DIRECT ACTION

NO.4

POLICE REPRESSION

YOU AIN'T SEEN

NOTHING YET!

MASS UNEMPLOYED
MOVEMENT
ARMY
FINALLY
ACTS
A nyone who's been watching the Irish situation for the last 12 years won't have been surprised by the police tactics used in the recent riots. CS gas, baton charges and driving at high speed into crowds have all been used in Ireland by the army and the R.U.C. One man was killed and many injured in the Toxteth riots alone. Merseyside police fired CS gas using a Ferret projectile designed to penetrate walls or barricades, straight at people. Unfortunately it looks as if it won't stop there. CS gas is seen as a potential alienator of innocent bystanders. It hasn't been used in N. Ireland since 1974! Next time round it looks like we'll be seeing plastic bullets used on mainland Britain. Plastic bullets have been responsible for 8 deaths in Ireland and for many serious injuries, including blindings, skull fractures and multiple leg fractures. The death in Toxteth was caused by high speed driving another method of riot control perfected by the Royal Ulster Constabulary. The killing caused widespread condemnation among liberal circles about methods of riot control. Anarchists, though, realise the state will use any means at its disposal to protect its interests. We can't rely on campaigns to replace one police thug, such as Oxford on Merseyside, with another thug. The police, army, etc. are just the hired hands of the state, paid to deal with 'rioters', strikers, subversives and other 'trouble makers'. Abolition of the state means abolition of the police and the army. Until then, mind how you go.

**Union Scabs**

First the occupation at Laurence Scott was sold out by the A.U.E.U. 'leaders', then there were evicted by pick-axe wielding bailiffs. Inspite of everything the fight for 600 jobs is to carry on, outside the gates. Spirits are high and support from Rank and File trade unionists good. Hopefully a victory at Laurence Scott will give other workers fighting redundancy strength and confidence to carry on. Messages of support and donations can be sent to:

LSE JSSC  
c/o George Fryer  
20 Roundcroft  
Romiley  
Cheshire SK6 4LL

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Mr Ronald Thompson, an assistant chief constable of Northumbria Police, is conducting the investigation into the death of David Moore.

Mr Moore, disabled and who walks with a limp, was knocked down and fatally injured by a police vehicle in Toxteth.

whitewash

According to the Echo, Sunderland: "the police did not stop after the accident" and "the incident happened an hour before rioting broke out." The Echo goes on to quote that CS Gas hero and legalised terrorist, Ken Oxford, Merseyside Chief Constable: "There is no intention on my part to cover up the situation. For that reason I have brought in an officer totally unconnected."

Here we go round the mulberry bush. We have heard it all before - ad nauseum, ad infinitum.

Jump to it, get the whitewash ready you gallant lads in blue.

Leeds Harrassment

On 30th July several Leeds DAM members were fined £40 apiece for flogging Anarchist papers earlier in the year ("Black Flag" - well worth buying!). Their trial was a farce (as most are), especially as they had been selling in that particular spot since 1976.

The trial was a culmination of one particular episode in a never ending saga of police harassment of anarchist throughout Britain. This incident began on May 9th when a cop told Leeds DAM to move from their usual pitch in the Pedestrian Precinct, claiming that the number of paper sellers allowed was 12 - which just so happened to be the number already there (8 trots, 4 fascists) ignoring the fact that there were often more.

One comrade refused to in case a precedent was set allowing everyone but anarchists to sell. When asked why the anarchists were being singled out, the cop replied that the others had licenses, which of course, they didn't. Eventually, despite the exit of the fascists bringing the total number of paper sellers below a dozen, our comrades were arrested.

Despite this, Leeds DAM have no intention of giving up their pitch, especially on such an important issue as free speech. Britain might be a 'free' country, but the British people are still in chains.

Big Brother

Up here in the North East our ever increasing paranoia has just risen a couple of degrees further up the scale.

