

TALKING STICK

THE VOICE OF METTANOKIT



Spring/Summer 2001

Prisons in America

by Medicine Story

Are prisons doing the job that the taxpayers are paying for and expect? Only partially - they do keep a number of offenders "off the streets" for a certain amount of time. The hope that citizens have is that these offenders will then "learn their lesson" and refrain from illegal activity in the future. The statistics of over 75% recidivism should disabuse anyone of that notion. The fact is that prisons do not work. They do not rehabilitate. And in their stance of being "tough on crime" the politicians cut funding for the

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Depleted Uranium

By Damacio Lopez,
Executive Director of IDUST

What is Depleted Uranium?

Depleted Uranium is the waste product left after natural uranium has gone through the gaseous diffusion process in the attempt to remove the fissionable isotope U-235, which is used as fuel in nuclear reactors and to make nuclear weapons. The U.S. military calls this waste product that makes up 99% of the natural uranium "depleted uranium" or DU. DU is a highly toxic heavy metal with a radioactive half-life of four and

one-half billion years and has 60% the radioactivity of natural uranium which is pure uranium.

Health Hazards of Depleted Uranium.

To military strategists the appeal of depleted uranium in weapons has to do with its heavy weight and pyrophoric qualities, which cause it to burn like a cutting torch through steel when a DU penetrator strikes a hard target such as an armored tank. It is this pyrophoric quality that makes this material so devastating.

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The Nature School

By Cynthia DeSantis

In 1993 The Nature School began to operate in Bedford, Massachusetts. The children who have attended during the past six years have taken upon themselves a sense of stewardship of the natural world, with an innate sense of wonder encouraged through the daily programs. Now The Nature School has purchased a home site, the former conference center at Another Place in Greenville, NH. Wampanoag elder Medicine Story will remain on

the land collaborating with our efforts to support earth education. We will share the land, ideas, and generally support each other, along with our neighbor, Merriam Hill Center.

The Nature School Foundation helps to establish and oversee new Nature Schools by assisting with new school sites, start up funds, facility and grounds design set up, ordering school supplies and equipment, staff hiring and beginning salaries. The Foundation will also provide teacher training for curriculum development,

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The burning of DU creates respirable size radioactive dust that can be inhaled or ingested. Once in the body this radioactive and toxic material will have short and long term health effects, such as kidney problems, birth defects, neurological problems, cancers and death.

A 1991 report by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (AEC) stated that the tank ammunition alone used in Iraq during the Gulf War would contain over 50,000 pounds of DU solid-core ammunition and this was enough to cause 500,000 potential deaths.

Extensive health studies have been conducted by Iraqi medical scientists on DU health effects on soldiers and civilians, these studies have revealed an alarming increase of radiation related diseases since 1991, cancers have risen throughout the country from five to ten time higher than before the Gulf War. Radiation also damages the immune system making people more susceptible to other diseases. As a result at least 5000 people died of measles within months of the end of the Gulf War.

These health studies and environmental studies are available for peer review from The International Depleted Uranium Study Team (IDUST).

Over 1,000 tomahawk cruise missiles which have been reported to contain DU have been used on Iraq since 1991. Recalculation of how much DU has been used against Iraq needs to be done since DU has been used in other weapons against Iraq.

Radiation Readings South of Basra, Iraq

On January 17, 2001, air exposure

measurements were taken in southern Iraq, some 150 km south of Basra on the DMZ road to Saudi Arabia. Readings of a 30mm intact projectile found in the field recorded exposure rates of 2100-2450 counts/minute while background exposure rates of 7-21 counts/minute were measured in six control areas away from the destroyed targets where the projectile was found.

This new evidence suggests that DU projectiles may have contained at least traces of enriched uranium waste which contain the isotope U-236 which is not found in depleted uranium, nuclear waste also contains plutonium which is 200,000 times more radioactive than uranium and the radio toxicity is one million times higher. Laboratory tests of the projectile found in Iraq must be made before further conclusions can be drawn.

