THE CRUNCH THAT DIDN'T COME

During the month of July, both Marian Meenan and Stanislaus Mulligan were on hunger strikes. Meenan finally went on a hunger and thirst strike when the N.I. office issued a statement virtually claiming that he was being held. Mulligan was not among those involved, but was tortured by many different guards. In an effort to protect Mulligan, Meenan was placed in a separate cell in the shear cell. It was the normal practice for many people as the final and ultimate step of the hunger strike before it was conducted. It was also a way for the British government to flag that public opinion had Meenan clear to the ultimate step. It was also a way for the British government to flag that public opinion had Meenan clear to the ultimate step. It was also a way for the British government to flag that public opinion had Meenan clear to the ultimate step.

THE BAD NEWS: After 16 years of mining the area, and making £30m, for their shareholders, and even £1.5m for anybody else, there are no more metals left to mine...only huge mounds of polluting muds which Northerners and their public relations team plan to miraculously transform into green pasture. At one time they employed 300 people, but now all the jobs have vanished and no children of people getting another job in the area. Gone too, for ever, are the precious areas ripped-by-the-ultral-traditional silicat and asbestos (as always) in the silent, papers, and the NGUW, bought off initially with the prospect of jobs, and now with a higher rate payment...

NEVER AGAIN!!

CRITIC DEPORTED

Else Von Hout, a Dutch feminist and freelance journalist, set on the tribunal by female prisoners had Meenan added to the blacklist. She was arrested on July 12th along with other Dutch women to help rehabilitate a house for a woman's centre on Falls Rd. She was arrested by Special Branch and initially held for 3 days at Castlebellingham.

This was a nuclear power station with soldiers guarding it. The world is full of power stations, but none of them are nuclear. 60% of the power would be free and full of love.

PICKET STOPPED

On the 22nd August, the Women Against Imperialism picketed the prison to highlight the conditions of Pauline McLaughlin. On the way down the road, the bus was stopped by the RUC who said they couldn't go any further with the band which was accompanying them. The women, after deliberating, said OK to this, but the RUC had another trick up their sleeve. They told the women that they they'd have to go through a protestant estate on their way to the prison. This was done, and the protestant estate was on the bus for about half an hour. On the way back from Armagh, the bus took a detour and went past Long Kesh. They left the bus and walked over the fields to the prison, where the band staged a performance, which the blanks men must have heard. After about 45 mins, the RUC finally approached and the women returned safely to bus.
ANARCHY

By a collective member, More in future.

I've seen black and white people going out, and I can imagine how black people feel. The black and white relationship is a symbol of the black and white debate. As we call it, the black and white relationship is no longer black and white. As we call it, the black and white relationship is a symbol of identity. As we call it, the black and white relationship is a symbol of the black and white debate. As we call it, the black and white relationship is a symbol of identity. As we call it, the black and white relationship is a symbol of the black and white debate. As we call it, the black and white relationship is a symbol of identity.

The word 'anarchy' comes from the Greek and means without government. This divisiveness is from other socialists. We are anti-socialists, but we are not anti-authoritarian. When we call for the overthrow of hierarchy, we mean not only its ideological role (capitalism), but also its authoritarian role (state). During the first International, Mikhail Bakunin warned of the rise of Rief bureaucracy if the state was not destroyed along with the other forms of tyranny.

As we have seen from Russia and more recently in the social-democratic countries of Eastern Europe, the state and capitalism are becoming increasingly intertwined. The state has taken over many of the functions of capitalism, and has become the sole employer in the case of Russia, and a major employer in the case of Western Europe. We should not mention its increasing control over all aspects of life.

There is of course the parallel (but not conflicting) growth of multinational firms who are based in the most powerful Western countries.

Ironically Marxism has played a leading role in providing the ideology of the state intervention for the more progressive forms of capitalism, both in the reformist policies of social democracy and the 3rd world "socialisation" which have changed the country's dependence on imperial power, another.

The state and capitalism have been the big bet attack for anarchists. But the big evil of capitalism which is even older than the two is only recently been taken up by socialists - Postmodernists.

The various women's liberation groups have finally turned their attention to all of the above. As was expected by some experts, such as the journal "Women's Liberation" which have changed the country's dependence on imperial power, another.

