

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVE RESISTANCE for the Immediate Shutdown of All Nuclear Power Plants!

MLPD – Member of ICOR

The nuclear catastrophe was completely foreseeable

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On 11 March 2011 at 2.46 p.m., Japan witnessed the worst earthquake in its history. The epicenter of the earthquake was near the coast and caused a tsunami tidal wave. A few minutes later, it hit the Japanese coast up to 10 meters high. While in Europe (6.46 a.m. Central European Time) many people are still sleeping, more than 27,000 people in Japan lose their lives. 400,000 persons become homeless, under partly catastrophic conditions.

A few hours later, news about damages at the Japanese nuclear power plants is spreading rapidly over the newlines. **Damages to the supposedly safest nuclear power plants in the world?** While billions of people are still rubbing their eyes in astonishment, things are developing rapidly.

The deadly danger of one or more meltdowns occurring and radioactivity being emitted are causing concern among people all over the world.

All of a sudden, the 25-year-old shocking pictures of the nuclear catastrophe of **Chernobyl** return into public consciousness. At that time, a nuclear reactor had exploded in the Soviet Union. Even today, thousands are dying of cancer as a result of the radiation; the infertility rate is 30 percent and many children are born with abnormalities. **Even up to the present day, a meltdown is continuing under a concrete sarcophagus, which is becoming more and more porous.**

In Japan not only one, but for some time at least ten reactors in five nuclear plants are involved. In the following days fires and explosions occur mainly in the reactors of the Fukushima plant I. In four destroyed reactor cores there are 1,496 nuclear elements. Further 10,149 nuclear elements are stored outside in spent fuel pools and dry storage facilities. Therefore more than 2,000 tons of radioactive material – many times more than in Chernobyl (190 tons) – could be released into the environment.

Included are at least 6.5 tons of plutonium* – a highly poisonous, deadly radioactive matter, also used for the production of nuclear weapons. On 24 March, there are more and more indications that besides radioactive cesium and iodine, which were already found, plutonium is being released from reactor 3 in Fukushima I, as well. At the end of March it is a gruesome fact.

* Plutonium – extremely deadly poison

Plutonium 239 is an artificially created element and belongs to the most deadly highly radioactive poisons in the world. 40 billionths of a gram of this substance is lethal. The half-life is 24,000 years. In Fukushima there are at least 6.5 tons of plutonium.

Three weeks after the catastrophe, it is not in the least foreseeable to what extent radioactive material is being released and how the situation can be brought under control. For days the government and the Japanese operating company Tepco deny the beginning of the meltdown and so delay a necessary large scale evacuation.

Within a few days, radioactivity is already increasing in regions that are hundreds of kilometers away. Since 24 March, in Tokyo, 240 kilometers distant, baby food is no longer supposed to be prepared with tap water. On 22 March in 10 Japanese counties with 48 million inhabitants, radioactivity one hundred up to a thousand times higher than normal is measured. Ships passing by Fukushima at 120 kilometers distance are so contaminated that they are not allowed to enter Chinese ports.

Radiation cannot be seen, smelled or tasted. It is in the air, in the water, in more and more foods and commodities. And so it enters into the worldwide circulation of foodstuffs and commodities.

The earthquake and the tsunami could not be averted at the present level of technology. **But the devastating nuclear catastrophe was completely avoidable.**

Why were eleven nuclear plants built in a region known to be earthquake-prone? Why were the stations in Fukushima only constructed for tsunamis of up to 5.5 meters height? Why was it possible that the owner Tepco, which has closest links to the Japanese government, was so negligent with controls and maintenance for years and years? Tepco is in the 126th position of the 500 biggest international supermonopolies.

Capitalist greed for profit is and was walking right over corpses, not only in Japan.

The greed for profit was and is the only driving force to introduce the uncontrollable nuclear energy in Germany against all warnings, to further promote it and to make an offensive in building nuclear power plants worldwide. German nuclear power plants like Neckarwestheim are also situated in earthquake regions. But there, it is argued, "*such heavy quakes are not expected*". They were not expected in Japan either! The reason for the beginning meltdown was the continuing lack of supply with electricity. There are also endless reasons why in German nuclear plants the electrical supply can fail. The biggest danger arises from the fatigue of the material, corrosion of the pipes, filters, weld seams etc. – and this danger is increasing with the extension of the operating time.

Why did the responsible governments and international monopolies hold on to nuclear power at all after the catastrophe of Chernobyl?

The Japanese nuclear catastrophe, probably the biggest in the history of humankind, signifies a turning point in the increasing threats to the existential foundations of humankind. In no other issue are monopolies and government so isolated as after the nuclear catastrophe. **The immediate shutdown of all nuclear power plants at the expense of those who run them can and must be implemented now.**

Crisis management for which humans don't count...

