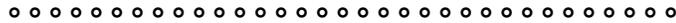


GENEVA ACTION

(Lasting presence in front of the WHO)



On May 28, 1959 the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency) signed an *agreement* with the WHO (World Health Organization).

This *agreement* effectively put an end to free expression for the WHO, in matters concerning the impact of nuclear energy on health.

The agreement stipulates that WHO research programs must be first *subjected* to consultation, *so that* the studies do not release results that might be harmful to the IAEA, and that may stunt the promotion of nuclear power stations.

Thus, article 1.3 of the *agreement* specifies that, 'each time one of the parties proposes to undertake a program or activity in the domain which presents, or may present a major interest for the other party, the first will consult the second in order to come to a common understanding.'

Article III of the accord states :

1) The International Atomic Energy Agency and The World Health Organization recognize that they could be called upon to take certain restrictive measures in order to safeguard the confidential nature of information furnished to them...

2) Subject to arrangements which could be necessary to safeguard the confidential nature of certain documents, the secretary of the IAEA and the secretary of the WHO will keep each other up to date on all projects, and all work programs which could be of interest to the two parties.

Remember that the objective of the WHO as expressed in chapter 1 of its constitution 'is to bring about the greatest possible rise in the level of health of all people'.

Chapter II indicates how the WHO would go about raising the level of health, exercising in particular the following functions :

- to furnish all information, and to give all advice and assistance in the domain of Health.
- to help entrain among people an enlightened attitude in all that concerns public health.

The terms of article III of the accord IAEA/WHO (quoted above) which impose confidentiality, that is to say silence, are contrary therefore to the constitution of the WHO.

This agreement is still in force today!

The most glaring outcome of the accord is the policy of non-assistance to the populations *the most affected by Chernobyl disaster. All recent reports by the WHO have remained outrageously mute on this subject.*

The entire nuclear edifice leans heavily on a pillar, this accord of 1959, which is nothing more than a forced marriage. Within the WHO there is certainly no unanimous opinion on this forced marriage. In order to *dismantle* the pillar, an action is necessary *to draw* attention to this question.

We propose therefore the following actions:



1) An international petition to be sent massively to the Health Minister of your country and to the WHO's Director General.

2) To be outside the WHO building in Geneva every *day of opening* from April 26th (Chernobyl day) until the end of May 2007 (WHO's 60th World Health Assembly + many activist events in Geneva at this occasion), and also for the following weeks and months through summer time, to strongly demand to modify the agreement with the IAEA.

This will take the form of a single person with a banner in front of the WHO building (supported if possible by a little team - some persons - standing nearby) who will stay there for more or less one week.

This action will be at a European *scale* which will give us the opportunity to build together a *network* of relationships beyond national *borders*.

If different European NGOs decide to be involved it *would* not be too difficult to find teams of 3 to 5 people to take turn in coming to Geneva for one week.

The participants will have to pay for their transportation, lodging and food (unless we find enough funding from NGO and individuals to help for a part of it).

The teams will have to be in place from the time employees arrive in the morning until they leave at night.

Daily, they will demand that the WHO regains its independence.

Each week, the results of internal contamination tests for one or more children will be given with their name, age and a label, 'Abandoned by the WHO'.

The spirit of non violence goes hand in hand with this action, and its effectiveness lies *on* tenacity and repetition. A soft call to the WHO *consciousness*.

As an example: In Argentina, the wives of those missing under the dictatorship walked slowly and tirelessly around the Plaza de Mayo. In this way they contributed to the collapse of the regime. It is in this spirit that we lead an effective action and how better to express this than in the words of Galina Bandajevskaya, *Dr Y. Bandajevsky's wife*, who was imprisoned for 6 years for having dared to speak the truth about *Chernobyl*: 'little by little the rock is worn away, not by force, but by repetition'.

So far, the co-organizers of this action are : Réseau Sortir du nucléaire (French network for a nuclear phase-out), CRII-RAD, Enfants de Tchernobyl Belarus, Contratome-Geneva, Brut-de-Béton Production, SDN Loire et Vilaine.

And with the declared support of :

- **WILPF International (Women International League for Peace and Freedom), Geneva**
- **WILPF (Women International League for Peace and Freedom), Norwegian Section**
- **CNIC (Citizen's Nuclear Information Center), Japan**
- **CAAT (Campaign Against Arms Trade) Network, Nigeria**
- **MANW (Mediterranean Anti-Nuclear Watch), Greece**
- **NIRS (Nuclear Information and Resource Service) U.S.A.**
- **Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, New-York**
- **Bike for Peace, Norway**
- **PSR/IPPNW (International Physicians for the Prevention of the Nuclear War)**

Swiss branch

- **CETIM (Centre Europe Tiers-Monde) Suisse**
- **FES (Fondation Suisse de l'Energie > Schweizerische Energie-Stiftung)**
- **AFMT (Association Française des Malades de la Thyroïde)**
- **Stop Golfech (Agen, France)**
- **Groupe non-violent L. Lecoïn (Dunkerque, France)**
- **CSFR (Comité Sauvegarde Fessenheim et Rhin)**
- **CANVA (Coordination Action Non-Violente de l'Arche)**