Although the question of confining roles, which we are all conditioned to play, was rejected by anarchists, they usually on an abstract level or as it was to men.

Anarchists are asked what they would do if they were usually reply with a long list of what they don't want. This may appear negative, but it is based on the fact that we live in and are influenced by an authoritarian society, and so values of life free from shackles can only be speculative.

There are no programmes or blueprint of what life will be like. Which is why some say we are sociologically attractive. The possibility of CREATING history, of fulfilling ourselves as individuals and not being told what to be.

Of course there are guidelines and directions. We do believe in spontaneity, but not in the sense of things falling out of the sky, but in the sense of individuals, groups, socially freely choosing to take certain directions, uninhibited by promises of false reveile and the threat of punishment.

Here are some of the characteristics which we would argue anarchism should have:

1. It is fundamental that all relationships (work, social, sexual) should be based on the principle of voluntary association, with people coming together because they want to, and not because they are forced to (as happened in the early 70's)

2. In general, people will be better off, as much as possible on direct democracy. If two or more people disagree, they should be subject to instant recall and posts to be rotated as often as possible.

3. The nature of work itself would be charged. Production would be for the needs of the community, as it should be through its producer and consumer collective. Some modern technology and a degree of specialization would make work less tedious and time consuming, but would be conducted in a way that is least interesting and damaging. Work would be abolished and distribution of resources based on need - from each according to their ability, to each according to their needs.

4. Sexual relationships, without losing their intimacy, would be shared. Possession of goods and property would be ended. The state and capitalism would be brought back collectively and shared experiences with their peers and adults in a more total environment.

5. Anti-social behaviour would be treated by the community as a whole. With property and authority abolished, many of today's typical crimes such as theft and violence would no longer be widespread. It is evident that prisons, as retributive measures, are counterproductive.

6. Hopefully these characteristics will allow a few seeds to the madrasa's speculative mind. We don't want this to be seen as one of our "failings" throughout history to give us the answers. We fight against governments because they claim to have the answers, and in fact punish us for daring to solve the problems we face.

We are anarchists because we want to create a society which will allow us to BECOME the answers to the problems of life - to live in a society where violence, exploitation, depression, anxiety and love behind a society which can heal and bring forth new relationships.

NOW, HOW?

Well for starters the means we see should reflect as much as possible the ends we hope to achieve. This applies to all, because as can be seen from Marxist and nationalists groups, their aims of a market or nationalist state are reflected in their hierarchical organisation, with its central committee making decisions for the members to carry out, and in their methods of struggle, with their standing in bourgeois elections, and instances of civil.
Windscale nuclear reprocessing plant (where nuclear waste is sent to the sea) has been leaking deadly wastes for more than 20 years. Over 700 workers have been exposed to hazardous radiation levels.

Anti-internment weekend

The weekend of August 8th saw an increase in protest against the British Army. Despite curfews, internment, and a military operation on the streets, the protest continued.

Late

I think it's too late to be babbling about anti-internment, too many bloodstained treaties. Too many people thrown in the cold cell of fear for us... What are the architects of this bloody war doing? Are they not supposed to be at peace? What are the politicians doing? They have thrown us all into something we don't want.

I don't understand why the Irish Sea is the most contested sea in the world. It just gets worse and worse. We know why the Irish Sea is so contested. But who is really to blame? Is it the British state or the Irish people who are really to blame? Something is very wrong.

I will try to explain what I was trying to say in the two poems I sent you. The Christmas parade in Limerick was very safe, contrary to what you thought. It was a very peaceful event. There were no incidents or problems.

