

## Greenpeace caught in Norway, runs amok in South Pacific

by Helmut Böttiger

After Operation Brent Spar—a campaign against the alleged pollution risk because of the dumping of a disused oil platform in the Atlantic—the environmentalist multinational Greenpeace organized its “major action” against the underground atomic tests by France in the South Pacific. The propaganda with which Greenpeace is draping these “actions” and seeks to justify them, is based on willful disinformation and flat-out lies.

In the case of the Brent Spar oil platform, on Sept. 5 Greenpeace was forced point-blank to answer for its reckless disregard for truth.

It must be understood that Greenpeace is just not some simple association of “idealistic environmentalists,” but runs a bang-up “ecology business” which involves hundreds of millions of dollars on a world scale. At the same time, Greenpeace—and this is actually more important—is an instrument for the political destabilization of governments which are still committed to national sovereignty, to scientific-technical and industrial progress, and to great infrastructural projects. Behind Greenpeace stands the British oligarchy, which fundamentally rejects such aims, and has a deep dislike for the course of national independence undertaken by French President Jacques Chirac.

France’s break with the policy of his predecessor, François Mitterrand, with respect to Bosnia-Herzegovina and to the Anglo-French “Entente Cordiale,” is the real basis for the present demonization of France. The nuclear weapons test in the South Pacific is the pretext, and Greenpeace is the vehicle, for creating a united front against President Chirac on London’s part.

### Prince Philip and Greenpeace

In an interview on Aug. 18, one close adviser to Prince Philip, the consort of the British queen, said that there exists

an “effective division of labor” between Greenpeace and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), whose international president is Prince Philip. “The WWF works on the level of governments and corporations.” If these large entities oppose WWF proposals, then the WWF warns that they run the risk of protests from the population. “If that does not work, then the WWF representatives hint, that Greenpeace can stage something dramatic.”

In the case of the underground French nuclear tests in the South Pacific, the “something dramatic” staged by Greenpeace has included, up through Sept. 7:

- The storming of the Papeete airport in Tahiti by some 600 rioters, as well as the looting of businesses in the city, through the concerted actions of “defenders of the environment” and local separatist groups. One hundred people who were in the airport fortunately escaped injury, but it was burnt to the ground.

- The deployment—on orders from Greenpeace—of two “former” members of the British SAS commando unit to the atomic test sites in Mururoa. This involved combat swimmers Mathew Whitting and Ian Mark Baker. The SAS is an elite military formation which specializes in guerrilla warfare operations in the intelligence milieu.

- The general staff-like deployment of a flotilla of Greenpeace ships, which systematically attempted to penetrate into French territorial waters around Mururoa. Back during the first protest trip by Greenpeace against French atomic bomb tests in the South Pacific, in 1972, Navy Lt. Nigel Ingram, an officer of the British Royal Navy, rendered expert assistance.

- The production and distribution of a film which calls in a barely disguised way for the murder of French President Jacques Chirac (see cover story in *EIR*, Sept. 1, 1995). The film was produced by the firm Media Natura, which works

for Prince Philip's WWF and whose co-owner is Chris Rose, the campaign director for Greenpeace-U.K.

● At least indirectly, the effort to hijack a passenger jet belonging to the French airline Air Inter on Sept. 3, belongs to the spectrum of actions of Greenpeace.

In addition, a computer-manipulated, disfigured image of Chirac, his face burned like a Hiroshima victim, was splashed across the front page of Paris's *Libération* newspaper on Sept. 6. The artist, Oliviero Toscani, heads the advertising division of the Italian fashion house Benetton, a backer of the Italian "ecology" movement and close to the WWF.

## The Greenpeace Militia

But Greenpeace is not just made up of elite campaign specialists. A huge army of contributors belongs to it, especially in Germany. These donor-supporters have absolutely no democratic rights to participate in the leadership of the organization. This incredible fact is indeed somewhat embarrassing for the Greenpeace leadership. So now they want to grant some sort of opportunity to participate, without, of course, changing the organizational structure.

