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EDITORIAL

If you live in London, and you've got the time to spare on Saturday afternoons; don't forget that we mail out the Flag from 121 Bookshop every fortnight.

This could be your chance to learn the thrills of folding, stamping, wrapping licking and weighing! Not to mention the chance to meet other @s and discuss your pet complaint, favourite aspect of anarchism, or the latest inspiring news from your area. There is also usually a communal meal at 121 on Saturdays (£1) plus hot and cold refreshments.

If you're from outside London, drop in if you're visiting, and remember that the Flag is only as good as the news we get to receive — local, national and international news is all important, if the paper is to cover all these areas.

Next mailout: 27th July, 12 Midday. at 121 Railton Road, Herne Hill SE24. Brixton tube, or 2 bus. Tel: 01-2746655.

SOUTH-EAST ANARCHIST FEDERATION CONFERENCE

REPORT FROM THE 3RD CONFERENCE OF THE SOUTH-EAST ANARCHIST FEDERATION HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT AT CANTERBURY ON MAY 18TH.

Between 40-50 people attended from Kent and East Sussex. It was decided the Canterbury Anarchist Group function as the SEAF Secretariat to co-ordinate information between contacts and also with the wider Anarchist movement.

Local groups reported increasing anarchist resistance in the region, but also a heavy toll of arrests in relation to 'Stop Business As Usual'. Six Ashford comrades are on 8pm-8am curfews as condition of bail. They face fines for criminal damage and considerable costs, so they have set up a bust fund. (Cheques payable to Mark Davy, c/o 29 Somerset Road, Ashford, Kent). Also reported was an alarming amount of fascist activity in Dartford and the imminent possibility of mobilising in anti-fascist fronts was discussed.

During the afternoon a member of Medway DAM gave a talk on Anarcho-Syndicalism. This was followed by workshops on the relevance of animal liberation to anarchism, on sexual politics, on fascism and on the class struggle after the miners strike. The Anarchist Movement in this region is growing considerably and it is hoped that the SEAF can develop into an effective organisation with a sense of direction rather than a loose federation of libertarian pen-friends. The contact address is: Canterbury Anarchist Group, c/o 20 Uplands, St. Stevens Hill, Canterbury, Kent.

Several members of the Canterbury Anarchist Group are setting up a local branch of the Direct Action Movement. Contact Address: Canterbury DAM, c/o Duleep Allirajah, Eliot College, University of Kent, Canterbury.

M'BOY. ALL THAT I OWN IS THE RESULT OF DILIGENCE AND HARD WORK!



SUBSCRIBE IN '85!!

HOME NEWS

HENLEY HECKLED

There was trouble at the Henley Regatta, the yearly outing for the ruling class and their social climbing friends and loyalists, beside the Thames, outside London.

About 200 anarchists and members of *Class War* heckled and insulted the would be revellers as they enjoyed their stolen wealth. Unfortunately, due to publicity of the planned disruption by anarchists in the mass media, the police were there in big numbers, and whenever any action was attempted, there were arrests — approximately 50 in all. The local Conservative Club was attacked, windows were smashed and files set on fire.

A Rolls Royce or two were attacked, one was turned over, and numerous cars belonging to the rich had their tyres slashed or spiked. Rich patrons were pushed around, and piss was poured on some.

Effective harassment was carried out by small groups, plainly dressed, who caused trouble on the outskirts of the Regatta, outside the heavy police presence. Half the charges were dropped the next day.

LAMBETH LABOUR HYPOCRITES

At the Lambeth Council meeting on July 3rd, which ended in the Labour Party splitting and voting to set a rate/tax, there was another show of their careerist double standards.

On the same day, the Council obtained an eviction order for the squatted creche/children's centre in Brixton, run by local parents. There are long waiting lists for all child care in Lambeth, and the lists will now be even longer when the rate-capping cuts come in.

Supporters of the creche brought along a *Save Our Creche* banner to the meeting, and were clapped until the Trots and Labour hacks realised it was their Party doing the evicting!

With the threat of disruption, stewards alternated between offers of possible rehousing, and threats that everyone from the creche would be thrown out to the waiting police.

The meeting ended with Ted Knight and cohorts calling on everyone to vote Labour and pour money into their deserving coffers. Support your local bailiff?

The eviction will take place, any time from 17th July. Support is welcome: contact the Brixton Parents Self-help Group, 24 Brailsford Road, Brixton SW2 or you can write protesting to: A.R. Murrant, Borough Valuers, Hambrook House, Porden Road, Brixton.



ARMY CHAT SHOW OFF THE AIR?

A £15million new Cougar net radio system for use in undercover operations in the North of Ireland (and ? elsewhere) is claimed, 'virtually untappable'. Anyone who knows more about this technology, especially its manufacturers should be careful about publicising this fact as a public service.

RAPE STATISTICS

1 in 6 women in London have been raped, but only 1 in 12 report rape to the police. 90% of the women asked in a Women Against Rape survey of 32 Boroughs in London which questioned 2,000 women, wanted the right to carry weapons in self-defence. 75% are afraid to be on the streets after dark and 50% avoid going by tube late at night.

Although we are not producing the Magazine, here's an update on our finances, for those interested.

BLACK FLAG FORTNIGHTLY AND MAGAZINE: STATE OF PLAY

From last balance (see last Quarterly) to the end of year (Dec 31st 1984).

Sales and subs 1170.41
Donations* 949.69 2120.10

Postage 470.85
Printing bills 1349.50
Stationery etc 168.41 1988.76

(which makes [hold your breath], with donations, profit on the period 131.34

Deficit carried forward 2674.68
131.34

£2543.34

Our circulation has gone up with rising costs which means our deficit is actually down. It is carried by a private bank loan (interest not passed on). Thanks to everyone concerned in achieving this encouraging result.

*DONATIONS: Edinburgh Sean £1; London LR £1; JW £10; TH £166.34; UK £1; JG £15; Squatters £30; John £15; BB £1; P.S. £20; LF £5; AM £50; AD £2. Birmingham CF £7.80. Belfast JS £8. Kent MT £3. Devon PF £8.20. USA Blueberry £20; AM £5; Libertarian Picnic £19.35; Sweden K. £20; Finland KH £30; Holland RS £4. International Anarchist Meeting Collection £500. TOTAL £949.69

SOLIDARITY/MUTUAL AID FUND to 31st December 1984

Cambridge A's £7, £3; Macclesfield MP £10; Canada PD £15; London N17 BM £13; SE AM £25; Guam SS £70.93; in hand £67.25. TOTAL £143.93

Disbursed: £75 Spanish veterans; £50 Miners' kids' party. In Hand £18.93.

Owing to the large numbers of sums going to the miners' support groups our solidarity fund has suffered, but we sent out five token sums to Spanish veterans suffering from the effects of civil war injuries and long terms in prison, and also (much against our principles) financed

MACHO SICKO!

SELL YOUR WIFE IN BIRMINGHAM IN 1985.

The shit of the fortnight award goes to the British Tourist Authority, which as part of its celebration of the English Heritage, is promoting an event called 'Sell Your Wife in '85'.

Victorian men, they believe, after having a row with their partner would simply go to the local market and sell her off. The centre of wife-selling-England was in Birmingham where wife auctions persisted

a Christmas party in Wales (for which the Lord of Misrule forgive us). Special thanks to our long-term regular contributor way out in Guam. We now have to concentrate on two important issues — the Murray campaign and the miners' support issue. The comparatively small sums going through our hands are the tip of the iceberg as we want people to deal direct where they can. Keep it rolling — just use us as a clearing-house as a last resort (keeps down institutionalisation).

UPDATED LIST: From above list to 25th June 1985

Printing 1824.62
Postage 568.53
Stationery 156.52 2549.67

Sales & Subs 863.95
Donations* 583.23 1447.18

Loss so far this year 1098.49
Previous deficit 2543.34

TOTAL DEFICIT £3641.83

Looks like we're slipping but actually we're fairly well pleased with the result bearing in mind the amounts due to us. Salaries, royalties and profits still come to a Nil figure; coincidentally, so too do the GLC grants and the Spanish gold.

*DONATIONS: Coventry PF £1; Woking JH £10; London JG £45; Manchester GH £8; Ireland MM £2; Essex K 30p; Chesterfield CC £1; London LP £3; TH £50; Belgium £12.55; Brighton R £5.40; Brixton £10; Sheffield £1; Bolton RG £1.20; Salisbury £1; London P £1; M&P £40; USA JS £10.06; Gloucs £4; Cardiff EM £5.60; Bristol GS £1.50; Sussex MS £3.30; London JW £55; JW £7.22; M & P £60; R £5; TH £40. USA GH £8; Manchester RB £8; USA GM £40.80; London P £1; AM £100; Glos 50p; Canada WT £39.80; TOTAL £583.23

C/f £18.93
Ireland MM £10; Surrey Anon £4; Canada TB £3; Hants SB £3; N. York RLG £1.65; Swindon SJ £10; Co. Durham PC £6.50; Hants A £1; DC £6.50; Lancs S £1; SB £1; Posters £4.20
TOTAL £51.85 IN HAND £70.78
We haven't included various odd sums for different causes in this but passed them over.

until 1869.

The event is to be repeated, however, in 1985 at the New Imperial Hotel, where for a £45 charge for the two-night duration husbands are given a farewell drink with the wife before 'being photographed against a 'FOR SALE' sign with a chain and horse collar round her neck'!

Any welcome news of disruption of this posh, misogynist (woman-hating) crap will be duly publicised for a lark of course!



QUESTION AND ANSWER ON ANARCHISM

Q. Can an Anarchist believe in God?
A. Most Anarchists would say No, a few Yes. But surely being an Anarchist implies opposition to government and imposed authority — and working to abolish it. It doesn't invalidate that if one has a few wrong notions about matters unrelated to government and authority — for instance whether one accepts or doesn't accept Darwin or Newton (both of whom can be criticised either

because they go too far or don't go far enough).

The problem about Gods in the heaven is that there is often implied a priesthood who brings them down to earth and acts in their name. But today there are many people believing themselves to be deists who don't accept a privileged priesthood and in some cases don't accept the accumulated superstitions that go with belief. They seldom are Anarchists, but off hand I don't see why they couldn't be.

SCABS SEEK MERGER

Against the background of the break-away of the Nottinghamshire Area miners from the National Union of Mineworkers, we examine other moves in the trade union movement to set up a united movement of centre and right unions, which might well become a focus for scab unions in the future and an accommodating TUC/Labour Party once it is clear which way the wind is blowing.

At the Annual Conference of the currently right dominated electricians union, the EETPU, Eric Hammond, the union's General Secretary, announced that EETPU's no-strike agreements will be extended and that furthermore EETPU will be seeking to create a new union merger with other right-dominated unions, such as the AEUW and ASTMS. Other unions will also be invited to join the merger. Already, mimicking the Polish Solidarnosc, a suggestion is being pursued that the new amalgamation be simply known by the name of 'Union'.

The move by EETPU could also be described as an adoption of one aspect of syndicalism, namely the idea of the 'one big union'. There is nothing, of course, to prevent moderate or right-wing unions from taking on this syndicalist practice. The danger is that it is the mainly right-wing unions, known for their recent scabbing, that are taking this step forward leaving the more class orientated unions still foolishly looking to the TUC as an agent of change. If EETPU, the AEUW and ASTMS do unite, then they will indeed be the new 'Triple Alliance' - an alliance that might well, under current policies, oppose widespread strike action, either within their own industries or without.

