

# ECOLOGY: THE GROWING DILEMMA



The platform at the conference. From left to right: Dr. Anna Bramwell, Alessandro Michelucci, Robert Steuckers (chairman), Michael Walker, Andrew Stobart, Peter Cadogan.

THE SECOND international conference to be organised by *Iona* and *The Scorpion* was held on Saturday, 25th October, 1986, in the Bonnington Hotel, London. The theme of the conference was 'Ecology: the Growing Dilemma'. Over seventy people from seven European countries took part. All the speeches were followed by wide-ranging debate. The speakers were Andrew Stobart, a chemical engineer who has been involved in resource conservation and renewable energy research since 1970; Dr. Anna Bramwell, professor of History at Corpus Christi College, Oxford; Alessandro Michelucci, assistant to Dr. Marco Tarchi, the editor of the review *Diorama Letterario*; Peter Cadogan, a well-known activist in neutralist and environmental causes; and Michael Walker, editor of *The Scorpion*. The meeting was chaired by Robert Steuckers, editor of *Vouloir* and *Orientations*. The meeting was reported in *Vouloir* (Belgium), *D.E.S.G. - Inform* (West Germany) and *Time Out* (Britain). Dr. Bramwell's talk is not available at the time of publication but the other speeches are printed here in full. Dr. Bramwell spoke about the rise of the green movement with particular reference to Germany. Much of her talk was based on the theme of her

recently published biography of Walther Darré (which is reviewed by Padraig Cullen in this issue of *The Scorpion*). She emphasised the contribution which Darré made to the development of what might be called 'ecological awareness' and drew attention to the many similarities between Darré's aims and those of post-war environmentalists.

The conference was followed by a lively social in the evening and the general consensus was that the day had been a great success. We were delighted that so many people came, many from a great distance. As always, we make no extravagant claims as to our potential, but we have good reason to hope that the numbers coming to our conferences will continue to grow, just as the readership of *The Scorpion* is continuing to grow. We intend to hold at least one conference a year in conjunction with *Iona*. As the barrenness of party politics becomes more and more apparent, our course seems set to remain as one of unsensational but steady growth, a growth which is likely to accompany an unsensational but steady decline in support for the parties of the political and economic *status quo*.

MICHAEL WALKER

## The Greenhouse Effect and the Cost of Pollution

Andrew Stobart

UPSETTING the world's environmental balance costs money to do it, and will cost a lot more money to undo it. Two courses are open to mankind: either to insure against trouble, and possible disaster, or to invest in means of containing or even reversing the trend towards ecological calamity. Is mankind prepared to pay the price? Do our rulers even know what price

may have to be paid, and for what? Have governments, besotted by the supposed enmity of their neighbours, considered that their expenditure on arms may have to be replaced by expenditure on protection from another peril, a rise in sea levels? Or do we just sit idly by and, like King Canute, tell the tide to retreat. It didn't for him and it won't for us. A 'Canute' approach could cost less

in the short run, but more in the long run.

Since the Industrial Revolution started some two hundred years ago, mankind has increasingly used fuel and power sources which involve burning carbon compounds. Before then, wind, tides, flowing water, oxen, men, horses and elephants provided most of the power. In general these sources of power and energy had little effect on the

