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Correction

In issue 20, we reported on uranium enrichment activity at the Urenco plant at Capenhurst, near Ellesmere Port (p7). Using information on the Scottish CND website, we said that Capenhurst "has produced highly enriched uranium for Trident warheads..., undertakes the first stage of uranium enrichment in the production of nuclear submarine fuel [and] enriches uranium for the magnox reactors which produce weapons-grade plutonium, also used in Trident warheads."

On further enquiry, it turned out that this undated report was written in 1994 and the situation has changed. John Ainslie of Scottish CND:

"Submarine fuel HEU is enriched to a higher degree (98%) than warhead (95%). The MoD don't need HEU for nuclear weapons - they have enough. The position of HEU for submarine fuel is less clear. Capenhurst can't enrich to 98%. The US plant at Portsmouth, Ohio, referred to in the report, is probably no longer functioning. I have seen one reference to the MoD having difficulty sustaining a supply of HEU for Derby, for submarine fuel rod production. However I don't think this will mean additional work at Capenhurst. They may either be using HEU from the UK weapons' stockpile or have some arrangement with the US."

Still plenty of reasons to protest at Capenhurst, though.

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