In 1972 the AEUW was left-dominated and engineers played a vital part in providing mutual support to the miners in winning industrial action. In recent months it was one of the first unions to comply with the new anti-trade union legislation when it backed down in the middle of industrial action, purged its 'contempt of court' and left sister trade unions in the lurch as well as its own rank and file. EETPU's opposition to the Miners Strike is well documented. Not surprisingly it now supports the yet another 'social contract' scheme put forward by the Labour Party as a means of capturing the votes of the moderates and the centre-right. In this EETPU and the TGWU are at one.

Like the government leaders of the right, contrary to their opposite numbers in Parliament, the union leaderships of the right and centre-right have worked out their long-term objectives and are clear as to how they can be achieved. Furthermore, unlike the unions on the left, they have come to the realisation that solidarity and mutual aid in industry must be sought and consolidated.

The 'new realism' of centrist union politics has been characterised by the electricians and engineers unions of late, with no-strike agreements, the approval of wages tied to productivity schemes, corporate-style liaison with management, etc. This unionism is the sort that the scab minority within the National Union of Mineworkers would no doubt be in sympathy with and it is a possibility that they too could well decide in the future to join forces, after breaking away from the NUM, with their like-minded trade unionists on the right. How far, too, will the Labour Party respond to such a move is another question.

Its rhetoric, initially will be against it, but if it proves successful, no doubt the Labour Party will accommodate itself to the new unionism and move even more rightwards as the unions do the

same. It is arguable of course whether such a move to the right is that of the scab unions catching up with the already rightward position of the Labour Party or whether it is the other way around.

In five years or ten years time we could well see two TUC's or union movements. A union movement consisting of pro-government, pro-capitalist unions, abiding by state legislation, using arbitration as a means of settling disputes; and another union movement consisting of those unions who refuse to recognise the authority of the State to interfere in union affairs and which is class based and uses direct action to achieve its objectives. This is not an ideal situation, in that the union movement would be split - not that much different from what we have now except that the disagreements would be formalised to the extent of having two opposing movements.

In many other countries the notion of unions grouped around different political ideologies is the norm, although in practice it is not necessarily ideologies but, more often than not, political parties, of which they then become tools and automatic supporters of the principle of government by party rule. The splitting of unions according to political party is the worst thing that can happen to the labour movement. Such splits only serve to fragment further the working class. With the advent of two union movements in Britain it would be expected that each of the political parties would vie with each other to gain union sponsorship. The aim of the Tories (and the Alliance parties) is not to destroy unionism but to ally with it, get its support and deprive the opposing political parties, in turn, from that support.

The Labour Party has always put across the untruth that the Tories only wish to destroy the unions. That is only partly true and it is a ruling class ideal the Tories admit being both unrealistic if not impossible. Their true aim, though, is to make unionism an even more essential element of the capitalist fabric than it is already. For the future this means the creation of more unashamed, self-confessed Tory unions, openly pro-management and pro-capitalist. The recent, and yet to come, anti-trade union legislation may well help to achieve such a state of affairs.

Likewise it is an illusion to think that the Tories do not wish the unions well when they cause trouble for the Labour Party when in power (as with the Winter of Discontent). The Tories have long since realised that unionism will take a long time to destroy; far better to bring it to heel.

The EETPU/ASTMS/AEUW proposed merger and alliance with similar like-minded unions is but one step further in the direction of Tory unionism and management unionism. The closed shop system inevitably will aid this organisation: the rank and file minorities who disagree or who are unable to influence leadership policies will either have to put up with it, if these policies cannot be changed from within, or lose their jobs when switching unions.

At the same time the closed shop system will be its eventual downfall, as the rank and file within those unions disaffected from a system whereby policy is enforced on all, ballots or no ballots.

The answer for those of us who seek class-based unionism is obvious. We must begin now to organise a rank and file union that openly proclaims its revolutionary aims and practice and its independence from state/government control or party influence. The Tories may well increase their hold and their daring may well be excelled for some years yet. Its unions might come out of the closet, if the propaganda war in support of restraint and corporate management is won. The future looks ominous and this is no time for dithering or indecision.

SACKED MINERS

A few statistics. By mid-June a total of 671 miners remain sacked. Many have not been charged with any offence, others have been acquitted. Under previous NCB guidelines defining the conditions for dismissal around 92% of those sacked should have kept their jobs. Nevertheless the Coal Board still refuses to allow these miners to appear before its own appeals procedure, which has been in force since 1947. The worst dismissal rate is in the Scottish Area where 83% of those sacked had only been charged (not necessarily convicted) of minor obstruction charges. Another interesting statistic: 43% of all miners sacked nationally held union positions.

SOURCE: Pitwatch.

LONG MEMORIES

A police station on the outskirts of Nottingham was attacked with molotovs, which caused fires and damage. The attack took place at Clifton police station and three molotovs were thrown. Such an occurrence is hardly surprising given the sort of scenes witnessed during the 12 months prior to March. Now that defenses are less secure, not only at local police stations, but also at scab firms, Coal Board premises, etc, attacks will prove more easy, providing fewer martyrs. Memories can be very long.

WOMEN IN THE NUM

Something most people are probably not aware of is that there are now over 6,000 women in the National Union of Mineworkers, a third of whom work in canteens providing the very basic food the miners need to work.

They all pay full union dues yet nearly all feel ignored and excluded by the men who run the union.

For a start, most canteen workers are paid on average £19 per week less than their male counter-parts in the industry! A canteen attendant's wage is £85.72. Whereas the lowest surface rate for a man is £105.

No woman canteen worker receives any concessionary coal allowance enjoyed by all men employed by the NCB and they receive five days a year less holidays than men.

One woman worker who supported the strike until the end, said 'the men in the union have said time and time again what a great job we women did during the strike. But they haven't done a thing since we returned to work. All the women I work with say the union is worse than useless when it comes to our needs.'

SOURCE: Durham Striker.

MEDIA BIAS

The Nottinghamshire Miner, a paper distributed to around 30,000 Notts scabs, is now being published with the help of Bruce Myles, a former BBC and Daily Mirror journalist. To give you some idea of its political allegiances, its May issue featured an eight-inch-high cartoon of Arthur Scargill in black leather uniform and jackboots! The same edition reproduced another anti-Scargill cartoon 'by permission of the Daily Mail' and a front page article from the Sunday Mirror that accused Scargill of aiming for a 'Stalin-style strangle-hold' over the miners.

The NUM's case by contrast is restricted to The Notts Collier, a paper which depends for its circulation on the dedication of the minority who spent a year on strike. Miners in Pye Hill Colliery were threatened with the sack for distributing it, while the NCB allows The Nottinghamshire Miner to be freely distributed. At some pits where The Notts Collier was left in the canteen, the management have had it burnt!

SOURCE: Pitwatch.



Cartoon from the Nottinghamshire Miner

NOTTS OUST WORKING MINERS

Two central figures in the Notts working miners movement have been ousted by former strikers.

The first results in the annual NUM elections show a major turnaround in two collieries, where leading Spokesmen for the working miners have lost their union posts.

At Sherwood Colliery, John Liptrott, a prominent member of the national working miners' committee, was voted out as Secretary and replaced by former striker David Cope.

And, at Ollerton Colliery, Jonah Porter, who was President of Ollerton's NUM Branch during the strike, was beaten by Dennis Walker who held the post before the strike.

Meanwhile, the Notts NUM official who set up the National Working Miner's Committee, Colin Clarke, was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

SOURCE: M.C.



LAW AND ORDER

Policemen compare truncheon sizes!

Law and Order is for the ruled and not the rulers, as so blatantly demonstrated by the actions of NCB management at Bates Colliery in the North East Area.

On June 6 the NUM obtained a High Court ruling preventing the NCB from running down the workforce at Bates until an injunction hearing has taken place, due for July 24. However five days later local management ignored the ruling and announced additional redundancies and the decision to cease production on one face. The local manager also commented that he wasn't going to be told by any court what to do or how to run 'his' pit. His regard for the courts is admirable, although no doubt during the strike, he was taking an opposite view.

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS



LETTER FROM GERRY

Dear comrades,

Hi! this letter is long overdue. First of all, I'd like to thank you for the coverage you've given the situation the five of us are in. It's important for people in Europe to know that though Canada is often presented to the rest of the world as a wholesome, tranquil place like any imperialist country it is not — especially if you're poor, native or progressive. As well, it's of course important for people to know there is resistance happening here — on many levels. By covering our situation you've helped to inform people in Europe about these things. Of course, it's helped us on a personal level too by building support, for us as political prisoners.

The other reason why I'm writing is I realized that my current reading fare is quite incomplete with out *Black Flag*. In other words could I get a subscription to your paper? I understand it is free to all prisoners who request it and that's good, because it would be quite a hassle for me to start a paid subscription — if not impossible. As well, I've seen the excellent poster you've put out titled 'Remember, we're still here' and I was wondering if I could be sent a couple (one for me and one for a fellow prisoner)?

I'm doing fairly well these days. I'm enrolled in University courses full time and I'm playing and recording music in my spare time. Julie and I have broken up via telephone. Ann and Brent have had a couple of conjugal visits as has Doug and his lover. They all seem to be doing pretty well.

Anyways take care folks and I hope to hear from you soon. Bye for now.

The spirit of freedom cannot be subdued!

In love and struggle,

Gerry Hannah,

GERRY HANNAH'S ADDRESS

Gerry Hannah,
Matsqui Federal Penitentiary, Box 4000,
Abbotsford, British Columbia. CANADA

MORE LETTERS FROM PRISON

Dear friends at *Black Flag*,

While reading an old copy of *Black Flag*, (15.4.85) a friend lent me, I noticed a rather fascinating poster called 'Remember we're here'. Please believe me, it would make my day if you could forward me two copies — one for my friend and one for myself.

I would be honoured to put your poster on my cell wall! I have no money and I have no radio and thus leaving me well out of touch with the outside world and I won't read right-wing papers that the other inmates read!

My prison wages — well I only receive a 'tiny' £1.10p a week and with smoking I have nothing left which is a rather heavy downer!

I read your newspaper as often as I can and I find them to be very interesting and covering many, many aspects which are very important and yes very true!

This 'Police State' makes me feel sad to be British and I find I have no respect for Thatcher's fascist government! Actually, thinking about all the mass poverty, unemployment, deaths etc that they've caused hurts me.

I heard news about the young lad who dived to his death — 200 feet, at Matlock-Derbyshire because he was so depressed from being out of work. Police scum said 'a small tattoo on the wrist of the boy read: 'Put this down to unemployment'. I say, 'Put it down to Thatcher'.

Then a few days later the dead boy's heartbroken girlfriend did the same, in the same spot too, she lived, thank goodness!

Well, gotta dash — earache from you know who!

Yours in the struggle. Love and anger,

Jim Oakes

HM Prison, Perry Road,
Sherwood, Nottingham.

Dear *Black Flag*,

I am serving a sentence of life imprisonment, I have read a few of your papers and it has certainly opened my eyes more, it is comforting to know we have people who are standing up to this mass brainwashing machine called the Government.

I would like to receive copies of your paper and pamphlets, I have no funds and I don't have many visitors, I am a victim of the so called justice system, I am now appealing over a murder I did not commit.

I do have a few friends that are miners and have suffered a great deal but luckily they are not in prison.

Hope to hear from you and I await my copies of the *Black Flag*.

Yours hopefully,

Dave 'Smokie' Richards
B70462.

