

1987
M. 6

BULLETIN of the ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS



¡NO PERMITAS ESTE NUEVO CRIMEN DEL FASCISMO ESPAÑOL!



Luis Edo



Alicia Mur



Alfredo Herrera



Antonio Canete



Jesús Rodríguez

FEDERACION IBERICA DE
JUVENTUDES LIBERTARIAS

The ruling clique in Spain is deaf to pleas for justice. The Anarchist comrades above all received large sentences. But activist pressure in Spain and abroad has brought about the release of Herrera and Canete. Alicia Mur is also soon to be released. Press on for the release of Luis Edo and Jesús Rodríguez. It may appear that actions against Franco abroad are futile. But they are not. Two of the above owe their release to such solidarity. It can bring about the release of the others. All could have been executed. Now let us be sure they are all released. Only by fighting the Franco regime will all their hostages be released. They came to power by force. It is the only language understood by Spain's rulers.

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THE BULLETIN OF THE ANARCHIST
BLACK CROSS

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Secretary: Stuart Christie
Editorial of Bulletin:-
S. Christie & A. Meltzer.

G I B R A L T A R

No unbrainwashed Spanish worker
cares an Alfonso XIII peseta about
Gibraltar being under foreign
conquest, when so is the rest of
Spain.

Following a well-worn precedent
however, whenever there is
internal trouble, General Franco
rattles the sword. It becomes a
matter of concern to him that
"Gibraltar is not free". The
commercial-minded Gibraltarians
know where the money is, and are
not minded to see the British go.

What is happening in the Rock
could therefore be ignored by us
were it not for the outrageous and
despicable suggestion by Tory
leaders that immigrant Spanish
workers be penalised for Gen.
Franco's actions "by way of
reprisal". Yet the security
forces in Jersey know better than

to assume that "immigrant Spanish
workers" are in love with the
Caudillo. They have put strong
guards on his grandchildren - since,
as the headmaster of the school to
which they are going put it, there
are so many immigrant Spanish workers
on the island.

It may not be entirely forgotten
that Spanish workers, not then obliged
to immigrate here, resisted Franco at
a time when certain Tory gentlemen
hailed him as the saviour of Spain.

Can Wilson Act? Is there anything
Mr. Wilson could do to
embarrass the Fuchrer of Spain that
would not also cause electoral damage
to the Caudillo of England? He cannot
send a gunboat up the Tagus.

He could terminate police assistance.
It may be noted that whilst those who
supply official information to Russia
have the grace to defect when observed,
Scotland Yard has never lost an officer
yet by virtue of his supplying
information received in the course of
his duties.

Police Aid The Spanish Government
could not care less about
domiciled or emigrant workers; nor is it
greatly concerned over minor capitalists
in the catering trades who would suffer
over a clipping of tourism. But
essential to its existence is the aid
and support given by the British and
French police.

The French receive a quid pro quo,
since the Spanish police help to
suppress Right Wing terrorism from
Madrid directed at Franco. The British
get nothing but abuse. It is the
familiar 1940 story that there are
those in the Establishment who prefer
national treason to encouraging
revolution.

Is national treason too strong a
phrase? If there were support in
Gibraltar for integration with Spain,
would it not receive the same
help from Madrid that the Hong Kong
Communists receive from Peking? But
as things stand, what prevents the
pressure being taken off Gibraltar
but the British police aid to Franco?
Great Britain not only has never
given a penny or a bullet to the
movement against Franco: its police
are still helping Franco while Mr.
Stewart says tourists should take
their trade elsewhere.

S.C.

REVOLUTIONARY SOLIDARITY

by

OCTAVIO ALBEROLA

(specially written for the Bulletin; translated by S.C.)

The moral springs of our life today have been poisoned by both capitalist and communist societies, whose only reason for existence is based upon a lie, which is that revolt and solidarity of oppressed peoples must be condemned in the name of liberty and justice. Both in the East and the West the social edifice is built upon an oppressive base which paralyses all free expression. Only the rebel is, in himself, the source of a universal inspiration, as his rebellion is the historical struggle of liberty against tyranny, solidarity against the might of the State.

Rebellion as Affirmation. Rebellion proves, in this way, that it is the essence of life. One cannot deny this without renouncing the right to live. Furthermore, rebellion is in man the refusal to be treated as a mere object, and to be relegated to the chessboard of history.

Rebellion is the affirmation of something which is natural to all men, who wish to escape the authoritarian world and even cowardice itself.

