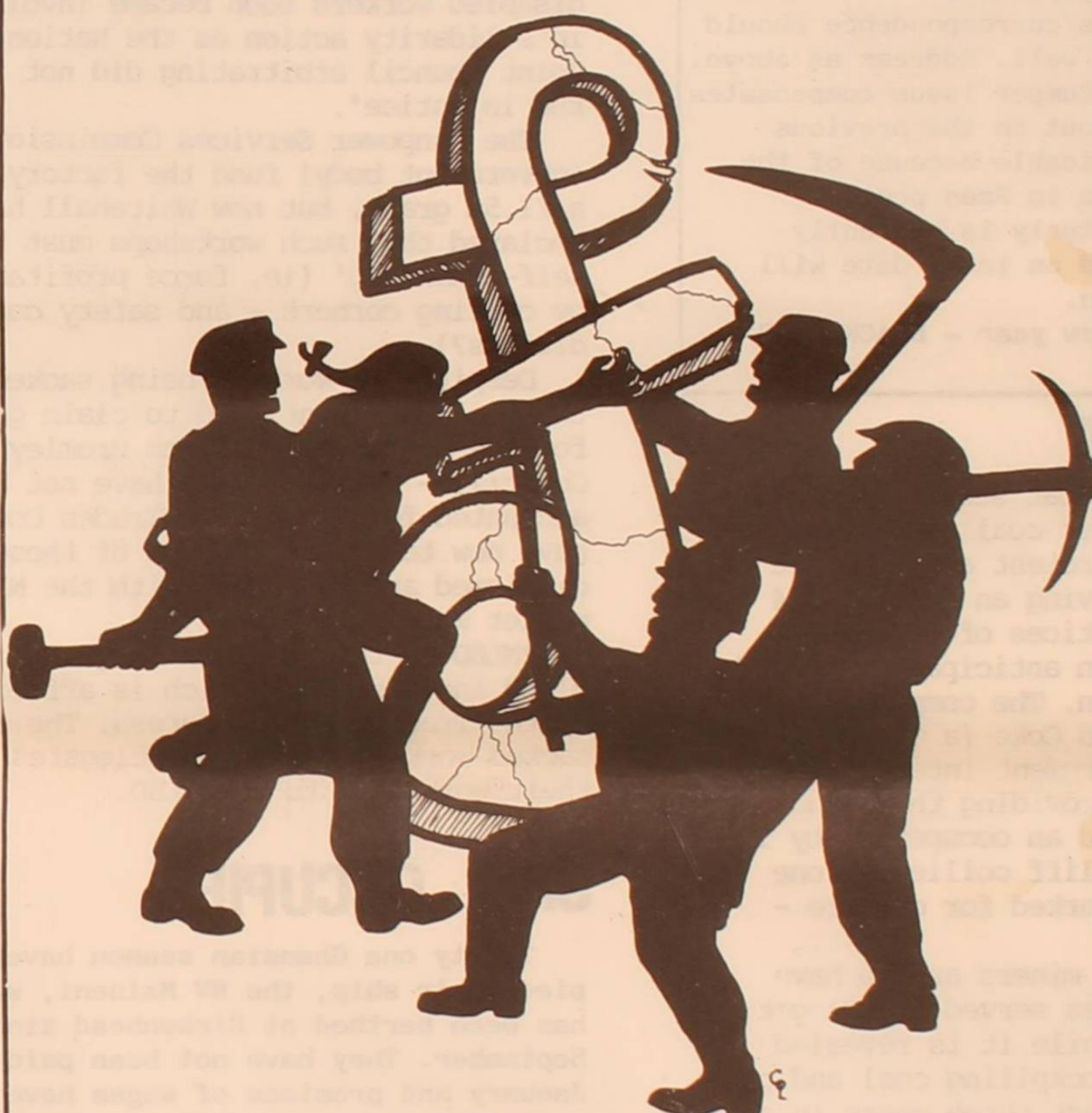


1985: A YEAR FOR DIRECT ACTION

CONGRESS for Industrial Action

To be held at
Burnley Labour club
On Sat. Jan. 19th,
At 10 am.

Speakers: Peter
Heathfield, General
Sec. of N.U.M.
Tony Crowther, Nat.
Sec. of DAM (NUR).
A speaker from
Yorkshire N.U.M.



THE ABOVE CONGRESS FOR INDUSTRIAL ACTION HAS BEEN INITIATED BY THE
BURNLEY MINERS SUPPORT GROUP. INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN SENT OUT TO
ALL MINERS SUPPORT GROUPS AND TRADE UNION BRANCHES TO SEND DELEGATES.

By the end of 1985 the Miners Strike may well be approaching its third year - if increased mass picketing, occupations, sabotage offensives, etc have not brought a speedier conclusion. In twelve months time many trade unions will also have allied with the company union, EETPU, and the TUC will have given in on all the important issues concerning anti-trade union legislation: ballot schemes, no-strike agreements, as it moves more to the right.

The split within the labour movement will have widened, leaving the Labour Party, the state socialist left and the TUC to put out its usual lies to promote reformism (and party votes).

At the same time there will be another emerging movement of those of our class who will have organised throughout that period for mass rank and file industrial action, not only in support of the mining communities, but for the reorganisation of the class resistance and the ultimate destruction of capitalism and state power.

This movement will be a movement of direct action, committed to creating a real labour movement, based on real industrial and community solidarity, and not the reformism that is mockingly and insultingly metered out by the trades union bureaucracy.

Meanwhile the soft left and the entry-ists still lick their Labour Party masters' boots hoping for a few crumbs from the table. They have already chosen their side: the ruling or yet-to-be ruling cadre.

But back to the present: already the NUM has publicly appealed to all trade unionists and support groups to reject their respective leaderships and to take industrial action, organised at rank and file level. The NUM appeal - albeit implicitly - points the way for the rejection of hierarchical trade unionism and for the return of the more syndicalist practices that were once prevalent in the British labour movement before the authoritarian left hijacked the workers organisations.

The initiative is here to be taken.

PRISON SUPPORT

As of December 7 the total number of miners arrested since the inception of the strike is 8731, with 7249 charged. Just over half have had their cases heard: mostly breach of the peace and obstruction. 104 have been given custodial sentences, the rest fines, etc. The serious cases (riot, GBH, conspiracy to riot, etc) are due to be heard soon. These could involve prison sentences - some lengthy. It is widely felt in many countries that Britain does not imprison trade unionists or outlaws effective picketing: the British state relies upon the untruth remaining so and the myth needs to be shattered once and for all - comrades in other countries could organise protests/demonstrations, etc on behalf of imprisoned miners. Comrades closer to home could additionally help by organising the picketing of prisons and the setting up of local prison support groups. All Black Cross contacts are urged to help out and initiate action.

BLACK FLAG - BLACK CROSS
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NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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Black Flag is now doing its own distribution direct to shops and bulk order customers. All 'A Distribution' customers who get Black Flag should in future make payments direct to us. The first payments should be for this issue onwards. Outstanding payments for previous issues should still be made to 'A Distribution' and they will forward the money on to us.

All new orders/correspondence should be sent to us as well. Address as above.

This Special Bumper issue compensates for our missing out on the previous issue (not practicable because of the inevitable delays in Xmas post).

The next Quarterly is currently in production and an issue date will be announced soon.

Have a good new year - BLACK FLAG COLLECTIVE.

AUSTRALIA

A 48 hour wildcat strike took place at the south coast coal mines in New South Wales in protest at a closure programme, involving an initial 314 redundancies. Notices of redundancy were withdrawn in anticipation of wider industrial action. The company involved - Kembla Coal and Coke (a CRA subsidiary) - agreed to government intervention in the dispute providing the wildcat action ceased and an occupation by 11 miners at Coal Cliff colliery - one of the pits earmarked for closure - ended.

A further 300 miners are to have redundancy notices served if CRA get their way. Meanwhile it is revealed CRA have been stockpiling coal and coke stocks for the past three years in anticipation of industrial action. Already 150 miners in Coal Cliffe have been given forced early retirement and a similar number have been transported to other pits. Within the last twelve months over 1800 jobs have been lost within the coal mining industry in the southern NSW coalfields alone. Likewise the steel industry is following suit: the going rate from one plant - BHP - is around 1000 job losses a year. The effect on the local communities has brought unemployment figures into double figures (averaging out at 40% for the young).

GERMANY

Miners and power workers are together calling for a four-day week. It is their initial reaction to the announcement by the government of a closure programme of 'unprofitable' mines in North-Rhine/Westphalia.

The Power Workers and Mineworkers Union (the IGBE) - in W Germany they are organised as one in an Industrial Union (as opposed to a craft-based trade union) - has said that the reduction in working hours can be achieved by shortening shifts with no loss of jobs and no loss of pay. Privatisation is no issue in W Germany: all mines are already privately owned.

BLACK FLAG PAGE TWO

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

VICTORIAN VALUES

The London Association for the Blind has a plastic components factory in Southwark, south London. The LAB sacked two workers on August 2 because they 'entered the factory outside working hours' and 'under the influence of alcohol', accompanied by a 'sighted friend' and 'started being abusive to the charge-hand'. The manager, Mr Adams, said this was 'gross misconduct' - a view backed up by Rex Bales, the chairman of LAB.

The two blind workers deny they were even drinking and said they were accompanied by a sighted NLBD* officer who came to check on serious health and safety breaches in the factory. Gross victimisation is their claim and they have been picketing ever since. Other disabled workers soon became involved in solidarity action as the National Joint Council arbitrating did not 'right the injustice'.

The Manpower Services Commission (government body) fund the factory with a £1.5m grant, but now Whitehall has declared that such workshops must be self-financing' (ie, force profitability by cutting corners - and safety conditions?)

Despite the workers being sacked, the employers continued to claim grant for them (some £2,031 from Bromley Council) - but the wages have not been accounted for. Southwark Trades Council have now taken up the case of those dismissed and, together with the NLBD, picket weekly.

