

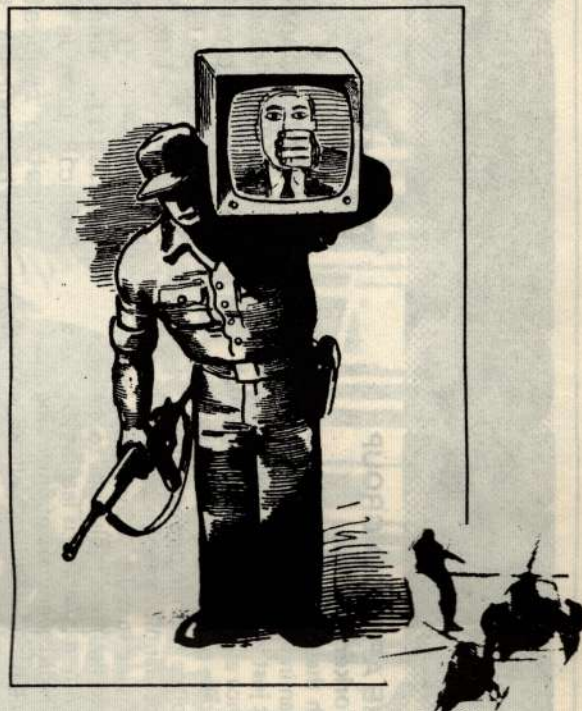
16,000 **STRIKE** **BREAKING** **TROOPS TO** **BE TRAINED** **BY NATO**

Plans have already been set in motion to recruit a special complement of 16,000 territorials specifically to function as a strikebreaking force.

Currently the Ministry of Defence is in regular contact with the personnel departments of all major public and private industries as part of the recruitment drive to increase the size of the territorial army. In addition companies have been asked to cooperate as much as possible in releasing employees who are already members of the TA to take part in a special exercise codenamed Operation Lionheart. The operation will take place in Germany as part of a wider NATO exercise.

The decision to recruit has been brought forward as a result of the mineworkers strike. The recruitment drive will take part over a five year period and the government hope that by 1990 the force will be fully operative to be able to deal with any civil or industrial emergency.

As with the National Reporting Centre, the plans for which were conceived in 1979 during the Winter of Discontent by the Callaghan administrat-



ion, this new strikebreaking force was recommended by the ultra secret Civil Contingencies Unit (see the last Black Flag Quarterly for more details). At the beginning of the 1984 miners strike the CCU came directly under Cabinet supervision - the national press referred to this upper echelon as the 'War Cabinet' - within the auspices of COBRA (Cabinet Office Briefing Room). COBRA has maintained direct control of the CCU throughout the strike.

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- **Anti-Cruise Missile 'Guerrilla' Sentenced.**
- **'Radikal' Kaput!**

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Strikebreaking Troops Cont.

At the same time it has been reported that British Army bases have recently been used to train special counter-insurgency paramilitaries, the BGS (Federal Border Police). The report, outlined in *Stern*, indicated that the BGS were trained by special units from Britain at the Sennelager army base in north Germany and that the training exercises were in preparation for a possible 'civil war scenario'.



In the Autumn '83 *Black Flag Quarterly* we quoted from a piece by Stuart Christie who in turn quoted from an article in the Italian magazine *Europeo* about a secret pact, signed in 1965, which set out the terms of an agreement whereby NATO members would use their combined forces, should the occasion demand, to quell any major civil unrest, political upheaval, or any threat to the stability of a member nation. Christie points out that the Deputy Chief of Staff in charge of NATO plans at the time was none other than General Sir Walter Walker, who later, in 1972, set up a private army in the UK, called UNISON, which was, among other things, to take on a strikebreaking function. Christie also referred to the importance of the UK's reserve armed forces (additional to the TA) who through the Reserved Forces Association have direct links with similar units in other NATO countries.

If the State does fear the possibility of a civil war, brought about by massive industrial unrest, civil disorder and heightened class conflict, then it would seem normal for the State to prepare for the worst and to use those resources available and those forces at its disposal to try and crush any revolt that will ensue. Currently the State's emphasis is on massive policing, but as a reserve contingent a non-regular army to take over essential services and to provide support to the police would also be normal. And where better to train such a force than in an army base out of the sight of the British public, and with full NATO assistance?

Futility?

Black Flag,

All futile actions predoomed to failure can only be interpreted in one of two ways: desperation or lack of appraisal of the true situation. In your latest issue you recount the demonstration in which the City of London was the target of "Stop the City", which is one of those futile actions guaranteed to increase repression and give excuse to those who would reinforce governmental control. 450 arrests, with consequent punishments (and funds given to the Government) can only be seen as walking into the arms of those who oppose you. When the chips are down the 1500 demonstrators would be blasted away by the massed power of the State machine, and so they would have walked into the firing line of their own accord! The futility of such actions, and the equally futile hero-worship of such 'actors' can only lead to the sort of thing that took place in Uruguay. Because of this, I wish to cancel my subscription.

Yours,
N.P. (Cambridge)

The point of the fortnightly is to give news. We did not organise or necessarily agree with every aspect of the Stop The City campaign. Reporting it should not imply endorsing it, though reports - coming as they did from people active in the campaign - were uncritical.

To our mind activism must be good and it does no harm at all if the rich get a little of the rough end of the stick now and then; and though it can be argued - as one person put it to me - that it is hardly tactics to frighten the rich into financing active fascist Police measures if one is not in a position to fight those measures. This argument smacks of cowardice, though, and the menace today is apathy and cynicism that has conquered the whole working class - a bit of activism goes a long way these days; even if it comes from "disillusioned pacifists into saving animals because they're not only exploited but can't disclaim their liberators" (another point of view).

That many aspects of the campaign are 'reformistic' is true - the same goes for squatting and industrial activity - but 'reformist' on its own is a meaningless term. We object to parliamentarism as a swindle; but there is no reason why one can't improve ones position a bit, and 'all or nothing' usually means nothing.

It seems trite to repeat (as some did) that one cannot actually stop the city, and 'people must understand the city goes on' - rather in the manner of a trot speaking down to the workers in words of one syllable - but if anyone thought that, or wondered what could be positively achieved, they missed the point of the exercise - which as we see it was to have a good time slagging off the rich; and if people got grabbed by the pigs in doing so, it was surely foreseen by them that this would happen.

It is only on Boat Race Nights that the young - at least the gifted young - can get away with knocking policemen's helmets off.

Brent Taylor

Friends,

Greetings and solidarity to everyone there. There was coverage in the papers here about the second Stop The City. It sounded larger this time, and more active judging from the hundreds of arrests - but it's still not clear from the bourgeois media. The anti-imperialist, anti-nuclear, anti-sexist, anti-racist, ecological and animal liberation focus of STC was reported in the media here - so it was obvious that it was a radical protest, not just some union or economist protest. The punks and assorted freaks looked great.

Tomorrow is the 5th annual 'Walk for Peace' here in Vancouver. Our affinity group organised the first 'march' in 1980, but since then the peace creeps have taken over which is the shits, although 75,000 attended last year. We called it a 'march of anti-nuclear protest' which they've watered down to a 'walk for peace' We now call it a 'Crawl for Peace'. Our affinity group organised a radical action last year at the US Consulat and then marched to join the larger march, and when they arrived the peace creeps marshalls asked the police to prevent us from joining! If the peace creeps leaders aren't Jesus freaks they're usually undercover Stalinists - but the bulk of the crawlers are happy, smiling, singing liberals, like everywhere in the 'peace movement'.

This 1st trial is almost over. Judge speaks to the jury and then they retire to figure out their verdict. I wish I could say things look hopeful, but unfortunately I can't. If they were agreeable to something less than 'life' for the bombings we might make a deal and quit wasting time and the taxpayers' money (fools that they are to pay taxes anyhow), but until then we carry on. Take care. All the best.

In resistance,
Brent Taylor,
Drawer 'O', Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada.

LETTERS

What Happened?

Dear Black Flag,

Whatever happened to 'class struggle revolutionary anarchism'?

All I see nowadays in the anarchist press is news about 'actions'. Paint 'bombings', glue jobs, tyre-punching and so on. The glorification of street vandalism. How did we get to this state where the be all and end all of the so-called revolutionary anarchists is the hooliganism of working class kids over the demoes? (When I was a kid we made life difficult for the 'snotty noses' on the other estate, we aggravated the teachers and got up to 'fun'). Now I look around and all I see is that sort of thing seemingly, being the main thing as what anarchism in this country is about. The anarchists call it 'direct action'. I call it fooling around. I think the type of anarchist who spends their time doing this sort of thing all the time is the disillusioned pacifist who has simply moved up one step.