Amid police harassment, surveillance and general intimidation of political activists (especially the anarchists). We learn that the Cleveland defenders of law, order and all things decent are getting a new computer. The 'International Aeradio' system is to be installed linking them directly to the PNC (Police National Computer) in London. This will give them access to PNC files on 'criminals' and person of 'special interest'. The new computer will also be programmed to deal with 'emergency control'.

According to the Chief Constable the new computer will be fully operational in 1984. Big Brother, here we come!
RADIATION HAZARDS

Even the most conservative scientists are now coming round to the opinion that there is no safe level of radiation. A recent edition of the US journal 'Science' confirmed that research carried out after the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings was very faulty. The so-called 'safety limit' of radiation exposure were arrived at using that faulty research as a base. The journal points out that the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (a defence institution) now believe low level radiation may be three to five times more dangerous than previously thought. Other scientists, such as Dr Karl Morgan, are sick of pointing out that, since the acceptable limits are constantly being revised downwards, it is the logical assumption that there is in fact NO SAFE LEVELS OF RADIATION.

There remains, however, the problems of the use of nuclear radiations and X-rays in hospitals and the health service. Up until recently no one worried about the dangers patients and staff were being exposed to. Now various medical people are pointing out the hazards encountered when one visit or works in those areas. In a leaflet published by the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science (BSSRS), they point out that:

"Hospital workers like radiographers and Lab workers received some training for work with radiation. Porters, cleaners, laundry workers, maintenance staff and nurses may be at risk but have had little or no information and training about radiation hazards."

In fact, in most hospitals, staff are not always aware of where radiation is carried out. And there have been rumours of hospital waste, including X-ray films, being dumped. All in all, the situation in hospitals with regards to X-rays and other radiations is far from satisfactory.

Of course, all this is assuming that X-ray and radiation treatment are good things. Again, questions are being asked as to whether this is true. While the chest X-ray has long been regarded as the best way to detect respiratory diseases such as TB and lung cancer, many members of the Medical Community now believe that the method is virtually useless in early detection, because by the time a tumor is discovered it is usually impossible to treat. Not only is the treatment useless, but it can be very dangerous. An analysis of 500 men exposed to diagnostic X-rays in Maryland, Minnesota and New York showed that there were ten times more likely to contract Nonlymphatic Leukemia than others. Similarly a group of British patients who received deep X-ray treatment developed more cases of leukemia and various like cancers. Many scientists now favour 'Ultrasound' detection methods which is regarded as a far safer technique.

In conclusion, it is worth pointing out that the very measurement of radiation (one X-ray equals 45 millirems) is a measurement of biological damage to human cells rather than the actual intensity of radiation.

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ROYAL QUIZ

A Quiz for the Whole Family.

1, A world famous genealogist has claimed that HRH has a very distinguished ancestor. Was it? ....
   a, Jesus Christ
   b, Geronimo
   c, Genghis Khan

2, One member of the royal family had an unhealthy admiration for a certain A. Hitler. Was it? ....
   a, The Queen
   b, Edward VIII
   c, The Queen Mother

3, Who was described by Shelley as "the old mad, blind, despised and dying King"? And was to open parliament with the words "My Lords and Peacocks"? ....
   a, Ethelred the Unready
   b, Charles the III
   c, George the III

Answers on page 8

Prince Charlie lookalike winner

6, The Queen has controlling interest in which of these wonderful, caring multi-nationals? ....
   a, Rio Tinto Zinc
   b, Coca Cola
   c, Durex

EUREKA! I'VE JUST INVENTED THE WHEEL!

I'VE JUST INVENTED CAPITALISM...

SPLAT!

4, Who was to die by falling off a lavatory seat in Kensington Palace? ....
   a, George II
   b, Queen Victoria
   c, Henry VIII

5, HRH Prince Charlie was asked to speak at which of these conferences? ....
   a, SWP
   b, Free Wales Army
   c, ISTC

OCCUPATIONAL DEAFNESS

The ASTMS have published a policy document which represents a phase in efforts to control noise levels in industry. The arguments put forward in this study should be of interests to all workers at risk. The policy set out is based on the principle that "the problem lies in the noise itself, not in peoples' susceptibility to it". The study concentrates on stopping occupational deafness rather than individual hearing protection or compensation for those who have deafness.

