

# SCFS FORUM

Southern California Federation of Scientists

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Founded in 1951 as the Los Angeles Chapter of the Federation of American Scientists, the Southern California Federation of Scientists is a non-profit educational organization dedicated to issues affecting SCIENCE, SOCIETY and PUBLIC POLICY. The **FORUM** is intended as a communications vehicle among our members and readers. We hope that our readers will send their comments and debate one another on the issues of the day. Please contact or send all materials to:

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## The New International Scientific Order and World Rule of Law

By ROGER DITTMANN

The movement to use science [in its broadest sense, as "Wissenschaft", or "knowledge"] to improve the human condition has a long history of involvement in global issues of arms control, disarmament, peace, population optimization, and environmental protection. The World Federation of Scientific Workers, active in such endeavors since its inception, has recently been conceptualizing a New International Scientific Order (NISO) to achieve the scientific component of these goals, primarily through the UN [Dittmann (1992)]. However, the NISO is likely to meet the same fate as the preceding *unanimous*, but non-binding international resolutions, upon which NISO plans are based. These normative resolutions have not experienced significant implementation because there exists no **democratic, supranational** institution with adequate jurisdiction and competence.

The need for supranational law increases with growing global interdependence. Polls show overwhelming public support for its establishment. Global problems increasingly transcend national boundaries and exceed the individual authority and jurisdiction of nation-states. Therefore, as Einstein noted with great foresight in 1947, we must move from *international* relations between *nationally sovereign* states (with virtually no referee) to more directly democratic *supranational* institutions and to a **supranational** scientific order.

The action program to accomplish this has already been initiated. U.S. Senator Mike Gravel [Alaska 1969-1981] has launched an initiative cam-

paign in the U.S. entitled, *Philadelphia II*, to call a supranational, directly democratic World Constitutional Convention. According to the wording of the Initiative, women will play an historically unprecedented, essentially gender equal role. Previous noble efforts to write World Constitutions and to form World Peoples Parliaments were important exercises in formulating, developing, and gaining acceptance of concepts, much as the Federalist papers did, but they have proved futile because they lacked political power. In contrast, *Philadelphia II* legally taps into the established coercive power of the state. By initiative, it commits modest revenues from individual states in the U.S., in the form of loans, to extend the initiative process to other states, to conduct delegate elections, and for administrative costs to supplement, and thereby legitimize, traditional voluntary efforts. It ingeniously uses the resources and powers of governments to circumvent any objections those same governments may pose. Governments *per se* cannot participate—and cannot obstruct the process. The audacity and ambition of the endeavor may daunt many, as may lack of understanding that democratic, supranational institutions with adequate authority, jurisdiction, and competence are **necessary** and also **achievable** with *Philadelphia II*. Disarmament, for example, will remain a chimera as long as there is at least a perceived advantage in the acquisition and possession of weapons. The most to which one can realistically aspire through arms control and disarmament is to agree about the conduct of war and threats of the use of military force agreements which are routinely violated when powerful states find them disadvantageous. Currently, only non-binding declarations, abrogatable treaties, and imperial pressure on subject nations restrict weaponry.

*Philadelphia II*'s strength is to surmount legal objections by governments of the world jealous of democratic challenges to their power. It achieves legitimacy through direct democracy.

Upon initiative approval of *Philadelphia II* in jurisdictions representing a majority of the U.S. population, the U. S. Federal Government is mandated to repay loans from the states, and to provide its share of funding necessary to establish a Convention Secretariat, which is charged with calling and conducting a World Constitutional Convention when the national majorities of voters representing one thousand million

people and twenty five percent of the world's gross economic product, a (non-nuclear) “critical mass” of legitimacy, have voted to participate. *Philadelphia II* encourages the extension of direct democracy to the entire globe by requiring that countries wishing to participate in the World Constitutional Convention express such will through initiative or referendum.

