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Greenpeace is fearful of links to terrorism

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By Peter Almond
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LONDON — Enormous publicity has attracted ever more money and members, but the sinking of the Rainbow Warrior may link Greenpeace in the public mind with political scandal, sabotage and terrorism.

Other tenants in the building where Greenpeace maintains its offices have signed a petition to evict Greenpeace. The tenants are afraid they'll be bombed by someone looking for the activists.

"I'm afraid we will get tarred with the same brush as abortion clinics in the States," says Stephen Sawyer, the American Greenpeace leader who is directing the anti-nuclear project against France in the Pacific.

"They suffered a spate of bombings and got connected in some unfortunate political associations. We are non-violent and non-political. The nuclear issue is only part of our concerns."

In the United States, new attention is being paid to Greenpeace ties to militant groups and organizations that campaign not only against nuclear testing and President Rea-

gan's Strategic Defense Initiative, commonly called "star wars," but for the unilateral disarmament by the United States.

According to Information Digest, a conservative periodical which monitors worldwide political and social movements, the founding of Greenpeace "marked the birth of a new political force."

A profile of Greenpeace, in the Aug. 16 issue of the Digest, reports that the group blends "extreme environmentalism with the disarmament cause and the 'solidarity' movement with Third-World terrorist, 'anti-imperialist' and 'national liberation' organizations. Disarmament remains the key Greenpeace thrust."

Information Digest notes that Greenpeace has allied itself on occasion — such as during the 1982 "rally for a Nuclear Freeze and Disarmament" — with groups which oppose American policy, including the Communist Party, U.S.A., and the "Soviet controlled World Peace Council."

Far from protesting merely the French nuclear testing program at Mururoa Atoll in the South Pacific, Greenpeace is "one of the organizations central to the "nuclear free Pacific" campaign, the Digest says.

That involvement included the Rainbow Warrior's evacuation earlier this year of more than 320 residents of Rongelap Atoll in the Marshall Islands, part of the U.S. Micronesian Trust Territories. The islanders had decided to abandon their lands out of fear that radioactivity from U.S. nuclear tests 30 years ago could pose a medical hazard.

In doing so, the Digest said, Greenpeace helped enhance the fears and suspicions of Marshall Islanders against the United States, which will soon terminate the

trusteeship relationship. In its place the United States hopes to enter into a new compact with Micronesia which will give full military and defense authority to the Pentagon for up to 50 years.

Included in that agreement would be provisions to allow the United States the continued use of Kwajalein Atoll — a past test site for nuclear weapons and now a key location for testing of inter-continental ballistic missiles and "star wars" anti-satellite warfare technology.

Information Digest said that by "actively urging its members to become active in lobbying against the compact and for an end to defense tests at Kwajalein," Green-

peace activities in Micronesia "could be expected to increase Marshallese suspicion of the U.S. and harden attitudes against the compact."

Nevertheless, Greenpeace insists it is for "everyone," regardless of politics.

Greenpeace officers say they have nothing to do with any of the Green political parties of Europe, or with any others.

Brian Fitzgerald, coordinator at Greenpeace's international headquarters in Lewes, England, acknowledges that his organization and its membership are left of center, but insists that Greenpeace is the object of interest to both the CIA and the KGB.

Greenpeace has attracted the sympathetic involvement of at least one prominent American Democrat. Lloyd Cutler, chief White House counsel to President Carter in 1979-80, active in the 1984 Demo-

cratic Presidential campaign and a partner in the Washington law firm of Wilmer, Cutler and Pickering, has offered his services to Greenpeace free, he said, with an expectation of part of the multi-million dollar damages he and other lawyers in London, Paris and New Zealand hope to win for Greenpeace and the family of the photographer — a Portuguese-born Dutchman with ties to far-left terrorists in the abortive Portuguese revolution — who was killed when the Rainbow Warrior was sunk. He had been a photographer for a Dutch Communist newspaper.

Mr. Cutler said he is not a member of Greenpeace, and does not agree with all Greenpeace views.

"I don't think of this as a political expression," he said. "I saw that they were the victims of a terrorist attack."

Mr. Cutler, who presented the SALT II Treaty to Congress, said he does not oppose the French independent nuclear deterrent, or nuclear weapons in Europe, but says agree that nuclear testing in the Pacific is wrong. "I think they [Greenpeace] are right to demonstrate."

That is not the general view of Greenpeace, said Mr. Fitzgerald, but he insists that even conservative Republicans are welcome in Greenpeace.

He said Robin Heide, the Colorado Greenpeace member who parachuted off a smokestack in Ohio in 1983 in an anti-acid rain stunt, was one who held "firm Republican views" about nuclear weapons.

Formally incorporated in 1971, Greenpeace was the outgrowth of a Vancouver-based group of

ecologists — the "Don't Make a Wave Committee" — which in 1970 and 1971 campaigned against proposed U.S. atmospheric nuclear bomb tests on Amchitka Island, Alaska, as much because of the fear of a tidal wave as opposition to nuclear weapons.

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Between 1972 and 1974 Canadian businessman David McTaggart — who, then as now, is the chairman of Greenpeace International — sailed twice to Muraroa Atoll to protest French nuclear testing. He was beaten up by the crew of a French warship which rammed him in international waters.

In 1975, Greenpeace first used "human barrier" techniques to stop Soviet whaling fleets off California. The next year it launched its first anti-seal hunting campaign in Newfoundland, spoiling the pelts of baby seals with indelible green paint before they could be killed.

In 1978, the inflatable rubber dinghies which were becoming Greenpeace's trademark, first tried to stop ships dumping nuclear waste in the Atlantic. Greenpeace members stopped a hunt of gray seals on the Orkney Isles off the north coast of Scotland, and exposed a pirate Spanish whaling ship.

In 1981, it forced nuclear dumping ships to turn back in the Atlantic, and publicized the slaughter of pilot whales.

In 1982, after criticism that their anti-nuclear campaigns were directed more against the West than against the Soviet Union, Greenpeace officials sought an invitation from the Soviet's "Peace Committee." The Soviets allowed the ship into Leningrad Harbor. Flashing "Stop nuclear testing" T-shirts under their outer clothing, they met members of the committee, then sent anti-nuclear messages in balloons over the city. They were hustled back out of Leningrad Harbor.

This article is based in part on staff reports by Dave Doubrava in Washington.