*NLBD is the National League of the Blind and Disabled, which is affiliated to the Trades Union Congress. The two sacked workers were both delegates from their workplace to the NLBD.

SHIP OCCUPIED

Twenty one Ghanaian seamen have occupied their ship, the MV Maiseni, which has been berthed at Birkenhead since September. They have not been paid since January and promises of wages have been reneged upon by the ships owner, Ben Schreyer. Since January the crew have sailed from Holland to Germany, and then to Istanbul and finally Birkenhead. At Birkenhead the seamen refused to unload the cargo or to set sail. Meanwhile the officers are receiving money direct from the parent company in Holland, Transimex BV of Rotterdam. The National Union of Seamen are helping the strikers by giving money and food for them.

The crew have hoped to recoup their unpaid wages by trying to sell their ship with the help of their own union, the International Transport Federation. But the Admiralty Court has intervened and said that the ship cannot be sold until the cargo has been unloaded and that they cannot expect payment of back pay until they have returned to their native Ghana. The response of the twenty one Ghanaians has been to refuse to return home until all the money has been paid, although they have, reluctantly, decided to unload the cargo. The occupation continues.

In the meantime they need financial help: donations can be sent either through the NUS (49 Paradise St, Liverpool 1) - in which case specify where it's from, what for, and demand a receipt - or via the Liverpool Direct Action Group, c/o Box LDAG, 82 Lark Lane, Liverpool 17.

SOURCE: LDAG

PORTUGAL

Prior to WW1 the Portuguese labour movement was solidly anarcho-syndicalist. It went down fighting against the dictatorship. Later its whole programme was ridiculed by the 'orthodox' trade unionism: it was 'utopian', 'adventurist' and 'did not take into account the practical possibilities of unionism in modern capitalism'. Now, since the dictatorship has ended, orthodox trade unionism has had it all its own way - a practical, down-to-earth approach? The unions can elect a Socialist government to protect their interests; they themselves are meanwhile led by Communists and even the opposition within the unions calls itself Marxist-Leninist.

And what do we find...? At the end of 1984, 150,000 Portuguese workers faced unpaid wages, some for a whole year. Companies with a cash-flow problem, who are forbidden to sack their workers (thanks to a closed shop agreement and government backing in the form of a ban on redundancies). So they work on unpaid. The companies in the meantime refuse to pay out until court orders can effectively compel them, and that can be a whole year or more. Debts to workers are so far around £60m in total for unpaid work, and the unions say, rightly, that it is a 'situation worse than slavery - at least slaves have to be fed - the employer has no obligation to feed the workers'.

The Socialist government - surprise, surprise - doesn't pay unemployment benefit, even though it claims some unpaid workers could receive it (a small number). It is facing up to the fact that it may be 'utopian' to press for workers control, but it is even more utopian to suppose that the crisis of capitalism can be solved by legislating against unemployment.



DOCKERS BACK S.A. BOYCOTT

In our last issue we reported on the boycott of South African goods by workers in the Dunnes Chain Stores in Ireland. The sacking of a worker led to a walkout. Shop workers in other stores have followed suit and the boycott is spreading. One store, the T & J, has even placed a notice in its front window advising customers that no SA goods will be stocked until apartheid is abolished.

But the most encouraging news is that Dublin dockers have joined the boycott by blacking all goods destined for Dunnes Stores. They decided to do this after being visited by a delegation of Dunnes strikers. The dockers have subsequently declared that no Dunnes goods will leave the docks until the strike is settled. Belfast Trades Council have also responded by asking for a boycott at the Belfast docks if need be.

SOURCE: Workers Solidarity Movement

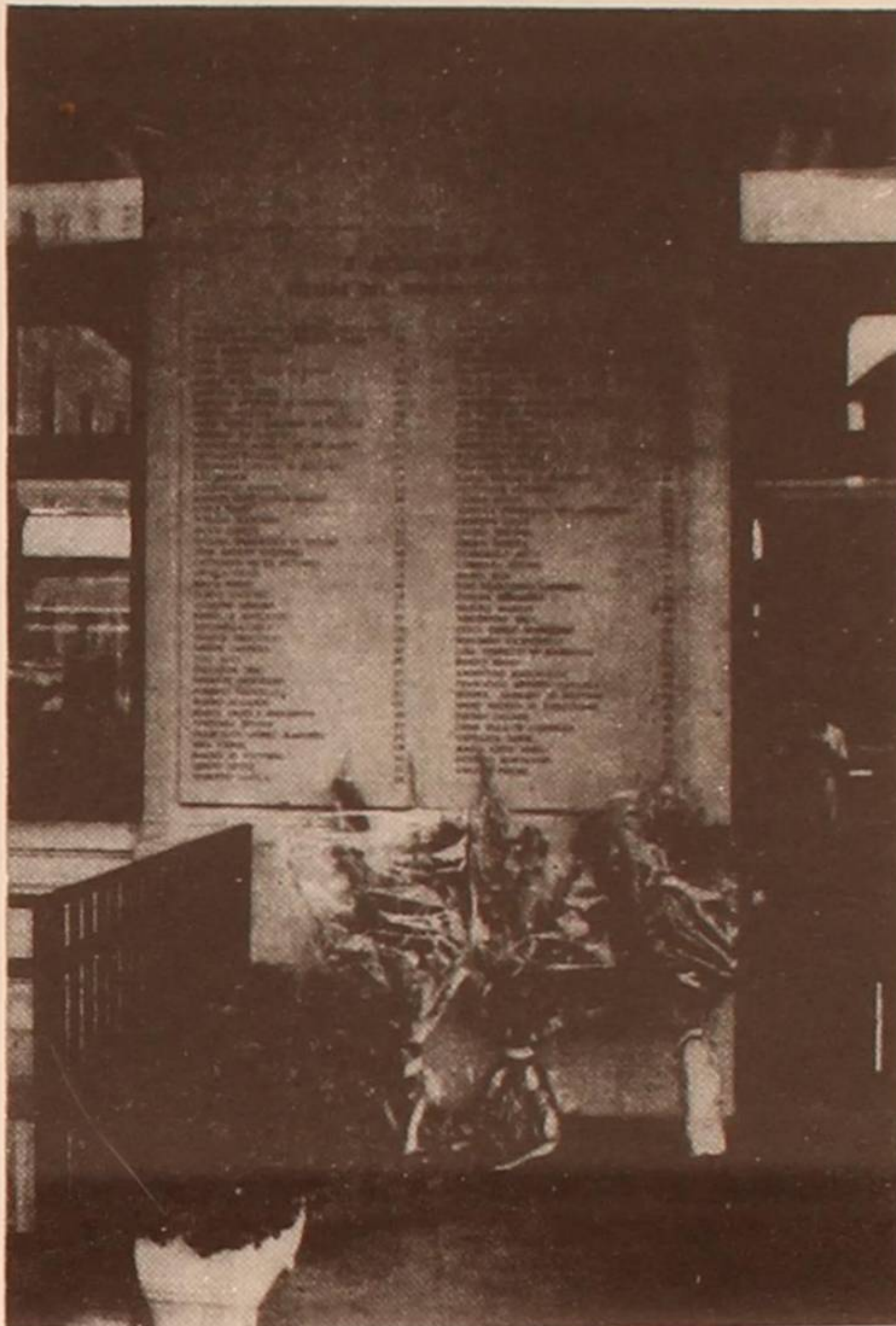
INTERNATIONAL NEWS

ITALY

The recent bombing outrage near Bologna has highlighted once again the need to keep tabs on the fascist extremists who are continuously seeking opportunities to invoke indiscriminate terror for their own authoritarian ends.

Fifteen people were killed and over 180 injured by the blast. Numerous claims of responsibility have been made by fascist groups, but so far there have been no arrests or acts of revenge. The bomb blew up the main Naples-Milan express as it went through a tunnel.

In 1980 another railway bomb hit Bologna. That time it blew apart the main waiting room at Bologna station, killing 85 and seriously injuring over 200. The 1980 outrage was organised and dealt with by the Della Chiaie network and financed by Gelli's P2. Other fascist groupings who provided assistance prior to and in the aftermath of the bombing included the Hoffmann Group (W Germany), FANE (France) and the League of St George (Britain). Gelli is allegedly in South America, while Della Chiaie is still working under immunity. About six weeks ago four Italian Secret Service agents were sent for trial on charges relating to the possession of explosives. More significantly they are believed to have deliberately misled enquiries into the 1980 bombing. Nothing, so far, has come of their 'trial'.



A plaque dedicated to the memory of those murdered by the fascists at Bologna station in 1980.

NATIONALISM (AGAIN)

While anarchists oppose all States, they clearly see a difference in them. Criminal States transgress the norms of reasonable behaviour; others are less criminal despite their origins. Many are criminal in some respects but less so in others - while preserving democracy among their citizens (or those who are regarded as such), they are aggressive in their foreign policy or racist at home (or both). Democracy in this sense means that workers' organisations are able to exist - which implies not that the State is free, but the possibility of social change is there. The State may still be selectively repressive. Generally speaking all States try to appeal to nationalism and patriotism to divert attention from unrest.

For nationalists, in the true sense, their own State, if they think they have one, is always right. ('My country, right or wrong, equals my mother, drunk or sober', said GK Chesterton, a reactionary, but no nationalist). The term nationalist is also applied to those people fighting for the creation of a Nation State, who thereby become revolutionaries until that State has been created; they tend to identify with all so far unsuccessful nationalists - eg, the IRA, SWAPO (today) and the FLN, NLF, MPLA, etc (in previous years).

It is also used as a euphemism for Fascism, since nationalism, like racialism, can be used to imply hatred of other nations and races rather than pleasure and pride in their own. There is nothing amiss with national, racial or linguistic feelings unless they are exploited to serve the interests of power. They are otherwise compatible with federalism, which is integral to anarchism.

