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A PAPER PREPARED FOR
NAMIBIAg1NDEPENDENCE AND BEYOND
A CONFERENCE FOR THE ASIA & PACIFIC REGION
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w-VIOLATIONS AND POPULAR PROTEST--
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Host Japanese power utilities, (ie. Hokkaido, Tohoku, Tokyo, Chubu. Kansai, Chugoku and Kyushu Electric Power Companies), continue to import and use processed uranium which has been plundered from Namibia. while the United Nation's Decree No.1 of 1974 strictly prohibits any removal of Namibian natural resources until the day of its independence.. These companies, as well as the Japanese government which is supposed to supervise them. have sustained and financed the South African occupational regime in Namibia.

The main object of this paper is to report recent surge of mass protest against these flagrant violations of Decree No.1 committed by Japanese power companies, and thereby to make some contribution to our joint efforts supporting Namibian people in their achievement of true self-determination as a nation. which has been long hindered by the domination of Apartheid.

1. DEPENDENCE OF JAPANESE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY ON NAMIBIAN URANIUM

Our first concerns are how Namibian uranium is transported to Japan. the Namibia Support Committee (UK) has persuasively demonstrated that Namibian uranium mined from the Rossing Mine and refined to Uranium Oxide (U3O8) has been (and is being) exported through Durban. South Africa to British Nuclear Fuels where it is converted to Uranium Hexafluoride (UF6). It is then re-exported to the U.S. Department of Energy for enrichment and finally sent to its Japanese customers.

Japanese power companies contract with Rio Tinto Zinc, Rossing Mine's major holding company, through the agency of trading firms like Marubeni Corporation. Table 1 published by the Japanese government shows nationalities of firms which supply U3O8 to Japanese power utilities. As Britain produce very little uranium, what appears as British uranium un-

doubtedly indicates supply from TABLE 1 URANIUM SUPPLY TO JAPAN

RTZ, that is, almost exclusively from Namibia. Taking into country tons of U309 96 consideration the fact that this data contains considerable con- Canada 63.393.3 31

tracts with the countries other Britain 48.319.2 24

22.116.0 11

21.905.5 11

15.569.0 8

11.185.0 5

than Britain. which had been South Africa

signed before those with RTZ Australia

were made in 1970's. we can eas- France

ily conclude that power compa- United States

nies must be getting more de-

Niger 20.375.0 10

pendent on Namibian uranium in

recent years. NUKEH Special Re- 100

203.419.0

port issued in 1987 says that

from 1987 to 1996 Namibian ura- Source: HITI statistics

niun accounts for about 25% of Note: this data represents an

total uranium supply to Japan. aggregate of contracts which

According to this estimate, oc- have made before April, 1987.

cupied Namibia is the top urani-

um supplier to Japanese power plants. surpassing Canada and Australia

which account for 232 and 222 respectively. Uranium import from Namibia

seems to have maximised in mid 1980is. Table 2 provides more detailed

information on the extraordinary dependence of the Japanese nuclear in-

dustry on Namibia and South Africa.

These evidences have been verified by NHK, a Japanese seni-govern-

mental broadcasting network. In special news programs telecast last Oc-

tober 31st and November 1st, it was demonstrated that RTZ Mineral Serv-

ice with which Japanese companies make contracts and Hinserve which

serves as a marketing agency for Rossing Mine are the same company

sharing the same office in Switzerland. Besides, NHK directly inter-

-2-

viewed a chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa. and confirmed that the source of TABLE 2 is the Department of Energy itself.

TABLE 2 URANIUM SUPPLY FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA TO EACH POWER COMPANY

Length of SA

SA Deliveries

Utilitz Uranium Contrgct Convegter as a 1 of Total Comments

Japan:

Kansai Elec. Hid 1990's

Tokyo Elec. 1996

Chugoku Elec. 1990

Chubu Elec. 1989

Hokkaido Elec. 1988

Tohoku Elec. 1988

Taiwan 1996

Spain 1993-1994

Gerlany 1994

BNFL

BNFL

Allied

BNFL

Couurhex

BNFL

BNFL

Seguoyah

50

50

70

45

17

All Namibian

All in U.S.

All Nalibian

All in U.S.

3 yrs worth of

SA inventory

in U.S.

1987 inventory

in U.S.

Source: 1Fact Sheet on South African Sanctions'. by House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, and Nuclear Fuel. July 13rd, 1987.