HM Prison Gartree,
Market Harborough
Leics. LE16 7RP

DEATH IN CUSTODY part?

Derek Harris a young 16 year old lad was found dead in Scotland's Glenochil Young Offender's Institution on April 15th. He was the seventh such cell death there since 1981.

Initially sentenced to a 'short, sharp, shock' at Friarton Detention centre near Perth, he was transferred to Glenochil as he was an 'escape risk'. His father died so he was put under Strict Security Observation/'on canvas' — in solitary, with a canvas mattress and canvas smock, observed every 15 minutes. He was released into the general population, had a fight with another inmate and was put into a cell where he died.

At present we do not know the result of the inquest into his death.

Some locals, annoyed at the assembly line death cycle associated with the place produced a poster exposing the deaths in custody at Glenochil since 1981.



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

W.A. screws, out of practice at bashing up crims but trying to get back into the swing of things under Prisons Director, Ian Hill, have killed off a few of us recently.

Robert Walker dragged from his cell in Fremantle Prison at 4.00am on August 28th, 1984, thrown down a flight of stairs and then bashed, bashed and stomped into eternity by 4 screws in an attack that lasted 17 minutes.

On October 16th, 1984 a coronial inquiry into Walker's death, heard one screw who witnessed the murder tell the Coroner McCann that he didn't see the murder take place 20 feet outside the 2nd Division door, because he had his rifle trained on the doorway ready to shoot prisoners using the murder as a diversion while they escaped! The same screw, a right proper goose, forgot that those 'escaping prisoners' were all asleep in their locked cells until awoken by Walker's screams. The goose had sufficient shame to apologise to Coroner McCann for the evidence he had given as he stepped down.

One of the four murderers agreed to testify for the Crown in return for an indemnity against prosecution. Even this witness however has said that only one Screw hit Walker once after Walker hit him.

Forty-two prisoners awoken by the dying screams of Walker testified to the Court that they had seen the screws all baton, kick and stomp Walker to death, and that the batons were used prod style. The yellow press reported an independent pathologist as telling the court that the prisoner's claims of batoning were lies and that he believed the death was caused by accidental pressure on the carotid artery.

What the yellow press did not report was that under cross-examination both pathologists had admitted the batons could have equally caused death but only if they were prod-fashion blows delivered repeatedly.

Now excuse us all, but isn't that exactly what forty-two prisoners testified to seeing?

When the inquiry ended on the 20th of November, Coroner McCann said he would give his findings within 14 days.

We're still waiting for his findings!

P. Wilsmore.

SOURCE *Jail News*

KEEP US INFORMED AND
WE'LL KEEP YOU INFORMED.

REHABILITATION

Equipment used to print government stationery at Parklea, the new maximum security prison in Sydney, Australia, was also diverted by the convicts for forgery.

Thousands of fake \$20 notes, fake slips to obtain unemployment benefit, marriage and drivers' licences, and birth certificates were made to order. Estimated to be in operation for about a year, the unique prisoner run rehabilitation scheme is an example for the world.

Kropotkin said 'Prisons are the Universities of crime' and at Parklea you could get your graduation papers too!

Details of the enquiry, sentencing, will be published as they come to hand.

SOURCE :L/MM

USA

600 convicts took over the Turney Centre jail at Only, near Nashville, Tennessee on the 2nd and 3rd of July. They were angry at new striped uniforms (to make inmates obvious if they escaped) and rat-infested food. They took 13 fellow cons hostage and set fire to the prison kitchen and the Chapel.

The jail protests spread to 3 other institutions and involved 1200 convicts. From Only it spread to the State Prison at Nashville (where prison uniforms were set alight) to Bledsoe County and Morgan County where 1 prisoner was beaten to death with a baseball bat.

What will 'the guitar-pickers of Nashville' make of it all...

A policeman was shot dead and six guards were held hostage during a jail riot in Malaga.

ANARCHISTS EXPELLED AGAIN

Having already been expelled from France to Burundi (East Africa), Enrico Fedele and Giovanni di Giuseppe (two Italian @ anarchists) have now (we suspect) been expelled from Burundi!

When they first arrived in Africa (on May 9th 1985) they managed to get permission to stay there providing they found work. Now they were due to be expelled from Burundi on June 30th, but we have no confirmation that it has actually taken place as we go to press. No-one knows where they will be dumped next, but they could have to face trial and jail if extradited back to Italy. More details as they come to hand.

SOURCE :Le Monde Libertaire

ANARCHIST SENTENCED

Anarchist Monica Giorgi was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment on June 19, at Perugia, in Italy, for her involvement in the attempted kidnap of Neri organised by 'Azione Rivoluzionaria' in 1977.

Fortunately for us, she has disappeared!

SOURCE :Umanita Nova.

ANARCHO-QUIZ

1. By what magic did 'Tipperary' — a pantomime song about an Irishman longing for home, already out-dated in 1914 — become transposed into the British Army's version of the 'Marseillaise'?

2. What family of strolling players produced not only one of England's greatest clowns — but a 'great clown' of a different sort as a current crowned head in Europe.

3. The Strasser brothers are often described by neo-Nazis as 'having taken the socialism in National Socialism seriously' (hence providing a fascist 'alternative' to Hitler). Gregor was killed and Otto fled to England. What was the original reason for their difference with Hitler?

4. What was the first reaction of Bobby Kennedy to President Jack Kennedy's assassination?

5. Which modern comedian died of 'an overdose of police'?

Answers on Page 7.

SYDNEY

A bomb exploded on July 5th, outside the battery and components factory of the US owned Union Carbide in the inner-city suburb of Roseberry, Sydney. The company had received a number of bombing threats since the Bhopal disaster of December 3rd last year. The four-storey plant had its windows shattered. No one was injured.



BLACK FLAG SUPPLEMENT

NO. 1

SPAIN

This is the first in a series of *Black Flag Supplements*. It's about Spain mainly because that's where you'll find the largest anarch-syndicalist movement in the world today. The resurgence of anarcho-syndicalism in this country (after Franco died in 1975) also indirectly helped start or rebuild anarcho-syndicalist movements in places as far apart as Britain and Japan, America and Australia.

We hope to provide *Supplement No. 2* soon, providing our finances are up to it.

IN SPANISH PRISONS TODAY

CONDITIONS IN SEGOVIA PRISON

THE PRISON'S STRUCTURE

The prison contains 3 galleries, a total of 80 cells and a population of 166. This gives an average of more than 2 people per cell. The building is more than 100 years old and looks really sinister (dark, old, filthy. . .). Each gallery has its own inner courtyard measuring only 25 by 10 metres. There are 65 inmates living in the first and third galleries.

Each cell accommodates 2 or 3 inmates and is 4 by 2.25 metres (9 metres square). The cells also have a window measuring 0.9 by 0.7 metres situated at a height of 2.1 metres. The glass window panes match the thickness of the wall (90 centimetres) making it difficult for daylight to enter. Therefore the lights inside the prison are kept switched on all day. There is no screen separating the lavatory from the rest of the cell, so you have to go to the lavatory in front of the other people in the cell. The inside of the prison hasn't been painted for several years and the walls are peeling and full of holes.

All the cells suffer badly from rising damp. It comes up from the ground into the walls of the cells on the ground floor and it comes in from the roof into cells on the first floor. The number of broken skylights and gutters is unbelievable and when it rains water easily gets into the galleries.

Needless to say, those parts of the jail used exclusively by the prison staff are in much better conditions: well painted, no dampness, well heated etc.

TREATMENT AND CLASSIFICATION

First of all, there is no Observation Team (Equipo de Observacion). This violates Clause 247 of Prison Rules which states: 'Qualified Teams of Specialists will carry out the tasks of observation, classification and treatment.' In reality we've only got one 'educator' who only answers questions related to judicial procedure or to a prisoner's progress.

There are a countless number of prisoners who have completed over three quarters of their sentence and are therefore eligible under the Penal Code, Clause 98, for a conditional liberty, yet they stay in jail because the prison's Managing Board (Junta de Regimen) hasn't bothered to put the proper release procedure in motion.

Many prisoners are also entitled to leave the prison for a short length of time yet they also stay in prison because the Prison Tribunal only gives this permission to prisoners that the Managing Board approves of.

It should also be pointed out that instead of granting conditional liberty, leave permits, and any other benefits to prisoners who are entitled to them, the staff, guards and even the Governor himself encourages these prisoners to 'grass' (inform) on their fellow inmates in exchange for benefits they are entitled to. We can cite several specific incidents of this, with names and surnames, and are willing to do so if necessary. It is morally degrading to try and change a prisoner into an informer. This practice clearly violates the aim of prisoner reform forseen in Clause 1. of the Common Prison Law (Ley General Penitenciaria) and Clause 1. of the Prison Rules.

Prisoners on remand, sentenced prisoners, young prisoners, old prisoners, first,

second and third category prisoners are all mixed together. Prisoners aren't even separated according to the type of crime they are sentenced for. This practice violates the following Prison Rules:

Clause 14: *Strict Separation will be observed in prisons where Sentenced, remand prisoners and people under arrest are held.*

Clause 33 c: *Prisoners will be classified according to . . . the type of crime they have been charged with.*

On the other hand, unjust punishments meted out by the Managing Board are all too frequent. Punishment for those who fail to hear the morning Siren, oversleep, and miss roll call as a result are a common occurrence. It's also not unknown for prisoners too ill to get up to be punished. Arbitrary punishment is also common, under the 'mis-use of an authorised object' rule. This practice creates an atmosphere of total insecurity and means you are liable to be punished solely depending on the mood of a jail officer. Punishment usually means at least 3 weekends in isolation where you can't smoke or buy anything from the prison 'co-op' store.

A small section of the prison, called the 'Open Regime', also exists and is restricted to Third Category prisoners, allowing them to leave the prison daily. Although this section is open to 10 people, only 2 inmates use it at present, despite the fact that there are several Third Category Prisoners in the prison, who are therefore denied access to something they are entitled to.

There are also 2 small electric cookers on which coffee can be heated and food left to be cooked. These cookers are bought by and maintained by the prisoners.

Cupboards and Bed Clothes: There are not enough cupboards to go around and many inmates have to make do with putting their clothes on the floor, under a bed or in a suitcase for months on end. The mattresses, pillows, sheets and quilts are all very old and filthy even though everyone knows there are new sheets stored away.

School: The School is tiny (it's size is equivalent to 2 cells). There are 20 students studying UNED Courses (like Open University Courses) at the moment. They all study in a 'classroom' measuring 9 metres (ie. one cell size) without any windows.

Kitchen: The cooks are definitely not professional chefs; but they are prisoners on good terms with the Governor. The head cook, for example, is an ex-brick layer. You can imagine what people think about his cooking.

Co-op Store (Economato): The Co-op store doesn't have many useful things for sale and prices are ridiculously high. Its name (the 'Economato') has become the butt of many jokes.

Water: Little water comes out of the taps and the cells situated in the middle of the gallery frequently receive no running water.

Culture and Sport: The attitude of the Governor, Managing Board and guards towards inmates' cultural pursuits, apart

Permission for UNED (Open University) Students to study in the classroom is refused when the teacher doesn't turn up. More worrying is the recent circular sent to all prisons and signed by the Director General, reminding Governors of an inmate's right to reduce his/her sentence by studying — the only real way to achieve social rehabilitation. This right would, according to the circular, be applied retroactively and therefore take into account any education courses an inmate had taken over the last few years.

