

SUBVERSIVE GRAFFITI

No.
8

FREE

All over Europe and North America people are resisting the military preparations for World War 3. Opposition is growing to the plans of NATO and the US government to place new Cruise and Pershing nuclear missiles in Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy and West Germany. In eastern Europe the equally criminal rulers of the Soviet bloc are still facing strong resistance to their regime in Poland, and independent peace movements are emerging in East Germany and Hungary.

In Britain women are carrying out powerful direct actions against the siting of Cruise missiles at the Greenham Common base in Berkshire. On Dec. 12th 30,000 women encircled the entire 9 mile perimeter of the base. On Dec. 13th 1,000 women blockaded the entrances to the base. Their aim was to prevent any vehicles coming in or out, including those involved in building the missile silos. Since then women have carried out 3 invasions of the base, several blockades, and sit-downs against the visits of Defence Minister Heseltine to Newbury and US Vice-President Bush to London.

Following is an interview with one of the several women from Aberdeen who were involved in the actions at Greenham on Sunday 12th and Monday 13th December.



Greenham Common, 13th Dec.. Women blockade workers' convoy. photo Freedom.

NO TO ALL WAR

SUNDAY - ENCIRCLING THE BASE

"We encircled the base and then we all formed a chain and we started slowly to walk round the fence, holding hands, and we were singing and chanting. And there was various pictures on the base fence. There was balloons and letters and poems and photographs of people and decorations. And somebody had unfurled a big flag thing with poles that said 'Women of Greenham Common' - it looked really lovely....There was children, babies, women of all ages, and of quite a few nationalities."

MONDAY - BLOCKADING THE BASE

"We all had so many people at each gate of the base to watch if anything was happening behind the gates or to stop anybody getting through. And quite a few of

the women had walkie-talkies to give us information on what was happening at various other gates which we couldn't see.



Encircling the base. photo PN

You felt a sense of comradeship and a sense of belonging amongst all the women there, and I felt this more so when we were sat on the road and really getting into the direct action. That's when I felt it, when I was holding hands with them and when the police were dragging us away. They kept dragging one woman away and then another woman would take the woman's place. Then the first woman would come back, and sit back down again....

You could see the big buses that all the workers were in coming closer and closer....The blockade held up the vehicles for a while but the vehicle kept going forward every time people was moved out of the way. And it gradually got forward and in the end it got right near the

gates, and we were still sat in front of the gates, and in the end we got all pulled out of the way and they got the flipping thing through....

But one of the workers on the bus got out and said that we agree with you. But the others didn't get out, but they were grinning you know."

DIVINE INTERVENTION

"And there was a vicar there and he was stood on the outside of the road and we was sat in the road, and we were singing songs and speaking. And this vicar comes up, and he has a bottle of milk and he says "Don't use this as a petrol bomb or anything", and he gives us this bottle of milk."

THE POLICE

"I didn't like what the police were doing....pulling people away and dragging them through mud and punching people and making people's noses bleed....they were lifting women bodily and then just slinging them on the

Cont. on back page, 1st column



In many parts of the world there's an encouraging growth of anti-war activity, often involving direct action. But there are lots of questions about how best to organise, what best to do next.

WOMEN-ONLY ACTIONS

In Britain many people have been debating about the Greenham Peace Camp women calling 'women-only' actions. Why have they done this? The Greenham women say "As women we have been actively encouraged to stay at home and look up to men as our protectors. But we reject this role. We cannot stand by while others are organising to destroy life on earth."

Women from the Peace Camp have described how the women-only camp where "all the decisions are taken by the people who live there" gives women a great confidence to engage in public activity. They also describe the drawbacks of many CND and other mixed men and women groups - they're very bureaucratic and only operate in terms of cold logic, denying emotions.

Those left-wing groups and others who have criticised actions for being women-only would do better to critically examine their own way of organising.

For men to moan about being excluded from women-only actions is pointless. Rather, along with the women-only actions, there's also a great need for women and men to organise mixed actions in which women and men can participate on an equal basis. Mixed actions should, as much as is possible, involve the positive aspects that characterise many women-only actions - solidarity, emotional support, no bureaucratic order-givers, etc..

To successfully oppose governments' drive to nuclear annihilation both men and women will need to be invol-

ved in widespread large scale direct action. This can involve both mixed and women-only actions.