Iraq and the World Health Organization (WHO) have agreed to study the connection between depleted uranium and diseases found among Iraq's population following the 1991 Gulf War. Baghdad says cancer rates have quadrupled in areas of southern Iraq that were bombed by the coalition of countries opposed to Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. Representatives from Iraq and the WHO drew up a framework for future collaboration during talks in Geneva. The project will also include research on environmental health risks to explore other factors which may be responsible for increases in certain diseases. The use of depleted uranium by the United States and the United Kingdom during the 1991 campaign polluted water, land and air, and will persist for many generations.

Where Did it All Begin?

On October 30, 1943 the U.S. War Department proposed the "Use of Radioactive Materials as a Military Weapon", this 1974 declassified document to Brigadier General L. R. Groves emphasized two objectives against enemy personnel. "1) As a terrain contaminating material, the radioactive product would be spread on the ground and would affect personnel. 2) As a gas warfare instrument, the material would be ground into particles of microscopic size to form dust and smoke and distributed by a ground-fired projectile, land vehicle, or aerial bombs. In this form it would be inhaled by personnel". The objective being to irradiate the "enemy" forces, the general population, flora and fauna.

Today DU has also been used in ammunition, casing for bombs, shielding on tanks, counter weights, nose cone, and ground penetrators on missiles, fragments in cluster bombs, fragments in antipersonnel mines and in other weapons. The objective of the General Groves letter of 1943 has come to fruition.

What can you do?

Ask your state representative and the New Mexico Environment Department to help implement a clean-up plan and put a stop to the testing and development of DU in New Mexico. Ask your public tv station to show more independent coverage of the depleted uranium issue. Ask the military if they possess munitions that contain DU. Ask weapons manufacturers if they produce weapons containing DU. Send a copy of your requests to local representatives and the

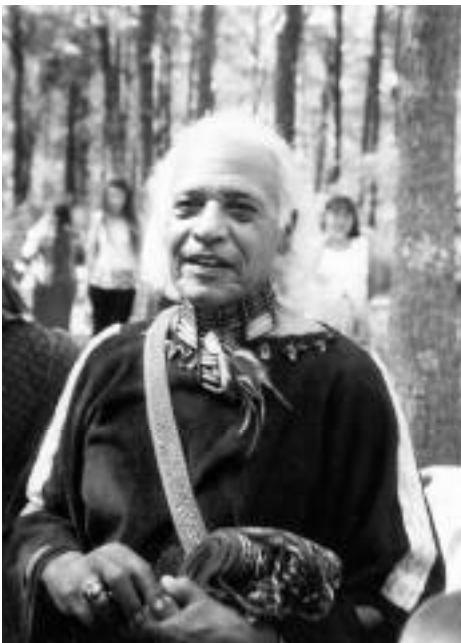


media. Use the Freedom of Information Act request.

Look for increases in incidence of radiation and heavy metal related diseases in local populations. Seek out epidemiologists for help. Seek out laboratory backups, geologists and other scientists who will test and analyze samples and locate radiation instruments that detect alpha radiation.

Demand, through local newsletters and letters to the editor, that International Human Rights and Humanitarian laws governing weapons of war be upheld.

The International Depleted Uranium Study Team (IDUST) is a Non-governmental organization of over 150 researchers, activists, soldiers and scientists from over 30 countries demanding an immediate stop to the use of depleted uranium (DU) in military weapons. The United States military has admitted to using an overall total of 315 tons of DU solid-core ammunition fired from air and ground units during the Gulf War in Iraq and Kuwait.)