Limits of History. History is one of the limits of man, but man, in rebellion, fixes in his own way limits to history. Of this every young rebel has a consciousness when he says NO to the societies of East and West. In every place where young people express their opposition to the established order, they do not do it in the name of the old, negative ideologies; they do it with motives which are instinctive, human and historical. It is, if you wish, visceral; something which each person identifies differently as coming from a particular cause, and which, perhaps, can never be identified. They need to express it in some way, however, as the complete irrationality of the world no longer permits escape or hope within the system.

For this reason they no longer

accept classical procedure in protesting, or forming an ideological group, or electing authorities, or choosing leaders, or opting for a particular demonination. Their rebellion is no longer ideological. The limits have been reached where man no longer wishes to abdicate his position of independence.

The Present Rebellion It is certain that the

present rebellion is not one of the majority. It is caused by minorities who understand their role as being not to attract members or converts to their own sectarian policies, but to create a consciousness about those things which are common to all men. This is merely the stage when we must clarify, discuss, and promote all those actions which help to accelerate the process.

Because of this, in all countries, the system tries to confuse the struggle against it: by creating false opposition, with ideological analyses out of touch with reality, by persuasion, in the hope that time and sufficient repressive violence will put an end to the process of rebellion.

Solidarity. This false front that saves the system, or at any rate temporarily strengthens it, can only be overcome by an international movement whose main objective is solidarity and rebellion. It is this solidarity which is broken by capitalism (of both private and State varieties) and by the latter's means of force and of persuasion. To awaken and organise solidarity, as an elementary necessity so that we can help each other against exploitation and against the repressive brutality of the system, is the most important task of today.
o.a.

SPANISH PRISON CRISIS EXPOSED

We received a letter smuggled from prison from Miguel Garcia Garcia, asking that major publicity be given throughout the world to the present situation of political prisoners in Spanish jails.

Garcia Garcia is an old, respected comrade who has spent twenty years in jail, frequently in the condemned cell. He signed together with David Urbano Bermudez (sentenced in 1968 for the sole offence of distributing the magazine "Proserencia").

25 politicals, including Moscow- and Peking- line Communists, Anarchists and ETA (Basques), were transferred from Soria to Spain's mediaeval fortress Segovia, compared by Garcia Garcia with the Tower of London (as it was, rather than as it is). The old castle - one of Spain's picturesque attractions for tourists - was speedily transformed into a prison, though cells were the size of three telephone kiosks and had to be shared by two men. (It will be noticed that in all old castles, the physical capacity is considerably smaller and modern man can fit in only with great difficulty). There is little sanitation, and water rationing. Alterations were superficial, since the authorities had to work fast. They were afraid of mutiny in Soria, they claimed.

One man, Mario Capote, suffering from phlebitis and a weak heart, died on transfer. His condition was known to the medical officer but was not presented to the Director of Prisons. The authorities speedily transferred the "worst offenders" from a disciplinary point of view, including Luis Edo. (Parcels sent to him at Soria were returned). Those who like Garcia Garcia had spent a generation in prison, were considered to be physically weak enough to stay behind in Soria; the others needed the extra discipline of Segovia. The use of terror conditions against prisoners has long been denounced by all known codes of conduct.

THOSE RESPONSIBLE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THAT THEY MAY, VERY SOON, BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS. Here direct responsibility lay upon the "peace criminals" Director General of Prisons Don Jesus Gonzales del Yerro and his second-in-command Don Leoncio.

We were successful in obtaining publicity for the smuggled letter, and a full report, in the Times and the Guardian. (Ensuring re-publication in Spain).

AN INVITATION TO HOLY MASS

On behalf of the Anarchist Black Cross, we wrote to Archbishop Domenico Enrici, Apostolic Delegate to Great Britain. He was (on July 2nd) received in Westminster Cathedral.

We pointed out to him that in Carabanchel Prison, in the province of Madrid, the director Don Leoncio punished the "acratas" (Anarchist apprentices and students arrested in February this year) for refusing to attend Mass. They were obliged to attend class in Christian morality, on which subject don Leoncio speaks with authority.

Such a punishment was not inflicted on older prisoners. Nor was it imposed on Stuart Christie in the same prison. It is an attempt at brainwashing, and is, in fact, a revival of an Inquisition practice. To force non-believers to attend Mass has long since been denounced by the Vatican (Pope Gregory XVI). The acratas went on hunger-strike.