NON-VIOLENCE

Another controversy - should direct action always be totally 'non-violent'? For some women involved this is related to the women-only question - they believe in complete non-violence and believe that only women-only actions can ensure this.

It is much better if anti-war direct action can be carried out without anyone getting hurt. But all states are always prepared to use

force and violence to defend their power against any people they consider a threat - even if these people are acting totally non-violently. So-called 'peace' in this society disguises a situation where the small ruling class maintain their power over the majority by a combination of conditioning, propaganda and, ultimately, state violence.

Nevertheless, in certain situations and at certain stages of a struggle, taking direct action in an exclusively non-violent manner can have positive advantages. The non-violent approach can make it politically difficult for the police to use their 'higher technology means of violence' (water cannons, tear gas, plastic bullets, etc.). Thus the outcome is more dependent on the determination and numbers of the two sides.

However if the non-violent direct action is successful, the state will change its tactics. This will generally involve deploying more police, more heavily armed, with authority to use higher levels of violence. This is the likely scenario at Greenham, and at all the proposed new missile bases.

At a recent meeting in Oxford one of the Greenham women said their aim was a mass occupation. Definitely, only actions of such significance have a chance of stopping Cruise. But can anyone doubt that the police and military will use weapons such as batons, dogs, tear gas, maybe even plastic bullets, if the base was going to be completely over-run by occupiers?

It is vital those involved in anti-war direct action do not draw back from such effective action on the grounds that they do not wish to risk confrontation with the police. It is important not to repeat the mistakes of the 'mainstream' of the anti-nuclear power movement which abandoned mass

THE PERIL OF THE PETERHEAD POLIS

On the week that 'Who Dares Wins' was shown at Peterhead Cinema (late Nov./early Dec.), five members of Peterhead CND leafleted outside the cinema. On the first night of the showing they handed out leaflets to people going into see the film. The leaflets were about the way in which CND was shown to be a terrorist organisation in the film, and tried to make it clear to those watching the film that that was not the case. The cinema manager came out and told the leafleters to move on and when the leafleters tried to put their case to him he became abusive. The manager called the police and when they arrived they also told the leafleters to move on or be arrested. Some people going in to the cinema told the manager that the leafleters were not doing anything wrong and they objected to them being moved on or arrested. The manager backed down when these people decided not to go in to see the film until the police went away. The police left, but continued to patrol the street keeping an eye on the leafleters all the week they were leafleting.

POLICE SWOOP - SNOWBALL CONFISCATED

A boy of ten was detained by the Peterhead police on December 18th, his crime was making and carrying a snowball. The boy was seen by a patrol car, the police picked him up and took him to his home and then told his parents to make sure he behaved in future. The boy's parents were annoyed at the behaviour of the police but they were frightened to complain in case their son became the target of police harassment.

SEVEN YEAR OLD DETAINED

On December 4th a Peterhead boy of seven was detained at Peterhead Police Station while the police went to his home to get his parents. The boy was standing outside Woolworths waiting for a friend and the police detained him so he could not get up to mischief. When the boy's parents came to collect him, the boy was given a ticking off by the police and then released. About ten minutes after getting home, the police came to the door and asked if the boy had taken the keys to the cells. The boy had put the cell keys in his pocket for fun not realising what they were for. Two sheepish looking policemen left after being told that they should have kept the keys in a safe place.

occupations of the Torness nuclear site after May 1979, because it was obvious that any future occupation would have to overcome a massive police guard.

We must also consider possible responses to police violence. For example it may be necessary for occupiers to use a certain amount of force to gain access to military bases, such as being prepared to over-run the police by force of numbers. Once a base is occupied, to maintain the occupation will almost certainly require people to use force to resist arrest.

An example is Whyll, West Germany in 1976. Then, 28,000 people occupied a nuclear power station site, and drove off the police who came to arrest them.

NO TO ALL ARMIES

Invasions and the occupation or destruction of military bases, permanent blockades of bases, widespread strikes and industrial action - only direct action on this scale has a chance of stopping the new Cruise and Pershing missiles.

But even such success

would still leave largely intact the existing horrific arsenal of nuclear and other weapons. To meet the participants' desire for peace the struggle against Cruise must increasingly openly challenge the very existence of all state armies. We need to end the division of the world into rival armed gangs who murder each others citizens for power and profit. We need a world community where resources are shared, and used to meet human needs.