The way the government and the monopolies deal with the catastrophe can hardly be topped in its disdain for the people. The Tepco managers are in panic and confusion and fear mainly for their profits. The government and the operators keep the people

uninformed about the dimensions of the catastrophe and the dangers for their health. Millions of people were exposed to radiation. Instead of immediately gathering specialists

from all over the world, the problem is aggravated by incredibly dilettante measures:

- * Radioactivity is released in part deliberately by the owners in order to minimize the pressure in the overheated reactors and to prevent an explosion.

- * Tons of radioactive polluted water filled in by water cannons and helicopters flow back into the ground and the ocean. Radioactivity rises to ten thousand times the critical limits.

- * The use of ocean water leads to the formation of a salt crust. This makes cooling even more difficult. Was it really so surprising that ocean water contains salt which remains after evaporation?

- * Over and over again, workers and helpers (often forcibly and lacking information) are sent into the deadly radioactive power stations – with completely insufficient protective clothing. Some have to sleep on-site under lead blankets and have only emergency rations.

- * Tepco preferably employs contract workers. Those hired are often unemployed or homeless. In Japan people call them “throw-away workers”.

- * The dimensions of the catastrophe are constantly played down in an unscrupulous manner. This prevents the necessary large-scale evacuation and also counteracts possible measures for help and relief.

- * Japanese “experts” argue about an evacuation zone of 20, 30 or 40 kilometers. At the same time, in the greater Tokyo area 240 kilometers away, with more than 35 million inhabitants, an increase in radiation is already being measured.

- * In megalomaniacal pride Tepco and the government neither demand foreign aid nor experts. Independent specialists and environmental organizations are even obstructed.

- * During his visit to Tokyo at the beginning of April, German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle is unmoved and praises *“that the Japanese government is providing complete transparency. This creates confidence”!*

- * The so-called “international community” is capable of conducting air raids in Libya within days, but effective help for millions of affected Japanese people does not occur. They partly lack the most essential things.

Large-scale evacuation must begin immediately in Japan! Children and pregnant women must be brought out of the country immediately!

A worst-case accident is imminent with the danger of large parts of Japan becoming uninhabitable for decades or even centuries.

Climate Protection Program of the MLPD

Many facts and convincing arguments in support of building up an internationally coordinated and very broad environmental movement with the working class as its core.

In German, 22 pages, 1 euro

All books and brochures described in this brochure are available at the publishing house 'Neuer Weg', Alte Bottroper Strasse 42, D-45356 Essen, and at www.people-to-people.de

Who can be so unscrupulous?

Economically seen, nuclear energy is not only the most dangerous, but also the most expensive way of producing power. The fairy tale about “cheap nuclear power” is pure whitewashing by the government and the energy monopolies. Without state subsidies and the shifting of all resulting costs onto society, nuclear power would cost at least 2 euros per kilowatt-hour instead of an average 0.25 euros!

The German nuclear industry has received 204 billion euros in state subsidies in the last 60 years. **The 17 nuclear power plants in Germany are extremely underinsured with a sum of 2.5 billion euros.** That is 0.005 percent of the estimated costs resulting from a maximum credible accident.

From the flooding nuclear waste depository in the salt mine Asse II alone, 128,000 barrels with radioactive material have to be retrieved – at a cost of an estimated 3.7 billion euros!¹ Some of those barrels are leaking. Radioactive tritium is emanating from the exhaust air vents of the mine and radioactive material is reaching the ground water.

Worldwide, the problem of the storage of nuclear waste material is completely unsolved. Nuclear waste is recklessly “passed on” to future generations.

The construction, equipment and operation of nuclear power plants is a business with maximum profits.

The real profiteers and actors have names:

* Operators like RWE, E.on, EnBW, Vattenfall are making net profits of up to 2.2 million euros daily from an active nuclear power plant. The SPD-Greens “nuclear consensus” of 2002 already guaranteed them at least 87 billion euros profit until 2023. The extension of operation time by CDU and FDP in autumn 2010 increased these profits by further 140 billion euros². RWE now has filed case against shutting down the German plant Biblis A. *“The interests of the shareholders are being protected with this case,”* states RWE. And what about the risk for health and the life interests of the population and employees?

* **Constructors of plants and equipment** like Siemens (Germany), Toshiba (Japan), Westinghouse (USA), General Electric (USA), Rosatom (Russia) and Areva (France) wait impatiently on the starting blocks. There are plans for the construction of new nuclear power plants worldwide with an estimated order volume of 1 trillion euros. They compete underbidding each other on the construction costs and, with that, the necessary minimum security levels.