We invited Archbishop Enrici to call for the excommunication of don Leoncio and don Jesus del Yerro, as the only means in his power of protesting at this sacrifice. If he did not do so, we presumed he would approve of it; if so, we would take him up on his invitation and invite sympathisers with the acratas to attend Mass in this country. He might not like this.

The Apostolic Delegate has not replied. But there is some reason to believe that the punishment for not attending Mass has been lifted. We have not heard further about this "bad business" as Robert Browning called it, of forcing the heretics to hear a sermon (but then it was only on Holy Cross Day). But if there is more of this nonsense, we shall be there, Archbishop!!

WAS IT RIGHT TO ASSASSINATE HITLER?

A German paper has discovered that Gen. Mason-MacFarlane was able to assassinate Hitler, but prevented by Whitehall from doing so. A fascinating exchange of letters in the Times makes it plain that Mr. Churchill disapproved of assassination
(Continued on page 9)

NOTES AND NEWS OF THE

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

***** Since our last issue, in June, it has been an exceptionally busy time for us, in view of the spate of activities necessary in speeding up the tempo of resistance against Franco. We think, however, we have managed to keep up with all correspondence, which is increasing. Our Fulham address is proving unsuitable, and we are looking out for new offices in the centre.

D.G.(Milan) We are two Italian Anarchists writing to you to ask could you send us the bulletin... thanks a lot to all - 'ce n'est qu'un debut, continuons le combat'.

B.G. & L.C. (Suffolk) - We wish to send parcels to prisoners in Spain..

F.D.(Brussels) - I read indignantly of the numerous and harsh imprisonments in Spain and I would like to send food parcels...

P.S. (Suffolk) - Last month we set up the Cambridge Black Cross to work within the University.

We hope to help you with the work of acting in solidarity with victims of oppression abroad; this will be partly in the form of cash made in our posters and pamphlets in this affluent university...

I.S.(Aberdeen) - I am sending off a parcel. Is there any way the prisoner can signify receipt? Are they allowed to write?

(Acknowledgment would normally come from the wives outside, to whom they can write. Let us know if parcels are returned which may signify the prisoner has been transferred, released or perhaps 'shot while trying to escape' - Eds.)

B.P. (Boulogne) - We are with you for - a radical criticism of the old world - against all states and bureaucracies, present and future - towards the international power of workers' councils.

O.V. (Sweden) - We will do what we can to help bring about a revolution in Spain (or anywhere in the world) and to help the comrades in the middle of the struggle...send us the address of a prison commune...

D.P.(Som) I have sent to Soria a small parcel to make initial contact.. (later) this was returned 'not known'.

(The prisoner, Luis Edo, had that week been transferred to the new prison).

- Eds

P.S. (Dublin) - Many of our activists in Black X have now emigrated, hence the lull...

J.C.J. (N.1) - Thanks for sending ABCs...included is PO.

G.C.(Yorks) Glad to see that the bulletin is slowly expanding.

L.P. (Milan) The first number of the Bolletino della Croce Nera Anarchica will be published within a few days.

G.M.(London) I wouldn't subscribe to the Black Cross on the grounds that I really so detest violence even when directed against those who use it. This is very inconsistent of me as quite a lot I pay in taxes goes to help the disgusting creatures engaged in planning our destructionnevertheless, as a sop to my insecure conscience I enclose five pounds to spend on anything else you feel worthwhile...for instance, an appeal fund...

Our opening meeting to discuss organisation was attended by only half-a-dozen comrades, owing to our not sending out last issue until too late for all but a handful to know. It was agreed to have the next meeting after the summer camp etc was over.

It was agreed that those wishing to send food parcels to Spain should be asked to do so directly. This saves considerable overhead costs, and moreover impresses both the prisoners and the authorities that they are not forgotten.

REMINDER: Send canned drugs, antibiotics, common aspirin, tinned sweets (advice on what to send to Spain, though they may not appreciate the problems of Spanish prisons, may be had of the local branch of Boots the Chemists). Also canned food that does not need boiling or freezing but can be served directly with no other facility than a can-opener.

Don't put your opinions of Franco in the parcel in which you put your aid.