This letter is a reply to your letter.
The Southern Irish government have this plot hatching in their heads and policies. The British government, too, is totally into it, as well. And if you look at the headline, you can see the Northern government is a major player too. The word is, however, that all these governments are coordinating their efforts to make this happen. Meanwhile, the EEC, which is the European Economic Community, is also involved in this plot. They are trying to control the situation and prevent any conflicts. What has happened is that a group of European countries have decided to form a new union, called the EEC. The purpose of this union is to coordinate the economies of these countries and to control the use of nuclear energy. The Union has been successful in getting many countries to join, but not all. The British government is one of the few countries that has not joined the EEC. This has caused some tensions, especially since the British government is trying to control the situation and prevent any conflicts. The situation is complex, and it is difficult to predict what will happen next. However, it is clear that the EEC is a major player in this plot. Is it a plot? Or is it just a coincidence? We will have to wait and see.
These articles are written about the Lower Ormeau Road, Belfast by people living in that community. They describe the experiences and events of that community. The article "Where we live" first appeared in Scarlet Woman and "Lower Ormeau Exposed by R.U.C." is a supplement to Outra Control, paper of the Belfast Anarchist Collective available from Just Books, 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast.

WHERE WE LIVE...

This area is one of the smallest Catholic ghettos in Belfast. It consists of ten existing streets surrounded by Protestant housing and business and the river Lagan. Many of the houses do not have bathrooms, some do not have running hot water. They are damp and too small for the families who live in them. Many people are on drugs, whether valium, sordy fags a day or drowning ones thoughts in alcohol. Some women are battered by their husbands. One woman died a few months ago from a brain haemorrhage after she had been stabbed repeatedly. Families are suffering the effects of the Payment for Debt Act—the electricity board comes armed with two policemen at nine o'clock at night, to turn off a family's supply of electricity because they can't afford to pay for it. These problems are common to all working class areas in Belfast, but were this area really stands out from the others in its accessibility to loyalist assassins.

We must have one of the highest sectarian murder rates in the North of Ireland. Over fifty people have been shot or blown up and considering the size of the area that is one hell of a lot. There is even a case of local people identifying an assassin in court and him being let off on evidences made by a misdemeanour to the contrary. Bombs have been left outside pubs and blown up nearby in statistics in English papers or on the television but in a horrific reality for anybody living in the thick of it. The straight media and the left papers tend to concentrate on what the IRA or the loyalists are currently doing, they neglect those areas suffering sectarian attacks and the victinisation of those attacks—its its Catholic and it makes sense.

It is difficult to express the fear and hysteria when someone is assassinated. Instantly, you want to do something to defend yourself and indeed this was tried. Vigilante patrols were set up but they found that they were continually being hounded by the British Army. There is, after all, only one police force and the British are here to normalise the situation so that they can operate. They will undermine all attempts by Catholics to defend their own areas. The choice is simple—acceptance of a force partial to knocking off a few tags or hoping that you are not in the wrong place at the wrong time. People do not walk around at night. They take a taxi 500 yards down the road to various social clubs, such as the Bear. Interesting parallels were drawn in discussion with the fear of women in Yorkshire to the ripper and the same attitudes to 'cleaning' society of prostitution, or here, republicanism.

The power of the British Army is felt even when they are not physically patrolling the streets. Regular changes on average every three to five months and at one time house searches and interrogation was carried out throughout a new regiment settled in. Searching one's home in anything from the Oxford dictionary definition, to ripping up floor coverings and floorboards, poking holes in the plaster of walls and ceilings, doors, painting furniture and if you're not looking, stealing anything worth having. They do maintain what they call 'a low profile' these days, but we are still stopped at any time of the day or night—name, address, date of birth, where are you coming from, where are you going;—taken down to be interrogated further in the city centre barracks or up to Castlecary for the torture routine. The Brits think of their own protection first and not that of the people living here. There hasn't been much success in persuading them to restore lighting to the streets or put up barricades to discourage sectarian attack until it is much too late. We have experienced blackest searches of the area, with one exit and one entrance and being searched on both occasions, we have seen twelve foot accords going up at the end of our streets when the Orange bands are parading during their silly season. At that time it is virtually impossible to get out even if you wanted to mingle with the hundreds of police and soldiers on the other side.

One of the other decisions made by the State in the late sixties, early seventies, is still having repercussions on peoples lives today. That decision was a proposed race road.

The ring road was planned to curve up the inner city. All the areas passed through were poor and working class. Religion did not enter into it, the land was cheaper and it is easier to disturb than that with industry on it. Good fast road communications were wanted between Belfast and Larne so that big international companies like Michelin, ICI and Ford and local firms like Massey could ship their goods to Britain and overseas quicker. Easy access to Belfast city centre would attract people living in districts like Craigavon—a new city, many people from Belfast received grants and went to live there—to do their shopping.

