

UNITE! Info #224en: 1/2 Petition for nukeplant Bb 2

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From: Rolf Martens (*rolf.martens_at_mailbox.swipnet.se*)

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Note / Anmerkung / Note / Nota / Anmärkning:

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INTRO NOTE:

Several earlier items in this series have had as their main subjects that "green" warfare which, since several decades back, the main reactionaries in the world are directing at the people everywhere.

This warfare aims, by various measures which in the main do not include such open violence as shooting, shelling or bombing but which are on the level of a war anyway, to prevent the further development of industry or even to destroy such which has already been constructed. It hurts and kills people on an even larger scale that does, for instance, the also ongoing aggression against Iraq.

One particular direct target of this warfare is the peaceful utilization of nuclear energy (as mentioned and explained too in many earlier items of this series).

Concerning nuclear energy, one well-known scientist, Linus Pauling, wrote in 1953 that its utilization was the most important discovery made by man since that of the utilization of fire. This at least was not far wrong. But today, the international system of society has degenerated so far that it more and more appears to be incompatible, even, with that particularly advanced energy source.

The present Info reproduces in translation a petition plus appended information text, set up by the Committee Save Barsebäck in Swedish at:

<http://www.PetitionOnline.com/SaveBbNP/petition.html>.

Its headline (in English) is "Don't Shut Down Barsebäck 2".

The information text recounts some details of how a part of that "green" warfare mentioned is being fought out here in Sweden – a small country but a relatively important one concerning precisely nuclear energy. In earlier decades, precisely here, the largest capacity for nuclear electricity production per inhabitant was constructed. And also, the later about-turn concerning this by the persons in power has been particularly abrupt here, no doubt largely because of pressure in this direction from the government of the USA.

The Committee Save Barsebäck is a small non-party-political organization, founded here in Malmö in 1997, of which I'm a member.

It now engages also in a certain poster campaign, for information about its petition and further propaganda against the anti-nuclear-energy campaign engaged in by the government here and by its international "overlords". Our posters, headlined "Don't shut down Barsebäck 2! Stop attacking the nuclear power plants!", also contain a drawing, made by Klas Hellborg, Lund, in 1988:

It shows a hand trying to grab one of the two blocks of a nuclear power plant, similar to the nearby Barsebäck one. That hand however is soon to be hit by a (shift key) spanner struck down from above. (A symbolism, hopefully, of what should take place, and one of what in part is already taking place too.)

So far, our petition has gotten rather fewer signatories than we originally hoped for. One reason for this probably is the fact that our committee cannot reach, with its information, all that many people. A good thing anyway is that relatively many in neighbouring Denmark have signed it. The government here, stupidly, has tried to blame its own destructive actions against nuclear power on "the Danes' being against it" – which in fact is not the case either.

It's very clear anyway that many in Sweden are quite angry at the latest such destruction plans of the country's government. Even the regional leadership in the southern province of Skåne (Scania) of the union of trade unions (the LO), usually quite docile to the social-democratic government, has protested

against it.

The government of Sweden has announced that it wants the Barsebäck 2 reactor to be shut down as early as on 31.05.2005. Whether then or somewhat later, such an action would have disastrous consequences. Will the government succeed in carrying it out, in the face of the (mostly silent, but angry) opposition by the people here, anyway? That remains to be seen.

Here follow the petition and its appended information text.

End of intro note

At <http://www.PetitionOnline.com/SaveBbNP/petition.html>:

Don't shut down Barsebäck 2! Stop attacking the nuclear power plants!

To the government of Sweden
To the parliament of Sweden

We, the undersigned, demand that the Swedish government immediately cancel its plans to cause the nuclear power reactor Barsebäck 2 in southern Sweden to be shut down and later destroyed.

We demand that the Swedish parliament stop these plans, and all plans aimed at closing other well-functioning nuclear power plants as well.

We demand that the likewise effective, safe and environment-friendly reactor Barsebäck 1, which was scandalously shut down in 1999 straight against the wishes of a broad majority of people in Sweden, be restarted.

We demand that all those bans by law against the utilization, expansion and further development of nuclear power technology which exist in Sweden be removed.

We demand that a new and genuine referendum on nuclear power be held in Sweden, one in which it will be possible to vote "yes" to this particularly modern energy source and not only "no" to it.

[For INFORMATION to the readers of this petition, we who have set it up, the Committee Save Barsebäck, are appending the below eight points. For these points, only we, and not the signatories of the petition, are responsible.