* These monopolies receive support from their respective **governments**. The German federal government, for example, has promised a more than one billion euro guarantee for the construction of the reactor Angra 3 in Brazil. Siemens is one of the participating constructors. And this is taking place at a bay on the Atlantic coast which is endangered by landslides.³ All proposals of the CDU, FDP, SPD and Greens for “opting out” only apply to the direct operation in Germany. But they do not at all intend to opt out of the worldwide construction and operation of nuclear power plants also by German monopolies! This would make it necessary to ban the import and export of nuclear power and power plant technology.

¹ www.greenpeace.de

² Umwelt.Medizin.Gesellschaft 1/2011, page 3

³ Fr-online, 18 March 2011

* **Energy monopolies and the state are very closely intertwined on all levels** (federal, state and communities). More than 15 percent of the RWE shares are held by NRW (North Rhine-Westphalia) communities. The *Land* Baden-Württemberg itself is speculating with nuclear energy by investing in EnBW.

* **The firms operating uranium mines.** Some, like Areva, are at the same time constructors of nuclear power plants. The mining of uranium releases radioactive dust into the water and the air, poisons and kills thousands of people every year through leukemia, still births and miscarriages, and destroys entire landscapes for thousands of years!

* **The international finance capital:** Large banks are actively engaged and assuming leading positions. Among the ten international large banks that are financing the nuclear business, the Deutsche Bank is on position 7 worldwide with 7.8 billion euros “financial services” between 2000 and 2009⁴. Deutsche Bank and WestLB handed out loans amounting to 30 million euros to Tepco, which had long before been criticized for errors and cover-up attempts⁵. Two of the three biggest Japanese insurance firms are shareholders at Tepco. But they have not insured the power plant!

* **The military-industrial complex:** Last but not least, for military and power purposes, they are unwavering and unscrupulous in holding on to this uncontrollable and deadly technology. The mass production of nuclear weapons-grade plutonium is only possible with the operation of nuclear power plants. The construction of new “tactical nuclear weapons” as well as the deployment of depleted uranium in the wars being led worldwide are not possible without nuclear politics. The alleged separation of military and “civilian” use of nuclear energy is an illusion.

The demand for the immediate shutdown of all nuclear power plants and the demand to ban and destroy all atomic, biological and chemical weapons belong together.

The largest reactor constructors		The largest operators	
Areva/France	96	EDF/France	73
Rosatom/Russia	68	Atomenergoprom/Russia	32
General Electric/Hitachi, USA/Japan	64	Kepeco/South Korea	20
Kepeco/South Korea	20	Exelon/USA	17
Mitsubishi Heavy Industries/Japan	19	Tepco/Japan	17
		NNEGC/Russia	15
		E.on/Germany	9
		RWE/Germany	5

The largest constructors and operators of nuclear power plants according to the number of constructed or operated nuclear power plants
(Source: *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, 18 March 2011)

⁴ www.nuclearbanks.org

⁵ www.urgewald.de

Playing things down and lying – not just since Fukushima

We are witnessing a **worldwide streamlined campaign** in the media and by the governments **to play things down and cover them up**. They admit only those facts that can no longer be denied. This inhumane disinformation is cynically applauded by German politicians like the former federal chancellor and promoter of nuclear energy, Helmut Schmidt (SPD): *“It is necessary to avoid panic when it can be avoided. The government is not obliged to say everything it knows.”* (Frankfurter Rundschau, 16 March 2011)

A mixture of information and disinformation, truths, half-truths and lies, admissions and denials aims at confusing the masses. That includes contradictory news items from experts, all of them supposedly serious, as well as a flood of facts without connection to the practical consequences. Brazenly, "sad news" like the death of a polar bear who'd become a celebrity at Berlin's zoo gets blown up into a media event. The intended effect of this manipulation of public opinion is that you don't know what to believe or not, or at least that you get used to the catastrophic news.

True to this principle, in Germany, too, people are being misinformed about the worldwide consequences of the Japanese catastrophe: *“As far as is humanly possible to tell, it is not imaginable that Germany could be affected by the consequences of the accident in Japan,”* chancellor and physicist Angela Merkel lied to the stenographers of the press on 12 March.

It is a fact that every radioactive contamination is spread worldwide through the air, water and the international exchange of goods and increases the total pollution for humankind. On 23 March an increase of radioactivity can be observed in Iceland and California. On 25 March in Germany. In early April Fukushima then disappears from the front pages of the bourgeois media.

In the meantime the EU has raised the upper limit for radioactivity allowed in food – a standard procedure when nuclear accidents occur, as the EU administration announced tersely.

The systematic playing down has a history in Germany, too. Data on cancer and the **results of scientific research** about a clearly increased risk of leukemia for children living in the surroundings of nuclear power plants **are suppressed**.