There was resistance. Meetings were held and community associations, trade unions and some of local people attended. They picketed, protested and blocked the roads.

Bannanning Protestants moved out. People tried to sell their houses for the highest price before the area was fenced. Several things happened. The shortage of housing for Catholics and the possibility of a 'safe' place to live means that many Catholics moved into the area. Many squatted in the houses. Squatting was a very common practice all over Belfast. The British Army also moved in on the empty houses. Generally, they were amongst the first to know about them. They called them 'deletables' which was what they were after they had searched for weapons. Because nobody lived in these houses they were not obliged to leave details of the search or the terms of compensation. Local scrap merchants also moved in for the kill to make a few quid out of stripping the houses of lead piping, copper tanks and electric wires. The end result was a brickbuck house. The disease spread. Anybody who was at all mobile wanted to get out. Houses on either side suffered dampness, fungi and green slime down connecting walls, blocked seweraage and rats.

Continued on Back Page.
LOWE ORMEAU EXPOSED BY R.U.C.

OUTTA CONTROL SUPPLEMENT

On 12.30 a.m. Thursday July 24th, Michael McCarran (18) was shot dead near his home in Arta Street, in the Lower Ormeau District of Belfast. He and 3 of his friends were decoding a 'broadcast' with the words 'propaganda' found nearby when a police car pulled up near them. A policeman in plain clothes got out. The youths immediately ran off, leaving Michael. The policeman shot him in the stomach without warning, killing him. The police car got back into the car and drove off. A couple of minutes later an ambulance police landrover appeared on the scene - 'to take over'.

ANSWERING BACK

It was the last straw as far as the people of the Lower Ormeau were concerned. The following day the people of the area blocked the Ormeau Rd., hoisting placards reading: 'THE RUC MURDERED MICHAEL MCCARTAN', 'For the next 5 nights there was rioting, hijacking and burning of vehicles by the young people of the area... something that hasn't happened in years. Extreme measures from an otherwise quiet area. So why did this killing cause such an outrage?'

BLATANT LIARS

After the killing, the RUC issued statements claiming that Michael McCarran ran away when the police approached... they called to him to halt, ... he turned round and pointed a pistol at the policeman who thought it was a gun... shot him dead. They also claimed that the police were under a lot of pressure that day... a gunman had been seen in the area... there had been serious rioting... and a bomb had been thrown at them. They deliberately gave the impression that these incidents all occurred in the area where Michael was killed. But the truth is different.....

The Lower Ormeau has been 'quiet' for years... no attacks on the security forces... no rioting... not known as an area where gunmen operate... not regarded as a militant republican area. To the people who live there, the RUC statement was just a pack of lies. In order to 'explain' their murder, they concocted a statement for the general public... knowing they would never be given a chance to find out the truth. The TV and press tell the RUC side of the story, rarely giving much credence to eyewitness accounts of people in the vicinity.

THE AREA

The Lower Ormeau is mainly a Catholic ghetto. It lies above the Catholic 'Markets', with 'The Past', a hardline Protestant area lying in between. It consists of a series of streets branching off the main Ormeau Road. One quarter of the houses in the area have been demolished to make way for the notorious ring road. The rest of the houses reflect the general working class housing situation in Belfast... most of them lack a bathroom and are in immediate need of repair... everything is illegible, with abandoned burnt out shells of factories. In one of the streets (Belfast Ave.) the residents have to contend with plant sewer pipes being laid outside their front doors. Rehabilitation work has been going on for at least a year. There are no social amenities in the area which people can use although right in the middle of it all is a huge cricket ground complete with a grand social club.

IT IS USED EXCLUSIVELY BY PEOPLE FROM OUTSIDE THE AREA.

For the last 3 years, the City Council have promised to build a community centre, but this has yet to reach the final planning stage... they hope that if they delay long enough it will be abandoned due to the 'outs' with little local opposition.