The very process of calling for a World Constitutional Convention generates vital debate about the crucial issue of global institutional capability. Scholars reflect more profoundly and urgently, empirically and normatively, upon the principles, philosophy, nature, and structure of supranational institutions to manage global human affairs. Governments which now enjoy largely unrestricted power and privilege in the world may be persuaded to allow UN Charter reform with greater democratic expression and greater effectiveness as an alternative to having the UN superseded as was the League of Nations.

We need to answer the question why a World Constitutional Convention is necessary. The leading actors on the world's stage are nation-states, which, in practice, achieve diplomatically-recognized national sovereignty and legitimacy through durable (coercive) control over people within a territory. Most of the large scale atrocities, genocide, aggression, and other objectionable behavior are conducted by governments of nation-states. In addition, overpopulation, poverty, malnutrition and hunger, as well as illiteracy are consequences of **disorder** in international affairs, disorder which affects all facets of global life. National governments must be subject to the rule of law, democratically established, in a non-repressive limited system which respects and even guarantees human rights, and which provides the institutional vehicle for the implementation of the New International (supranational) Scientific Order, which directs science to serve humanity.

In order to achieve the rational, orderly, just, and secure world to which humanity aspires through world rule of law, several fundamental principles must be honored. Law largely depends upon voluntary compliance, which requires at least the perception of justice among the governed. Democratic participation in the formulation and operation of institutions is the most direct and effective way to achieve the perception of justice. Law should be universal in application and uniform in enforcement. There should be a sepa-

ration between legislative, administrative, and judicial branches, with checks and balances among them, codified in a constitution which protects basic human rights, in order to prevent abuse of power.

The structure of the UN honors none of these principles. The UN is essentially a World War II victors club in which power resides in the Permanent Members of the Security Council whose armed forces won World War II under the name, United Nations. They make up the rules and act as prosecutor, judge, jury, policeman, and executioner [with the acquiescence of at least four of the fourteen non-permanent members of the Security Council]. Neither the permanent members nor their client states can ever be involuntarily subject to the rule of law because unanimous concurrence among Permanent Members for all substantive resolutions is required. National sovereignty is considered so sacrosanct that governments are not subject to the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice unless they voluntarily agree—hardly a recipe for resolving conflict. The UN is not even demographic (representation is far from proportional to population), much less democratic (representatives are appointed by governments, not elected). Human rights are expressed only in legally non-binding resolutions and in abrogatable treaties. The obsolete nature of the UN Charter has long been recognized. At the 1965 “Pacem in Terris” Convocation, then Secretary-General U Thant candidly so described it. The UN Charter itself cannot be changed without the same unanimous concurrence of the Permanent Members.

Legally-binding diplomacy currently is restricted to international relations codified in treaties to which sovereign nations voluntarily agree. This works reasonably well when all parties to the treaty find it to their advantage, but when conflict occurs the treaties can be abrogated through an exercise of national sovereignty. The treaty system fails exactly when it is most critical—during conflict. The number of contemporary violent conflicts and the increasing severity of global problems attest to the inadequacy of the **international** system.

The *Philadelphia II* initiative has already been submitted to and approved by the Secretaries-of-State in some of the United States where the initiative process exists. Funds from any state approving the initiative can be used to conduct initiative campaigns in other states, creating a snowball effect culminating

in a mandate to commit U.S. federal funds. The process can be concurrently initiated in any state or country. Early participants in its initial sensitive and critical stage can provide urgent impetus and direction.