The sort of thing I have in mind is the 'Stop the City' reporting. I went along and had a good time; even did my share of damage. But the way you go on you'd think there had been an uprising or something. What bothers me is that because of events like STC and the animal lib stuff, etc., your average person who goes around calling themselves anarchists is the sort of person I'd least want to associate with or be seen dead with. Admittedly I'm a bit old fashioned. It may seem strange but I believe that anarchism is not a fringe activity, involving people who go out of their way to visibly upset people and live off their toil, but is about working people who are fighting to overthrow the state and wish to organise to create a better society. Many of those who took part in 'Stop the City' look like they have been taken in by the media lie that anarchy equals chaos: they go out of their way to make anarchism appear a fringe activity.

Black Flag used to take the line that anarchism is about class struggle and revolution. Is that line now changed or are you just unaware that the impression your paper now gives is far different than what it once was?

I'm complaining because what was once the best anarchist paper in the country has allowed itself to go down hill - never to return? Now you rarely show the guts to criticise tendencies within the anarchist 'movement'. A few years back and you did. Now you just appear as 'servants' of the wider movement. Your policy seems to be if it moves, report on it. Reflecting anything and everything without discrimination. I never knew Miguel Garcia but I'm sure if he saw the state of anarchism here today, he'd turn in his grave.

A word of advice - if you can't find anything worth reporting, don't publish at all. If there's nothing happening of any significance in the anarchist movement, then at least publish stuff about what the State is up to (and it's up to plenty). Surely there must be some of you who can write stuff on what the state is up to? Or are you beginning to get to the stage where you merely respond to the level of 'action' prevalent at any given moment, without really questioning what action is achieving? A paper should be able to make propositions, print out failings, etc. You used to.

You do a good coverage on anarcho-syndicalist stuff and (sometimes) prison stuff (although there's little of that these days - *whatever happened to the Black Cross*, or has that died too?). *Black Flag* is still one of the best anarchist papers around, despite all what I've said. I hope you'll take my criticisms constructively and in good spirit. One last thing: remember there's a war on - try not to glorify charades.

For an anarchist revolution, not a picnic.

Fraternally,
Debbie T.
Tottenham, London.

STC 3

Around 250 people gathered at various points near the City of London. Police tactics and numbers overwhelmed the majority of would be protesters. 200 arrests were made (50 in one swoop outside St Pauls). Any large groups (ie more than 5) of punks, 'protest looking types' were searched, some several times as they appeared out of the tube station or turned street corners. Many of those arrested were held until the following days Court appearance but then some were remanded in custody for a week. Stories of beatings too...

Those who stuck together with friends and attacked targets outside the heavily

Racial Capitalism?

Dear Black Flag,

I object most strongly to the article in the last *Black Flag Fortnightly* 'Banzai Geordieland'. It smacked of nationalism and racialism. It is irrelevant that in the past British capitalism has been dated. Surely we are opposed to all capitalism - that is the real coloniser - of peoples minds.

I was unable to sell or give away that copy of the *Flag* to anyone other than anarchists who might understand that we are not racists. Please keep such statements out - it is possible to make a criticism without resorting to nationalism / racist slogans.

J. Doncaster

This is a sincere viewpoint but liberal, not anarchist. It shows clearly the difference between the two. To us "racialism" means the stirring up of hatred against an ethnic or religious minority and is used by fascists to concentrate their force against an unpopular and preferably defenceless few, and exaggerating their alleged misdoings, so that they are able to attack one group, then another, and finally be regarded as invincible, since invariably they are protected by a huge police presence (without which the strategy is incomplete).

If however one takes the liberal attitude - not to embarrass even the capitalist corporations by reference to their origins "which are not their fault" - the term "racialism" becomes meaningless. It is hardly "racialism" to distinguish between the different forms of capitalism in different countries. The American style of capitalism is vastly different to that in Europe; the workers (including American workers) have resisted its spread. The working styles of Britain and other countries such as Australia or Germany differ widely, and this has nothing to do with national or least of all racial differences, but to the way in which the workers have organised, to the degree of State repression, and the operation of the money market.

Obviously anarchists oppose "racialism" if it means restriction of Japanese workers entering the country; but it is a different matter with accepting domination by Japanese capitalists. This is a betrayal of the Japanese workers. The ruling class of Japan used a State religion to indoctrinate as many of the people of Japan as they could; and chopped off the heads not only of those who resisted, but of those who even questioned the dogma of divine rule. As always happens, the Army got puffed up with their victory over their own people and turned to foreign aggression; it suffered defeat and the dominant military caste was replaced by business men who employed the same quasi-religious indoctrination in which employment for life was traded against total subservience sustained by a Butlins-type togetherness. Military execution was replaced by a determination to keep dissidents out of industry and ruthless attacks by police on dissidents outside.

This special form of capitalism, owing much to Shintoism and not a little to Buddhism is something that has to be resisted and is resisted by our comrades in Japan. To equate the Japanese capitalists with British Toryism and say one is the same as the other is totally false - it is to fall into the same trap as the good folk who say Smithfield meat market is as bad as Belsen (and therefore by corollary say that Belsen is no worse than Smithfield Meat Market). British Toryism has been curtailed in the past by workers organisation. It looks as if we may fall into the efficiency of American capitalism or the ruthlessness of the Japanese capitalist system thanks to the present Tory line. To suggest it doesn't matter what nationality the directors are would be true if all capitalists everywhere operated in the same way; but they don't.

policed 'City' ie. Mayfair, Soho, Covent Garden etc were able to do a quick bit of damage and leave the area without arrests. A sex-shop, posh restaurant, various cars and car showrooms were daubed with paint or smashed up. At one point an enraged car owner threatened a group of city stoppers with "the firm", a gang of men with pick-axe handles, so the 'stoppers' left fast..The heady atmosphere of these quick sprees led to a taxi and milk van getting smashed up too which was unfortunate and indiscriminate. The whole point of the day, to "Stop the City" was lost. Taking the heavy arrests into account, a change of tactics is necessary.

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editorial

What opposes the building of the Anarchist movement in this country is not police repression - which is suspended while there is no effective action against Statism - nor the lies of the media taken from the fascists objections to Anarchism.

The vanguard of anti-anarchism at the moment is cynicism and apathy. The workers as a class have been frozen out of the working class movement by the modern interpretation of State Socialism.

This vacuum has led people who like to be considered 'revolutionary', but don't believe in Anarchism, to form a type of anti-Anarchist ragbag vanguard. They include even some who describe themselves as Anarchists but say they oppose 'anarcho-syndicalism'.

What they really oppose is the idea that Anarchism can be a living force among the workers once again.

In this they join forces with neo-council communists or 'autonomists' (obscure term) or whatever else they like to call themselves.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

BM HURRICANE, LONDON WC1N 3XX
SUBSCRIPTIONS: £9 per year inland.
£9 per year - surface - overseas.
£17 per year - airmail - overseas.

Ballymena Trades Council voted 3-2 against a motion supporting CNT-AIT members imprisoned in Spain today. All those in the situation to raise the matter on Trades Councils likewise are urged to contact S. London DAM who will send them a list of the prisoners. People who wish to write to the Spanish Embassy on these comrades behalf please do so. We will publish in the next *Newsbulletin* a list of addresses of these prisoners.

Questions & Answers on Anarchism

Q: Anarchists denounce politics but they still refer to some of their number as "political prisoners". How come? Is anarchism a political scene or not? Don't they want to control their own trade unions the way political parties do?

A: Anarchism is part of the political scene and people arrested for anarchist beliefs are 'political prisoners'; BUT anarchists denounce political parties, to whom politics is part and parcel of the art of government (though it is true Anarchists often use the term 'apolitical' when they really mean non-governmental). The danger in reformist trade unions is not so much the people aspiring to power or influence as the apathetic who yield to them: the reason anarchists build anarchist-syndicalist bodies is to provide an alternative form of unionism whereby there isn't any need or place for power or leadership.

BULLETIN FROM THE ARRATIA GROUP (Chilean Libertarian Workers in Exile)

Popular organisations, with their roots in the poorest populations have now risen up as an independent force which is difficult to control. They're not just worrying the regime, but the political parties as well. Once again, history repeats itself; everytime people wish to take part directly, those in power and those who hope to replace them in power tremble.

Never has the Chilean popular movement been so large and so dynamic. Ten years of trying to organise themselves independently, of struggling daily to find direct solutions to the most urgent problems - *without intermediaries* - is leading the Chilean working classes to rediscover ways of organising and resisting which have for long been forgotten. Methods which were put into practice daily by Chilean workers in the 1920s 30s and 40s, in the heyday of the Chilean workers' movement.

This *independent* struggle has been in evidence since 1977. First, certain unions broke with the traditional bureaucratic set-up, and got together to work out how to face up to the reality of modern Chile. Little by little, this led to a collective way of looking at things which soon bore fruit.

