

1968 - N. 2

BULLETIN of the ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS



Militarism is that by which the strong sacrifice the lives and money of others in order to preserve their own power and that of the State. Thus it is unfair and should be eliminated. Revolutionary assassination, on the other hand, is the sacrifice of the individual to eliminate the enemy of humanity, thereby extending the common rights of the world. These two, militarism, and revolutionary assassination, are as different as two things can be.

LI SHIH-TSENG

("On the Uselessness of
Jumping Into the Ocean", 1907)

From: "The Origins of the
Anarchist Movement in China".

Vol. 1. No. 2. November 1st. 1968.

CRUZ NEGRA INTERNACIONAL

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CROIX-NOIR INTERNATIONALE

ANARCHIST

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BLACK

Edited by Stuart Christie & Albert
Meltzer.

CROSS

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PAMPHLETS ISSUED BY COPTIC
PRESS in conjunction with
"CUDDON'S" & "BLACK FLAG":-

NOW OUT:- (Oct. 27th)

THE ORIGINS OF THE
ANARCHIST MOVEMENT IN CHINA
2/6d.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BONNOT
GANG 2/6d.

THE ORIGINS OF THE MOVEMENT
FOR WORKERS' COUNCILS IN
GERMANY 2/6d.

A CRITICISM OF STATE
SOCIALISM by Michael Bakunin
1/6d.

(Orders for Coptic Press
may be included with letters
to the A.B.C.).

ALSO:- ANARCHISM: ITS

AIMS & PRINCIPLES -
a definition of the
Revolutionary position. 2/-

FREEDOM, weekly, AVAILABLE
FROM FREEDOM PRESS, 84a
WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET,
LONDON, E.1.

Editorial.

The publication of the
pamphlet "Origins of the
Anarchist Movement in China"
may be useful on two counts.
On the one hand it may prove
illuminating for those who
think there is some connect-
ion between Maoism and Revol-
utionary thinking. Needing
a "fatherland" in place of
their own or of Russia, they
must take a "real country"
where "socialism" has been
achieved...hence the choice
of Maoism - which at home is
mere Stalinism - by some
militants abroad who feel
the need for the identificat-
ion with a father figure. The
Spanish Maists, for instance,
are really in revolt against
Stalinism when they call
themselves Maoists.

On the other hand, it
may serve to show how a
revolutionary movement, which
based itself upon the indust-
rial working class - though
aiming at the peasantry -
combined the class struggle
on the industrial field with
that form of terrorism some-
times thought of as "individ-
ualistic". The Chinese
Anarchists were forced to lead
a "cloak and dagger existence"
not because they wanted to;
but in order to survive; and
the very bitterness of their
persecution ensured that the
(continued on page 8)

NOTES AND NEWS OF THE ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS.

IN ISSUE No. 1.

we have an editorial on the earlier Anarchist Red Cross and subsequent Black Cross. In particular we paid tribute to the work paid by pioneer Boris Yelensky. It was therefore pleasing to learn that this veteran of the Russian Movement is still alive, and we received a letter from him congratulating us on the revival of the Anarchist Black Cross. As we mentioned in that editorial, the work of the Black Cross was carried on after the Russian Revolution had been betrayed by Alexander Berkman and the A. Berkman Relief Fund, from Berlin; it engaged in the uphill task of relief for political and class-war prisoners in Russia and Italy. Faced with the additional task of first Spain and then Germany; together with the fact that the depression was reigning in the countries from which the relief could come, many gave up before the unequal struggle. However, both the Relief Fund, and the Solidaridad Internacional Antifascista, did good work in their time.

We have in the work of CLASS WAR RELIEF decided not to start off too ambitiously. So far we have restricted ourselves to organising aid for Spanish prisoners. The number is admittedly not so vast as it once was. But there are comrades desperately in need of help from outside. Miguel Garcia Garcia, for instance, an aged comrade who has been in jail for 18 years, and whose date for release has long been past. During the three years Stuart Christie was in Spanish jails, the attention of comrades not only in this country, but in many others, was directed to the Spanish Prisoner. He received parcels from many countries; it was possible for him to share - in the "Commune" organised by Anarchists and dissident Marxists, in prison - with other prisoners. We want to keep the flow of parcels going. Spain suffers from corruption and want. Whereas British jails do not permit relief parcels to be sent in, but prisoners have the necessities they require, Spanish jails permit parcels and to this extent are more humanitarian, but without such parcels and without friends on the outside to send money, a prisoner is in very dire straits even for medical necessities. Moreover, the receipt of a food parcel is solid proof that one is remembered and that the struggle is not in vain. It is proof of international solidarity. German comrades testified to this after the Second World War. When they received parcels, these in themselves might be small things; but they, and their neighbours, saw in it the practical expression of comradeship which was intended.

A BRANCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL BLACK CROSS has begun in Ireland. The Revolutionary Movement of Dublin is establishing the ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS (IRELAND). This is useful. The receipt of parcels from Ireland would be welcome in Spanish jails. The Franco regime has also a certain respect for Irish public opinion, and the intervention, if possible, by Irish labour organisations in particular cases (such as on behalf of the Valencia Anarchists) might have some effect.

Many unsolicited and most welcome donations ranging from 1/- to £2. have been made to the Black Cross. We have been able to send off a number of parcels and retain a balance for any new emergency. It is our intention as a general routine matter to send off parcels to Spanish prisons, and also to help with solidarity for individual victims of the class struggle. To date we have been able to be of assistance to one Spanish comrade detained abroad, and to a Chinese Anarchist in difficulties, from which we are glad to say he has been extricated (and the money advanced repaid).

APOLOGIES TO ALL THOSE AND THERE ARE A GREAT MANY, WHO PAID FOR BULLETIN No. 1. AND DID NOT RECEIVE IT. We anticipated a readership of 50. This was a vast under-estimation. This time we are duplicating 200 and will see how it goes. We fully understand that a journal such as this is of internal interest only to the Anarchist movement (though Sgt. Cremer of the Special Branch bought a copy, presumably in solidarity with our aims?)

Correspondence.

- A.G. (Ilford) Enclose £1. for Black Cross Fund.
 S.B. (Selby) Would be pleased to distribute a few copies.
 H.P. (Sweden) Enclose small contribution of 10/-.
 D.W. (Manchester) Here's ten bob. Let me have a few more in the future.
 D.J. (Colchester) I enclose a banner which I knitted (for Black Cross).
 P.E. (Melbourne) We are thinking of holding a Black Cross week here (and maybe other places in Australia if we can manage it) on the lines of Amnesty. That is, we will put short histories on the formation of B.C. and relations to former anarchist mutual aid groups, and short articles on the prisoners in the University newspapers (and elsewhere if we can), hold meetings on the subject and put up posters.
 J.E. (London) We are interested in helping political prisoners in Latin America, especially in the case of Hugo Blanco, the "Che" of Peru. (NOTE: Parcels to Peruvian prisoners do not get distributed to the prisoners, unfortunately, so far as our experience goes, though they urgently need same).
 Anon (London) Get stuffed the lot of you. (NOTE: Evidently not from a sympathiser?)
 R.E. (Germany) I wish to express my regret that I can't send any money for the present. I do have some very good friends though who would pitch in should somebody get stranded around here.
 P.S. (Dublin) We hope also to organise solidarity for the victims of the hostilities and to combat epidemics (as Malatesta did) and famine. (NOTE: In our view it is best to start with a humble beginning; hence the concentration on Spanish prisoners. We agree the need to combat famine and pestilence but there are other organisations, such as Oxfam, that can do this, just as Amnesty will act for the people who are NOT guilty of

Correspondence (Continued)

opposing dictatorship, e.g. the democratic professor punished for his "opinions"; as opposed to the terrorist who is "punished" for his deeds. The pacifists and liberals will help us succour the "innocent" but the specific need of the Anarchist Black Cross is to act as a field-ambulance for the "guilty", i.e. those who are doing something to get rid of dictatorship rather than meekly suffering under it).

A LETTER RECEIVED FROM COMRADE LUIS EDO IN A SPANISH PRISON
 Dear comrade, (addressed to a comrade in France;
 trans. from Spanish)

We are taking the opportunity of sending you these lines... we heard about your accident as well as the favourable result. A few days ago A.G. of E.T.A. (the Free Basque movement, more militant than the Basque Nationalists. EDS). wanted to free one of his men who is in here with us. We do not know how he tried to do it but a great rumpus is certainly being prepared although the thing did not go as planned. The father of the boy concerned, who naturally was not involved, came to the prison to communicate with his son and was detained by the police inside the prison with the collaboration of the incidental Director of the same. This gentleman not only called in the police, but deceitfully retained the poor old man in a room in the Establishment while he was doing so. Later he detained, in an outrageous fashion, the relatives who came to communicate with several prisoners, among them Rosita. Their handbags were taken away from them on entering, for several days, until one day the women refused to communicate if they continued to retain their personal effects. In this Rosita was at an advantage as her presence coerced the guards since she came from France. This simple fact coerces them, they do not like scandals across the borders. Although this seems naive, it is the truth. They pay a great deal of attention, more than we could ever imagine, to everything which could give rise to propaganda abroad.