For more information, and for the complete text of the initiative, contact the U.S. affiliate of the WFSW, the US Federation of Scholars and Scientists, or:

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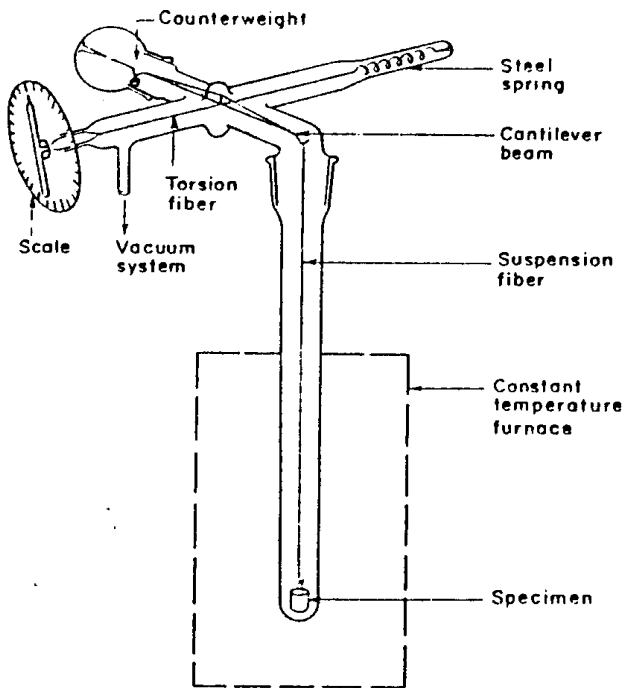
# Tidbits of Science

## TORSION BALANCES, MICRO SCALE

By JAMES C. WARF

Gravimetric studies on a micro scale are sometimes necessary when investigating rare or expensive materials. An example in my own experience was a series of investigations of the hydrides and deuterides of samarium, europium, gadolinium, ytterbium, and lutetium. Only milligram amounts of the free metals were available. We wanted to learn the composition (measured by weight gain) at various temperatures and pressures because these data revealed important thermodynamic properties.

The apparatus is shown in the sketch. The torsion



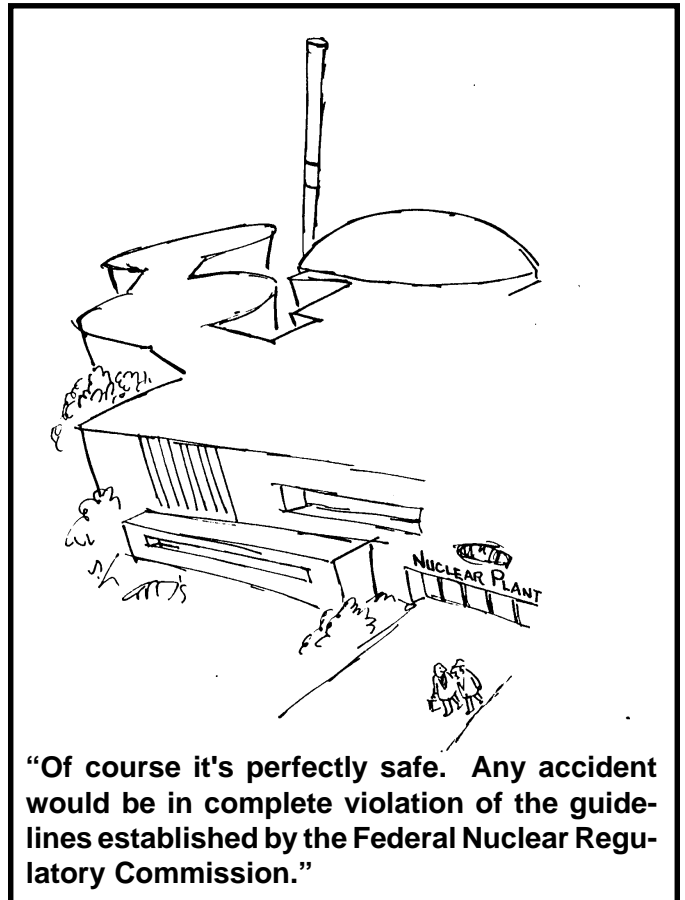
*Torsion balance assembly*

balance consisted of a cantilever beam fused to a torsion fiber 130 micrometers in diameter. It was constructed from silica, that is, glassy quartz (which is much tougher than glass). The fibers were drawn by hand after heating a fine quartz cane in a torch. Tension was applied by a spring. The balance was enclosed in a glass vacuum system. Torsion was

applied to the fiber through a lubricated ground-glass joint until its original position was established as shown by the pointer. The number of degrees rotation disclosed the weight gain. The sample, in a molybdenum foil bucket suspended by a quartz fiber, was heated to a red heat by a furnace. This technique functioned admirably for weight changes up to 50 milligrams or so.