2. POPULAR PROTEST AGAINST THE PILLAGE OF NAHIBIAN URANIUM

Evidences are so abundant that it is not an exaggeration to say that all we have to do now is to take efective action against whoever has been involved in this international conspiracy.

Japanese protests against the deliberate theft are now being mounted in many quarters. Last October 20th, four people living in Kansai.

Japan's second core-industrial area, covering such cities as Osaka, Kobe and Kyoto, launched a "One Week Electricity Boycott" and appealed to local residents to join in a daily picket in front of Kansai Electric's head office in Osaka. These activities initiated by Hr.Kin Suns-Il. who has refused to be finger printed in protest against the Japanese government's notorious pass control system over foreign residents. drew the attention of many diverse citizen groups. During Human Rights Week in December last year. 78 establishments. including churches, shops. a municipal councilman's office, a university dormitory and many private homes. participated in a "One Day Electricity Boycott". On December 3rd about 40 people directly visited Kansai Electric's Customer Service Counter and asked that their electricity be shut off for one day. Despite the violent intervention of security guards. the company was finally unable to refuse our "legal" requests. Following this collective cancellation of electric supply. various events using candlelight like music concerts. performances. meetings and lectures on Apartheid were successively held at several places during the week.

We are also targeting municipal authorities. Specifically, we have discovered that Osaka City is the largest single stockholder in Kansai Electric Co. On November 29th. we petitioned municipal officials that Osaka should take immediate and effective measures to put an end to Kansai Electric's persisting violation of Decree No.1. At a meeting held on January 27th this year. however. they responded that they believe in Kansai Electric and leave any investigation and decision concerning this latter in the government's hands. After a long and heated discussion, we have decided to appeal directly to the mayor of Osaka City. In Japan, St. Valentine's Day has taken root as a day only when a girl could confess her love openly to her lover(s) by sending a "Valentine's chocolate". "Utilising" this strange custom invented by commercialism. on February 14th we sent to the mayor a two kilogram's big

JAPAN TIMES. December 4th, 1988.

_ Group requests electricity shut-off
to protest power firms purchases

By MASARU FUJIMOTO

STAFF WlillUt

OSAKA -_ A group of Knnsai
residents told the Kansai
Electric Power Co. Saturday
to stop electricity to their
homes for one day to protest
what they called the com-
pany's "illicit purchase of
Namibian uranium from
South Africa."

More than 35 people visited
the customer service counter
at the Kansai Electric Power
Co.'s main office in Kit: Ward
and asked that electricity to
their homes be stopped for
one day during Human Rights
Week. which starts today.
Members of the group also
demonstrated in front of the
tightly guarded entrance to
the building, holding signs de-
manding the company stop
the imports immediately.

"Paying electricity bills
would help contribute to nu-
clear power plants despite
questions of safety and would
also end up helping South

MEMBERS 0! eitizens' groups stage a protest demonstration in (rent of Kansal Electric P
Co. against the utility's
United Statesland Britain.
Africa's apartheid policy,"
said Kim Small. 37, a group
organizer and owner of a co!-
fee shop in Amagasaki, llyogo
Prefecture.

"Our boycott might not
mean anything to the com-
pany, but at least we want to
raise people's awareness." he
said.

Kim said about 30 more peo-
ple will participate in the one-
dny boycott this week.

The idea to spend a day
without electricity came
when group members heard a
report by a elttzens' group in
Britain in February.

The report charged that the
majority of processed ura-
nium in Japan comes from
Namibia via South Africa.
which illegally rules
Namibia.

It also stated that South
Africa illegally exports Nami-
bian uranium through British-
based Rio Tinto-Zinc (RTZ)
and other companies that pro-
cess the rare metal in the

...3

-5-

A United Nation's decree
enacted in 1074 prohibiLs any.
one from removing natural

resources found in Namibia
without permission or the
U.N. Council for Namibia.
Shinsaku Kimura, a Kansai
Electric Power spokesman,
said the company purchases
processed uranium through
RTZ but has no way of find-
ing out where the rare metal
originates.

The power company also
buys processed uranium for
generating nuclear power
from many other countries,
including Canada, Australia
and France, he said. The
amount imported through
RTZ is very small," Kimura
said;

"We have absolutely no in-
tention of supporting South
Africa's discrimination poli-
cy," he added.

The company has, decided
not to sign a new contract
with RTZ after the current
one expires in 1990.