'What you haven't got, you won't miss.'
ASSASSINATIONS

Throughout the Troubles, it has suffered more than most areas, at the hands of the murderous sectarian assassins. Always out for an easy target, the area is particularly vulnerable as it gives easy access and a quick getaway to cars patrolling up and down that part of the road looking for someone—anyone—to shoot. The most Infamous incident was the horror bombing of the Rose and Crown bar, killing four people and injuring many more. Michael's father was one of those badly injured. And within the last 6 months, two men from the Lower Ormeau were shot by sectarian assassins. One was Michael's uncle.

PLAYING DEAD

Assassination attempts, pub bombings, and killings have been a regular occurrence in the area, during the height of sectarian violence (1974-76). They have never stopped completely, but now they are less frequent. The residents have remained quiet, perhaps in the hope that the assassinations would disappear if the area appeared not to be militant. Not so long ago even the Lord Mayor (complex with grant) was invited to walk ceremoniously round the street, judging the walls in the "Service Un Confrontation." This was engineered by the "loyalists," the government agencies threw in every summer in a futile and pathetic attempt to improve the kids' holidays in an area permanently neglected by things for the children to do in the quest for respectability. The people formerly contented that the Lord Mayor, past and no doubt future, operated without discrimination in housing and jobs and are responsible for the state of the area. During Orange parades (mainly June-August) the streets are closed off, and no one is allowed to leave the area while they pass by the top of every street. Despite loud, provocative and aggressive playing of the most extreme Orange songs, they are allowed to pass unchallenged. With the increased presence of the British Army and the RUC patrols perhaps people felt this might also deter assassins. As this has not happened—people are regular targets. Sometimes it does get reported to the police, sometimes not. For fear of the RUC investigating the person with an interrogation to find out why an attempt was made, maybe they are.

In a political group and want no more hassle from the RUC... when the RUC, the so-called 'security forces'—starts killing people, that was the last straw.

S.S.R.I.C.

The RUC had been filtering back into the area, patrolling the streets in land-rovers and gaining confidence for foot-patrols. This is a set-back in their attempt at gaining a foot-hold in the area, and in creating goodwill among residents. However, they determined not to lose any ground gained, no matter what. The young people of the area, aspiring at the shooting of their mate, and no other being done about it, roamed. During the shootings, the RUC satiated the area, heavily armed, intimidating residents, and arresting 9 people, some of them being dragged out of their homes. (To date, one person has served 9 months). In the early hours of the morning, police land-rovers were seen cruising the area with about 20 Brit snatch squads running behind weaving pistols hoping to scoop up anyone around and not making too much clatter in the process.

IT'S UP TO US!

And more importantly the killing should act as a catalysis for EVERYBODY to wake up to what is happening in the community to the wider issues involved. It is no good kidding ourselves that we are a man or woman in the Housing Executive or our "loyal thoughtful" Alliance and SDLP representatives can solve the problems of this community. However sure and efficient our officers may make us feel, they are as much caught up in the mesh of a society geared to making huge amounts of money for the privileged few, out of the hard work of us, the working people of Belfast. We are forever having public meetings to discuss various solutions, most of us don't turn up any longer to eat people, often the same people on never ending committees, to grapple with the vast social and economic woes in this community. When we elect people to committees as potential leaders we encourage ourselves to base sight of our own insights and power. We project our potential qualities onto others instead of developing them in ourselves. We remove the problem from ourselves. Until we grasp that the government, itself, and sort out the multi-national firms, will only give us money if it sees that money multiplying or as part of its welfare programmes which keeps the hardships we have to suffer, bearable, and puts off the day when we will rise up and control our own lives.

The area has more than its fair share of people preparing to contribute towards a better community. (Some unfortunately finding themselves doing a spell in Castlereagh, or worst still, Armagh or the Kesh). There are others whose dignity has been crushed by continual unemployment, large families living in cramped conditions, and bad housing when children ran wild with nothing better to do than create havoc and destruction. We should help them regain that dignity by lending a hand and support. There are people in the area who only want to see the dark side, who see only poverty, who don't want the area to live and who exploit the weakers. They use the opportunity to seek profit for themselves at the expense of the whole community. We should confront these people who are destroying our community and making it a hell for people living here.

Everybody should play a part in deciding and creating the community they want their children to live in, and not to mean about it and rely on others to get things done.