In the German nuclear power plants, between 1996 and 2010 **on average there were 132 accidents per year which had to be reported**. Those included serious accidents like fires, escaping radioactivity and explosions. At least from the nuclear power plant Philippsburg it has become known in the meantime that reportable accidents were covered up. The motive: not to endanger the planned extension of running time by the Merkel/Westerwelle government. It calls its extension of operating time **“bridge technology”**. This demagogically conceals the facts. In mid-2011, 439 nuclear power

Save the Environment from the Greed for Profit! Excerpts from the environmental-political line of the MLPD

A compilation of the environmental-political line of the MLPD from 1984 to 2010 with excerpts from the respective writings. In German, 64 pages, 3.50 euros

plants in 30 countries were operating in the entire world. 56 more are under construction, 154 in planning and further 344 are being deliberated.

None of the leading monopoly managers and politicians can talk his way out of it: **the deadly danger was completely known and consciously disregarded.** With the cynical formulation of the so-called “**remaining risk**” it even became written law.

The **disinformation that has been going on for decades is similar to psychological warfare.** This is also the reason that in many countries the dangers of nuclear power are relatively unknown and resistance is just starting to develop.

The fairy tale about nuclear energy “having no alternative”

On the basis of existing technologies and without harm for the population, a change to renewable energies can be made worldwide by 2030, if we start right now!⁶

This is the result of numerous studies, for example one made by scientists from Stanford University (USA). Photovoltaics, solar heat, wind energy, geothermic energy, currents, biological energy and hydrogen offer a big potential to every country to meet its needs and to have energy autonomy. In addition, reductions in power consumption of at least 30 percent are possible⁷.

However, the big corporations and the banks have no interest in a strict energy management and the end of consciously wasted electricity. The more energy is consumed, the more profit they realize. In pursuit of capital investments they create artificial needs and markets. With short-lived electronic articles and senseless, low-quality throw-away products, the profits and the energy needed for the production and operation of these products are artificially kept on a high level.

Potential of renewable energies in Germany for power production*		
At the present technological level in percentage of the present power consumption		
Wind energy with installations in the open sea (off shore)	40 percent	Even without including big energy saving potentials (at least 30 percent) and additional regenerative technologies – like wave power (oceans) and solar thermal central power stations (southern Europe) – 99 percent of the demand for electricity is covered.
Organic waste and feces through integrated methanation and composting	35 percent	
Photovoltaics	6 percent	
Water power, small water power installations included	8 percent	
Geothermic energy	10 percent	
Sum	99 percent	
* Own calculations, supported by facts given in “Strom ohne Grenzen” (Electricity without borders) in “Natur+Kosmos” 9/08; Prof. Hiller/Prof. Lutz in “Documentation of the 4th Open Academy”, p. 109; further calculations by H. Scheer/SPD member of the Bundestag and M.Stuhm/Dortmund (about use of biomass)		

⁶ Plan for a world free of emissions by 2030, *Spektrum der Wissenschaft*, December 2009

⁷ Own compilation of the sources: “Strom ohne Grenzen” in *Natur+ Kosmos* 9/08 and Prof. Hiller/Prof. Lutz in “Documentation of the 4th Open Academy”, p. 109

55 percent of the electrical power produced worldwide is for electrical motors in industry. The use of electronic speed controls could lower their electricity consumption by 30 percent.⁸ The stand-by mode in electrical apparatuses brings huge profits for the energy monopolies. In Germany alone this consumes the power of two nuclear power plants.

The operation of nuclear power plants and coal-fired power plants has been preventing the feed-in of electricity from regenerative energy production for years. It is absurd that existing wind and solar installations even are run down from time to time so that nuclear and coal-fired power plants can operate around the clock at high capacity.

For “**biofuel**” plantations entire landscapes are deforested, the environment is destroyed, and agricultural areas are lost for food production.

A comprehensive decentralized energy storage, based for instance on the highly developed hydrogen technology, and the communal or private production of regenerative energy are hindered and often even suppressed.

Because when monopolies think of wind and solar energy, they see large projects with big profits like wind farms in the ocean or giant solar power plants in the Sahara. **Here the prices can be raised artificially; electricity and the power grids remain in the hands of the monopolies.**

By converting the power grids to high-voltage direct current transmission technology, the electricity could be sent to other countries too, with hardly any loss. Transmission towers could be directly combined with windmills. The cables could be laid underneath the ground, where otherwise the landscape would be destroyed and living areas would be burdened.

The realization of the future technologies of regenerative and environmentally friendly energy production would be a gigantic project to create jobs for millions of people while improving health and the quality of life at the same time! To finance this at the cost of monopoly profits is not at all “unrealistic”: In 2007 the 10 biggest oil monopolies gained profits amounting to 180 billion US dollars. These alone could finance 450,000 windmills and produce twice the electricity needs of Germany. The energy monopolies pay 9 cents/kWh to the suppliers of wind energy, but from their private customers they demand more than 23 cents/kWh. Solar thermal electricity could be even produced at the price of 5 cents/kWh. This shows: **Regenerative energies could be made available at low costs, but not the monopoly prices of the energy companies!**⁹

Is the only alternative plague or cholera – nuclear power or climate killers?