MANITONQUAT SCHEDULE 2001

Date	Place	Phone Contact
MAY		
18-20	TOSCANA, ITALY	(39) 0348 2261999
25-27	TORUP, DENMARK	(45) 4798-8909
JUNE		
1-3	HECKENBECK, GERMANY	(49) 5563-6170
8-10	BERLIN, GERMANY	
15-16	UPPER AUSTRIA	
22-25	SWEDEN	
28 -1 July	FINLAND	(358) 14426156
JULY		
5-8	BORNHOLM, DENMARK	(45) 56483888
25-5 Aug	SUMMER CAMP, DENMARK	(49) 4256-9830008
AUGUST		
6-12	TAMERA CAMP, PORTUGAL	
17 19	BOHUSLAN, SWEDEN	
24-26	HÄLSINGLAND, SWEDEN	(46) 651-22350
31- 2 Sep.	RÄTTVIK, SWEDEN	
SEPTEMBER		
7-9	HOF, GERMANY	(49) 9294-1744
14-16	EXTERTAL, GERMANY	(49) 5262-992133
19-20	BELFAST FOLK FESTIVAL, N. IRELAND	
28-30	BERLIN, GERMANY	(49) 30 429 1236
OCTOBER		
12-14	GRAZ, AUSTRIA	(43) 386257710

Contact us:

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Copenhagen: Phone (45) 32 571471

Email: medicinstory@yahoo.com mettanokit@yahoo.com



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few programs that remain for prisoners.

From March 9-11 the organization Critical Resistance held a conference at Columbia University in NYC to examine and share information about the state of the justice system and penal institutions in this country. Native people have long been aware that for the dominant culture Justice means "Just Us". Native Americans have the highest rate of incarceration of any group, to go along with the highest rate of suicide, of domestic violence and abuse, of substance abuse and unemployment. These are not statistics to us. All our families are losing beloved members to a mean and heartless dominant culture.

America loves its prisons. It can't build them fast enough. It must be very proud to hear that last year it overtook Russia to become the nation with the highest per capita rate of incarceration. There are now over 2 million people in prisons and jails in this country. That equals the combined populations of Atlanta, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Des Moines and Miami. California has the biggest prison system in the Western industrialized world. It has more people incarcerated than the prison populations of France, Great Britain, Germany, Japan, Singapore, and the Netherlands put together, although its population is less than one-tenth as big.

Since 1990 the rate of violent acts has decreased by 20%, but the number of people in prison has increased by 50 percent. The number of women prisoners has grown 12 fold since 1970. Many are locked up because of drug-related convictions and other non-violent acts. 75% of

these women are mothers.

One in every four Black men is likely to be caught up in the criminal-justice system at some point during his lifetime. An estimated 200,000 prisoners are people labeled with "mental illness". Contrary to popular belief, the greatest majority of incarcerated offenders are there for non-violent offenses.

Friday night of the conference began with a program reminding us that the struggle against the injustices of the penal system began with the riot and takeover of Attica prison by 1300 prisoners in 1971, in part a response to the murder of George Jackson by guards in Soledad prison in California. The theme was "Attica means fight back," and men from Attica and the San Quentin Six addressed us. I had mixed emotions, glad they were still around, we were still around, still at it, hadn't given up, but sad we had not come farther in 30 years, that the general public still does not know what we who are involved with the criminal justice system know. If they did, the outrage would have already torn down and replaced this horrendous system.

The theme of the whole conference was "Beyond the Prison Industrial Complex." What is that? The fusion of prison construction, prison labor, the profits both of them create and their impact on society. An example is the new super-maximum prison at Shirley, MA, for which Massachusetts taxpayers coughed up 16 million dollars, and which reliable sources inside the Department of Corrections have informed me was completely unneeded. Where I began with our programs in Connecticut I can stand and survey six separate prisons crowded on and around two

hills. A veritable prison city.

The prisoners work for small change, less than a dollar an hour most of them, and their products, furniture, clothing, and so on, are sold for large profits. The commissaries charge exorbitant prices for all the necessities the prisoners have to buy with their own earnings, and the telephone companies give kick-backs to the prisons and gouge the prisoners families for collect calls, the only kind prisoners can make. A pay phone at a prison can generate upwards of \$15,000 a year - five times more than the average public phone on the street. In South Dakota prisoners do construction work for 25 cents an hour, wire schools for computers, fight forest fires, clean up after tornadoes. Taking jobs from union workers.

