

LOGO : A PROVOCATION ANSWERED.

LOGO, a publication styling itself as a successor to the now defunct Anarchist newspaper XTRA!, recently devoted two thirds of its first issue to a series of vicious, inaccurate, and potentially dangerous attacks upon virtually every major group and publication within the Anarchist movement in Britain.

Anarchist journals are denounced as "a load of shit" (FREEDOM), "fools" (DIRECT ACTION), "a Maoist plot to wreck the anarchist movement" (BLACK STAR), "naive fools...mugs" (SOLIDARITY), and "better only by being shorter" (INSURRECTION). Stuart Christie, Albert Meltzer, and Ronan Bennett are singled out as targets for a stream of abuse, and specifically named (erroneously) as having engineered a "take over" of ANARCHY MAGAZINE (none of these Comrades are members of the ANARCHY COLLECTIVE) for, by implication, sinister motives. Stuart Christie is also accused of (through Cienfuegos Press) "a self-managed conspiracy to bankrupt the international anarchist movement both financially and theoretically".

"THE LINK WITH TERRORISM" ?

More seriously, Ronan Bennett is fingered as providing this so called BLACK FLAG/ANARCHY "alliance" with "the link with terrorism", and his imminent arrest and imprisonment is predicted. This is a spiteful provocation, having the effect of exposing Ronan to police action. Ronan is neither a "terrorist" or, as it happens, a member of the BLACK FLAG or ANARCHY collectives. He has been brought to trial twice, and acquitted both times, during police frame-ups, and was for a time part of the BLACK FLAG editorial group. He has not played an active part in BLACK FLAG for nearly three years, and has only recently written some material for ANARCHY MAGAZINE as an outside contributor. The suggestion that he has active links with what (apeing the jingoistic phraseology of the Capitalist press) LOGO refers to as "terrorism" is completely without foundation and we utterly refute it. A serious and baseless charge, this opens the way once more to police persecution and yet another frame-up attempt, as well as undermining any solidarity that might be expressed on Ronan's behalf should the Special Branch seize the opportunity thus presented to them by LOGO's malicious authors to settle old scores.

LOGO CONDEMNED. ...

The groups comprising A Distribution, who are signatories to this statement, wish to make it clear that we completely dissociate ourselves from the catalogue of lies, slander, and provocation contained in LOGO. We view the contents of it with the utmost seriousness, concern, and contempt. And we categorically, and unconditionally denounce LOGO as a provocation aimed at damaging the Anarchist movement. It has now been established that the individuals responsible for this attack are two former members of the XTRA! group, Privacy and MARK PAGE. These two individuals, as far as we are concerned, now have no connection whatsoever with the Anarchist movement, nor would we wish them to have.

ANARCHY COLLECTIVE
BLACK FLAG GROUP
EAST LONDON DAM
SOUTH LONDON DAM
INSURRECTION
REFRACT PUBLICATIONS

... TO THE DUSTBIN OF HISTORY LOGO was printed and published anonymously, giving as their only correspondence address that of A Distribution. This was done without the consent of A Distribution, and was only accepted for distribution through our network on the private decision of two Comrades, without prior consultation with the groups comprising A Distribution. We will not now distribute LOGO under any circumstances.

Furthermore, ANARCHY COLLECTIVE has now removed all remaining copies of LOGO from the premises of A Distribution and disposed of them. ANARCHY takes full responsibility for this action, and calls on Messers [Privacy] and Page to meet them at any time, should they wish to pursue the matter further. [Privacy] and Page are also challenged by the groups who are signatories to this statement to explain their conduct to us in person at A Distribution, and to accept full responsibility for their actions, and the consequences of them. Unfortunately, some copies of LOGO were sent out to bookshops before most of us were aware of the nature of its contents. We now advise any individual or bookseller holding copies of LOGO to withdraw them from sale and deposit them in the nearest dustbin, unless specifically contacted by [Privacy] and Page and requested to return them to their home address and at their own expense.

AND NOW WHAT? To avoid any repetition of this situation in the future, any new publication wishing to be handled by A Distribution should first be seen and accepted by those groups who comprise A Distribution. It is only reasonable for us to demand to know who the people are who publish material which we are expected to distribute under are imprint, and how they can be contacted. We will not accept material from anonymous individuals for whom we have no proper address, or whose politics or past is unclear to us. THIS IS A MATTER OF ELEMENTAL SECURITY which we cannot avoid taking unless we wish to be made a target for all sorts of provocation and black propaganda emanating from the State, fascists, and political and religious organisations hostile to Anarchism. Groups within A Distribution hold and defend differing views, but these are all within the overall framework of the Anarchist movement and the basic ideas of Anarchism and Libertarian Socialism. That such views surface from time to time within the Anarchist press as public disagreements, debates, or 'sectarian' attacks is not in question. Such 'family squabbles' have long since characterised the Anarchist movement and its rejection of a 'Party line'. WHAT WE DO REJECT ARE ATTACKS MADE UPON OUR MOVEMENT BY UNKNOWN INDIVIDUALS, WHOSE SOLE OBVIOUS PURPOSE IS TO ATTACK INDIVIDUAL COMRADES IN TERMS WHICH LEAVE THEM EXPOSED TO POLICE ACTION.

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