The circular is dated February 29, '84 and its reference number is 6.2.8—1,509. That circular is ignored in this prison because the Managing Board doesn't agree with it. They say 'if we put this circular into effect, several inmates would have to be released within a few days' and they go on to say this would 'put people out-

side the prison more at risk'.

The role of prison staff, they say, is to 'keep prisoners in prison for the maximum length of time' and that if they ever agreed to put the circular into effect, then 'the School would be full with people' (!) etc, etc. We believe these comments speak for themselves. The situation is so bad that UNED students recently decided to do their studying in the gallery courtyard, boycotting the School, in protest against the teacher's complicity with the Managing Board by failing to report irregularities committed by the Board to interfere in matters exclusively the responsibility of the teacher. Classes for students hoping to apply for UNED courses are given by fellow inmates without any help from the prison or UNED itself.

The only Sport you are allowed to play — with restrictions — is hand-ball, providing you don't mind paying 315 pesetas (around £1.50) per player for the privilege. We've spent six years trying to get football nets into the prison, without success.

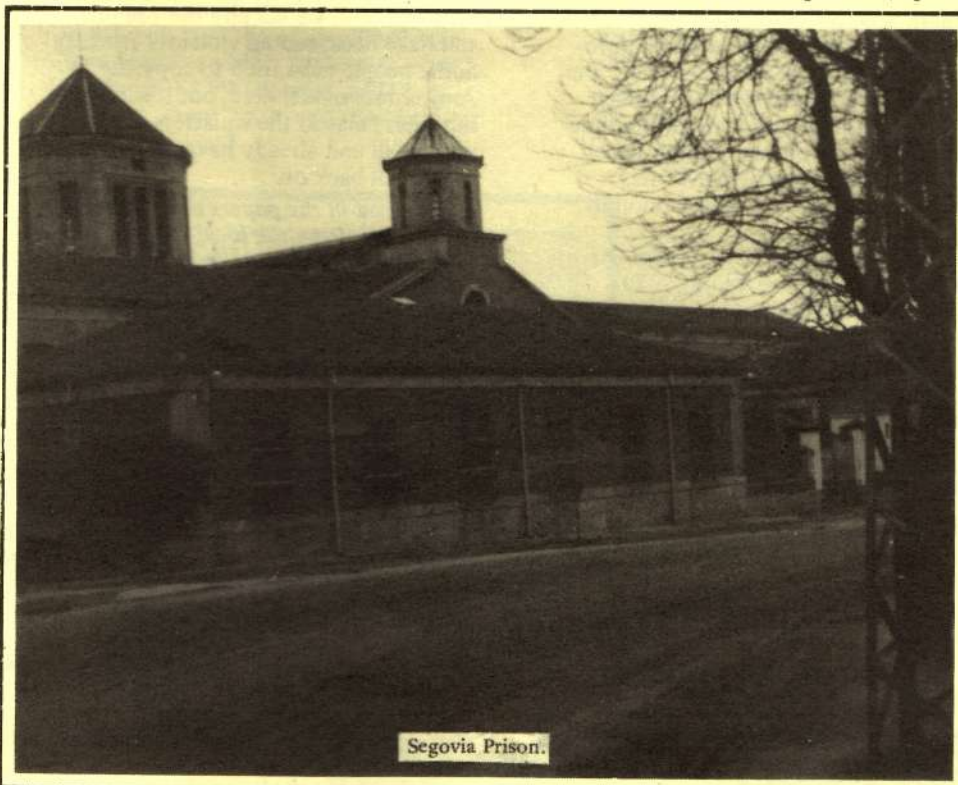
They brought several board games into the prison last September, during a public holiday. You had to ask the guards for permission every time you wanted to play a game and return the board to the guard on duty when you had finished the game. Despite these precautions, boards soon disappeared — it later turned out that a guard had taken them home for his children!

Health and Hygiene: The prison is covered in filth, which isn't surprising when you realise that they only give us 2 bottles of disinfectant, and one packet of detergent to clean a whole gallery. . . for a week!

The dining room — as mentioned above — is a real mess, full of shit and with one bucket for a dustbin. Every time we remove the bucket and put it in the court yard — it's presence in the dining room constitutes a health hazard, especially in the summer when it's surrounded by mosquitoes — the prison administration have ordered us to take it back to the dining room.

The showers are really filthy too. There are no tiles on the walls (again for 'security reasons') and all the paint on the walls has been washed off with moss growing in its place, in several corners.

It's really amazing that no typhus epidemic has broken out yet (this will come eventually, especially in the summer).



Segovia Prison.

SUBSTRUCTURE

Showers: There are 3 showers on the first gallery heated by a 50 litre capacity electric heater. There are 65 inmates on this gallery and the heater is completely useless. The hot water runs out after 3-4 people have taken a shower.

Dining Room: The dining room is a cave and it is a joke to think it was meant to be anything else. You can't fit more than 25 chairs in the room, yet there are 65 inmates on this gallery alone. The majority of prisoners eat in their cells.

from the School activities already mentioned above, is one of total boycott, this is justified under the excuse of 'prison security'. In fact they deliberately block all access to culture so that they can continue acting in a completely arbitrary way. For example, radio-cassette machines are allowed by the Director General of Prison Institutions for all those who are studying, yet the Governor of this prison forbids us from plugging in these same machines, even though he knows they can't operate properly on batteries.

INTERVIEW WITH GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE REGIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE CNT-AIT IN CATALONIA

Although he didn't know much about me he was happy to answer as many of the questions I could put to him, though even then there were plenty left over which I'd like to ask, but I thought that three hours was long enough. He was also very busy, constantly shouting down a (red & black) telephone: a hotel room had to be booked for Frederica Montseny, someone had to be sent to open a meeting hall, an affiliate from Madrid who was just out of prison had to be helped. We managed though. The text, though condensed, is approved by him.

MT: What is the CNT-AIT doing now in Catalonia?

GS: We've got two premises, which Franco's vertical unions took over from us after the war, occupied (squatted), one in Badalona and the other in Igualada. We also have other buildings belonging to the historical patrimony occupied. One each in Terrassa, Manresa and Rubi, and two in Sabadell. Also in March this year we organised a series of meetings and debates over a two week period in Barcelona to which 3-4,000 people went. 1,500 came to the first one alone when Frederica Montseny spoke.

In April we organised cultural weeks in Badalona, Monistrol, Prat, Hospitalet Santa Coloma and Barcelona.

For May Day we held a meeting and a demonstration in a civic centre in North West Barcelona, the Cotxeres de Sants. 5,000 people came and the theme was a 'Century of the State Against the Workers - 1886-1985, referring to the anniversary of the rigged trial and execution of five Chicago Anarchists last century.

A bit of general information for you: the present Comite Regional consists of 14 county federations (Catalonia is divided into *comarques*, small counties) 17 local federations and 60 union branches. Our would-be rivals, the 'CNT de Catalunya' (NB a strangely lucrative 'split' from the CNT-AIT, examined in a two part article The 'CNT-C' in the fortnightly *Black Flag* newsbulletin) have got, you might be interested to know, exactly one federation and one set of premises.

Our main concern at the moment here is to recover the workers inheritance. The authorities agree on paper that the distribution of the historical possessions of the organisations which had their premises seized by Franco had been unfair to the CNT-AIT, but they refuse to hand our heritage over because they claim there are 'two CNTs' even though according to the constitution no split from a given organisation can use that organisation's initials, as has the 'CNT de Catalunya'. There's another problem too: in order to qualify for the return of the assets, every union has to have at least 15% representation in the factory committees (NB committees of union members who negotiate with the boss on behalf of the workers. MT). If we participated in the committees we'd actually have rather more than 15%, but we refuse to have anything to do with them: they're a Francoist invention and opposed to worker's interests - they make real worker's control impossible.

But the authorities use our abstention as another excuse for not returning the legacy we lost.

MT: Would you say that the CNT-AIT has more influence in Catalonia than in

other parts of Spain?

GS: Ouf! Easily. ... 40% of CNT-AIT membership is in Catalonia. In Catalonia we have most influence in the following sectors: The SEAT car factories; mining in Sallent, Suria, Berga and Balsaren; sanitation; catering; and recently, with a lot of people coming over to us over the last few weeks, in the textile industry.

MT: How do you see the future of the CNT-AIT in Catalonia?

GS: Well, we're getting back on our feet. The period of the split, in 1979, was confusing but now we've reopened branches in all the areas which went over to the split; also, lots of new branches are being opened outside Barcelona. In 1986 we think we'll have around 10,000 affiliates (we currently have 3,500). The situation in Catalonia what you might call the social perspective, is now absolutely ideal for our ideas and our proposals. 2 weeks ago we got 30 new affiliates working for RENFE (Spanish railways), who came over to us from the CCOO (Communist union) and that kind of transfer from the other unions is happening more and more frequently, as people see that neither the UGT socialist union) or the CCOO can help them in the present crisis. Up in Bilbao and Gijon (the Basque area of

government, the police. If that sounds far-fetched, read the Scala dossier in the January 1980 issue of the independent Catalan magazine *Canigo* among other sources, MT.) That brought a lot of pressure on the CNT and a lot of police harassment. Also around the same time, the police began a campaign directed exclusively against our organisation.

Every six months, almost to the day, they would round up a few of the CNT-AIT members at random on a trumped up excuse and put them in jail. Everyone in this room has been in jail. They'd all be let off, but not before spending up to a year in jail on remand. That frightened a lot of people off.

MT: I can imagine. So, at any rate, you feel optimistic about the CNT's future in Catalonia?

GS: Oh yes, definitely. Workers are now becoming aware that PSOE's aims (the PSOE is the Spanish socialist party, now in power) are to achieve the complete bureaucratisation of the unions. ...

MT: As has happened in England.

GS: Exactly. We offer the only alternative to that situation.

MT: What connection does the CNT-AIT have with other libertarian groups, say squatters, if any?

GS: Well squatting a place to live is very

meetings in March this year those two Athenaeums not only boycotted them, but organised their own meetings on exactly the same subjects and at exactly the same times. Nonetheless more people from those same Athenaeums came to our meetings than went to the ones set up by the CNT de Catalunya factions in those Athenaeums.

MT: You say Gracia is on the side of the CNT de Catalunya. That was the Athenaeum which gave support to the squatters.

GS: Quite. Going back to the squatters, that's another problem; it's not only that they're not a serious movement, it's that, well-meaning though they are, they're being manipulated a bit, in my opinion, by the CNT de Catalunya.

MT: I've talked to quite a lot of people - ordinary people, not people born with silver spoons in their mouths - about the CNT; it's a subject I always bring up if the conversation gets around to politics. I almost always get the same reaction: 'Well, they've got some interesting ideas, but they're hispaniolist, they're anti-Catalan'. I remind them that if the CNT's ideas about devolution were put into practice they'd make Jordi Pujol (the president of Catalonia's autonomous government) look like a died-in-the-wool centralist. They point out to me that all the CNT propaganda on the walls is in Castilian and cite that as proof for their opinion. And it's true, you are the only political organisation in Catalonia, apart from the far right, who don't print in Catalan or at least in both languages. Why's that?

GS: Here we are very clear about the language question. We are internationalists, and here in Catalonia although a lot of people speak Catalan, everybody, without exception, speaks Castilian. If more people spoke English we'd print in English, and so on. What we really want to promote is Esperanto. That is our ideal as regards the language question. Many affiliates here have learnt Esperanto.