By the way, the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution outlaws slavery for everyone "except those convicted of a crime" - so slavery in this context is quite legal.

America is faced with an explosion in prison population, privatized prisons, increased use of the death penalty, more militarized policing, racial profiling, the criminalization of youth and more hardships for communities of color and working class people. 3,000 people came together in 1998 at the Critical Resistance Conference in Berkeley, CA. Thousands more convened at this conference, and there was an air of excitement about the concrete actions that were being planned during and beyond the dialogues there.

Just a few of the over 100 workshops offered there: "Prison Visiting as an Organizing Tool", "Grassroots Strategies for Halting Executions", "Education, not



Incarceration", "Human Rights Abuses in US Prisons", "Political Prisoners in the US", "Drug Policy and Prison Overcrowding". It was hard to choose, but I attended a workshop by the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, a panel discussion by Native activists, former prisoners, about the importance of cultural permanence for incarcerated Native Americans, a workshop in community involvement in sentencing, another on organizing with the Internet, and one held by the Fortune Society on working with ex-prisoners trying to re-integrate into their communities.

I found a number of people had read my book, *ENDING VIOLENT CRIME* about our own prison project, mostly downloading it from the Internet, which anyone can do for free. We also had a table to display and offer the book. Thanks to our dear friend Nicky and her friends for that.

On Saturday there was a moving event by women artists and performers, painting, music, dance, readings from poetry of women in prison, and Angela Davis speaking about women in prisons around the world. The anonymity of hiding in an audience of thousands allowed me a free release of tears of grief at the destructiveness of the criminal justice system

One comment continues to resonate in my mind. A woman from the Center for Community Alternatives said that the judges and prosecutors and police regard her organization as misguided liberals and kooks, but when their own children get in trouble with the law they ask the Center for help. I can't help but think if any of the families or loved ones of politicians, judges

and law enforcement people were to go to prison they would learn and change a lot of attitudes. Prisons do not work. They do not solve a community's problems of violence, theft and drugs, they increase andacerbate them. They do not educate criminals to be productive citizens, they provide a training ground for them to learn to be smarter criminals and foment racism, rage, and anti-social behavior.

In future articles I will consider the particulars of sentencing, education, respect, and the death penalty.)

**Arvol Looking Horse,
keeper of the Sacred
Pipe of the Lakota,
asks everyone to
pray for peace
together on June 21**

Nature School cont. from page 1
support for large equipment purchases, special projects, emergency funds and scholarships. Adult and family workshops and training that take place at the Foundation homesite in Greenville will incorporate the central themes of Earth Education and the Spirit of Oneness.

We will foster holistic living by outreach and onsite workshops and retreats. We will engage in organic gardening, yoga, meditation, and metaphysical studies to honor what serves both our own highest good and that of our planet, Mother Earth.

The fire damaged building, it is a project that will require a lot of time and monetary expense. We will be very happy to hear from anyone who would like to support this initiative to bring nature education to children everywhere and who might be able to contribute energy, ideas, expertise, skills, and funds. I look forward to hearing from you.

Cynthia DeSantis, Founder, The NATURE SCHOOL FOUNDATION, Inc. P.O. Box 393, Greenville, NH 03048 NatureSchool@aol.com)



The Struggle to Free Leonard Goes On

From a letter:

Clinton broke our hearts and made us cry on January 20, 2001. We also cried for all of our ancestors whose lives were taken by the white man who came to this continent over 500 years ago.

Native peoples have four values that we live by every day of our lives. They are bravery, wisdom, generosity, and fortitude. Although Clinton didn't give our brother Leonard his life back, we must continue to be brave and continue the battle to bring him home. We must educate Clinton and all the US government officials about our culture. Native peoples have a form of government ruled by our sacred pipe and our laws are all natural. We must remind the federal government that we still have treaties with them. We must be kind and compassionate to the US government officials because we were born with the gift of kindness, love and generosity. Clinton witnessed this when he was on Lakota homeland in July of 1999.