It is demagogic when the government and the monopolies want us to make a choice: **either nuclear power plants or the continuation of the climate killing incineration of coal, oil and gas.** They get friendly support, for instance, from the chairman of the Mining, Chemical and Energy Industrial Union (IGBCE), Michael Vassiliadis. In best “co-management manner” and against better knowledge, he propagates coal-fired power as a new “bridge technology”.

⁸ Press release Prof. Lutz, Chemnitz University of Technology

⁹ Climate Protection Program, p. 10

Horror scenarios are constructed for the case of an immediate shutdown of all nuclear power plants. Some say that would make it necessary to import nuclear power. Others demand new coal-fired power stations.

But coal-fired power stations or other forms of fossil fuel incineration are no alternative. They spread ultratoxins like dioxin and heavy metals over the countryside. They contribute immensely to the developing climate catastrophe with the carbon dioxide produced during combustion.

Fact is that the nuclear power plants can be shut down immediately! However, in transition, the basic supply will still have to be ensured in addition through the combustion of fossil energy sources. **But the fact is that the expansion or even new construction of fossil-fueled power plants is absolutely unnecessary for that!**

1. It has long been **proven to be a lie** what all federal governments of the last 50 years have maintained that **“without nuclear power plants the lights would go off”**. It was possible now to disconnect seven nuclear power plants from the grid overnight without any light bulb flickering anywhere. In the extreme summer of 2003 and again in 2007 almost all nuclear power plants were disconnected – partly for several months – without causing problems.

2. **Germany has overcapacities in power production.** In 2009 the power production capacity was 152.9 gigawatts (GW), with nuclear power plants accounting for only 21.5 GW. The base load which has to be constantly available is 40 GW and went to a peak of 80 GW. Combustion of fossil fuels contributed 79.7 GW in 2009 and the renewable energies already 46.9 GW¹⁰. **The capacities at hand are sufficient without nuclear power plants!**

3. Christoph Mauerer, managing director of the consulting firm Consentec, was kind enough to declare openly: *“Already in the discussion about the extension of operating time for German nuclear power plants it never was about physical scarcity of electricity, but always about economic goals.”*¹¹ **The costs are mostly shifted to the small consumers.** Private power customers already now pay more than twice as much. For the big corporations only 11.08 cents per kilowatt-hour are calculated.¹²

4. **Available renewable energies are not being used.** For instance, in Schleswig-Holstein wind farms are regularly cut off from the grid so that coal-fired and nuclear power plants can continue to work at full load. According to the German Association of Energy Consumers, the solar energy installations built in 2010 in Germany alone have a capacity equaling the nuclear power plants that have just been turned off.¹³

5. **The government is lowering the payments for solar energy deliverers from private solar installations** by 40 percent.¹⁴ That shows how much importance Merkel, Westerwelle and Röttgen place on renewable energies!

¹⁰ Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology

¹¹ *Die Welt*, 13 March 2011

¹² VAA Magazine, December 2010

¹³ bild.de, 25 March 2011

¹⁴ *Darmstädter Echo*, 19 July 2010

6. Norway alone could replace 60 European nuclear power stations with its water-power produced electricity. But its delivery to Germany is prevented by the 2007 regulation governing the grid connection of plants for the production of electric energy.¹⁵ According to this, only power stations are allowed to steadily deliver electricity into the German grid, but not sea cables from other countries. Until this very day, the federal government explicitly sees no need for change!

The combustion of fossil fuels can and must be turned down to zero purposefully and continuously by 2030. The alternatives are not nuclear power or climate killers! But **forcing through the immediate and complete use of all existing possibilities and capacities for power production from renewable energies and its accelerated expansion in Europe and worldwide!**

System change, not climate change*

The nuclear catastrophe in Japan brings fundamental questions to the fore: Is humankind destroying the environment? But is really mankind “as such” responsible?

Since human beings rose from the animal kingdom the unity of man and nature is the foundation of all societies. Starting from primitive society, then in the slave-owning society, in feudalism and then capitalism, human society developed only in interaction with exerting influence on nature.

But *“The overexploitation of nature and environmental destruction could assume worldwide proportions only with the development to imperialism and the extension of capitalist commodity production to the whole world,”* writes Stefan Engel in his new book *Dawn of the International Socialist Revolution* (p. 178).