MT: So you print in Castilian because it's more international than Catalan?

GS: That's right.

MT: One last question: what kind of help would you most appreciate from the British anarchist movement?

GS: Books and magazines are always welcome, indeed communication of any kind. But what we really want, to put it bluntly, is money. Large numbers of our militants are unemployed - and that's a big problem as regards financing the CNT! In fact it's SOS - please write that down - SOS! We need money badly for prisoners' aid above all. There are currently about 40 anarchists in jail. We ask for a monthly contribution from affiliates of 200 pesetas of which 25 go to the prisoners' aid committee. Every month, we send 4,000 pesetas to each prisoner. Money also goes towards the *Soli* (*Solidaridad Obrera*, the Comite Regional's paper), and to the CNT in exile, in Toulouse. To prepare for May Day we've started selling a kind of CNT bond, at 500 pesetas each, an idea which works quite well.

MT: It's been a long interview. Thank you very much indeed.

GS: Not at all. ...



Northern Spain), where there's been all the trouble due to the reconversion programme, the CNT-AIT's been getting lots of new members from the UGT, which kow-tows to the government all the time. Oh yes, one piece of information which is very important: the CNT-AIT has more branches than any other union in Spain, 290 in all.

Our main work now is to recover the number of affiliates we had in 1979. Then we had 150,000.

MT: That's something I've been meaning to ask you: why did the number of affiliates decrease so rapidly and in such a relatively short time? From 150,000 to 3,500?

SG: Fear. First there was the Scala case (NB. in which five CNT-AIT members were accused of firebombing a famous Barcelona nightclub, an accusation which has not only now been proved false, but which was made by the very people who in fact had organised the bombing: the

difficult here. We occupy our premises and have been evicted violently recently! Some people have tried to copy the Amsterdam model here, but it's not the same here alas so the squatters remain very small and already have a place to live to fall back on.

MT: I read in the papers that the squats got support from the local Libertarian Athenaeum. What are the Libertarian Athenaeums and what connections do you have with them?

GS: They're libertarian centres/meeting places. After Franco died, around those years, there were 37. Now there are only three. They claim to be independent, but in fact we can prove that two of them have contacts with the CNT de Catalunya.

MT: There's one near where I live in Poble Sec.

GS: Poble Sec is with us. But the other two, in Gracia and Sant Adria, have people in them who were expelled from the CNT-AIT. When we organised our

said, while not being the most important issue for the CNT, it's one that has affected their acceptance here in recent years and in my opinion needs to be discussed more. But more on that in a later article.

I'd never spent so long in the CNT-AIT AIT offices before, and got an idea of both the atmosphere and the scope of their activity, just from sitting there. I think anyone would have got the same impression: that this was a *serious* organisation; not that they all walk around like they've just lost a sixpence and found a half-penny, far from it, but serious inasmuch as what they do is practical and on the whole successful (even with their relatively small membership, no boss in Catalonia likes to lock horns with the CNT); it is also, given the obstacles, police pressure and top level interference, something extraordinary in Europe. A horizontal union run with no paid officials, bureaucrats

(in fact five people have just been jailed for changing the signs in the main railway station from Spanish to Catalan - and at the protest demonstration later police kicked down stalls selling books in Catalan and beat up onlookers) the CNT seems to be less than clear. Many affiliates took a different line from that of the secretary, saying for example that there was no need to speak Spanish in Catalonia (I speak only Catalan and that was what prompted the comment). But on the other hand a Catalan-speaking friend told me of an argument he had with a CNT affiliate who, despite the fact that Catalan was his first language too and would therefore have actually been easier to speak to my friend in, insisted on talking Spanish, presumably for 'internationalist' reasons. The language question is by no means divisive, but the CNT clearly aren't unanimous about it. As I

Above I've given the Secretary's answers just as he gave them. This doesn't mean, and he would be the first to stress the point, that they're gospel. In earlier conversations, other CNT affiliates gave different answers to the questions concerning the enormous loss of membership after 1979 and the language question. Briefly, regarding the former they said that an important factor was that a lot of people left because they'd joined for more or less superficial reasons - fashion, disillusion with Catalanism, and so on. Thousands left to join the ecology/health food groups, others went into Yoga and all that, and a lot simply drowned in the wave of *pesotisme* which swept Barcelona for the first time around 1980 (*pesotisme* is a widespread and cynical fuck-everything-and-get-on-with-living attitude). About the language question, which is important in Catalonia

but by and for the members. (I left feeling fairly optimistic).
M.T. May 1985 Barcelona, Spain.



PUIG ANTICH AND THE ILM

Ten years ago, despite an international outcry, Franco had Salvador Puig Antich, member of the Iberian Liberation Movement, executed. Several movements claimed he had died in their cause: the left wing hailed him as 'anti-Francoist', the Catalanists as a 'young Catalan', the libertarians as an 'anarchist'. But what was the ILM exactly?

Left wingers in Barcelona refused to follow the suggestions of the ILM Solidarity Committee that there should be a mass demonstration in support of Puig Antich on the eve of his execution. Instead they contented themselves with placing a wreath on his tomb two days later, praising him as a militant anti-Francoist. On the other hand, the Spanish police had for long written off the ILM as 'common bank-robbers'. The ILM were in fact hunted down by the criminal section of the Spanish police. So were they gangsters or revolutionaries, Puig Antich and his friends?

THE WORKERS MOVEMENT IN BARCELONA

In 1970, three distinct groups established contact and began to set up a small network:

- A certain 'Workers' Group', members of the clandestine (communist) unions who were opposed to 'Stalinist manipulation by their own bureaucrats' and also had no wish to form an authoritarian vanguard in any other left-wing movement.

- A 'Theoretical Group', which published a clandestine pamphlet called the *Worker's Movement in Barcelona* in 1970.

- An Outside Group, based in Toulouse, who reprinted the above mentioned pamphlet in offset. (A 'deluxe' version!) There was a mass strike among the employees of Harry Walker, owner of a steel foundry, in late 1970/early 71. This brought the three groups together and led, after the strike, to the formation of the *Autonomous Workers Groups (AWG)*.

The AWG began by producing (in Toulouse) a series of leaflets, one of them entitled 'Boycott Union Elections' (referring to Franco's artificial unions). This latter cause some split in the AWG because those in the 'Worker's Group' believed that some kind of tactical voting was necessary in those elections. An idea which the 'Theoretical Group' disagreed with. The latter now began to produce and sign their own pamphlets as the Iberian Liberation Movement. In June 72 the ILM declared that it had formed a guerilla group, working in tandem with its own propaganda section. The guerillas called themselves the *Autonomous Combat Groups: ACG*

EXPROPRIATION

On the night of August the 15th, 1972 the ACG broke into a printing materials factory in Toulouse and nicked machinery to the value of 76,000 francs (7,500 quid). This action was interesting because the machinery stolen, discovered by the police on the 9th of September (along with arms caches and bundles of bank-notes), and then returned to its owners, was nicked again on the 13th of Dec. The affair led to the arrest of Salvador Puig Antich, Oriol Sole Sugranyes and Jean Claude Torres. In March 1973 they were all condemned to between 6 and 12 months imprisonment.

Meanwhile in early 73, there was a series of hold-ups in Barcelona. Over a period of a few months thirty of these had been attributed to a mysterious 'Sten-gun band', (robbery totalling 24 Million pesetas). Every banking business got two police guards and the Press concentrated on condemning the 6 savages responsible, while avidly printing their communiqués.

The ACG also involved themselves in more provocative political actions. They fired guns off outside a bank which was housed underneath the Barcelona HQ of the *Brigado-Politico Social* (Franco's Special Branch). They also made mistakes — holding up a bank (Jan 27-'73) which had already been robbed 8 days earlier; and shooting a bank clerk who tried to press the alarm button during a raid on March 2nd of the same year.

Nonetheless, after that month of March, the ILM had to cope with several divisions in its own ranks due to the increasing division between the theorists and the activists. The old 'Theoretical Group' hadn't published anything new for a while, and when the first issue of the new ILM magazine (*C.I.A.*) appeared, it became clear that the Armed Combat Groups had control over most of the areas involved in the production of the magazine: printing, smuggling, false papers, finance. It became clear that the theorists would not defend the actions undertaken by the ACG. A Congress was held in March, which reached no concrete solution to these disagreements. By September, the theorists and the 'military' wing of the ILM had split completely. The 'Guerillas' re-organised themselves by themselves. But on the 29th June a certain incident made some of them vulnerable to the authorities.

After having met Francesc Paituvi and a woman called Pilar in a Barcelona bar, Salvador Puig Antich left that bar with them but left his bag there. By the time he returned, the barman had already phoned the police. The latter thus found: a pistol, a telegram from Toulouse, 85,000 pesetas, a PO box number, a rent book, and (the jackpot)

SALVADOR PUIG ANTICH



a bundle of false papers containing photographs of certain members of the ACG. One of the police recognised one of these members as being a member of his own family! However the recognised man, Josep Pons Llobet, was arrested three months later, and in different circumstances.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END

Once again, an ACG member staged a deliberately provocative raid. To 'celebrate' a bank raid done on September 15-1972 in Bellver de Cerdanya (Spain) he returned there with two companions and robbed the same bank on September 15-1973. They got away with 580,000 pesetas, but the alarm system had been updated and the police were on the scene fast. Two of the gang, including Josep Pons Llobet, were arrested on the 17th. The third, Jordi Sole, escaped to Belgium.

On the 18th, the police arrested Pons Llobet's companion, Maria Fernandez. Over the next four days they arrested other ACG members; one of them, Santiago Amigo, who was ill and more susceptible to interrogation, confessed that he had an important rendezvous with two other ACG members on the 25th. The police arrested those two, Francesc Paituvi and Salvador Puig Antich, but not until two scuffles had taken place. After the first, in which shots were fired, police disarmed them, but Salvador Antich produced a second gun and there was more fighting: Deputy Inspector Anguas Barragan was mortally wounded. Puig Antich, who was wounded in the head and shoulder-blade, went to hospital.

The Inspector's death remains a mystery. The doctors in the hospital to which he was rushed claim he was hit five times by bullets. The police immediately took the corpse for a summary post mortem in a local station, and declared that the Inspector had been shot only three times and that all the bullets were from Puig Antich's gun. Antich was sentenced to death, charged with the bank raid on March 2nd, in which the clerk had been shot, and with the murder of the police inspector.

SOLIDARITY AND REPRESSION

Only in Barcelona, not anywhere else in the Spanish State, was a solidarity committee for the ILM prisoners set up. The members of the committee consisted largely of ILM 'survivors' and the other libertarian groups were suspicious of it, seeing it as an attempt by the ILM simply to recruit new members and organise new actions. Most anarchists in Spain were involved in rebuilding the CNT, and they had no wish to share the publicity of the ILM solidarity committee. While the committee was finding it so difficult to mobilise support, ETA carried out their successful assassination attempt on Franco's right hand man, Admiral Carrero Blanco. That finished any chances Puig Antich might have had of having his death sentence commuted. There were demonstrations all over Catalonia for his release, graffiti was plastered over Francoist war memorials, banks and police stations, and two members of the ILM were arrested in Paris trying to hijack an *Iberia* plane. Meanwhile heads of State and various organisations around the world protested his imminent execution. Franco was enraged by Blanco's death, however, and gave the order on the first of March, at ten O'clock in the evening, Puig Antich was garrotted the next day.