The ASTMS calls on its members to negotiate conditions for hearing protection only where "the noise problem is truly intractable". The study regards most hearing conservation programmes as a con being "a fancy way of saying that the employer is unwilling to invest in noise control measures, and is attempting to shift the onus onto employees to wear personal protectors." Instead the study urges trade unionist to negotiate specific "noise control and hearing conservation agreements," and the study provides a model document for such an agreement.

A number of the features of this agreement are controversial and includes a call for a reduction in the maximum noise level from an equivalent of 90dB (A) for 8 hours in 1981 to 80 dB (A) in 1986.

"The Prevention of Occupational Deafness: Control of Noise at Work"

The price is £3 - £1 to members from.....

ASTMS
10-26 Jamestown Rd.
London NW1.
ANARCHO-syndicalism has been defined in the Dictionnaires des Politiques and middle-class intellectuals. Syndicalism based its theory on working-class day-to-day life, as the best anarchist should. Anarchist syndicalists have always scorned authoritarian paternalism but have always seen the need to be highly organised. As regards authority I would quote Bakunin: ‘Does it follow I reject all authority, perish the thought. In the matter of boots I refer to the bootmaker, concerning houses, canals or railroads I consult the architect and engineer. For such special knowledge I apply to such a savant but I allow neither the bootmaker nor the architect nor the savant to impose his authority on me.

That is a reasonable picture but it needs expanding on. The heart of syndicalism is still largely unwritten. Perhaps because of its ouvrierism it somewhat isolated itself from students of the contemporary scene who right or left were largely middle-class. In the early days of this century the marxist movement was strictly parliamentarian rejecting direct action. Some militant leaders like Tom Mann and Daniel de Leon liked to put their money on both horses but still saw them as separate entities. It was later that the Bolshevists married the two strands into one. Syndicalism the State would be abolished and replaced by a federation of units of workers control and ownership of industries by the workers themselves. Anarchism. An old word ‘ouvrierism’ anarchism. Synticalists were pioneers of many things, working class clubs, radical in their time, literacy education, cultural centres etc.

The Technical Centre and organisation was the work place of syndicalists. Workers by hand and brain and brain and brain and brain and brain and brain the saying goes. It is only recently that large sectors of white collar workers have been organised to organisations, traditionally favouring status and perks. Thankfully this situation has now changed, it could have happened a lot earlier were it not for trade unionism. Syndicalists were radical in their time, literacy education, cultural centres etc. They also organised employment bureaus as a protection against the worst of capitalism. We must remember that the working class was a lot more community minded than it is now and in times of unemployment the whole community was involved.

As syndicalism in this country has not really existed since the early 1920’s there should be judged in the context of their time, just as we will be judged in the context of our own. Not all the people involved. This should not be used as an excuse for complacency. It’s the old tale, having ideals is one thing but living up to them is another. It can be said that the syndicalists were definately in the forefront of workers struggles before WWI. There is no reason the same couldn’t be true today.

Syndicalists have always maintained that the walk out strike was an outmoded method preferring the work to rule, sabotage and occupation because this keeps the control and initiative in the hands of the workers. Eventually, the capitalists would be apprised by the Social General Strike. This would involve the workers seizing control of the means of production and distribution. The basic unit of organisation was the workplace committee, instead of an outside branch, people were brought together not by trade but by industry and place of work. The committee brought together all the workers in the workplace, the committees then federated in two ways:

1. The local area joint committee.
2. Nationwide, based on particular industries, e.g. railways, chemicals, car industry etc.

Organisation was to be fluid, changing it’s form as capitalism changed, hoping to further federate internationally in step with the multi-nationals and hoping to build a truly international proletarian movement.

The Social General Strike/revolution envisioned on an international scale was intended not as a walk out till employers agreed to some sort of compromise but to seize the means of production and organise its distribution on the same federated basis. The idea can be summed up as forming the new society within the shell of the old.

INTRODUCTION TO SYNDICALISM...