Today **capitalism** irrevocably has reached a stage in which the international production **can work only on the basis of the chronic destruction of the environment.** In spite of a growing environmental consciousness of billions of people, the environmental crisis is intensifying dramatically. **The transition to a global environmental catastrophe has begun and is threatening the existence of humanity.** More and more, in global interaction, catastrophic irreparable damages occur – through the destruction of the climate, of the diversity of species, of the oceans, of the rain forests as well as through nuclear and chemical pollution.

This destruction is neither caused by human nature nor is it typical for every kind of society. It is **imperialism that today can only exist in a general and universal state of crisis.** The chronic structural crisis based on the reorganization of international production,

* “System change, not climate change” means **“change the societal system, instead of changing the climate or destroying the climate”.** Under this slogan mainly young environmental activists are opposing imperialist environmental politics. The slogan became popular in connection with the environmental summit in Copenhagen in November 2009.

¹⁵ REPORT Mainz

the financial and economic crises, which in tendency are breaking out in ever shorter periods of time and with greater impact, latent or open political crises, the general danger of war, the dramatically intensifying ecological crisis and the imminent climate catastrophe threatening humankind, the crisis of neocolonialism, the crisis of the bourgeois family system and, last but not least, the crisis of bourgeois science and world outlook are international manifestations today. On this basis **the dawn of the international socialist revolution is developing.**

Anticommunism-driven historiography consciously remains silent **about the high level of unity of man and nature** that had already been reached **in the socialist societies of the 20th century.** Under the leadership of Mao Zedong, China gained important experience and made great progress in the development of a closed-loop economy.* However, environmental crimes of greater dimensions occurred after the restoration of capitalism in the former socialist countries.

All essential elements of a comprehensive cycle economy, based on 100 percent renewable energies, are technically mature today. It can almost be grasped: a production close to nature, as it is researched and applied in bionics (connection of biology and technology). The maxim: learning from nature, production in harmony with nature!

All this is suppressed by the worldwide ruling stratum of the international supermonopolies. They make money out of waste, out of the rapacious exploitation and destruction of our environment, and sacrifice our health, our lives and the future of coming generations for the sake of their maximum profits!

A change in energy policy can only be realized through the struggle against these international supermonopolies and at their costs! Only in socialism can production and consumption of energy be completely and sustainably oriented to the unity of man and nature.

With the future united socialist states of the world in view, Stefan Engel, the chairman of the MLPD, writes: *“In the social mode of production of socialism, the profitability of the funds employed for investment are just one criterion; others are no less important: which products society actually needs in which quantity and quality; how these products can be manufactured in an environment- and resource-sparing way; how far arduous physical labor can be reduced, and whether the production processes are not hazardous to health; how the growth of the population can be influenced and nutrition with healthy foods realized; how unnecessary effort for transport can be avoided and a transportation system that protects humans and nature can be developed; how the already strongly deformed natural environment can recover again, and so on, and so forth.”* (ibid, p. 195)

The **discussion about the societal perspective of genuine socialism,** as the fundamental way out of the capitalist destruction of the environment, **enriches active resistance, gives it backbone and perspective!**

* The metabolic process in nature is organized in cycles “without waste”. Human productive activity must also be organized according to this principle.

Can you vote down nuclear power plants?

On the weekend after the nuclear catastrophe in Japan, the Merkel/Westerwelle government defends German nuclear power with unshakable loyalty. Even on 12 March Environmental Minister Norbert Röttgen (CDU) regards “*political discussions about the security and operating time of nuclear power plants in Germany as completely out of place.*” (Spiegel-Online, 12 March 2011)

But the plan does not work. At the same weekend, 60,000 people in Germany already demonstrate for the shutdown of all nuclear power plants. On Monday, 15 March, in about 450 cities up to 120,000 people take part in protest actions. Now hectic activity develops in the government. **Within a few hours, seven nuclear power plants are temporarily disconnected from the grid. This never would have happened without the mass protest!** One week later, on 21 March, more than 140,000 people take part in activities in 742 cities. On 26 March again, a quarter of a million people take part in four demonstrations.

The **government with its nuclear policy is in harsh contradiction to the overwhelming majority of the population.** This is a great achievement of the anti-nuclear power movement in Germany, which has been active and strong for decades. Against the will of 60 to 70 percent of the population in Germany, the government forced through the extension of the operating times. Its **highly praised “democracy” is only a facade.** Here the true nature of the dictatorship of the monopolies appears. If the “will of the majority of the population” would really decide, the nuclear power plants would have already been shut down long ago and not one single German soldier would be in Afghanistan.

The heads of the Green Party around Claudia Roth, Jürgen Trittin and Cem Özdemir are apparently reckoning with a very short half-life of people's memories. Already forgotten? The Greens were in the government from 1998 until 2005 together with the SPD!