English scientists have constructed ultramicro balances, also from silica. The first problem was to draw fibers so fine that they are almost invisible. This was accomplished by a team of two people. A bale of hay was set at one end of a hallway. At the other end, one person readied a torch, and a fine cane of silica, one of whose ends was attached to a cord. The other end of the cord was tied to an arrow in a crossbow. When the cane was white hot, the arrow was shot on a signal into the target of hay about 30 feet away. This method is successful, but working with the ultra-fine fibers to make a torsion balance is nerve-racking.

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**“Of course it's perfectly safe. Any accident would be in complete violation of the guidelines established by the Federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission.”**

# WARD VALLEY CONFERENCE AT NEEDLES

By James C. Warf  
July 7-9, 1994

**The Occasion.** -- The National Research Council, an adjunct of the National Academy of Sciences, sponsored a three-day conference on the proposed nuclear repository in the north end of Ward Valley. One purpose was to address the issues brought up by geologist Howard Wilshire et al., pertaining to a possible hydrologic connection from Ward Valley to the Colorado River through which radionuclides could conceivably migrate. Others were examination of the age of the water in the aquifer, the meaning of trace tritium in the soil 100 feet below the surface, and the effects on the desert tortoise habitat.

Nearly all of the NAS/NRC committee were persons associated with the nuclear industry in one capacity or another. No speakers were listed on the program who protested the site. The only opportunity for this was a series of five-minute presentations by the audience at the end of each day. The whole program seemed to be stacked in favor of a decision to approve the dump.

**The Site.** -- Dan Hirsch, Joe Lyou and I drove to Needles; Bennett Ramberg came separately. All except me represented Committee to Bridge the Gap, while I represented SCFS. Richard Saxon came for PSR. The three of us (Dan, Joe, and I) stopped at Ward Valley and drove south to the site itself, which is 19 miles from the Colorado River. Fences had been erected to keep the desert tortoises from wandering into the road. It was really hot, somewhere around 120 to 125°F (Needles reached 123°F). For city folk, Ward Valley seems bleak, desolate, and empty; for the local Mojave Native Americans and other locals, it looks serene, restful, and untroubled. The vegetation consists of creosote, mesquite, and other shrubs. The soil is made up of sand and gravel. The water table begins about 650 feet below the surface, and below it is the aquifer or saturated zone. Between the water table and surface is the unsaturated zone, which is about 25% void filled with air and about 6.5% water by volume. Evidently, some rainwater does percolate down through

the unsaturated zone during the wet season, and moisture movement is upward during the dry season.

**The Conference.** -- The NRC committee had nearly two dozen members, while the audience had variably 100 to 200 people. If approved, the Ward Valley repository will be filled over a 30 year period. More than 90% of the waste will be in ordinary steel drums in unlined trenches, the cheapest way possible. A few plastic canisters will hold glass ampules of tritiated water in cylinders of stainless steel, packed with cement and welded shut. After burial is finished, the site will be monitored by its patron, US Ecology, for five years and then maintained by the State of California for 100 years. The burial trenches are all in the unsaturated zone, where supposedly no rainwater ever reaches.