Our forefathers were all honorable men just like my brother Leonard Peltier. One of our greatest leaders was Crazy Horse. He protected and loved his people until he was killed in jail by the federal government. Crazy Horse asked us to remember him when we look toward our sacred Black Hills. We also remember our brother Leonard Peltier when we see the Black Hills. Someday Leonard will be singing Crazy Horse's praise song while looking toward the Black Hills.

That's what keeps us going. We are all very resilient. Although Clinton broke our hearts, through our prayers and our spirituality, we will survive.

When we thought Clinton was going to give our brother Leonard his life back my sister Fedelia Cross said the Lakota people had plans to build a Lakota school in Oglala. Through Leonard's demonstration of Lakota values, they plan to develop his dream and the betterment of Lakota people even though he is not physically there with them.

Fedelia heard one of our respected elders of our tribe talk on KILI radio about Leonard the other morning. He said although Clinton slapped our faces, we must remain strong and show them how to forgive and pray for them so they will understand us. He also stated that we should educate our children so they could become lawyers and help us in the future. At Leonard's school we hope to accomplish this. I would like to thank all of you for loving and supporting him. All he wants is to be is a terrific grandpa and a good relative. May the Creator bless all of you.

Mitakuye Oyasin: All my relations,

Brenda Eaglewoman Flyswithhawks and daughter Romajeane Winterhawk Flyswithhawks

If you would like to continue the struggle with us to free Leonard you may contact:

*Leonard Peltier Defense Committee
PO Box 583
Lawrence, KS 66044
785-842-5774 ☺*

Is the Future Our Choice or Fate?

by Donella Meadows

In memory of Donella Meadows who died on February 20, 2001. The following is excerpted from her story about writing The Limits to Growth in 1972. Limits was translated in 26 languages and sold more than 9 million copies.

Computer Predicts World Collapse

I was one of the team of people at MIT who wrote a book that created a worldwide burst of media foreboding. It began as a small report to the Club of Rome. Within a few months we were reading headlines like those above with complete astonishment. We didn't think we had written a prediction of doom. We had intended to issue a warning, but also a vision. We saw, with the help of the computer, not one future but many, all possible, some terrible, some terrific.

In the introduction to The Limits to Growth we listed three main conclusions, one of danger, one of hope, and one of urgency. The press picked up only the first and the third:

1. If the present growth trends in world population, industrialization, pollution, food production, and resource depletion continue unchanged, the limits to growth on this planet will be reached sometime within the next 100 years.

2. It is possible to alter these growth trends and to establish a condition of ecological and economic stability that is sustainable far into the future.

3. If the world's people decide to strive for this second outcome rather than the first, the sooner they begin working to attain it, the greater will be their chances of success.

You wouldn't think such simple conclusions would stir up much of a fuss,



but the fuss was incredible. The storm went on for years. It inspired conferences, studies, books of denial, and books of affirmation and elaboration. Eventually, like all media-generated storms, this one settled back down.

Later, people who remembered Limits began asking me: Is this it? Are we running into the limits to growth? Were you right after all?

The question "Were you right?" bothered me. It is the wrong question. One can only be right or wrong if one has made a prediction. We didn't do that. We offered a choice, and people heard a pronouncement of doom.

Since we wrote Limits the human economy has more than doubled its physical presence, from vehicles to electric power plants to garbage. At the same time there has been great erosion of the planetary resource base. Species, forests, wetlands, soils, and habitats have been lost, buffers and degrees of protection have decreased, options have narrowed.

I have spent the past twenty years immersed in statistics that describe this decline. I've watched them unfold. I've presented them to classes and to audiences many times and in a calm tone of voice. I haven't cried over them. I haven't yelled in outrage.

That's because of psychic numbing, I'm sure. I haven't been hit all at once, as I was the first time I saw the birth rate graph. Watching the numbers slowly get worse is like watching a child grow up-- or a better analogy would be watching someone die of a wasting disease.