JOIN THE CONSPIRACY
**Fascist Facts**

You may have missed it, with the wedding and all that, but the last week in July had been designated White Pride Week. The Nazi British Movement rag British Tidings declared the first one ever this year. How unpatriotic of Chas and Di to overshadow the Great Event. Better luck next year, scum.

From America, the learned journal 'White Power' seems to have an insurmountable problem, for fascist anyway, colour blindness! Their paper reports the arrest of Peter Sutcliffe, a black truck-driver. A master of disguise, eh.

Back with the B.M. and 'British Tidings', there's a daring criticism of Adolf Hitler no less. Did you know, they write, that "Hitler was too much of a nice guy". St Adolf Rotin-Peace.

West Yorkshire's Chief Constable Mr Ronald Gregory, and several of his senior officers were cleared of misconduct following a three month probe. Investigation was conducted by the West Midland's Chief Constable, Sir Philip Knight.

The result was predictable. Those who expect truth to emerge from an investigation by police of police are naive Berk's. As well expect advocacy of sexual abstinence from a Durex salesman.

A policeman's regard for truth is tenuous. Promotional prospects are increased by convictions obtained. So 'bending' the truth to ensure some poor sod being sent down is another rung ascended on the arse-licking ladder. The veracity of a policeman varies in inverse proportion to his keenness for promotion.

**ANSWERS TO ROYALTY QUIZ**

1. c, Genghis Khan, rumoured to have put it out quite a bit.

2. b, Edward VIII, the Queen Mother was also a keen fan of another racial purist, the unlamented Ian Smith.

3. c, George III, a complete loony who was finally locked away in Windsor Castle.

4. a, George II, ha-ha.

5. c, The Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, by that well known creep, sorry, 'moderate' Bill Sirs.

6. a, Rio Tinto Zinc, a company famous for its happy, contented work-forces around the globe, our monarch has absolutely nothing to be ashamed of.

Lastly, Direct Action would like to pay tribute, sorry its so late though, to Maurice Ludmer who had been Britains leading anti-fascist during the last two decades. As editor of Searchlight from where the previous info came, he had shown courage (he had been badly beaten by Nazi cowards) and resilience, Antifascism hasn't always been trendy. We owe Maurice a tremendous debt.

Searchlight can be contacted at A.F. and R. Publications, 21, Great Western Buildings, 6 Livery St Birmingham 3.
In this present society 99% of all crime is directly linked to the system that rules our lives. A system of exploitation, degradation and oppression. A system known as capitalism. Crime is an integral part of this corrupt and decaying institution.

This uncaring and often barbaric system throws its 'non-conformist', 'anti-social' and wayward citizens into prison as they apparently constitute a menace to society. Prison serves as the state's carpet and the system it advocates the broom. Once given the label of criminal we have it for life. Rapidly we become outcasts, our closest peers may even scorn us. This attitude stems directly from the state's mouthpiece. Continually it strives to create artificial divides between people, playing one off against the other. In reality, as far as prison goes, what's the difference between the man in the street and the man in prison? One may be a bricklayer, the other is simply an incarcerated bricklayer.

**Evil**

Prison is an evil, an evil we can do without. Prison serves no useful purpose whatsoever. It neither reforms nor rehabilitates. The whole dehumanising process has exactly the opposite effect. Prison, in a nutshell, must be abolished.

The authorities make great play of their crime, punishment, law and order. In true perspective its a farce. A myth, concocted by the state in an attempt to pacify and condition the masses. Giving a false sense of security and delaying further the agonies of capitalism and statism.

The only way to solve these so-called crimes, problems, call them what you like, is to dismantle the state. Destroying the capitalist system which creates them. Forging ahead, taking over the reins of our own destiny. Striving towards the Social Revolution. The struggle must be fought in the workplace and community, on the streets and in the prisons. In fact everywhere authority raises its ugly head. We must replace the present system with a sane alternative - an anarchist society.

