

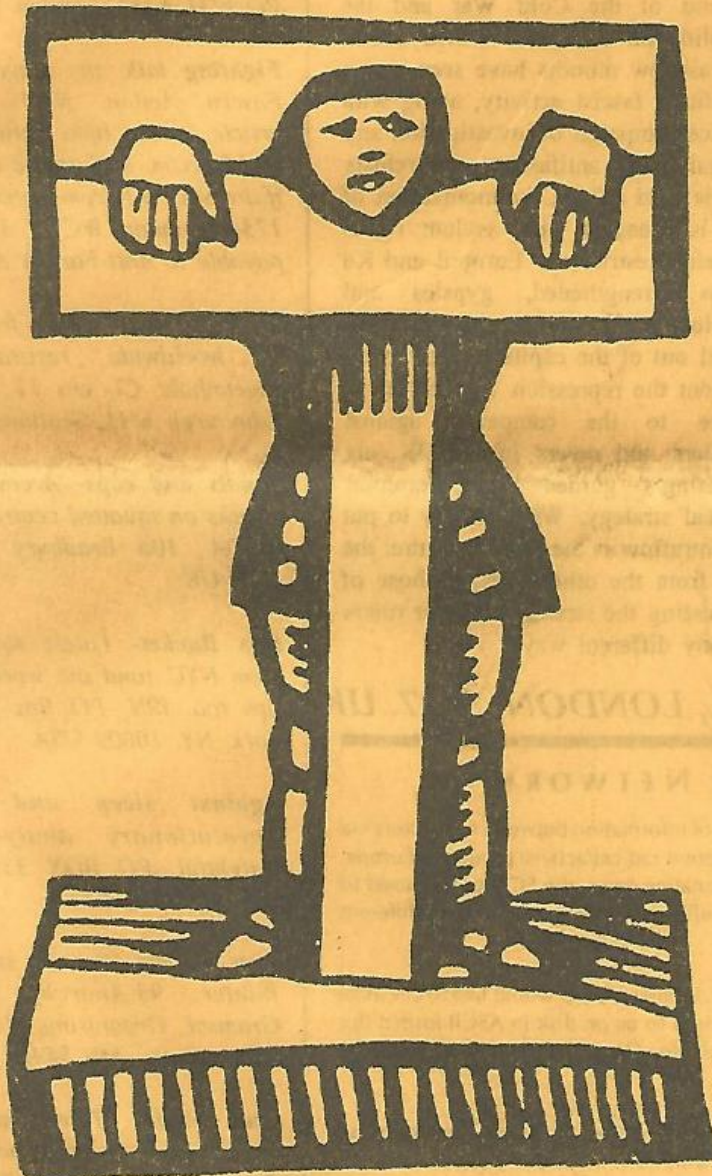
contra FLOW

European Counter
Network (London)

JUNE 1993

FREE

THANKS



BNP- Don't Believe The Hype
NOTES ON QUEER
LATEST PRISONERS NEWS
FIGHTING FRENCH FASCISTS -
- Reflex Interviewed



OPERATION SPANNER
"We want to wash !!" -
...THE WAR ON WATER
DIRECT ACTION - RAF style
DISARMING INDONESIA



HOMES NOT JAILS report
NIGERIAN RADICALS balled
FORTRESS EUROPE extended
HOMELESS ABOLISHED in
Lincoln's Inn Fields, LONDON

BOSS

Contraflow

"Time Shall Not Pass" - here's Contraflow No.6 in your face. For those cynics out there who thought that the next Bulletin meant May 1994, here it is a year early and be happy about it because we are. We are still evolving slowly into a ruthless and deadly efficient organization, and it may still be some time before "the Daily Contraflow" hits the streets!

As usual, this bulletin includes news of many of the different struggles for a better life going on internationally. We hope that Contraflow can act as one means of communication between some of these struggles, enabling people to let others know what's going on and to make contact and common cause with kindred rebellious spirits around the world.

Breaking down the isolation between us is important: we can all learn from each other and grow stronger by building links. But this can only happen as a result of direct communication and discussion between those involved, not through telling everybody to forget their specific struggles and to unite behind a single organisation or big idea. If you are involved in a particular movement or struggle, send us your

c/o 56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St., LONDON SE17. UK

EUROPEAN COUNTER NETWORK

The ECN is an evolving network based on the exchange of information between computers via telephone lines. At present it connects a number of different radical/activist groups in Europe, as well as having links with the USA. In addition to circulating news, the ECN can be used to organise and co-ordinate activities (e.g. organising simultaneous demonstrations in different countries).

London ECN exchanges news regularly with the network. If other groups would like to circulate material they have written on the network, they can send it to us on disk in ASCII format (for instance we have circulated stuff by CARF, Bad Attitude, Counter Information, and the Anarchist Black Cross).

The Fast Breeder collective is in the process of establishing a computer bulletin board in the UK which will enable people to communicate directly with each other every day. There will be an ECN space on Fast Breeder. (contact: Fast Breeder, BM Jed, London, WC1N 3XX, UK).

CONTRAFLOW DISTRIBUTION

At present we are printing 1000 copies of each issue of Contraflow, which we send out to bookshops, squatted and community centres, and to contacts all over the world. Exchanges are very welcome - send us your newsletter etc. and we'll send you ours.

We distribute Contraflow for free because we want to make it widely available, but to continue to do this we need money. If you want to receive Contraflow regularly, send us four first class stamps for the next four issues, preferably with a sizeable donation! We haven't got a bank account, so if you send us a cheque make sure you leave the payee name blank.

newsletters and leaflets, or better still write about what you're up to.

We are not flogging some revolutionary package deal, and we don't expect people to be uncritical of everything reported in this bulletin (we're certainly not). In future issues we hope to have more critical discussion and debate as well as news, and we would welcome contributions of this kind.

We are moving into a very serious time in history. It is a transitional period in capitalist progress between the end of the Cold War and the consolidation of a New World Order. The last few months have seen a rise in militant fascist activity, along with a police campaign of investigation and repression of antifascists, anarchists and the hard left. EC harmonization of laws is speeding up... asylum rights are being restricted... Europol and K4 groups strengthened, gypsies and travellers under attack, the homeless moved out of the capitals. Attacks on us, from the repression of activists in Greece to the campaign against travellers and ravers in the UK, are increasingly guided by a common political strategy. What we try to put in Contraflow is the bigger picture: the view from the other side, of those of us resisting the strategies of our rulers in many different ways.

INTERESTING PUBLICATIONS:

Bad Attitude- radical women's newspaper, No.3 (Apr/May 1993). Includes interviews with Kiranjit Ahluwalia (released from prison last year) and with Kathleen Hanna of US "riot girl" band Bikini Kill. £1 or only £5 for a year's individual subscription (6 issues). From Bad Attitude, 121 Railton Road, London SE24 OLR (071 978 9057).

CARF- Bulletin of the Campaign Against Racism and Fascism. Informative and hard-hitting. CARF. PO BOX 8784. London. WC1N 3XX.

Fighting talk, the magazine of Anti Fascist Action. No.4 includes an article on the links between loyalism and fascism, and advice on what to do if arrested. £1 from London AFA, BM 1734, London WC1N 3XX (cheques payable to Anti-Fascist Action).

Counter Information- free newssheet of worldwide resistance, from: Pigeonhole CI, c/o 11 Forth Street, Edinburgh EH1, Scotland.

Squats and cops- Account of police attacks on squatted centres in London. HCDA. 10a Bradbury St. London. N16. UK.

Piss Bucket- Latest squatters news from NYC (and the world). Practical tips too. ISN, PO Box 20114., New York. NY. 10009 USA.

Against sleep and nightmare. Revolutionary analysis, always insightful. PO BOX 3305. Oakland. CA 94609. USA.

Free Society "Special strategy issue" Winter 93. Anarchy and Punk, Gramsci, Organising. PO BOX 7293. Minneapolis. MN 55407. USA.

Ates hirsizi (Fire Thief)- Turkish anarcho mag seeking news and mags from round the world. Klodfarer Cad. Dr. Sevki Bey Sk. No.4/2 Sultanahmet- ISTANBUL. Turkey.

A-Kontra - Anarchist paper facing attacks from the State and from fascists. Seeks help. PO BOX 552. 170 00 Praha 7. Czechoslovakia.

PRISONS



PRISON NEWS FROM ABC

M25 3 Campaign.

'Justice is a word in the wind' (Raphael Rowe).

The M25 3 are Michael Davis, Randolph Johnson and Raphael Rowe. They were sent down for life in 1990 after a series of robberies and a murder that took place off the M25 motorway in December 1988. Despite the fact that the victims described 2 white men and a black man as being responsible, from the first the police aimed to fit up these 3 black men. Initial (white) suspects who admitted involvement in the robberies were co-opted as prosecution witnesses and victims were persuaded to change their evidence. There was no forensic evidence against the 3 and Michael and Raphael had 7 alibi witnesses for the time of the first robbery. The 3 have always protested their innocence, and their family and friends have campaigned for their release since their convictions. The 3 men's appeal has been put back 4 times, on the last occasion the court of appeal tried to withhold evidence from the defence. The appeal is now set for Monday 21st June 1993 at 10am, at the Court of Appeal, Royal Courts of Justice, The Strand, London. The M25 campaign is asking anyone who supports the men's freedom to join their picket of the court from 9.00 onwards. These men must not be left to rot for 17 years. Contact: The M25 campaign, 42B Copleston Rd, London SE15 4AD and write to: Raphael Rowe MP3660, HM Prison Gartree, Market Harborough, LE16 7RP. Michael Davis MP3661, HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs, London W12. Randolph Johnson MP3903, HMP Long Lartin, S.Littleton, Evesham, WR11 5TZ.

BRIXTON'S F WING CLOSES.

In March this year Brixton Prison's infamous F Wing was officially closed down, 3 years after it was condemned by the Chief Inspector of Prisons. The wing was known as 'Fraggle Rock' among cons as it was the dumping ground for 'psychiatric' cases or 'disturbed prisoners' (as if being locked up 23 hours a day isn't going to 'disturb' most people). Conditions on the wing were appalling, with poor heating, cardboard furniture, disgusting food etc. Many so called dangerous prisoners would be held in the strip cells where you would be locked up 23.5 hours a day with nothing but a damp mattress. These conditions obviously amount to attempted murder: 7 of the 14 prisoners

who committed suicide in Brixton in 1989-1990 (one of the worst records in Britain's death ridden prison system) did time on F wing. Another F wing occupant killed himself while in court and yet another died after being beaten by screws. The place was so depressing even a screw topped himself! F wing's closure is part of general changes to Brixton which have halved the numbers there and made changes to the 'health care' system there. However many of those who would have ended up in F wing are now being shunted into the mental health system, which is as bad if not worse. While we're glad that F wing has been shut down, it is a drop in the ocean, we want the whole prison system demolished.



ORVILLE BLACKWOOD.

Orville Blackwood was a black man from Brixton, S London, who was jailed in 1986 for a 24 robbery with a toy gun. While inside he was diagnosed mentally disturbed and sent to a mental hospital where he was beaten up for resisting 'treatment' and eventually sent to the murderous Broadmoor Special hospital. In August 1991 preparations were underway for his release, but the authorities see any 'big black man' as a threat to society, and were not prepared to see him free. On the 28th August he refused to go to Occupational Therapy (unpaid work), which is not compulsory, and was dragged off to segregation where he was beaten up by so called nurses (screws). He was then injected with 2 tranquillising drugs but in massive overdoses and into a vein instead of a muscle. He was dead within 3 minutes. Orville was the 3rd black prisoner to die in Broadmoor in recent years. His mother Mrs

Clara Buckley and her family and friends have been fighting since his death to uncover the truth but a recent new inquest they managed to force out of the authorities confirmed the 'accidental death' verdict of the original coroner. A man held down by 12 screws and injected with an overdose is murdered.

Clara Buckley and her supporters have been campaigning to get community support for other people trapped in the so called mental health system, and are working out ways of giving practical support to mental 'patients'. The mental health system, like prisons, is a state institution used to control those of us who are seen as a threat and isolate people from each other to prevent us working together. The Orville Blackwood Community Campaign is working for community solutions to the problems we face in our daily lives which often lead to so called mental ill health.

Contact the campaign at Brixton Community Sanctuary, St Vincent's Centre, Talma Rd, London SW2.

SECOND STRANGWAYS TRIAL VERDICTS.

In case you hadn't heard, the 2nd trial resulting from the strangeways prison uprising in April 1990 ended in March. 11 prisoners were given additional sentences and 2 were cleared. They were convicted of various offenses including conspiracy to cause GBH, riot and violent disorder. The sentences went like this:

- Alan Lord - 10 years
- Nathan Gaynor - 7 years
- Kevin Gee - 10 years
- Tony Bush - 9 years
- Glyn Williams - 10 years
- David Bowen - 9 years
- Barry Morton - 8 years
- Mark Azzopardi - 8 years
- Mark Williams
- John Murray - 4 years
- Earl Fahey - 5 years (plead guilty)

Darren Jones and Andy Nelson were cleared.

During the trial, Alan Lord escaped (the 2nd time he's done so since the uprising) but was recaptured.

David Bowen and John Murray are as far as we know still on the run. It is important that people do not forget that while the Strangeways occupation was an important battle in prisoners' resistance, that many people are taking a lot of shit for it. There are still over 20 people still to be tried over the events of April 1990.

We've received the addresses of 5 prisoners from the 2nd Strangeways trial. They are: Alan Lord, AK3869, HM Prison Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX.

Anthony Bush, HM Prison Liverpool, 64 Hornby Rd, Liverpool L9 3DF

Mark Azzopardi, HM Prison Wakefield, Love Lane, Wakefield, WF2 9AG

Kevin Gee and Barry Morton, HM Prison Frankland,
PO Box 40, Finchale Ave, Brasside, Durham,
DH1 5YD

Paul Taylor, ANO564, from the 1st Strangeways trial
is in Parkhurst (see address above)

Please write to these men and give them your support.

CRACKING CRIME IN HACKNEY.

On the 2nd March, Ida Oderinde, Dennis Tulloch, Everade Brown and Kennie Kingsley had their drug convictions quashed at the appeal court. They were convicted separately in 1991 for dealing and possession, and all had been fitted up by Hackney (N London) police, who planted drugs on them. There is a 'far reaching internal enquiry' into police corruption in Hackney, with 3 cops suspended, on doing 18 months for theft (from a murder victim's house) and at least 20 more under suspicion. Hard work from Hackney Community Defence Association, working closely with victims of police framing, have uncovered large scale crack dealing by the cops, who supply some dealers and fit up those who won't work for them. Of course this will all be kept as quiet as possible and very few cops will be charged. The fact is, this sort of thing is a part of routine police work and will not go away by weeding out a few of the more greedy or reckless filth. Funk knows how many people are doing time for drugs planted on them on by the cops. Hackney community defence association have produced 2 excellent pamphlets on police crime: 'A crime is a crime' and 'Fighting the Lawmen'. Both are 1 plus postage. HCDA also produce a regular bulletin. Write to HCDA, Colin Roach Centre, 10a Bradbury St, London N16.

PRISON PRIVATIZATION.

