

RHC

RABBLE-ROUSER

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Committee for a Revolutionary Communist Party in Australia

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27-5-01 A

Maralinga mess

ALAN PARKINSON correctly describes government attempts to clean up the British atomic test sites at Maralinga as "an abject failure" (Letters, 22/5). However, most of the dreadful history of Maralinga has remained carefully hidden by successive governments.

Australian servicemen were not the only "guinea pigs" at the bomb tests.

Scores of metal objects like beds, filing cabinets, benches, vehicles and chieftain tanks were deployed at Ground Zero to demonstrate the effect of the atomic bomb blasts and of lingering radiation on such equipment.

Following the 1967 British clean-up, Operation Brumbie, some 500 tonnes of these irradiated metal objects were hauled to Adelaide and sold as scrap to unsuspecting citizens by—guess who—the Commonwealth Department of Supply.

JOHN COLLINS
Atomic Ex-Servicemen's Assoc
Toowoomba, Qld

In 1945 the United States dropped Atomic Bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The people of these Japanese cities suffered terrible injuries. During the late 1940's and the early 1950's millions of signatures were collected to 'Ban the Bomb'.

The people all over the world knew the 'Bomb' was a weapon of US imperialism and dangerous to the health of mankind. The reactionary capitalist press campaigned against the people who opposed the 'Bomb', claiming the Bomb was clean and a weapon for peace.

The signature collectors and the masses were correct 50 years ago as these disclosures prove. Also proves that imperialism kills everyone for profit. BAN THE BOMB! BAN IMPERIALISM!

N-bomb test in Qld denied

Australian and British government spokesmen have denied that a bomb detonated in tropical rainforest in northern Queensland at the height of the Cold War was a nuclear device.

Declassified Australian government documents, reported in *New Scientist* this week, reveal Britain, Australia and the United States detonated a

50-tonne bomb in rainforest at Iron Range in northern Queensland in July, 1963, as part of a secret military experiment codenamed Operation Blowdown.

Although the documents describe the blast as "an airburst nuclear device", the Defence Department yesterday categorically denied the bomb

was nuclear. "It involved the use of conventional high explosives to simulate on a comparatively small scale the effect that a nuclear explosion in a jungle environment," a spokesman said.

This was confirmed by a British Defence Ministry spokeswoman.

SOPHIE DOUEZ

Maralinga fallout lands on researcher

Belinda Hickman

A BRITISH pilot once told Perth researcher Robert Jackson that he had flown severely disabled people to Maralinga to participate in nuclear tests; almost 20 years later Dr Jackson yesterday found himself besieged by the media as news of that conversation flashed around the world.

Britain's *The Independent* newspaper yesterday named Dr Jackson, director of Edith Cowan University's Centre for Disability Research and Development, as a source of reports about the tests appar-

ently conducted in the 1950s.

The Independent reported that several Australian soldiers, based at Maralinga, had said two groups of seriously handicapped people had been taken to a test area shortly before one of the 12 nuclear blasts carried out by Britain in Australia in the 1950s.

The handicapped people were never seen again after the tests and probably died after being present at nuclear explosions, it added.

Dr Jackson said yesterday the claims had seemed credible at the time, but that he could not substantiate them.

He said he raised his conversation with the pilot when speaking to British authorities about recent revelations that Australian servicemen were used as guinea pigs in nuclear tests during the same period.

Allegations that "mentally retarded people" were used in nuclear experiments were raised in a London report published in *The West Australian* newspaper in 1984. Dr Jackson had used the article for many years to promote discussion of issues related to the disabled.

After one meeting with some of the centre's staff, he was approached by the former

Royal Air Force pilot, then working at the centre, who told him the reports were true and that he had flown one of the transport planes.

Dr Jackson said he had lost contact with the man, who had not provided him with any further details.

He said the allegation tied in with claims raised in a 1994 Massachusetts report into tests involving the use of radioactive materials and residents of state-owned facilities. But similar allegations were investigated and rejected by an Australian royal commission in 1985.

Body-snatchers 'shipped dead babies to US for

Jamie Walker
Europe correspondent

HEALTH Minister Michael Wooldridge was last night investigating allegations that bodies of dead Australian babies were shipped to the US for use in atomic experiments in the 1950s and 60s.

The macabre trade — detailed in Freedom of Information documents released by the US Department of Energy — was conducted

over 15 years, it was reported. The experiments were used to check the effects on the human body of fallout from atom bomb tests. As well as stillborn children, the bodies of infants were obtained by the US scientists.

Hospitals in Australia, Britain, Canada, Hong Kong, South America and the US provided a total of 6000 bodies. There were no details of how many came from Australia. Parents were never asked permission or told what had happened to the remains of their children, Britain's *Daily Mail* newspaper reported.

The top-secret experiments were codenamed Project Sunshine and the bodies were cremated in the US after use.

The human "guinea pigs" were not named in the documents. *The Observer* newspaper reported in London, but assigned codenames as part of tight security surround-

'We hired an expensive law firm to look up the law on body-snatching'

Dr Willard Libby
US scientist

ing the experiments. Baby B-1102 is listed as a boy who died at eight months. Baby B-595 was a girl aged 13 months when she died.

