



XA04C0435

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP  
ON PUBLIC INFORMATION PROBLEMS  
OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

**PIME 89**

European Nuclear Society and FORATOM  
Palace Hotel, Montreux, Switzerland

22 - 25 january 1989

**ARE THE ADVOCATES  
OF NUCLEAR POWER  
AND THE ADVERSARIES  
LISTENING TO EACH OTHER ?**

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***Roundtable 1: Are the advocates of nuclear power and the adversaries listening to each other ? Does dialogue have a chance ?***

It's obvious that we cannot answer this question with the simple "yes" or "no". It would be too easy and our chairman, undoubtedly, would find it difficult to animate the debate that will follow.

If it seems that the nuclear advocates globally, have the same point of view, and an homogeneous argumentation, it is not the same for the opponents to Nuclear Energy.

We can classify these adversaries in 4 categories, according to the nature of their opposition which could be :

- ideological
- economical
- political, that includes ideological
- mystical.

In reality, these 4 types of opposition are not equally represented in France.

In the course of time, from 1974 to the present moment, we have tried, at E.D.F., to have a dialogue with them.

We got various results.

1 - Let us take the Ecologists first. They are the most numerous and represented widely over the national territory and among social professional structures.

The main centre is found among the teachers of the primary and secondary levels.

The various associations for the protection of nature are, in majority, managed by teachers. It seems that our relationship with this group has been fruitful. For example, we have taken into account their point of view in selecting our sites, in our impact study files.

2 - Secondly, the "Economical opponents" who are not numerous and come basically from the Universities. We met them. The discussions came to a quick end as they were based on calculations and as we did not agree about the hypothesis and the parameters to take into consideration.

We learnt little from these dialogues.

3 - Thirdly, the "political adversaries". In France, they were very few or practically none. Which ever the political party was in power, the Nuclear Energy policy has changed very little, except for the few hesitations of 1981.

The only political party which has long fought against the nuclear policy, is the P.S.U. (the United Socialist Party). Today it does not exist any more and its former stars have gone over the Socialist Party. Their charismatic leader, Michel ROCARD, is now our Prime Minister.

We have discussed a lot with them and over a long period, without any concrete results. They were not very influential.

4 - Lastly, we had practically no dialogue with the "mystical opponents", for a very simple reason : we are the Devil himself and they did not wish to have anything to do with him. There can be no end to the discussion about the sex of angels !

To conclude, I believe that there has been a discussion in France. It did not lead to any sort of complete consensus, but there are some true positive results.

I will name only one, Mr Brice LALONDE, the well-known opponent to nuclear energy, in the seventies, as the President of "The Friends of the Earth" : he is, now, our "Environment Vice-Minister" and he considers that, among the energy industries, the nuclear energy is, without doubt, the less polluting.