

GREENPEACE ACTION

Welcome to **ACTION**, the Irish update on Greenpeace campaigns. Irish Greenpeace members such as yourself asked for more information on our campaigns and how to get involved. Now every quarter **ACTION** will report on the local, national and international work of Greenpeace Ireland. Working together we **CAN** make a difference for a safer, cleaner and more peaceful planet.

In this issue we have news on the incinerator, the EPA bill, as well as the Gulf war, which is overshadowing all our lives right now. As an organisation dedicated to peace Greenpeace condemns the war and is adding its voice to all those who are seeking peace.

ACTION is your newsletter so let us know what you think.

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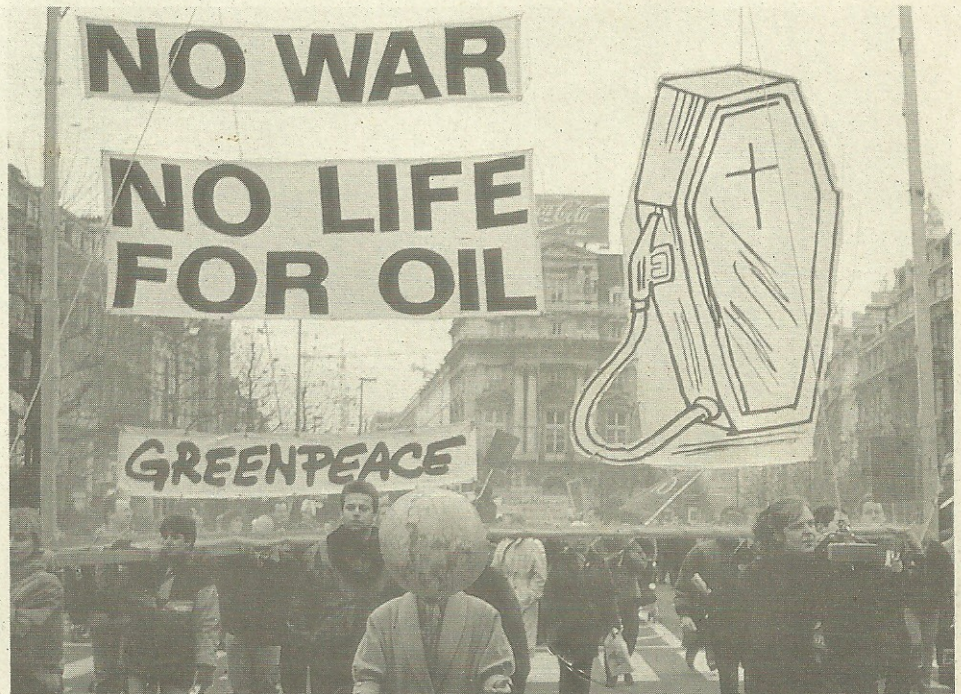
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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE GULF WAR

The first serious environmental disaster of the war was the deliberate release of millions of barrels of oil into the Persian Gulf by Iraqi forces. This has already caused massive damage. But this war has all the potential for a major environmental disaster. There has never been such a gathering of weaponry both conventional, nuclear and chemical in one area. Add to that cocktail the potential for more oil slicks, oil well fires and the consequences are almost too horrible to contemplate. The Persian Gulf is an ecosystem already severely stressed. Beaches along the Gulf are reportedly caked with oil, the result of several decades of oil transport through the Gulf which has given rise to many large oil spills.

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Greenpeace at Anti-Gulf War Peace Demonstration, Brussels, Belgium. © Greenpeace

DON'T FUEL THE WAR

ACTION

As both an environmental and peace organisation, Greenpeace condemns the war in the Gulf and has called internationally for an end to hostilities. Greenpeace upholds the principle of non-violence and believes that the use of military force will not work as a means of settling this dispute. Such military action will have, and indeed is already having, drastic human and environmental consequences.

The basis of environmentalism is the sanctity of life in all its forms. Greenpeace unequivocally condemns any war effort particularly one whose motive is as short sighted as the control of oil resources.

