

4. CONCLUSION

These results illustrate the interest of a new approach of public risk perception ; it shows the multidimensional aspects of risk perception taken at its psycho-social level. If a synthetic indicator of fear and concern is conceivable, for many activities it has been demonstrated that the social signification of declaring they are risky is by far ambiguous. For example : if the denunciation of the dangers of narcotics is certainly a mark of anxiety, it also expresses a feature of conservatism.

To conclude, it is useful to follow simultaneously in the wider public the nuclear risk perception and the national debate on nuclear energy. For some people, risk is used as an argument, favourable or not ; but for many others,

it works as a substitute to explain a more global anxiety. So for us, the perceived nuclear risk has no clear link with detriment ; but as social phenomenon, it takes place obviously in communication flows.

5. REFERENCES

- /1/ J.P. PAGES, G. MORLAT, E. STEMMELÉN
Structures de l'opinion publique et débat nucléaire dans la Société française contemporaine.
Revue Générale Nucléaire, n° 2, p. 140-149, 1982.
- /2/ J.P. PAGES, G. MORLAT, E. STEMMELÉN
Variété des points de vue et perception des risques.
Société Française de Radioprotection, Congrès annuel 1982, Avignon 1982.