It is self-defeating to regard the anti-war movement as a single issue. It must be seen as one of many fronts in a single struggle to undermine, and ultimately overthrow, all governments, authorities, business corporations and all forms of oppression.

Today all struggles - anti-war, workplace, sexual politics, street riots - need to develop till they aim to change everything. Otherwise, even while they're protesting against one injustice, they are at the same time upholding the cause of that injustice and of all oppression.

State violence against Workers

From mid-December to mid-February major strikes paralysed Denmark's docks and fishing industry. Workers were resisting a 40% cut in unemployment benefits paid to casual employees on short-time.

The police and the army acted against the strikers, attacking them with dogs and making arrests. A Copenhagen docker was run-over and killed by a strike-breaking lorry driver. The Danish courts declared the strikes illegal and imposed heavy fines on individual workers and on their trade unions.

The official trade union organisations refused to support the strikes - in Denmark, as everywhere, the union structures are obstacles to workers' struggles. The workers organised the struggle themselves, through local strike committees.

After 2 months of fierce conflict the workers were forced to give up the strikes on unfavourable terms. The government have only agreed to postpone the introduction of the cuts in benefit - they still intend to

THE ESBJERG INCIDENT

The incident described here took place on 22nd Dec. at the DFDS Quay, Esbjerg.

On my way home for Christmas, I'd to cross Denmark to get the Newcastle Ferry. On the train, there were rumours of a strike on the ferry: one boat had already been cancelled and the passengers were sleeping on the boat. I spent several hours speaking to a man who knew about the strike; he'd been working on fishing boats out of Esbjerg for years, and he told me that the port had just cut one third off the 'standby' rate paid to the dockers when there was no work, or bad weather.

As I walked to the ferry, a line of soldiers with big dogs came along the quay, followed by police and men in dull blue uniforms - some sort of Civil Defence. All wore crash-helmets. I didn't see any guns or truncheons. The dogs were barking loudly as the soldiers held their collars and walked very slowly towards the pickets, who stood their ground at first, then slowly backed away. I saw one dog grab the sleeve of a picket's jacket. The soldier hit it on the side of its mouth with his gloved hand so that it lost its grip and the man walked away, shaken. Among all this, a group of Islamic passengers were kneeling on blankets facing the south-east, so it was a bizarre scene.

SUBVERSIVE GRAFFITI
DISCUSSIONS: Sat. 19th
March, 9th April, 30th
April. All at 12 noon in
the WEA, 163 King St.,
Aberdeen. All welcome.

I spoke to some of the retreating pickets saying sort-of-apologetically, that I was quite keen to get home and that, if the ferry was running, then, strike or not, I was going to pay the money and go on it. Nobody gave me a hard time for being some sort of black-leg; one man showed me his leg - a dog had bitten him - his trousers were torn and he had a big bloody bruise with tooth-marks in it.

Going into the ticket office, I was scared for an instant when one soldier signalled me to stop, another waved me on, and both started towards me when I stood still.

With all the confusion, there was nobody checking the tickets on the gangway, so I was kicking myself for having paid the fare.

The boat sailed and I got home. JAKE.

DANISH WORKERS RESIST BENEFIT CUTS

The immediate cause of the strikes were the intended cuts in unemployment benefits to casual workers, eg dock workers, workers in the fishing industries, staff in shops and supermarkets and others. It is characteristic of these groups that they do not have a full 40 hour week and consequently are dependent on unemployment benefits as a supplement to their wages. This is especially true of the dock workers who might have as few as 15 hours work on a weekly basis.

The present (conservative) government has passed

slash the workers' living standards.

page three

You probably haven't heard or read anything about this in the media. These important and dramatic events in a neighbouring EEC country may as well have been obscure happenings on the dark side of Pluto as far as the British media is concerned. Just plain old parochialism? Perhaps. Our investigations have yet to uncover any major North East Connection. But, Denmark was all over the front pages when the government wanted to stir up nationalist feelings over the fishing rights dispute.

Those who control the papers, radio and TV just aren't too keen on telling us about a so-called 'Western Democracy' violently repressing its workers. They don't want us to know about the strikes and other resistance that workers everywhere are mounting against their rulers. After all, we might just start thinking that instead of burning these other workers to death in wars, maybe we should be fighting alongside them in a common struggle against all ruling classes....