In 1978 the Unified Workers Front (UWF) was started. This had previously been a tool of the Christian Democrats, and as soon as they saw it being organised along autonomous lines they tried to get it back into their fold. Since 1980 the tendency towards autonomy has spread to other sectors of the population. A popular autonomous movement appeared in the San Miguel district of Santiago in 1981. Chilean students created the Unified Student Front. Fed up with the Demo-Christian lobbying in the UWF, some unions left and started a new organisation, the Commission for Renovating the Unions (CRU). A CRU representative went to Europe in 1981, there explaining to Chilean exiles the aims of the new movement.

In May 1982 a CRU document outlining its aims was circulated through Chile. Exiles set up CRU branches in Belgium, Holland and France. In April 1983, a CRU congress took place in Chile. Many new groups attended, interested in new ideas. Out of this congress was born the Movement for Social Revolution (MSR), an umbrella organisation for all the different autonomous groups in Chile.

The MSR set out its long term plans, rejecting any intervention on behalf of the political parties. It stresses the importance of educating the population, by means of schools set up in the poor villages, for young and old alike. It also has set up *Union Schools*, where the new ideas of direct democracy, new and different values, and 'social control' organised by the workers themselves can be discussed and debated. The social control mentioned above has nothing to do with the 'popular power' so beloved of the 'radical' political parties. There is no room for them in any of this.

What has been the attitude of the political parties to this new movement? Total isolation, sometimes attempts to infiltrate by the more radical parties, and even enthusiastic joining in on the part of dissidents from the political parties. But the direction in which the new movement is moving is making it quite clear that those who are looking for power won't find it very easily in this popular organisation.

Better still: as two representatives of the MSR made clear in an interview in Santiago, any aid and solidarity in helping them in their declared tasks of setting up schools, co-operative workshops and other projects will be accepted; they need this kind of help, but will accept *no conditions* from any party, whatever its ideology.

In the interviews they said: *We have preferred to reject certain offers of help which would have been important, because they would have entailed compromises. Our social project is the only real answer after more than 60 years of workers' struggle and more than 30 years of the control of the workers' struggle by the political parties. Our social project is concerned with the future. Time is on our side. Today, all the political parties think only of when the dictatorship will fall and the subsequent dispute over who should hold the power now held by General Pinochet. Us, we're not worried about that; the struggle for political power doesn't interest us, our project is concerned with other things: educating, spreading information, teaching each comrade how society functions, how daily problems might be solved. In other words, so that each worker, peasant, student, young person may learn to take control of their own lives; that in each workplace, each district, in the local communities, popular organisations capable of finding solutions to problems may thrive.*

Finally, the interviewee answered one more question: What is the role of the MSR in the syndicalist movement? *The syndicalist movement must be the driving force and the backbone of the social movement formed by workers in all fields, at different levels and using different methods of organising, be they communes, peasant groups, youth groups, co-ops, women's groups etc. which wish to build independent social power for working people.*

Translated from *Agora Magazine*.

CNT-AIT ARCHIVES

The International Secretary of the DAM sent a protest telegram to the Amsterdam Social History Institute early in May in support of other IWA groups after news that CNT-AIT members had chained themselves to the Institute gates. (See back page CNT ARCHIVES).

WIMPEY RULES OK?

In Burnley there is a council estate called Bleakhouse (appropriately enough) which the Labour Council decided to sell off, not to the residents, but to Wimpey builders. Conditions on the estate are appalling. When residents leave, the Council boards up the houses despite repeated requests from the tenants to the Council to renovate and redecorate the houses, with the inevitable result of rats, mice, dilapidation, etc. The residents only learned of the decision through the local press, and decided to call a march in protest.

If the council did not offer an adequate explanation, the residents committee openly declared that they would erect barricades. The situation has grown so tense that a government minister has decided to tour Burnley. The council has asked the residents not to march or demonstrate against the minister; but this advice, like the councils empty promises, will fall on deaf ears. A proposed rent increase has not gone down well either.

SOURCE: Burnley
Anarchist Group.

GERMANY

Latest news about the struggle for a 35 hour week is that 150,000 have been called out on sympathy strike by the German trade union federation, resulting in the disruption of public transport services in certain parts of the country.

The German courts have also ruled against the employers for imposing a lockout involving over 26,000 workers in Hesse.

BRAZIL

In Sao Paulo bus drivers who are seeking a substantial pay rise (inflation in Brazil is 230% and rising) fought with police and municipal authorities in an attempt to prevent the city buses from running. There were many arrests and one striker was shot. In the end the strike action was broken by scabs. Similar clashes have been taking place in the north. In the rural area of Guariba the police shot dead one striker and many others were wounded. The strikers were sugar cane cutters who were demanding higher pay. Later riots broke out and the offices of the local water company were wrecked, supermarkets were raided and vehicles burnt. In the nearby province of Bebedouro striking orange pickers fought running battles with the police, attacked scabs and set up blockades. The area is now occupied by hundreds of armed police drafted in from the south.

In the north-east of the country the worst drought in recent history continues. Recent estimates indicate that as many as three million people are expected to die from the drought. Families are so desperately poor that many are being forced to sell their children to adoption agencies. With many crops ravaged by the drought peasants are being given no choice but to survive by undertaking slave labour on the land of the wealthy landowners.



As
Seen On
TV

At Your Local Nick
No one can hear
You scream

The government are hoping for capitulation. The miners merely want to keep their jobs. Over the last few months the mineworking communities have organised themselves into an impressive network of local, self-managed Strike Committees and Support Groups, operating on a mutual aid basis. But in the end it will be up to everyone to do whatever they can to see the government does not get its way. If the government is looking for all-out class war, then that is what they'll get. If the miners stand any chance of winning at all then the struggle will need to be generalised throughout all industry, not just the coal industry, and taken on to the streets to every part of this land.



As we go to press the Battle of Orgreave continues. It began on Monday 28th after a dramatic appeal by NUM president Arthur Scargill for miners throughout the country to converge upon the coke depot for a mass picket that would make the 1972 Saltley Gate picket seem like a picnic. The response was heartening: around 7000 pickets turned up on day one. For the next four days an average of 3-4000 pickets a day turned up to battle with the cops. Day five (Friday) and the numbers are still the same. So far the arrests have been kept to a minimum, while violence wise the pickets gave as good as they got with many a cop getting a bloody nose and more.

Fencing posts were used as battering rams, telegraph poles were wrenched out of the earth and used to block thoroughfares against the charging police, wire was strung across roadways to trip over snatch squads and mounted riot police. Day one witnessed the firing of a portakabin and the arrival of special 'riot ambulance' orderlies. Day two saw the arrest of Scargill on an obstruction charge and the consequent occupation of NCB headquarters in London by a contingent of Kent miners. They took the building by storm and imposed a lockout on scab management. Only when Scargill was released, four hours later, did they leave the building peacefully.

The battle functioned as a useful prelude to the 'peace talks', making it clear that if there is no settlement in the miners favour, then the police will in the end face much more than they had bargained for. The Battle of Orgreave has struck right at the heart of the State. For Thatcher it is deja vu time with the spectre of the Heath '74 fall from grace ever peeping over the distant horizon.

THE OFFENSIVE CONTINUES

According to press reports an alleged anarchist group, called Right to Work Action Group, has claimed responsibility for a fire at a railway signal box at Broughton, north Nottinghamshire, and for the cutting of a signal cable on a line in north Derbyshire. Both actions were carried out in connection with the miners dispute. The reports indicate that the police suspect the same group for a fire at another signal box, near Cresswell Colliery, on a line normally used by coal trains. Such actions would of course help considerably in delaying the movement of coal from collieries to depots.

A coach load of flying pickets was allowed through a police cordon outside Parkside Colliery (Lancs). The reason: they were travelling in a dark blue police bus and the cops thought they were police reinforcements. Apparently the NUM had given £500 to a St Helens pensioners group who wished to purchase the bus (old stock) from the police for their local outings. The donation was given on the agreement that the NUM could use the bus to ferry pickets during the miners strike. Police fury was doubled when it was later learnt that Liverpool bobbies had actually road taxed the bus and contributed 30 gallons of petrol before the bus was handed over to the pensioners/miners.

SOURCE: ASDNN (Liverpool)

TOWARDS A THIRD FORCE

Intimidation, the use of agent provocateurs, gratuitous violence and nationwide blockades all continue as the forces of the State are placed on the defensive. Police protection for scabs has in fact been going on for some weeks with undercover surveillance teams having been sent in to Notts area almost as soon as the strike began.

For one miner, Bill Ross, virtual house arrest and stringent curfew were imposed as part of the bail conditions he received in connection with an obstruction charge. He is unable to visit any of his friends or travel freely at will and has been trailed by plain clothes cops. In April he was badly beaten by the cops and suffered a trapped nerve in his neck.