The British Government's 'privatization program' for prisons and prison service is proceeding fast. After the contracting out of the Wolds prison in Humberside to Group 4 security, Blakehurst, a new prison in Worcestershire, has been tendered out to 'UK detention services'. Meanwhile bids have just closed for the contract to run the rebuilt Strangeways prison. A new prison in Doncaster, S Yorkshire, will be contracted out later this year. In February MPs voted to extend the original plan, which allowed only for new prisons to be 'privatised', to mean that the running of existing prisons could be contracted out.

As usual, the private companies competing for the market in private prisons are linked very close to the Conservative Party and to ex-civil servants, ex top cops and ex army chiefs. For instance, Norman Fowler, an original member of the government team that recommended the privatisation program after the 1986 inspection tour of US private



prisons, is a non executive director of 'Group 4 remand services'. Ex Met police commissioner Peter Imbert is a non exec director of Securicor who are to bid for the new Doncaster prison. UK detention services is partly owned by McAlpine and Son: Lord McAlpine is a former Tory party treasurer. And so it goes on.

This is of course unsurprising, but is a case of the ruling class in the shape of large corporations and their civil servant/parliament representatives feathering their own nests.

But what will it all mean for prisoners? Initially there will no doubt be a flow of government money into the schemes to make it look like it is all working well, but already at the Wolds there have been several protests about the food and conditions etc. This is of course no different to the prison service as it stands. Some prisoners are in favour of giving private prisons a try, as (a) it can only be given a chance in the face of the shitty system that exists (b) hopefully it will break some of the power of the prison officers association which can enforce it's own reactionary and repressive behaviour in prisons while it has a stranglehold as running prisons. There is little to say that private security firms will be any better, however. It is worth pointing out that the government will be able to blame private companies for conditions, scandals etc. while keeping a measure of control over events.

News from the Wolds suggests that Group 4 have lost control somewhat there, which on the one hand means more freedom to move for cons (but does also mean some of the nastier prisoners have a free hand to exert their own control). One ominous aspect is the use in US private prisons of cons as cheap labour. In Louisville, Kentucky, prisoners are working in a packing plant as scab labour to break an ongoing strike by

the workers there. This isn't an isolated event. If private prisons are set up on a large scale in Britain then they could be used to do the same here. As it stands the overall practical effect of contracting out prisons is uncertain.

Meanwhile it's not all sweetness and light for the private prison companies. Group 4 Court Services, a branch of the Group 4 company, won the contract to deliver prisoners to court in the E Midlands area and started operating in April. Within the first week 4 prisoners had already escaped from their custody, including one who they just allowed to go free after a misunderstanding. Let's hope they do as crap a job at keeping people in their prisons.

JIMMY HITS THE ROOF.

Jim Robinson, one of the 4 men fitted up for the murder of Carl Bridgewater. In 1978, has been protesting on the roof of Gartree Prison for over 60 days, after the Home Secretary refused the men leave to appeal. He has been joined by Jimmy Ingram. Jim has had brilliant support from fellow prisoners who have passed him up food, blankets etc and passed on messages of solidarity. All this despite the usual intimidation from the governor and screws. Jim's family and supporters have demonstrated outside the prison several times.

It's vital that the 3 surviving Bridgewater men (the 4th, Pat Molloy, died in prison in 1980) are not forgotten just because they have been refused a hearing. Supporters are urged to demand that Home Secretary Kenneth Clarke reopen the case, and to organise public meetings and get speakers from the campaign.

Contact: Bridgewater 4 Campaign, Houndsfield Lane, Wythell, Birmingham B47 6LS. Send a donation.

After 80 days on the roof Jim Robinson has been recaptured along with Jimmy Ingram and has been moved to HMP Winson Green, Winson Green Road, Birmingham B18 4AS

Vincent Hickey C15440, HMP Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX

Michael Hickey, Ashworth North Hospital, Maghill, Liverpool, L31 1HW



ANGRY DEMO FOR FRAMED PRISONERS.

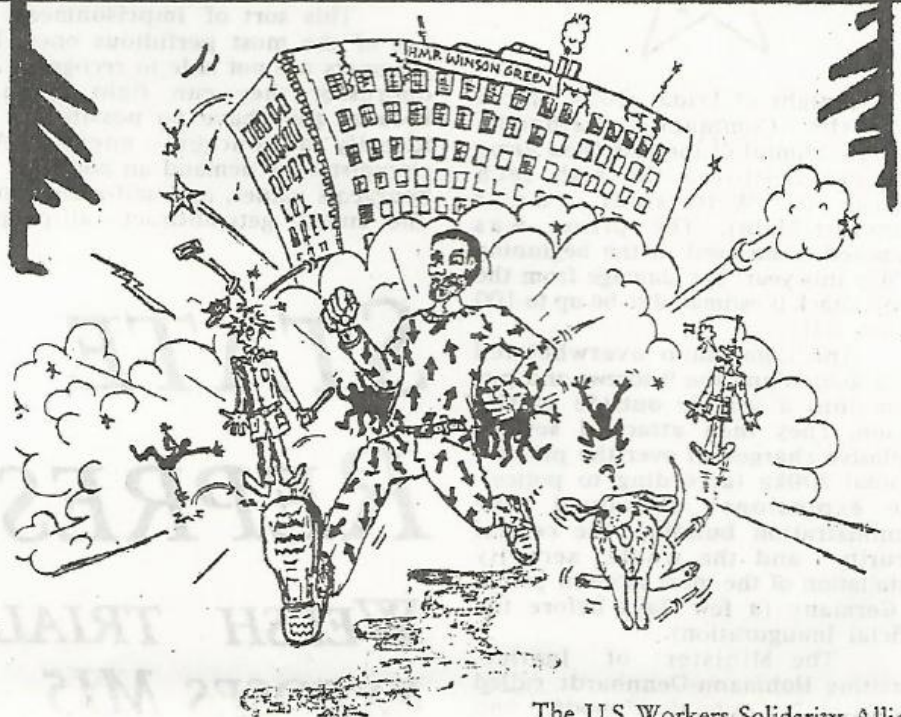
On the 5th May about 250 people held a demo outside the Home Office demanding freedom for a large number of framed prisoners. There were supporters of many campaigns, including the M25 3 campaign, the Winston Silcott campaign, the Satpal Raim campaign, Bridgewater 4 campaign and many more, as well as ABC groups, Newham monitoring project, FRFI and others. The whole mood of the demo was angry and militant, demanding freedom collectively for the 100s of working class people systematically fitted up by the 'criminally justice' system. There were loads of banners, placards, megaphones, songs, chants: the whole of Queen Anne's Gate was filled with noise for 2 hrs. Afterwards the demo marched to Parliament.

Many of the prisoners were on hunger strike in solidarity with the picket from the 5th-7th May.

The linking up of the different campaigns and the determination to fight class injustice collectively and in unity is a major step forward towards achieving freedom for these prisoners. This demo for me was the most uplifting and positive prison solidarity demo since the October 1990 picket of Brixton prison for the poll tax hostages. Let's hope this unity continues - let's have more demos like this!!

about ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

This info on prisoners was put together by London Anarchist Black Cross. The ABC supports anarchist/revolutionary prisoners, people who have been framed by the police, and prisoners resisting the prison system., as well as people from our class who have been imprisoned for trying to survive capitalist society. We publicise individual cases as well as collective resistance inside, and where we can we support prisoners with material aid. London ABC produces a bulletin every 3 months and also various leaflets. Send a donation for more info to London ABC, 121 Railton Rd, London, SE24 0LR.



KENNY RELEASED...

U.S political prisoner Kenny Tolia, falsely imprisoned on riot charges after a police attack on the Squatters Mayday festival in Tompkins Sq. Park in New York, was freed on Dec 4th '92. Demos in support of Kenny were held from Mexico City to Minsk and petitions were received from Brazil, Scotland, Poland and other worldly places. Kenny thanks the Anarchist community for their support.

BUT JAMES JAILED.

James Peper was arrested at the San Francisco Anti-Columbus Day black bloc. He has been held since Oct. 11 '92 awaiting trial on £150,000 bail. He is charged with eight felonies inc. firebombing a police car.

James Peper Defense Fund, c/o Slingshot, UCB, 700 Eshelman Hall, Berkeley, CVA 94720, USA

NIGERIAN PRISONERS BAILED BUT THE CAMPAIGN GOES ON

Udemba Chuks, Garbu Adu, Kingsley Etioni and James Ndubuisi, "libertarian socialist" political prisoners from The Awareness League, won some reprieve on Jan 29th when they were conditionally bailed, leaving them to report to the State Security Services every week. Arrested seven months ago during a wave of worker/student struggles against I.M.F/World Bank imposed austerity plans, the "anarchists" were detained under "Decree No.2", a catch-all preventative detention law.

At their court hearing on 25th Jan, 100 Awareness league members, "scores of journalists, activists, members of the Nigerian Bar Association and interested members of the public" gathered. At the end of the hearing, the prisoners were granted bail to re-appear on the 18th Feb. As the four left, an attempt was made to re-arrest them but this was "stoutly resisted by the crowd". The four then went to hospital to recover from their emaciation and weakness. The A.L. has info that the military will try to re-arrest them, a common practice in Nigeria.

The U.S Workers Solidarity Alliance and Neither East Nor West-New York, have successfully initiated a worldwide campaign in solidarity with the A.L. prisoners. Actions were held from Feb 22-26th in Moscow, Dublin, New York, San Fran, London and Hamburg and many petitions and letters of support were received from all over the world. Over \$1000 was raised by anarchists abroad and donated to the A.L. legal campaign who's lawyer is working for practically nothing to help them. The money raised may have also saved the prisoners lives as prisoners are not fed in Nigeria.

*International Money Orders or U.K Bank Cheques to:
Awareness League, c/o Samuel Mbah, PO BOX 28, Agbani, Enugu State. NIGERIA.*



RED ARMY FRACTION DESTROYS HIGH TECH PRISON



On the night of Friday 26th March 1993 the Commando Katharina Hammerschmidt of the RAF (Red Army Fraction) destroyed the high tech prison in Weiterstadt (near Frankfurt/Main). The prison was supposed to be used in the beginning of May this year. The damage from the bomb attack is estimated to be up to 100 million DM.

The Commando overwhelmed the 2 guards and the 9 screws and put them into a vehicle outside of the prison. They then attached several explosive charges all over the prison - in total 200kg (according to police). The explosions destroyed the administration building, the central security and the whole security installation of the most modern prison in Germany (a few days before the official inauguration).

The Minister of Justice, Christine Hohmann-Dennhardt called the prison "an example of modern and humane imprisonment in Germany" - is an example of one important sort of prison used in all metropolitan areas. In these prisons the prisoners live in so-called "living groups" with 10 - 20 prisoners (each also has their own cell); there is a common room with a small kitchen. The cells and the group rooms are monitored with video cameras. Prisoners can be moved from one wing to another without touching the ground through passages in the 3rd floor, also monitored by cameras. The control is absolute.

The living groups are put together by social workers, psychotherapists etc. according to the 'carrot and stick' principle. The prisoner, on his/her arrival, is monitored to assess his/her willingness to adapt/resist. According to the valuation of the psychologist he/she is put into one of a number of living groups, which differ from non-adapting to most-conforming. Inside the "living groups" a permanent competition is installed that forces the prisoners into isolation, undermines solidarity among prisoners and therefore leads to an orientation towards the values of the prison management/social workers etc. - that means the capitalist/patriarchal values of bourgeois society they are trying to implement. By "work therapy" (i.e. forced labour) and other psychological measures the prisoners are forced to see themselves as criminals, as insane, and have to

"learn" that by adapting to social values given them by the staff and to the work, they can rise up in the hierarchy among the prisoners, i.e. gain facilities and other benefits - that they can also lose immediately when they 'misbehave'. The final punishment is total isolation (in the high security wing).

This sort of imprisonment is one of the most perfidious ones. The prisoners are not able to recognize an oppressor they can fight against, because they have no possibility to identify a concrete enemy. All circumstances demand an adaption to bourgeois values, and self-subjection. The 'enemy' gets abstract - all people

seem to be drawn by invisible strings that are: competition, isolation, playing roles. These are the mechanisms of brain washing.

The prison in Weiterstadt also contained a high security wing for female political prisoners. It was also supposed to be used as a 'deportation' prison.



source: Omega Berlin

STATE REPRESSION



WELSH TRIAL EXPOSES MI5

At the end of the a two month trial in Caernarfon, Wales, two men were acquitted of charges of conspiracy to cause explosions while a third, Sion Roberts was jailed for 12 years for possessing explosives and sending letter bombs. The Gwynedd 3 conspiracy trial was the outcome of the latest unsuccessful attempt by the British state to catch members of the Welsh nationalist Meibion Glyndwr. The trial was also significant in that it brought to light some of the activities of the MI5 secret service. For the first time, MI5 agents gave evidence in open court about their operations, which included bugging, burglary, and following suspects.

Since 1979 Meibion Glyndwr have set alight to more than 150 second homes in Wales, causing around £1 million of damage. There are as many 20,000 second homes in Wales, and in some villages less than half of the houses are lived for six months a year. As middle class English people buy up homes for holidays, house prices are inflated making it difficult for local people to afford a first home, let alone a second one. In addition the arrogant colonialist attitudes of some "white settlers" (as they are known

locally) has further angered Welsh people. For instance there have been cases of English-owned shops refusing to display posters in Welsh, the language spoken by many local people. It is not surprising that a poll carried out by HTV (a Welsh television station) found that 85% of people in the Dwyfor district supported the arson campaign.

Faced with this level of community support for the campaign, the police have failed to secure any major convictions, despite talk of immunity for informers and a £50,000 reward. In 1991, MI5 stepped up their activities in north-west Wales, with a massive operation. Having failed to catch Meibion Glyndwr, they decided to target members of another group, Y Cyfamodwyr, which campaigns openly and legally for Welsh independence.

During the trial it emerged that MI5 agents broke into Sion Roberts' flat on November 8 1991 to plant a bugging device, and the following day 38 MI5 agents followed Sion on a small demonstration in Caernarfon. In December, MI5 broke into his flat again and claimed to have "found" letter bombs and bomb making equipment. According to the defence, this equipment was planted by MI5 frustrated at the failure of the surveillance operation to produce any results.

At the end of the trial in March, two men were found not guilty of conspiracy, while 21 year old Sion Roberts was jailed for sending letter bombs to prominent Tories and senior police officers.

Following the end of the Cold War, during which it was responsible for tracking down Soviet spies, MI5 has been trying to expand its role. Countering "domestic subversion" has always been part of its remit, with its surveillance activities covering strikers, anti-nuclear activists, the peace movement and just about anything that moves. According to the Guardian (May 21 1992), MI5 has records on over a million individuals considered to be subversive or a potential threat to "national security". It now seems to want to play a more direct secret policing role. In April 1992, MI5 took over control of anti-IRA operations in England from the police. The Welsh conspiracy trial demonstrates the lengths MI5 is prepared to go to in an attempt to secure convictions.

Sources: Y Faner Goch, PO Box 661, Wrecsam, Clwyd, LL11 1QU

GLEVI TREVI

The meeting of the EC Interior ministers in London was, as usual, conducted in secret. The meetings take place twice a year at the end of each of the 6 monthly presidencies of the EC. These meetings report to the following full EC council meetings of prime ministers - the latest being that in Edinburgh on 11-12 December, chaired by John Major.