**Kropotkin**

The following text was written by the anarchist philosopher Peter Kropotkin (1842-1921) He sums up briefly prison and its alternatives:

"The prison does not prevent anti-social acts from taking place. It increases their numbers. It does not improve those who enter its walls. However it is reformed it will always remain a place of restraint, an artificial environment, like a monastery, which will make the prisoner less and less fit for life in the community. It does not achieve its end. It degrades society. It must disappear. It is a survival of barbarism mixed with liberal philanthropy.

The first duty of the revolution will be to abolish prisons, - those monuments of human hypocrisy and cowardice. Anti-social acts need not be feared in a society of equals, in the midst of a free people, all of whom have acquired a healthy education and the habit of mutually aiding one another. The greater number of these acts will no longer have any raison d'être. The others will be nipped in the bud.

As for those individuals with evil tendencies whom existing society will pass on to us after the revolution, it will be our task to prevent their exercising these tendencies. This is already accomplished quite efficiently by the solidarity of all the members of the community against such aggressors. If we do not succeed in all cases, the only practical corrective still will be fraternal treatment and moral support.

This is not Utopia. It is already done by isolated individuals and it will become the general practice. And such means will be far more powerful to protect society from anti-social acts than the existing system of punishment which is an ever fertile source of new crimes."

We have come a long way since Kropotkin wrote this, although the message remains crystal clear. The State may get stronger daily. But as militancy grows and the struggle escalates the state will crumble.
IRELAND - a little knowledge...

Most people on this little island of ours know who is fighting in Northern Ireland - Catholics and Protestants; and why - because they're stupid Paddies. Most people also have a solution to the problem - pull out our poor, innocent lads and let 'em get on with it. These are the arguments we've heard at work and in the pubs. They are the main reasons why opinion polls can consistently show the British public support 'Troops Out'.

I'm not saying that the British have no feelings of guilt, have portrayed themselves as heroes 'keeping the peace' between two sets of extreme bigots. The truth is that the ruling class over here have benefitted from the subjugation of Ireland, as a whole, for centuries. Far from being 'innocent bystanders' our rulers have a very blood-stained history.

Over the next few issues of Direct Action we will recall some of that history, from Cromwell to Bloody Sunday. For the powers-that-be today a working class with a better knowledge of the past could be a very dangerous thing indeed.

Perhaps this chauvinistic attitude could be excused if we were the innocent party who have been dragged into a conflict not of our own making. Unfortunately that has been the lie that has been foisted on us over here by our own freedom loving press, a lie that Goebbels himself would have been proud of.

The British, far from having any feelings of guilt, have portrayed themselves as heroes 'keeping the peace' between two sets of extreme bigots. The truth is that the ruling class over here have benefitted from the subjugation of Ireland, as a whole, for centuries. Far from being 'innocent bystanders' our rulers have a very blood-stained history.

Over the next few issues of Direct Action we will recall some of that history, from Cromwell to Bloody Sunday. For the powers-that-be today a working class with a better knowledge of the past could be a very dangerous thing indeed.

Comrades street selling 'Xtra' have also been subjected to police interference. Alleging that the paper was probably seditious they confiscated a copy saying that it would be scrutinised to see if there was anything they could, "get you for." When a comrade raised the issue of freedom of expression the reply was: "You are as free as we permit you to be." During this episode an individual kept furtively appearing and disappearing among the pedestrians snap-shotting the sellers from different angles.

A well attended meeting on anarcho-syndicalism was addressed by Dave Thomson, National Secretary, D.A.M., in a Newcastle pub. Prior to the meeting the police pressurised the landlord in an attempt to cancel the hire of the room.

A coppers nark infested the meeting. It is hoped his limited intellectual horizon was broadened.

POLICE LAW

Following an Anti-Royalist demo. culminating in the arrest of six comrades (Freedom 18.7.) Northumbria police are harassing members of the Tyne and Wear D.A.M Group.