USA

On December 25 an abortion clinic and two doctors offices were bombed by right-wing moral majority type fanatics. Last year alone there were 27 such bombings in the USA alone. Also around 150 clinics have been damaged in hit and run actions. Predictably the states' response has been nil. Generally each attack has been preceded by picketing by anti-abortion protesters and paint-bombings and locks getting glued. Most of the bombings have been claimed by an organisation calling itself the 'Army of God'.

According to one report (Off Our Backs, Dec issue) the fundamentalist clergy have been active in this new form of terrorism. One instance is given of a Rev. Dorman Owens of the Bible Mission Fellowship, who had been organising the picketing of the San Diego Birth Control Institute for several months. The Institute was gutted as a result of an arson attack. Owens also organised the picketing of another nearby clinic, Womancare. Cindy Pearson, director of Womancare, said she holds Owens 'morally responsible' for the bombing.

FRANCE

Michel Noury has been transferred from La Sante prison to Passy, near Paris. His transfer followed his protest over prison conditions and for prisoners rights. He was punished to 30 days loss of 'rights', including the receiving of mail, etc.

His new address: Michel Noury, No. 8548, 17 rue de l'abbaye, 78303 Paris, France.

RADIO LIBERTAIRE (89.5mgz)

Radio Libertaire, the French Anarchist station has received another notice to quit from the French government. The response of RL, the 'voice without master' has been to avoid closure by merging with Radio Pays (a community radio station for national minorities), but the State authorities have refused to sanction this.

The 3½ year old station is appealing once more for international support. Letters, etc, to French Embassies/Consulates. Also write to RL at 145 Rue Amelot, 75010 Paris, France.

GREECE

126 comrades may face lengthy prison sentences for taking part in a demonstration against visiting French fascist leader, Le Pen.

On 5 December Le Pen came to Athens to meet up with Greek fascist leaders. A clash led to the arrest of 4 anarchists who had tried to take on some local fascists. They are on serious 'anti-state' charges.

Another demonstration took place the next day in protest of the arrests. A further 170 were arrested and sent to trial. 126 (mostly anarchists) are accused of 'revolutionary actions against the state'. The ludicrous thing is that they have been charged in connection with the December 5 demonstration (not the one the day after, when they were arrested).

We have received a letter from these comrades, smuggled out of jail. They desperately seek international support. They also have a contact address: Papadopoulos Panagiolis, Emmanouilidou 6, 17564 Paleo Faliro, Athens, Greece.

NETHERLANDS

A bus-load of Dutch comrades arrived in Britain to give solidarity and aid to the striking miners. On their way back to the Netherlands they stayed at the 121 Bookshop, Brixton, and gave the following details.

42 comrades were involved (all in a loose network composed of individuals from anti-authoritarian/broad left groups. Some workers, some students, others unemployed. Money for the miners had been raised via benefits, collections, etc. They brought over £350 in food, £250 in cash and 400 kilos of clothing.

Their trip up north took them to Askern (Yorks) for 5 days from December 26. On arrival the local MSG bought them fish and chips. They slept in the Town Hall and then the local Workers Club. They visited pits but because of the Xmas period picket lines remained quiet.

On their way back they also visited Peace Camps at Molesworth, Greenham, etc. On their visits they made videos and interview tapes. They are interested in contacting anti-militarist groups. They, themselves, can be contacted via 121 Bookshop, 121 Railton Rd, London SE24.

DIRECT ACTION DIRECT ACTION DIRECT ACTION DIRECT

Miners in South Wales managed to evade a massive police siege when over 500 marched throughout the night up and over the 1700' mountain, Mynydd Merthyr, that separated the mining communities from the pit, Merthyr Vale, where two scabs were attempting to strikebreak. The miners bypassed the police roadblocks completely in what can only be described as an operation conducted with almost military precision. The police were taken totally by surprise and outside the pit entrance they regrouped and began attacking the pickets with all the force they could muster, leading to many injuries, including a 'home goal' (a Sunday Times photographer).

A Coal Board employee at Clipstone, near Mansfield, had his home set alight; damage was minor. Later Chris Butcher, alias 'Silver Birch', admitted that where NCB compensation given to scabs was not available or insufficient, extra money was being supplied by the Working Miners' Committee, which in turn is financed by big business.

At Cynheidre Colliery, S Wales, 20 miners' wives broke into the NCB offices and occupied them in order to disrupt work at the pit.

Pickets hijacked a scab vehicle, near Bullcliffe Colliery, Wooley, and poured petrol over it. Before they were about to set it alight, though, they had to scarper because of police reinforcements. The driver of the vehicle and his fellow scab passenger were both dragged out by the ambushers and set upon.

In South Yorkshire anti-scab direct action has been on the increase. At Sharlston, near Wakefield, police blockades were stoned and pickets pushed railway wagons on to a level crossing to block the main approach road to the pit. At Frickley, near South Elmsall, cars were overturned and lamp posts and telegraph posts uprooted to build barricades. At Fryston over 200 pickets erected barricades and at Castleford over seven barricades were erected on the approach to Wheldon Colliery.

At Kinsley, near Hemsworth, pickets dug trenches across the road to the pit and set up a barricade. Petrol bombs were then used to ignite the barricade, which contained explosive oxygen bottles. Later, shortly after midnight, a 'guerrilla' style combat unit, 50 strong, raided the pit but were driven off by police reinforcements.

Around 15 - 20 well disguised pickets ambushed a police convoy (two DSU's, a patrol car and a NCB van) and bombarded it with bricks and ballbearings fired from catapults. This incident took place in Minsthorpe Lane, South Elmsall.

Police houses were stoned at another incident at Kinsley. The police station at Knottingley was also attacked the same evening.

Wheldale Colliery was the scene of a massive sabotage attack, causing over £100,000 worth of damage. The approach road to the colliery was covered in burning oil and the pits control room was smashed up, electrical equipment damaged and cars overturned. The local NUM organiser blamed the attack on outsiders and said the damage was irreparable, while the NCB local manager said it was the work of 'outside criminal elements'. Perhaps they're both right: ultimately you cannot get anymore criminal or be any more of an outsider than Ian MacGregor!

A JCB digger was used to disrupt police operations when it was brought crashing down on a railway bridge on the only approach road to Fryston Colliery in another attempt to prevent strikebreaking. Police were also bombarded with stones and oil was poured across the road and street lamps uprooted. Inside the pit itself a NCB stores was smashed up.

At the Prince of Wales Colliery, Pontefract, it took police four attempts to clear the road of pickets. The riot police, backed up by officers in DSU transits, driving at breakneck speed, eventually broke up the picket. Police later arrested 13 miners who had been held up by the police blockade. Three of these pickets were assaulted by the

police and at a magistrates hearing the 13 were given the usual bail restrictions and in addition placed on curfew.

At Saville Colliery, it was reported that around 100 pickets took part in a hit and run 'hit squad' type action resulting in £1000 worth of damage. The pickets turned up in cars, sped through the pit gates and in the space of a couple of minutes smashed virtually every window of the main offices.

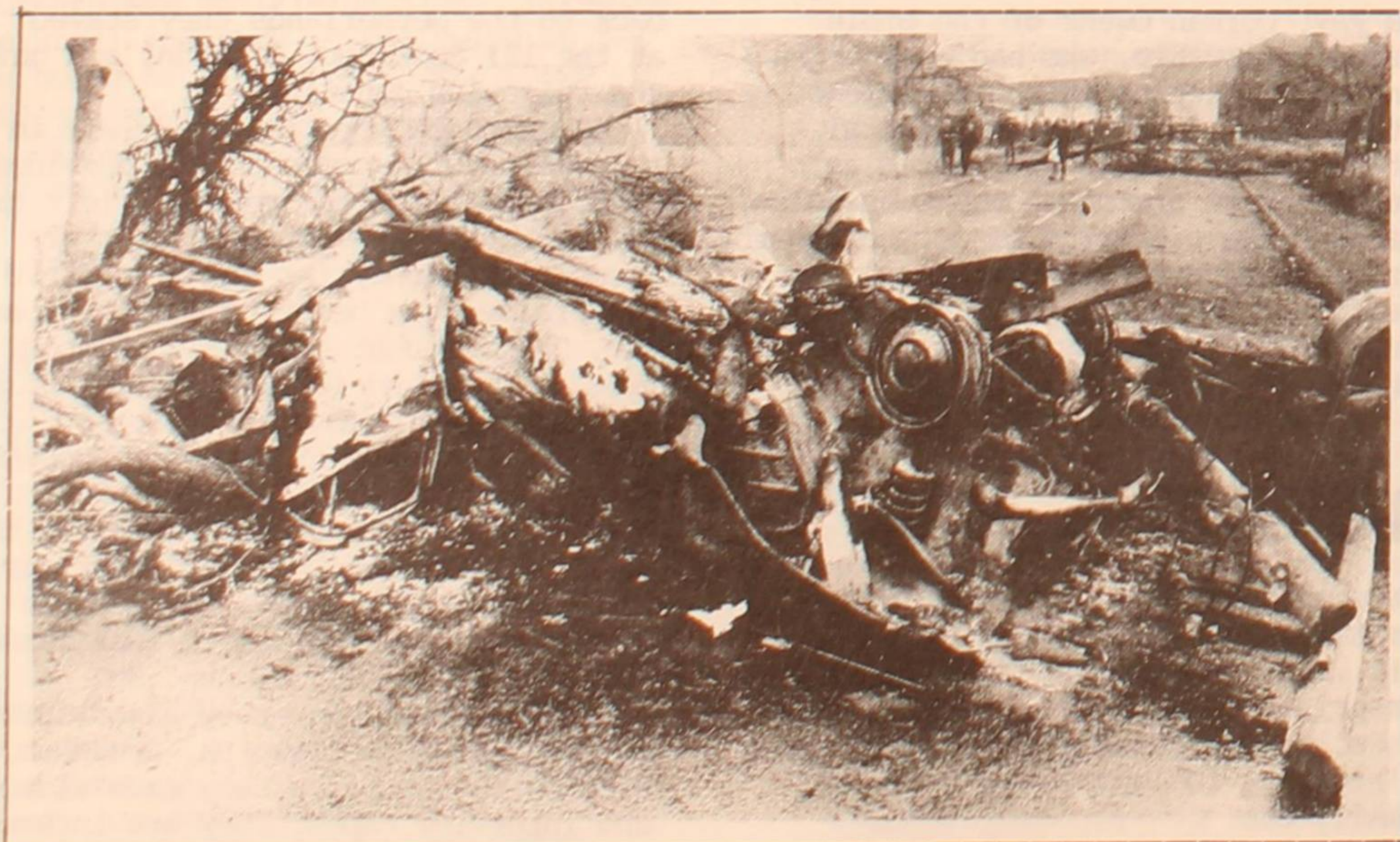
BISHOPS & THE PAWNS

The Anglican Bishops represent the most thoughtful section of the ruling class, outside of active party politics, and are well represented in the Establishment and among the Privy Council. They would not be discontented with actions of a Conservative Government if they did not see good reasons for disquiet. Why they are voicing concern and dismay over the Government's monetarist and repressive policies is because they see the signs of Civil War, as clearly as Black Flag has done.