The results were war deployments of the German federal army in Yugoslavia and Afghanistan, the Agenda 2010 with the Hartz laws and nationwide waste incineration in Germany.

Can the Earth Still Be Saved?

Causes and Ways Out of the Imminent Ecological Catastrophe

What are human beings in nature: play ball, disrupting factors or an enrichment? How did the world climate develop? How can the imminent ecological catastrophe be prevented? In the chapter “For a turn to a cycle economy” the authors develop realistic alternatives for the waste problem, energy production, world food production, the traffic chaos and other essential questions. At the same time, they take aim at those who are to blame for the present threat to the climate and at the cover-up politics of the ruling powers. The book concludes with a “Plea for the strengthening of the new environmental movement”. In German, 103 pages, 6.50 euros

The Schröder/Fischer government also bowed down to the energy monopolies and granted them an extension of operating times until 2020. Audaciously and misleadingly, they even maintained that this “consensus” was an “opting out of nuclear energy”. *“The federal government guarantees the uninhibited operation of nuclear power plants, as well as the disposal of their waste,”* this was written in Trittin’s deal with the energy monopolies. And with this maxim, Jürgen Trittin and the co-governing Greens also said good-bye to the protest movement, for instance against the castor transports.

Now the top Green parliamentarians in the opposition pretend to be repentant. However, until today they do not demand the immediate shutdown of all nuclear power plants. It will be 2017 until the last nuclear power plant is shut down, if it goes according to the leaders of the Greens. Even until today they have not uttered one word of self-criticism about their governmental politics. Their “repentance” is just a new swindle.

The Greens long ago developed from an ecological protest party into a monopoly party conforming to capitalism and supporting the state, even if a large number of its members always have held on to consistent ecological policy goals. The party’s leading representatives are carriers of imperialist environmentalism: ecology in words, imperialist politics in deeds! Following that, the environment can only be saved in a coalition with the capitalists and by taking their profit interests into account.

The leading monopolies have long since discovered the banner of the protection of the environment as an instrument of the international competitive struggle, as capital investment and as a field for maximizing profit. Especially perverse is the trade in carbon dioxide pollution rights (“indulgences”) granted by the government to the companies. These can be used to play poker at the stock exchanges for additional profits.

Under the banner of the “protection of the environment”, today international finance capital and the imperialist governments allied with them often engage in pure power politics. The German monopolies are world leaders in “greenwashing”: In April 2009 Siemens’ boss Peter Löscher declared his company to be leader of the “green revolution”. And this was one month after having signed a joint venture with the Russian Rosatom to become world market leader in nuclear energy.

Instead of pinning hopes on appeals or “greenwashing”, the **MLPD stands up for broad, “ueberparteilich” and active resistance worldwide.** The corporations are not open for arguments, admonishments and memorials! The anti-nuclear movement has warned enough in 40 years!

It is justified to criticize attempts to turn protest actions into advertising events for ecological power suppliers. The slogan *“Opt out of nuclear energy yourself”* is not suited to bring the energy monopolies down on their knees. Even though it makes sense to use renewable energy in the private sector, under capitalist relations of power “boycott measures” can only point out certain deplorable conditions and set signals, not more.

To the majority it is obvious that the government is trying to win time with its so-called “moratorium” – even if the Minister of Economics Rainer Brüderle (FDP) hadn’t made a slip of the tongue while addressing the Federation of German Industries (BDI). If the government now wants to do a safety check of the allegedly securest nuclear power plants in the world again, deep mistrust is justified. **It depends on us whether they are able to bring nuclear power safely through the crisis by such “tricks”.**

Petty bourgeois and imperialist environmentalism

Imperialist environmentalism has become a major method of the attempted imperialist crisis management, the international struggle of competition and the measures of force against the neocolonially exploited and oppressed countries. ... **Petty bourgeois environmentalism** mainly counts on the supposed “power of arguments” in drastic campaigns of enlightenment formulated as pessimistically as possible, on spectacular and individualistic actions. It spreads skepticism about the workers, as well as the broad masses, and propagates an environmental movement on the basis of modern anticommunism. (Documents of the 8th Party Congress of the MLPD, October 2008)

The comrades of the MLPD along with many members of the Greens and also the Left Party are in the front ranks of the protests. The decisive question for the Left Party is whether it will stick to only making appeals in parliament to *“immediately, that means without culpable delay, shut down”*¹⁶ the nuclear power plants, or join the active resistance for the immediate shutdown.

Through its international connections in the ICOR, the International Coordination of Revolutionary Parties and Organizations, the MLPD immediately distributed information worldwide and started to develop and coordinate the protest.

