

Nuclear Madness in Asia

If this demonstration were being held in the Philippines and you were attending it, you would in all likelihood be in jail by now. Dictator Marcos has arrested all those Filipinos who have spoken out against the 1.1 billion dollar reactor the Westinghouse Corporation proposes to build in Bataan province, the Philippines. Westinghouse also is reported to have given Marcos' friend and relative Herminio Disini a commission estimated at 40 million dollars to secure the contract.

But the Union of Concerned Scientists state the plans for the Bataan reactor include over 200 major safety problems that would not pass U.S. law.

Six miles away from the Bataan reactor site lies the U.S. Subic Naval Base where 110 million gallons of diesel oil and 1.7 million gallons of jet fuel are stored, where nuclear weapons are stored, nuclear submarines have a berth, and where the U.S. nuclear-capable ships of the Pacific Fleet are repaired.

Around 40 miles from the proposed reactor is Clark Air Field, the largest U.S. air base outside the United States and another home for U.S. nuclear weapons.

The U.S. Export-Import Bank proposes to make a loan of 644 million dollars of U.S. taxpayers' money to finance the Westinghouse construction. The U.S. bases now cost the U.S. taxpayer 200 million dollars a year for upkeep, and dictator Marcos is currently demanding another annual payment of 200 million dollars in military aid as rent for the bases.

Many Filipinos oppose the nuclear-laden U.S. bases because they threaten to involve the Philippines in any future nuclear holocaust. Just as the dictator Marcos throws opponents of nuclear power in jail, so does he those who speak out against the U.S. bases. Recently, he arrested 30 Filipinos who demonstrated against the bases and four of those at last report were still in prison.

Environmental, anti-nuclear, and human rights groups have expressed opposition to the reactor. U.S. congress is currently holding hearings on the Westinghouse dealings in the Philippines. You also can help curb U.S. participation in this nuclear madness in the Philippines and help to save U.S. taxpayers' money by signing the petition being circulated calling for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. bases from the Philippines.