The lowering of standards and the screwing down of income resulting from the monetarist policies have led the miners to prefer their dirty and dangerous jobs to the humiliation of doing nothing. Mrs Thatcher - the first Conservative Prime Minister for years to take the hard line class war approach to politics, utterly rejecting the compromise approach of her predecessors like Butler - would prefer to spend hundreds of millions on either police repression of the strike or on redundancy money and social security (which can always be reduced in real terms), rather than a smaller sum on keeping the mines going and stockpiling coal. This is a line that goes right through the present policy and she relies on the essential masochism of the people at large and the vast propaganda machine of the media to keep herself popular.

But this only makes the prospective Civil War more bitter, it does not make it less likely - and this is what the Bishops clearly see, especially in the clashes between striking and working miners (the vast majority of whom are not Tory supporters, but pawns in the Government's anti-trade union scenario). Mining is not the same as a vicars' tea party; it is a tough occupation and tensions rise high when people see some miners feeling their own mine is safe for the next thirty years so it doesn't matter, and other miners feeling pressurised economically into going back to work. Scars are left which certainly will not heal with a defeat of the strike, and only might heal in the event of an unconditional surrender of the Government with all lost pay paid - an unlikely occurrence.

The division of workers into two camps is the stuff of Civil War since it gives the ambitious sections of the ruling class the chance to recruit from among the workers, using them as pawns in the game. This is what the officer mentality sees as an opportunity, but the Bishops see it as a disaster, proclaiming that their mission is reconciliation. The Bishops may talk in professional terms of compassion, but what they see clearly is the established order breaking up - thus their concern.



WHELDALE COLLIERY ATTACK - see item above

MINERS UPDATE

MINERS UPDATE

MINERS UPDATE

Despite the statement by NUM General Secretary, Peter Heathfield, that there are unlikely to be power cuts this Winter, it is widely known that some power cuts already took place in November. St Albans suffered a 30 minute blackout on domestic supplies, as also did Llanwern Steel Plant. Power workers at W Thurrock power station have succeeded in closing down that plant altogether. Coal supplies at Fiddlers Ferry and Ferrybridge power stations are virtually out of all coal stocks (due to blacking by rail workers). Bold power station is also closed and Drax has suffered major structural damage due to poor coal substitutes. Other reports include a rumour of power cuts in Nottinghamshire (unconfirmed) and power losses by British Telecom (who had to switch to standby generators.) Perhaps Heathfield is 'playing his cards close to his chest' and lulling the government into a false sense of security.

A bank manager at the Scottish town of Lochgelly acted overzealously when he froze the funds of the local NUM account after news of the sequestration order was announced, even though the bank had not been requested by Price Waterhouse to do anything. This over-zealousness was promptly dealt with when a pot of brake fluid was poured over his brand new car.

SOURCE: Clydeside A's

Mining community women have set up their own national organisation, the National Womens Organisation. The NWO - a class based organisation - will aim to work for total victory for the mining communities in its present struggle against pit closures, to consolidate and strengthen the womens groups that have grown out of the strike, and to build a permanent support network within the mining communities to organise not just on industrial issues but on all issues that affect the mining communities.

Bail conditions of a further 4 months have been imposed upon the 12 defendants who occupied the Price Waterhouse offices in Glasgow. The twelve - all Clydeside anarchists - are charged with 'breach of the peace' and 'malicious mischief'. The trial date is set for April 15, making the bail period (with the usual conditions) a staggering 7½ months.

Scabs broke into the Cannock Unemployed Workers Centre in Littlebrook and destroyed Xmas gifts for the children of striking Staffordshire miners.

The transportation of coal from Bilston Glen is being stepped up. Local private contractors, such as Bruce, Lindsey, Waldie of Haymarket, Edinburgh, are being used in conjunction with NUM scabs. Local strikers have called for mass picketing, but the Scottish NUM leadership has ignored this request. Many strikers are now hoping that mass physical support can be organised at grassroots level, via the Support Groups

SOURCE: Counter Information

Scab miner, Barry Newton, who received widespread media publicity when he appeared on TV with acid burns on his face, alleging assault by pickets, is now facing a possible charge of wasting police time. Apparently he perpetrated the act himself in order to make himself famous!

Around 60 schools have closed down in the Ayrshire region alone due to lack of coal for heating. In one school at Lasswade, janitors refused to accept scab coal from Bilston Glen; they were subsequently suspended and the teachers came out in solidarity. Janitors at the local Further Education College also refused to accept scab coal, but unfortunately no other janitors in other educational establishments followed suit.



There have been reports from the picket line at Killoch (South Ayrshire) that scabs have signed a two year no-strike agreement.

The arrest of a Felixstowe trade unionist who witnessed a police assault on a woman bystander in a mining village, led to wildcat strike action in the port, causing all ferry services to be cancelled. Dave Ganders, an NUS Secretary for Felixstowe Port Authority, witnessed the incident while making his weekly visit, on behalf of his fellow trade unionists on the SS Viking Viscount, to the Derbyshire mining community of Brimpton to hand over their regular donation of £1000 to the Support Group. When news of his arrest was made known NUS members in Felixstowe refused to set sail, leading to the ships owners, Townsend Thorenson to plead with the police to let him go in order to prevent the industrial action from widening.

David Hamilton, Chairman of the Dal-kieth central strike committee, has been cleared of assaulting a scab. He spent, however, a total of two months in custody awaiting the trial in that he was already on bail conditions (involving an earlier charge of breach of the peace) when arrested again.

Street cleaner Ernest Cusworth, aged 54, was set upon by two riot police while he was on his way to work. He had just got outside his house, in the village of Brampton near Cortonwood, when the two PC's yanked over the garden gate and began to kick him. He was then arrested and held in custody but not charged. He was later hospitalised and is now on tranquilisers. The attack by these thugs left him with a broken collar bone.

Gerald Hartup, the National Organiser for the Freedom Association - exposed recently in a front page write-up in Black Flag on its secret backing of the scab miners anti-strike moves - is now known to have been travelling around the Notts coalfield only days before 'Silver Birch', the scab facilitator, issued his first publicity statement. Hartup, apparently was 'assessing' the situation and offering advice.

Sir Hector Laing (Chairman of United Biscuits and a director of Aims of Industry and the Economic League - two anti-trade union employers' organisations) was responsible for the fund-raising - via his contacts in British business - of £30,000 donated to the 'Miners Ballot Fund'. The Fund helps to finance the legal costs of scabs Ken Foulstone and Bob Taylor (an ex-soldier) who had the strike declared illegal in the courts. The Miners Ballot Fund is handled by solicitors Hodgkinson and Tallent (who have previously been featured in a Black Flag expose on the Freedom Association) of Newark. H & T includes solicitor Jeremy Ware (Chairman of the Grantham Conservative Association), David Payne (former Tory Mayor of Newark Council and current leader of the Tory Group on Newark Council).

There is clear evidence to show that whatever the outcome of the Miners Strike the police intend to continue their occupation of the mining communities to take retribution on pickets and their families and to reward scabs by providing ongoing protection. Such protection will obviously not go on forever, although the main objective is to continue to use the areas provoked into civil war as training areas for the newly developed National Riot Force.

Just as the North of Ireland has served its purpose for training of troops in counter-insurgency warfare, so the mining communities have been used to perfect the policing of industrial and community resistance. The police will need to be drawn out of their 'occupied' areas, just as the only way troops will ever leave the Six Counties is when they are given different priorities, which in turn could lead to disaffection. Even with rearguard support, a resistance movement would only stand any chance of combatting the professionalism of the combined Security Services, if such resistance included widespread rank and file industrial action.

According to the Police Review, police on anti-picket duty have been warned to beware of pickets stealing police radios - apparently it is thought that the 'NUM has a bounty on them'. PC's have also been advised to wear their truncheon straps inside their pockets as some pickets supposedly have a tendency to whip them out and use them on their owner. In the same article it's stated that Met. police are on strict orders not to go out on the streets alone - especially at night - in case of retribution attacks.

Continued overleaf...

MINERS UPDATE

Since March scab coal has been coming through Exmouth and Teignmouth docks. Currently there is around 2000 tonnes of coal on the dockside and lorries are leaving at a rate of two a minute. Local Labour Party hacks, lefties and trade union bureaucrats have kept very quiet about it all, fearing that they may have to get involved if word gets out as to what is happening. T & G members have also been quite happy to scab. The Teignmouth dockers began scabbing first, followed by dockers at Exmouth. The local T & G made an agreement with the NUM back in May when mass picketing was threatened - but this was later broken. The two remaining NUM pickets believe that the local T & G leaders have come to some sort of 'unofficial' deal with the private dock owners.

One of the private dock owners - Carter, based in Exmouth - also owns half the property in the area and a haulage firm that is helping to transport scab coal. This firm is Greendales, while another scab haulage company prominent in the area, is P & M of Crediton. Most of the coal arriving at Exmouth and Teignmouth is from Poland (via Rotterdam) and South Africa. Some of the coal is being stockpiled at Carters farm at Woodbury, before distribution.