Before each Interior ministers meeting a series of committees and working groups are held. During the British presidency (July-December 92) there were over 60 such meetings of officials, police, immigration, customs officers and internal security services. These meetings are also held in secret, drafts are discussed and amended, disputes are resolved and their reports are handed to the interior ministers meeting where they are routinely ratified - only disagreements are discussed by ministers. The European parliament and the 12 national parliaments have no opportunity to discuss the

documents prior to the meeting. The UK parliament doesn't discuss the reports, partly because it has not been told what has been decided, and partly because the procedure followed allows for no debate.

At the meeting in London last year the first day, 30th November, was spent on immigration, asylum policy, and border controls. The next morning TREVI matters were dealt with.

November 30th: Following a report expressing concern about the 'presentational impact' of Britain's first draft of a resolution on 'manifestly unfounded' asylum applications (which talked of 'economic migrants' and also 'intercontinental travel seldom being necessary for protection reasons') the EC interior ministers decided all it needed was a few of these words changing. The end result means that those subjected to human rights abuses, torture, disappearances etc. will be expected to find sanctuary within the very country they are attempting to flee and only after failing in this will they be allowed to apply for asylum in the first 'safe' country they pass through or 'could have gone to'. This means that e.g. people fleeing Uganda to Europe via Kenya would be sent back to Kenya as it is considered a 'safe' country.

Any asylum seeker who fails these criteria or who fails to comply with e.g. a fingerprinting request, has destroyed or mutilated documents, has been rejected elsewhere or expresses a desire for a job or better living conditions, will be subjected to a 'fast track' appeal procedure designed to

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REPRESSION OF DRUG USERS IN ITALY

On the 3rd April the Centri Sociali (squatted centres) organised a demonstration in Rimini demanding the closure of the S.Patrignano Community, and the abolition of the infamous Vassalli-Jervolino anti-drug law.

For ages the antagonist/autonomist movement has denounced the coercive conditions in S.Patrignano. The "Community" claims to provide treatment to help people overcome drug addiction, but in fact it is more like a prison. The inmates have to work (which makes profits for S.Patrignano), divided into small work groups, each with a "controller" to supervise people and make sure they obey the institution's many rules. The regime is based on punishment, strict discipline and

constant surveillance. No-one is allowed to leave until they are pronounced "cured" by Vincenzo Muccioli, founder and guru.

Recently the discovery of the corpse of a young drug addicted man in a rubbish dump near Naples, has brought about an investigation into the community. According to witnesses the man was a "guest" in S.Patrignano where he was killed two years ago after being beaten up for four days. To avert suspicion, his body was dumped 1000 km away.

Although Vincenzo Muccioli was not directly involved in the killing, his responsibility is evident in promoting a sick logic based on punishment, discipline, and segregation as "therapeutic" methods to rehabilitate and reintegrate the individual back into society.

Muccioli has been one of the promoters and supporters of the anti drug law. This is very repressive towards drug users, making no

distinction between substances, and giving people the option of going to prison or being admitted to a "rehabilitation centre", funded by the government. None of the other treatment centres approved of the law, arguing that rehabilitation must be a personal free choice to be effective.

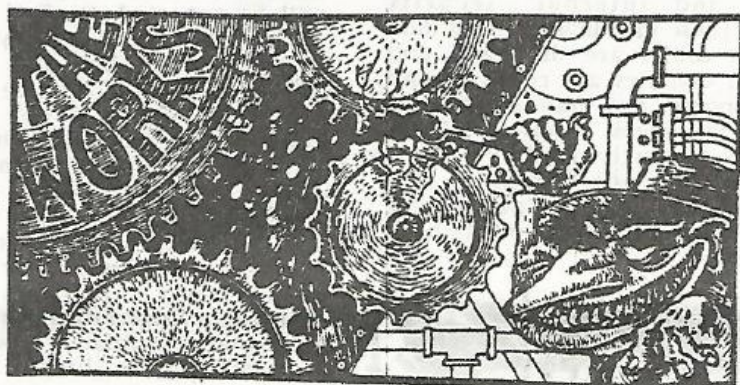
Muccioli, thanks to his relations with top party leaders (now implicated in the corruption scandal), was guaranteed funds from the state and drug users from the courts (2000 inmates).

On the 19th April in Italy, people were called to vote on eight different referendums. One of these was for the abolition of repressive methods towards drug users, for which the majority voted yes. This result demonstrates people's will not only to prevent imprisonment of drug users but also to close down once and for all these segregative and repressive institutions.

kick them out of Europe within a month.

Two issues were left unresolved. The German minister felt it would be 'helpful' to have an agreed list of 'safe' countries, others considered this would be controversial. Some countries wanted a provision to be included that the 'removal' of asylum seekers to a third country considered 'safe' should be dependant on this country agreeing to accept them - this was turned down because it would take too long.

The afternoon of the 30th was taken up with discussion on border controls and the UK's continuing refusal to remove entry checks. The only thing that might be of use to know for some people is that due to a compromise it should, by summer 1993, be possible for EC nationals to enter a UK seaport and walk through the border control by holding up their passports or national identity cards. This does not apply to airports.



December 1st: TREVI. In its report to the TREVI ministers, working group 1 (WG I) agreed a 'full terrorist threat assessment document' announcing there had been no changes over the past six months. The assessment document was also sent to the European Political Council (EPC) group on terrorism. A new text was agreed to remove confusion between the role of the police and internal security services investigating 'terrorist' organisations. It seems they're having problems talking to each other with the TREVI secure fax network proving itself unable to cope with the volume of communications. Apparently they're considering an electronic mail system.

WG 2 is dealing with the interception of communications and cryptology (Belgium and Netherlands are working jointly on this - and a big 'FUCK YOU' if the pigs are reading this). WG II has also been working on the production of a European directory on police training, police communications on a European level and road traffic policing. WG III has been dealing with money laundering, crime analysis, and agreement of common terminologies, methods and techniques. The common definitions they have agreed include 'terrorism' as 'the use and attempt to use violence by a structured group to obtain political objectives' and 'organised

crime' as 'an uninterrupted series of criminal activities committed by a group of individuals with the intention of obtaining benefits, influence or power'(yes I know, but thinking about this too much is almost certainly bad for your health).

The TREVI 1992 working group is now finished. Its work has been taken over by the TREVI senior immigration and customs officers and officials from interior ministries. UK representation comes from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), the European Liaison Section (EIS) of the Metropolitan Police Special Branch, MI5, and the TREVI secretariat in the Home Office.

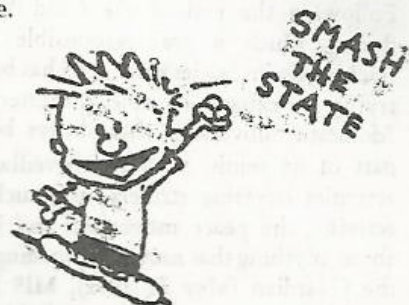
The Maastricht treaty provides under the 'third pillar' (in article K) for cooperation on borders, immigration, asylum, law and policing. The creation of a European police office (EUROPOL) is laid down in article K 1.9. 'Third Pillar' issues will come under the remit of the European

Council (the governments and officials of the 12 EC countries) and will remain inter-governmental - the initiative and power will lie with the individual states, not with the commission or parliament. The work will be under the control of a coordinating committee of senior officials from each state (article K4) and proposals for action will come from the council secretariat, the 'new' TREVI, or a member state. The European parliament will be 'allowed to ask questions', will be 'informed of discussions' and will be 'consulted' (article K6).

Conclusion: If the Maastricht treaty is agreed in 1993 the ad hoc structure of the TREVI group will be replaced by permanent groups of officials, police and security service officers based in Brussels. Its work will remain as secret as before. The European parliament will be 'consulted' and 'allowed to ask questions' but the new groups will not be accountable to the parliament in any 'democratic' sense. Power will reside with officials from the twelve states.

EUROPOL is expected to be in place by 1994 (either at the Hague, Strasbourg or Rome). It too will be run by senior officials and report to the heads of state (the European Council). Immigration and asylum policies have

been similarly prepared, discussed and agreed in secret - only then are the conclusions announced by governments. Parliaments (national and European - yeah, big deal, but you get the point) and people are excluded from the debate about the creation of institutions which are coming together to constitute the European state.



Background

Set up in 1976, TREVI (Terrorism, Radicalism, Extremism, Violence International) now also deals with illegal immigration, border controls, police cooperation, drugs and serious crime.

TREVI has been structured around four working groups:

WG I : 'Terrorism' and compilation of assessments of 'threats' both from within and outside the European community.

WG II : Police cooperation, exchange of information on matters such as equipment, computers, training, forensic science and public order.

WG III: Serious crime. This group was responsible for preparing reports for the creation of the European Drug Intelligence Unit (EDIU) as the first step to the formation of EUROPOL (European police office). The EDIU expected to become operational as of January 1993.

The fourth group, TREVI1992, was set up to deal with the 'policing and security implications of the single European market' to 'compensate for the consequent losses to security and law enforcement'.

Two new groups also work within the TREVI framework-the Ad hoc group on EUROPOL and the ad hoc group on organised crime.

Meetings of all these groups and their sub-groupings are attended by police officers, special branches, internal security agencies, officials Group, WG III and the ad hoc group on Europol.

From TREVI to K4

British interior minister Kenneth Clarke prattled on for a while about how he thought this would be the last meeting of TREVI and that by the time the 'third pillar' of the Maastricht Treaty would come into effect the group (now being shadowed by the new K4 committee) would have a permanent office and secretariat in Brussels.

NOTES ON 'QUEER'

The original form of this article was in the Queer Feminist Insert of Free Society magazine (PO BOX 7293, Minneapolis, MN 55407, USA)

We have taken the damn liberty of editing some of the points which we felt were repetitive and also in simplifying some of the language. It's difficult to know what to do in such a situation where material is an excellent starting point for debate but is marginalised by it's language. Our "version" of the article is a messy solution which we hope can rescued from criticism by some stunning debate on the topic itself.

One could suspect much from the lack of coverage of sexuality and sexual deviancy in Anarchist journals but we are too polite to enquire (and we might blush). However, isn't it time to examine what's going on...confess to everything and deal with it.

WHAT IS QUEER ?

The term "queer" has been circulating for a while in activist and other circles within the gay and lesbian community and in the bisexual and transgender community too. As it is, the presence of bisexuals and transgender people in the political collectivity of the queer community is as hotly contested as is the word "queer" itself. The two issues are however directly related. One reason people use the word "queer" is not just to avoid the clumsiness of "lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender" but to avoid the mutual exclusivity and fixed nature of these separate categories. As with before, the empowerment experienced by describing ourselves as "dykes" or "faggots", "queer" is a political strategy of a subordinate group commanding a dominant definition and flipping it around to create a new in-your-face group pride. Criticism of this strategy questions whether these terms denote self-hatred or reinforces the homophobes vision of "queers". However this kind of border language or slang cannot deny the determination to which it can be used i.e "Every dyke is a hero" or "We're Here, We're Queer, We're Not Going Shopping".

Many organise under the "Queer" banner as a shorthand to include other sexual deviants - bisexuals, transgender people and also sex workers, SM people; many like the uppityness that the word

stands for so much that they don't much care about who the word may or may not refer to; many are concerned that the legions of people that "queer" can stand for will dilute the specific politics around sexual minorities, specifically for gay men and lesbians who are, arguably, more at risk from a homophobic State and society. Still others see this legion of allies as just the kind of coalition needed to have any kind of political effectiveness moving towards sexual liberation.

Another fear is that the word "queer" will go the same way as "gay", as just a reference for gay men. When gone unnamed in a patriarchal society, women and women's identities are subsumed under the identities and political concerns of men and the universal categories they supposedly represent. Thus a term that can unite (and excite) can erase or dilute some of the concerns it ostensibly seeks to unify. "Queer" needs to be held up to scrutiny as any universal category should automatically be suspect.

With race, gender and class, we cannot weasel out of such a fact. Similarly, "queer" although it can be manipulated with a critical consciousness of the context in which it is employed, does not mean that we can be anybody we want to be any given day depending on mood.

(i.e straight men who "like" lesbian porn or getting it in the butt by a woman with a dildo, do not count as "queer" in my book. Maybe in another world).

WE'RE HERE



SPANNER PRISONERS LOSE APPEAL

On March 11th '93, the House of Lords, by a majority of 3 to 2, ruled that the intentional infliction of injuries during sado-masochistic (SM) homosexual acts by consenting adults in private could give rise to criminal convictions for assault and unlawful wounding even though the participants consented to being injured in the first place.

The judges dismissed appeals by Roland Jaggard, Saxon Lucas, Anthony Brown, Christopher Carter and Colin Laskey. These and 11 other men were convicted of causing 'actual bodily harm' and wounding at the Old Bailey (Central Criminal Court of the UK) in 1990 after a lengthy and expensive (£3 million) police investigation called 'Operation Spanner'. They received prison sentences of up to 4 1/2 years which were later cut by the Court of Appeal. The defendants' latest appeal to the House of Lords was heard in January '93, the decision to uphold the sentences being announced on 11th March '93.

Anthony Brown and Roland Jaggard were taken to Brixton Prison to serve at least 7 weeks of their remaining sentence. Both prisoners have opted to become Rule 43 cases because of fears of violence from other prisoners. This means that they will be locked up in solitary confinement for 23 hours a day.

The appeal

All 5 men had been convicted under section 17 of the 1861 Offences Against The Persons Act and three of the defendants were also convicted under section 20 concerning 'wounding'. None of the men had suffered permanent injury or had complained to the police but the police had obtained videos made by the men of their SM activities and started the investigation. None of these videos were made for commercial reasons.

The lawlords' verdict questioned the previous High Court appeal's acceptance that consent is a defence to the infliction of bodily harm in the course of some lawful activity and questioned whether that defence should extend to S&M encounters.

On the day of the verdict, the campaign group Countdown on Spanner, who had done much to support those imprisoned, demonstrated outside the High Court. The demo was attended by roughly 100 people, some of whom set fire to the 60 page verdict.

On November 21st '92, the first UK SM pride march, organised by Countdown on Spanner, was held in London. About 2000 SM people and supporters marched past the High Court in high spirits, chanting and cheering and publicising the case of the Spanner prisoners. The event was covered by some national newspapers and TV.

The Spanner prisoners, despite their lengthy prison sentences had not become a 'cause celebre' within the radical left and even to a large extent with the lesbian and gay community (although many gay clubs and bars held collections for the Spanner campaign and the House of Lords verdict was front page of the Pink Paper and Capital Gay newspapers). There was no question of their being 'innocent' (such as Guildford 4 etc) of the charges they faced as their own videos were proof enough for the police.

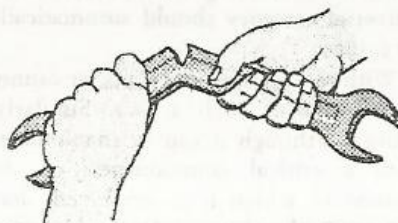
Their final appeal came at a time when media hysteria about declining values and childhood crime and delinquency was at it's highest point. That the Spanner verdict was not portrayed in the media as another symbol of 'sick Britain' was largely due to the relative lack of interest in the case.

Sick Britain?