The head of Greenpeace in Great Britain, Lord Peter Melchett, stated in the *Guardian* newspaper of Sept. 6 that he wants to set up a Greenpeace Militia. His Lordship wants to invite the 350,000 Greenpeace contributors to a "training session" in "direct action." "They will be a powerful new force of imaginative protest . . . to deliver big punches, with audacious and large-scale actions. . . . It's easy to get people to do 'soft' things. The challenge now, is to respond to the desires of members to really confront. Greenpeace argues," Lord Melchett concluded, "that there is, now, widespread disillusionment, that conventional politics can effect environmental change, and that an increasing number of people want to get involved in protest." Perhaps the civil war-like uproar in Tahiti on Sept. 6 was the prelude performance for the Greenpeace Militia.

It is a bald-faced lie to claim that the underground atomic tests in Mururoa are a threat to the life and health of the inhabitants of the region. The tests are being done in a location between 500 and 1,000 meters deep in a basalt rock. If, several thousand years from now, the residues of irradiated substances should finally make their way into the sea, nothing will be left of their radioactivity. Even if the worst fears come to pass and this were to happen after 500 years, one would have to drink 300 liters of lagoon water in order, minimally, to get the effect of the annual radioactive background radiation in the earth's atmosphere.

This affirmation was not put forward by some French official entity. It was made by the Australian Radiation Laboratories and the National Radiation Laboratory of New Zealand—both of which *oppose* the tests. They were broadcast on Aug. 23 on the Quantum science program over Australian government television. Quantum concluded, "The weight of scientific evidence is that the tests pose no danger to humans and the environment."

## Systematic disinformation

The targeted disinformation policy of Greenpeace was described as follows by Robert Hunter, one of the founders of Greenpeace and a producer on Canadian television: "It's not that we had ever lied—that's one thing you must never do with modern propaganda—but we had painted a rather extravagant picture of the multiple dooms that would be unleashed . . . tidal waves, earthquakes, radioactive death clouds, decimated fisheries, deformed babies. We never said that's what would happen, only that it could happen." Thus, Greenpeace can leave it to devoted "ideologically steadfast" journalists to whom the truth means nothing, pure and simple. The *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* of Sept. 8 had no choice but to speak of a "declaration of bankruptcy for journalism" in connection with Greenpeace actions.

Three months after the unparalleled mass hysteria which Greenpeace and the media generated in connection with the "alarming" sinking of the Brent Spar oil-drilling platform the truth comes out: The whole campaign was based on a crude lie. For Greenpeace, the "Brent Spar hysteria," like previous "environmental" anxiety campaigns, is a well-calculated affair. The campaign not only brought Greenpeace out of relative oblivion and back before the international television cameras, but permitted the dwindling flow of donations to start streaming in again. Some \$20 million was supposed to be brought in for this action—if at least in this regard, we can believe Greenpeace's own statements.

But when the surveyors of the Norwegian firm DNV said they wanted to climb up on the Brent Spar, anchored in a Norwegian fjord, in order to test what kind of sludge—sand and mud mixed with oil—is really deposited there, suddenly Greenpeace took back all of its previous assertions respecting the drilling platform.

Greenpeace even apologized to the owner, Royal Dutch Shell. Whether Shell, which incurred enormous costs because of the "environmental" hysteria, will be handing on these costs with a damages suit which could financially ruin Greenpeace, is doubtful.

Greenpeace had long asserted that it can prove that "5,000 tons" of petroleum, heavy metals, and radioactivity were deposited in the old oil platform. The gigantic campaign against the sinking of the Brent Spar was hence based on the idea that these "5,000 tons" of toxic materials represented a terrible danger to the ocean environment. The Greenpeace leadership apparently believed that in the Brent Spar case, it was best for the organization's image to engage in a flight forward.

Had they not suddenly recanted, it would probably have gotten even more embarrassing for Greenpeace, if the investigations in Norway had convicted Greenpeace of lying beyond any doubt. But on the matter of deliberate disinformation, Greenpeace's retraction changes nothing. In Norway there has been a judgment about Greenpeace since long before the Brent Spar affair: "Greenpeace recruitment deliberately works with falsifications."