Subversive Graffiti was told about the strikes in Denmark by one of our readers, to whom we're very grateful - his letter is reproduced below. And many thanks for much valuable information to the Anarko-Syndicalist Organisation (contactable at: Anarkistisk Bogcafe, Nansensgade 43, 1366 Kbh., Copenhagen, Denmark).

a bill, the intention of which is to reduce Supplementary unemployment benefits, as part of its scheme of cutting public expenditure. The reaction of the dock workers was strikes and blockades; they were followed by strikes in the fishing industry. Consequently exports of Danish goods to the U.K. were stopped and much of the fishing industry brought to a stand-still. As the strike gathered momentum passenger shipping was stopped too. Truck drivers joined the strikes.

The reaction of the government was to break the blockade strikes with the help of the police. There were ugly episodes in the port of Kolding where strikers were attacked by police with dogs. Similarly, fighting broke out at the frontier town of Padborg between dock workers, truck drivers and police. The strikers had attempted to stop the transportation of goods destined for the U.K. via German and Dutch ports. At Aarhus police arrested 27 striking dockers who tried to block freight traffic into the oil refinery.

The strikers gained support abroad, eg Swedish dock workers refused to handle goods to and from Denmark; likewise dock workers in Southampton and Hull refused to handle containers with Danish goods, and there was a boycott of Danish goods in Barcelona and Tenerife.

The striking workers called for a 24 hour general strike throughout Denmark to support their struggle. On January 28th tens of thousands of workers stopped and disrupted postal and bus services, shipyards, newspaper distribution, schools, refuse collection. However the action did not reach the hoped for scale of a general strike.

The Congress of Danish trade unions did not support the January 28th action. Throughout, both the strikers own unions and other unions refused to support the strike.

The Employers' Organisation took the strikers and their unions to court. Predictably, the court found in the bosses favour, and imposed huge fines. Meanwhile, the dockers' strike was becoming less effective as the employers brought in strikebreakers to work under police protection.

Despite especially strong resistance by the Copenhagen dockers, by February 22nd all the workers had ended their strikes.

The conflict remains unresolved, with the proposed benefit cuts merely postponed. In addition, employers may be refusing to re-employ certain workers active in the strikes. And the bosses are considering changing the dockers' employment terms - this could mean putting many dockers on the dole permanently.

HOMOSEXUAL WOMEN AND MEN
FOR HELP AND INFORMATION -
PHONE ABERDEEN GAY SWITCHBOARD
ABERDEEN 26869 WEDS. 7 - 10PM.

This news-sheet is printed & published by the Subversive Graffiti Collective, c/o 163 King St., Aberdeen (24th February 1983). We welcome letters, information, and articles. We would like to meet anyone with similar views. 2 collective members are leaving the area soon, so more people are needed if the news-sheet and other activities are to continue.

continued from page one
ground as if they were like
a sack of potatoes....

And I spoke to a woman
that had got kicked in the
stomach, and she could even
identify the policewoman that
did it, because when this
policewoman did it we all
shouted "Show us your number,
show us your number" and the
police didn't know what to do,
they just stood there....
and in the end we got that
policewoman's number and we
told her "We got your number,
We got your number." "

A WOMEN'S ACTION

"It was a women-only
action, it shows that women
do have feelings about the
environment, they do have a
say in the running of affairs,
and it shows that these women
have had the courage to do
something about it, instead
of just sitting back and
letting the men do all this
and take charge.

Because its about time
women ran their lives accord-
ing to how they wish, not as
others would wish them...."

FUTURE ACTIVITY

"I think in the future
I'd like to see all the women
getting inside the base, and
keeping all the military out,
and dismantling all the mil-
itary hardware that's there,
putting it out of action....
And they've got to stay there
till the government changes
its mind, stops these bombs...

Women everywhere in the
world should be active against
all these bombs, whether they
be nuclear or non-nuclear,
every weapon, until war is
vanquished from this planet,
until we get a peaceful
society....

I got a tremendous sense
of confidence and inspiration
from the action and if any-
body said "Look there's ano-
ther base that needs occupying
tomorrow", I'd say "Yes, I'll
come along", I would you
know, 'cause I really enjoyed
it, it was good."

GREENHAM TRIAL VICTORY

The woman interviewed
here was one of 3 people arr-
ested during the women's
blockade of the Greenham base
on December 13th. On 27th
January she was found 'not
guilty' of 'Breach of the
Peace' at Newbury magistrates
court. In the course of the
trial the police allegations
that the woman had tried to
hit them were proven to be
totally untrue. The woman
gave evidence to show that it
was in fact the police who
were acting violently.

