road, London EC1V 1NA (01-837 0731).

The Rain in Spain...

John Taylor writes:

CONSIDERING THE amount of rainfall we get in this country, and the speed with which we can reach a drought situation, Spain's water problem can be understood. With millions of tourists showering, drinking, and swimming in private and hotel swimming pools, the problem is getting more acute as the water table lowers. Evidence is all around you - from the brackish water in homes and the dried-up wells and rivers which are now becoming tips for builders.

In the agriculturally rich area of Oliva-Pego, where the water is good and well-husbanded, the ecologists are in the forefront of a fight to retain their water. Local people have had lotteries to pay for wells and pumping equipment, so when it was proposed to install pipes to pump the water to Denia 17km away, an inquiry was demanded. More than 5,000 people assembled on August 27 to stop the pipeline.

They won a temporary victory: the pipeline was smashed, cars overturned, and an inquiry forced on the authorities. The slogan "Water for people and the land - not for swimming pools" is in every shop window and on streamers across roads.

The campaign committee is making three demands: (1) no new drinking water to be taken as new wells contain salt already; (2) cease the draining of the marsh zone, which is altering the environment of the area; (3) make a development map showing clear zones where no development may take place.

Organisation locally is focussed in youth bars and bookshops. The campaign to stop the interior of Spain becoming a desert will lead to many campaigns like this: "green" is taking on a new meaning in Spain as symbolic of youth and a new political force.

MP Monitors Wanted

CND's PARLIAMENTARY and Elections Committee want to establish a network of parliamentary monitors, one for each MP. The monitor would ensure that the MP was regularly lobbied on attitudes to nuclear power/weapons, US bases, and so on. Monitors receive briefings from P & E committee. If you are interested in monitoring your MP, get in touch with Marjorie Thompson at CND office, 11 Goodwin Street, London N4.

A Future for Norfolk

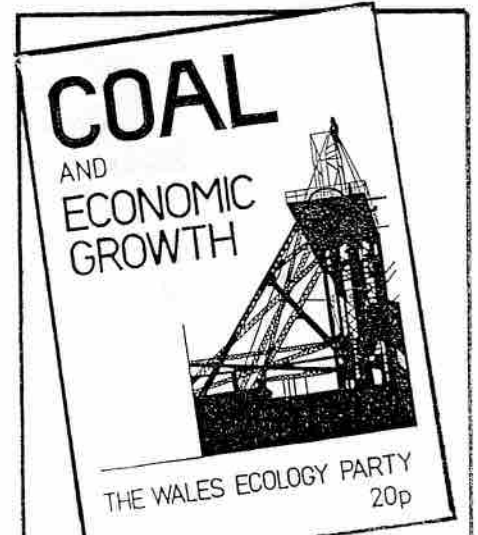
AN OPEN FORUM on Alternative Futures in Norfolk is to be held at Wensum Lodge, Norwich, on Saturday December 8th. Cost is £1, there will be nine workshops and a creche, and a buffet lunch is available. Details from Norwich 502796, 53696, or 502325.

Wholefoods for Children

"WHOLEFOODS FOR CHILDREN" is the title of a booklet published by Down to Earth Wholefoods, 7 Amwell End, Ware, Herts. It has recipes and some general suggestions on vegetarian (not vegan) food for young children. Single copy 30p plus 15p p&p.

Where is Keith Hudson?

GEOFFREY COOPER writes from Cambridge to say that he "found a great deal of encouragement and orientation in that wonderful but shortlived magazine 'Towards Survival'." He wants to know if anyone knows the whereabouts of Keith Hudson, who was the principal inspiration behind the mag. Write to Geoffrey at 33 Armitage Way, Cambridge CB4 2UE.



Full of background facts for the present dispute; an analysis of the strike and government policy in terms of economic demands; and a way forward for coal towards a sustainable energy future.

20p + 13p stamp from Green Line.