Throughout February '93 the latest media fashion was for sanctimonious editorials to detail the state of our 'sick society'. In Liverpool, a 2 year old (Jamie Bulger) had been abducted by two 10 year olds and had died at their hands. Immediately, there was a media frenzy. The abduction had been filmed by an in-store security camera and blurred pictures from this were shown nationwide. Police in one Liverpool station picked up young children as they walked past the station because they looked like the kids on the video (i.e. they were short and had the same hair colour!) The case was made into a potent symbol by the press and TV of 'everything that is wrong with society today'. From then on, the focus was on the 'breakdown of society' and the issue of violence on TV and in films became the number one public enemy (despite 100s of surveys denying any link between violent behaviour and watching TV). At no time during the media campaign did any of the real issues concerning a 'sick society' reach the pages of the press and the screens of the TV. For example, 1.3 million homes in Britain unfit to live in, EC calculations of 15 million people in Britain living below the poverty line.

The media campaign was another moral panic like 'crack', squatting, joyriding etc. used by the state to deflect attention away from it's dismal and hateful policies. For the media, it was a good chance to pump up the crocodile tears and increase sales with their newly invented campaigns to 'keep our children safe'.

With the rise of fascism and a general swing to the right in Europe, the events in the UK in the last few months could be really dangerous. With increased poverty and hard times, a government and media backed campaign for 'family values and law and order' is a frightening breeding ground for increased support for those who seem to be doing something about it i.e. fascist or extreme right groups. The British National Party and National front recently initiated a local campaign against the opening of a clinic for 'sex offenders' in Exhall in Coventry which garnered great support in the community.



The Spanner appeal almost blurred dangerously in the month long media clamour and it certainly would have been used to add more fuel to the well stoked fire of 'family values'.

Lord Lowry - one of the lawlords - said of the case that *'sado-masochistic homosexual activity cannot be regarded as conducive to the enhancement or enjoyment of family life or conducive to the welfare of society'*.

Lord Templeton added that *'society is entitled and bound to protect itself against a cult of violence. Pleasure derived from pain is an evil thing. Cruelty is uncivilized'*. (Needless to add, 'civilization' has not proceeded for 2000 years without cruelty.)

When the Lawlords talk about family values, do they talk about the thousands of children who are incest survivors, victims of abuse, children of alcoholic parents, or families living in bed and breakfast, on decrepit housing estates, unable to provide fresh food or clothing to their children? No. What they mean is the fine aristocratic English values (like the riding crop...an aristocratic taste for S/M encounters reflected in British popular culture. Ed.) and the values of white middle class suburban racism, homophobia, sexism, ignorance and pretence.

What about sex?

What has been missed in the whole Spanner affair is the difficult nature of S&M sex and sexuality. Media reports, although in some cases being sympathetic, have found themselves endlessly sidetracked by humorous accounts of leather and rubber accessories available in SM shops run by those who have found a niche in the market for such goods. Such images are the usual stereotypical ones for any debate on SM sex. Lurid accounts of the Spanner defendants' activities were also thrown into press stories for shock value.

What is important is not what the men did but that they were made criminals for consensual and private SM sex. These days, flirtations with SM imagery can be seen in advertising or incorporated into 'haute couture'. Madonna's book 'Sex' containing one or two banal SM photos sells millions. Yet here we have a popular chic flirtation with SM and at the same time people imprisoned for what they do in their bedrooms.

SM sexuality exists. It always will and it will always be a complicated affair difficult for outsiders to deal with. It remains a subject for intense hours long debate in the radical community that never gets beyond arguments that SM mirrors society's hierarchical set up....so it is bad!

SM elements in sex extend from piercing or cutting a penis or nipple, for example, to simply 'talking dirty' to a partner. Power games, role playing, degradation, pain, to whatever extent, are experiences sexual enough to turn people on. That is the basis for SM sex. Like violence on TV, it does not turn people into psychopaths, rapists, child molesters.

Society re-inforces its taboos and conventions using our sexuality and our sex lives to try and control us in other aspects of our daily life. Enlightened debate and a rigorous defence of our 'sexual freedoms' is very important to fight back against that control. The Spanner case was an attack on the right to live your life in the way that you want to.

Derek Cohen of Countdown on Spanner said about the verdict *"this ruling has wider implications than S/M sex, as it challenges every individual's right to own and control their own body or experiment with their sexuality"*.

For further info and to support the Spanner defendants appeal to the European court - contact: Countdown on Spanner, c/o Central Station, 37 Wharfedale Rd, London N1.

Management drive over busworkers in breakneck speed for privatisation

STRIKES

Busworkers in London voted on 10th March to start a series of one day strikes demanding a freeze to the cut throat plans for privatisation.

Busworkers have been bullied into a tight corner by the bosses and left there by the unions.

First of all, months ago, in preparation for privatisation and foreseeing 'trouble' ahead, management sent out threatening letters to individual workers' home addresses. These outlined two alternatives: to accept changes unconditionally by the date specified and receive your lump sum compensation, or if you hadn't accepted by the date specified you'd get no compensation and have to sign a new contract unconditionally anyway.

Also included in the 'deal' was that you couldn't go on strike. If you refused to sign a contract and to give up your right to strike you would be sacked. As a result, at the busworkers conference on Feb 18th it was resolved not to challenge the threats then, en masse, but to sign the letters. The decision for strike action was kept for later. Too late and too little.

Changes for busworkers include:

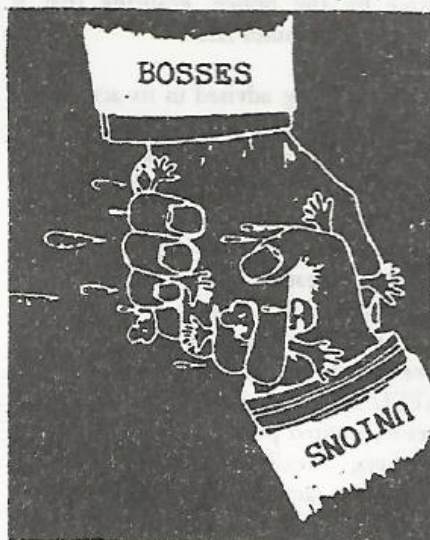
- Most workers stand to lose financially, varying from garage to garage, approximately £40 - £80 a week.
- 2 and 1/2 hours to 5hrs have been put onto the average working week.
- A cut in the payment of unsocial hours
- A major cut in pensionable pay.

The government and London bus management want to make London's red bus network profitable before planned privatisation in 1994. No other European capital city runs its transport for profit making. When the Greater London Council was abolished, control of London Transport was handed over to London Buses Ltd. The workforce and the routes were broken up into 10 subsidiary companies. This was the start to breaking up of union organisation. This means that if workers in one area support the action in any of the others it's counted as 'secondary' action and against the anti-trade union laws.

London fares are already twice as high as in other major European cities. There are proposed cuts in concessionary travel passes and a 25% cut in services **before** privatisation. Obviously, less profitable run routes will be cut, and fares will rise even more.

It seems that privatisation is driving at top speed not stopping for the public or even the bus drivers themselves.

Or if you work in transport you can write to Transport Worker Network who are working to unite transport workers throughout the country for better organisation than the bureaucratic unions. Their address is: PO Box 73, Norwich, NR1 2EB.



Nalگو Bosses are Scum

Nalگو's (local government white collar union) bosses have sold out (surprise, surprise). The Newham council strikers who had been on strike for 15 months. They claimed that the strike was unwinnable and promptly withdrew strike pay from the strikers. They also claimed that despite being on full strike pay, 2/3rds of the branch were scabbing.

The 800 who were forced to return do so with no return to work agreement, no agreement on the redeployment of staff and no new contracts for 6 temporary staff who took strike action against the original compulsory redundancies.

IF THE TUC did not exist, a government might have to create a surrogate to represent such interests in the future. Financial Times leader following the announcement that TUC general secretary Norman Willis is to retire in September

Ford Car Workers.

At about the same time, a document was leaked that is written by management at the car giant Ford. It revealed Ford's cost cutting plans to contract out all its general services.

Those hit would include truck drivers, maintenance workers and office administrative workers, putting over 1,00 jobs at risk. In the document bosses fear of strikes was clear: "a British truck fleet dispute would probably result in the progressive closure of all Ford European manufacturing plants within 3 days" it warns. And as if to prove them right workers walked out as soon as they heard the news. The workers did not wait to ballot, they acted immediately and stopped production.

The contracting out is part of Ford's drive to cut costs in order to boost profits. It wants outside contractors to do the job at a cheaper rate.

These workers transport parts and supplies between 4 plants in Britain and Europe. In the document it shows the company's fears of a 'high risk of significant disruption' across the board.

Soon after, faced with the decision by workers to hold a ballot for strike action, the management backed down. There will be no compulsory redundancies and proposals to contract out service jobs to other companies has been dropped. Any contracting out will be done at plant level with union negotiation. They admitted they were scared stiff of how we could shut down production across Europe', says a Dagenham worker.

Firefighters.

Firefighters are to be balloted on a national strike if the government decision to peg pay rises for public sector groups to 1.5% this year goes ahead for them. This would remove their present pay formula - won after national strike action in 1977.

Councils.

Leaders of 750,000 local authority workers are intending to claim a pay increase of 5.5%. While the government is sticking to its ceiling of 1.5% for the public sector.



TIMEX STRIKE IN SCOTLAND

Support is continuing to grow for the strike at the Timex electronics plant in Dundee, Scotland. On April 5th, at least 1000 people took part in the biggest picket yet at the factory, while later in the day 7000 people demonstrated in the city in support of the strikers. On Monday 22 March, 16 people were arrested on a mass picket of 400 people outside the plant. Pickets blocked the road outside the factory, preventing scab workers entering for two hours. Two days before (on 20/3/93) there was a 6,000 strong demonstration.

The dispute started on January 29th when 340 workers (most of them women) went on strike after management tried to impose a pay freeze, 110 lay-offs, and worse working conditions. On 17th February, the Timex Corporation (a giant US multinational) sacked the entire shopfloor workforce at the plant, including 17 workers who had crossed picket lines and refused to join the strike!

Management have employed scab workers to replace the sacked strikers although they haven't yet recruited enough to resume normal working. Every morning and afternoon, around 200 strikers have been picketing the plant as the scabs go in and out in buses. On 4 March, pickets used four hired vans to block the entrance to the factory. Management had to have a hole cut in the perimeter fence so that scabs could get into work. Police arrested four people. On another occasion, scab buses were delayed for an hour after glue was squeezed into the locks of the factory gates. A local taxi firm that was taking scabs across the picket line stopped its activities when strikers called for it to be boycotted.

Timex have used the courts to try and undermine the strike. A court ruling has banned strikers from going near the scab pick up point in the city. Court action has also been taken against four officials of the AEEU engineering union, which the strikers belong to. However on 19 March, Timex failed in an attempt to get the courts to ban strikers meeting within 50 yards of the factory. The police have co-operated with the management, videoing and generally harassing pickets. Two strikers arrested on the picket line have been charged with assaulting a scab elsewhere in the city. On March 29 a coach bringing strike supporters from

Glasgow to a mass picket was stopped twice by the police, ensuring that it arrived 90 minutes late.

Timex is being advised in its actions by Scottish Engineering, part of the Engineering Employers Federation. This shows how seriously engineering bosses are taking this dispute, leading workers in other Scottish factories to fear that if Timex defeat their workers, other employers will launch similar attacks on pay and working conditions. A few weeks before the start of the strike, AEEU union leaders agreed to a wage freeze, limited period contracts for new workers, "flexible" working practices, and video cameras on the shop floor at Hoover's Cambuslang plant near Glasgow. In return Hoover bosses announced that they would close their factory at Dijon in France and transfer jobs and production to Cambuslang. When Timex workers began their strike they stuck a banner, "No Cambuslangs here" on the factory gate.



Leaders of the AEEU are trying to prevent effective picketing of Timex. After the successful picket on March 22, AEEU leader Gavin Laird wrote to all strikers telling them that their actions "must be wholly within the civil and criminal law". He warned: "Some union members persist in disobeying the unequivocal instructions already given. Failure to obey the instructions of the executive council will render you liable to expulsion from the union. The consequences

of such an expulsion are that strike benefit will be withdrawn [and] you may as a matter of law lose whatever right you have to complain of unfair dismissal". Union leaders have also said that "We will not welcome anyone coming to Timex who does not accept the discipline of the AEEU. Anyone not prepared to do so should stay away". Not surprisingly, such statements have been welcomed by Timex management.

Timex workers have a history of militancy. Ten years ago workers occupied the same factory for six weeks in a fight for jobs.

send donations, messages of support to:
Timex Strike Committee, c/o AEEU
Office, 2 Union Street, Dundee (tel. 0382 22406)

The Timex Corporation have offices at
97 Uxbridge Road, London W5 5TL (081 567 7733).

SHOCK STRIKE STATISTICS

A report by the international confederation of Free Trade Unions gave out figures showing that 260 activists were killed and 2,500 arrested in 1992 for carrying out legitimate trade union activity. In 1991 it was 200 deaths and 2,000 arrests.

It says that more than 40,000 workers lost their jobs because they demanded better wages and working conditions. The reported killings were the result of attacks by government, security services and death squads. Countries identified as the most dangerous for trade union leaders were: South Africa, Burma, China, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Iran, Malawi, Peru and Sudan.

Leaked Documents.

Two months ago, a document drawn up secretly by senior civil servants for a cabinet committee on pay was leaked to a national paper. It shows how ministers are being warned of a spring of discontent among key groups of workers over the government's 1.5% pay ceiling.

It singles out the miners and firefighters as 'high risk' groups most likely to strike over pay. It then warns of a 'medium risk' of 160,000 rail and tube workers and 20,000 nuclear power workers striking. Also that 800,000 local council manual workers may strike, as may airport and prison staff.

This goes to show that the government is frightened of the strikes ahead and will be preparing itself on how best to deal with and pacify the work force's resistance.

ACT UP TO LAUNCH EMPLOYMENT ACTION CAMPAIGN.

Act up (AIDS coalition to unleash power) chapters across Britain are set to launch a campaign against HIV discrimination in the work place. The campaign will expose and target companies that are known HIV discriminators or have discriminatory HIV policies. For instance Texaco UK insists that job applicants to the company undertake a test for the HIV virus before they are allowed to work for them, though it is known that there is no risk of HIV being transmitted in the work place during everyday working practices. If you refuse the test, or are found to be HIV +, you don't get the job. Act up chapters called for a telephone blockade of the Texaco freephone customer service line on the 20th and 27th April 1993. They are also calling for a boycott of Texaco petrol stations.

At a protest outside Texaco UK's headquarters at London's Canary Wharf 20 supporters of Act Up were punched and kicked by security staff. For more information on the Act up employment action campaign send an SAE to Box 293, 52 Call Lane, Leeds LS1 6DT or BM2995, London WC1N 3XX

HIV testing isn't the only way that Texaco tries to control workers through their blood streams. Last August they introduced a policy of random drug testing, initially for 1% of the workforce in "safety sensitive areas". Anyone who tests positive (Yes, that means that joint you smoked a week ago!) is expected to request help for their "drug problem" from the company's Employee Assistance Programme. Failure to do so can result in sacking. Drug testing has also been used against job applicants. The oil industry is the main sector in Britain affected by this so far. Esso has had random testing since 1989. Around 250,000 people in Britain now work in jobs where they are drug tested. Once the infrastructure is in place for taking random blood samples it's pretty obvious the bosses will extend this to HIV and who knows what else.