"Protest chocolate" shaped like the African continent, bound up by ribbons of yellow barbed wires, and covered with a slogan of "Apartheid N01". At the same time we held a demonstration in front of Osaka City Hall and demanded to audit the Kansai Electric's annual dividend to Osaka City which amounted to 4 billion yen last year. The City government, which claims to have respected human rights and international coordination in principle, was completely perplexed. The City government's collaboration with Kansai Electric will be raised on the agenda of Osaka City Assembly in the next session. Besides, the residents in Kobe have started on their own protest campaign against Kobe City which is also a large stockholder of Kansai Electric.

While this report mainly focuses on the development in Kansai.

protest against power companies and municipalities has also occurred in Tokyo. A concurrent offensive against Tokyo Electric was initiated in the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly on November 1st. At present Tokyo Electric maintains the largest contract with RTZ in Japan. This question will be dealt with in the next section.

Through these ongoing actions an unprecedented front is being forged among Japan's anti-nuclear, anti-Apartheid and human rights groups at the grass-roots level. If we can stop the illegal import of Namibian uranium immediately, not only will the Establishment's dangerous nuclear development program finally collapse, we will also be able to send a long overdue message of solidarity to Southern Africa's black people from the 'honorary whites' of Japan.

3, CONTRADICTORY RESPONSES OF POWER COMPANIES AND THE GOVERNMENT

Just the same day when we went on the first "Electricity Boycott" against Kansai Electric last October, the company hurriedly announced

that they will definitely not renew the contract with RTZ after its expiration. A spokesman of the company said that this decision was made as a response to a criticism from abroad. which means the protest held by Namibia Support Committee in March last year. Kansai Electric's termination of the contract was immediately followed by similar decisions by Tohoku. Chubu and Chugoku Electric Companies. Kyushu Electric's contract is said to have expired and not renewed, to date. Though such steps might be valued as progressive, it is certain that even after the expiration of their contracts, the companies will continue to import from the vast stocks of Namibian uranium still in Britain and the U.S. This is in clear violation of Decree No.1 which prohibits not only the purchase but also the use of illegally acquired Namibian uranium.

TABLE 3 TIME.LENGTH OF NAMIBIAN (AND SOUTH AFRICAN) URANIUM CONTRACTS OF EACH POWER COMPANY

	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Ccmppggs														
Hokkaido	////	126///	63///	45////	///	///	/							
Tohoku	////	110//	110///	40////	W	///	/							
Tokyo	////	870/	1040/	1040/	1040/	1040/	1040/	1040/	1040/	1040/	1040/	1040/	1040/	1040////
Chubu	////	385//	385//	385//	385////	///	///	/						
Kansai	////	460//	260//	260//	260//	270////	///	///	/					
Kansai(SA)	///	400//	490//	490//	490//	490//	490//	490//	305////	///	///	/		
Chusoku	////	115//	115//	115//	115//	215////	///	///	/					
Chuloku(SA)	///	77///	77///	77///	77///	77///	///	///	/					
Kyushu	////	400//	205///	40///	40///	///	///	/						
Kyushu(SA)	(	96	98	96	96	96	96	96	96	96)			
Japan Atou.(SA)	60///	45////	///	///	/									
Total														
Namibia	////	2466/	2178/	1925/	1840/	1525/	1040/	1040/	1040/	1040/	1040/	1040/	1040/	1040////
/														
South Africa	/	627//	612//	567//	567//	(	586	586	401	96	96	96	96	96

Source: 11011111 DATA SYSTEM. 1907. (Tonnes 0)

Note: Last November Kyushu Electric has cancelled its contract with South Africa, which was substituted by new one with Australia.

Tokyo Electric alone has refused to terminate its contracts with RTZ. This company's prominent position is clearly illustrated by Table 3, whose data is highly reliable because NUKEM is a dealer of nuclear fuel financed by RTZ itself. The table shows that Tokyo Electric will continue to import 1,040 tonnes of Namibian uranium per annum until 1996. A spokesman of Tokyo Electric has explained to us, however, that RTZ asserted to Tokyo Electric that uranium supply from RTZ to the company did not contain any from Namibia, so that their continuation of the contract was beyond reproach. This statement is far from persuasive. For the company obstinately refuses to make public any evidence which it may have received from RTZ..