Many persons presented five-minute talks on one or another aspect of Ward Valley. This included Dan Hirsch, Joe Lyou, Richard Saxon, and myself, as well as numerous others. Organizations from all over the country had sent in delegates. So many vociferous complaints had been registered, protesting the grotesquely one-sided nature of the program, that the chair felt obliged to permit Dan Hirsch 20 extra minutes. Dan gave a knowledgeable and sparkling talk, informing Committee members of facts which were clearly new to them. A few speakers from the audience were shrill, emotional, and given to use of quasi-expletives in their opposition to the dump. No decisions were reached at once; it will take time to come to any conclusions. The next step is for Secretary of the Interior to decide whether to transfer the Federal land to the custodianship of California, and then to the firm which will excavate the repository.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

SCFS wishes to convey condolences to Bennett Ramberg on the Death of his wife, Betty. Those of us who knew her will always remember her cheerful, positive, and upbeat outlook. She consistently brightened the surrounding atmosphere.

# Conference on Effects of Radioactive Fallout from Soviet Testing in Kazakhstan

By James C. Warf  
April 1994

**The Occasion.**—The Global Ministries of United Methodist Church, long acclaimed for its activism in helping to right the wrongs of our world, has been sponsoring a program to aid the victims of radioactive fallout from Soviet nuclear bomb testing. The principal testing grounds of the USSR was in eastern Kazakhstan, in an area identified with the town of Semipalatinsk. The Church leadership decided to conduct a conference in which physicians from Semipalatinsk could engage American scientists in a dialogue on these matters.

Accordingly, Dr. Randolph Nugent, the General Secretary of the Global Ministries, and Ms. Cathie Lyons, Associate General Secretary, made several trips to Russia for preliminary negotiations. Ms. Lyons went to Semipalatinsk three times and learned to know the authorities in charge of the medical program. The result was that three physicians from Kazakhstan agreed to participate in the meetings, along with three translators fluent in Russian and English. The dialogue was held in Stamford, Connecticut, April 18-20, 1994. The Global Ministries underwrote all the costs, which were considerable. The hospitality they afforded was superb: baskets of goodies, plaques, and a stained-glass peace dove, and more, for each participant. I spent a couple of months brushing up on my command of Russian, which had rusted for 52 years.

I just had to know the origin of that peculiar name, Semipalatinsk. It turned out to derive from the year 1617, when Russian explorers were laying the groundwork for expansion into Siberia and Alaska. A group had camped at the present site, and had pitched seven tents. It became a permanent village. The name

is a contraction of Russian terms: sem (seven), palatka (tent), and -insk (settlement), that is, Semipalatinsk.

The Kazakh scientific team was comprised of:

■ Dr. Boris Gusev, a neurologist appointed to the top secret Soviet Dispensary # 4 of the USSR Ministry of Health. He became the chief doctor in 1976. In independent Kazakhstan, he became Director of the Institute. He is an ethnic Russian whose family has lived in Kazakhstan for generations.

■ Dr. Bakhyt Tumenova, a pediatrician at the Semipalatinsk Children's Infectious Disease Hospital. Her husband and daughter are physicians. She is an ethnic Kazakh.

■ Dr. Zhaksibay Zhumadilov, a surgeon trained in Moscow. He has conducted research in biochemistry and immunology. He too is an ethnic Kazakh.

The translators were Lydia Istomina, Galina Tschadliev, and Igor Kozlov.

The ten American scientists consisted of the following, in addition to myself:

◆ Dr. Victor E. Archer, an expert in low-level radiation effects; expert on radon and carcinogenesis;

◆ Dr. Allen B. Benson, chemistry professor at Spokane College, and a specialist in effects of radioactive iodine;

◆ Dr. Eugene P. Cronkite, a hematologist with experience in biological effects of nuclear weapons, serving on the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission;

◆ Dr. Roland Finston, of Stanford University, lecture in radiation safety and consequences of nuclear war;

◆ Dr. Rudi Nussbaum, a nuclear physicist studying effects of low doses of ionizing radiation; experience with international protection standards;