Exponential growth of population and physical capital, exponential depletion of resources and degradation of the environment are not necessary to the human condition. But collectively

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A Gathering to Create a Better World

by Medicine Story

A better world. Everyone wants it. Everyone talks about it. Some people really take on pieces of it to work on. Peacemakers. Healers. Caregivers. Loving parents. Dedicated teachers. They all make the world a little better. But the forces of peace and healing and caring face a mounting force of violence, anger, hatred and confusion, or oppression and injustice, of poverty and hunger and homelessness, of apathy and isolation and despair.

But there are little pockets of hope and sanity out there. One of the many blessings of my life is that I get to meet so many people who are actively and happily engaged in creating practical working models of a better world. In Germany, for instance, a group called ZEGG live and work together and make gatherings that explore ways to promote non-violence, better social and personal relations, a healthy environment, and to support indigenous peoples in their struggles around the world. They have acquired land in southern Portugal where they wish to construct a biotope - a model society. I visit there often to learn and to contribute what I can.

Ellika and I have been developing our own model of a humane, rational and caring society every summer for the past 5 years. "Welcome Home" is how we refer to our International Family Summer Camp, which will take place this year from July 25 to August 5 on the Danish island of Fyn. For those 12 days we all return to the tribal ways

of cooperation and equality, of sharing and caring and living closely with each other as human beings did so successfully for over a million years, before violence, greed and domination became institutionalized in society and proceeded to conquer the world.

Last year when we arrived the day before the start of camp we found a dedicated group of supporters who had organized it all. It now has a life of its own, there are more organizers and better thinking, and I have the joy of realizing it will go on without my needing to do a thing more.

The heart of the camp is the clan, a small support group of 6-10 people with whom you meet every morning before breakfast. For an hour each person opens her heart to her clan, and then they all plan together the meals and child care, the working and playing together, the classes and ceremonies and group creativity. Women, men, young adults, and youth each have groups that work out their own programs, and all adults are encouraged to play with all the children.

Of all that happens during those twelve days, I think that the most important is that people really get a little closer to each other. And in that closeness, that sharing of thoughts and feelings and work and play, we get a glimpse of what a truly human society might be like. Out of this work will come the next step for each of us in creating that human society.

I don't have a manifesto of ideas to preach. I only have the faith that although I may not know how to do it, WE know. None of us is as smart as all of us. So my camp is my manifesto, built on the credo that has informed my work for 30 years: "Together, there is nothing we cannot do.")



Thoughts From the Editor

by *Medicine Story*

It is painful to observe the culture of America in its clearest, starkest form - television. We can gauge the American temperament in our times by checking out the shows that have the highest ratings. They are, of course, SURVIVOR and WHO WANTS TO BE A MILLIONAIRE? They are fueled by our shameless lusts for money, power, and fame. No one questions any more about whether or not those things are good for you and bring happiness. Or perhaps what we really think is that happiness is not really possible, so let's go for money, power and fame. I have the feeling that many people might even be choosing them - "I don't care about happiness, I want to be miserable, rich, powerful and famous!" When we add sex into the mix of desires, we get a show like TEMPTATION ISLAND. Of course we also love our violence on all the cop shows and reality cop shows, and the personal tragedies of others on the hospital and emergency shows.

But SURVIVOR troubles me the most. It is putting forth a very basic misconception about the nature of tribal life and of human nature. Charles Gibson on ABC made the very human comment that he didn't care to watch a program where people vote each other out of a community. But they got a professor of anthropology to say that this cut-throat behavior is natural and has been happening since Paleolithic times. And it is reflected in business and all institutions today, in office politics and the dog-eat-dog philosophy. Natural it is not, and it is

not HUMAN nature. No wonder those anthros never understand Native culture! Human beings became human by learning to cooperate, to share and support each other, and that is the true tribal way. Your tribe and your clan are yours for life - you support them and they support you. Now millions of people watch this show and think they are watching human nature. They are watching human distress patterns in action, as all of us are whenever we watch 90% of what is displayed on TV. It's our culture in action but we don't have to agree with it and we don't have to accept it.