Don't be discouraged if the parcel is returned! (Continued overleaf)

NOTES & NEWS OF THE ANARCHIST

BLACK CROSS (Continued)

Dear Comrades,

Eight of the comrades who were sentenced to long terms of imprisonment (two, three and four years) for their activities during the May revolt in France, have gone on hunger strike in the Santé Prison, Bordeaux. The French CNT is running a campaign for their release. Donations, which are still needed, to

CNT 39 rue de la Tour
d'Auvergne,
Paris, 9^e France.

A fund has also been set up for a Marseilles anarchist worker who was sacked thanks to the help of the CGT, and cannot receive social security benefits and has little chance of getting another job. The existence of himself, his wife and children all depend upon gifts from comrades. Money to:

Pierre Morin
C.C.P. 1.849.93
Marseilles, France.

Fraternally,
Bob Blakeman.

DONATIONS WOULD STILL BE WELCOMED FOR THE BARLOW-CARVER DEFENCE FUND

c/o Freedom Press,
84b, Whitechapel High Street,
London, E. 1.

THE ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS is urgently in need of further funds for the Special Appeal announced in our last issue (copies on request). We are aiming to send constant aid to activist groups currently taking part in this **LAST DECISIVE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE FRANCO REGIME**. All that now keeps Franco in power is the divided opinions as to what will happen next. **WHAT WILL FOLLOW?** Will it be a continuation of the dictatorship? Or an even worse dictatorship? Will the Moscow-line C.P. and the Catholic-Democrats, in their new-found unity, succeed? Every blow

now individually struck against the Franco regime is not only, as stated in our last issue, a nail in its coffin,

it is also a warning to the next aspirant for power.

Aid to the Resistance Movement is as supreme now as it was in 1936.

The bulletin is kept going solely by its sales and a small part of the subs. All other money received by us is now going to the **SPANISH LIBERATION** appeal.

(Cheques & POs to A.B.C. at 735 Fulham Road, London, S.W.6. or direct payment to A.B.C. via any Post Office, along with the gas and electricity bills, into **GIRO ACCOUNT 51 172 0009**).

SPANISH LIBERATION funds of the BLACK CROSS

Received

London: H.H. £2; G.M. £5; S.C. £2;
S.W.T. £5; A.M. £2; "Marxist" 2/-;
J.C.J. 2/-;
Somerset: D.P. 5/-
Manchester: R.M. 10/-
Sweden: A.A. £1; G.P. 5/-
Alexander Berkman Fund: \$25.00
(Chicago); also \$10.00 for Bulletin expenses.
New York: B.C. \$10.00
Suffolk: P.S. 10/-
Dublin: P.S. 4/-

KEEP IT UP - URGENT
NEED FOR FUNDS FOR
SPANISH ACTION.

The Alexander Berkman Fund in Chicago is also arranging to send packages to Spain on behalf of prisoners. Comrades in Sweden, Belgium and other countries have also responded to our invitation to send parcels direct to political prisoners' communes in Spain.

A separate Black Cross organisation, with its own Italian-language bulletin, now exists in Italy, and is organising activity and relief from there.

CHICAGO Solidarity Bookshop has brought out posters of DURRUTI, LUCY PARSONS etc. as well as reproducing the valuable classic I.W.W. pamphlet **SABOTAGE**. It is hoped posters and copies of the pamphlet will soon be available over here.

A MARCH ON THE SPANISH EMBASSY

A march on the Spanish Embassy was called for June 29th. About a hundred took part - half of them expressing solidarity with Spanish political prisoners, the other half policemen on overtime rates. About fifteen of the fuzz marched all the way in the sweltering heat, the rest of the procession, in undress order, going quick pace, and getting decidedly the better of it.

A speaker outside the Embassy said we had no illusions that any march of this kind could prevent the Spanish Government doing what it wished. But it pointed out the hypocrisy of the British police whose officers helped to pass information on to Franco. "Had they read the Official Secrets Act?" he asked mockingly.

It was agreed it was time the Anarchists got organised. On other people's marches they can pull out a thousand - on their own, fifty. Some blamed lack of publicity.

At all events, the police, deciding the Anarchists had now blown their top, called it a day. Then, on July 4th (the morning before Barlow & Carver were due to be sentenced) bombs were thrown both at the Embassy in Belgrave Sq. and the Consulate in Hans Crescent, generally agreed to be an unfortunate coincidence. Since then, the police have guarded both places night and day, keeping a 24 hour a day watch on them.