◆ Dr. David Rush, active in PSR and International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, and a critic of DOE's epidemiological research on impact of working in the nuclear weapons industry;

◆ Dr. Arthur Sawitsky, specialist in leukemia, hematology, and oncology; worked at Brookhaven National Laboratory;

◆ Dr. George Voelz, long associated with the Atomic Energy Commission, and researcher in effects of plutonium and external ionizing radiation; Los Alamos veteran;

◆ Dr. Gregg Wilkinson, epidemiologist formerly at Los Alamos studying effects of plutonium on workers in nuclear fields nationwide; expert in health

effects of low-energy radiation.

The proceedings were chaired by Bishop Hearn. Each of the ten American scientists had been requested to submit a specimen of his technical publications. These were photocopied and put into the dialogue program. They were all translated into Russian as well. My entry was several pages of excerpts from *ALL THINGS NUCLEAR*.

**Background.**—The USA required four years to develop the first nuclear warhead; the USSR, starting right after the war, required the same length of time. The first Soviet bomb was exploded at the Semipalatinsk test site on August 29, 1949. It was called *Pervaya Molniya*, meaning first lightning. Its yield was 20 kilotons, somewhat more than the Hiroshima bomb. In 1955 the first Soviet hydrogen bomb was also exploded there. Its yield was 215 kilotons. The bomb contained lithium deuteride; a color photo showed the explosion as bright red, since light of this color is emitted by lithium. One might say the fireball was dripping blood. For this test, Semipalatinsk was evacuated, except for a few men who were ordered to stay. They received direct gamma rays, and most died within a few years. They were simply guinea pigs. Altogether, 546 tests were carried out at Semipalatinsk and nearby, 210 of them in the atmosphere. After 1963, atmospheric tests were banned by treaty. The site was closed in 1989.

Rainfall averages six or seven inches per year, about the same as at the proposed Ward Valley radioactive waste site in the California desert. It could be that study of the movement of bomb radionuclides could give valuable data on any leaks at Ward Valley, if it ever materializes. The level of radioactivity on the land ranges from quite low up to 12 curies per square kilometer. The Irtysh River runs through the site. The fallout plumes from the four mightiest blasts, which comprise about 70% of the total radioactivity.

**Consequences.**—Out of a scattered population of approximately 500,000, the known number of people afflicted by radiation is around 70,000. The whole-body radiation doses were mostly between five and 100 rems (the Kazakhs used the more up-to-date word centisieverts instead of rems). A few people suffered a dosage of 500 or more rems, and died.

Around 15% of the affected people have been

examined in detail so far. In assessing effects on health, comparisons were made using health records from prenuclear times, 1932-48. This appeared to be the best approximation to a control group available.

In general, the consequences of exposure of the people were devastating. The rates of morbidity rose sharply. Here are the main points brought out by the Kazakh physicians:

Quite high yields of radio-iodine (I-131, -132, -133) fission products are released when a warhead explodes. Clouds of iodine vapor drifted over the inhabited areas, and some was unavoidably inhaled and absorbed. The iodine was rapidly assimilated by the thyroid gland, subjecting it to a radiation dose of hundreds, even thousands of rems. The result was destruction of the thyroid as a functioning gland, and subsequent hypothyroidism. The growth of children was stunted. After a latent period of years, the thyroid area often became cancerous. The inhabitants of Rongelap Atoll near Bikini suffered the same blight in 1954, when the most powerful American hydrogen bomb was detonated. The longest lived of the above iodine isotopes has a half-life of eight days, so in a few months it all decays away.

The other principal sources of radiation are direct exposure to gamma rays from an explosion, and internal exposure from ingested or inhaled dust containing strontium-90 and cesium-137. In addition, there are other dangerous fission products, and also some plutonium-239, plutonium-240, and americium-241 which survived the explosion. Radiation damage from these sources causes various kinds of cancer, chromosome alterations, kidney and liver problems, accelerated aging, anemia, and leukemia. Another pervasive effect is an impairment of the immune system, so that infections are unchecked and claim many lives. The most common such infectious diseases are tuberculosis, flu, and pneumonia. Oncological disorders also proliferate.