Britain become involved in 1955

when Willard Libby of the University of Chicago called a secret meeting to appeal for large numbers of bodies — preferably of stillborn or newborn babies — for the experiments.

According to documents obtained by *The Observer*, Dr Libby, a renowned scientist who later won the Nobel prize for research into carbon-dating techniques, said at the meeting: "Human samples are of prime

atom bomb tests'

importance, and if anybody knows how to do a good job of body-snatching, they will really be serving their country.

"We hired an expensive law firm to look up the law on body-snatching. It is not very encouraging. It shows how very difficult it is going to be to do it legally."

About 50 of the bodies came from Britain, some of them from top hospitals. These include the Central Middlesex Hospital, Royal Can-

cer Hospital in London, the Royal Hospital for Sick Children as well as hospitals in Bristol and Glasgow. Last night Mr Wooldridge said he was concerned and would be checking into the veracity of the allegations with Health Department officials. "If such practices were to occur today they would be highly unethical, if not illegal," a spokesman said.

Direct responsibility for the issue lay with relevant state and territory government because they had jurisdiction over hospitals, he said.

A-bomb tests on dead babies

HEALTH Minister Michael Wooldridge is investigating claims that bodies of dead babies were shipped to the US for use in atomic experiments in the 1950s and 1960s.

Around 6000 bodies — from Australia, Britain, Canada, Hong Kong, South America and the US — were used in experiments to check the effects of fallout from atom bomb tests, it was reported.

Britain got involved in 1955 when Willard Libby of the University of Chicago called a secret meeting, at which he said: "If anybody knows how to do a good job of body-snatching, they will really be serving their country."

has denied the allegations.

The commonwealth safety suits Mr Dinnison and workers like him wore virtually no safety clothing. When he covered his eyes during atomic blasts, he said the bones in his hands through his skin. He left with the trauma of the series of blasts, and with the series of doubts about whether he was clean, and then 12 years later (his health) started to go wrong and he put one and one together," Mr Graves said.

Justice told that while scientists at the site wore head-to-toe protective suits, Mr Dinnison and workers like him wore virtually no safety clothing.



Damages: Mr Dinnison

Maralinga left victim stressed over health

Monica Videnieks

BARRIE Dinnison was a "happy-go-lucky" teenager until a six-month air force job at South Australia's Maralinga atomic test site left him fearing for his health and suffering psychiatric problems.

The Federal Court was told yesterday that a decade after returning from the notorious government posting, his bleeding gums forced the removal of all his teeth, his eyesight deteriorated rapidly and he began bleeding from the bowel.

Although none of his health complaints have been attributed to Mr Dinnison's 1957 employment as a Royal Australian Air Force mechanic based at Maralinga, a nagging doubt about whether he had been contaminated by the radioactive blasts — one double the force of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima during World War II — has constantly plagued his mind.

Now 63, Mr Dinnison says he suffers post-traumatic stress syndrome and chronic anxiety disorder and is suing the commonwealth for damages, claiming it was negligent in protecting his psychological health as its 19-year-old employee.

"When Barrie Dinnison and others like him got on the plane and left that place, given what had gone on there, it was incumbent upon the commonwealth ... to fix in their minds a calm for the years ahead that something as insidious as radiation was not going to come upon them," John Graves SC, for Mr Dinnison, said.

"By the inaction of the commonwealth, there was no assurance."

**Forward even more the campaign to
Defend the life of Chairman Gonzalo!
Reactivate all the local committees of the
International Emergency Committee!**



Send Letter of Support for the 7th Delegation to:

BCM-IEC, 27 Old Gloucester Street
London WC1N 3XX, UK

Support the

People's

in Peru!

RRZ
3005323
KIC

Proletarians of all countries, unite!

RESOLUTION

The organizations participating in this international conference to celebrate Chairman Gonzalo's masterful speech, assume the promise to:

1. Struggle jointly in order to send a delegation, formed internationally, to Peru in order to in situ demand to meet Chairman Gonzalo, thus fighting to break the total isolation, imposed upon him by the enemy immediately after his glorious, transcendent and historical Speech.
2. Demand the public presentation of Chairman Gonzalo before the national and international television media.
3. Publically and through all means of communication prove false the propaganda of the fascist, genocidal and country-selling regime, of imperialism principally Yankee imperialism, and of the miserable rats of the revisionist and capitulationist right opportunist line, that try to make believe that Chairman Gonzalo has had or has communication with persons other than his prison guards.
4. Propagate the invincibility of the people's war of Peru, which advances solving the new problems that present themselves along the road, because it has Chairman Gonzalo's Great Leadership and is led by the PCP.

And with their signature give their promise to materialize this.

Long live Chairman Gonzalo!
Long live the Communist Party of Peru!
Uphold, defend and apply Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, principally Maoism !
Long live the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement !
Long live the invincible People's War !

Peru People's Movement (MPP)
Communist Party of Turkey (Marxist-Leninist) (International Bureau)
Maoist Communist Party of Italy
International Solidarity Forum with the People's War in Nepal (Europe)
21st 2000

Germany, October

*"Defend the Life of
Chairman Gonzalo!,
Long Live Maoism!"
Mural Painting in
Copenhagen,
Denmark, march 2001*