Police vigilantes were used to drive out flying pickets lodging in the homes of striking miners in the Nottinghamshire area. In Blidworth police provoked a serious street disturbance when they tried (successfully) to evict Yorkshire pickets who were being accommodated in the homes of one of the locals.

At the Ollerton picket line a policeman (no. 1150) was spotted wearing a GSM Northern Ireland Medal ribbon. 1150 was witnessed brutally kicking

arrested pickets in the groin and when accused of being a soldier he quickly left the scene only to reappear again later with a different ID number. Cops/army personnel were also suspected of kidnapping Robert Malone, a Scottish miner lodging in the village of Ollerton with a Mr Spencer (one of those kicked in the groin by 1150). Malone was offered a lift by two bogus miners who drove him instead to an isolated place and beat him unconscious with truncheons. The two both had northern Irish accents.

Colin Sampson, Chief Constable of W Yorkshire, has said that it seems inevitable that Britain will soon have its own 'third force' nationwide paramilitaries, similar to the French CRS or the US National Guard. to deal with future picketing infringements or street riots. Sampson admitted that the delicate police/public relationship was at the moment very fragile in certain parts of the country and that the police were aware that unless a parallel force could undertake the strikebreaking duties, public confidence in policing generally would reach rock bottom. Sampson did not know if the strikebreaking force should be recruited from the police or from the armed forces or both.



ROUND AND ABOUT THE MINERS STRIKE

As mining communities have now dug-in for a long struggle, they are faced with dealing with poverty unseen by many, and unknown for many years in this country. A striking miner is not entitled to any social security for himself, and £15 is deducted from the remainder on the grounds that the Union should be paying that much a week in strike benefit, whether he is or not. So many families are living on less than £20 per week, which includes rent/mortgage interest payments and rates. Single men get nothing, and there was a case in Barnsley in the past couple of weeks where a young miner was evicted from his home for not paying his rent. A single parent miner is getting £1.56p a week! plus, of course, child-benefit. There is no fuel left for most families. Now people are cashing in insurance policies and selling furniture in a bid to survive. So now more than ever communities are needing to pull together to defend themselves.

Women are at the forefront of this day-to-day struggle and their contribution is no less important than that of the men and women on the picket lines, explaining why there is a strike, to those who still don't understand, and talking with the media in an attempt to reach more people with how the people involved are feeling and coping. They have been instrumental in setting up food kitchens, delivering food that has been contributed by local trades people, raising money and so on.

They have also rallied on the streets to show their support. In Mansfield on April 7, hundreds of women from Kent, Wales, Yorkshire and other areas marched through the streets of this Nottinghamshire town to demonstrate to the women, especially, that they opposed their (Notts. women) attitudes as seen in the media, and to bring home to them that they were not prepared to stand idly by whilst pits closed. As one banner expressed: 'Don't let McGregor rape and pillage, a closed pit means a dead village.'

On April 9, there was a women's picket outside the gates of Ollerton pit. We were surprised at how few were actually going into work, but were informed that in the previous week only five face-workers had gone to work, hardly the full attendance we keep hearing about. We did manage to turn some men back, much to the pleasure of the striking Ollerton men who were made to stand, by the police, fifty yards away, although they said themselves that they wanted to keep it a women-only picket that day. Getting to Ollerton in the first place was risky. The road to Nottinghamshire was heavy with police, at roundabouts, in lay-bys and by the side of the road. The car I was in carried four women and one man (the driver), but we were stopped on the roundabout into the village and asked where we were going. They were not stopping everyone, just 'selected cars, sir', but we had a good reason to be there (visiting friends) and were allowed through.

DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT

Wed 23rd May

S. London DAM held a social and raised £50 for the Argentinian Anarcho-syndicalists of FORA.

Friday 25th May

E. London DAM held a social with live music and poets & a speaker from the Kent area NUM. £200 was raised.

Saturday 26th May

S. London DAM held a Jumble sale for the Doncaster area miners and raised £68.



WISE UP!
ORGANISE
MUTU@L @ID

LAMBETH TRADES COUNCIL MEETING

Four anarchists/syndicalists attended a public meeting set up by Lambeth Trades Council to hear members of KENT NUM speak. In the event all the trade union speakers were good, especially the NUM speaker, the NGA member and the miners wife.

Unfortunately after the trades unionists had finished the floor was opened up to all and we had to sit through the interminable speeches by every Left political party under the sun. Of all the speakers from the floor the anarchist got the biggest cheer when he got up to ask questions and apologised for not having a party line to push!

At the end of the evening we were approached by several miners who gave us phone numbers and addresses to picket. All in all not a bad meeting.

S. London DAM member

MANSFIELD, MAY 14th

There was a national demonstration in Mansfield Nottinghamshire, to which 35,000 plus miners, families, supporters turned up to. There were banners brought from all parts of the country, and the greatest applause was given to the Notts. home made banners because the official ones had 'been withheld by scabs'.

There was a lot of support given by passers-by, it must be remembered that only a minority of Notts. people are scabs.

At the end of the day, after many had left, the police tried their predictable tactic again. A small handful pulled up and told the 400 or so men left to leave. They were still in the car park where the rally took place and were chatting and sitting on the walls. They refused to move, and the next thing they knew was the mounted police came in. One of these knocked a child out of a pram. Some men on coaches got off (of those who hadn't left), plus those who'd been told to move, fought back. TV cameras were wrecked and some police were injured. But many strikers were hurt, including one who'd been knocked unconscious*.

It's good to see retaliation — for too long during this strike people have been arrested and those arrests have not been resisted by the arrestee's comrades. But attitudes are hardening as the strike progresses. Whatever the outcome, nothing in the mining communities will ever be the same as it was before.

*We must all learn by the tactics being used by the police in this strike, and not be caught out. The police tried this 'mopping-up' operation in Sheffield — we must beware — and not leave comrades vulnerable to police attacks.

HUNTERSTON DIRECT ACTION

The mass pickets to stop coal being transferred from Hunterston to the Ravenscraig steel-works have not been able to stop the deliveries and have resulted in mass arrests. In the present situation, the with police acting as a national strike-breaking force, the tactics of mass picketing need to be re-examined.

One tactic worth considering taking is taking the struggle down to the level of guerilla war. Thousands can't block the gates, but groups of workers, 10-20 strong willing to take quick action against the scab lorries could prove to be effective. For example individual lorries could be stopped and smashed in isolated places and then the attackers can disappear to somewhere else to do the same again and again.

An anarcho-syndicalist's utopian day-dream? Well, not quite. Lorries have been stopped outside Hunterston away from cop attention, catapults have been used to smash wind-screens, air-brake pipes were cut, scabs beaten up, sugar poured into tanks. This is all true, it all happened.

Another case where workers are in advance of their so-called leaders.

@ SABOT.

ALL THE NEWS YOU WILL NOT HEAR IN THE MEDIA:

- Drax, Eggborough and Ferrybridge power stations in Yorkshire are no longer working because they HAVE RUN OUT OF COAL STOCKS.
- At Haworth, Nottinghamshire, a man (not scab) was walking past the pit gates carrying his young child in his arms. The police pushed back the pickets to allow a convoy of lorries to enter. The man attempted to carry on as he lived at the other side of the gates. A police sergeant pushed him back although he had said what he was trying to do. Because he wouldn't do what the police said, the sergeant thumped the man in the face. The man was still carrying his child. The incident led to a near riot. The sergeant was carried away on a stretcher.
- During a picket outside a north Notts pit last week, three police beat up a picket and had to be dragged off by their superior (sic) officer. The picket had to be given the kiss of life.
- A junction box of a coal rail line in Nottingham has been wrecked.
- At the 'fire' of a district in Rossington pit, Doncaster, striking miners have been fighting that fire without wanting any pay — it was given to charity.
- The scabs in Notts. received a days wage when they demonstrated outside their union HQ, against the strike.
- At a Bentley colliery, Doncaster, £50,000 worth of damage was done to the pit top, including damage to the shaft, when concrete blocks were thrown down it.
- Management at Hatfield pit near Doncaster 'lost' 20 foot of rope when capping (changing the lift cable).

Careful about those well publicised collections 'for the miner's struggle' organised by Trot groups. They don't collect for the miners — some of whom are nearly starving, especially the young single ones without family. The WRP and SWP etc collect for posters and propaganda, even for the printing of their own newspapers so they can print 'the news of the miners' struggle' and thus 'support the struggle'.

When you can, give your collection direct to actual miners who need it. Otherwise buy food (non-perishable ie. tins etc.) and send this or money as the next best thing, through the National Union of Mineworkers.

Local DAM groups and many others have raised funds and distributed them in this way.