The worst effects of all were those on fetuses. Rapidly dividing cells are most susceptible to radiation damage. Radiation injury was severe enough to cause most such fetuses to miscarry. There is a museum, a sort of chamber of horrors, full of deformed fetuses preserved in formaldehyde or alcohol. Some had a large, single eye in the middle of the forehead, a sort of Cyclops; others had two heads. A few had hands attached directly to the shoulders. Many cases

of microcephalia were encountered, in which case the brain was tiny or missing. Misshapen heads were common, with odd bumps and lack of symmetry. Blind eyes could be detected. Not all defective fetuses were miscarried, and live births resulted. Depending on the degree of radiation damage, the children had bulbous, blind eyes in deformed heads, and most but not all were mentally retarded. Deformities of the urinary tract and genitalia were prevalent. Three words describe the effects on fetuses: grotesque, monstrous, ghastly. Parents, not knowing the origin of these hideous defects, would often keep their children hidden. Physicians were prevented by the Soviet government from associating radiation from the bombs with the cases.

Most of the affected people were Muslims. Islamic law prohibits excising tissue from corpses, and this restriction was respected by the Soviets. Nevertheless, some teeth and tissue specimens were taken from the bodies of the Russian minority, and might serve to determine radiation dosage and identification of fission products using electron-spin resonance. Dr. Gusev's group has an instrument developed in Germany which can measure concentrations of strontium-90 and cesium-137 in skin or on other surfaces. By adjusting, it can respond to the beta particles from strontium-90 (no gamma is emitted in this case), or to the gamma rays from cesium-137. Filters and decay-energy restrictions are employed.

**Atomic Lake.**—Although the USA-USSR treaty of 1963 outlawed atomic tests in the atmosphere, the Soviet military seemed to feel that just one more big blast was necessary. To skirt the restrictions, in 1965 they exploded a warhead just below the surface, claiming it was a peaceful application of nuclear technology to make a lake. The site was a short distance from the Irtysh River at the Semipalatinsk test site. The yield of the bomb is uncertain, but it could not have exceeded 200 kilotons. It produced a crater perhaps 60 feet deep. Green conscripts from a remote region of Siberia were ordered to dig a canal from the river to the crater, using the excavated dirt to build a dam in some places along its course. All the soldiers lived only a short time afterward, victims of the high-level fallout; they must have inhaled much dust.

By 1975 algae was growing in the lake, perhaps introduced by birds. Recognizing that this aquatic

plant served as food for a certain kind of fish, this nuclear cesspool was stocked with that species. The fish grew rapidly to twice normal size and laid eggs, but the hatchlings were blind and had no tails or fins, and all died. The parent fish also succumbed. Wild rodents which live in the area drank from the lake and perished. This included rats, mice, and hamsters, which are native to the region. Today, when the level of radioactivity is almost 100 times lower than at the start, some fish might be living there.

**International Exchange of Data.**—In stark contrast to former practices, full disclosure of all information is the rule. The Kazakh government needs all the help it can get, and is planning to disclose all the scientific results of its studies of Semipalatinsk in return. A number of Japanese specialists from Hiroshima and from Nagasaki have come for study. Dr. Gusev's team is scheduled to visit American centers of radiation treatment in Ohio and in Texas.

The value of the current investigations into the long-term effects of ionizing radiation on human beings is beyond doubt. It has been pursued 36 years and includes the offspring of exposed parents. The work is extremely difficult and at times frustrating because of the numerous unknowns and variables.