Opposition to the scabbing is virtually zero. Some of the Teignmouth coal is being directed to the power stations, as well as steel works in South Wales. In the meantime it is patently clear that the NUM need as much help as possible to stop further imports from getting in these two ports. As for Mr Carter...

SOURCE: Exeter Anarchists

The High Court has ordered that the funds of the students union of the North London Polytechnic be handed over to an official Receiver because the union attempted to pay £5000 to the Miners Relief Fund and £5000 to the Ethiopian Famine Appeal. The lesson to be learnt here is that students should devise their own separate funds, outside of NUS control, if such Court orders are to be avoided in the future.

Over 40 drivers have been suspended by Texaco after they voted not to cross NUM picket lines at power stations along the Thames. The drivers are all based at Dagenham, Essex.

The McGibbons family, who have been active as scab organisers (not only in the Kent coalfield, but also - a few years back - in the car industry) are selling their £70,000 house and emigrating to Australia (now that they've tried - and failed - to stir up an anti-union rebellion.) Irene McGibbon was the woman who appeared at the Tory Party Conference on behalf of the Miners Wives - Back to Work Movement (sic). Both are known to have close contacts with the Freedom Association. They, presumably, think they will be safe from retribution on the other side of the world. But hopefully, away from their British police protection, they may find a few angry comrades and trade unionists who will give them a hard time.

More scab firms - this time the Doncaster area: Kennings Van Hire, Salford Van Hire.

A local Miners Support Group has occupied the FNV (Dutch TUC) Transport Board office in the Netherlands over their intransigence in formulating a policy for dealing with scab coal destined for Britain. The Dutch trade union leadership has refused to boycott Polish coal unless they are specifically requested by the TUC. They have refused to obey requests by the NUM on the grounds that the NUM has gone it alone during the strike. It seems that solidarity between the bureaucrats is stronger than that at grassroots! Latest news, however, is that the TUC are 'considering' putting pressure on the FNV, who in turn are being pressurised by local rank and file support groups.

In North Staffordshire mining families transported as a result of an earlier generation of pit closures in the North-East have been doubly penalised. Over the past twenty years three pits in Stoke-on-Trent have been closed down and so Jordies who emigrated down either faced forced retirement or being moved to yet another mine (15 miles from where they live). One of the mines closed down - Whitfield Colliery - was turned into a mining museum by the NCB - at great cost, apparently a lot more than it would have cost to have kept the pit open. Undaunted local pickets have set up a picket line at the 'museum' entrance and have prevented 'tourists' from getting in. The local miners support group at nearby Biddulph are desperate for financial help - many North Staffs miners never came out on strike but have refused to collaborate with the Notts scabs or the various legal actions - the strikers meanwhile are in a minority and are out of the public eye. Like the minority Notts strikers they need far more mutual aid, perhaps, than their comrades in the more solid areas.

There is a rumour going round that a campaign to incite soldiers not to take part in strikebreaking activities (especially the movement of scab coal) is underway. Information is coming through

that army activity in preparation for the movement of strike-bound coal in the Durham area is taking place. If the alleged disaffection posters have not yet come your way, then they can always be substituted by a home-made variety. Remember, though, mere possession of disaffection material can involve stiff sentences (eg 2 years or so).

Lord Taylor (of Taylor-Woodrow PLC and the Economic League) is negotiating the purchase of two CEBG power stations (Plymouth B plus one other unnamed). Taylor - who is a great believer in no-strike agreements - already owns a huge chunk of the privatised open-cast mines: hence if the purchase went through he would be in a position to fuel his own coal-fired stations. EETPU leaders, no doubt, would go along with all this, providing it fits in with their 'I'm all right, Jack' philosophy and their rewards for their members were sufficiently reasonable whether to the detriment of others or not.

The Territorial Army is increasing its recruiting activities in South Yorkshire. Recently ads have appeared in local papers inviting local citizens to join the Home Service Force. This force is the much smaller version of the Defence Begins At Home brigade earlier featured in a Black Flag expose. The HSF will specialise in providing rear-guard support against 'subversives' and revolutionaries in times of crisis. Recruitment is limited to loyalists only, of course, with special preference given to ex-Service men, etc.

The three Derbyshire scabs who applied to the High Court restraining the NUM from suspending any Derbyshire miner who continued to strikebreak engaged Nicholas Lyell to represent them. Lyell is none other than the Tory MP for mid Bedfordshire, Private Secretary to Sir Michael Havers (the Attorney-General) and Vice-Chairman of the Society of Conservative Lawyers. Who else?

the cutting below is taken from the latest issue of Monochrome. They assure us that they are able to furnish us with proof that the statement has not been faked by an overzealous contributor and that they have documentary evidence to establish that the cop is bone fide.

PICKET COP SPEAKS OUT

The following letter was written by an experienced officer in the Metropolitan Police.

Dear Sir,

I can't give you my name, but the following might be of interest to you in your work. I am a P.C. in the Metropolitan Police. Since March I've been away on PSUs (Police Support Units) to the Midlands and to Kent, staying at military bases and police HQs for a week or so at a time.

There's been a bad breakdown of discipline by some of our serials. These are examples of some of the things that have happened.

1. The mining village of Kersley, Warwickshire. May: 3 of our men got caught shoplifting in uniform in a village shop, 2 got sent home.

2. There's been a lot of petty thieving - radios, razors, cameras, video films. This caused a lot of bad feeling with the army because they had to search some of their men on their way to N. Ireland.

3. TADAs, Military & civilian vehicles have been taken without consent by PCs. 3 blokes got a military lorry started & went joyriding in it. Quite a lot of civilian cars have been taken & dumped to get back to the barracks late at night from local pubs & clubs.

4. Some of our blokes have gone berserk drinking & gambling away from home; it's been quite normal to spend £80 a week on booze, so you can tell what state a lot of people have been in most of the time. Card-games are usually for a pot of £30 plus.

5. There were 2 cases of homosexuality in Warwickshire in May; a sergeant and a P.C. got caught in the showers, committing buggery. Another 2 men got caught making love in the same sleeping bag.

6. There was so much trouble in Warwickshire that the barracks commander wanted to send all our serials home (about 170 men). In the end about 10 got

sent home.

7. Outside Coventry, we were using Conservative Party clubs as temporary police stations. It's as if the Met. Police was just being used as part of the Tory Party.

8. Up in Derbyshire, we were billeted at the Derby Police HQ but there was so much trouble again, like I've described, that we aren't welcome in Derbyshire any more. We aren't welcome to use the HQ and won't be sent to Derbyshire again.

9. There's been a lot of fights between our men. Some charges for assault have been brought, including one for GBH.

10. They were trying to run things on military lines, getting us marching about saluting all the time. We were sleeping in places like aircraft hangers, while our sergeants & inspectors were put in officers messes with batmen. Our inspector got a bollocking for not putting his shoes out to be shone of a night.

11. There's been a lot of bent things going on at the picket lines themselves. We got told to make a lot of arrests when we first arrived at a place "to get on top of things". We arrived at one pit and nothing happened the first half hour. The superintendent got angry when he found out there'd been no arrests yet, so in the next half hour we made 15 arrests. Some miners got arrested and in the confusion nobody knew the end, they asked for volunteers to say they'd arrested them, but the officers who did hadn't been involved in the arrests at all. One of the miners who got arrested was given water from a lavatory pan to drink by a sergeant.

12. The reason Arthur Scargill got hit over the head at Oreave

was that all the PC's were trying to get his baseball cap as a trophy. There was a "bounty" of a £100 ready for anyone who got it.

13. In Kent, there was the same trouble we had in Derby & Warwick. We're not welcome in Kent anymore either. Their chief constable has said he won't have us there any more. In Kent, we were using the old Ramsgate hoverport for meals and a control centre. Some of our P.C.s dug up the farmer's field & stole 3 rows of potatoes and some vegetables. That happened up north as well, but it got blamed on striking miners.

14. There's been some talk about using water cannon & plastic bullets, I know there's been some training going on recently. The Met has got 2 new water cannon, a Leyland and a Volvo. I've seen these: one of them was turned on a 50-gallon oil drum full of water. It lifted it up and sent it backwards for about 50 yards.

15. Special Branch have been around the pits a lot. They were under cover at a miners welfare club outside Coventry but I don't know what they were doing there. The Kent Police was using a TV unit in plain clothes to film miners. The miners let them do it because they were posing as an independent TV company making a film. The man in charge had a strong American accent, so they believed it was a foreign TV company.

I've been on a lot of strikes and marches over the last few years, but this is the most political one I've ever known. Some of our P.C.s who were in the army say it's been just like N. Ireland. This is all genuine. What's been going on needs to be sorted out. Things have got well out of hand lately. Sorry I can't give my name, but I've got my family to think about.

MACGREGOR CONNECTION

AS Chairman of the AMAX Corporation MacGregor got to know a lot about forced resettlement methods and community exploitation. Besides its US concerns, AMAX owned mining set-ups in Australia, involving the use of massive police numbers to get rid of Aborigines from their 'homelands' where the iron-ore was lodged. Needless to say Amax got its way and after the resettlement the Aborigines' land was totally carved up out of all recognition.

