

# NUCLEAR SHUTDOWN

## *Gutting high technology*

**T**he men who run the Carter administration have embarked on a plan to shut down nuclear power in the United States for good. With it goes any potential for the U.S. to participate in the development of the Third World through nuclear and other high-technology exports. This plan is not the outcome of the so-called accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Harrisburg, Pa. It is not the implementation of recent recommendations concerning "nuclear safety." This plan has been on the drawing boards at the New York Council on Foreign Relations for at least five years.

It is the Council's strategy which informed the official and unofficial conclusions of the recently released report of the President's Commission on Three Mile Island. Using that report as their pretext, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has already declared a "temporary" moratorium on the licensing of seven nuclear plants about to come into operation. Bolstered by a study commissioned by the National Security Council, the NRC is also seriously considering a President's Commission recommendation that all nuclear plants located within 10 miles of a major urban center be shut down. The NRC has also contributed to the closing of five out of six of the nation's commercial nuclear waste disposal sites—thus threatening the shutdown of all nuclear fission plants, as well as a vital cancer, medical diagnostics and treatment program associated with waste disposal facilities.

On top of the NRC's target list are the nation's flagship utilities like Con Edison in greater New York and Commonwealth Edison in Chicago, both of which rely heavily on nuclear power plants close to city limits. Con Ed's Indian Point plants now provide over 25 percent of the electricity used in New York City and suburban Westchester County. Commonwealth Edison's two Zion plants now produce 15-20 percent of all electricity for Chicago and northern Illinois. If it *could* be replaced by oil-produced electricity, the cost to customers would be in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

It is no mere coincidence that the NRC's plans to shut down nuclear facilities converge with the policies of Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, high-inter-

est policies which are gutting the auto industry, construction, savings banks, and the municipal bond markets. It is also consistent with such plans as ENCONO which call for "regional energy self-sufficiency" based on a transfer of masses of the population out of the cities and replacement of high-technology industry and energy resources with biomass, wood chips, and other labor-intensive sources. The cities are to be gutted.

As with the oil hoax, described earlier in this energy report, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is operating according to plans outlined by the New York Council on Foreign Relations in its "Project on the 1980s." One of the members of the President's Commission, Princeton professor Ted Taylor, was an author of the volume on nuclear proliferation in the "Project 1980s" series. According to that project, the United States and the entire world are to be subjected to "controlled disintegration." Modern urban centers, nuclear power, and high technology economic growth are all inconsistent with the CFR's blueprint for the future.

### **An international shutdown**

The center of the current campaign against nuclear power is the report of the President's Commission which was appointed to evaluate the results of the Three Mile Island accident. The details of that report are presented below. Here we emphasize two points. First is the makeup of this so-called unbiased commission.

The President's Commission was comprised of Chairman Kemeny from Dartmouth College, Texas Instruments President Patrick Haggerty, Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt, and Princeton professor Ted Taylor. Along with Taylor, Haggerty also has CFR connections as a member of the board of the Trilateral Commission, a CFR subcommittee.

Second is the Kemeny Commission's recommendations: that no utility can be expected to properly run nuclear plants and that no plant should be licensed in a region until a thorough evacuation plan has been worked out for the population.

As *Executive Intelligence Review* documented at the time of the Three Mile Island accident, such plans for evacuation are the touchstone of the National Security Council's plans for setting up emergency dictatorial

control over the U.S. economy through "crisis management." The Federal Emergency Management Agency went into operation at the time of the Three Mile Island "accident" to begin implementing these plans under NSC supervision.

One week before the Kemeny commission released its report, the National Security Council came out with the results of its major study on nuclear energy. Headed by former Rand Corp. President Henry S. Rowan and "nuclear terrorism" expert Albert Wohlstetter, the report concluded that the Carter administration should continue to stall the development of the breeder reactor in the interest of stopping nuclear proliferation. This study was then echoed by NRC Commissioner Victor Gilinsky, another former Rand "expert," who claimed that all nuclear reactors pose the threat of nuclear terrorism because they all breed plutonium.

### Implementation

No time has been wasted by the administration in implementing the recommendations of the Kemeny Commission report.

NRC official Harold Denton has announced that

the commission will not grant any new operating or construction licenses until after a "pause" for adopting a new, tougher set of siting, safety, and emergency standards for plants. Morris Udall of Arizona, Gary Hart of Colorado, and Sen. Edward Kennedy have all supported this action.

The NRC has told the *Washington Post* that it will either shut down or severely restrict licensing at Con Edison's Indian Point plant in New York and Commonwealth Edison's nuclear facilities in Chicago.

And on Nov. 5, NRC Chairman Joseph Hendrie confirmed in congressional hearings that plans were indeed formulated to shut down plants near populous areas.

On the nuclear waste front, U.S. Energy Secretary Duncan has set up an interagency study group to consider reopening government controlled sites—but only for low-level medical wastes. Appointed to head the Justice Department's hazardous waste unit is Anthony Roisman, who formerly headed the legal staff of the Natural Resources Defense Council, a leader in the effort to sabotage the completion of the Seabrook nuclear power facility in New Hampshire and other nuclear plants.