THE THOUGHTS OF A MINER'S WIFE

*What is a miner? — What is he worth?
When he spends his life in the bowels of the earth
Where darkness surrounds him
The air full of dust,
Work is no pleasure
Hard feelings are just.*

*But who sympathises — who seems to care?
The bosses don't worry as long as he's there —
To carry on working — a bonus? to earn,
But when will he listen, when will he learn;
That where there's incentive there also comes greed
And those that earn plenty forget those in need.*

*When his job is threatened then he has the right
To strike for his future and urge ALL to unite.*

*Each miner should listen and then heed the call
To come out together, gain a future for all.*

*But shame on the miner who'll sell out his soul
When he condemns another to life on the dole.
Each one has a duty to his fellow man —
He must join the battle against this closure plan.*

*A union miner will join in the fold.
A union miner won't waver and wait to be told,
For he knows he's worth more than redundancy payments
That only result in a queue of dole claimants.*

KAY SUTCLIFFE



Pig in the Middle

Dear Black Flag,

Regarding the Miners Strike:

The 'Dunkirk' spirit of the community is on the up and up. Clothing is being distributed, Mother's Day gifts were given to all miners wives and mothers and the best yet FREE BEER! (A pub in nearby Cartleford!) Have you ever been to this bit of the green and pleasant land? The phrase 'the arsehole of Britain' comes to mind. Local industries: glass and chemicals are on the decline, mining is all that keep the area from sinking. Pits, slag heaps and power stations decorate the area: an ecologist's nightmare. I have been trying to get National Coal Board staff out with mixed results. On Monday, managed a hundred pickets and four vans of police. Support from the other unions has been quite good. Railwaymen have blacked coal wagons, dustbinmen donated food. Local building societies have been threatened with blacking should they try to repossess. The miners enjoy and have always enjoyed the locals goodwill. The police on the other hand aren't quite as popular. Despite middle class rhetoric, the coppers are disliked locally (and always have been). Folk memory still recall their activities in 1926. In the 1981 riots the local cop HQ was attacked by petrol bombers. The rioters were jailed. Still where there's life there's hope.

Best Wishes,

D.S., Knottingly, West Yorks.

P.S. 'In the barbers' shops were anarchist notices solemnly explaining that barbers were no longer slaves'

Homage to Catalonia

A long way from 'Free Haircuts for Miners', perhaps?

An incident outside NUM HQ Sheffield Thursday April 12.

The assembled lobby were gathered in front of the HQ together with police and journalists. On top of a small building were television cameras and crew, and a BBC reporter was getting ready to give his account of what was happening. The cameras were about to roll (!), when a cry went up from the crowd 'the BBC are wankers, the BBC are wankers, na na na na na na na'. This continuous song upset the reporter so much that he threw off his ear phones. But whenever he tried to give his report, the song went up again. Needless to say, the BBC with their impartial attitude, did not report this view of themselves on the evening news, and the studio report was less than flattering about the assembled throng.

After the lobby that Thursday, the men left in high spirits to get to their buses. They decided, spontaneous, to take to the road, much to the consternation of the boys in blue, who, once they realised what was happening — a peaceful march back to the coaches — decided that they could not let it happen. They were herded and pushed around, surrounded and many arrested. It seems that the police are really out to make arrests and reports that miners are causing all the trouble are really overdone. The police in most cases that I have seen have been the instigators of violence.

Defusing feelings

Following the large demonstration outside of the NUM's Sheffield headquarters on 12 April, during the national executive meeting, the NUM leaders and Sheffield Trades Council decided to turn the demonstration and lobby at the national delegates conference the following week into a 'carnival'.

NUM marshals were appointed, loud speakers erected and a string of speakers and singers lined up to entertain the miners and their supporters. This tactic of stifling the emotion of a demonstration has been used by the Labour Party before at a Maggie unwelcoming demo last year, where it was totally successful and the whole thing turned out to be a non-event. On that occasion it worked as intended, but on the day of the national delegates conference, the lack of police in direct opposition to the miners and the string of speakers prompting chants and cheers lulled the miners into a false sense of security.

After the conference, decision was announced and the miners dispersed elated by the result. Minor scuffles occurred where police drew tuncheons and there were around seventy arrests.

The fact that a 'policed' demonstration with stewards and continual entertainment led to more arrests than the week before shows up the stupidity of the NUM officials and Sheffield Trades Council who co-operated with the police, defused the battle lines and imposed on the miners a carnival atmosphere. Whereas the police had learnt from the week before, and on being assured that the union officials would keep order, saved their forces from tiring pushing matches and kept them in the side streets ready for instant swamping of any 'signs of trouble'.

Although Scargill and other officials talk of a confrontation with the government, they are referring to the Cabinet and not the forces of the state that are the back-bone of any government. The young miners who are the forefront of this strike are much more aware of the role of the police and that only by defeating the police, where it counts outside the still working pits will the miners be able to force the government and the NCB to rethink its attitude to pit closures.

The NUM officials trend towards pampering to the media image and to co-operation with the police, which can be seen not only at the demonstrations in Sheffield, but on the creation of official and unofficial pickets where two or three pickets are allowed to talk to scabs and the stamping on any alternative forms of action such as the motorways convoys, is a trend that will loose this strike.

As anarchists we are totally opposed to any form of leadership from above (in fact, we are totally opposed to any above). Yet we support a strike that the media is portraying as one where the workforce has not had a say and has been dragged reluctantly by a devious left wing conspiracy. The question of whether to ballot or not is one that may be confusing many libertarians who only have access to the mass media.

To start with, there have been ballots, regional and national on the issue of pit closures, it has also been voted on at all levels of the union organisation, national conference, executive meetings, regional conferences and at pit and branch level, some of these have gone against strike action and some have gone for. There has also been strike action against pit closures at pit and regional level in Kent, South Wales and Scotland. The issue of the pit closures and the general running down of the mining industry has been debated, balloted and acted on over the last few years, it is not an issue that has just cropped up over the last couple of months.

When the Cortonwood men were told that their pit was to close, despite the fact that it has five years supply of workable coal and that miners transferred there from Elsecar pit had been promised 5 years work, they decided to fight to defend their jobs, community and pit against sacrifice to economics. The Cortonwood men asked for solidarity from the Yorkshire region NUM. As the Yorkshire miners had voted by 86% in 1981 to strike if any of their pits were closed down for economic reasons (when there were still workable reserves) the Yorkshire region struck. But it was the actions of the rank and file, who 'flew' into the other regions to ask miner to miner for solidarity with the Cortonwood men that led to the nationwide strike.

Unlike the Welsh, Kent and Scots areas, the Yorkshire rank and file mounted pickets in other areas to spread the strike, rather than waiting to push motions through the organisational structures and create a national strike that way. Of course the Yorks miners have an advantage over their Kent, Scots and Welsh colleagues in that they are at the centre of the country and the Midlands and Lancashire pits are next door. It was the grass roots who created this strike and the militancy of the young miners particularly took the union leadership by surprise and it took them a few weeks to stamp out the more militant actions and take control of the mass picketing.

This strike is not about ballots it is about principles, it is a strike against the stupidity of throwing away natural resources and treating workers as economic collateral. Because it is a fight over principles many miners are striking, not for their own benefit, but for the benefit of others. Those miners that are scabbing are doing so because they believe in their own self interest before anything else, before the principles of solidarity and mutual aid. The strikers argue that nobody should have the power to vote another worker out of a job, and those who are scabbing are already by going into work, voting with their feet. The miners who are scabbing have turned down requests for solidarity from their fellow workers, they have chosen to side with the bosses and the State. The difference between a scab, policeman, and soldier in terms of their allegiance to the State and hierarchy is none. As anarchists we do not ballot the forces of the state to see whether it is all right for us to fight them, why should strikers ballot scabs.

The major objections to the ballot are not only that many miners don't want one and that to organise a ballot would take up the time and energy of the militants and so weaken the offensive nature of the strike, but in the practical running of a ballot. Where would they be held? How would every miner be given the opportunity to vote, as many miners do live some distance from the pits and those who've been on strike for some weeks would be unable to afford to travel to vote. The calls for a pit head ballot would give an instant advantage to the no strike section that are still working as many strikers would be unable to turn up due to cost of travelling and there may also be a substantial abstention rate of miners who object to a ballot on a strike that is already happening and on the right of scabs to vote them out of a job.

A ballot should not be used to determine whether the strike continues or not, and many Yorkshire miners are talking of staying out regardless if there is a national ballot against a strike. It could be used as a tool to unite the whole of the NUM or at least to isolate those scabs who would still work without any excuse other than their own principles (or rather lack of them).

Besides the practical and principled reasons for not holding a national ballot, Scargill may have his own political reasons. As it stands at the moment it is not a national strike, but a simultaneous strike of all the separate regions of the NUM, which the last national delegates conference called on all miners to support. Although it is not a national strike, the delegates conference, 'handed' over control and organisation of pickets to the national office; this may just be a tactic to give pickets the 'legality' of being acting on behalf of the national NUM rather than their separate regions but it leads to a peculiar situation.