Curiously, the British Govt, complaining over restrictions on Gibraltar, immediately apologised to the Ambassador, and promised to pay for the damage done... though some papers said it was "slight" and one can hardly imagine they would cough up 17s/6d. The Spanish Govt knew it was not Gibraltarians, and the fuzz immediately blamed their favourite scapegoat, who fortunately had an alibi.

What was extremely gratifying was the fact that Barlow, who was expecting a stiff sentence of up to 12 years, and Carver, who might have got five, received unexpectedly light sentences. The judge made it clear that the jury should disregard the Embassy incident, and they did not know of the march. This, too, was a happy coincidence. ABC

The book, referred to in our previous issue, written by Stuart Christie and Albert Meltzer, will be called

THE FLOODGATES OF ANARCHY

and will be published by the Stanmore Press (a commercial firm) in their Autumn list. Probable date of appearance: October.

The book is an analysis of present-day authoritarianism, of the State and society, and an explanation of revolutionary Anarchism in relation to the class struggle.

Illustrations by Bill Hicks.

There is so little literature available explaining the anarchist criticism of present day society, and the problems of the free society, that this book should fill a much-needed place. We are all heartily sick of academic outsiders telling us what they believe the Anarchists ought to think...and may yet have our fill of commercial publishers who cash in by re-publishing the anarchist classics for profit now no copyright is payable. Royalties on this book (from our very generous publishers) will help to reinforce our ABC activities.

Try putting a little gentle pressure on bookseller and librarian to see that they do not overlook it. Sufficient advance orders might influence our publisher to chance his arm again...

POLICE PREJUDICE

IN COURT ?

Those who have followed our correspondence with the Home Office (reproduced in previous issues) will be fascinated by the last exchange. The Home Office wrote to A. Meltzer on 30th June to the following effect:-
"... your complaint (has been) investigated (by the Commissioner of Police) in accordance with section 49 of the police Act 1964 and he has sent us a report.

"The Commissioner tells me that he is satisfied the use of the expression 'hardened anarchist' by a police officer who opposed bail was not activated by political prejudice. The grounds of the objection to bail were the seriousness of the charge and the fear that if the prisoners were admitted to bail they might commit
(continued overleaf)

(continued from overleaf)

offences similar to that with which they were charged, with the risk of serious damage to property and danger to life.

"The Home Secretary can find no grounds for action in this matter."
***In reply, Meltzer stated that the letter did not appear to have been answered. "The police may well have had grounds for objection to bail. They had only to state them. To put forward the political views legitimately held by the prisoners, preceded by a pejorative adjective, would appear to be the result of personal prejudice. These arguments were in fact rejected by the magistrate for that very reason although persisted in by the police witnesses."

He went on: "If, however, the Commissioner upholds the officers, the matter would appear to be more grave. One would have hoped that his attitude would be that in preliminary proceedings, at any rate, the political or religious views of prisoners, or their racial origins, should not be stressed, certainly not with an abusive or deprecating adjective, and least of all if these were minority views or origins. Otherwise, one can foresee grave abuses."

However, the Home Secretary is satisfied with the grave abuses .. it is something even the Tories might object to (after all, in a fracas with a West Indian, a person might be described as a "hardened Powellite" when all the poor bastard is is a paid-up member of Wolverhampton Conservative Association). We may be able to pursue the matter further on these lines. It is worth a try. The Home Secretary knows full well he is defending the indefensible.

WHAT'S IN A NAME ?

Arising from this correspondence, by way of sideline, is the fact that even some members of the police believe there is something illegal involved in calling oneself an anarchist. It is not shared by the judges (at least when summing-up, though in the course of evidence they tend to let it be prejudicial). The press often believes it hence the illiterate sub-editor who amends "anarchists" to "persons claiming (or (cont.next column)

NEXT ISSUE : SEPTEMBER

alleged to be) anarchists". But with a stroke of the pen by the Home Secretary, such are our vaunted British liberties, it could become illegal. I was asked by a member of the Labour Party (now in the Cabinet) what we would do if that happened - suggestion being, "appeal to law". I replied, "We would immediately call ourselves the Labour Party - or if the Tories did it, the Conservative Association. They would soon be clamouring for us to call ourselves by our own name."

Republicans. With this in mind, we may look at the case, overtaken by events in Northern Ireland, of McEldowney v. Forde, held in the House of Lords.

William "Adolf" Craig's Special Powers Act banned " 'republican clubs' or any like organization hewsoever described" - something that might be applied to anarchists at one stage.

