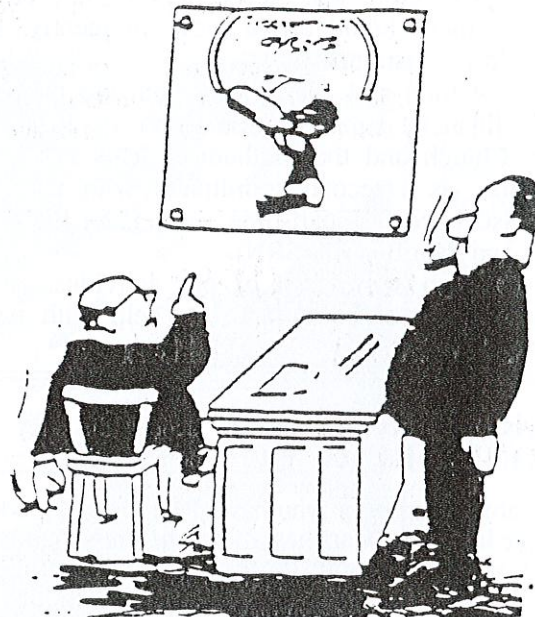


## European Companies continue to dump unwanted contaminated milks on unsuspecting Third World Countries - and make them pay for it too

In the wake of the Chernobyl disaster, reports continue to surface about consignments of contaminated milk powder and other foods being exported from the EEC to third world countries indicating that this is a widespread problem. The European Commission has denied many of the allegations and maintains that they have no intention of using the Third World as a dumping ground for Europe's food surpluses. At the same time they promise to compensate Third World countries if the quality of consignments falls below required standards.(1) Since acceptable levels of radiation vary considerably from country to country the arguments continue about what we mean by the word "safe". The European Commission has always maintained that it cannot dictate to countries outside the EEC when it comes to such things as baby milk advertising, but now, when those same countries set their own standards for radiation contamination they are told that they are being unrealistic.

### LATEST NEWS

On Irish TV's "Face of the Earth" (24th May '88) John Cunningham, Senior Executive of Ireland's Nuclear Energy Board denied that any consignments of dried milk had been returned to Ireland from WITHIN the EEC. Yet 7 consignments of dried milk with readings of up to 5,850 Bqs per kilo were rejected and returned to Ireland from the Netherlands in Sept and Oct '86. Bell Shipping Company who transported the milk make no comment.



"It's really a shame that they don't live long enough to taste our instant coffee"

### SOME EXAMPLES

An EEC official warned that aid to Thailand would be cut unless Bangkok relaxed its tough radiation safety standards. Thailand, which imports about 120,000 tons of powdered baby milk each year, had banned the sale of several types of powdered milk. (including Nespray and Lactogen) imported from Europe which were found to contain excessive radiation according to their standards.(2)

West Africa magazine reported that the Gambia received three times the amount of baby milk imports in the past year- all sold at cut price. (3) (SMA, Ostermilks 1& 2 and Nestle) Breast feeding is almost universally practiced in rural Gambia, so the availability of these milks at cut price will undoubtedly have had a twofold damaging effect. (Article 5 of the International Code prohibits cut price sales of breast milk substitutes).

- 1: The Times . 5.9.87
- 2: New Straight Times, 29.12.86
- 3: West Africa, Sept, Nov 87
- 4: Agr EUROPE, '86, 87, 88

In Bavaria, Meggle Dairies, were compensated several million DM's by the government and ordered to destroy a consignment of 5,000 tons (5 million litres) of whey powder which was found to have readings as high as 8,000 Bqs per kilo.

Despite claims that the produce was harmless unless it entered the food chain - the powder was later discovered being exported by a trading company Lopex to Egypt as cattle food.(4)

Maximum acceptable limits of Bqs per kilo on dairy produce: Egypt : 370; The EEC: 370/600; the UK: 1,000, W. Germany: 1,980.)

We are working with an Irish free lance journalist, Felicity Arbothnot and many concerned MEPs and MPs, who have laid down Parliamentary questions to establish the extent of the problem. Felicity welcomes any information of incidences where baby milk suddenly appears on sale in developing countries at a very cheap price as it did in the Gambia. Please send any information via us.

You can help by contacting your MEP or MP and urging the adoption of a strong Directive and stricter controls which would prevent such exports.