All this heated up the minds of the prisoners and to the heat of the detention by the police in the interior of the prison area has crystallized an interesting spirit. For the first time during my imprisonment here we have managed to raise action together with "the Party"; it has cost us enough to convince them; in this job we have played the main role. This action consists of:-

- 1) Sending a document, individually signed by the prisoners, to the Director General of Prisons protesting against what we consider another provocation by the police, requesting the opening of legal "proceedings" in line with certain articles of the code and regulations of the prisons. Our lawyers will intervene in these "proceedings" too in order to determine the responsibility for police action inside the prison. Also requesting "protection": after all, tomorrow there could

be any other form of assault and a bunch of madmen trying to invade the prison; if this action has been permitted by the police, this precedent allows us to find out if the "action of any group of fanatics" will be prevented. (You will understand that this is of little importance to us, but the opportunity presents itself to bring it in).

2) In all the letters to our relatives, we shall explain the case; these letters, naturally, while sent to the Direction of Prisons, will help to persuade them a little.

3) Everyone must try outside to give the greatest publicity to this matter. Spread it about as much as possible by means of the press and certain international organisations. We suggest that the title be used "protection of political prisoners in Spain".

A LETTER FROM COMRADE HUGO BLANCO

(Sent out from Lima, Sept. 68. Blanco is detained on the penal island of El Fronton).

Against the massacre of El Fronton! Against all massacres!
Against systematised massacres! Against the system based upon massacre! In 1967 some prisoners escaped from the boat taking them to this hell's island. Following this the Republican Guard immediately launched a brutal repression against the whole penal population and submitted the re-captured prisoners to the most horrible tortures. As part of the general repression was the complete seclusion of two political prisoners, Blanco and Creus.

In 1968 a group of prisoners escaped from the penal settlement "El Sexto". Those re-captured were taken to El Fronton in order to be submitted to another brutal massacre, following which there was another brutal onslaught on the prisoners of the island. Two deaths resulted.

The fact that these two proceedings occurred under different governors and different guards, shows the planned nature of the proceedings. The Republican Guard wants to provoke a Mutiny, so that it can have the chance of savage reprisals and shootings. But there is nothing exceptional in this. It goes on all over the Republic. They cowardly and in safety were able to murder Huanca in the prison of Sepa, and Arcadio Hurtado in the prison of Cuzco. There is torture in every prison in Peru. Prisoners on the island of El Fronton are treated with the most unheard-of humiliation and brutality, and are punished on no pretext. They arrive in Fronton in chains, their shoulders bleeding, their foreheads dragged in the dust; spat on, insulted; the victims of sadistic warders.

Peru ought not to forget that the Republican Guard came to birth by murdering our greatest heroes: the eight sailors. But it is not only the Guard, it is the same with the Civil Guard, the Army, the Criminal Investigation Police, all of them use torture, cowardly assassination, all of them find that their opponents mysteriously disappear, especially the revolutionaries. Among the revolutionaries who have been murdered or "disappeared" are: Luis de la Puente Uceda, Guillermo Labaton, Javier Heraud, Luiz Zapata, Guillermo Mercado, Simon

Oviedo, Benito Cutipa, Arcadia Hurtado, Enrique Amador, etc. The list of revolutionaries submitted to torture is enormous: among them are Jose Bustos, Miguel Tauro, Carlos Cardena, Eduardo Creus, "Che" Pereira, Jose Martorell, Vicente Lanado, Meza, Abraham Lama, Andres Gonzales, Fortunato Vargas, Fortunato Vargas, Aniceto Munoz, Jose Zuniga, Gerardo Carpio, Humberto Carazos, Lucio Beingolea, etc. In the case of Fortunato Torres, he was submitted to torture during his examination, in the presence of the judge and "his" lawyer, both police officials.