International Strike News

EAST GERMANS DOWN TOOLS

Unemployment in East Germany is 35% and workers pay is 63% of western levels. Heinz Mohorn deputy chairman of the works council at the cable works in Berlin said 'rents have risen so high here that families basic existence is threatened'.

On April 2nd, the same day as many workers throughout Europe struck, 90,000 Engineering and steel workers (of the IG Metall, Germany's biggest union) downed tools and held demos. This was in protest at their employers' decision to scrap a long standing agreement for a 26% pay increase aimed at bringing living standards in line with the west and to preserve the tradition of national collective bargaining.

Strikers blocked roads, bridges and work entrances in separate incidents in what is the first serious industrial dispute in Eastern Germany since unification, and in fact for more than 60 years. To quote Mohorn again 'it's quite clear that the employers are taking on the unions here in Thatcherite manner in order to prepare ground for a wider attack in the west'.

On April 28th a strike ballot of IG Metall workers resulted in majorities of 85-90% in favour of strike action. There was a 96% turnout for the secret ballots, the first of their kind in the region.

The executive of the union has called for selective strike action and all out strikes if this fails.

On May 1st there were rallies across Germany in support of the upcoming strike. IG Metall's leader said, "before our members change from a party dictatorship to a dictatorship of the employers they are standing up and saying 'not with us' "

Meanwhile on April 29th in Bochum, East Germany, 100,000 miners and supporters took part in a rally in protest at the mounting closure of pits and loss of jobs.

KENYA STRIKES

In Nairobi and other towns in Kenya on April 29th workers defied a ban on strikes in a country wide work stoppage to bolster demands for a 100% wage rise.



"All they think about is money..."

INDONESIA: NIKE STRIKE

22 workers at PT Eltri Indo Footwear, a joint Indonesian-South Korean company producing Nike sports shoes, have been suspended and face dismissal. The 22 have been interrogated by police intelligence which suggests that they could face criminal charges.

They are among 60 workers held responsible for organizing a strike at the factory in September '92. A letter from the company suspending them insinuated that they were members of the outlawed communist party the PKI and were involved in clandestine meetings to plan the strike.

STRIKE

Just Do It !

In Indonesia, the wave of strikes continues. YLBHI, the legal aid institute recorded 185 strikes in 1992 to mid November involving at least 38,000 workers. In 1992 the Indonesian authorities lifted a 27 year old ban on strikes in 'essential industries'. They are probably regretting it now.

Indonesia's role as an important 'asset' for foreign investors is starting to come apart. Strikes have been affecting the level of output and when the local military crush a strike with 'methods of persuasion' (convincing strike leaders to leave their job 'voluntarily') they demand handsome 'rewards' which all add to production costs. There are signs that foreign investors are complaining about labour unrest and thinking about going elsewhere. There has been a sharp decline in investments in the manufacturing sector.



WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE, AND NOT A DROP FOR FREE...

In 1989, the regional companies supplying water to the homes of England And Wales were put up for sale on the Stock Market as part of the Tory government's continuing privatisation strategy for State-owned industries. To make the privatisation even more attractive to potential investors £1500 million worth of water bill debts were cancelled.

Since privatisation, the average water bill has risen to £170 per year - an increase of 23 percent, while massive profits have been announced by most of the newly privatised companies. The Chief Executive of Thames Water, Mike Hoffman earns £209,000 a year. (27 times the £7,698 a Thames Water clerical worker earns); Thames Water's Chairman wages rose by 290 percent to £160,000 supplemented by a £265,000 share pay-out as well.

Water privatisation in England and Wales has brought larger water bills and increased misery to thousands. In Bradford in Yorkshire, a family on State benefit who paid £90 a year for water before privatisation now pay £93 every four months. 21,200 people have been cut off for defaulting on their bills - a figure up by 174 percent since privatisation. This has coincided with big increases in the number of people suffering from viral hepatitis, dysentery and other health problems associated with poor water supply.

England: Water metering - no way!

The private companies are now trying to change the traditional water bills where a flat rate is charged to the consumer regardless of how much water is used to a system of water metering where payment is based on water consumption. Despite massive public opposition to this, they are pressing ahead with it and various water companies are introducing experimental schemes around England.

In Carshalton in Surrey, people from five housing estates have been blocking access to contractors from Thames Water to prevent them from installing water meters. Some of the people have been parking their cars over the water stop-cock covers and in some cases, the stop-cocks have been sealed over with concrete. Opposition to the water-metering was started by local residents who formed the Campaign Against

Water Metering who's slogan is "Stop The Meters...We Want To Wash".

Severn Trent Water which covers water-supply for the Birmingham area has also started moves to install meters. The meters run off an electric key that cuts off the water supply if it runs out of credit. (The key must be charged up with credit in advance to maintain water supply. Electricity has been supplied to many homes in the U.K for years in this way to prevent non-payment). Severn Trent Water admits that the meters are designed to collect money from low-income homes where bills are often defaulted on.

Wales: resisting disconnections.

In December 1992, Cymru Goch (Welsh Socialist Party) organised a picket of Welsh Water's Brecon HQ to protest against water cut-offs. Welsh Water has been making profits of £3 million a week, while it cut-off water to 2,945 homes last year, and issued court summonses to 50,000 households for non-payment. Households in Wales have to pay 50% more for water than in England, while they are three times as likely to be disconnected. Ironically, extra rainfall means that Wales gets 50% more water than England.

Scotland: resisting proposed water industry privatisation

In recent months there have been several large demonstrations and hundreds of local meetings against proposals to privatise water. In the latest demo in March 1993 up to 5000 people marched through Glasgow in a demonstration against water privatisation organised by the Scottish National Party (last November 3000 people joined another demo in Glasgow).

Also in March, 8 people from Inverness travelled down to Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire (where the Prime Minister lives) to stage a protest at the headquarters of Anglian Water. Anglian, one of the privatised English water companies, has submitted comments to the Scottish Office about the proposed shake-up of the Scottish water system. The protestors barricaded themselves into an office at the Anglian HQ and demanded to see a copy of these comments.

A few days later a letter bomb was sent to Anglian water, an action that was viewed with suspicion by those involved in the original protest. In the past Scottish nationalist groups have used letter bombs, but there is also a long history of the British secret state using infiltrators and agent provocateurs to manufacture "Scottish terrorism" for its own ends (see the book "Britain's secret war: tartan terrorism and the anglo-american state" by Andrew Murray Scott and Iain Macleay).

Local groups and meetings have declared that they will refuse to pay private water bills and will stop water disconnection in people's homes and the installation of water meters. The "Hands Off Our Water" Campaign was started in September in Glasgow with a reported 176 representatives from 70 different organisations. It maintains a policy of non-payment and direct action. Anger at water privatisation, combined with continuing mass non-payment of the poll tax, highlights the possibility of community self-organisation that unites all struggles. Groups like Stockbridge Newtown Solidarity Network in Edinburgh, who evolved from local anti-poll tax work, are already developing in this direction and holding public meetings and producing leaflets.

Broughton and Inverleith Anti-Poll Tax Group have helped set up a Broughton Hands Off Water group. In their leaflet they say: "Remember the poll tax... We can't rely on politicians. They all said they were against the poll tax but tried to impose it just the same. The poll tax was beaten by grass roots action... we won't be paying water bills. There will be massive action and resistance against any disconnections".

Ireland: In the South, the National Association of Tenants' Organisations (NATO) has pledged to step up its campaign against water disconnections. In Donegal, 50 households recently had their water supply cut off by ten large disconnection crews operating in the county, while another 300 have received their final warning and will be disconnected unless they clear their arrears. Those disconnected face a £150 disconnection fee. Meanwhile, Donegal County Council has made no move against commercial properties owing £1 million in water charges.

In the North, the situation is similar to Scotland, with plans for privatisation still being considered.

WAR RESISTERS

SAVAS KARSITLARI DERNEGI

The SKD is a war-resisters association of Turkish anti-militarists, centered around Izmir but with branches elsewhere in the country and in Germany. Its roots are in the monthly anarchist magazine AMARGI but it is intended to act as an umbrella campaign for a range of anti-militarist themes.

SKD contains activists from social democrats to anarchists and has a number of sub-groups and its own weekly magazine. There is an active translation group who wishes to receive English-language books on non-violence and related topics.

SKD c/o Amargi. 1693 Sokak No11, Karsiyaka. Izmir. Turkey.

ARMING INDONESIA

It has been confirmed that British Aerospace has concluded a deal to sell 24 Hawk aircraft to Indonesia - a second deal for 20 more Hawks is to be signed soon. At an average price of \$11 million each, the country expects to purchase six squadrons of 24 aircraft at a cost of well over \$1.5 billion.

The deal makes the UK Indonesia's leading arms suppliers, bolstering the war industry of a regime that has illegally occupied East Timor since 1975. The Indonesian armed forces are waging operations against armed resistance in West Papua and in Aceh, North Sumatra and several thousand people have been killed in operations since 1990.

It was claimed in Parliament that the Hawk sales are to maintain jobs in the UK and have no bearing in the suppression of the people of East Timor but according to Jane's Defence Weekly (9.1.93) some Hawks can provide crucial reconnaissance and close cover for troops.

On 6th January, Chris Cole slipped unnoticed into a British Aerospace factory in Stevenage at 4am. An hour later he was arrested having caused at least £475,000 worth of damage to BAe property using household hammers to smash nosecones on the European Fighter Aircraft and Hawk jets. He had also 'disarmed' the nosecone manufacturing equipment and poured his own blood into it.

Part of a statement left by Chris at the site read "The whole point of BAe, the whole bloody business is to kill people faster, better, more efficiently...and so I feel impelled to try to disarm BAe, to say a loud and clear 'no' to death in a factory that is dedicated to producing death."

Chris Cole is now in prison having been refused all bail. The damage he did could seriously set back production of the Hawks for Indonesia. BAe has kept quiet about the whole affair.



THE POLL TAX HAS NOT GONE.

People are still not paying their poll tax bills and officials are fearful that evasion will rise now that the council tax (con tax) is in. According to official figures (which can be taken with a pinch of salt) in the first 9 months of the tax year 1992-1993 76% of the budgeted yield had been collected. That still left £1.68 billion to be collected. The equivalent of 7 in every 10 adults in London have been summonsed for non-payment in the last 3 years. From October 1992 until the end of the year courts in England and Wales issued nearly 2 million liability orders, nearly 20% down on the same period in 1991. They also issued 7639 committal warrants, though most of these will have been postponed.

In Newcastle the council is still owed £24 million, which is 15% of its expected total income. It has applied for 4000 committals to prison - 25 people have been jailed.

In Harlingey, London more summonses have been issued than any other council in the country. They have issued more than 272,000 summonses and 195,000 liability orders since April 1990. It has just over 150,000 people eligible to pay the tax. 15 people have been jailed, although only one served the full sentence.

The poll tax will be with us as long as councils try to screw it out of us, as long as they take us to court, try to jail us, send round their bailiffs or take it out of our wages or benefits, and that could be a long time. It will be with us until the money and resources, services and jobs stolen from us and our communities are restored and the debts forced on councils written off, or replaced by a better system, and that battle has just begun. The council tax is a continuation of the poll tax, both in terms of a tax on services and in terms of the poor subsidizing the rich. The strength and form of resistance is yet to be seen, but if it isn't strong enough, the chaos could be used as an excuse to finish off the destruction of local councils and increase the power of central government.

In addition there's still the extra 2.5% VAT added to make sure we paid the poll tax, by other means, and straight to the government. While the government has cut taxes to the rich the poll tax has not been the only tax against the poor. As well as indirect taxation continuing to increase, there's the privatisation tax we're meant to pay to the coffers of those who've grabbed water, gas and electricity, and to encourage them to take the buses and trains. Not only do they tax us at source - our income, destroying benefits, wages, grants! Stealing from our communities to give to business controlled quangos.

The struggle against the poll tax has given people more confidence to take on or ignore the various weapons of the state. Bailiffs will never inspire quite the same fear among the increasing numbers with debts imposed on them, many have gained experience from mass confrontation with the legal system in court and on demos, and seen 'justice' shown up.

Source: London Fight the Poll Tax, c/o BM CRL, London WC1N 3XX

Resisting the Bailiffs.

Poll Tax bailiffs can only gain entry if you leave a door or window open - so keep them locked.

Poll Tax bailiffs cannot force entry - if they do they have committed a criminal offence - sec 6 Criminal Law Act 1977. The police are not allowed to help bailiffs gain entry. If by mistake you do open the door and a bailiff tries to force his way in, you can use reasonable force to prevent him - Vaughan v McKenzie (1968) 2W.L.R.1133.

Bailiffs can use tricks to gain entry - for example saying they are from the council. So demand i.d. from anyone you don't know.

The only time poll tax bailiffs can force entry is if they have taken walking possession of your goods. (But if you don't let them in, they can't take walking possession.)

By law, bailiffs can only charge 12.5% of the first £100, 4% on the next £400 and 2.5% on the next £1500. This is rounded up to the next pound. If they charge more write a complaint to the taxation master at your nearest county court.

SOMALIA - roots of a tragedy

We reprint this article to show some of the background of the situation in Somalia. We hope to have a report about current events in the next Contra-Flow.

Source: MIGRANTS APPEAL - c/o UPA, 416a Albany Road. LONDON SE5 0BD

HISTORY

Traditionally, the nation of Somalia consisted of nomadic tribes united by a common language, culture and religion. This situation was severely disrupted with the arrival of the British at the end of the 19th century. They intended to colonise the whole country but meeting prolonged and fierce resistance finally settled for partial control. After the end of the 1st World War the country was carved up into five regions. The British kept the North West and traded the other regions to the Italians, the French, the Kenyans and the Abyssinian Empire (Ethiopia). The 1950's saw the limited development of manufacture, a degree of centralisation and the growth of political movements for Somali independence. In 1960 at the urging of the UN, Britain and Italy agreed to merge their protectorates and give the combined area independence. The colonial powers handed over power to a moderate civilian government answerable to a western-style parliament.

REVOLUTION FROM THE TOP

In 1969 this brief experiment with Western-style democracy ended when Siad Barre led a military coup. Barre, a former police officer in the Italian area, was moving during the 60's to the left. He rose rapidly through the ranks in the new army becoming the de facto head of the Somali armed forces and used his position to seize power by force. After the takeover Barre announced that the coup was to usher in a revolution in Somalia. The country would henceforth be run under "scientific socialism". All the main industries were nationalised and close relations were established with the Soviet Bloc. Parliament was suspended indefinitely.

The 1970's under Siad Barre saw a rapid decline in the country's fortunes. The sham 'socialist experiment' imposed bureaucratically on the people was clearly failing to take Somalia forward. The state ownership of industry was supposed to be on behalf of the masses but only succeeded in placing economic power in the hands of Barre and his appointed lieutenants. Moreover, under the modernistic banner of unifying the country - "to eradicate clannism and tribalism" Barre proceeded to centralise administration in the capital, Mogadishu. The inevitable followed: corruption and incompetence.

THE OGA DEN WAR

To shore up his crumbling power base and restore his popularity, President Barre launched an invasion of the Ogaden region in Ethiopia. The plan was to recapture the area taken from Somalia by the British and traded to Abyssinia (Ethiopia) fifty years before. At first this move was popular amongst Somalis on both sides of the border. The Somali forces rapidly succeeded in capturing the whole of the Ogaden. The Ethiopian army, lacking local support in the region fell back.