The question before the Lords was whether the magistrates at Magherafelt were right to dismiss a complaint against Mr. McEldowney, who was a member of the Slaughtnall Republican Club. It was conceded "there was nothing seditious in its pursuits or those of its members". All that was concerned in the case was the name republican.

Lord MacDermott, the Lord Chief Justice, ^{had} said this was unreasonable - "as if a person were to be prosecuted because he had red hair" - and the 1967 regulation "was too vague to come within even the extensive powers of the 1922 Act". In the Lords, however, in allowing that final judgment in the Court of Appeal, Lord Hodson "accepting the word 'republican' was innocent" felt the Act aimed at the type of club concerned. Lord Pearce, dissenting, doubted in the circumstances "if one could have said with certainty that any man or woman was safe in remaining a member of any club in Northern Ireland, however named..." since the Act banned not only a republican club but anything like it HOWSOEVER DESCRIBED. "What was the likeness? It could not be the activities, for they were banned whatever the club called itself. The likeness could only consist in being a club - which was absurd." But the absurdity was given legalisation.

THE ANSWER IS PLAIN: Form in Northern Ireland an IRISH REPUBLICANS FOR NIXON CLUB - to glorify the Republican Party of USA and Pres. Nixon!!! Let them make it a criminal organisation by law. There will be red faces somewhere.....
am

VICTIMS OF THE STATE

The comrades sentenced in Valencia for activities against the Franco dictatorship are:-

Jose Luis Alonso (18 years prison); Floreal Rodriguez (18); Salvador Soriano (18); Angel Muñoz (20 years and a day); Manuel Cáceres (18 months); another two, whose names are not known at present, received six years.

The reason for giving so peculiar a sentence as "20 years and a day" has no connotations with folklore or magic ("forever and a day") but is to give the effect of preventing the prisoner from benefiting from any "amnesty" for prisoners serving 20 years. It is almost unknown for an amnesty to be given to those serving over 20 years.

As we write, events in Northern Ireland have moved fast. No doubt we will be able to comment in our next issue.

THE BARLOW-CARVER CASE. Despite the determination

of Special Branch officers to make this an "exemplary case", the sentences for the explosion at the Banco de Bilbao were lighter than expected. Alan Barlow, who pleaded guilty, got a year (including time spent awaiting trial, and possible remission, he will be out in the Autumn). Philip Barlow, who was in a position to plead not guilty, was also sentenced to a year, but it was suspended and he was fined £150. On the morning that the judge was due to sentence, there was an explosion at both the Spanish Embassy and at the Consulate, for which the prisoners could hardly be held responsible.

A report appeared in "Freedom" regarding a young comrade placed in a mental institution "to cure him of his anarchism". No further details were given, but the Black Cross - which feels that these matters are worth a try - immediately referred to the General Medical Council asking that the doctors be brought before them to determine whether this is "infamous conduct".

In a famous case, Miss Lanchester (mother of the actress Elsa Lanchester) was committed to an institution by a family plot, to cure her of her Suffragism (and get hold of her inheritance). It was then agreed that such action would totally undermine public confidence in doctors.

Since dedicated medical men can be ruined solely for sexual relationship with patients, or for supplying urgently needed drugs, or (at one time) for urgently needed abortions, why should such cases of real medical abuse go unnoticed? The GMC has acknowledged our complaint and is even now, no doubt, wondering how to circumvent it.

THE INVESTITURE It seems to have gone POLICE RAIDS generally unremarked how, on the eve of Charlie Boy's bit of pageantry up at Caernarvon, the British police swooped down all over Wales, rounding up all known "trouble makers" and dissentients, Welsh Nats, Anarchos and even Liberals. (Cont.p.10)

WAS IT RIGHT TO ASSASSINATE HITLER? (Continued from page four).

though it would appear that others, who disapproved of war, were asked to lay aside their scruples. It is plain now that Churchill could have had Sikorski bumped off. He only disapproved of individual political assassination, it seems, and that affair involved a whole planload and was presumably OK!

One idiotic parson points out that murder is always wrong: what we should have done was not to kill Hitler, but gone to war a year earlier.

It seems plain that the ruling consideration was (as one reader put it) "undesirable reprisals". I seem to recall that trade unionists who kept on restrictive practices in war-time were regarded as unpatriotic, but this obviously did not apply to the most exclusive trade union of all. I have

the feeling, too, that the Government could have made it plain that Mr. Churchill et al approved of the extermination of any and all Germans bar Hitler. (One gentleman actually points out that this would have been contrary to the Army Manual KR's).