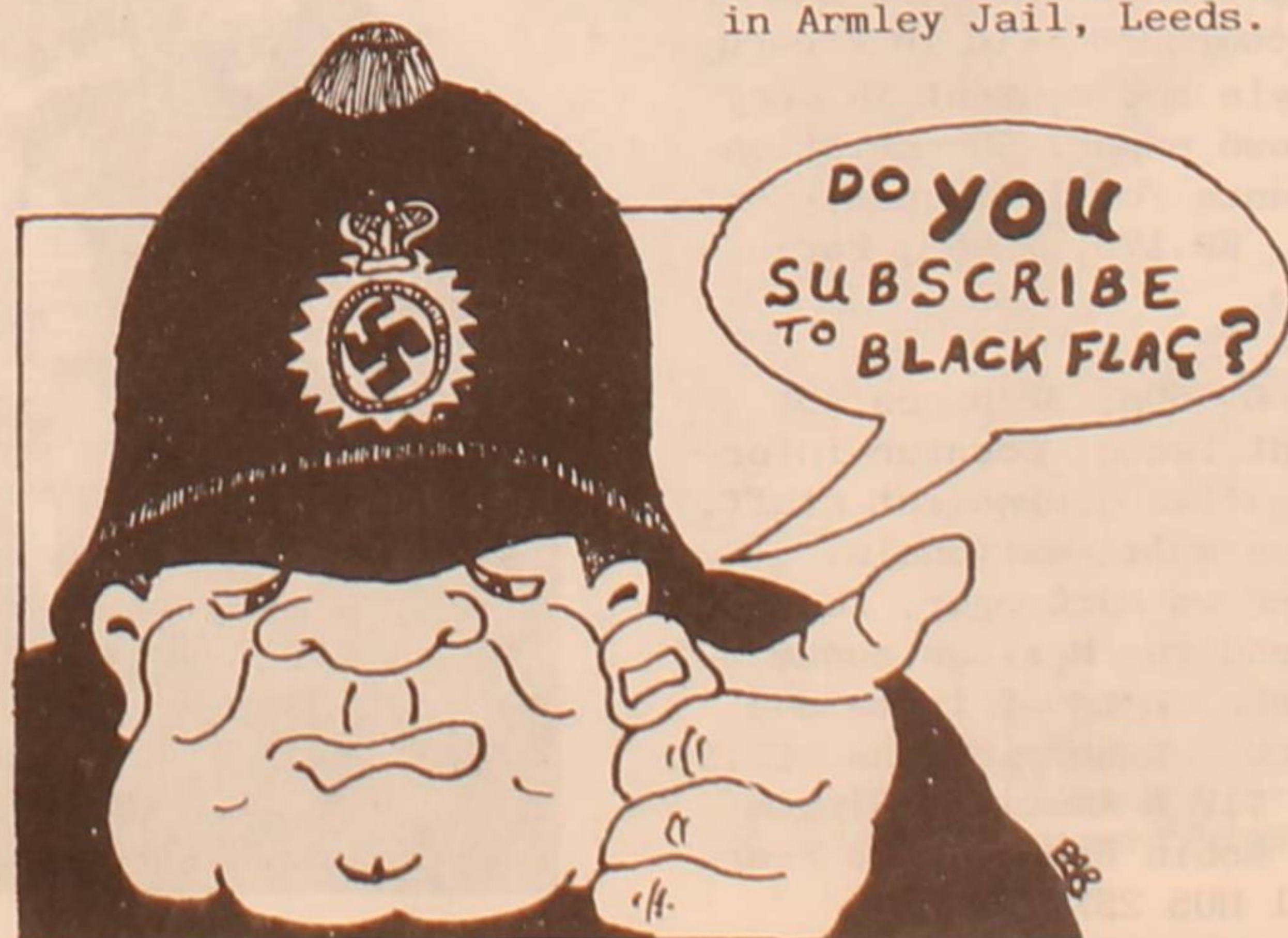
AMAX also had - and still has - mining concerns in South Africa and Namibia. In addition AMAX has connections with the Oppenheimer empire of Chartered Consolidated and Anglo-American.

MacGregor himself is director of several companies in addition to being NCB Chairman. One directorship he holds is on the Brunswick Corporation, which manufactures a variety of products including defence equipment. He is also a director of LTV (another US Defence Department supplier). Atlantic Assets - another company of which MacGregor is a director - is a majority shareholder of a UK company, United Scientific Holdings, a firm specialising in the manufacture of armaments and riot-control vehicles. USH is also the parent company of Alvis Ltd, another UK armoured vehicles manufacturer. The current chairman of USH was appointed as an unpaid advisor to Michael Heseltine, the government Defence Minister, for a six month stretch.

Another interesting peice of background history is that Midland Bank is a major shareholder of SOCAL, which in turn is a major shareholder of AMAX. Sir John Cuckney, a Midland Bank director, was also a director of Lazards, MacGregor old employers. Midland is also the NUM's bank - the bank that was so willing to comply with the sequestration order. Cuckney is presently chairman of the International Military Services, 'the governments undercover arms sales organisation', representing all sales for the Royal Ordnance Factories overseas market.

(The above is an edited version of a longer, well documented, piece of research in the latest issue of the Lobster - see PUBLICATIONS).

A record has been made by a group called The Enemy Within. The title of the main track is called Strike. All proceeds from the sale of the record are to be donated to the Miners Solidarity Fund. The Enemy Within recognise that the record will get no promotions within the Media and no airplay. Promotion will therefore be by word of mouth. The record is on the Rough Trade label in both 7" and 12" versions. Get your local record store to order copies.



SOUTH WALES SYNDICALISTS

Some miners in South Wales are currently circulating a leaflet arguing the case for rank and file syndicalist type action. They urge that strike committees should include militants from all sections of the local community and that it was a mistake not to adopt offensive actions earlier. Too much emphasis on support work and not enough on actual mass picketing is another criticism that is raised against current strategy. 'We as grass roots members need to take control of the strike', the union bureaucrats have been 'short-sighted', mistakenly concentrating on conducting 'negotiating with leaders of other unions in talks where promises of support come cheap'. The leadership is accused of using the rank and file as 'picket fodder'. The leaflet concludes that the strike should be run directly at rank and file level.

Coming from the most solid striking area, this initiative is yet to be realised. More than any other mining area South Wales can justifiably boast that the Miners Lodges are the centres of community life, organising local activity in the class interest. This syndicalist approach is part and parcel of the whole Welsh mining tradition and is still very much alive.

FITZWILLIAM 9

Back in July in the village of Fitzwilliam, near Pontefract, around 200 locals demonstrated at the local police station to protest at the harassment of a local picket organiser, Brendan Conway. Despite an agreement by Brendan that he would present himself to the police for questioning the police pre-empted the situation by storming the local pub and daring those inside to fight back. Over 50 riot cops waded in and beat up everyone in sight. The villagers were herded outside and the police made a grab for Conway, who they then handcuffed, with another local, to a lamp post in front of the crowd so as to prevent them from throwing bricks. Meanwhile many locals were beaten senseless, one person (who came to cool things down) was beaten with a truncheon 15 times. Conway's woman friend was also beaten when she went to his rescue.

Altogether nine people were arrested. Lord Gifford, the defence lawyer, stated in court that the police attack, led by C.I. Reece, was nothing more than a punitive expedition and that the whole incident was provoked.

The verdicts - predictably - came down in favour of the police. Conway got a suspended sentence, as did two others. Three defendants are still to be charged and two were acquitted. However Peter Hurst (an unemployed builder) was made the fall guy and got 6 months imprisonment for alleged assault. Hurst is now in Armley Jail, Leeds.

WE'RE IN HERE FOR YOU

FREE ALL CLASS WAR



PRISONERS NOW

YOU'RE OUT THERE FOR US



AIMS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT

- (1) The Direct Action Movement is a working class organisation.
- (2) Our aim is the creation of a free and classless society.
- (3) We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery in all their forms and replace them by self-managed production for need not profit.
- (4) In order to bring about the new social order, the workers must take over the means of production and distribution. We are the sworn enemies of those who would take over on behalf of the workers.
- (5) We believe that the only way for the working class to achieve this is for independent organisation in the workplace and community and federation with others in the same industry and locality, independent of, and opposed to all political parties and trade union bureaucracies. All such workers organisations must be controlled by workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers movement. Any and all delegates of such workers organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers.
- (6) We are opposed to all States and State institutions. The working class has no country. The class struggle is worldwide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all States do not exist to protect the workers of those States, they exist only as the repressive arm of the ruling class.
- (7) We oppose racism, sexism, militarism and all attitudes and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the right of all people everywhere to control their own lives and the environment.
- (8) The Direct Action Movement is a federation of groups and individuals who believe in the principles of anarcho-syndicalism; a system where the workers alone control industry and the community without the dictates of politicians, bureaucrats, bosses and so-called experts.

I would like to know more about the DAM/IWA. Please send more information. I enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
POSTCODE.....
OCCUPATION.....
TRADE UNION.....

Cut out and send to:
DAM/IWA, c/o 223 Greenwood Road, Benchill, MANCHESTER M22 7HB.

MURRAYS

As mentioned in our last issue the Murrays campaign for conjugal rights is attempting to get support from a number of quarters - theological, medical, legal, etc. The new solicitors to the case cannot take over until the bills due to the old solicitors are fully paid. These ammount to around £5000. But this could, perhaps, go unpaid as the old solicitors work on the case was not much and their files could arguably be abandoned. MacBride is still interested in representing the Murrays and has declared that all his costs can be held over until a suitable point in time. The old solicitors may even be persuaded to postpone their costs too.

What all this means is that the December deadline for the fundraising appeal is now no longer applicable. The hearing date is also unclear. Therefore the Appeal continues: please continue to send what you can. Remember that if the hearing goes in their favour the implications all round would be substantial. Marie would firstly have the opportunity of trying to conceive and if she were to give birth then her sentence may well be reduced. Secondly the verdict could, in theory, affect thousands of other prisoners throughout Europe, who would be able to use this precedent as a lever to change conditions. The importance of this campaign should therefore not be underestimated.

The Committee for Prisoners Conjugal Rights (based in Dublin) has directly (and via the Black Cross and Just Books in Belfast) made appeals to libertarian and prisoners organisations in many countries. We ourselves know of similar appeals in Greece, Canada, France, Spain and Italy. All comrades have been asked to lend their support. In the UK we know that a group in Bristol are hoping to organise a fund-raising benefit. In Liverpool, one such benefit was held recently and in Warwick a talk was given on the Murrays and conjugal rights generally by a relative of Noel Murray. We hope that more comrades will become more directly involved in helping to raise funds and spread information about the campaign. At some time in the near future we will be published a more detailed statement as to the funds sent in to the Black Cross so far. In the meantime, please do what you can.