One of my greatest joys this year has been going to the nursing home to visit the mother of a prisoner and playing the piano for the old folks there. Besides TV they don't get much input from the outside world there, few visits, and not a lot of personal attention. But music reaches right to the heart. And, as an old guy myself, my songs are their songs. I play the tunes of the 20s, 30s, 40s and 50s, and talk about my life and our common history. And we sing together. Ellika watched some who seemed trapped inside themselves begin to come out and to sing along. One old man paid no attention for a long time, but slowly began to turn and sway to the music, smiling for the first time in a long time, and another who tapping his feet and bobbing his head and yet another just sat while tears began to slowly course down his cheeks. I felt like the richest piano player ever, because no amount of money in all the treasuries of the world could equal the pay of the joy of these elders at the music that brought back parts of their lives.)

Rain Forest Alert

The Brazilian Congress is now voting on a bill that will reduce the Amazonian forest to 50% of its present size (you may have seen that today Greenpeace is boycotting hardwood from the region). The area to be deforested is four times the size of Portugal and would be used mainly for agriculture and pastures for livestock.

All the wood harvested is to be sold on the international market in the form of wood chips, by multinational companies. The truth is that the soil in the Amazon forest is useless without the forest. Its quality is very acidic, and the region is prone to constant floods.

At this time more than 160,000 square kilometers, deforested for the same purpose, lie abandoned and are in the process of becoming a desert.

"The irony is that in the end agribusiness will suffer along with everyone else. The destruction of the rain forest could make drought more common all over Brazil, endangering soybean production. In the face of that peril, the government will have to decide whether short-term profits are worth creating an environmental disaster for Brazil - and the whole planet."

- *Eugene Linden*)



A Native Response to the Australian Government

My name is Rebecca Bear-Wingfield, I am a senior Aboriginal woman from Kokatha country.

I am responding to your press release today that announced the three final site locations with site 52A being the preferred site for the location of this 'nuclear waste repository' (dump). Your government and all the successive governments dating back to Menzies's government of the 1950's, the 15th October 1953 when the first atmospheric test was conducted at Emu Plains three years before the Maralinga tests. Are guilty of committing 'ecocide' and genocide against the first nations of this ancient country. By the way the old people are still waiting for a 'sorry' when many of them were exposed to the black rain clouds that spread shortly after the test at Emu Plain.

This is why the Kungka's are

talking up about this issue because they know first hand about the dangers of nuclear by-products, bombs, contaminated lands and health problems that have resulted over the last 47 years.

Using discourse to disempower Indigenous people in our attempts to oppose the dumping of nuclear waste by products which are always quantified as mainly hospital waste products and low level waste is misleading, a lot of this waste under international standards of classification is medium level. But it does not matter if it is low, medium or high the fact remains that some of us have a moral and cultural responsibility to educate you and your parliamentarians about the facts. Australia talks of reconciliation but how can we reconcile when this waste is going to be dumped on the

ancestral lands of the Kokatha people. How can the government continue to negotiate and make decisions about stolen lands, without the consent of all the Kokatha people who are the custodians and who have already had their lands stolen back in the 1950's when their lands were annexed by the Commonwealth Government using the doctrines of 'Terra Nullius'.

This is morally wrong and this is why the Kupa Piti Kungka's have always opposed this proposal. We know the country, because of our connection to the land that dates back to at least 40,000 years. Scientists don't have the history like us. How can they offer guarantees that this is the perfect environment for storage?)

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we have been behaving as if they were. Growth is still the pattern of the human system. As yet no corrective processes have been strong enough to stop it. But there are signs of such processes. The good news is that some are coming from human ingenuity and restraint. The bad news is that some are coming from environmental breakdown.

I've grown impatient with the kind of debate we used to have about whether optimists or the pessimists are right. Neither are right. There is too much bad news to justify complacency. There is too much good news to justify despair.