We should realize that the world has other sites of radioactive contamination begging for study and relief. The most notorious is the area around Chernobyl. Others are at the Ural weapons complex near Chelyabinsk. The Nevada test site and the downwind regions, along with their inhabitants, should also be studied, even though the level of radioactivity is less than that at Semipalatinsk. Other American sites are at Hanford, Rocky Flats, Oak Ridge, Savannah River, etc. In China, quite a number of people living near Lop Nor in the far west were exposed during a series of air blasts. The French tested their bombs mostly on islands in the Pacific, and the fallout fell into the ocean except for a few cases when the wind unexpectedly changed, and a few islands were exposed. The British tested some of their bombs in Australia, endangering quite a number of Aborigines.

A press conference was held at the end of the conference. Further studies are planned. ###

## **SCFS ACTIVITIES**

### **Ward Valley Nuclear Waste Dump**

Few SCFS members attended the May 18 fund raiser, even though we had won a legal victory several weeks ago. The Department of Health Services was ordered to reevaluate their position vis-à-vis the U.S. Geologic Survey analysis calling attention to five possible pathways that nuclear waste could contaminate the Colorado River.

At the May 18 meeting Helen Caldicott gave the major address with Dan Hirsch, our main Ward Valley activist and Roger Carrick, the lead attorney in the litigation area, providing update information on the Ward Valley fight.

### **Rocketdyne Cleanup Coalition**

Dan Hirsch and Shel Plotkin are the CBG and SCFS representatives in the RCC. They both serve as community representatives on the Advisory Panel, AP, for the Santa Susana Field Lab Epidemiology Study. Several times they have contemplated resigning because seemingly manipulative behavior on the part of the majority of panel members which threatens the validity of the study. However, primarily because of Assemblyman Terry Friedman's pleadings for continued RCC participation, they have remained on the AP. One of the major contentions is that the UCLA team doing the study is neither qualified to do the radiological part nor are they responding acceptably to community concerns.

Alice Stewart, the world renowned epidemiologist, has recently been added to the AP to try to allay community fears along with Gregg Wilkinson (a participant with Jim Warf on fallout from Soviet nuke testing) who UCLA accepted as an added consultant. Thus far we've discovered that Rockwell "effectively" shredded in 1984 the chemical pollution data for the DOE part of the Santa Susana facility. How important a set back this is remains to be evaluated.

### **Economic Conversion/Jobs Task Group**

The paper sent to members is scheduled to be published in the September issue of Monthly Review. While many copies were mailed to various legislators, there has been no feedback from any of them. Only position comments from SCFS members and friends have been received.

A detailed critique was done by an economics grad student at USC, Dave Wells, from the LA-MR Discussion Group. That critique criticized the paper for over simplicity and proceeded to reevaluate the whole thing, using a smaller multiplication factor and including private sector job creation. The end results, interestingly enough, were conclusions not much different than the original work. Needless to say, we are pleased that our work held up to such a detailed critique.

### **Transportation Task Group**

John Bachar and Shel Plotkin met with a Santa Barbara City Council member to consider consulting efforts for SCFS in a presently in progress transportation study for that city. We had hoped to initiate some small experimental programs whose results could then be used at a later date in the Los Angeles area. While the one meeting seemed quite positive and there was an impression given that our participation was truly desired, there has been no follow-up interest forthcoming and no response to our inquiries. Thus the impression from the one meeting is probably erroneous, it seems that the Santa Barbara meeting was no more than a bureaucratic effort to allay public concerns without really solving any of the problems.

### **Air Pollution**

SCFS formally withdrew as an affiliated organization of the Labor Community Watchdog. Because that group spurned all efforts by SCFS to inform them of the basic technical aspects of the smog issue, it was concluded that that effort had no real interest in solving the problems. So SCFS should make certain it was not affiliated with the effort in any way. At present the SCFS Air Pollution Task Group is inactive. ###

Please help the **Southern California Federation of Scientists** provide the scientific and technical knowledge that will enable the public and it's officials to better understand the issues affecting science, society and public policy.

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