It is not a national strike, but the national leadership (Scargill), that has been given the generalship of the pickets which results in not only Scargill having the glory of negotiating a deal with the NCB over pit closures if the strike is victorious, it also gives him the glory of 'leading the troops in the field'. But although Scargill has the potential glory of leading a victorious strike, because it is not a national strike but a simultaneous regional strike if the strike is lost, there will be no national agreement accepting pit closures on national grounds, the responsibility for accepting the closure of pits will rest on the heads of the regional officials and the individual pits that are shut down.

Women's Action/Support Groups

— BBC trivialisation

On Saturday May 12 in Barnsley we saw an incredible display of solidarity with the striking miners, as 10,000 people, mainly women took part in a national demonstration against pit closures.

The women, from action/support groups from all parts of the country took to the streets, singing, chanting, displaying home-made banners, some quite beautiful, demonstrating that pit closures affect every single person not only in mining communities, but throughout the land. Following the demonstration there was a rally in the Civic Hall which was packed, and many had to stand outside and have speeches relayed to them over a tannoy system.

A woman from Barnsley gave a magnificent speech which was responded to with incredible applause, cheers etc. In fact, throughout the speeches the women noisily responded with boos and hisses for MacGregor, Thatcher, the Tories & the Press, chants and cheers for everything the women felt good about. Two women from the Nottingham Women Support Strikers contingent were of course greeted with tremendous response & respect that they deserved because their support & activity is much more difficult than for those women in areas solidly behind the strike. Another woman, from the Doncaster area made it clear that those not with the miners were against them and that those who procrastinated, especially from the labour and trades union movement - including Kinnock - would be categorised in the latter group. Scargill gave an amusing speech, but did make it clear that he felt the women were doing an historic task and how pleased the miners were with womens support and presence on the picket lines. He was given a heroes welcome.

And how did the media respond to this historic occasion? Quite simply it trivialised the whole event. The BBC news that night, left me seething. Two-thirds of the time about the demo was given to Scargill signing autographs for the women - a third part showed again Scargill speaking at the rally with a voice-over commentator giving his account - interpretation - of a tiny section of what S. had said. They also gave the police figure of numbers on the demo - 3,500 - so much more authoritative than about 10,000 don't you think?



LEST WE FORGET

The present miners fight against the economic closure of pits, is a continuation of the fight against 'economics' that has gone on as long as there has been nationalisation.

With the end of the Second World War, a Labour Government and nationalisation, the union bosses negotiated a 5 day week without loss of pay, but also agreed to support the National Coal Board's 'coal at price' policy.

In late 1947, management instructed face workers at Grime-thorpe pit in South Yorkshire to increase the width of their face, this would have meant an increase in work, for the face workers.

The resulting strike which was attacked by the union bosses shut down 59 Yorkshire pits and brought out 80,000 miners.

At the end of the strike 40 Grimethorpe miners were fined £304 for 'breach of contract'. This became a standard NCB policy of victimisation against the 'wildcat strikes' that resulted from poor management and the measures taken to improve efficiency.

In South Wales miners staged sit-in/stay-in strikes against the economic closure of pits. These actions were again condemned by union bosses, committed to economics, nationalisation and the Labour Government.

Elephant's memory

SYSTEM GIVING WAY

Didcot and Aberthaw power stations are currently out of action (unreported in the national press) due to the overall non-supply of coal to stations nationwide. The Central Electricity Generating Board has in fact set up a rota system (implemented over seven weeks ago after the miners dispute was well into its third month). The rota system (involving around eight power stations) allows for the national grid to operate without any need for power cuts. But sooner or later the rotation will need to take on more stations as fuel supplies get scarcer. The grid is now almost fully reliant on regular supplies of oil and coal imported through the non-unionised mini-ports. What is really scaring the shit out of the government is the possibility of an escalation of the Gulf War and the continuation of the miners strike into the winter months. Time is now on the miners side.

Despite the confidence of the government that all's OK, it is interesting to learn that a three day week has already begun to take effect. Again there have been no reports of this in the national press. Subsidiaries of GEC, Hawker Siddeley and Babcock International, the entire workforce of Andrews Strathclyde and many other, smaller firms are now on a three day week as a direct result of the miners action. In total, according to the NUM's own paper, *The Miner*, around 60,000 workers are involved in the layoffs.

The NCB is arguing that it is far more economical to rely on cheap (subsidised) imports, such as Polish coal. A recent industry report recommended that the NCB concentrate more and more in the future on imports to supply

the domestic market - one reason why most power stations are so conveniently situated on or near the coast (or UK coalfield) and close to dock facilities. In the meantime Polish officials have opened up separate talks with NI fuel importers via their embassy in Dublin.

Currently much of the imports are getting in around the dock workers blockades by going through small, non-unionised quays such as that at the Essex village of Wivenhoe. Kent miners and flying pickets from the Midlands have managed to make life somewhat difficult for the two brothers (one of whom is an ex-cop) who own the quay. The pickets have been assisted in their efforts by the Wivenhoe Port Action Group, composed of local residents opposed to the environmental hazard, and by students (at nearby Essex University) who have been providing accommodation - despite threats from the Dean to close down the student union facilities - for the visiting 300+ pickets. Although the NUM recently managed to persuade Polish officials to postpone negotiations with private industry and wholesale merchants for the supply of long-term fuel contracts, the threat to reopen negotiations by the Jaruzelski regime still stand. The NUM perhaps ought to try and open direct negotiations with Polish mine-workers to see if they can get their support in blocking supplies. NUM members have already made direct contact with FAU (German anarcho-syndicalist) members who in turn are in direct contact with Solidarnosc Underground, as are the CNT-AIT (Spanish anarcho-syndicalist union) who some NUM members are due to meet soon when they do a speaking tour in Spain. For too

long have governments and coal industry officials been operating above the heads of workers to use international contacts to crush worker solidarity.

As we go to press the NCB and the NUM Executive have opened up talks to see if they can come to an agreement.

The NCB want to close between 20 and 28 pits and cut back over the next year around 20,000 jobs.

The NCB are also seeking production cut backs and they will argue at the negotiating table that these have already been achieved because of the effects of the strike action. As a token gesture they will probably 'offer' to keep Cortonwood colliery open (why, then threaten to close it in the first place?). But their trump card will be to try and persuade the NUM Executive to accept the principle that pit closures should be negotiated on a local basis only. In other words divide and rule. If they succeed in getting this principle accepted then they would have scored an important victory as the closure programme, although in theory would be postponed, could be reactivated at any point in time should Area negotiations go their way (as in south Wales last year).

The production cut backs - if the NUM are forced to accept them - could, in fact, be achieved without either redundancies or pit closures by the implementation of a 35 hour week and Scargill has already said this is an option that the NUM could try and go for. Of course any reduction in working hours would have to be on the basis of no loss of pay (as the IG-Metall workers in Germany are demanding). But is this an option on the negotiating table or will it only be raised if all else fails?

NOTTS

While nationally 80% of the miners are on strike in Nottingham only a third are taking industrial action. On May 19th about 200-400 pickets descended upon Kirkby-in-Ashfield and about the same number of police. Pickets on foot tried to get to two local collieries, Annesley and Newstead which have been picketed for a while now. Only 30 men are reporting for work at Newstead.

A fight between pickets and police ended up in the nearby woods and fields. Under public scrutiny one cop kneed one unfortunate young man in the groin outside the Miner's Welfare. Often the public actually help these cops to do their dirty work. One lorry driver even drove his vehicle at a picket as he ran away from the filth down a pavement.

Such scenes fill the heart with anger and make you sympathise with the people in countries where the situation is even more brutal. This place is policed day and night, woods & fields as well as premises. Any excuse for a show of authority. Thatcher has much to answer for.

All strikers here may be sacked if the injunction by local right-wingers is successful. The idea is to make it unofficial. However most say they will defy the order not to strike.

Police forced their way into homes of striking miners at the village of Newstead looking for pickets from outside the district. Despite all this, one good thing to come out of this mess is to see the solidarity among strikers and their families.

M.



HOW TO HOLD A FASCIST PARTY

First you get a group of thugs (originally unpaid - the rewards come later) and mob them against selected individuals (preferably unpopular, so that they will not receive general support). Objects of the attack in the past have been Jews, trade unionists, now it is Blacks and Asians, once it was 'agitators' for various causes. Having built up a cheap reputation for thuggery, everyone else is afraid of you and you are useful to the ruling class who can thus employ you as they did Mussolini's gangs.

The next stage of the game is to let the grateful capitalists give you power, and then take their money away from them with a revolver to their heads.

Alas, that was *then*. The problem now is that owing purely to Hitler's military defeat, fascists have become obnoxious even to sections of the ruling class. They have to attack Blacks and Asians because of racialism in the working class, hoping to become feared and so employed. But all they have succeeded in doing is to stir up racial hatreds with both Blacks and Whites engaging in racial violence and the capitalists not really benefitting in the least, since trade unionism has largely succeeded in preventing this from making an economic difference to the *employer* (it is not generally cheaper to employ Blacks; indeed the problem is he doesn't do so and leaves them at the end of the work queues).