Festive Fare

Mandy Scholefield's Christmas Menu

Mushroom Julienne

Apple, cashew nut and celery ring
Chestnut roast
Roast potatoes, carrots, sprouts...
any raw vegetables you fancy
Bread sauce
Onion sauce
Gravy made with red wine that you opened at breakfast
Homemade Christmas pudding sans suet
Brandy butter or egg custard

As I make up most of my dishes, I haven't got exact amounts. What follows is what I do. This year I will be cooking for ten. Four adults and six children. If you want recipes for four, I would still make the larger amount to save on cooking. Unlike turkey this food doesn't get boring - in fact it's rather "more-ish".

Julienne

1 lb mushrooms
2 x 4oz cartons of soured cream
margarine, sea salt, black pepper
garlic (I use lots)
parsley

Use a pan with a lid. Don't wash the mushrooms, wipe them. They should be fresh enough not to need peeling. Sauté mushrooms in marg and garlic, add chopped parsley and soured cream, and cook without boiling for about ½ hr or until you can't bear it any longer and have to eat it.

Cashew Nut Ring

1 lb cashew nuts (I think 8oz would be enough)

3 or 4 Cox's apples (leave peel on), chopped
1 head of celery
1 large onion
garlic, salt and pepper
6 oz bread crumbs
1 egg

For the look of the dish I roast this in a 10" ring tin so that you can serve it with veggies in the middle and round the outside.

Sauté the cashew nuts. Chop and fry onion, celery, apples and garlic: do these separately and then put in a large mixing bowl. Stir in egg and bread crumbs and press into greased ring tin. Cook for ½ hr at 400°F.

Chestnut Roast

1 lb chestnuts. Fresh chestnuts are essential: the dried ones don't give the same taste or texture. To peel the chestnuts, cut a cross in them and put them in boiling water. The skins should then come off quite easily. Don't leave this job till Christmas morning!

Cook chestnuts in a small amount of vegetable stock or water until tender - not soggy. Put them in a bowl and mash with a fork. Add egg, sauté onions, garlic, bread crumbs, herbs, salt and black pepper.

Roast in oven 400°F for about ½ hr. This is very rich, so you won't want too much on your plate.

Bread Sauce, Onion Sauce and Christmas Pud recipes are all quite easy to find.

* Make a veggie stock about 3 days before Christmas so that you have plenty for soups, gravy, etc.

* Always taste things as you go along.

Christmas Pudding

3 oz currants
3 oz sultanas
6 oz seedless raisins
1 tsp grated orange peel (optional)
2 tbsps lemon juice
½ tsp mixed spice
1 tbsps molasses
4 ozs soya milk (see cake recipe)
3 oz oil
2 oz flour
½ flat tsp baking powder
4 oz bread crumbs

Prepare fruit, chop raisins, mix all ingredients except last three thoroughly together. Mix flour, baking powder and bread crumbs and stir lightly into fruit mixture. Mix well. Put in pudding basin with 2" to spare at top for rising. Cover with a piece of cloth and secure with rubber band. Simmer for 4 - 8 hours before Christmas Day and 30 - 60 mins longer immediately before using. (May not keep more than a week or two as no sugar.)

Christmas Cake

8 oz currants
8 oz sultanas
4 oz seedless raisins
1 tbsps molasses
1 tsp baking powder
1 tbsps lemon juice
12 oz 100% wholemeal flour
4 oz oil
1 flat tsp mixed spice
1 tsp grated orange peel (optional)
½ pt soya milk (whisk 1dsp soya flour in ½ pt water)

Prepare fruit, chopping raisins. Mix well with molasses, oil, lemon juice and soya milk. Mix baking powder, flour and spice and stir lightly but thoroughly with lifting motion into fruit mixture. Bake for 2 hours at 300°F in tin lined with greaseproof paper. Cover with greaseproof paper and cook for a further hour at 250°F.



