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Japan

Massive anti-nuclear mobilisations

- News from around the world -

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Massive anti-nuclear mobilisations

The anti-nuclear movement has been going from strength to strength in Japan with 170,000 demonstrating in Tokyo on July 16 in response to a call from Nobel literature laureate Kenzaburo Oe and other celebrities in the largest response so far to the government's decision to restart reactors closed after the Fukushima disaster.

Reports from Japan make it clear that the anti-nuclear movement is drawing into activity people with no previous political involvement and poses a challenge to the government.

However so far the burgeoning movement has had limited impact on the Japanese unions. The Japanese TUC has just drafted a policy which, while it argues in favour of an eventual end of the country's dependence on nuclear energy, at the same time it also tolerates the restarting of the reactors by the government. It remains to be seen whether members will be able to challenge such a mealie mouthed approach

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