SQUATTERS CONFERENCE

On the weekend of May 16th the countrywide squatting movement happened at a specially squatted office building right near the Grand Hotel in Brighton. There were big meetings, workshops on many subjects (e.g. electronics), villages, beautiful food, creche, women's space, etc. Saturday was a pretty chaotic fun and drunkenmess. In the town a hammerbanger joint, many rich cars, etc. were trashed and deck chairs burnt. About 100 people from all over attended. Sunday was to make payments quickly, but also we had to fight. Some 120 people without passes in some boroughs: Islington, Hammersmith, Lambeth. The Coalition Government has now folded due to lack of interest. The group never became cohesive.

APPLE HIGH ST. LONDON E17 9XJ

SILENCED "SQuatters"

Now the British economy is in crisis, racist immigration laws are used to stop black people entering the country and to kick out those who are already living here. Deportations and removals increased by 11 times between 1973 and 1980 and by 41% since 1979. Fifty black people are deported a week. The number of immigrants has increased by 42% and the police and other racist attacks on black people by the state are trying to crush black militancy.

Against the general background of racist violence that black people face, immigration controls and segregations are yet another instrument of fear and oppression. Along with constant attacks and harassment from police and other racists and a backdrop of xenophobic hatred provided by the media, the state is trying to crush black militancy.

SCAREDOGS FOR THE ROSSES' "CRISIS"

In support of the Aboriginal Land rights in Australia 2 demos happened this month. They were called because native groups asked us to hamper the Bicentennial celebrations. 200 yrs since white British colonisations began. The most event was a reenactment of the first fleet of 11 tall ships going from Portsmouth to Sydney via Cape Town. The cost of a berth for the 9 month voyage is £15,000. Part of the fleet left from London. 20 of us tried to stop the ship but were ready early and mixed everyone who tried any action. Twenty of us tried to stop the ship. The ship was in Portsmouth 3 wks later at the official sendoff by the Queen. The pigs were ready early and mixed everyone who tried any action (banners, leaflets, abuse). 20 mixed, 10 held overnight and charged.

ANTIELECTION NEWS

Many local groups of us have begun actions against the upcoming Election farce. Campaigns include: Don't Vote for Nobody, and even standing silly candidates eg Rainbow All Bloc, Brixton Insane Extremists, Flyposting, graffiti, stickers, leafletting, etc. has been done in many areas. With excellent public response.
On the morning of Thursday 26th March, about 30 police were involved in simultaneous raids on 3 premises in Hastings and St Leonards. All three are the homes of local people involved in the reoccupied POISON PEN anarcho-squat. During these raids police took away two transit vans full of material and arrested six people. The police had search warrants issued by local magistrate Michael Chaloner (4 Hamilton Drive, Hastings. Tel: 429179) granted on information given by Detective Inspector Paul Miller allowing them to search for:

1. Things which there is reasonable cause to believe have been used or are intended for use without lawful excuse to destroy or damage property belonging to another or to destroy or damage property in a way likely to endanger the life of another AND articles which have been used or are intended for use in connection with threats to cause damage AND material and articles which have been used or are intended to incite or attempt to incite others to do so. (Section 6 Criminal Damage Act 1971)

Amongst the stuff taken were: typewriters, duplicators, duplicating inks, staplers and other printing equipment.

This is quite clearly an act of political repression aimed at silencing POISON PEN. It has failed. We will not be silenced. We will not be intimidated.

Also people's personal possessions were ransacked and removed by the police including personal papers, diaries, letters, birthday cards, artwork, photographs etc. This is the sort of action that even establishment politicians and journalists recognise as oppression if it happens in South Africa - so what is it here?

The six people arrested were held at Hastings police station for 7 hours and then released without being charged but have been bailed to go back to the station on 22.5.87. In the meantime the police will not return any of the items taken in the raid.

The police have told the local papers that these raids and arrests are expected: an anonymous leaflet giving ‘riot targets’ in Brixton was circulated. Afterwards fighting broke out as hordes of baton-wielding police drove the dead drunk punks out of the area. It was good to see crowds of white youths blocking the main road yelling 'PC Blakelock' at the rioters. Many windows broke and dozens of us and quite a lot of police were injured with over 50 arrested.