Kansai Electric, which is supposed to have consumed the largest quantities of Namibian uranium in the world since mid-1970, even refuses to make clear whether it has inquired about the source of the uranium from RTZ or not, in defiance of our repeated questions. Though the company alleges that its import of Namibian uranium is not a fact but still remains merely "possibility". Its sudden farewell to RTZ indicates a deep commitment of the company.

While we were picketing daily, at a committee of the Japanese House of Representatives held on November 8th and 9th last year, the Japanese government made a promise to investigate this matter. Recently officials of the Foreign Ministry told us that they have officially made inquiries to Britain. According to their explanation, the response of the British government was that it could not comment on whether Japanese utilities were buying Namibian uranium from a British company because that was a matter of contract between private firms, and RTZ's response was that it also could not comment because it would be divulging trade secrets. Tokyo Electric reported to the government that it never used Namibian uranium, as is mentioned above. The Japanese Foreign Ministry is apparently reluctant to investigate this matter more in detail.

4. PEOPLE'S CAMPAIGN SPREADS AND CONTINUES

Our protests against the plunder of Namibian natural resources are still growing on a nation-wide scale. After we received an encouraging letter to Kansai residents from Mr.Theo Ekanjo, a representative of SWAPO Youth League in February, we have decided to join in simultaneous actions against Japanese power companies. which had been suggested by the Namibia Support Committee. On March 22nd this year, in Kansai, more than one hundred establishments jointly launched the third challenge of "Electricity Boycott". This time, Tokyo groups boycotted Tokyo Electric, and Hokkaido residents also made a protest against Hokkaido Electric. The Namibia Support Committee. who picketed the Tokyo Electric's Office in London on the same day, sent a message to Tokyo groups. On April 9th. our members who took part in a rally held in Aomori, where more than ten thousands people gathered from all over Japan to protest against the construction of nuclear fuel cycle facilities. appealed to the participants that about a half of fuel transported to the planned facilities would be illegally acquired uranium. On April 22nd and 23rd, in Kobe and Osaka, hundreds of anti-nuclear groups jointly invited Mr.Jerry Matsila, the representative of the African National Congress in Japan, to their rallies to throw light on the collaboration of the Japanese nuclear industry and the Apartheid regime.

Now in Japan, more and more people are getting concerned about the situations in the areas where uranium are mined, especially in Namibia under the oppression of Apartheid. They are very frustrated by a lack of reliable information. The fact is that all Japanese newspapers have reported as if it had been SWAPO freedom fighters that were wholly responsible for the breakdown of the UN Resolution 435 this April.

This February. the Japanese government has announced that it will dispatch at least 30 officers to Namibia and donate about 1.6 billion

yen (\$13 million) to help concretely the operation of UNTAG in Namibia. It also donated about \$3.5 million to UNHCR and UNICEF to help Namibian refugees. Considering the Japanese poor contribution so far to the UN Peace Keeping Operations, these decisions are surely progressive steps. This nevertheless seems to be a rather conciliatory one, for the government has been persistently reluctant to take effective measures to terminate the violation of Decree No.1.

Whatever may be the government's intention, we will support their activities in supervising the election, because the UNTAG's more effective operation in Namibia is indispensable in minimizing the influence of South Africa on the process of implementation of 435. Besides, we'd like to launch an urgent campaign calling for concrete support to the election, and to send NGO members to Namibia, who will contribute to ensuring a just election and make up for the serious lack of information and the prevailing misunderstandings in Japan concerning the current situation in Namibia.

Though the Japanese government has repeatedly maintained that it is not bound to abide by the Decree No.1-allegedly it is not obligatory for Tokyo to abide by it- but simply chooses to respect its intention voluntarily, such crafty equivocation may not last long. If Namibia after independence is compelled to sell its uranium, that eventuality must clearly be distinguished from the current illegal trafficking in Namibian uranium, which is robbed off the Namibian people under the brutal rule of Apartheid regime. While it must be, needless to say, the Namibian people themselves who determine whether Japanese power companies are "held liable in damages" or not, we will, on our own responsibility and in complete solidarity with SWAPO and the Namibian people, do our best to make the nuclear industry and the government compensate for the deliberate theft.

MINE YOICHI a coordinator of Campaign for Independent Namibia '89

Many thanks for cordial support and comment given by my friends:

Gordon Cyrus Mwangi, Kanbayashi Yoji and Kim Sung-ll.

-10...

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Hay 1989 Yoichi MINE