1. A SERIOUS FURTHER ATTACK ON THE PROVISIONING OF ELECTRICITY

In October 2004, the Swedish government and two political parties which are supporting it announced that they wanted the nuclear power reactor Barsebäck 2 to be shut down in 2005 and later destroyed.

For this there is not the slightest reason, concerning operational safety or the environment, for instance. This plant is functioning excellently. It produces as much as 3% of all electricity used in this country. It employs the, by far, most modern, cheapest and most environment-friendly technology for this that is known today.

One must protest against these closure plans! The vast majority of so-called ordinary people in this country must, as far as possible, intervene and put pressure on to the government and the parliament, so as to prevent these plans from being carried out.

We call on all persons and organizations who are for progress and who do not hold that one must accept all so called Edicts from the Powers, to support this petition and to help disseminate information about it. We shall hold it open for signing up until a week before the Swedish parliament takes up its stand on the matter.

2. THE DESTRUCTION IN THIS FIELD ALREADY HAS GONE FAR

Already today, the situation concerning the electricity provisioning in this country is precarious, because of earlier paralysing measures.

The electricity prices have skyrocketed. This hits very hard both directly the individual consumers and also industry, and thus employment.

The production capacity for electricity already is insufficient. Sweden today has become constantly dependent on imports for its provisioning with this important basic commodity. In a reasonably cold winter, this is not enough either. Rationing then will have to be resorted to, a measure for a country at war or in some other serious crisis.

If Barsebäck 2 is shut down too, the situation for the energy provisioning will become disastrous, in particular in southern Sweden.

3. ALL THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS ARE THREATENED.
FURTHER CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT TODAY
ARE BANNED.

In 1980, the parliament took a decision on principle that all use of nuclear energy in this country was to be "phased out", that is, cease and then be banned for all future. It set up a law against there ever being constructed new nuclear power plants, other than those existing or started on in 1980, in Sweden.

In 1987, there was enacted a law which prohibits all research and projecting with a view to constructing a nuclear power reactor in Sweden – the particularly infamous so-called Thought Ban Law.

These extremely retrogressive laws still are in force. They have been set up, quite contrary to the interests and the wishes of the majority of the people, by a small number of persons in power. Everybody else in Sweden must protest most sharply against these laws too, we hold.

4. BRIEFLY ON WHY NUCLEAR POWER IS THE CLEARLY
SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGY FOR PRODUCING ELECTRICITY

Since a long time back the politicians, not least those who pretend to be "of the people" or "leftist", all the mass media and eventually the school textbooks too have been disseminating many untruths concerning energy in general and nuclear energy in particular. It is natural if some people have become deceived by this. But it is obvious that, despite everything, most people by far in Sweden have not.

Everybody with Internet access today can find out the facts in this field by him/herself. A few important such we shall mention here.

It is because of the laws of nature that the nuclear technology is such a big step forward and has such a big development potential, compared to all other methods for producing electricity. With this technology, matter itself is being converted into energy, in accordance with that earlier so well-known relation in physics $E=mc^2$. This gives enormous amounts of energy with only small resources.

>From one single kilogram of uranium, in Barsebäck for instance, as much as 60,000 kWh of electricity is produced. Therefore, such electricity production, already today, is very cheap. It costs some 20–25 öre [3–4 cents in US currency – RM] per kWh. That long-since planned but enormously politically-delayed further development, breeder reactors, provides over

2 million kWh of electricity per kg of uranium. These amounts should be compared to the amounts produced by use of that still relatively modern (chemical) fuel, oil, which are only some 12 kWh of heat or 4 kWh of electricity per kg.

The current from hydropower plants too is relatively cheap, but in Sweden for instance, there is only a small potential for further construction of such plants.

In air in motion there are only very small amounts of energy per m³ of it. Therefore, so-called wind power plants, irrespective of far the technology for them is developed, can only produce electricity very expensively, hardly for less than some 1 SKR [15 cents in US currency – RM] per kWh. When the state makes the public pay for the construction of such by subventioning it, this is a waste of resources, and it is not intended either as a means for achieving cheap and environment-friendly production of electricity. The object entirely is that of trying to fool people into believing that there are good alternatives to nuclear power. Those wind power plants which are being erected today, in the 21st century, are propaganda propellers. They are monuments over a political and economic decay in society.

The same is the case concerning a number of other impractical technologies which the politicians, the mass media and the school textbooks today are maintaining are "alternative" or "renewable" energy sources. The propaganda for them aims to mislead people in similar manners.