By granting refuelling facilities at Shannon, Ireland is contributing to the war machine. As Orla ni Eile, Greenpeace disarmament campaigner put it "By fuelling military aircraft we are fuelling the hostilities".

Greenpeace therefore calls on the Irish government to reverse its decision to allow refuelling at Shannon and to initiate and support action which will lead to a peaceful solution to the conflict.

Greenpeace offices all around the world are taking part in peace demonstrations and other actions. The action points below highlight what you can do to make your voice heard.

◆ Support events organised by the Gulf Peace Committee. This committee, of which Greenpeace is a member, is made up of over 30 religious, social, environmental and third world groups who have joined together against the War. For details of these events ring the Greenpeace office at 01-619836

◆ Lobby your TD and ask him or her to call on the Government to reverse its decision to allow refuelling at Shannon. Your TD is in the Dail to represent YOU.

◆ Phone the Department of Foreign Affairs (01-780822) and demand that they refuse to allow refuelling of military aircraft. Also ask that they initiate and support actions to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

◆ Write or phone the Embassies of the countries involved and call for an end to the War.

US EMBASSY, Elgin Rd., Dublin 4.

Tel: 01-688777

IRAQI EMBASSY, London

Tel: 03-071-5805265

BRITISH EMBASSY, Merrion Rd., Dublin 4.

Tel: 01-695211

FRENCH EMBASSY, Ailesbury Rd., Dublin 4.

Tel: 01-694777

THE MATHEMATICS OF OIL

No-one can forgive the poisoning of the Gulf with more than 5 million barrels of oil. A criminal environmental act, right enough - a restricted, shallow sea, an already fragile ecosystem: a grotesque environmental tragedy. But as the rhetoric of war flows thick, parallel acts of carbon criminality are passing without comment.

* **23,000 million barrels:** The amount of oil burned each year in the world, more than a quarter of it in one country - the USA. These 23 billion barrels contribute some 40% of all the energy-related carbon dioxide which humankind puts into the atmosphere each year, there to contribute - along with the products of coal and gas burning - almost 60% of the human-enhanced greenhouse effect.

Remaining addicted to fossil fuels in this way will, within just decades, unleash rates of temperature- and sea-level rise unprecedented in human history. This is not environmentalists' doom-mongering: it is the prediction of every major climate-modelling centre in the world, and the opinion of the hundreds of climate scientists who urged cuts in carbon dioxide emissions at last year's UN World Climate Conference. Yet, having located more than a million million barrels of oil under the ground (more than two thirds of them in the Gulf) oil companies are still looking for more.

* **7,500 million barrels:** Transport's share of all oil consumption. Transport consumes around one third of all the energy used in the world annually. Each year, the average car puts more than four times its body weight of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

* **2,500 million barrels:** The amount of gasoline burned in one year in one country - the USA. America's share of all oil used in world transport is over one third. Small wonder: of the 400 million cars on the planet, Americans drive one third. Their fleet fuel-efficiency average is one of inefficiency unparalleled in the OECD: 20 miles per gallon, at a time when the Fords, General Motors, and Chryslers have the capability to mass-produce cars which do more than 100 miles per gallon. Or to make battery- and hydrogen-powered cars charged by solar photovoltaic, so producing no direct greenhouse gas emissions.

* **1,900 million barrels:** The amount of oil imported to the USA each year from the Gulf. And this is only 24% of all US oil imports. By how much would the fuel efficiency of the US car fleet have to improve to remove the need for these 2 billion barrels from the Gulf? One third would more than do the trick. The average fuel efficiency of new US cars decreased from 1985 to 1989 (from 27.5 to 26 mpg) when the Reagan administration slackened auto industry efficiency requirements.

* **5 million to 11 million gallons:** Saddam's alleged act of environmental terrorism - as estimated so far. Rising at a maximum of 100,000 per day from the Sea Island spill, this still has some way to go to catch the carrier-fleets of the oil transnationals. But the scope is impressive: 5 million gallons represents less than a tenth of one per cent of all the oil into which Kuwait's hundreds of oil wells tap.