RIOT POLICE CENTRE

In our last issue we gave details of the Met. Police riot-training and holding centre in Greenwich, together with information about the two similar centres elsewhere in London. The following additional facts have also come to light. The report we referred to, incidentally, is now on sale in left bookshops.

1. The Greenwich centre is capable of holding up to 1000 cops at any one moment in time.

2. In addition the Met have a list of other sites and buildings (eg warehouses) to serve as holding centres should the need arise.

3. The Greenwich centre was used for the October '82 eviction/demolition operation on Brixton's Front Line, as well as All Saints Road (Notting Hill) incident when riot police raided the Mangrove Club after petrol bombs were allegedly found.

4. The Hounslow centre was used to send 500 cops to the December '83 siege of Greenham Common. Hounslow is also used to train Met police in anti-terrorist operations, specifically siege conditions.

5. Altogether there are 72 DSU (District Support Units) in the London area, each with 23 officers (ie, a total of around 1656 personnel). DSU's are also more commonly known as snatch squads. An average of 500 DSU officers 'graduate' in riot training at each of the holding centres each and every year, as do a further 300 reserve officers. In addition to the regular training sessions each DSU officer during their three month stretch on DSU duty attends two sessions of two-day training at the holding centre.

6. DSU sessions are basic to all new recruits.

7. Over a two year period around 127,000 police officers were accommodated at all three holding centres.

8. The holding centres provide compulsory riot control sessions for all police students at the Bramshill Police Staff College as well as the Hendon Police School.

9. Every Chief Inspector throughout the UK is expected to attend select courses at either Greenwich or Hendon each year as part of ongoing specialist training.

TROT BLACKED

The all-time classic story of the Labour-controlled council that listened sympathetically, in pre-War days, to the complaint that some streets were so slummy that people giving them as their addresses couldn't get jobs - so they changed the name of the streets - may be bettered by some of the new style 'socialist republics'. Faced with race hostility engendered out of slum conditions, they appoint race relations advisers and community relations officers, as if morons who go chucking stones at local Blacks' houses will go first and ask the adviser if it's all a good idea.

Are these sinecures created to help the Black community? In Liverpool recently the tapeworm tendency (trot faction in the Labour Party) got one of their supporters up from London, Samson Bond, to take the newly created job. Local Blacks shouted 'scum' and 'traitor' and 'Uncle Tom' at him, while he was protected by a squad of police. They recognised clearly that a trot might be Black but that wouldn't make him a representative of the Black community.

He was chased by demonstrators from the meeting, torn away from the police escort and jostled, before he finally managed to break away. Councillors have been subject to extraordinary pressure from the Black community and the local NALGO branch won't work with 4th International cadre, Bond. As an 'adviser' in public relations, now's his chance to start 'advising'...or better, taking advice and giving up his job.

FERRETING

A correspondent has asked whether individuals, in the movement, suspected of being infiltrators on behalf of the state, etc, put the rest of us at risk even when they have been exposed. Also whether those who still associate with such a person should also be suspect.

On the whole we can only be at risk if we don't know what is going on. After an expose the mole is disarmed and rendered no longer a threat. In that sense association is relatively harmless, albeit stupid. With the Jones case (see BF no. 122) we have said all that we know to date; anything more will need to come from other sources.

FEEDBACK

STREATHAM ACTION GROUP

Streatham Action Group is a group of anarchists, anti-militarists and non-party socialists who are committed to direct action. Our activities so far have ranged from participation in mass events such as 'Stop the City', Reclaim Chilwell and the blockade of Lancaster House, to smaller actions like the recent incursions into Upper Heyford USAF base. We were instrumental in initiating the occupation of the CEGB in support of the miners this July, and have been making regular collections for the miners since the strike began. We believe in the mass transformation of society by the active participation of all people.

We can be contacted by writing to: Streatham Action Group, c/o 121 Bookshop, 121 Railton Road, London SE24, England.

"If somebody calls me Paki, I go to them and kick them in the teeth. I don't often get called names, but when I do I get really angry and hit them. There are some English people in our country and we don't go round calling them names."

Ayesha Ahmad, aged 14.

L'Entr'Aide (Mutual Aid) is a new newspaper published by the Collectif Anarchiste de Contre-information Sociale et de Solidarite in Paris. Issue 3 contains letter from Orazio Valastro and information on comrades held in French prisons. The style and content is very similar to our own paper. Subscription rates are 50 Francs for 10 issues, Contact: JC Canonne, BP 175, 75963, Paris Cedex 20, France.

Lobster, no. 6. 60p, 32 pages A5. Another excellent issue. Counter-information, investigative journalist stuff. Specially good on multi-nationals. Includes articles on MacGregor, Lee Harvey Oswald (and the Mexican connection), the KGB, etc. Lots of facts and original research. Subscriptions: £3.50 for UK/Ireland, \$12 N America. Single issue 75p. From Robin Ramsay, 17c Pearson Avenue, Hull HU5 2SX, UK.

**self -
defence: not a
sport, a
necessity.**



CAR BUGS?

Hong Kong is to become the guinea pig for a new device that will enable the police to monitor the movements of any motorist wherever they are. The device is known as the 'electronic number plate' and is to be fixed to the rear of number plates on all vehicles on Hong Kong. Ostensibly the device, which transmits a signal to a electronic loop, embedded at regular intervals underneath the road, is to help alleviate the frightening traffic problems so characteristic of Hong Kong. But, of course, there is nothing to stop the authorities from using the device for other reasons, like tracking down wanted persons, or monitoring the movements of 'subversives', etc.

Within the next three years every vehicle in the colony is expected to have this device installed. No doubt if the experiment proves successful it will be used in other parts of the world. Already Singapore has begun to install the system and other countries are interested in purchase. The device and the 'interrogation' loop (capable of retrieving vehicle registration numbers, and other data) is manufact-

ured by Transpotech Ltd, a British company and subsidiary of the British Technology Group.

SOURCE: AANN

SPARRING FOR LUCK

Subtitled an 'East End Life', this book, by Stephen 'Johnny' Hicks, is published by Thap Publishing, priced £1.95.

Excellent little autobiographies are published locally nowadays about working class life as it is remembered by old-timers. This is from a boxer-poet who built a career in the fight game in the East End of the 20's and 30's; later (having lost an eye) pushing a living with chronic bouts of unemployment. Always a gallant struggler, he was a keen union militant and, incidentally - though he doesn't mention it in his book - he did lots of work (voluntary work) in the youth clubs and schools helping to train young boxers around London and wake up a few lads to the facts of class struggle. Fifty years ago I was one of them and still proud of it.

A. M.

CONNED?

Does The Guardian realise that an article it once carried is now appearing in Nationalism Today, claimed as it's own?

The article in question appeared several months back not long after the commencement of the Miners Strike and was entitled, 'Towards the Police State'. It filled nearly half a page of space on the Agenda page. The article was well written - outstandingly so for a national daily.

It was quite a surprise, therefore, to see the exact same article, looking remarkably out of place, within the pages of an National Front publication, especially as it was signed by a 'Michelle Lawrence' who, according to the anti-fascist magazine Searchlight (the paper with friends in 'high places') is really Michelle Wiltshire, wife of Adrian Wiltshire, an NF officer.

Wiltshire's name should be familiar with our readers - he's one the organisers who tried to con the National Union of Miners (together with the National Council of Civil Liberties) into attending a public meeting set up by the bogus 'Miners Solidarity Campaign' (a fascist front). Wiltshire also has dual membership of the National Action Party - the group, headed by Ealing based Eddie Morrison (ex Leeds head of the BNP, a BM thug and organiser of a local vigilante group, the 'White Defence Association'), that has recently made crude overtures to the anarchist movement by way of plagiarising class struggle type articles. The Wiltshire's, who reside in leafy Chingford, were nearly successful at conning the GLC into giving them a grant for a 'self-help' employment scheme for radical nationalists (ie, fascists).

The question is did Michelle plagiarise the article and con the NF that the article was hers, or did she write it in the first place leaving The Guardian, presumably, a bit red-faced, when it finds out that by not checking their sources, they have been providing space for the rantings - albeit plausible ones (as befits any decent plagiarist) - of a nazi?

THE RINGERS

'Why should women contribute to or read anarchist magazines such as Black Flag or Anarchy when they are so male orientated? Freedom, Green Anarchist and Greenline are more accessible, and Peace News is best, but we have a long way to go to make a synthesis of Feminism', writes 'Dave at Stratford-on-Avon in the new, so-called, Green Anarchist.

Probably he never reads Black Flag or Anarchy but like many 'pacifists' assumes they are 'violent' and that it follows, therefore, that the dear ladies could never be involved...His patronising view that women could not be interested in, let alone write on, such matters as social revolution, miner's struggles, strikes, international news, anti-porn actions in Black Flag, or investigative journalism in Anarchy, underlines that he has a long way to go to make an understanding of Feminism or Anarchism.

Meantime the typesetter responsible for the ghastly misprint in our issue that reviewed the Green Anarchist as 'this loony rubbish is a portrayal of anarchism' (should have been betrayal) has been duly kneecapped.



LEFT UNDERGROUND OUTFLANKS NATO

Within the last month or so various armed struggle resistance groups - mostly Marxists - have undertaken attacks directed against State and military targets - mostly NATO.

These attacks have taken place across Western Europe, notably in Germany, Belgium, France and Portugal.

In Germany the several attacks by the RAF (Red Army Fraction) coincided with a fast-to-the-death hunger strike by 14 RAF prisoners. The 14 are split between four different prisons. Two of those taking part in the hunger strike include Christian Klar and Brigitte Mohnhaupt. Regular Black Flag readers will remember that Mohnhaupt has been associated with the RAF since the early '70's (after serving five years of a ten year sentence, she went underground in '77 and has since been tried for her alleged part in the attempted rocket attack on Federal Prosecutor Buback, participation in the killing of industrialist Jurgen Ponto and the kidnapping and execution of Hans Martin Schleyer.) As for Klar, he was tried for the Buback and Schleyer killings, as well as a bomb attack in '79 on General Haig and other anti-militarist attacks at Ramstein and Kroesen. Both trials are still in progress, although adjourned. They are being held within the top security prison of Stammheim itself. The other prisoners who are taking part in the strike - now in its fourth week (as we go to press we have no reports of the strike being called off) - are incarcerated in prisons in Cologne, Frankfurt and Bavaria.