Some of Michael McCarran's Friends
Continued from front page

The legacy today is that many of the streets are destroyed. An area of rubble and desolation. They are still going to build the roads, in a more disguised form and have promised to squeeze in as many houses into the remaining area as possible. But if there is a chance of getting something people will go for that chance. Members of the Housing Executive can come to local meetings and indulge themselves. They produce a booklet, an improvement and although people know that the bureaucracy has distorted the terms all along, all these years they feel that they have been given something. The majority has been convinced. QED.

Social life is restricted to the pubs and bingo. There is nothing for older children. Right in the middle of the area is a cricket ground where supporters roll up in their minicabs and roll to enjoy either the cricket or the rugby season. We did get in once and protested but we should have access to some of the ground. After all, it takes up to one third of the area up, maybe one half. It was all a bit of a joke when you consider what the authorities really did for children in this area. They took one street of brick-hedged houses, ripped up the cobbled and tarred it over, put 2 new signs on "No Bawdy" and called it a playstreet. What they overlooked was that the danger was the brick hedged houses, not the road. A brick Hedged house is a great place to play if you are not afraid and not aware of the dangers. Every summer for two months, the authorities would throw a couple of volunteers, English people over to do their bit for the natives. They organised playhouses once a fortnight and a bus took to greener pastures for the lucky ones. They painted the streets and covered all the slogans with Walt Disney stencil. The river Lagan is also a death trap. Several children have been drowned because the fencing has been neglected. It is a filthy river anyway, Belfast's sewage system overflows into it. Being so old and the Blackstaff, reputed to be the most polluted river in Western Europe, joins the Lagan in our area. It runs under Belfast and all the industries use it to dispose of toxic waste.

The Catholic Church with the aid of a grant from local government built a playhouse. All the kids go to it. Even for those amongst us who are lapsed Protestants or who have rejected Catholicism, this playhouse is a welcome sight, such is the deprivation. Nearly all the children go to Catholic schools only one of which is mixed primary (boys/ girls). Some children do go to the State primary school which being between the University catchment area and several working class areas has a racial mix as well as a social and religious one. Catholic parents who want their children brought up in the religion tend to take their children away from the state school system. A lot of time is devoted to preparing 5-7 year olds for Holy Communion which is obviously not done in the state schools. The Catholic church advertises theBilling method and conducts classes although the existence of a Health Centre on the main road has undermined them with many women going there for the pill. There are many large families intermixed with other large families and the development has not destroyed the extended family completely. The latter is probably quite rare in European cities these days. Many children are brought up by their grandparents or aunts, particularly if a father is away or dead, or in prison. Officially unemployment must be as high as 40%. Very few school leavers are lucky to get jobs. Women work in low paid, non unionised jobs. For 70p an hour to supplement the family income.

The early seventies was a time of grass roots rebellion on many fronts, not just civil rights. People were beginning to question all sorts of issues which affected them in their day to day life. We were trying to show how people tackled those problems, they did meet and discuss what to do. They did come out and block main roads. They did refuse to pay their rates. However, the state moved in. Field Officers arrived from the Community Relations Commission, various agents from the City Council were assigned to set up committees with acceptable constituents and the more "reasonable" elements on them if possible. It was impressed upon us that committees were the best way of getting things done; their structure gave us the illusion of power to change circumstances through negotiation and smaller concessions were made. We had to work for new admissions and things had to be worked for. The structure gave us the illusion of power to change circumstances through negotiation and smaller concessions were made from time to time to keep the illusion credible. Nothing ever came of it. We have no say in what goes on around us. We are not apathetic. We have been ripped off and sold out and crushed under the heavy boot of the State and its Army. Very few people go along to public meetings now to elect people (often the same people who make a good speech: to take the bus look away). Never ending committees grappling with the social and economic worthlessness of this community, electing people onto these committees killed people into a false sense of something being done - we lost sight of our own imagination and power and projected our potential for change onto others instead of developing them in ourselves. We removed the problem from ourselves.

Everybody in this area has suffered from the repressive nature of the State: its laws pervade every aspect of our lives. This is not exclusive to Catholic working class areas. All the problems we have written about exist in Protestant areas, some like the consequences of the payment for debt Act to a much greater degree. The exception is of course the role of the British Army and the RUC and the political attitudes of the people towards them.