* **1.6 million barrels:** The average daily oil production in Kuwait in 1989: less than 3% of the world's total. By how much would the average fuel efficiency of the American car have to increase in order to shed the need of the US share of this and of Iraq's production in a normal year? Just 3 miles per gallon - from 20 to 23 - according to the US Government's Lawrence Berkeley laboratory.

* **0.2 million barrels:** The 260,000 barrels spilt by the Exxon Valdez. That "clean up" involved 11,000 people and cost more than a billion dollars. Still it "cleared" only 20% of the 1,000 miles-plus of beaches affected. The short-term impacts on wildlife of this one spill are well known. The scientific jury is still out on the long-term effects. It involved a finite source of oil (some 20% of the contents of a supertanker). And it didn't take place in a war zone.

* **1 barrel:** the amount of oil needed for an oil-fuelled US aircraft carrier to steam - wait for it - 238 yards, or an M-1 tank to chug 23 miles (while each puts 400 kg of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere).

The Global Climate Convention negotiations started on 4 February, with more than a hundred governments round the table. The low-lying island countries who are queuing up to plead for their physical and cultural survival are likely to be disappointed with the response. George Bush, hoping to defer flak - along with Turkey, his is the only OECD government not to have promised stabilising or cutting greenhouse gas emissions in the years to come - offered to host the talks in Washington. Appropriately for the world's largest consumer of oil, the world's largest importer of oil, the world's largest producer of coal, and the world's largest emitter of carbon dioxide and total greenhouse gases (nearly a quarter of all world emissions), the US government has moved them to a Virginian backwater. As Bob Hall of the US Petroleum Institute, said recently, in the USA "burning hydrocarbons is a way of life." Nice strategy, Bob. Who are the carbon criminals, George?



MEMBERS NEWS

There are now 3,700 of you around the country and we are really grateful for your support. Quite bluntly Greenpeace Ireland would not survive without your contributions. The easiest way for us to get more members is to ask you to help. We want to avoid as far as possible having to advertise for more members (unless someone is giving us a free ad). We'd prefer to spend your money doing what its supposed to do, campaigning for a better environment. So please, get your friends, relations and colleagues to join with you. See the panel below for more information. We'll even send you a poster!

RENEW BY ACCESS OR VISA

You can now join, renew or make a donation by credit card, either in writing or on the phone to 01-619836 between 9 and 5.30pm. We have increased our subscription rate to £12.50 (£6.50 for unwaged) to cope with rising costs. We hope you understand.

GREENPEACE MERCHANDISE NOW AVAILABLE!

Lots of you have enquired about Greenpeace merchandise. You've seen it in the UK or in the States. Well we're glad to inform you it's now available in Ireland. We have a selection of T-shirts, badges, pencils, umbrellas and other items now available to callers at the office. The T-shirts feature dolphins, penguins, rainforest and rainbow warrior designs. Prices for T-shirts start at £9.50, £7.80 for children. Greenpeace books, including "The Greenpeace Book of Dolphins" and "Global Warming; The Greenpeace Report" are also available. In the next issue of this newsletter we plan to offer you the opportunity to buy Greenpeace merchandise by mail order.

VIDEOS

We have two videos available for hire from the Greenpeace office, Ecology in Action/ A History of Greenpeace campaigns / 45 mins. You Can't Sink a Rainbow / Story of the Rainbow Warrior / 16 mins. Please enclose £3 for handling and postage, and please return within 2 weeks.

SCHOOLS MEMBERSHIP

Following our very successful first visit to the Young Scientists Exhibition we have introduced a schools membership. It costs £30 for a school or class to become a supporting member. Each school receives an initial information pack including posters, along with a copy of the Greenpeace guide to environmental projects. The school receives additional copies of Greenpeace newsletters. Greenpeace is currently testing a curriculum guide on environmental studies which should be available by the end of 1991. Schools can also hire out the videos mentioned above.

STEPPING LIGHTLY ON THE EARTH

Recycling is beginning to catch on in Ireland and there are bottle banks and paper and metal recycling plants popping up all over the place. Check out the facilities or even start your own, in your neighbourhood. Greenpeace has a recycling leaflet available which gives details on locations.