The recipes for cake, pudding and mince pies are taken from the Vegan Society leaflet 'Festive Recipes', and are strongly recommended by a reader.

Mince Pies

Mincemeat filling

8 oz currants
4 oz seedless raisins
4 oz sultanas
12 oz grated apple
1 tsp grated orange peel (optional)
1 tsp mixed spice
3 tbsps lemon juice
2 tbsps oil

Prepare fruit. Chop raisins. Stir all ingredients well together. Preferably make the day before use, but keeps only a few days as no sugar.

Pastry

16 oz flour
2 flat tsp baking powder
6 oz oil
6 oz water
pinch of salt (optional)

Mix flour, baking powder and salt. Whisk together oil and water and mix with flour, lightly but thoroughly. Put in fridge or cool place for ½ hr. Roll out between sheets of greaseproof paper, not too thinly. Cut into rounds, line bun tins, fill and cover. Bake 25 mins at 400°F.

Makes 24 pies.



I Believe...

I BELIEVE in the Oneness of Mankind and all living things and the interdependence of each and all.

I believe that unless we play fair to the earth and practice the law of return we cannot exist physically; unless we play fair to our neighbour we cannot exist socially or internationally; unless we play fair to our better selves we cannot live individually.

I believe in the development of a fuller understanding of the true relationship between all forms of life in an endeavour to maintain a natural balance between minerals, vegetation, animals and mankind, man being primarily dependent on the vegetation of the earth for both food and clothing. In order to get food, clothes and shelter to enable us to live our bodily life on this earth we must take care of the earth and especially not meddle wantonly with the natural circulation of water, which meddling has been the cause of great loss of soil all over the globe; and we must rightly return to earth the waste of whatever we take from the earth.

I believe that water must be a basic consideration in all our national and earth-wide forest programs; streams and rivers must be restored to their natural motion, and floods and droughts must be eliminated. Forests and woodlands are intimately linked with biological, social and spiritual well-being. I believe that the minimum tree cover for safety is one third of the total land area, that every catchment area should have at least this proportion of tree cover made up of mixed species, including broad-leaved trees, as monoculture in any form is injurious to the land.

I believe in the traditional ideal that our fields should be "fields of the woods", by which is meant landscape farming of every valley and plain, with woodlands in high places, shelter belts, nut and fruit orchards (of mixed species) and hedgerow trees everywhere.

I believe in the innate intelligence of the villagers, the countrymen and the workers

and that they should be allowed to manage their own affairs. I believe they will put into their work not merely their hands and their feet but their brains and their hearts. Each can experience the transcendental joy of creation and can earn immortality and bestow immortality. They will not deny help to those in darkness who reach out for the light.

I believe in an extension of love between all races and I believe that the one catalyst which can effect and control such a cosmic unification is woman.

I believe that the "blossoming deserts" foretold by the Prophets of Old is now being fulfilled by the steady reclamation of the deserts by tree planting. This is the scientific answer to the world's dilemma and with God's blessing, provides a one world purpose uniting East and West.

I believe that the Lord's Prayer has been answered and that it is in the process of being fulfilled, and that we are entering a "New Cycle of Human Power and that all the horizons are becoming luminous; for this is the hour of the coming together of the Sons of Men and that the earth will indeed become as a Garden and a Paradise."

I believe that this generation may either be the last to exist in any semblance of a civilised world, or it will be the first to have the vision, the daring and the greatness to say: "I will have nothing to do with this destruction of life; I will play no part in this devastation of the land; I am destined to live and work for peaceful construction, for I am morally responsible for the world of today and the generations of tomorrow." Let "TWAHAMWE" - "pull together" - be our motto and I pray that we may give our active support to all efforts of desert reclamation by tree planting.

I pray that I may be just to the Earth beneath my feet, to the neighbour by my side, and to the Light that comes from above and within; that this wonderful world of ours may be a little more beautiful and happy for my having lived in it.

by Richard St Barbe Baker