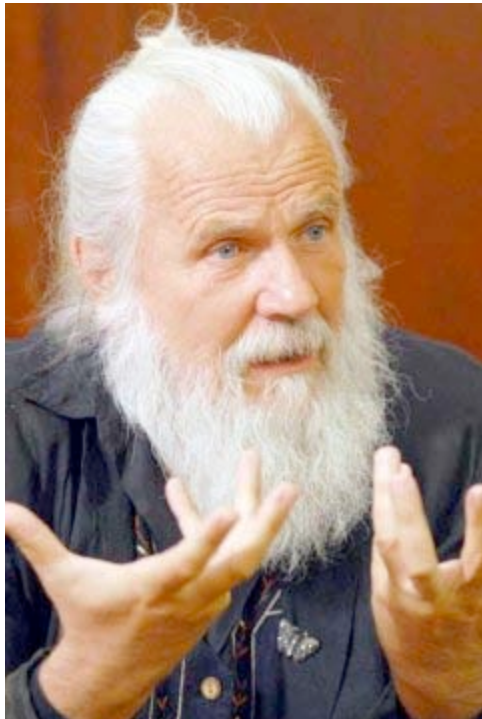


Organisation: The "Green Party"
Author: Milena Tatalovic, Serbia

It was very difficult task to find an organisation that was involved in a Chernobyl solidarity project of any kind. First I turned to the Serbian Red Cross, but I haven't had much luck with them. Busy with their current projects, they were not very willing to help me discover if they had some project concerning Chernobyl. They also demanded a special permission to access their archive, and in the same time they couldn't tell me if I would find some project concerning Chernobyl.

I also contacted two environmental organisations in Belgrade, but they didn't have any projects connected with our topic. Just as I wanted to give up, I came across an interview on website green newspapers (<http://zelenenovine.webs.com/>). The interview was about building NPPs in Serbia and the interviewed was Dragan Jovanovic, reporter and columnist of NIN (a weekly paper dealing with politics) for almost 30 years.

His column in NIN is now called "Postecology" and 20 years ago its name was "ecological diary". He was also one of the founders of Serbia's first "Green Party" and responsible person for law against NPPs. I found this fact particularly interesting so I wanted to get in touch with Dragan and if possible conduct an interview. I contacted the redaction of NIN with request to connect with Dragan, and just few hours later Dragan called me and agreed to give me an interview in his office in NIN vary next day.



I was curious about his participation in the enactment of the moratorium on NPPs, so he told me that his interest for NPPs and nuclear energy started in the early eighties. He was a participant of a conference about NPPs and then he heard about "plan of 30 NPPs" that Former Yugoslavia wanted to build until 2030 (in next 50 years). He was surprised and scared by that fact, and then he started to write about destructiveness of NPPs in his column in NIN. After the Chernobyl disaster happened he started a Civic Initiative whose goal was to ban nuclear energy and prevent building NPPs.

After Chernobyl and a great public discussion on the topic of nuclear energy the "air" in Yugoslavia was quite antinuclear. They had the right person in the right place (Dr Jelka Miljkovic, who was then President of the Commission for Environmental Protection and who lobbied to vote for the law). But more than that then affected the fact that the military was interested in

nuclear submarines. Republics that were already, around 1986/1987, preparing for secession, they knew that the separation would be more difficult to go with the army that has such a submarine, and they voted for the moratorium.



Dragan also started the "Green Party" in May 1990 with members of the anti-nuclear lobby. One of the first projects of the "Green Party" was Help for children of Chernobyl. The aim of the project was to bring the Chernobyl affected children to Yugoslavia for treatment and recovery. They were situated in the villages in Vojvodina (north Serbia) and in Croatian seaside. Dragan was the leading man of the Committee for Chernobyl children, and in the fall of 1990 and winter and spring 1991 around 2000 children came to Yugoslavia for recovery.

War in Ex-Yugoslavia started in 1991, and members of Committee for Chernobyl children were forced to stop the project and urgently return these children home to Ukraine and Russia.

I asked Dragan if he could give me some flyers or pictures from that project, but he told me that all documents were lost in war or were left with the other

people. Dragan abolished the Green Party in 1993. He was kind enough to show me the archive of NIN, so I could scan some of the articles from the period of fight against NPPs in the 80's.

P.S. Dragan agreed that I could publish what he said. His photo was downloaded from an article on the Green paper website (since I couldn't bring a camera to the interview).