## A planned phase-out of nuclear power

The ongoing shutdown of the U.S. nuclear power industry has nothing to do with a desire for nuclear safety stemming from the so-called accident at Three Mile Island near Harrisburg, Pa. The New York Council on Foreign Relations planned the shutdown before Jimmy Carter was installed in the White House.

Theodore Taylor, a member of Carter's presidential commission on Three Mile Island, spelled out the plan in black and white as part of the CFR's "1980s Project" series advocating "the controlled disintegration of the world economy." Stating that many more nations would inevitably develop nuclear weapons if nuclear fission plants and plutonium reprocessing were developed as peaceful energy sources, and that solar power could meet energy demand. Taylor announced the CFR's intention to give "One World" supranational agencies the power to prevent any nation from maintaining a nuclear power industry.

In the "1980s Project" volume, titled "Nuclear Proliferation: Motivations Capabilities and Strate-

gies for Control" and published as Carter took office in 1977, Taylor wrote the following:

"In the context of a *planned phaseout of nuclear power*, in which the use of recycled plutonium is rendered unnecessary, a safeguards strategy compatible with our principles can most practically be founded on a simple international convention that spent fuel not be reprocessed *anywhere* for plutonium recovery, except possibly at a few international centers under international control. *Such a scheme has an attractive simplicity...*

"On balance, we believe that a once-through system evolving into a *planned phase-out of fission power* could be effectively safeguarded with an international will to do so...

"The prospects are excellent that *solar energy* can be developed and implemented on a large scale in a period of time comparable to that required to develop fully safeguarded breeder systems.

"... The system we have outlined resembles the modified version of the Baruch plan for the international control of nuclear energy that the United States submitted to the United Nations in 1946...

"As we have insisted in this study, *any energy future that we choose will be difficult and painful*" (emphasis added).

# The report of the President's Commission

While the Carter administration has consistently pursued a policy of sabotage of nuclear power, the centerpiece of this more recent campaign is the President's Commission to Investigate the Three Mile Island Accident and the report it released on Oct. 30.

There should be a moratorium on nuclear plant construction was the all but stated conclusion of the report. The week before, commission members voted at least twice on whether to officially recommend a nuclear moratorium. It passed both times with a 6-4-2 and 6-3-3 margin, but was not included as a recommendation in the report (seven "yes" votes were needed). The "secret vote" translated into front-page headlines: "Kemeny Commission Backs Nuclear Moratorium." Within the week, the NRC was acting on the official—and unofficial—recommendations of the commission.

Nuclear moratorium and the gutting of nuclear and

other high-technology industries are what informs the Kemeny Commission's major conclusions and criticisms concerning the Three Mile Island incident. The facts of the matter are applied only if appropriate.

**The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, an independent agency headed by five commissioners, should be abolished and replaced by an executive branch agency with a single executive.** This is based on what the commission calls "evidence that some of the old promotional (nuclear) philosophy still influences the regulatory practices of the NRC." They raked the NRC over the coals, concluding "that there is no well thought out integrated system for assurance of nuclear safety within the NRC."

**A permanent presidential oversight committee should be established to continuously monitor the performance of both the new federal agency and the private companies that design, construct, and operate nuclear reactors.** The Kemeny Commission blamed the Three Mile Island incident on the incompetence and/or bad organizational practices of the utility, the reactor manufacturer, equipment suppliers and others. "Our investigation has revealed problems with the 'system' that manufactures, operates, and regulates nuclear power plants. There are structural problems in the various organizations, there

## The Kemeny Commission

The Presidential Commission on Three Mile Island—the Kemeny Commission—has been presented by the Carter administration as an unbiased, objective panel well-qualified to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the U.S. nuclear energy industry. But at least three members of the commission are avowedly antitechnology, unqualified to deal with any scientific issue. Here are their backgrounds.

**John Kemeny**, chairman, is currently president of Dartmouth College and has a reputation as a mathematician based on the fact that he was once a research assistant to Albert Einstein. For 17 years, from 1953-70, he served as a consultant to the Rand Corp. These latter two aspects of Kemeny's intellectual background suggest he has been influenced by the tradition of philosophical fraud Bertrand Russell, who systematically denied that man possesses creative mental capabilities.

**Theodore B. Taylor**, currently works at Princeton University's Center for Environmental Studies, which has produced studies for Congress "proving" that economic growth is possible without increasing energy supplies. Taylor is a publicist for nuclear

terrorism scenarios, spreading the false notion that any bright physics student can build an atom bomb in his basement. Taylor has worked on the Ford Foundation's Energy Policy Project and authored one of the Council on Foreign Relations "Project 1980s" series, both of which advocate a phaseout of nuclear in favor of low-energy economic models.