The women from Greenham
Common Peace Camp who atten-
ded the trial were especially
pleased at the outcome since
it was the first time that
anyone being tried at New-
bury for opposition to Cruise
had been found 'not guilty'.
Thanks are due to all who
gave donations to the defen-
dants considerable travelling

expenses from Aberdeen to
Newbury and back, and to
those who gave support in
other ways.

Following is the woman's
account of her arrest :

"We was just sat in front
of this van that was coming
out of the gates. It had
been inside and it was coming
out. We had this policy not
to let them get out. Once
they got in, we're not going
to let them get out.

Well, I was sat in the
middle of the road holding
somebody's hand. And then
somebody fell on me. I think
it was one of the police had
pushed a woman on me and she
fell on me, then somebody
else fell on me and I ended
up on the ground. Then I
felt a boot or something
tread on my face. Then I was
still holding on to these two

people beside me, then I felt
the other girl suddenly being
pulled away 'cause the police
were grabbing hold of her....
then next they came for me
and 2 of them got hold of me
and they threw me in the mud
and then they sort of picked
me up and marched me off....

They made me march back-
wards....They'd got hold of
each arm and they were march-
ing me towards the police
van. I was walking backwards
and they were walking for-
wards and they were walking so
fast that I couldn't keep up
with them. I kept telling
them to slow down but they
wouldn't....

Another woman was arres-
ted because she was trying
to prevent a police motor-
bike running over women's
legs....she had to switch the
ignition off to stop them...."

* Women's action at Faslane Base (near Helensburgh)... *
* 10am - 4pm on Sun. March 6th...info from Women for *
* Peace, c/o 57 Miller St., Glasgow...probably transport *
* from Aberdeen...contact Boomtown Books, 167 King St... *

Police lies

In May police arrested
nine people holding an anti-
Falklands War picket of a
Navy recruitment centre in
Edinburgh - now all nine have
been found 'not proven' on
'Breach of the Peace' charges.

On January 13th and 14th
the court heard imaginative
evidence from police claiming
the picketers had been sitt-
ing in a semi-circle block-
ing the entire pavement.
Unfortunately for the polis
the defence then produced
photos of the picket proving
this story to be the usual
police pack of lies. Even
the Sheriff was unable to
bring in a 'guilty' verdict.

Meanwhile ten people arrested
for protesting against the
obscene 'Falklands Victory
Parade' in October go on
trial in London on Feb.28th.
More info from Anti-Falklands
War Support Network, c/o
Greenpeace, 6 Endsleigh St.,
London WC1

That cher shell-shocked

Last September Thatcher's visit to Foresterhill saw
2,000 people demonstrating their support for the health-
workers' pay claim and their opposition to the government's
policies. Fusilades of eggs greeted the arrival and depart-
ure of the Prime Minister's car cavalcade. The police
charged into the crowd, hit several people and made 4 arr-
ests. 2 health workers were quoted in the P&J describing how
the police had hit them.

Now 2 of those arrested have been taken to court. On
February 8th they were fined a total of £100 for "Breach of
the Peace". Interestingly, a police sergeant told the court
that trade union stewards had warned the police that miss-
iles would be thrown.

However recent actions such as Heseltine's hot recep-
tion at Newbury and Thatcher's harassment at Oxford show
that neither police nor bureaucrats can stop people venting
their anger against policticians.

Donations towards the fines would be very welcome.
Write to Street Omelette Charges Fund, c/o Boomtown Books,
167 King St., Aberdeen. (please make any cheques etc payable
to M.Vallance).

DICK TATER

BUT DICK THE UNEMPLOYED COULD
BRING DOWN MY GOVERNMENT...



1... IF THEY'RE A
THREAT TO THE
GOVERNMENT...
THEY MUST BE
SUBVERSIVE!



2... IF THEY
ARE SUB-
VERSIVE THEY
MUST BE IN
THE PAY OF
THE K.G.B.



3... IF THEY'RE PAID
THEY'RE NOT UN-
EMPLOYED



4... SO WHAT'S
ALL THE FUSS
ABOUT ??... YOU
LIKE IT MAGGIE?
.. OH GREAT... OH
THANKS... YEAH I COULD
USE ANOTHER O.B.E..
... NICE TALKING TO YOU SIR