SOVIET UNION SWITCHES SIDES

The 1974 Ethiopian revolution brought a pro-Soviet military regime to power in Addis Ababa. Faced with a conflict between both allies, the Soviet Union cynically chose to back Ethiopia, the larger and more ideologically reliable of the two. In a dramatic move the Soviet military machine, using Cubans as ground troops, helicoptered in tanks and weapons behind Somali lines. They succeeded in cutting-off the Somali soldiers and annihilating them.

ABANDONING 'SOCIALISM'

The devastating defeat in the Ogaden was a blow to the prestige of Barre's regime. Faced with the betrayal of the Soviets Siad Barre turned to the US and Western Europe for aid. The American camp, desperate for an ally to counter pro-Soviet Ethiopia, were only too happy to provide him with another arsenal of weaponry, this time of the most modern type. For his part President Barre began to reverse some of the 'socialist' measures, allowing private ownership and investment to return to the country. Faced with a complete lack of credibility on both the ideological and military fronts, Barre retreated into his own clan, placing them in all important positions.

GUERRILLA WARS

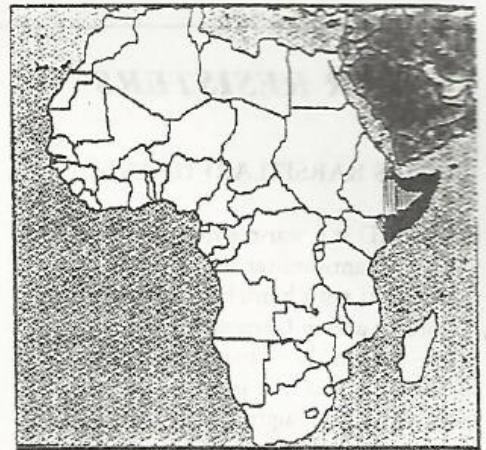
Not surprisingly, a crisis of confidence gripped central government. It was in this climate that guerrilla groups began to develop in order to challenge the central power of the capital. In the 1980's these tribal and clan based rebel groups captured more and more territory. The government's response could be summed in two words: terror & repression. Perhaps, the worst example was the levelling by aerial bombardment of the North-Western capital Hargeisa in order to defeat the Somali National Movement operating in that region. In the Central and Western region the USC (United Somali Congress) were taking control of towns and cities by the day. In the southern region the SPM (Somali Patriotic Movement) took control of the whole region.

THE FALL OF THE CAPITAL

Barre arrogantly boasted that the rebel groups could control the countryside but he would remain in power as long as Mogadishu remained under his command. So the writing was clearly on the wall when the Abgaal (who make up the majority of the capital's population) and other clans rose up against Barre. He was forced to flee in January 1991 to a remote area loyal to his clan.

RECONCILIATION

In the vacuum that followed Barre's departure there were tensions between the various regional rebel groups. In order to overcome these and to establish an acceptable government a National Reconciliation



THE SOMALI REGION

Conference was called in July 1991 in Djibouti. Ali Mahdi Mohamed, a former Somali MP in the 1960's, was elected as an interim President by the Conference alongside an agreed interim administration. This result was not accepted by one of the rebel leaders, General Aidid, who had his own ambitions to be President.

CLAN WAR

In November General Aidid launched a surprise and bloody attack on the Interim President's supporters and clansmen. This sparked off clan warfare that soon spread across the country killing over 500,000 people in the process. Aidid's forces were particularly notable for their ferocity and ruthlessness. Over 1 million people fled the country. Infrastructure was deliberately destroyed by Aidid's forces. In this situation anarchy, looting and gang warfare became the norm.

UN INTERVENTION

The United Nations intervention was too little and too late. Their food convoys were continuously looted most notably by Aidid's forces. Famine gripped many areas particularly those under Aidid's control where relief supplies were commandeered for his own forces or for sale on the black market.

US FORCES

The arrival of 28,000 American marines was a short-term measure publicly aimed at ensuring that the food convoys were able to proceed without interference. Despite the media hype the marines have been unable to solve any of the underlying problems and are already scaling down their forces.

SOMALIA TRAGEDY

All this suffering of the Somali people, first under dictatorship and now under anarchy has been man-made. The degeneration of the country into clan warfare is a direct result of the cynical manipulation of foreign powers, beginning with the British and Italians who carved up the country, through the Soviet Union and the Americans who used it as a cold-war pawn. Siad Barre's bureaucratic centralisation and divide and rule tactics created resentment with central government. Last but not least, the huge flow of arms into Somalia has provided the means for this tragedy to unfold in such a bloody fashion.

by Abdullahi Mohamed

(SOUTH LONDON SOMALI COMMUNITY)

HOUSING

LAWYERS AGAINST THE HOMELESS

The struggle by homeless residents of Lincoln's Inn Fields in the West End of London was ended on 23rd March 1993 when the site was cleared and homeless people prevented from living in the park.

On December 1st '92, a temporary metal fence was erected at the site to deter and hassle the people who are camped in tents and 'bashes' (makeshift constructions for sleeping in). Residents initially pulled the fence down but police came and issued a threat that the park would be evicted straight away if the fence was touched again. This was an idle threat because the cops wouldn't have come down heavy handed and evicted the park because of the complex nature

budgeted for £65,000 to erect permanent fencing in March.

After summer '92, the numbers of homeless people living there dropped from 200 to around 40 as fear of eviction loomed larger and larger. In January '93 a government backed task force set up to rehouse the residents had found home for just 11 people. The clear out of the Fields follows the eviction of the homeless from well established sites at Charing Cross, the Bullring in Waterloo and the Brunswick Centre. The policy seems to be just moving the people around London by repeated evictions. No real effort is made to provide accommodation and counselling.

On a positive note, two residents of the Fields came down to the local squatters



of the Lincoln's Inn Fields situation. Plus it's not good for their public image to be seen roughly handling the homeless who live there who have some public sympathy. During the last few days before eviction some plain clothes cops (not the usual local coppers) came onto the site and hassled those sleeping there, saying "where's your fucking I.D...when are you fucking going?".

The local Labour council, Camden, has been under pressure from the Lincoln's Inn Fields Association (LIFA) to evict the homeless from the site. LIFA is made up of some of the country's highest paid lawyers whose chambers are in the Lincoln's Inn Fields area, home to the High Court and stuff. Also a leading party in LIFA is the Royal College of Surgeons whose premises is in the area. To avoid hassle, LIFA dealt with all bodies through one individual, Mr Richard Griffiths.

LIFA was threatening to sue Camden Council if it didn't evict so the council

office in Southwark and are now squatting in a house in Peckham with some kind support from the next door neighbours who gave them a Gas fire.

Lincoln's Inn Fields has had people living in it for 500 years. In 1421, around 440 people were reported living there. Some of today's residents have been there for over 20 years. It is one of the largest and safest areas in Central London for street homeless people.

Now, the lawyers and professionals of that area want it to be just a public park for them to eat their lunch in between jobs, without having to see the poor and desperate of London.

Jon Davies, a homeless resident of the Fields said "Whatever you say, whatever I say, whatever they say, whatever the whole of Lincoln's Inn Fields say, they're still gonna close it down because they think we're just garbage. They just want to clear us away ... they think we're nothing ... we're just trying to survive."

HOMES NOT JAILS

Food Not Bombs, Tenants Union, Victims No More and other activists began a Homes Not Jails campaign in San Francisco in Oct. 92. They also began a spoof electoral campaign to protest against the mayor's anti-panhandling ballot measure. A 24 hour vigil was held across from City Hall for most of October.

On Thanksgiving Day, a large empty building was squatted at 250 Taylor St, a building where in 1987 the landlord had illegally evicted the tenants to convert it into a luxury hotel but which had stood empty till the occupation. The squat lasted 48 hours before some of the squatters had the squat busted by the cops due to internal disagreement (Oh! Ed). The mayor condemned the action but in March, 300 people were put onto the street due to the result of a City shelter closing program and the eviction of those who sit in the all night Transbay bus terminal.

Other squats still exist, 2 of which are free from the threat of eviction. 25 people have lived in one for months now. The other house has been subject to problems of drugs and lovers tiffs but these seem to have been resolved.

On Jan 20th, Homes Not Jails marched through S.F to stop at the Board Of Realtors, abandoned buildings and to end up on Polk St, where a vacant building was occupied against the actions of the cops who tried to stop people entering it. The next day, when the TV and press were gone, the cops showed up and evicted.

Homes Not Jails primary goal is housing for homeless people. They have little belief in the fickle promises of councils, business or charities. HNJ follows in the tradition Emma Goldman started:

"If they won't give you work, ask for housing. If they won't give you housing, take it!"



Despite the takeovers, HNJ face often inevitable problems. The first is just the sheer effort and numbers involved in squatting property and renovating it. A

ENVIRONMENT



solution to this would be for more co-ordination and assignment of tasks. The second problem is that HNJ's meeting have dragged on planning demos and discussing dealing with the media to the exclusion of talking about how to keep the squats going. Keith McHenry says "we are getting plenty of media coverage as it is without doing anything. Its time to move on, plan strategy, house people".

Another problem is the possible disruptive nature of reactionary squatters, drug dealers and infiltrators. The HNJ policy of keeping the squats drug-free and to run HNJ based on a consensus decision making process should prevent individuals or groups from taking over.

HNJ support meetings happen every week and a vibrant "movement" of direct action and appropriation seems to have started.

Sources: *Stingshot*, 700 Eshelman Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720, USA
Wildcat, PO BOX 40485, SF. CA 94140, USA



SQUATTERS SPEARHEAD JAILED IN INDONESIA

A 53 year-old ex-army sergeant has been declared guilty of inciting people to riot in Plumpang, North Jakarta who are defending their land and houses. He was given 5 months. Muhidin never hid his role in helping squatters in Plumpang demand decent compensation for being evicted from land where they lived for years by a state-owned company Pertamina who says it owns the land.

There have been several fierce struggles between the squatters and the security forces. Muhidin was charged with inciting the residents to make bamboo spears to resist security forces in an assault on their homes on 15th April 1992.

Muhidin has cut a striking figure in court speaking out with conviction and the court has been attended by many Plumpang residents.

source: *TAPOL-Indonesia Human Rights Campaign*, 111 Northwood Rd, Surrey, CR7 8HW UK.

TWYFORD DOWN BUT NOT OUT

On Friday 19th March, Campaigners against the extension to the M3 motorway invaded the regional offices of building firm Tarmac and refused to leave. They were protesting about the link road being built across Twyford Down, a historic area in Hampshire. A spokesman at Tarmac Construction said: "They took us completely by surprise" and went on to claim that they had "caused a real mess".

Around 20 protesters took over Tarmac's offices. Staff locked themselves in their offices. Many of the protestors then climbed onto the roof of the building and refused to come down. There were 17 arrests.

Despite an earlier violent eviction by private security guards of the Dongas encampment, demos were held against "reckless roadbuilding" at the Twyford Down site on 6/7th March when 200 protestors formed a human chain to return chalk dumped on historic water meadows back to where it belonged, and on 27th March and 3rd April. Protests continue with a large "Gathering Of The Tribes" demo and-action on Mayday.

Another vital battle is also looming to save the 8000 year old Oxleas Woods in South East London. The planned construction of a four lane motorway (ELRC), held up for years by "public consultation" and legal battles, is coming closer. Eco-activists are predicting a long direct action campaign to try and stop the road.

Contact: *Twyford Down Emergency (UK)* 0258 73795

McLIBEL TWO ACCUSE COURT OF COLLUSION

On April 6th there was a special hearing in the High Court in front of Justice Drake as part of the ongoing libel case of McDonalds against two London Greenpeace members. This was the latest in a series of pre-trial hearings leading up to the proper thing, provisionally set to start on October 4th '93.

The defendants who are representing themselves after being denied Legal Aid, had summonsed the fast food giant to Court for withholding info about their practices in breach of an Order Of Discovery made on 2.2.93 made by the court.

McDonalds must hand over any and all relevant documents in their possession, however sensitive, about their environmental and employment practices and other issues. Despite the Order, Justice Drake ruled that McD's would not have to answer the summons or provide info until after the next hearing in May by when the McLibel 2 must have prepared their case.

The defendants are planning to appeal.

The McLibel 2 are putting up an amazing and defiant fight against McDonalds intimidation of it's critics. They appeal to anybody who can help to become involved. Regular updates and appeals for skills, networking and dosh from:

McLibel Support Campaign, c/o 5 Caledonian Rd. London. N1. UK

Hunt sab murdered in U.K

TOM WORBY, a hunt saboteur present on the April 3rd sab of the Cambridgeshire hunt, was murdered when the driver of a 7.5 tonne truck, drove up behind a group of sabs and began to nudge them. The driver, huntsman Tony Ball, revved the engine and the vehicle picked up speed forcing the group to scramble out of it's way. In an attempt to avoid being run down, Tom Worby ran to the side of the road and became trapped between a grass bank and the left hand side of the vehicle. Then the truck passed, it's wing mirror caught him and he was dragged along before managing to gain a foothold and shouted and hammered for the truck to stop. He was obviously in pain. Tom fell from the vehicle and fell from the grass bank under the truck wheels which dealt him such a severe injury that he must have died almost instantaneously. The vehicle sped off.

On 10th April in Cambridge, a memorial rally for Tom and all victims of hunt violence was attended by about 500 people. Those present at the murder of Tom are following the legal course to have murderer Tony Ball jailed.

ANTI-FASCISM/ ANTI-RACISM

FREEDOM PRESS ATTACKED

On Saturday March 27th fascists attacked the Freedom Press bookshop, an anarchist bookshop in Whitechapel, in the east end of London. 5 boneheads wearing balacavats burst in soon after the shop opened on Saturday morning. All were carrying baseball bats (one spiked with a nail). In a well organized raid they smashed up £5000 worth of equipment, computers, telephones and the like. Several people were pushed over and one customer was pinned under a bookshelf. Nobody was injured. The phones to Aldgate press (in the same building) had been cut so no-one could raise the alarm. Before leaving the raiders sprayed 'C18'(Combat Adolf Hitler) above a door - Apparently the attackers thought they were having a go at Class War.

In the same week C18/BNP supporters attacked an anti-apartheid meeting in Blackburn (Northern England). An ANC spokesperson was hospitalized and an MEP was attacked. In the Freedom raid however the attackers seemed to have no intention of physically harming anyone.

ATTACK ON 121 CENTRE

On the night of 12th April an attempt was made to burn down the 121 Centre in Brixton, a self funded squatted anarchist centre which has been going for many years and has been involved in various local, national and international struggles. At least one white man (possibly with others) was spotted on the back of the building with a can of petrol and screwed up paper. He was chased off, without doing any damage. We have no concrete proof of who they were or why they were trying to set the 121 on fire. However we suspect that the people behind the attack were members of Combat 18.

WHO ARE COMBAT 18?

Combat 18 is the "paramilitary" wing of the fascist British National Party. The BNP is an openly nazi group which campaigns on a platform of strong authoritarian government, and, despite being run by a largely middle-class elite, tries to appeal to working class white people by blaming everything that is wrong in this society on black and asian people. Wherever the BNP have appeared they have inspired and taken part in violent attacks against black and asian communities and are responsible for the murder of a number of people.