Recently the anarchist punk band 'Total Chaos' distributed an anarchist leaflet at a gig. The Police warned one of the bands members against further distributions on the grounds that it was conducive to incitement to steal. After the gig the comrade was shadowed by a plains clothed policeman for a considerable period of time.
PRE-NATAL ATTACK

The ruling class's assault on the working class begins before an individual worker is born. Mental, physical and infantile mortality are linked to social class, and the lower your social class the more chance is of your being born defective in some way, or not surviving at all to enjoy our slashed social services.

"In 1977, neo-natal death rates - deaths within the first month of life - were twice as high for the children of fathers in social class V as they were in social class I. Death rates for the post-neo-natal period - from one month up to one year - were nearly 5 times higher in social class V than in social class I . . . . . . ."

Secretary of State for Social Services 27th March 1977.

diet

It has been known for a long time that a great number of mental and physical handicaps are inflicted on unborn children by the mother receiving inadequate diet during pregnancy. Spina Bifida and other conditions of the central nervous system might be prevented if women on poor diets were given folate (one of the B vitamins).

vitamin

Research has shown that women giving birth to children with these defects have a low concentration of folate in their blood, and that the condition could be made less common by supply this vitamin to pregnant women.

For further information see New Scientist 2 July '81.

GOD BLESS THE W.R.V.S.

The new leader, admiral, or grand poobah of the Women's Royal Voluntary Service has come up with a great scheme.

Now for anyone who does not know what the WRVS is, lets just say they are a sort of social working version of the SAS. They are the ones who do the meals on wheels for the old folk.

Now their new chief has come out with a great scheme. She reckons that after a nuclear war there will be a lot of us down in our shelters with nothing to do. So what does she suggest? The WRVS will not let you down, through the devastated radio-active landscape will come the nice lady from the WRVS with jig saws and toys for the kiddies.

Just picture the scene.

Dear Diary its been three days now since they dropped the bombs. Things are getting a bit grim. The kids are bored and getting ratty. They are bored with playing with Uncle Jack. He's gone all stiff and straight and they can't straighten him up from where they bent him to play leap frog. We'll have to put him out soon as he's beginning to smell.

We are all getting a bit worried about what we are going to do today. We've just divided up the last bean when there was a knock on the shelter door. Having a quick look at the radiation monitor we hid in the corner and got granny to open the door. In shot a vision in green.

"Hello" she said, "I'm from the WRVS, anyone want a jig saw?"

Well you can imagine our joy, we just rushed over to her. She gave us some nice jig saws and some toys for the kids. We were so pleased we asked her to stay for dinner and very nice she was too. Roasted slowly over a couple of gently burning jig saws.

I think the WRVS are wonderful, hope they come again soon, I'm hungry.

To The American Department Of Justice - Lest You Forget 23rd August 1927 54th Anniversary Of The Murders Of The Anarchists NICOLA SACCO And BARTOLOMEO VANZETTI
Aims and principles of the Direct Action Movement.

(1) The Direct Action Movement is a working class organisation.

(2) Our aim is the creation of a free and classless society.

(3) We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery in all their forms and replace them by self-managed production for need not profit.

(4) In order to bring about the new social order, the workers must take over the means of production and distribution. We are the sworn enemies of those who would take over 'on behalf of' the workers.

(5) We believe that the only way for the working class to achieve this is for independent organisation in the workplace and community and federated with others in the same industry and locality, independent of and opposed to all political parties and trade union bureaucracies. All such workers organisations must be controlled by the workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers movement. Any and all delegates and representatives of such workers organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers.

(6) We are opposed to all States and State institutions. The working class has no country. The class struggle is worldwide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all States do not exist to protect the workers of those States, they exist only as the repressive arm of the ruling class.

(7) We oppose racism, sexism, militarism and all attitudes and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the right of all people everywhere to control their own lives and the environment.

The Direct Action Movement is a federation of groups and individuals who believe in the principles of anarcho-syndicalism; a system where the workers alone control industry and the community without the dictates of politicians, bureaucrats, bosses and so-called 'experts'. Rather than diplomacy and endless political debate we believe in Direct Action.

JOIN:

I would like to join/know more about the Direct Action Movement.

NAME
ADDRESS

POSTCODE

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