5. IS IT TRUE THAT "NUCLEAR ENERGY HAS SOME SERIOUS TECHNICAL PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE BEEN DISCOVERED ONLY IN MORE RECENT YEARS"?

No, not at all. This is how a certain propaganda wants to "explain" that fact that those in power in Sweden and in many other countries in the last few decades have made a complete about-turn concerning nuclear power plants. Earlier, they had such constructed, and they themselves quite rightly spoke of this technology as being an important piece of progress. Today the most influential among them, on the contrary, are very anxious to shut all nuclear power plants down and even ban precisely the nuclear technology for all future.

But some purported "serious technical problems" with electricity production by means of nuclear power are not the real reason for this about-turn. There are no such, neither "old" nor "recently-discovered" ones.

Since nuclear technology makes it possible to extract such enormous amounts of energy out of only small amounts of mat-

ter, this also provides economic scope for sufficient measures for achieving safety of operation in all those steps of production which this technology needs: Uranium mining, enrichment, production of nuclear fuel, nuclear power plants, possibly reprocessing for extracting new fuel out of used such and storing of residual products (so-called wastes).

In the last few decades, there in many parts of the world have occurred manipulations, assaults and sabotage with aims hostile to the people everywhere, actions directed against nuclear power plants or against other buildings and/or against passenger aircraft or ships. Combat and prevent such things you of course cannot do by, perhaps, closing down shipyards, aircraft factories or power plants, but only by putting a stop to those who are responsible for such acts of sabotage, assault and manipulation.

Concerning the Barsebäck plant, certain politicians even maintain that it is "badly placed" since it is situated "close to" large population centres. This is nonsense of course. Many nuclear power plants in other countries in Europe are situated much closer to much larger population centres. And like those others, this power plant constitutes no "danger" at all, to people living nearby or to others.

Those radioactive residual products which are being created in the nuclear power plants today most often are called "wastes". A certain propaganda since a long time back constantly is repeating: "The nuclear wastes question is not solved – therefore, the nuclear power plants must be shut down." This proposition is false, for several reasons.

These residual products never have constituted a problem of any importance. The amounts of them are very small. They can be considered as wastes, and stored as such in a suitable underground storage, even for a very long time if this should be needed, at a cost of less than 1 öre [1.5 mill in US currency – RM] per kWh of electricity, which the electricity consumers in Sweden already are paying for this today.

Furthermore, these residual products in due time will turn into an asset. They may become a such even in a relatively near future. Ideas about how that extra energy which they contain can be utilized, and their radioactivity at the same time removed, already exist today. The "predictions" by some propagandists against nuclear power about "dangerous wastes from them having to be stored for hundreds or thousands of years" are quite unrealistic. They presume that no technology for utilizing economically such energy-rich substances would be developed, even in such a long time.

It is obvious that the so-called "technical reasons" for shutting down and banning nuclear power plants are pretexts, on the part of the persons in power. It is other motives that are lying behind this.

6. WHAT DO THE GOVERNMENT OF SWEDEN AND SOME OTHERS WANT, THEN? WHY IS, SINCE LONG, PRECISELY THE MOST MODERN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY BEING ATTACKED SO INTENSIVELY?

Since over 30 years back now, a campaign against nuclear energy and against other modern technologies has been engaged in internationally. This above all is because the politically and economically most powerful persons in the world have come to fear that the technical and industrial development will lead to their losing their position of power, and thus their profits. Therefore, they now want to whip large parts of that development back.

Modern conditions, with constant development of technology and increase of industrial production, mean bigger profits for those who own the industries but also a constant increase in the number of industrial workers, who then together with others can force through bigger and bigger economic and also democratic demands.

That is why the politicians in the most important relatively highly-developed countries today prefer there to be stagnation and high unemployment. As a part of their striving for this, they willedly are going in for making all energy as scarce and expensive as possible. With laws in that direction they are holding back such private industry owners who still want production to increase.

It is because of this aim of theirs, which they are hiding behind false and upside-down talk about "the environment", "sustainable development" etc, that precisely the very most modern, the most environment-friendly and most long-term sustainable technology for producing energy, nuclear power, has become a particular hate object for most of those politicians, and for all the mass media, in the "industrial countries".

Here in Sweden, the attacks on nuclear power, and those against some other important branches of industry too, have gone particularly far. This has to do with the position that Sweden takes up in the present-time world system. Those in power in this country listen with very keen ears to signals from what they hold to be "Higher Powers".

Against this it is that most people need to act.

[Continued in part 2/2]