It is time to take a look at the hazards of the poisons we use every day and take for granted, and put safer, natural methods in their place. Here is a natural way to do your laundry which I've been using for a while. When you initially switch to this method, wash once first with washing soda alone. After that, before putting clothes into the machine, add a third of a cup of washing soda to water and a pure soap, e.g. Lux flakes, in place of a detergent. For more cleaning power, use half a cup of borax. Borax or vinegar can be used as a disinfectant. Then in the final rinse, pour in half a cup of vinegar or a quarter cup of baking soda.

Look out for more down to earth tips in the next issue!



INTRODUCE A FRIEND TO GREENPEACE!

If you introduce a friend to Greenpeace, you'll have our thanks and we'll send you a full colour poster of the Rainbow Warrior.

Please complete:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime telephone number: _____

Please ask your friend to complete this section:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Daytime telephone number: _____

I enclose membership subscription of £12.50 (waged)

£ 6.50 (student or unemployed)

I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to GREENPEACE for £ OR

Please charge my VISA ACCESS Card no: _____

Signature: _____ Expiry Date: _____



THE EPA BILL A Greenpeace Guide.

The bill to establish an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has finally been published, and is going through the legislative process. The main role of the EPA will be to operate an integrated pollution control licensing system in respect of a wide variety of activities, for example, factories, large scale pig farms and mines. Among its other functions will be the general monitoring of air and water quality and the co-ordination of environmental research.

While the setting up of an EPA is a step in the right direction, there are several issues that Greenpeace feels are not properly addressed.

By including "Best Available Technology Not Entailing Excessive Costs", (BATNEEC), as the underlying principle this legislation appears to ignore the need for clean production. The EPA bill as it currently stands puts no onus on industry to develop clean production practices. This bill focuses on controlling pollution after it has happened rather than preventing it in the first place. BATNEEC also accepts incineration in its general definition which is a clear example of the danger in accepting this principle as a form of environmental protection.

Greenpeace demands that the government reject BATNEEC and commit itself to real environmental protection through promotion of clean production alternatives.

There are major loopholes on the whole issue of freedom of information. It is not clear anywhere in the bill that information will be publicly available. Also, there is no direction given in the bill which makes waste auditing compulsory. In order to reduce waste it is necessary that strict timelines and goals are set and that chemical and tonnage specific audits are done. In this way even industry itself can see where it can reduce its waste.

Greenpeace will be lobbying to make the EPA bill a true green piece of legislation.

WE NEED YOUR HELP.

ACTION

This government has a POLLUTION plan for the country. Let's call and tell them we want a PREVENTION plan

The pen is mightier than the sword, but the phone is quicker

Take part in a national Greenpeace phone-in on Tuesday March 12th

- ◆ Ring your TD at Dail Eireann
Tel: 01-789911
- ◆ Ring the Minister for the Environment, Pdraig Flynn, TD, Tel: 01-6793377
- ◆ Ring the Minister for Environmental Protection, Mary Harney, TD, Tel: 01-6793377

TELL THEM: To direct their attention in this EPA bill to preventing pollution at source, instead of trying to deal with it after it has happened. Reduce it, don't produce it.

Continued from Page 1

One spill at Nowruz during the Iran-Iraq war created an oil spill 600 miles long extending the entire length of the Gulf. That one spill released three times as much oil as the Exxon Valdez accident.

As is well known oil spills on such a scale will kill birds, fin fish, shell fish, sea turtles, seasnakes, dolphins, dugongs and other wildlife. Longer term effects on marine food chains and subsequent loss of productivity should also be expected. Oil contamination implies contamination not only by hydrocarbons (many of which are carcinogenic, mutagenic and teratogenic) but also by heavy metals, such as lead, arsenic and mercury.

There has been widespread speculation as to the possible effects of oilwell fires on the atmosphere with claims that they would have a major effect on global warming and that the Asian monsoons could be affected. According to Dr. John Cox in "Environmental Consequences of the Gulf war" (in the Environmental Protection Bulletin of the Institute of Chemical Engineers, UK), the fires from 1000 installations would add 5% to world CO2 emissions. This is about one fifth of the annual emissions of the US, but twice the emissions from the UK. As regards the monsoons, so little is known about the behaviour of oil well fires or about the interacting driving forces of the monsoon that any predictions so far are about possibilities rather than certainties. However, millions of people depend on the monsoons, so it is a potentially disastrous threat.