Three flyers of the MLPD were translated into Japanese, besides other languages. They are circulating worldwide in the Internet. The Japanese “Allied Labour Unions of Independence” (ALUI) thanked the MLPD *“for your statement translated in Japanese. ... Our aim is to stop the nuke plants and nuke policy, and drastically change such an anti-people politics and society of Japan. We are resolute to do our best in the service of workers in Japan, even though we are forced temporarily to retreat some steps. Your concern, solidarity, and advice will be the best inspiration to us.”*

In Germany as well, workforces are getting active, as in Schweinfurt, where on 21 March workers took part in protest actions during working hours. The German environmental movement has a great responsibility for informing worldwide about the dangers of nuclear death and how it can and must be prevented.

The **best form of showing solidarity and sympathy with the Japanese nuclear disaster is to push through the immediate shutdown of all nuclear power plants at the expense of the operators**. Not by setting hopes in the government and parliaments, but by active resistance, in worldwide coordination. With joint protest actions, demonstrations and strikes, too. Or in **resistance groups against nuclear death and climate catastrophe**, which the youth league of the MLPD, Rebell, is currently building up.

The MLPD supports the initiative to make **26 April, the 25th anniversary of Chernobyl, a worldwide day of struggle against nuclear death**. It supports all respective actions around Easter, as well.

¹⁶ Gregor Gysi in the Federal Parliament on 15 March 2011

What has to be enforced right now?

In order for humanity to survive, immediate measures to rescue humanity from nuclear death and climate catastrophe have to be enforced worldwide. Join in building up an international resistance front against those who are destroying the environment!

The victims of Chernobyl and Fukushima, of uranium mining and thousands of further victims of radioactivity cry out in accusation! Never again should another worst-case scenario become reality!

Therefore: Shut down all nuclear power plants worldwide immediately, at the expense of the operators! The responsible corporations and operating firms must be held liable for all damages to health and environment that have occurred or will occur, for a research program on nuclear waste and for all costs of transport and storage!

Ban and destroy all ABC weapons!

Stop the consciously produced waste of electricity!

Therefore: Strict rules for energy management and saving electricity! For municipal energy-saving, apartment modernization and low-energy housing programs! Immediate renewal of the power supply networks using low-loss, high-voltage direct current transmission technology! Construction of decentralized and centralized energy storage facilities. **Immediate and unlimited course towards 100 percent regenerative energy!**

To perish in a global climate catastrophe is no alternative to nuclear death and radioactive contamination.

Therefore: Drastic reduction of greenhouse gases by 70 to 90 percent by 2030! Stop the construction of fossil-fueled large power stations! Step by step ban of the incineration of fossil energy sources!

Waste incineration destroys basic materials produced with high energy input, destroys important resources. It is the cause of the chronic poisoning of the population by spreading thousands of toxic substances over wide areas.

Genuine processes of recycling like the deep-freeze treatment of waste and the transformation of biological waste from households, gardens, agriculture and forestry into energy and compost are suppressed.

From the very start, the socialists were – and today the Marxist-Leninists are – committed and far-sighted protectors of the environment. More than one hundred years ago Karl Marx already said that *“Even a whole society, a nation, or even all simultaneously existing societies taken together, are not the owners of the globe. They are only its possessors, its usufructuaries, and, like boni patres familias, they must hand it down to succeeding generations in an improved condition.”* (*Capital*, Vol. III, p. 776)

Therefore: Ban all waste incineration – for an immediate turn to cycle economy with new procedures like cryogenic recycling, bioenergy and integrated methanation and composting! Development of products which can be recycled and exclusion of toxic substances from production. **Creation of new jobs for environmental protection and cycle economy at the expense of profits!**

While there is an overproduction of electrical power in the imperialist countries, in Africa, for example, half of the population has no access to electricity. Those parts of humanity who are not interesting for maximum profits are left to degenerate by the imperialists as a “surplus population”. Where the imperialists have plundered and stolen the mineral resources, they leave scorched earth behind. Although in these countries every village could be electrified immediately and autonomously with solar and biological energy!

Therefore: Free allocation of necessary technologies for all countries!

Stop cutting down the rain forests, destroying the agricultural land and the oceans! Immediate stop for the trade with emissions! International ban on biofuel plantations and the “privatization” of water!

Immediate introduction of the zero-emission automobile and pollutant-free energy sources like hydrogen and extension of the necessary supply networks!

A **comprehensive cycle economy** can only be successfully realized with a new type of industrialization, with a new level of the integration of the various processes of production and recycling. This is identical with the worldwide construction of a socialist society, where no longer the surplus value and the accumulation of capital are at the center, but the satisfaction of the needs of humanity in harmony with nature!

Therefore:

For international solidarity and the joint struggle against finance capital! Hard punishments for the capitalist environmental criminals!

Construction of an international front of resistance to save the environment from the greed for profit of the international monopolies!

Save the environment from the greed for profit – genuine socialism worldwide!