By becoming generally obnoxious and unprofitable to the employer, fascists cannot get together - other than in small organised groups facing individuals - yet they must become dominant in the street to be credible and employable.

POLICE

So the next trick is the police trick. There is fascist sympathy in the police, but it has parted from the street thug. Not until the fascist becomes respectable again will the police openly side. But the residual sympathy they retain - in the police - because of the sincerely held belief that they represent a force against the organised workers - means that fascists can always rely on police protection.

The moment Sir Oswald Mosley began marching he aroused public hostility (even before Hitler's defeat). He immediately got vast police protection.

To protect free speech? That is what is always said.

For years mobs attacked Socialists, Anarchists and such, right until the First World War. Suffragists were attacked and women kicked, punched and bullied for speaking out for the vote. No police support, on the contrary. Atheists were attacked right up to the Second World War (even Protestant Truth Society speakers) by Irish Catholics in England. The general police attitude: Serve you right. The moment Mosley came along; 'We have to protect free speech'.

Since the Public Order Act marches can be banned. This means that if the fascists decided to hold a march, they can effectively ban all marches, for the law will say that *all* must be banned (bar religious ones), if the fascists have to be banned. In Manchester, the notorious authoritarian Police Chief Alderton, actually sanctioned, in lieu of a banned fascist march, a march by Martin Webster on his own, holding a fascist banner, and protected by hundreds of police. What political activist - no, what age old pensioner going to the Post Office and fearing mugging - could get the protection of *one* policeman? The exception that proved the rule was in Plymouth, where the lone liberal, then Police Chief, Alderson, allowed a fascist march but didn't supply any police - at which the National Front had to cancel the meeting and protested at 'lack of faith'. They weren't going to face the people unprotected! Yet this was freedom of speech and assembly - but to both sides.

WHAT IS HAPPENING AT NORTH LONDON POLYTECH?

Patrick Harrington, a National Front organiser, decided to enrol in this multi-racial college, to the great indignation of the student population who have prevented his entry. He obtained an injunction of the Courts - in the name of free speech - and at the moment of writing is entering the Poly with the blessing of the Courts, with hundreds of police diverted for his personal protection and with threats that the students' funds will be confiscated and their tutors jailed for not revealing names of demonstrators. The High Court tipstaff enters with him and tells the students what they may and may not ask - all in the name of free speech - they may not even ask questions about Hitlerism lest it embarrass their 'fellow student'.

The National Front has also managed to split the National Council for Civil Liberties down the middle by appealing to it for support. (If they said no, 'what about free speech', if they said yes, they face a crisis from their anti-fascist membership).

That the Poly students made mistakes - probably due to the Socialist Workers Party element trying to make publicity for itself - is true, but one must applaud their spirit in defying the Judge who is so out of touch with reality, not having to face it, that he ordered them to give addresses to the lawyer representing Harrington if they thought that giving them to the NF organiser meant they would be under individual threat at home. She happens to be one of the fascist old guard!

It would have been better perhaps if they had let him in, without minders and without police, and without hindrance. You never catch a fascist in *that* position! The theoreticians of the New Nationalists are not quite stupid enough to go without their 'minders' into a situation where they would be able to face a private piece of convincing argument in the toilets.

As it is, what's the betting that the tipstaff of the uniformed police (following the far right Alderton but not the pragmatic Alderson) follows him *there*?

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Anti-Cruise Missile 'Guerrilla' Sentenced

May 6th. Ann Hansen and Brent Taylor were found guilty of all the charges in their first trial (they face 3 more). Doug Stewart was only convicted of possession of stolen weapons. The next trial for the three begins on June 11th. It is the Cheekeye-Dunsmuir power station bombing, 3 sabotage conspiracies and possession of dynamite. The first trial lasted 8 months to the day. The next one should be shorter.

Julie Belmas and Gerry Hannah went through a lengthy sentencing procedure on the charges they pleaded guilty to (the other ones were dropped, so they are totally finished with Court). Julie Belmas received 20 years. Gerry Hannah received 10 years. They will be sent off to a Federal prison within a month, while the remaining three stay figuring out how to approach the trials to come.

S. C. Hill representing Ontario's Attorney General said: "It must be clear people cannot express political beliefs through acts of violence or with explosives." This and other statements were plastered throughout the Canadian media. Further, lies such as Julie Belmas 'laughed when accounts of the injured at the Litton (Cruise Missile computer part manufacturer) site were read out in Court' were played up large to discredit her in the public eye. Subsequent protests led to a withdrawal of the allegation in the papers. Throughout the proceedings a Trial by Media has taken place accusing and convicting these people before they have a chance to reply from jail through their lawyers, friends and relatives.

DIRECT ACTION AGAINST BOTH A

Instead of attending the Anti-Apartheid Demo on Sat May 2nd several groups did over South African related buildings including Barclay's Banks. A youth was arrested while throwing red paint over the South African Embassy a week before the Demo and the night before, 4 people were arrested after dumping coal and plastering posters over the same place. A 24 hour vigil during the week had to remain on the steps of St. Martin's in the Field Church as the police had banned any pickets near the Embassy. Some other groups have had similar bans and the Anarchists at the K. Omori picket have often been moved on.

At the demo's conclusion a group of youths - alas in isolation - pushed over a crowd control barrier and surged towards the police lines, 3 deep in front of the Embassy in Trafalgar Square. They were surrounded, knocked to the ground and arrested.

The Death of 'RADIKAL'

13th June 1983. Benny & Micha, the 2 honorary editors of *Radikal* arrested. Accused of aiding a terrorist organisation. Eventually get bail after a public outcry.

Oct 1983. House raided and edition of *Radikal* seized.

14th April 1984. 2 houses and 2 print shops raided and materials taken.

April 1984. Benny and Micha found guilty after a 20 week trial. Sentenced to 2½ years. They get bail to appeal.

22nd April. One person arrested trying to pick up the mail for *Radikal*. New Post address set up.

PRISONERS BUILD MISSILES

Canadian prison Industries have expanded to include producing and modifying missile 'drones' for the Military. Cruise is a 'drone'! Prison is a good place to have a "sensitive" industry (behind Guard towers, concertina wire and far from the prying eyes of some of the curious public - it is also a Federal crime to enter prison property without formal permission). Cheap labour too. Needless to say, no explosive components remain in the rocket during its modification. The Correctional Service of Canada's paper, *LET'S TALK*, for March 15/'84 features a picture of a cow and nice story next to the 'drone' news making it look pretty innocuous - just another little project!

SOURCE: A Concerned Prisoner in Canada.

LUCIFER PALAU

On Thursday 31st May at Queens Park Rangers football stadium a small crowd sceptically listened to the 'South American Billy Graham'. Mass advertising by Saatchi & Saatchi (who 'sell' the Tories at election time) asked 'who is Luis Palau' (a laxative!), and 'bring your doubts' (and rotten tomatoes) etc. had been plastered with CANCELLED stickers. The stadium was graffitied. On the opening Night leaflets such as Fraud's Prayer, "I was a teenage Junkie", news of how Palau's follower General Rios Montt of Guatemala (now overthrown in a coup) had butchered 'un-believers', were distributed. Inside some punks managed to get onto the field while others in sympathy yelled "Think for Yourself", "Don't drink the Poison-remember Jim Jones" etc. All those not passive were thrown out of the stadium. More to come as Palau will be haranging the (not very big) crowds for a month.

He is proud to claim that he stopped a revolt against the dictator of Ecuador by converting the leaders of the revolt into Bible Junkies.

April/May. A commemorative edition of *Radikal* is brought out in Dutch by the anarchist paper *De Vrij*.

2nd May. Second postbox raided and mail seized. The group decide to give up production. 'No movement... No paper.' they say. The *Radikal* women go on to begin the paper *Anargan*.

Black Flag Collective and other anarchist comrades have tried to publicise these situations and try to stop the censorship of the libertarian press. One 'movement' has nearly died but the acorns of the new are planted throughout the world. The *Ekonomia* survives and in London can be contacted through 121 Railton Road Herne Hill SE24.

DENMARK

On the Liberation Day of Denmark which was on May 4th, a ten day political carnival *Kulorte Klat* (Coloured Stain) was arranged by the Danish squatters.

1500 people had gathered in Front of the Town Hall of Copenhagen, from here they marched in procession. Two and a half hours and 8 kilometres later the demonstration ended up outside the Museum of the Resistance Movement 1940-45, where a speech was made; a slightly revised version of the national anthem was sung and a wreath was placed as a memorial to the killed members of the resistance movement during World War II.