After great initial enthusiasm the 3 anarcho-squatters pirate radios have been reduced to one. Radio Interference still going strong. A leaflet called Yourself manual on how to make transmitters and be a pirate has just been published. Tapes of international news are welcomed. BM 1502. London WC1N 3XX

An attempt at a 2-day squatters festival was badly attended due to a last minute change of venue. It eventually happened at the re-squatted old church at Willingdon Road in Haringey. Another one is planned in July.

Organising gigs and plans are going ahead for Stonehenge 87, but no festival is likely. Land squatting in any numbers is banned under the Public Order Act. Gathering points are the big safe camp in orchards in Orpington in Kent. A big 'Cruise watch Picnic' is planned near Stonehenge on June 13th at the picnic site, Ridgeway, Urfont Hill. On June 16th a move from Glastonbury Festival towards the stones. On June 17th the demo at the chemical and biological warfare centre at nearby Porton Down. And on June 21st the mass 'solar ingress' to Stonehenge itself. Contact: Box FIN, c/o 99 Terrigano Ave. London N15.

A 17 year old from Twickenham, Middlesex. has been charged with the murder of a brixton prison officer. (see Ekomedia London no5).
POLICE ATTACKED

Tension is high in many black inner city areas around the country. There's little media coverage so we have few details, but recent events include:

In Birmingham a gang of kids threw a molly at a passing cop car. Amazingly the cop got out and tried to give chase, only to find his car trashed when he returned.

In Toxteth in Liverpool 3 plain clothes fiith got hurt when chasing a local youth. When their chosen victim stopped outside a cafe in Toxteth centre the locals gave the police a taste of their own medicine. Serious head and internal injuries all round.

In St Pauls, Bristol a similar incident occurred, but this time the chasing cops were rescued by a passing riot squad, leading to 3 nights of 'disturbances' as local youth played 'hunt the cops'.

In Notting Hill, London yet another severe beating by police on a local black man inside the police station leads to very high tension in the area.

ALL NEWS

Raids continue all over the country (see Diary of Actions) despite a vicious media hate campaign. All the Unilever prisoners are now out of jail (25 imprisoned for a '84 raid on a Unilever vivisection lab. Longest sentence 24 years. Ronnie Lee is now off 'category A'.

ABORTION UNDER ATTACK

Along with the usual 'rape horror' stories the press headlines were recently filled with the story of a woman in Oxford who wanted an abortion and her boyfriend's attempt (sponsored by the anti-abortion campaign) to stop her. The papers dwelt on the man's abject despair at being deprived of his child by his selfish ex-lover. The woman was hardly mentioned except to imply she wanted the abortion out of spite. The man lost the court case then tried to take it to the House of Lords but fortunately couldn't get it through in time. A temporary victory.

YUPPIES OUT

In the East end of London the local class war group has been hitting the headlines with a popular Yuppies Out campaign. This is an attempt to stop gentrification of working class areas. Actions in the area include rich car thefts, burglaries, muggings, abuse and at least 2 arsons. These were a Stoke Newington estate agents and best of all a complete warehouse of newly built luxury flats razed in Wapping.

On Wed 20th May 50 people gathered outside the US embassy for an all night vigil in support of the Hopi and Navajo native peoples who face evictions in the Big Mountain area.

The non stop picket of the 5th African Embassy by the city AA group continues. So does the Greenham Common women's peace camp.

Viraj Mendis is still in sanctuary in a church in Hulme, Manchester. Local support is good.

This year's May Day weekend saw a historical demonstration in Haringey, London, with over four thousand people marching against anti-lesbian and anti-gay bigotry, and against racism. The 'Fight the Backlash' demonstration organised by Haringey Black Action and Positive Images was the first step in building a political coalition against the right-wing alliance (consisting of right-wing Tories, 'Parents Rights Group', and the National Front), which has been organising against the council's policy of positive images of lesbians and gays in its education service.