**Patrick Haggerty**, general director of Texas Instruments along with Gen. Alexander Haig, was, from 1973-76, a member of the Trilateral Commission subcommittee of the Council on Foreign Relations, which put Carter in the White House. Haggerty's fellow Texas Instrument executive Fred Bucy has served on National Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski's panel restricting exports of "sensitive" U.S. industrial technology. Haggerty himself has served on the Defense Science Board, which performs a similar function.

**Victor Gilinsky**, appointed to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 1974, is a member of the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies. A ten-year man at Rand Corp., he subsequently assisted James Schlesinger in his 1971 reorganization of the Atomic Energy Commission, focusing on its regulatory staff. Gilinsky is known as the most anti-nuclear member of the NRC.

are deficiencies in various processes, and there is a lack of communication among key individuals and groups.”

“The most serious ‘mindset’ is the preoccupation of everyone with safety of equipment, resulting in the downplaying of the importance of the human element. The NRC and the industry have failed to recognize sufficiently that the human beings who manage and operate the plants constitute an important safety system.”

**Before any utility is granted an operating license for a new nuclear power plant, state and local emergency plans should be reviewed and approved by the federal government.** States the Kemeny report: “We are disturbed both by the highly uneven quality of emergency plans and by the problems created by multiple jurisdictions in the case of a radiation emergency. We found an almost total lack of detailed plans in the local communities around Three Mile Island.

“We favor the centralization of emergency planning and response in a single agency at the federal level with close coordination between it and state and local agencies”—a recommendation to put the Federal Emergency Management Agency in charge.

**A variety of changes should be made in the recruiting and training of reactor operating personnel, in the instruments available to help operators understand the condition of reactors and the availability of equipment to measure the accidental releases of radiation.** It was the commission’s view that it was the operator error, confusion and misjudgment that were primarily responsible for the nuclear incident. “These shortcomings are attributable to the utility, to suppliers of equipment, and the federal commission (NRC) that regulates nuclear power.”

The entirety of the conclusions are a call to dismantle the nuclear industry. Such findings in fact ignore the evidence of sabotage baldly evident in the text of the report: there is a “remote possibility” that the emergency feedwater valves that failed to deliver water to lower the reactor core temperatures “were closed by an overt act,” states the report. The commission, however, made no effort to investigate.

The importance of these closed valves during the initial phase of the accident was presented in an earlier report in *Executive Intelligence Review*, which reviewed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s report on its investigation of Three Mile Island. That investigation showed that the closure of these valves caused particular pressure, temperature, and pressurizer level conditions in the reactor that led the plant operators to act essentially opposite to how they should have acted.

In a recently released report on the same incident, published in the November 1979 issue of the IEEE magazine *Spectrum*, Babcock and Wilcox, builder of the reactor, agreed, adding that the loss of emergency feedwater flow was important. “Had there been auxiliary (emergency) feedwater in the system, the tempera-

ture of the reactor coolant might have remained relatively stable until the problem of the condensate pumps was corrected and the normal feedwater reinstated.”

Both the NRC and the Kemeny Commission knew of this situation. Three different investigations have concluded that the emergency feedwater valves were closed by someone. But this is the line of investigation both have chosen not to pursue.

Instead, the Kemeny commission investigation focuses on what went wrong after the incident started, and why they think the operators, the owners, the manufacturer, and the NRC had “so much trouble” dealing with the “accident” once it started.

So the Kemeny commission concludes that the nuclear industry is a mess. Because of the conditions created by the mess, commission members, no friends of nuclear, were “convinced that an accident like Three Mile Island was eventually inevitable.”

The Kemeny commission had to admit that the Three Mile Island incident posed no danger to the public. Yet they recommended evacuation plans—a recommendation picked up by NRC Chairman Hendries when he informed a congressional committee of plans to shut down two Indian Point nuclear plants near New York City and two Zion units near Chicago.

After asking themselves just how serious was the accident, the commissioners answered: “Based on our investigation of the health effects of the accident, we conclude that in spite of serious damage to the plant, most of the radiation was contained and the actual release will have a negligible effect on the physical health of individuals. The major health effect of the accident was found to be mental stress”—for which the residents of the area around Three Mile Island have the nation’s press to thank. So why the evacuation plan if there is no physical danger?

Then there is the recommendation of a presidential oversight committee to monitor the nuclear industry. Is the nuclear industry not capable of understanding the science and technology of nuclear? “The analysis of this particular accident,” states the Kemeny report, “raises the serious question of whether all electric utilities automatically have the necessary technical expertise and managerial capabilities for administering such a dangerous high-technology plant.”

Therein lies the basis upon which the commissioners, two of whom are associated with the New York Council on Foreign Relations, determined what they would investigate and, in fact, what they would recommend. Nuclear and other high technologies are “dangerous.”

The Kemeny Commission has not determined Carter administration policy toward nuclear. Rather, the commissioners are carrying out a policy formulated some years ago to destroy the high technology base of industry in the U.S. and the world.

—Jon Gilbertson