Combat 18 has claimed responsibility for a number of arson attacks and beatings of anti-racist demonstrators, black and jewish people, 'leftwingers' and so on. recruits hardened nazis into it's ranks. Recently C18 have been going for soft targets including 'lefty' and radical bookshops such as Freedom and Key Books in Birmingham. An arson attack on 121 fits into this strategy. Messages of solidarity / donations to 121 Centre, 121 Railton rd, London SE24.

DON'T BELIEVE THE HYPE...

The mobilisation against the British National Party's "Hang the IRA" march in London on April 25th was largely successful, even if most of us never got to see the BNP. Instead of marching from Grosvenor Gardens in Victoria to Hyde Park Corner as they had planned, a couple of hundred fascists had to sneak round the back streets to hold a small rally protected by hundreds of police. A turn out of well over 1000 anti-fascists to occupy the BNP meeting point effectively stopped their attempt to hold a high profile march in central London.

The main lesson we should learn from this is not to be paralysed by fear of the BNP. The march followed a week of publicity (in the TV and press) about far-right paramilitary organisation Combat 18. Before the march, rumours swept through anti-fascist circles: there would be hundreds of loyalists there, there would be loads of "ordinary people" sympathetic to the BNP's anti-IRA stance, this or that football firm would be coming, there would be hardly any anti-fascists there because some people were worried about being associated with the IRA... As a result of this, some anti-fascist apparently decided not to mobilise for the march because they thought that they wouldn't be able to do anything effective, while many of those who did go anticipated a heavy confrontation with numerically superior opposition.

In reality, the BNP failed to mobilise any more than their own miserable membership and periphery (despite leafleting football grounds and flyposting), and they were massively outnumbered. Of course they weren't physically smashed or driven off the streets, but they showed their complete inability to tap into any anti-IRA feeling even on a day when the news was dominated by the IRA's massive bomb in the city on the previous day.

This doesn't mean that we should be complacent, and fail to take the BNP and its allies seriously. In fact the failure to consistently mobilise a large street presence makes attacks from paramilitary fascist groups more likely. But imagining the BNP to be some kind of mass movement, or presenting ourselves as the powerless victims of a highly organised threat, only serves to boost the self-image of a small (if sometimes dangerous) bunch of fascist losers.

..BNP HQ ASSAILED.

Saturday 8th May witnessed the first mass assault on the British National Party's HQ in Welling in S.E London. A demo organised by Youth Against Racism in Europe (the anti-racist front of the trot group Militant) was held in response to the murder of a young black student, Stephen Lawrence in nearby Eltham a few weeks previously. Rohit Duggal was also murdered by racists in the same area last year. (Two other racist murders have also happened in the last two years in this area) At once the media spotlight was focused on the BNP and their nearby HQ. The family of Stephen Lawrence publicly called for the BNP HQ to be shut down.

On the day of the demo, about 3500 people gathered in nearby Plumstead to march on the Nazi HQ (154 Upper Wickham Lane, Welling, DA16 UK). The Black and Asian group Panther had mobilised around 300 militant youth and these were swelled by various streetwise Raggaboy and girls. A block of about 130 punks and anarchists marched behind them. As soon as the march reached the HQ which was protected by riot cops with shields, missiles were hurled at the place and fighting with the police broke out. After twenty minutes of rocks and sticks bouncing off of the heavily protected HQ the police split up the march pushing the more militant crowd down the road away from the HQ and trapping the more peaceful crowd behind police lines. Fighting continued with the cops in which some folks were nicked and some injured from police truncheons. The anarchist section linked arms to prevent the cops from attacking again. This was successful for a time. The next assault was from police horses who slowly pushed the angry crowd into Welling High Street separating them away from the rest of the demo and cops and free to trash some of the shops and seriously bust up a lone cop car which sped off with all its windows broken. At one point some fascists were spotted in a local Social Club and the building was attacked. While the action faction, the majority of whom were black, were free from the cops, a couple of impromptu discussions were held to decide on tactics. Some people held forth about how the trashing was wrong. The angry crowd was finally caught up by cops who pushed

Continued Next Page...



them back to Plumstead to be later followed by the other section of the demo. Speeches were made etc, etc.

The atmosphere of the demo from the very start was one of anger over the murder of Stephen Lawrence and it wasn't surprising that the Nazi HQ itself was attacked. Also it was cheering that the fascists were too scared to show their faces in spite of the recent hype about their militant C18 wing.

Some of the window smashing was questionable, i.e local fish and chip shop, hairdressers etc and two white people were attacked because some said they were fascists (which they weren't). Some criticism has been made that the BNP will just use what they can term as "lawlessness" to mobilise the local Welling community. This is probably unlikely to happen.

On the 15th May., the Anti Nazi League (SWP anti-racist campaign) organised another march on the BNP HQ, which pulled about 1500 people but was very heavily policed and not allowed near the fascist bookshop. Needless to say, expecting the Left to co-ordinate anti-fascist activities is a hopeless dream. They are too busy cutting up the anti-racist pie to feed their membership lists....still fuck the Left! For almost the first time it seemed that the BNP was a public enemy and not just a hate figure for white Left politico's. If a militant Anti-fascist street culture, free from the cynical manipulations of the Left, can be built upon the days activities then that's brilliant.

The cops were doing tons of surveillance, filming the demo from a crane, filming the attack on the HQ (although this was thwarted by a banner!) and video-ing the demonstrators as they got off trains at London Bridge.

FASCISTS ATTACK 121 CENTRE AGAIN

At about 9pm on the same night as the demo, fascists again tried to burn down the 121 Bookshop in Brixton by pouring paraffin through the letter box and lighting it. Little damage was done although the fire brigade came to douse the flames.

VANCOUVER: WAR ON W.A.R

3000 anti-fascists took to the streets of Vancouver in Canada on Jan 22nd to protest at a visit of Thom Metzger, leader of White Aryan Resistance. Four hundred "action-oriented" protestors discovered which hotel Metzger was making his speech at and began to disrupt it. The cops came and escorted the fascists out and nicked a few of the antis. Gord H, who puts out Oh-Toh-Kin (concerning Native struggles) was arrested and faces serious felony charges inc. concealed weapon, explosives, masked and mischief charges.

Support to: Arm The Spirit, PO BOX 57584 Jackson Stn. Hamilton. ONT L8P 4X3 Canada.

KLAN BAKE TWO

Jan 16th saw 5000 people out on the streets of Austin, Texas to protest a KKK rally against Martin Luther King Day.

Local media promoted a "Peace March" which was to leave the scene before the Klan arrived and they also printed a statement by "black leaders" to stay home and ignore the racists.

Local activists postered the town with a flyer calling for militant action and held a benefit gig drawing in 600 people.

On the day, the radicals formed a black bloc which marched to the sounds of hip-hop, Native American drum chants and, of course, "Cop Killer". Once the march reached the State Capital's building where the Klan was to rally, the pacifists made speeches but the black bloc seized the steps to attempt to hold a public forum. The pacifists then started a shouting match against the bloc accusing them of being as bad as the Klan. Needless to say, the cops came over and separated the groups and put up barricades. The Peace March left the area.

The 1000 or so left faced tight security including riot cops, SWAT teams, video surveillance and plainclothed cops but many in the crowd were masked and had access to a police scanner.

The Klan arrived, all 40 of them and goose-stepped up to the steps playing White Power anthems and receiving the kind gifts of eggs and tofu from the anti-fascists and at one point, the antis found the Klan vehicles and smashed the windows but some folks were nicked for it.

DRUMMOND STREET FOUR

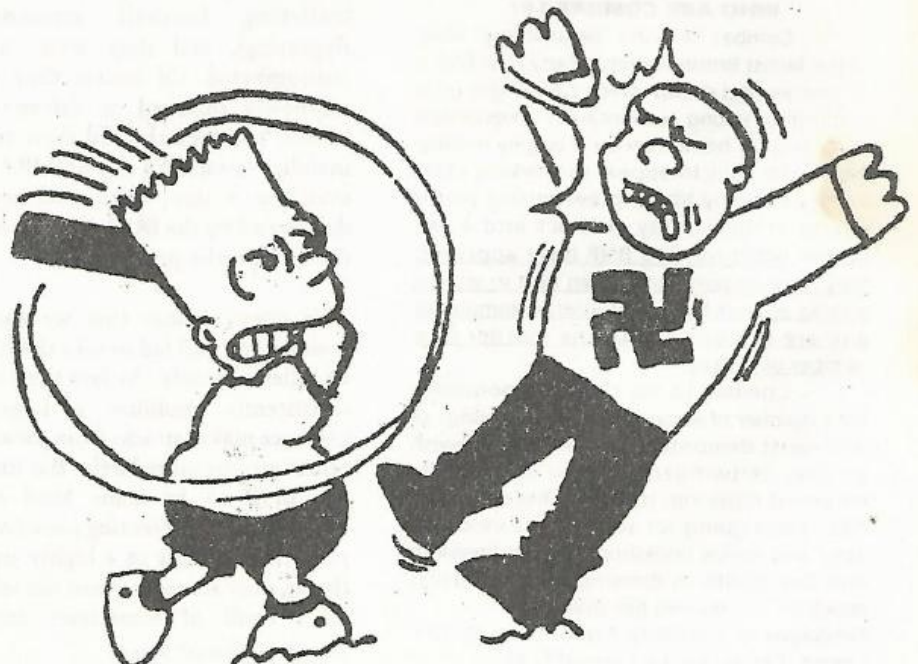
In April 1992, the Bengali Community in Camden, North London were attacked by a group of white racists - a car full of them came with weapons to Drummond St, amongst other things threatening to kill a shopkeeper. The police were called and only responded after 40 minutes. By that time a fight had started between the racists and local Asian youths.

Following normal Metropolitan police procedure, the Asians were arrested and the racists were allowed to go on their way. Eventually, after much pressure, the racists were charged, but with not particularly serious offences. The other side were charged with grievous bodily harm and violent disorder. Since then the case against the racists has been dropped, but the CPS is continuing it's prosecution of four of the Asians.

This is another case to add to the already very long list of cases of blatant racism by the police and CPS, who by their actions actively encourage racist attacks. A campaign has been set up to support the Drummond St four and to try to get the charges against them dropped. For more information on the campaign contact:

Drummond St.Four Campaign,
c/o 1 Robert Street, London NW1

EAT MY SHORTS, NAZI!



FIGHTING THE FASCISTS IN FRANCE

A member of the militant French anti-fascist group Reflex visited London recently. Contraflow spoke to her about the situation in France, starting with the recent elections:

We've just had a general election, and the Socialist government that has been in power since 1981 has been utterly defeated. The two main right wing parties, the RPR and the UDF, have now got over 80% of the seats in the parliament. The RPR is the Gaullist party, the conservative party. UDF is a centre-right coalition. The RPR has more seats than the UDF, they entered into a pact together before the election.

After more than 10 years of "Socialist" government all the things that they promised just never happened... Things actually got much worse, unemployment increased, the situation for immigrants got worse. Since the election there's been a split in the Socialist party, it's in total disarray.

There'll probably be another general election in 1995, when there's a presidential election. Mitterand (Socialist party) is still president at the minute. Whoever gets in as president in 1995 will dissolve parliament and call fresh elections.

How did the National Front do in the elections?

The National Front ran a very low key election campaign this year. Their campaign slogan was "Head high and hands clean" because they were basically the only party in France that hadn't been touched by all the financial corruption scandals in the past few years, which particularly hit the socialist party. The NF's election ticket was 'we're the corruption free party'

In November they held their AGM and published their new programme. They have moved away from a free market ideology (basically a more extreme version of Thatcherism) towards national socialism. Their new programme includes plans for putting the family as the basic economic unit, they had all these plans for paying fathers and mothers a wage to stay at home and bring up kids, white French children, jobs would only be available for people who didn't have children.

They didn't do very well in the election.

In the French electoral system, there are two rounds and only candidates who get at least 12.5% of the votes go through to the second round. The NF got 100 candidates through to the second round, but they lost their only seat in the National Assembly.

As an average for the whole country, they took about 12.9% of the votes. In some areas they took much much more than that. For instance in Nice in one of the constituencies where Le Pen [leader of the NF] was standing he took 29% in the first round and he was the first candidate. There were two candidates in the second round, and Le Pen took 42% of the vote. There was a lot of tactical voting to keep the NF out of the National Assembly. For instance in some areas where there was a communist candidate versus a NF candidate, you would have the right and the greens and the socialists all voting communist rather than have the NF candidate for that constituency.

What is the situation with racist attacks in France?

It's really common, it's a big problem in France. It's not a problem so much for Jewish people, although anti-semitism does exist there and a synagogue was firebombed in a suburb of Paris about two months ago. Most of the violence is directed against people from North Africa, people of Arab origin, or black Africans. Last year there were at least six racist murders by police or by fascists, and the amount of attacks is really high and rising.

Are the NF involved in these attacks?

They have been involved, obviously not the people at the very top of the party, but certainly the troops at ground level, and quite a number of them have been charged in recent years. Recently a young Moroccan guy was beaten around the head with iron bars, he was really badly injured, and lost the sight of one eye. Three skinheads were arrested in citizen's arrests by people who came to the young Moroccan's help. These skinheads had links to the NF, and they were also linked to the Blood and Honour skins scene in France, which actually is extremely small there.

Are there links between different right wing factions and the NF, between the street fighters and the "respectable" politician types?

There are links, but it's not particularly obvious. The NF has about 100,000 members. Since they started getting successful around 10 or 11 years ago on they have managed to unite practically the entire extreme right in France. They attracted everybody: Catholic fundamentalists and pagans, neo-nazis, new rightists, the whole spectrum of the extreme right went into the NF, which means there isn't any serious competition to the NF on the right.

There are still other groups. There's one called the PNFE (the French and European Nationalist Party). They've only got a few hundred members and they have had a reputation in the past for neo-Nazi terrorism. Some of their members went into the NF at one point, so there is a bit of crossover.

Most of the extreme right is in the NF, and obviously the people at the top are not going out and doing stuff on the street but the message filters down and the young kids who join, the young unemployed men, they're the ones who go and beat up the Arabs.

Have there been any attack on anti-fascist groups or leftwing groups?

Not that I know of.

What about the overlap between the far right and the police?

There is a police trade union called the FPIP, and it is controlled by militants from the PNFE and some from the NF. Thousands of cops are members of FPIP, and in nearly every single case in the last few years where the police have committed racist murders against Arabs, the cops involved have turned out to be members of the FPIP.

What effect will the new government have on racism?

There have been riots in Paris and other cities in the last couple of days after the police shot dead a young African in a police station. I think this points the way forward. The new home office minister is Charles Pasquard, he was also the home office minister in the last right wing government. He's a real hardliner in terms of the police and immigration, he's really anti-immigrant, he's really pro-hard line policing. He also really hates the NF, but he's doing their job for them. As we've seen in the last couple of days, he's really cracked down. I think that's an indicator of the way things are

going to go in the next two years.

What is the state of the opposition to racism and fascism in France?

It's extremely small, compared with the size of the NF. There are two quite big anti-racist movements, one of them is called SOS Racisme and the other group is MRAP. SOS has been around for about 8 years, they were quite successful in the mid-80s when they ran a big campaign called "Touche pas mon pote" (hands off my pal) in solidarity with black people. They were doing a similar kind of thing to what the ANL did in Britain in the late 70s. The mobilised a lot of people on the streets, there was a lot of opposition to racism, but they didn't actually build on that opposition in an effective way. After a while it just fizzled out. They still organise occasional demonstrations. They are linked to the Socialist Party, now the Socialist Party has collapsed after the election, I don't know what effect that will have on SOS Racisme, it will probably cut off their source of funding for a start.

