Eleven Third World countries (Jamaica, Mexico, Ghana, India, Brazil, Venezuela, Ethiopia, Somalia, Mozanbique, Sri Lanka & Thailand) have refused to distribute free powered milk and butter donated by the European Economic Community because of radioactive contamination (Cesium 137 & other substances) resulting from the Chernobyl inevitability.

The health minister of Bonn, Germany, Rita Sussminth, warned exporters against selling their tainted foods to 3rd world countries. She said, "for ethical reasons, it is unacceptable to draw distinction between health risks for Europeans and people in developing countries".(CND News)

Amata Kabua, President of the Marshall Islands (South Pacific location of atmospheric test blasts on the '40's & 50's) recently proposed his islands as a possible site for high level nuclear waste storage. While he claimed "some people" were interested in the $100 million yearly compensation for the site, the NY Times article noted without irony that "The people of Bikini don't really like the idea".(NY Times via Northern Sun News)

Speaking of the South Pacific, we hear that the Supreme Soviet Presidium has ratified the Nuclear Free South Pacific Treaty it signed in 12/86.(Northern Sun News)

Restrictions continue on more than 750 sheep farms in Cambria, North Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, involving more than 300,000 sheep affected by fall-out from Chernobyl. Through absorbtion of Cesium in plants on which the sheep feed has dropped some since the accident, rates are still too high to be ignored.

Meanwhile, Cambrian farmers may seek judicial reviews to challenge the Agriculture Ministry's decision not to compensate the farmers for their additional losses from the Chernobyl fall-out.

(CND News)

Argentina is Latin America's largest user of nuclear power, and they have expertise and self-contaionment all along the fuel chain. This means that they are capable of producing nuclear weapons. While the government insists that this is not their plan, they have thusfar refused to endorse the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

But all is not well for Argentina's nuclear industry. Financial shortfalls may force the abandonment of a nuclear power plant and a heavy water plant, both under construction. The government is being asked to foot an $800 million bailout bill. But as the developing world's 3rd largest debtor ($55 billion) as well as a 247% inflation rate, plus other pressures, this seems unlikely.(Newark Star-Ledger)

National

$130 PRICETAG FOR MORE NUKES

On July 13th the Government Accounting Office published a report concluding that it would cost $130 billion to upgrade the DOE's nuclear weapons production complex. Up to $70 billion of this would be for clean-up alone at Hanford, Savannah River, Rocky Flats, Fernald, Oak Ridge, Nevada and Idaho.

The peace community should start gearing up for a major struggle to stop the renewal of this death system by making closer ties to the people opposing commercial reactors now.
(Morning Advocate)

It's back to the drawing board for the nation's first permanent nuclear waste repository near Carlsbad, NM. It appears that the shafts, slated to receive 125,000 barrels of military plutonium, have developed unforeseen water leaks. Combined with the salt formations, an abrasive brine could form that could rust the barrels and allow the plutonium to leak into the groundwater.

The DOE initially tried to downplay the concerns and get on with the project. But a study by two local NM geologists, made public in December brought attention to the matter. A follow-up report by the National Acadamy of Sciences claimed the leaks generated enough "uncertainty" to warrant further study. They suggested the DOE despose of only enough to monitor seepage rates and how they might affect storage. DOE will put in about 30,000 barrels of plutonium for the study.
(Monthly Planet)

HIGH COSTS OF ANTI-NUKE PROTESTS

The anti-nuclear movement is having negative financial impact on local law enforcement agencies policing demonstrations at federal facilities, and they're upset. Representatives from law enforcement agencies policing at Livermore Labs, Concord Naval Weapons Station, and Nevada Test Site, among others, had hearings in Washington, D.C. seeking federal funding to off-set their costs. Legislators insist that positive millions in local revenues from worker spending and taxes should more than off-set their costs. It appears that the pork barrel is starting to get rancid.
(S.F. Chron.)

Kerr-McGeeCorp. has been testing a fertilizer mad from "recycled" nuclear waste since the 1970's. "Raffinate" as it is called, has been sprayed on thousands of acres of hay in eastern Oklahoma, which was sold to ranchers & dairy farmers in the area. Some of the hay was also donated to the Navaho people at Big Mountain 2 years ago.

People in the area have complained of unexplained deathes of farm animals, gross malformations of newborn livestock, 9 legged frogs and grass killed by the spray.

Kerr-McGee will be requesting permission from the NRC to start commercial sales of Raffinate next year.(Eco-Net, S.F.Chron. S.J.Mercury)