YOU DID WHAT YOU COULD was the inscription of the wreath as a token of respect for the resistance movement, but at the same time there was a feeling of deep disappointment with the way society developed after the Liberation.

After the demonstration of sympathy, the cops without any warning, encircled the participants of the legal, reported demonstration... The result: the greatest mass arrest in the history of Denmark since WWII. A total of 362 were arrested, several of whom were hospitalised because of severe blows to the head.

With this the Danish police have clearly broken the Danish constitution, which obviously they don't consider as valid for squatters. There wasn't any fight or other disturbance of Law & Order at the Museum, which could explain the behaviour of the cops.

The mass arrest can only be ascribed to the cops' intense hatred of the squatters. They had to beat down even a positive non-violent demonstration.

The participants of *Kulorte Klat* have reported the cops to ...the police.

The matter will - of course - have legal consequences in form of a claim for 2000kr. (£133) per person arrested.

Anarchist Federation In Denmark.

ITALY

2 Anarchist militants from Gattinara were arrested in Sept. 1983 on so-called terrorist charges. One, Guiseppe Ruzza is in a poor physical and psychological state. He and Delfina Stefanuto are being held in Brindisi & Molinette prisons respectively. You can help them out now by pressurising the Italian Ambassador and Consulates with letters of protest etc. Personal cards can be sent to the comrades c/o Ciculo Culturale Anarchico, c/o Circolo Culturale Anarchico, "Comitato Pro-Agitatore", via G - Ulvi 8, Carrara ITALY.

K. OMORI

K. Omori, a Japanese Anarchist facing the death penalty needs support. On Wed. May 23rd a picket was held outside the Japanese Embassy, Grosvenor St, London between Midday and 2pm. On Friday June First the Danish Anarchists in Copenhagen took some action too. How about you? Next picket in London will be on June 20th, 12-2pm outside the Embassy. A plan to co-ordinate pickets throughout Europe on the one day is being explored. CNT comrades in Madrid have produced pro-Omori postcards which can be obtained from: CNT-AIT, Parque Vosa 12, bajos, Mostoles Madrid SPAIN.

IRELAND

Two Derry women arrested in connection with the bombing in December '82 of the Droppin Well pub, have had confessions extracted from them by torture.

On November 14 last year Anna Moore and her 18 year old daughter Jaqueline (over 2 months pregnant) were arrested and taken to the notorious Castlereagh Detention Centre for questioning. During that time neither were allowed to sleep and they were both refused food.

Both women were physically and mentally abused, forced to stand to attention for long periods of time, spreadeagled, and generally pushed around. On the second day Anne Moore was dragged to the floor face down with her legs and arms forced apart while detectives walked on her back. She was then punched in the back and

kidneys. Anne, who has suffered from an internal condition since the birth of Jaqueline, then began internal bleeding.

Jaqueline was promised a lenient sentence if she grassed on local INLA sympathisers. Both women were also offered bribes to take part in a 'supergrass' type trial.

Finally on November 17 detectives began to beat Anne in front of her daughter, threatening to cause a miscarriage. At this point Jaqueline capitulated and screamed, 'All right, I did it.' in order to stop her mother from being beaten any further. Anne, decided she wanted to stay with her daughter and so also signed a statement.

On seeing a solicitor both women retracted their statements and insisted on their innocence. During their meeting an Inspector remained to make sure that no details of the interrogation were passed on.

Both Anne and Jaqueline have now to wait a year before they get their (juryless) trial. In the meantime the Media have taken part in a well orchestrated exercise to intimate their guilt. Anne's family have also been subjected to continuous police and army harassment. The Royal Ulster Constabulary abducted Eileen McCool, a sister of Anne, when they raided Anne's father, Sean McCool. The RUC, with British army protection, wrecked the home and physically abused the McCool's neighbours. On Eileen's release she had to flee the area to avoid further harassment.

Jaqueline's baby is due to be born. She will only be allowed to keep it with her for nine months. A defence group has been set up for both Anne and Jaqueline. They can be contacted c/o A.S. King, Porters Lodge, Newcastle upon Tyne University, Newcastle upon Tyne.

FEEDBACK

LA FAMILIA - COSTA RICA

Photocopies of the sentence ordered through the Second Superior Penal Court of San Jose, Second Section in case No 115-83 'for offences of Illegal Association and others against Guiselle Rodriguez Villalobos and others for injury to the general security and others':

Acquitted of Illegal Association

Maria Rivera Lizano, Enrique Vega Mora, William Araya Cisneros, Annette Bonilla Leiva.

For Illegal Association, Disturbing the Public Peace, Falsification of Public Documents, keeping explosive materials, threatening the general security etc:

Miguel Rogueira Edelman 15 years; Alejandra Bonilla Leiva 15 years; Mario Guillon Garcia 15 yrs; Javier Sanchez Valverde 6 yrs; Freddy Ribera Lizano 10 yrs; Guillermo Fernandez Jarquin 7 yrs; Magally Salazar Nassar 10 yrs; Leonardo Vega Miranda 9 yrs.

For Disturbing the Public Peace and Illegal Association

Zaira Regueria Edelman, Ricardo Arguedas Arias; Guiselle Rodriguez Villalobos; Alvaro Campos Gualamuz; Arian Rojaz Salazar; Francisco Enrriquez Soland and Daniel Vega Miranda each received three years.

THE ALBANY BOOKSHOP

A new Anarchist bookshop has just opened in North London. They need lots of support. Open Tues-Fri 2-6pm and Wed and Sunday 2-8pm.

36 Albany Street, London NW1
Tube Great Portland Street.

LIBERTARIAN WALKERS

The LW are still going strong. We go to the countryside on the first Sunday of each month. If you would like details please write, enclosing SAE(s) to LW, 15 Matcham Road, London E11 3LE

APOLOGY

LIVERPOOL DIRECT ACTION GROUP address is c/o 82 Lark Lane Liverpool 17
MERSEYSIDE

CNT ARCHIVES

During the last CNT-AIT(IWA) Plenary meeting (10 March '84) it was agreed to urge all affiliates, libertarian publications, IWA sections, unions and CNT sympathisers to send protest letters to the International Institute of Social History (Amsterdam), concerning this Institutes' refusal to return CNT documents & archives that had been saved by CNT militants from the fascists during the Spanish Revolution (1936-39).

A Contract signed by both the CNT and the Institute (with the aim of returning these archives to the CNT) expired over a month ago, yet the Institute is still looking for excuses not to return the documents. During the recent IWA Congress (19-22 April 1984), all IWA Sections (including the British DAM) signed a joint protest letter against the Institute, which is attempting to hold on to that which doesn't belong to it.

Please add to these protests by writing to the Institute c/o Dr. J.R. Van der Leew, International Institut Voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Kabelweg 51, 1014 BA Amsterdam, HOLLAND.

ANARCHIST PRISONER NEEDS SUPPORT

Alvaro Alvaro Del Rio is a young comrade serving sentence in Carabanchel prison, Madrid. Please show solidarity by sending good-will messages, post cards, greetings etc. to:

Alvaro Alvaro Del Rio,
Apartado De Correos 27007,
Madrid - 25 SPAIN

COMPUTER MAGAZINE

Oi! Anyone interested in buying/swapping /helping a computer magazine (on cassette) for the Sinclair ZX81 16K and Spectrum computers, please get in touch via *Black Flag*. Help and support needed.

THE ANARCHIST FEMINIST MAGAZINE — Issue 2, Summer 1984. Coming Out Soon!

A new Anarchist Feminist Magazine is being prepared for Summer 1984. All contributions e.g. money, copy, graphics etc. welcome to Anarchist Feminist Group, 121 Bookshop, 121 Railton Road, London SE24.

PUBLICATIONS



AIT-IWA

NEW WORLD

Issue One. 25p. International News-Bulletin of the DAM-IWA. Includes 35 hour week strike in Germany. 17th Congress IWA. Poissy Strike in France. USI update and more. Available from local DAM groups or direct: DAM-IWA, 121 Railton Road. Herne Hill London SE24

VISION OF FIRE: a new collection of writings by Emma Goldman on the Spanish Revolution. Edited by David Porter. Common-ground Press, pb/345pp. Slightly damaged copies available at £3.95 (+£1p&p) (usual price £5.95) from: *Housmans Bookshop*, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1.

DIRECT ACTION

Issue 16 A3 folded format. 20p. Articles on USI (Italy) Congress; CNT (France); Solidarnosc (Poland); SMOT (USSR); pamphlet reviews; Stop the City; Miners & more. Available from: Box DAM, 59 Cookridge St. Leeds LS2 3AW West Yorkshire.

STRIKE BACK

Issue 4. Published by Middlesborough DAM c/o Red & Black Bookshop, 120 Victoria Rd, Middlesborough, Teeside. Miners dispute, Strike Strategy, Eddie Horner and lots more!