WAIT FOR A "TRADE WEEK" WITH
PERU AND DEMONSTRATE AGAINST
THIS VILE REGIME.

PLEASE LET US HAVE COPIES OF THE
ALBEROLA PETITION BACK SIGNED AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE CAN HELP
ALBEROLA BY ACTION NOW - ONCE
HE IS DEPORTED IT WILL BE TOO LATE.

Copies were circula-
ted at the AFB
Conference. Another
copy is included
herewith.

THE ARREST OF THE SEVEN COMRADES IN VALENCIA.

Seven activists of the F.I.I.J.L. were arrested
in City of Valencia. They are:-

Floreo Rodríguez de la Paz

Luis Angel Nunoz Lopez

both of whom were found in
possession of a large number
of Anarchist books and pamphlets

Miguel Lacueva Miguel

Salvador Soriano Martinez

Pedro Gallego Sanz

Manuel Cáceres Garcia

Jose Luis Alonso Perez

All of them were alleged to have been found in the possession of firearms and explosives. Rodriguez is stated to have been concerned in the kidnapping of Mgr. Ussia, in company with Octavio Alberola, and also to have been one of those who tried to kidnap the high American official in Madrid. Alonso Perez is said to have been associated with the F.I.I.J.L. in Dreux and to have taken part in an attempted kidnapping of the Spanish diplomat to the Common Market in Brussels, senor Ullastres. All are accused of complicity in terrorist actions in France and Belgium. Obviously fake confessions have been published; they follow the lines already published by the Government Press. They could not be genuine because in parts the accused are confessing to actions in which they could not possibly have taken part. The fact is that this is another prepared case by which the Franco Government wishes to rid itself of seven active opponents; embarrass the Belgian Government into deporting Alberola; and persuade the French Government into taking action against the Spanish "terrorists" in France.

ONCE THE SEVEN ARE CONVICTED, THE DEATH SENTENCE WILL FOLLOW
SPEEDILY. BE PREPARED TO DEMONSTRATE RAPIDLY AGAINST THE
SPANISH EMBASSY.

THERE MAY NOT BE MUCH WE CAN DO. BUT INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE
IS ALL THERE IS.

toughest survived. We referred in last issue's bulletin to "Makhno's Black Cross" in which workers self defence units grew out of an "ambulance" type of activity. There was a similar type of organisation in China, known as the Nine Millimetre Society. It did not try to organise any form of ~~in-~~ help for prisoners for the simple reason that at the time (the 'twenties) there was no way in which a prisoner could be helped. Once inside the prison his fate was sealed unless his guards were terrorised. "Nine Millimetres" referred to the most common weapons used in such work; for instance, the short Luger, the parabellum, mark Browning, Walther, and so on. German guns were sold quite openly in Shanghai.

When terroristic activity was at its height, namely in the days of the Japanese occupation, when militants had to face a "choice" between the Japanese imperialists, the corrupt Kuomintang, and the totalitarian Communists, acts of sabotage against prisons were common. The society was still called "Nine Millimetres" as this had an old tradition behind it, but there were now better machine guns available such as the Schmeisser, which does not take 9 mm. but fires a powerful rifle type cartridge. What had all this to do with "red cross action", one might ask? The only way of releasing prisoners from jail was (as the Israeli nationalists later discovered) to take them out oneself. The "duck hunters", as they were called, used the decoy duck rifles, used by wealthy Chinese to shoot out rubber ducks as decoys, but attached gasoline mixed with pitch or tar (which clung to

the substance) and which was calculated to blow open the sometimes flimsy stockades erected in war-time. For more formidable jobs there was a set of tools ironically called "The Prisoner's Friend", by which high-powered electricity cables defending compounds could be put out of action by two weights joined by wire, thrown over the cable. They dangled on the cable from either side. "The Prisoner's Friend" has also been used in Russia. One can understand how it was that prisoners in such countries found the orthodox Red Cross quite inadequate!

s.c. & a.m.

MUJERES LIBRES: The organ of the Spanish Women's Resistance. In English & Spanish.

THE BLACK FLAG GROUP will shortly be holding its first conference. Promised support from London, Brighton, Birmingham. In the meantime, enquiries invited and especially comments upon "Aims & Principles of Anarchism" (second edition will be rewritten with amendments to make it as representative of the group as possible). a.m.

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