Julien Dreux

(adapted and translated from *AGORA* magazine)

POSTSCRIPT: WAS THE ILM ANARCHIST?

Puig Antich ended his prison letters: 'Salud y Anarquia' and all ILM tracts confirmed that the group believed in 'libertarian communism'. Certainly the police had no doubts. They might have called the ILM 'bank-robbers' when they were chasing them, but when they were caught they became 'a major anarchist urban guerilla movement' and elsewhere, a 'Catalan anarchist group'. While I was translating the above I became aware that the writer clearly thought of the ILM as a sort of dilettante organisation, an opinion shared by some CNTers. In fact Puig Antich belonged to a new radical wave which was surfacing in Barcelona, and which was trying to do without the more traditional organisations. The writer of the above doesn't point out that Puig Antich was active as a Catalanist as well as an Anarchist — in fact he combined the two beliefs, believing that a loose federation allowing full cultural independence to all the 'nations' within Spain, was the answer. In this he followed Kropotkin and also the ideas of Pi Margall. Just as ETA had combined Basque nationalism with Marxism, so Puig Antich wished to combine Catalan nationalism with Anarchism. A cousin of mine was in jail with Puig Antich the weeks before he was garrotted. Puig Antich taught him Catalan there... my friend told me, when I spoke to him in 1978, that Puig Antich was extraordinarily brave, in that he never allowed the authorities the pleasure of seeing him in despair, on the contrary... He was serious about his beliefs. No dilettanteism there...

The Translator.



1985



MAY DAY

Cases of crab louse, venereal disease, tuberculosis etc. have occurred without isolating those infected, therefore increasing the risks of contamination.

The responsibility for the health of the prisoners clearly lies at the feet of the prison doctor yet — like the teacher — he is manipulated by the dictates of the Governors and fails to properly carry out his duties, in violation of clause 288 of the Prison Rules. He doesn't even properly examine prisoners entering the prison. He just asks them if they are well or not and then lets them in, putting everyone's health at risk. Things have got so bad that now the prison administration decides when a sick prisoner should stop taking the special diets prescribed by the doctor.

Given the unhealthy conditions described above, it's no surprise to find cells plagued with bugs, especially in summer, when the bites of these parasites keep you awake all night and give you a rash all over your body.

Other matters: Visitor's booths have no chairs available for inmates (although there are chairs available on the visitor's side of the booth) and you have to shout to be understood, as it's impossible to hear what's being said with several visits going on at the same time. (We can verify this, after visiting there! Editors.)

There's a room allocated for more intimate visits (called 'vis a vis') but there are no windows in this room and it's as filthy as the rest of the building. During these visits, families and inmates alike are forced to suffer humiliating strip searches. Refusal to be stripped

results in no visits and can be punishable by isolation.

Relatives are subject to strip searches for 'security reasons' in violation of Clause 76, part 9 of the Prison Rules which says that searches 'will be carried out with regard to the dignity of the person being searched'. There's a metal detector and X-ray machine available but they're never used and we can only conclude from this that searches are carried out so as to cause maximum offence.

Irregularities with mail happen all the time. Letters have been opened, read and resealed, leaving traces of glue around the envelope flaps, on many occasions. On other occasions, the interference with mail is even more obvious. One example is the case of an inmate who was handed a letter by the Teacher, already opened. When the inmate asked why the letter had been opened he was told that the Governor of the prison had ordered the letter to be censored before being passed on to him. The inmate pointed out that it was illegal to censor letters and the Teacher admitted this. Since then the Teacher has refused to censor letters, although it still goes on today. We can give names and surnames here if necessary. On another occasion, an inmate saw a guard put a letter in his pocket with the intention of opening it, reading it and resealing it, to then pass it on to the inmate or making it 'disappear'. This was all reported to the Governor.

Letters written by inmates and addressed to inmates must not be sealed as they are read by the Governor in accordance

with Prison Rules. However, these letters are often also read by any guard who happens to be bored or just wants something to do. This violates a recent circular sent to all prisons informing those involved that the censoring of mail, letters between inmates, is the sole responsibility of the Governor of the prison.

Newspapers and magazines freely available outside the prison have been censored on several occasions. This does not mean just political or union literature but includes magazines like *Tiempo* (*The Times*) which has been forbidden in the past. For example, one issue of this magazine contained a report on the death of Agustin Rueda Sierra, an anarchist who was imprisoned in Carabanchel. This happened only six or seven months ago. This is also illegal, violating the General Prison Rules and Prison Rules (Clauses 58 and 179 respectively).

We have been without a messenger (who runs errands etc.) for three months now. He's responsible for picking up our mail from the post box in town. This duty is therefore being carried out by the messenger from the Re-habilitation of Alcoholics Annex (part of the prison). He brings our letters and parcels very irregularly, and any food we receive through the post goes rotten before we get it. The registration of parcels is done without inmates being present, allowing parcels to go astray or encouraging guards to play tricks on the inmates. For example, one inmate received a parcel with a saw blade in it, planted there by a guard who wanted to

frame him. A portion of 'hashish' was also put in one parcel. The guards quite obviously wanted to catch inmates with these things in their possession and then punish them accordingly.

Conclusion: Well, that's more or less the situation in Segovia prison in 1984/'85; although there's enough happening here to enable you to write a book or two!

The above was written by inmates of Segovia Prison.



SABATE

SABATE: GUERRILLA EXTRAORDINARY by Antonio Tellez.

Originally published by Rupert Hart Davis (translated by Stuart Christie in HMP Brixton during the 18 months Angry Brigade trial), and then by Cienfuegos, and out of print for some years, Sabate's biography has been republished as a paperback by Elephant Books, the first of a series of Anarchist Pocketbooks, in association with Refract.

Refract are going on to publish the biography of Servino di Giovanni, by Osvaldo Bayer — the story of the Argentine resistance between 1923 and 1931 (which is reflected in the film: *Rebellion in Patagonia*, a video of this may be available this year).

This unabridged paperback is compact and a delight to handle and we look forward to more under the Elephant imprint.

The book is £2.95 plus postage, and is available from *Black Flag* or usual bookshops and distributors, or BM/Refract London WC1, or from BM/Elephant London WC1V3XX.

THE RESISTANCE, & NOW Thoughts after Sabate.

'Everyone' knows all about the Spanish civil war; — like the International Brigade was the greatest army that has existed since Connolly grouped 10,000 Irishmen in the Dublin Post Office and they all held out to the last and lived to tell the tale in every pub in the English-speaking world, or either the great military leader George Orwell said this, or else seven million priests were killed defending the faith against barbarous hordes. . . . When one tries to say otherwise one is met not by any facts — nothing in this realm belongs to fact — but by yawns, anyway, that was fifty years ago.

From the Anarchist point of view it is obviously of importance to know that prior to 1936 an important section of the Spanish working class organised on anarcho-syndicalist lines, put free communism into practice in many areas, struggled against the State with almost impossible odds loaded against them, and also faced many problems such as we have today, not the least of which was a struggle within the Libertarian movement between activism and quietism, and between revolutionism and populism.

In 1936 all these conflicts came out, as well as the essential truths as to whether anarchism was possible, whether workers could really control their own factories, and also the conflict between workers who wanted revolution, and those who took advantage of the situation to slip into positions of power.

While scholars have dealt endlessly with the Spanish war, and occasionally even with the revolution, almost none have dealt with the resistance that came after.

Asked last year for books in English about post-war Resistance, I could only think of two *Sabate: Guerrilla Extraordinary* by Antonio Tellez, and *Franco's Prisoner* by Miguel Garcia — both of which we had a hand in and both of which then were out of print! The trots with their grip on academia, have a total blank on the Resistance period, and the quietist libertarians follow them: V. Richards, author of *Lessons of the Spanish Revolution* reviewing *Franco's Prisoner* in *Freedom* said: 'Though it is quite clear that these activities would



not bring down the regime, that there was some kind of resistance to Franco's police State must have been a source of encouragement to some of its enemies, though it is equally clear that very few were inspired to take to the mountains. The history of the Spanish revolutionary movement does in fact show that the kind of resistance presented to successive regimes was precisely what inspired the workers to have the courage to organise against genocidal repression which finally reached the point of having to be restrained for fear of not leaving enough workers to carry on the country.

When Durruti was organising an incredible frontal attack on the dictatorship of Primo de Rivera (and Largo Caballero entered the government so as to gain an advantage for the socialist UGT over the CNT), it was the CNT that got the support of the majority of the workers, not the UGT, and they were prepared to struggle for their union

in a way no orthodox trade unionists ever did for the whole period of dominant European fascism. This comes out very clearly in the film, *The Short Summer of Anarchy* — a documentary on the life of Durruti, the English version of which should be available for showing soon.

The Sabate Brothers

There were four Sabate brothers and a sister — the younger brother and the sister took no part in their activities; as they were children, indeed Manuel, who did take part, was only nine when the civil war began — Francisco ('el Quico') was the best known; but Jose was a good fighter too (a friend of Miguel Garcia by the way). Francisco succeeded in the title of Public Enemy No. 1 for the fascist regime.

Sabate, or Sabater (whether you prefer the Catalan or Castilian version) became a legendary lone fighter; but there were a great deal more, some surviving until the last few years and some still around.

But also, during the civil war many libertarians were quietly abandoning the revolutionary struggle, while taking part in the war, and slipping gradually into the various echelons of government. For years a militant working class had prevented a bureaucracy growing up in the CNT, their own movement; but individual militants were gradually being incorporated into the government bureaucracy. The movement, which had grown up on individual responsibility and frequent congresses, found itself faced with entry into the government by people not elected by them as delegates, entering by invitation of the defeated Generalitat of Catalonia in the first place, and gaining acceptance only by a personality cult or 'star system', never seen before as a threat.

While this was taking place, people like Sabate, the Libertarian Youth in particular, were fighting back not only at the fascist enemy but the rising dictatorship within the anti-Fascist ranks. This represented the one last hope of the Spanish revolutionaries during the war, and so it did in the period of repression afterwards.

People like Sabate — the whole of the Resistance fighters, indeed — came into their own with the relentless struggle against the Franco conquest. Miguel Garcia tells how they flooded Spain with escaping prisoners and refugees, in order to compromise the regime no less than for its own sake. Sabate concentrated on the urban military struggle, which was the only way of getting the grip of the hangman off the workers' collar (sometimes not metaphorically either), and Tellez, in telling the story, explains why it was that neither repression nor the conspiracy of silence could wipe out all memory of Anarchism.

But what helped to kill off the Resistance was the quietist conquest of the organisation, treasuring and invoking memories of the Revolution and the deeds of the civil war and of the former organisation. They determined not to enter into illegality afterwards, and try appealing to a non-existent international conscience to change the regime in Spain, as a reward for their carrying on an illegal resistance in France during the war when it was legal — by international Law, if more perilous — to do so! That was what was challenged by Sabate, Faceras and all the other fighters, and it was that which occasioned the real rift in the CNT to which all these adhered to their deaths.

Had the Spanish anarcho-syndicalist movement only considered the implications of both traditions at the time. Had it realised that the traditional revolutionary anarchism exemplified by groups like the International First of May was what built the pool in which the labour organisation could swim. There would never have been the present system, where the movement has been penetrated and up for grabs by people who would never have dared enter a CNT hall in the old days — whether nats, trots or Catholic Action.