MRAP is linked to the French Communist Party which is still quite strong, they've got 26 seats in the new parliament. They also control quite a lot of towns' municipal councils. MRAP are also fairly ineffectual, they don't do anything on ground level. The only interesting thing they've been doing is logging racist attacks. They've logged virtually every racist attack in France over the last 8 or 10 years, and they're still doing it. But they're not working on the street.

The militant anti-fascist movement is extremely tiny. There's only a handful of groups in the whole of France. There are two research groups in Paris that produce magazines with original research into the extreme right, and there's one or two other militant groups that actually work on the ground. One of which is Reflex, which I'm involved in, and the other is the SCALP, which was quite big in the mid-1980s. They had one policy only and that was to confront the NF on the streets. But they suffered a collapse a few years ago, and virtually all the groups disappeared. They've only got a handful of groups left. There's one in Paris, one in Nantes, and one further down south. Our group still works with SCALP, but the militant anti-fascist movement is very small.

What sort of activity have they been involved in?

On the streets not a lot, we just don't have the numbers. The policy is of physical confrontation on the streets, but at the moment it's not possible to do that because the NF have got 30,000 militants out of 100,000 members and I doubt if there's more than a couple of hundred active anti-fascist militants doing anything.

Our group puts out a magazine every three months which contains a lot of original research. On the streets we do things occasionally, but it's not like the situation here where AFA can go and attack a BNP paper sale. The climate isn't right for it, and it's just not possible.

Was there much anti-fascist activity in the lead up to the elections?

Not really. Obviously Le Pen and the NF's election campaign was going round the country to various towns, and they were organising rallies and so on, as with last year in the regional elections there was opposition in various towns where he was turning up. But a lot of it was very low key, very impromptu, people were just saying right Le Pen's speaking here tonight, let's go and do a picket or something.

This year it wasn't marked with the violence we had last year during the regional elections. Last year there was a really brutal attack on anti-fascist demonstrators in Chartres (about 100km from Paris). About 3000 people made a peaceful demonstration through the centre of Chartres the night Le Pen was speaking there, and they just got waded into by 50 members of the FN's security corps who were armed with baseball bats and crowbars. It was a really serious attack, and also a warning to people in Paris not to turn up on the anti-Le Pen protests there, and it worked because hardly anybody turned up.

What is Reflex's perspective for the next few years? How are you organised?

Our main priority is to see more people involved, and more militant anti-fascist activity. Our policy is to keep an open mind about what happens in the future... At the moment it's largely a reactive situation because we're not strong enough to be proactive and set our own political agenda. A lot depends on what happens in the next couple of years with the new government. What this government does will affect how the

National Front builds itself in the future. If the RPR government) tries to move too far to the right, the UDF could break the electoral pact. If it moves too far to the centre, it could increase the support for Le Pen.

Reflex is not a national organisation, we're based in Paris. We've got about 20 members, and we can mobilise about 2000 people in the Paris area for demonstrations- but mobilising people for demos is different from involving them in militant activity on the streets. We've also got regional contacts, and we'd like to build Reflex groups in other towns, but at the moment it's not going to happen.

What links do you have with other groups?

We refuse to work with group like SOS Racisme and MRAP because they're so crap basically. We will work with any other groups who share a similar outlook to us, like what's left of the SCALP and occasionally with another anti-fascist group called the Appeal of 250. We work with another group called Article 31, which is one of the research groups in Paris, and a Belgian group called Celsius who have an office in Paris.

We have quite a large archive on the extreme right in France and elsewhere in Europe and the USA. Doing research and intelligence is quite a major part of what Reflex is doing at the moment, and we're working with other groups doing similar stuff, we share information with them.

In England, groups like the Newham Monitoring Project have criticised some anti-fascist groups for focusing solely on fascism in isolation from mainstream racism in British society. Their focus is on grass roots organising in black communities. How does this relate to the situation in France?

Groups like SOS and MRAP don't have any sort of base in immigrant or black communities. Also in France the concept of the black community doesn't exist in the same way... Reflex in the past has tried to do a lot of work in the suburbs of Paris with immigrant communities, some of these communities do have their own groups, especially among the young arab population, second or third generation. They're getting quite militant, they're defending themselves basically, they're arming themselves in the areas where they live against the

From Mordicus, April 1993:

The Spirit of the XVIIIth [district]

*"We say we have to wage war just to live here"
[a kid, Porte de Clignancourt, 10 April]*

police because police violence against arabs is so common. We do have a dialogue with these groups, though less so at the moment than in the past. obviously we have different points of view, our group is mainly white and they're from the arab communities.. We do try and assist them, and we want to learn from them too, it's a two-way process. Very few of the main anti-racist groups are actually doing anything in the communities at all. It's a very bad situation, and it's quite polarised.

There has been a lot of criticism from anti-racist groups of anti-fascist groups saying "you're only dealing with fascism, you're not dealing with racism". In Reflex, we do deal mainly with fascism, but the racism question is also important to us. We accept that the two need to be tackled at the same time. Our main focus is on fascism, but we do work with other anti-racist groups because we try not to lose sight of that side of things.

Has there been much self-organisation in the communities around immigration law, etc.?

In 1981 the Socialist government came in, one of the first things they did was to open up the opportunities for immigrants to come into france. In the early 1980s a lot of North Africans, and also West Africans came into France. It's been getting tightened up in recent years obviously in anticipation of the Maastricht treaty and Fortress Europe. It's going to get even harder now with the new right-wing government, they're obviously going to totally crack down.

Also a very large number of first generation immigrants are being deported. There's a group we share a building with called Committee against Double Punishment. Double punishment is something that is experienced by first generation immigrants. First of all they're picked up for some minor transgression of the law, maybe they're identity papers are slightly out of date or something. First of all they're taken to court for that and given a prison sentence, that's the first punishment, then the second punishment is when they finish their jail sentence they're deported, they're put on a plane and sent back to wherever they came from. The Committee is run mainly by second and third generation arabs, and we work quite closely with this group. They're burdened with so much case work, they've got far more than they can deal with really.

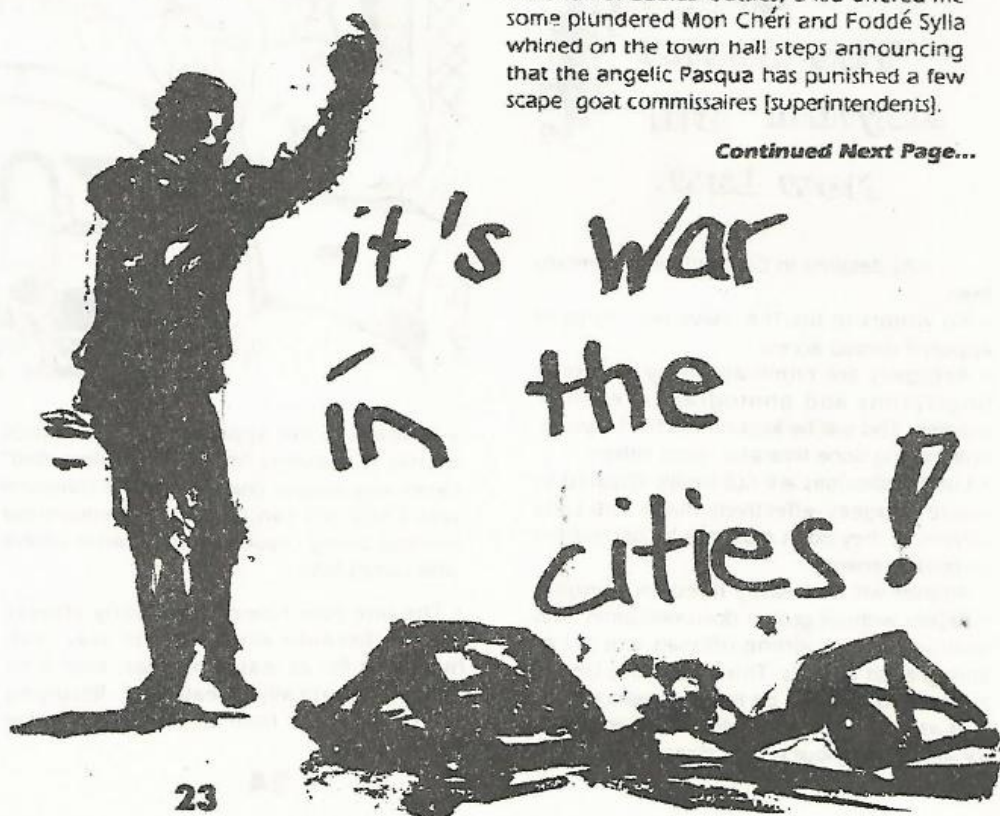
Reflex, 14 Rue de Nanteuil, 75015 Paris, France.

On 6 April, Makomé aged 17. was repatriated to Zaire free. Inspector Compain, who had been interrogating him illegally for several hours, gave him a bullet through the head.

The day after the murder was the first gathering in front of the town hall. In the course of this one of the most interesting novelties of these days of anger became apparent: the decline in the average age of the most determined rioters to 10-12 years. It was these who launched the first slogans and the first projectiles at the police station. The good souls of the MRAP [a liberal anti-racist organisation] and the fireman Foddé Sylla, leader of SOS-Racket, tried hard to calm them with minutes of silence and calls for non-violence but, very quickly, they entered into the spirit of things using a mythology which for them is much closer to hand: "C'est l'Intifada!" they shouted and emptied the fuel tanks of mopeds to fill beer bottles. There was a general turning out of cocktails for the pig house. Some youth from the neighbouring estates and a good part of the population of the area were united in the same fury. The cops had problems telling the hostile onlooker from the active rioter.

On the 8th the gathering started in the morning. Discussion was going on all over the neighbourhood. After school several hundred people gathered again in front of the town hall. The black-white-Arab kids mixed with the old inhabitants in a cheerful disorder, facing an impressive police contingent. After the insults the stones burst forth, then the paving stones and the bottles onto the CRS [paramilitary riot cops] who charged, withdrew, charged again, made awkward in their movements by a crowd which never disconnected itself from the "smashers". Towards 7 p.m. the cops posted at the front of the town hall were on the point of giving up under the shower of missiles. At all costs they had to avoid anything which would spoil the consensual beginnings of the cohabitation [between the Socialist President and the right-wing parliament]. Pasqua [the minister of the interior] looked upon his troops with shock and on their scanners and crappy little radios came the panic-stricken: "Attention! Above all don't beat local people!". But how can you distinguish the wicked smasher from the good citizen, when the projectiles sometimes come out of the windows? When a neighbourhood grocer says to those buying bottles of beer: "I'm emptying them for you as quickly as possible"? The CRS lobbed a few grenades by hand [for the whole duration of these evenings they meticulously avoided straight shots]. Gas, which was particularly virulent, provoked a retreat on the Rue du Poteau. Overturned, a container dedicated to the struggle against cancer was to be used against another urban disease: the phials and flasks, distributed by a reader of Mordicus, helped put down the pig plague. A "self service" Fnac [well known chain of book shops] was taken at its word, some Arab girls came out of a pharmacy with their arms full of babies' bottles, a kid offered me some plundered Mon Chéri and Foddé Sylla whined on the town hall steps announcing that the angelic Pasqua has punished a few scape goat commissaires [superintendents].

Continued Next Page...





of the XVIIIth

For the first time in the history of the world, a little commissaire declared that he didn't give a toss about broken shop windows. The bovines of the Brigades Mobiles of the district, doubtless too confident in the effect of their skinhead look, charged and quickly had to withdraw behind their colleagues with shields. Afterwards they were going to concentrate on "targeted" ID checks. At the police station the newly arrived prisoners had a hard time with the hysterical pigs and, a feminist victory, the women cops were not backward in carrying out beatings. Fauderche ["false arse" - hypocrite] Sylla, being absent, was not able to hear the deluge of racist and anti-semitic insults coming from the mouths of the republican police. Some little groups kept up the harassment, the level of photographs per square meter became unacceptable and often wasn't accepted. Charges and counter-charges, the skirmishes carried on until 1 a.m... Slowly, the area was put in a state of siege, the glaziers sold some plywood shop windows, we peered at each other, we had to beware, that was the end of the trip. There will still be a little broken glass but we will have to wait until Saturday for a beautiful gallant last stand between Barbès and Gare du Nord.

Mordicus,
BP 11
75622
PARIS cedex 13
FRANCE



**The Racist
Asylum Bill
Now Law.**

- As detailed in Contraflow 5 it means that:
- No visitors to the U.K. have any rights of appeal if denied access.
 - Refugees are criminalised by enforced fingerprints and photographs, even of children. This will be kept on file for 10 years, until having done time as a 'good citizen'.
 - Local authorities are not legally required to house refugees -effectively made 2nd class citizens. If they do, it must not be permanent or secure tenancy.
 - Airlines will be heavily fined for bringing refugees without proper documentation. This basically means airline officials will act as immigration officers. This breaks the United Nations Convention on refugees which says that asylum seekers should not be penalised for arriving without proper papers.



- A new two tier appeal procedure which refuses supposedly "manifestly unfounded" cases any appeal chances. While someone with £300,000 can sail through Heathrow without being challenged no matter where s/he comes from.
- The one year ruling particularly affects women because wives have to stay with husbands for at least one year, even if he becomes physically threatening. Resulting situations range from violence to effective prostitution.



All of these refugee laws particularly affect poor Black women who have least money and power. Britain is leading the way in European discussion to 'harmonise' asylum policies and create a Fortress Europe. Legislation such as this is easily used to legitimate and further generate racism, resulting in physical attacks and deaths of refugees and Black communities in general. When in fact Britain has one of the strictest entrance and visa systems in force. Seeing that most refugees are escaping economic and social crises in their countries of origin imposed by the West, to close the gates in their faces is all part of furthering institutionalised racism. Seeking asylum is a right not a privilege! For further information contact: **RAHCAR** (Refugee Ad-hoc Committee for Asylum Rights) 365 Brixton Road, London SW9 7DB. Tel: 071 738 6408 **Immigration Law Practitioners Association** can give you local contacts on 071 250 1671

Demo Against Asylum Bill

We think it's worth noting that there was a national demonstration on 21st November 1992 against the Asylum Bill, bringing out 6-7,000 people in a spirited display of defiance. The demo was organized by the Refugee Ad Hoc Committee for Asylum Rights (RAHCAR) who led the marchers from Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square where a rally was held. This demonstration was particularly significant being the first national protest ever organized by the refugee community in Britain.

Also, on the day the Draconian Asylum Bill was reintroduced into the House of Commons, there was a mass 'invasion' of parliament by refugees participating in a mass lobby coordinated by RAHCAR and the Asylum Rights Campaign. The Grand Committee room was filled beyond capacity by people from all corners of the world. Many ordinary refugees were geared up to speak in the lobby with narrations of their ordeals under such dictatorships. Unfortunately, they were unable to do so as the format of the lobby gave very little chance for speeches other than those by the MPs and refugee agencies. This is an attitude which needs changing because it is the victims of the bill who know their circumstances best and must be given the opportunity to educate the wider public on the real effects of such unjust laws.

Info from Migrants Appeal c/o UPU, 416a Albany Rd, London SE5 0BD