There is too much bad news to justify complacency. There is too much good news to justify despair.

I am not afraid of the challenge of easing the throughput of human society back down within its limits-- I think that can be done fairly easily

and even with considerable benefit to the human quality of life. I am afraid of what the world might do with the idea that we are beyond the limits. I have already experienced the hostility, denial, and ridicule engendered by the idea that there are limits. I would expect more of the same from the idea that those limits are already exceeded.

Even worse than denial or ridicule would be simpleminded, uncritical, hysterical acceptance. I can see the headlines now:
Beyond the Limits: Collapse is

Coming -or-

Beyond the Limits: Population, Standard of Living Must Be Cut

Those are the two worst possible conclusions to jump to. The first confuses trend with destiny again, leaps at prediction, denies choice. The second recognizes only the most dramatic, conflictual, and violent of the possible responses to a state of overshoot.

To ease my fear, to set the record straight, to forestall the destructive headlines, let me write my own headlines in even larger type:

Overshoot Does Not Mean Collapse -and- Material and Energy Throughput Must Be Cut, But Not People, Not Living Standards, Not the Dream of a Better World)



Let the Women Speak

From Bat Shalom (a feminist peace organization working toward a just peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors.)

"We know that two peoples CAN live in this land. WE know that our children deserve a life of dignity and peace. We do not want our children to be killed, nor do we want them to be killers. We must stop this madness. We must stop the use of brute force.

Let The Women Speak!!!

Let Palestinian and Israeli women lead the way. It was Israeli women who changed public opinion about the terrible and pointless war in Lebanon. It was Palestinian women who were courageous enough to engage in joint peace initiatives with Israelis. We the women can find an end to this cycle of violence as well.

Let The Women Speak!!!

The men tell us not to be scared. They all tell us to be strong. We are scared, and we want them to be scared too. We do not want to be "strong". We don't want them to think that they are strong enough to make the other nation disappear or go down in defeat and disgrace. We want each and every person to have the right to live in peace and dignity.

We want to share the resources of this land, its water, its vines, and its holy places. Jerusalem can be shared; this whole area can be shared between two independent and equal nations. Israel should not rule the lives of Palestinians. Neither Palestine nor Israel should believe that peace can be won through violence and force.

Let The Women Speak!!!

Palestinian and Israeli women have been talking for years about their future here. Tens of thousands of women from around the world have been supporting our vision of making peace. These have been quiet efforts thus far. Now is the time to raise our voices and insist on being heard.

We want to share the resources of this land, its water, its vines, and its holy places.

We do not want our children to be killed, nor do we want them to be killers.

Let The Women Speak!!!

Let the women try to make sense where men did not. We are launching an international initiative to stop the violence immediately. We are insisting that all negotiating teams include at least 50% women - in the Palestinian and Israeli leadership, in the UN teams, among representatives of all the governments involved in attempts to resolve this conflict.

Let The Women Speak!!!

- We will not shoot.

There are too many men with too many egos involved in burning this piece of land.

Let The Women Speak!!!

- We can bring peace.

Let the international community form a group of women from all around the world to become the Women's Peace Corp, an international meditating body of women who will listen, facilitate, help us save ourselves.

Let The Women Speak!!!

Move the men aside. They did a bad job here. They talk of a security based on might. We know that security means being good neighbors. Without forgetting the wrongs of the past, or the unequal distribution of power, we will focus on how to LIVE here in peace. We do not want the next generation of children to wear uniforms, to go to war. We want them to know self-determination and dignity, without the need to fight for them.

Let The Women Speak!!!

We feel the pain, we are outraged, we are scared.

Before it is too late...

Let The Women Speak!!!!

Bat Shalom, together with The Jerusalem Center for Women, a Palestinian women's peace organization, comprise The Jerusalem Link. For more information, visit their website at <http://www.batshalom.org> Bat Shalom, POB 8083, Jerusalem 91080, Israel.)

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