The blame lies firmly in the 'official' organisation of the post-Franco Exile period, moulded as it was not by the fighting CNT of pre-war or the revolution but by the compromises made in the civil war and necessitated by the exile movement existence. When, under the nomenclature of the 'Libertarian Movement' it was neither fighting nor an industrial force, but a shaky compromise keeping together activists and quietists and politicians. This was the real split in the Spanish movement and what prevented it getting off the mark in the post-Franco period with a working class which had faced the holocaust, but was ready to respond with activism — just as the French working class responded to acts of mass terror by the State after the fall of the Paris Commune with individual terrorism — as it was then called — which led to the great period of revolutionary syndicalism as confidence was restored.

The sad price paid by the Organisation for its compromises with the State, and the bows to the French police by attacking Sabate when he died, is the present condition of the Spanish movement, with divisions and splits amounting to separate CNTs but not offering a clear-cut division between revolutionary activism and quietism but enabling reformism and political infiltration to flourish; the 'renewers' having started by criticising the reformists and then becoming more reformist themselves.

Albert Meltzer.

JAPAN - DEATH SENTENCE FOR ACTIVISTS

URGENT APPEAL TO THE COMRADES AND FRIENDS ALL OVER THE WORLD FIGHT WITH THE EAST ASIAN JAPAN ARMED FRONT ACTIVISTS WHO HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH AND OTHER HEAVY PENALTIES! FREE THE EAST ASIAN ANTI-JAPAN ARMED FRONT MEMBERS!

Dear comrades and friends all over the world,

We send you this appeal from Japan. This appeal is urgent.

Because of their struggles against Japanese imperialism, there are several activists in jail now. They are the members of the East Asian Anti-Japan Armed Front.

It was about ten years ago when EAAJAF activists attacked some centres of Japanese imperialism. They were arrested in 1975, and now the establishment is taking revenge on them. EAAJAF members were sentenced to death, life imprisonment, and other heavy penalties for attempted murder of Emperor Hirohito, who is the head of Japanese imperialism.

Hirohito was the supreme commander of the Japanese imperialist army which massacred millions of Asian people, and he has the heaviest responsibility for the Second World War. If he was in an Asian people's court, he would be sentenced to death. For that reason, EAAJAF activists chose Hirohito for the target to attack. For Japanese imperialists, that action was too dreadful. That is why they demand a capital punishment and other penalties.

EAAJAF activists also blew up the enterprises of Japanese imperialism like Mitsubishi and Mitsui continuously. Those enterprises made their fortune from the lives, now dead bodies of Asian people. And they still continue to suck the blood of the people and invade other Asian countries. But Japanese imperialists fear attacks to those 'enterprises', and they can't stand by. This is the other reason why they demand a death penalty. These are the activists who are sentenced:

Masashi Daidoji	Death
Toshiaki Kataoka	Death
Yoshimasa Kurokawa	Life in jail.
Hisaichi Ugazin	18 years in jail.
Mariko Arai	8 years in jail.

Also one innocent man was arrested in

1976 on the suspicion of blowing up the Hokkaido Prefectural Hall. At his trial, he made a statement to support the view of EAAJAF. Hokkaido is the colonial name of the Ainu people's land. Though Japanese imperialists occupied the Ainu's land and claimed that land belonged to Japan, the Ainu people still insist that is their land. The attack to the Hokkaido Prefectural Hall means the attack to one of the centres of Japanese imperialism. For Japanese imperialists, that action was too much. And they can't stand anyone who supports the EAAJAF's view even if he is innocent.

This is the sentence he got:
Katsuhisa Ohmori **Death.**

Comrades and friends! We send you this appeal from Japan. This appeal is urgent.

We fight for breaking any form of the imperialism all over the world. We oppose any kind of invasion, control, oppression, plunder and exploitation of people in the world. Though they are still in jail, the EAAJAF activists continue their struggles. Their hearts always beat with the people's hearts even while they are caught in prison.

Comrades and friends! Fight with the EAAJAF activists until the day we beat all our enemies.

Comrades and friends! Struggle to free the EAAJAF activists. There have already been big protests to Japanese embassies and attacks on Japanese enterprises in different countries. Several members of the EAAJAF were set free by the hi-jack struggles done by comrades and friends; and we need more support.

We must hurry up for this struggle, and we ask your support and actions to set the activists free (including the one who is innocent).

Masashi Daidoji
Toshiaki Kataoka
Yoshimasa Kurokawa
Hisaichi Ugazin
Mariko Arai
Katsuhisa Ohmori

Please remember their names and write them on the bottom of your hearts.

1985 May 19th
'5.19 Rally'

May 19 is the day, ten years ago when the activists were arrested.

SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE EXCLUDED FROM AMNESTY IN POLAND.

Robert CHECHLACZ, 20 years old.
Sentence: 25 years imprisonment.
Thomasz LUPANOV, 20 years old.
Sentence: 13 years imprisonment.

Just after the proclamation of State of War in Poland, Robert and Tomek, both aged 18 and doing an apprenticeship in Warsaw suburbs, tried to organise an armed resistance to the dictatorship.

The emotion of the first days of this war, the bloody fights in the Silesian mines, the confusion about information, made them believe that an insurrection was about to happen soon: as the very popular slogan said: 'Winter is yours, spring will be ours'.

They formed into a clandestine group, distributed tracts and disarmed two soldiers. Their intention was to obtain some weapons weapons to set free the members of Solidarnosc kept in Bialoleka jail.

On the 18th February, 1982, they accidentally wounded a milician, Sergenat Karos, in the attempt of taking away his weapon. Although the authorities declared in a statement issued the following day, that he was out of danger, this man died five days later and it was impossible to determine whether or not it was related to his wounds. The 'Committee for the Respect of Legality' in Poland asks: 'The milician was only wounded. For five days he was treated in the hospital of the Secretary of State, and he was satisfactory. His testimony was recorded on tape. He declared he was contented with the fact that he was able to direct his aim of fire downwards, thus saving his life. Suddenly five days later, he died. What are the exact reasons for his death?' *Praworzadnosc*, legality clandestine pamphlet for Warsaw area, No 3, August 1984.

Arrested on the 4th March 1982, they were tortured during their questioning, Robert and Tomek were condemned on the 8th September 1982, to 25 and 13 years imprisonment by the Military Tribunal of Warsaw. Two other members of the group, Stanislaw Matejczuk and Abbe Zych, have been condemned to 6 years imprisonment.

The imposing of the military dictatorship has brought about a deep resistance movement in Poland, and a strong protest movement in the world. This movement has obtained the liberation of most of the political prisoners. (The Coordination Committee of NSZZ Solidarnosc in France has counted about twenty political prisoners who did not benefit from the amnesty proclaimed in July 1984.)

This amnesty, which made out to determine the end of the period of the State of

SOLIDARTE



TOMASZ LUPANOW



ROBERT CHECHLACZ

War, did not concern Robert and only decreased Tomek's sentence by a year.

We cannot hope for the clemency of the Government. The ones who commanded the sadistic murder of Father Popielusko, amongst other crimes, have decided to 'cleanly' eliminate Robert and Tomek by driving them to suicide, or by destroying them physically.

A movement for their liberation has started in Poland. Together with others, the Committee for the respect of legality has called for their liberation, concluding: 'Let us, and more particularly us, the prisoners of Bialoleka, demand their liberation. Let us remember, they wanted to fight for us.'

The spreading of this solidarity in Poland and abroad is the only hope for Robert and Tomek. This is why we ask all those of good will to demand with us that they should benefit of the status of political prisoner and should be released in accordance with the Amnesty Law.

Robert and Tomek's friends.

A whole information file about Robert and Tomek, as well as postcards, tracts and posters, are available from: *Les Amis de Robert et Tomek*, BP 4, 93301 Aubervilliers Cedex, France. They also give them and their family material and moral aid. All information about this aid is included in the info file which is in the French language.



THE AIT-J & ANARCHO-SYNDICALISM IN JAPAN

The following text is taken from a report given by an AIT-J delegate at the 17th Congress of the International Workers Association in Madrid, last year. The AIT-J. is the Japanese section of the IWA. *Greetings fellow workers!*

First of all, you'll have to forgive us for the long absence of a Japanese section of the IWA. The reason behind this absence is very easy to explain. There simply haven't been any anarcho-syndicalist unions in Japan for 50 years. (ie. 50 years have passed since the last anarcho-syndicalist union disappeared).

We don't intend to give a history of anarcho-syndicalism in Japan here, we just want to make our fellow workers of the IWA aware that there's been no anarcho-syndicalist unions here for a long time. The average age of the majority of the militants in the AIT-J. is between 20 and 40 years old. The vast majority, therefore, have never been in or know what a functioning anarcho-syndicalist union is, although they are well aware of anarcho-syndicalist theory.

Now we are at last ready to rebuild an anarcho-syndicalist union on a national scale. Realistically, we are still small in size and our organisation is still at the first stage of reconstruction. We have many problems to solve. Nevertheless, we go one step further each day, albeit slowly.

By the end of 1983 the AIT-J. was an organisation that lacked a clear organisational base. We believe this was due to our lack of experience (50 years absence) and the special characteristics of Japanese labour organisations, and the workers' movement here. Now we have a small number of aims and principles that should enable us to develop anarcho-syndicalism here. At the same time we feel that we have yet to properly overcome the problem of building an organisational base and would therefore say we are still at a reconstruction stage.

At the moment there are 5 regional or provincial organisations in existence. They are as follows:

Tokyo. . .provincial organisation. Our National Committee is based in this area.
Saitama. . .provincial organisation.
Nagano. . .provincial organisation.
Shikoku. . .provincial organisation
Kansai. . .provincial organisation.

TOKYO

A group of AIT-J. members from Tokyo belong to a broad based union in Kanto which is a region of Japan made up of Tokyo, Saitama, Kanagawa & Chiba provinces. There's an anarcho-syndicalist tendency in this union, but there are also several small Trotskyist groups involved. Several other members of the Tokyo group have organised independent unions (with an anarcho-syndicalist bias) in their work-place. These unions, organised by AIT-J. members, are not yet affiliated to the AIT-J. Tokyo. Another group within the AIT-J. Tokyo is composed of self-

employed workers. eg. shop owners, small workshop owners etc. who have no employees. This latter group is faced with huge difficulties carrying out union activities.

SAITAMA

Saitama province is next to Tokyo province.

AIT-J. members in Saitama belong to a Gakuiro union (a union for night porters who work in municipal schools in the area). This union has an anarcho-syndicalist tendency and a Trotskyist tendency. AIT-J. members in Saitama have also organised a Koshiro union (a union for workers employed by companies who are contracted by the Koshigaya city town hall). This union functions as an anarcho-syndicalist union and practices self-management. It has yet to be affiliated to the AIT-J. The Koshiro union active in Koshigaya's municipal hospital (made up of telephone personnel and cleaners at the hospital) has been in existence for several years and is now running the hospital for the time being, as the boss, contracted by the Town Hall, has disappeared!

NAGANO

The group here isn't involved in union activity yet, but is involved in anti-militarist, anti-nuclear, and third world struggles. It's activities sometimes involve people in the surrounding provinces.

SHIKOKU

This region is made up of 4 provinces. It's difficult to carry out union activity here. Members in one province are current-

ly trying to organise anarcho-syndicalists and anarchists in the other provinces.