BAN THE BURN!

Greenpeace fights the incinerator

The issue of an incinerator for Ireland is again in the news, this time in Derry. Du Pont are looking to build an incinerator for their own hazardous waste and feasibility studies are being carried out to see if they could also take the Republic's waste. Environment Minister, Pdraig Flynn has already had talks with Du Pont, and with The Department of the Environment in Northern Ireland.

"Greenpeace has a worldwide campaign against incineration and here in Ireland we will be fighting this proposal every inch of the way", says Clare O'Grady Walshe, Greenpeace Toxics campaigner.

Local opposition to the incinerator is strong, and there have been several public meetings on the issue. At the request of Derry City Council Clare O'Grady Walshe travelled to Derry to brief them on the hazards of incineration. There was unanimous objection to the the proposed incinerator from the council, who have called for a public enquiry. The planning process for the proposed incinerator does

not come under the control of the council.

Incineration is an inherent part of the pollution crisis because it not only facilitates dirty industry by burning toxic waste but it is also a hazard in itself. Incineration does not destroy toxic chemicals. Toxic chemicals are emitted to the atmosphere and waterways and some are reformulated into deadly dioxin and unknown compounds which can cause cancer and birth defects. Incinerators leave behind ash which will be dumped into landfill sites and can often be more dangerous than the original waste

The only sensible and permanent solution to the toxic waste problem is to eliminate the source of the problem - toxic waste and toxic products. This should occur at the product design stage through the avoidance of toxic raw materials, and the use of clean production processes.

Join with us in opposing incineration and help us to BAN THE BURN. A detailed briefing on Incineration is available from Greenpeace, Price 50p

ACTION

- ◆ If you would like to get involved in the campaign in the Derry or Donegal area Contact: Jim O'Neill, Derry Development Education Network, 15 Pump St, Derry, Tel: 080504-269183, or Enda Craig, Greencastle and Moville Environmental Group, Tel: 077-82300

Stop press

A major rally against the proposed incinerator will be held in Derry on Saturday 16th March. Be there

Stop Press

On the day this newsletter went to press, the Allies announced a ceasefire. While the war is hopefully now over, the environmental consequences will remain for years to come

Greenpeace hopes that these will now be a truly peaceful end to this conflict.

GREENPEACE IRELAND Limited, 44 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2. Telephone: (01) 619836 Fax: (01) 605258

WHALE ACTION ALERT

March 1, 1991

Dear Friend,

Those of you who were with us this time last year will remember the call to contact embassies and TDs about the International Whaling Commission (IWC). The call to action was well supported and we achieved our goals.

Now the whales need your help once more.

On the reverse side of this letter you will see the Greenpeace petition calling for the European Community (EC) to work for the preservation of the whales.

This petition is being launched by Greenpeace offices throughout the EC. The only way to save the whales is through international campaigning and international pressure.

Please sign this petition and get five others to also sign.

I need the petitions back in this office by Friday, March 29th.

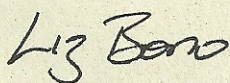
Please, please get the petitions completed and back to me as soon as possible.

We are winning the campaign to save the whales - but there is still some way to go.

Together we can do it. Together we can save the whales.

Thank you for your support and your efforts.

Yours sincerely



Liz Bono
Whale Campaigner

GREENPEACE WHALE ACTION ALERT

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY PETITION

I/we the undersigned believe that the European Community (EC) must take action in support of the worldwide moratorium on commercial whaling. I/we call upon the Irish Government to oppose any resumption of whaling and to pursue European Community legislation which reflects overwhelming European public opinion and bans the killing of whales by EC nationals and within EC waters.

Name..... Name
Address Address.....
.....
.....

Name..... Name
Address Address.....
.....
.....

Name..... Name
Address Address.....
.....
.....

Please complete and return (by Friday, March 29th, 1991) to

Liz Bono, Greenpeace, 44 Upper Mount Street, Dublin 2.