Biggest idiot to date in the correspondence: an MP, of course, Mr. Mallalieu - he feels that the only way to order an assassination is by an International Penal Tribunal, which would order the execution of an "unprincipled ruler". Who would compose the Tribunal? Why, the governments of the earth, of course.

In the film "M" the criminals of Dusseldorf united to try a mass murderer. But they banned mass murderers from their tribunal, at least, and never gave the accused the right of veto. A.M.

VICTIMS OF THE STATE (from page 9)

Italy The arrest of comrades in MILAN is another move in the encroaching Police State of Italy. Since the end of Fascism, the police have gradually extended their powers. Freed from the domination of the Fascist bureaucracy, they have become intoxicated with power and have been prone to become a power in their own right.

It is a matter that goes far beyond the political persecution of revolutionaries. The prison riots were in protest against the interminable delay in hearing cases, so that the victim of bureaucracy may stay for as much as years in prison before his case is heard. He is then regarded as a convict, anyway.

The lawyers had their wings clipped under Fascism. For years the Italian radical movement, like the French, was dominated by oratorical lawyers. Mussolini (who had been kept down by them when he was a Socialist, and, as a schoolmaster, regarded as outside the intellectual elite of the Party) had little patience for them. The hair-splitting constitutionalists and orators were not, of course, in any active sense anti-Fascist - though the fact of being passed over under Fascism enabled some of them later to claim they were never Fascists. They supported the regime, but it had less time for them than had the Republican movement, which in France, Spain and Italy, became the career structure for the ambitious lawyer.

Now, in Italy, the lawyer has his day of triumph again, in endless cases, highly profitable litigation, and so biased a system of criminal justice that the lawyer comes to be regarded as a saviour instead of a bloodsucker. The drive of the police for more power; the delays of the law; the oppressions by prison warders; the careers of the lawyers; all are part of the same drive in Italy for a police state, or at any rate, a lawyers' utopia.

Some are divided as to whether they would be better off with the present divorce-banned law, and the huge backlog of bigamy cases, or with the rush of work that would come from divorces once the law was relaxed.

The drive against the Anarchists is part and parcel of the lawyers' backlash in Italy. In the first place, only the Anarchists are opposed to it. In the second place, it is the lawyers' backlash that has stung the police into a realisation of the enormous powers that are potentially theirs, as heirs to the Fascist tradition.

BEJAR : Hector Bejar, born in Chosica, nr Lima (Peru)

in 1937, was a radio announcer. He joined the National Liberation Army in 1963 which began training in the forests and hills of Maldonado on the borders of Bolivia and Chile. The movement, of the early Castro type, demanded that the President's promises of agrarian reform be carried out. As a result, thousands of peasants joined them. Independently, they seized "forbidden land" for themselves.

Regular troops were deployed and the Government fought the peasants and the Liberation army. Hugo Blanco began his movement in the hinterland of Lima, Bejar in the mountains and valleys of Apurimac. The Ayacucho area was occupied by the peasants. But the regular Army was successful. Blanco is a prisoner in a death camp; Hector Bejar was captured while seeking medical aid. The guerrillas go on fighting. Some pressure can be put on the Peruvian Government internationally, to release their prisoners.

The Peruvian Embassy is at 5a Sloane Street, S.W.1.

For concerted action against the Government of Peru, for the release of prisoners, write to John Edmunds at 17 Norland Square, London, W.11.

NORTHERN IRELAND The bulletin is being produced as reports come in of the fighting in Derry and Belfast. Comments and matters arising from it will be dealt with in our next issue; we hope by then to know, too, of the fate of comrades in Milan.

NOTES

AFB Conference will be on Sept 26/27th in London. Those attending who wish to contact Anarchist Black Cross to discuss future activities, please make arrangements on the Saturday morning for a separate discussion, either on Saturday or Sunday evening.

Coptic Press - many of the pamphlets are now out of print and some are being constantly demanded. It is proposed to go through and reprint most of them. Some are still available (o.g. Anarchist Movement in China; the Bonnot Gang) but even these are dwindling rapidly.

"Black Flag" Group - will soon, at long last, be announcing publication. Oddly enough, Betty Reid in a new CP pamphlet attacking "ultra-Lefts" denounces the anarchist papers "Freedom" and "Black Flag" - she is really up to date! It is proposed that "Black Flag" will appear in the Autumn.