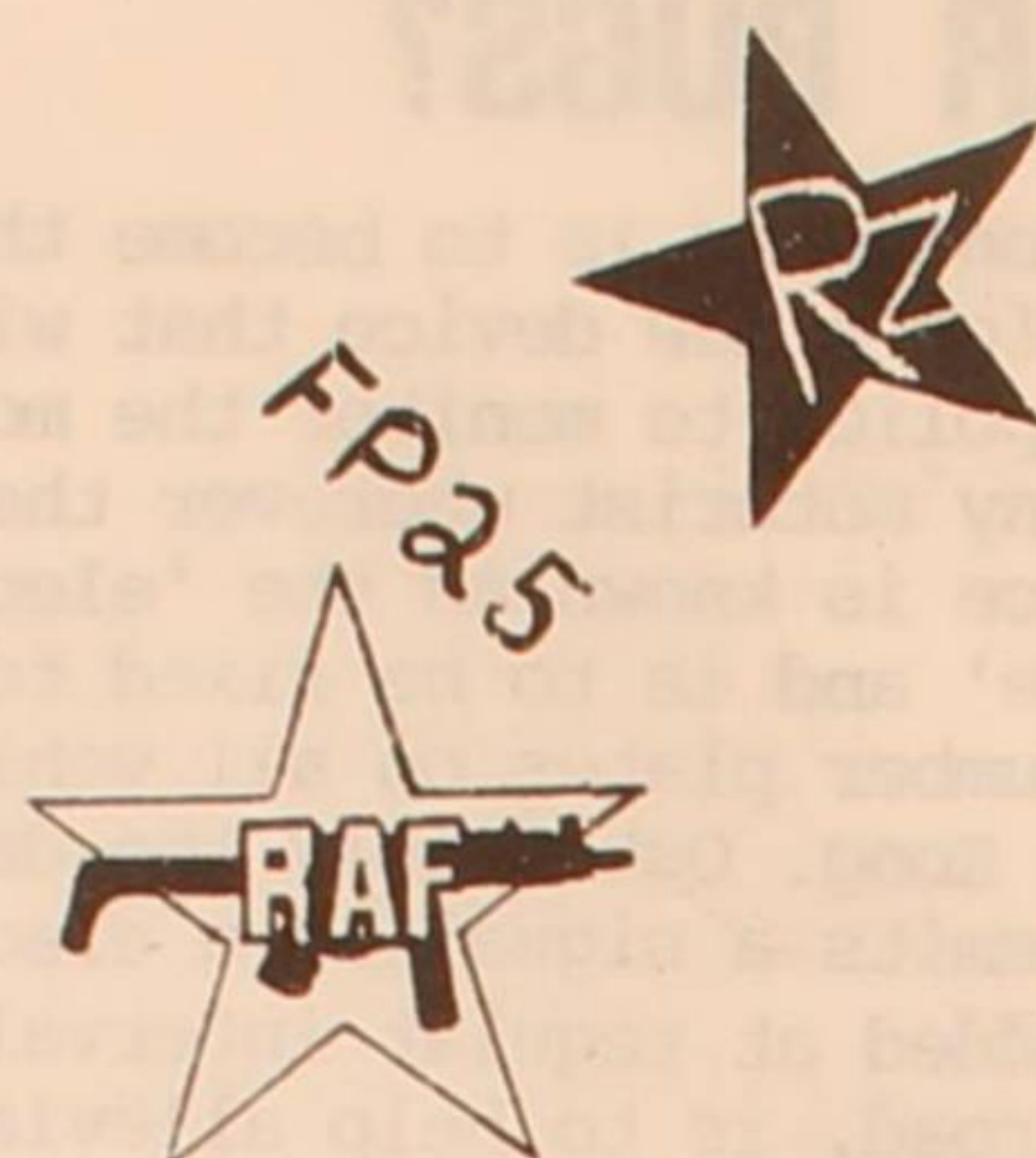
Since the commencement of the strike there has been an attempted car bombing at a NATO officers' training school in Oberammergau. The German authorities put out a statement blaming the 'Baader-Meinhof' group (ie, the RAF) because of the hunger strike. The statement also referred to an apparent increase in RAF membership and the recent acquisition of extra arms. The car bomb itself consisted of 55lb's of explosives inside a plastic pipe in the boot, with an additional 2½ litres of bottled liquid gas. The person planting the device gained access to the school (specialising in weapons training and nuclear warfare) with the aid of false i/d and a stolen uniform. The authorities were expecting a raid on the base by the RAF after finding a sketched plan of it in the possession of six RAF suspects arrested

in Frankfurt last July.

Other alleged RAF attacks since the Oberammergau attempted car bombing includes incidents at Dusseldorf, Wiesbaden and Frankfurt. So far we have received no report of the Frankfurt attack - in which two US army lorries were firebombed and completely incinerated being claimed by any group. The Wiesbaden raid on the Lindsey USAF base was later claimed in a RAF communique. Almost simultaneously two other attacks took place in Dusseldorf and Mannheim, both against US military targets (a US army liaison office and a communications tower). The RAF communique issued after the Wiesbaden attack stated that the bombing was carried out because of US policy in Central America and because of the deployment of Cruise and Pershing 2.

As can be seen, all recent RAF attacks seem to be targetted against the US military. The danger here for the RAF is that their strong anti-imperialist strategy (manifesting itself as being anti-US) could lead to the sort of problems experienced by the Revolutionary Cells (a network of independent anarchist and 'autonomist' armed struggle groups) a couple of years back when a fascist group also undertook a bombing campaign against US military targets (for purely nationalist reasons - and because their indiscriminate bombing tactics could help to discredit the RZ). First generation RAF attacks tended to be more generalised and were directed not just against US and NATO targets but also against German big business and State targets. The new RAF groupings seem to be taking a different direction.

Another non-aligned Marxist clandestine grouping recently involved in anti-militarist attacks has been the CCC (Cellules Combatantes Communistes - Fighting Communist Cells). In our last but one issue we reported on various CCC attacks on armaments firms (Honeywell, MAN, Litton) and on the HQ's of political parties; and on how the Belgium police mistakenly (or deliberately) confused the CCC with anarchist activity and raided over 100 anarchist and anti-militarist addresses in a massive 'fishing expedition' (none were charged). Again, as with the new generation RAF attacks, the CCC attacks were all directed against targets with foreign connections. Again, as with the situation in Germany, the bombings provided the authorities with just the excuse they



were looking for to increase 'anti-terrorist' activity. The Belgian left (no different from the left elsewhere) has refused to provide support for the CCC because they fear the consequences of any action that does not come under strict party control.

More recently the CCC has claimed responsibility for a series of simultaneous attacks on a NATO oil pipeline. A CCC communique said that 'War against NATO has become the principal aim of our movement'. Their strictly anti-NATO stance clearly implies a possible pro-Soviet line, although this has yet to be proven and up to now, because their targetting could not be faulted, they are supported by the anarchist presence in Belgium.

The bombings against the pipeline happened over a period of four hours. They included a section near the Allied military HQ at Mons, a section at Wavre near Brussels, a section near Liege, and a pump station at Glons. There were no casualties (as with all previous CCC attacks).

Meanwhile, south of the border, Action Directe, the once exclusively anarchist underground network, but now mainly Marxist, bombed the ELF petroleum offices and a new-Gaullist RPR HQ building in Paris. The latter was a car bomb. Action Directe has gone through several changes of personnel over the years; those who use its name today have little in common with those who set it up. Those involved now refer to themselves as Marxists or 'Anarchist-Communists'.

Finally we also learn of another attack by FP25, the independent Marxist underground network in Portugal. Again the target was a NATO one: the NATO Southern Atlantic Command base at Oerias, which was hit by mortar grenades. A previous FP25 attack (on November 25) also used grenades, that time targetted against the US Embassy. The grenades launched against the Oerias base caused little damage: two landed short of their target, a third hit a parked car. FP25's declared objectives are for Portugal to return to a state of revolution, Marxist style.

PRISONERS UNION

In addition to the RAF hunger strikers other prisoners in W Germany have joined the hunger strike in solidarity. A total of 39 prisoners are now taking part in the action and are demanding Prisoner of War status and improvement of conditions (many are in isolation units).

To date those prisoners who have grown out of the RAF, June 2 Movement, anti-militarist resistance, etc, have tried to form a Union of Revolutionary Prisoners.

The Union has made a detailed statement on conditions, of which we have a copy. Still in use are isolation units, padded cells, compulsory psychiatry sessions, beatings, forced gynaecological probings, the chaining up of naked prisoners during transfers, daily strip searches, sleep deprivation, withholding of medical supplies...

Apart from the demand for a prisoners union, the hunger strikers are demanding the abolition of sensory deprivation control units, closed circuit 24 hour surveillance systems and the end of blocks on prison visits, receiving of letters, etc.

The communique stresses the need for international solidarity, especially by revolutionary prisoners. They see collectivity as the only way forward.

Latest news is that RAF prisoner, Christian Klar, has been hospitalised because he is near to death. He was transferred from the prison at Stuttgart to a prison hospital.

News has also come in of demonstrations in Berlin and Amsterdam and an express train was brought to a halt by supporters of the hunger strikers on its way from Amsterdam to Berlin. Earlier reports mentioned that the prisoners were prepared to fast to the death if their demands are not met.



Brigitte Mohnhaupt.

Any prisoners in Britain who are interested in forming a prisoners union similar to that initiated by the RAF could use our address as a clearing house for the redirection of mail or to establish new contacts.

Anarchist Black Cross.