

Strategic Map

Greenpeace begins terrorism against Japan

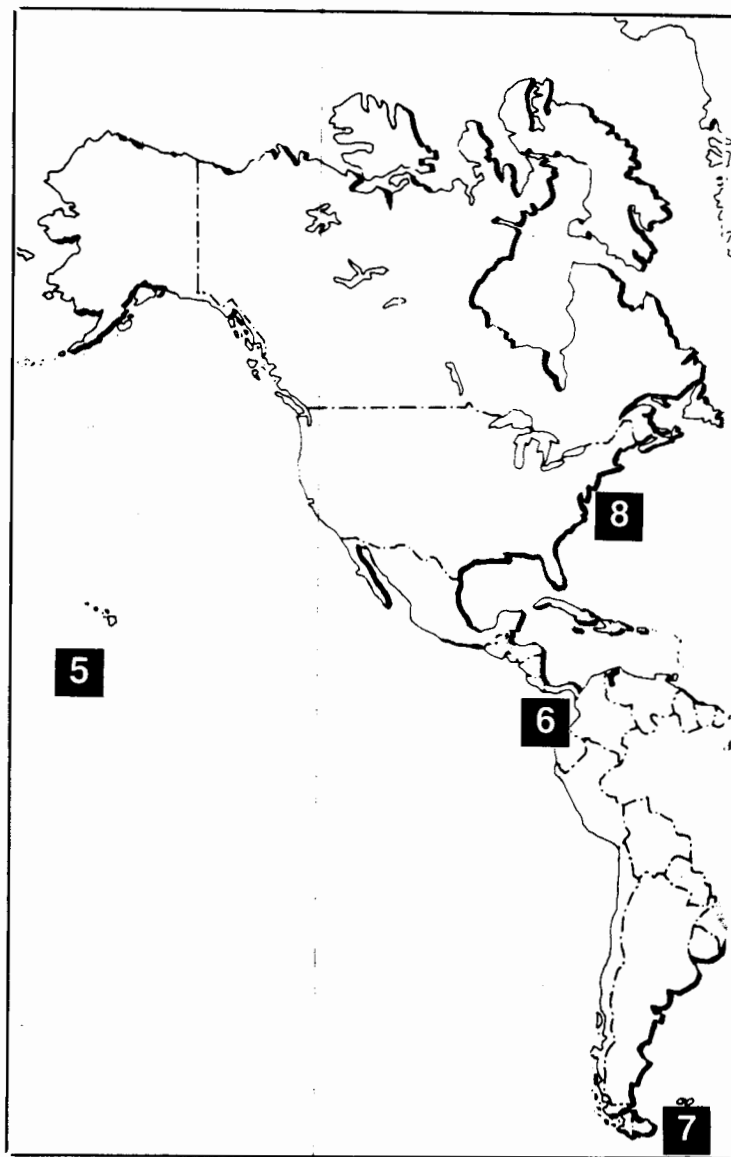
French naval police arrested five Greenpeace activists Oct. 12 protesting in Cherbourg against Tokyo's plans to return home Japanese plutonium reprocessed in France. The terrorists sailed their vessel *Beluga* into a high-security military area of the port, the French Navy said, and raised a banner reading "Stop Plutonium." When the boat anchored by a crane where the Japanese ship was expected to dock, the terrorists were taken into military custody. Japan's freighter *Akatsuki Maru* was due in Cherbourg by Oct. 19 with a military escort to pick up the plutonium. Japan depends on nuclear power for almost 30% of its electricity, and plans 50% nuclear electrical capacity by 2010, making it the world leader in nuclear power. Japan's brand-new breeder reactor program, starting this fall, needs the plutonium to function.

In the past two months, Greenpeace has organized press conferences which have led a dozen countries to bar Japanese ships from their waters. Greenpeace sources told *EIR* last March, "There are ways to be obstreperous about this. The plutonium is to be shipped on the high seas around the world. The Japanese need the French Navy escorts and the U.S. Navy. The French could withdraw escort. The U.S. Navy could withdraw. If no one in Washington does something, Greenpeace may have to do something about it."—*K. Wolfe*

1. Cherbourg: Greenpeace said Oct. 7 it will physically follow the ship carrying plutonium from France. Spokesman Damon Moglen told a news conference, "Greenpeace will take all measures to track the plutonium freighter in order to forewarn the countries which lie along the path of this extremely dangerous shipment."

2. Cape of Good Hope: South Africa said Sept. 24 it will ban ships carrying plutonium from sailing within 200 miles of its coast. "We would not like to see these ships anywhere near our coast," said Theuns van Rensburg, spokesman for the Department of Environment Affairs. The Communist-controlled African National Congress began the agitation against the shipments July 7.

3. Strait of Malacca: Indonesia, Malaysia, and Singapore have declared Japanese use of the Malacca Strait illegal. Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said Sept. 17 his ministry had demanded an alternative route. A Singapore Foreign Ministry statement Sept. 19 also demanded Japan change the route. Malaysian Environment Minister Law



Hieng Ding said on Sept. 24 that Kuala Lumpur has told Japan that international and local laws bar the ship's passage through the Malacca Strait.

4. Tokyo: Greenpeace Tokyo and the Citizens' Nuclear Information Center (CNIC) brought delegates from dozens of countries to an Oct. 4-6 conference, on the likely routes of the vessel, to demand the shipments be halted. Yurika Ayukawa of CNIC told reporters, "The Japanese nuclear program is a threat to the whole world." The meeting drew up a resolution demanding that France withhold an export license for the nuclear fuel, and asked the U.S. to withdraw its approval, as well as asking Japan's Science and Technology Agency to halt the shipment. "The Japanese government doesn't seem willing to abandon the shipment," said Jinzaburo Takagi, director of the CNIC, who threatened: "It will



find it difficult to carry out the second shipment.”

5. Pacific: Pacific island states at the Greenpeace Tokyo conference urged Japan to scrap the plans. Bernard Dowiyogo, President of Nauru, said, “We . . . call upon all involved countries—Japan, the U.S., and France—to desist. Our large and powerful neighbors impose upon us unwanted risks and burdens without our advice and consent.” Lorenzo De Leon Guerrero, governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, said the containers being used were not sufficient to stand up to the pressures of deep Pacific waters should they sink. One gram of plutonium can cause cancer in thousands of people, he said.

6. Panama Canal: The U.S.-puppet Endara government of Panama barred the use of the canal to Japan in August.

7. Cape Horn: The Foreign Ministry of Argentina proclaimed Oct. 10 that the ship “will not pass through waters under Argentine jurisdiction. This is a firm decision which is not subject to negotiation.” Greenpeace coordinator Juan Schroeder said in Buenos Aires Oct. 9 that the ship is “80-90% likely to pass through Argentine waters” around Cape Horn. He said the ship would carry enough plutonium to make 120 atomic bombs and could cause a tragedy of which “would make Chernobyl look like a minor mishap.”

8. Washington: The Congress Oct. 9 passed an energy bill which mandates a White House study within 60 days on the “safety risks” of Japan’s plutonium shipments. The study must consider the safety of the casks containing the plutonium, the risks to U.S. states and the adequacy of states’ emergency plans for an accident.