KANSAI

This region includes large cities like Osaka, Kyoto, Kobe etc. Kansai region has always enjoyed a large anarchist and anarcho-syndicalist presence. Several groups not affiliated to the AIT-J. are active here. There are as many militants not affiliated here as in Kanto region. This region, paradoxically, was the last to forge links with the AIT-J. Comrades in this region had hoped to organise a union or organisation in each province or town (Osaka, Kyoto etc.) but they came across too many problems and disagreements between the various groups involved. Nevertheless, although they are aware of their differences of opinion, they recently decided to set up an organisation that would take in comrades from all the provinces, thus enabling the AIT-J. to be eligible for membership of the IWA. (The IWA insists that each of its' sections must be composed of at least 5 regional or local groups.



N.B. The AITJ can be contacted through their international Secretariat, c/o Murususha 2f-8 Fujiso, 7-21-3 Nishishinjuku, Shinjuku, TOKYO JAPAN.

BEIRUT

The comfortable bourgeois state of Lebanon, with its highly prosperous go-ahead business class in the cities and its feudal chieftans in the hinterland was a 'model' capitalist state until the 'revolution' came along. We have heard much about this 'revolution' from Arab nationalist apologists — who have denounced as 'Zionist' everyone who asked what it was — but few have taken a good look at it. It's supposed to be 'leftist' but its ideology is that of Reagan's most extreme 'redneck' supporters.

When Israel expelled the Palestinians, they formed an unabsorbed mass in the refugee camps ringing their former country — or rather international camps in which three generations have since been born and raised, totally without support by Arab rulers or 'revolutionaries'. First of all the Trotskyist dominance in the old PLO (or was it Israel's Secret Service posing as that?) threw them against King Hussein's Jordan Army which reduced them as a fighting force, rendering them unable to carry on military warfare against Israel. Then it turned to guerrilla tactics, so-called 'terrorism' but in fact minor national war on a level not recognised as 'normal war' internationally by powers which make their own Laws to suit themselves.

Since then various Arab rulers have tried to use this force (which they deliberately made unabsorbable). Every one of them declares it is against the State of Israel and allows the exploited Palestinians for a few stray missions against Israel or sometimes America, while not one of them does anything for the Palestinians themselves (left to rot in their camps or be massacred there by the Israelis); nor do they do anything but exploit the Palestine fighters, a new generation brought up to fight and not to question.

In the war between Iran and Iraq, the Arab States have turned on themselves and are not above exploiting the aid of the enemy Israel against each other. Khomeini, having brought about what was at one time called a 'revolution' by international Leninism and the leftist 'loyal opposition' to Russia, is launching his own brand of Islamic Fundamentalism throughout Iran, he hopes, which will make his own reactionary dictatorship in the name of religion established.

Fundamentalist Christianity in the USA is doing much the same for Reagan. Both are highly dangerous — more so than ordinary capitalism or State communism — since once people get convinced they are talking in the name of God they are capable of any atrocities including self-destruction, and in these days of the atom bomb anyone who thinks God can put right the world after the last holocaust is a potential enemy of the human race, above all in government.

Within Lebanon itself every community — Christian, Druze, Moslem — Shi'ite or Sunni — has its own militias now — it's own gangs enforcing their own little parish dictatorships. The State has broken up into little States, little pieces, but every little piece is a minor State and every one battenning on the ordinary people — just brandishing a gun and taking all they've got, and that's if they're merciful. Israel and Syria choose their own little fiefdoms among the Lebanese communities, while Iran steps in with its own fundamentalist 'revolution' of Islam that casts a shadow over Iran itself and now threatens to export. Capitalism has indeed been broken up and the Lebanese economy is virtually non-existent. But the people haven't benefited, they've just been divided up or liquidated by one or another of the feudal groups, maintaining their rules by gang warfare.

The hi-jacking of the American airliner has seized world press headlines. It sounds revolutionary and very grandly is proclaimed as anti-imperialist because it's anti-American but against whom are such operations directed? Only against more or less ordinary punters who happen to be on the planes. About as anti-imperialist as beating up Germans in London in 1914 was!

The extreme nationalism of Israel and its own reactionary policies, neither more nor less reactionary than that of its opponents, should not excuse the essential nature of this mis-called terror-

ism which is in effect anti-working class, which has wiped out the working class in Lebanon and seeks to establish the rule of dervishes and chieftans, all with their private hotline to God and all prepared to fight to the last but one.

Arab nationalism has hijacked not just the occasional airliner; it has also attempted the hijacking of the revolutionary cause. The wave of armed protest that swept the world has been penetrated first by Marxist-leninists, and now by Nationalists and their favoured Governments, police and all. They haven't succeeded in overthrowing Zionism, nor converting all Muslims to some mad deviation of their faith; nor halting the USA; nor in furthering the cause of Russian imperialism; nor in making one ounce of betterment for the Arab peoples. But what they have successfully done is to halt the international revolutionary movement and substitute their own fascistic one. For that Allah will reward them.

WONDERFUL WORLD OF OF AUTHORITY:—

The Liberal Institutions.

FAO, OEAO, UNPRO — an official for everybody? What can be very broadly labelled as the Liberal Institutions, agencies and charities concerned with trying to lessen suffering and grief of one sort or another, do some useful work. But the following story from the recent press underlines one of their failings — too many institutions with too many power-hungry, self-seeking, middle-class managers.

Briefly, there is in-fighting between the UN bodies involved in aid to Africa. The Director General of the FAO complained angrily when a Dutch donation to help the hungry of Chad/ and the starving of Chad, was given to the Office of Emergency Operations in Africa. He thought it was the FAO's job. While Mr. Morse, the Director of the OEAO, has demanded that the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation either withdraw from the seven African countries where it has been operating or should be made subordinate to his operation.

They both have a point, in a way — the greater the shortage of food (or whatever) a country has, the greater the surplus of international agencies and charities it will attract. But these agencies and charities are too concerned with their own status and/or particular ideological line to do a little amalgamating and 'rationalisation', so that there is less duplication of each other's efforts to help people who need and are entitled to more responsible effort by the agencies.

Meanwhile, the countries which even the British Press has reported in the last week as grossly violating human rights include Uganda, the Congo, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Egypt, Sierra Leone, Peru, Columbia, Chile, Guatemala, El Salvador, the USSR, Indonesia, Yugoslavia, and Afghanistan etc. — the point of this list of course being for non-anarchists, that whatever the supposed ideology of the Government, the more authoritarian it's outlook, the more it will abuse it's citizens through exploitation, imprisonment, torture and death. Those put off anarchism might care to compare their physical treatment of each other with the way even so-called 'liberal' governments treat their citizens, and especially their 'dissidents'.

Answers to Quiz

1. The news editor of the DAILY MAIL, W.C. Fish, heard some Irish soldiers singing it as they left Boulogne, having picked it up from a touring company in Ireland. He persuaded press magnate Lord Northcliffe to buy the words and music. Northcliffe then pushed it like mad for the glory of England and the circulation of the DAILY MAIL.
2. The Grimaldi family. Joseph Grimaldi, the clown, is buried in Islington, London. Another branch of the same family produced the royalty that manage Monte Carlo.
3. On September 18th 1931 Hitler's niece, Geli Raubal, with whom he had a sado-masochistic relationship in which she may have been an unwilling partner, was found shot dead in suspicious circumstances. Dr Gregor Strasser issued a press statement to the effect that she had committed suicide. A socialist paper claimed she had been

SYNDICALISM REDISCOVERED

The current issue (No.76) of the Socialist Workers' Party theoretical magazine *Socialist Workers Review* contains no less than two articles on syndicalism. The first, in their Labour History section is a rather unimaginative piece on the Industrial Workers of the World, fair up to a point and very superficial, like most Trotskyist-populist writing these days. The only bit is in the tail, where we learn that the Wobblies didn't understand that they must have revolutionary Leadership in order to achieve socialism (sic.), so now you know!

The other rant is in their *What do we mean by . . .* column. Syndicalist ideas we learn to our great surprise 'aren't just an historical curiosity', it appears that the SWP think they are still relevant, and they go on to state what syndicalism is all about (well almost). The first part informs the good Party member (the 'bad' Party member would not bother to read this rubbish) how there are several forms of syndicalism and we learn some very odd things. For example, that European syndicalists looked to transform existing unions into syndicalist ones while their American comrades wanted to build new ones. These people really do know how to rewrite history. In future issues no doubt we will learn that it was Marxists who founded the French CGT and the Spanish CNT?!

The second part of the article goes in for the kill, syndicalism is a revolutionary tendency (thank you very much), but far from fully developed. Trotsky, who else, pinpointed a number of 'serious' flaws in syndicalist theory. First, we just don't understand trade unions. Sectionalism and union structure are not the real problems, class collaboration based on union bureaucracy is a far more fundamental problem instead. Some how the SWP just can't get it into their heads that when it comes to class collaboration and bureaucracy they leave the syndicalists standing. We furthermore learn that our errors stand out clearly when set against Marx and Lenin's ideas. Which are we learn,

achieving political power, we poor sods have no conception of the political role of the vanguard of the working class organised in a revolutionary party. Added to this, 'trade union consciousness is inevitably lower than socialist consciousness because unions by their nature include all workers'. Now it's not for us to say that socialists lack consciousness, but during the recent great coal strike we did not see such signs of high level consciousness from the massed ranks of the Labour Party, many trade unionists showed a far higher level of commitment to the struggle of their fellow workers, than the so-called Party members. Today in South Africa, the trade union movement is to the forefront in the struggle against the Apartheid State.

Like the preceding article on the IWW in the same issue, these well trained parrots of the SWP know only a few lines, it comes as no great surprise to be told that the syndicalists lacked 'a Marxist current, the embryo of a revolutionary party which could connect the struggles of the workers with the political object of taking state power.'

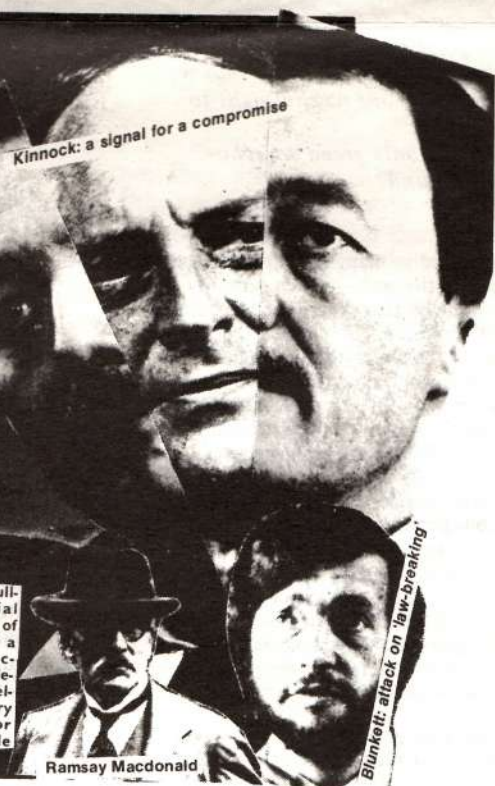
Our question must be why all the attention being given to syndicalism, after all for years the Marxists have told us we were living in the past, our ideas were dated and made obsolete by the events of 1917. Could it be that after the events of the miners strike, the SWP and the other party people now realise that the workers shall not rush to swell their ranks and those few they did attract during the struggle have now left them. The ranks of the anarchist/syndicalist movement were not swelled during the strike or after, but our ideas have gained wide spread respect in stark contrast to the tired and obsolete rantings of the various Marxist sects, who today are now reduced to fighting over such revolutionary issues as the amount of local tax they shall or shall not screw out of the people.

Teach yourself MARXISM leaders sell out

In the long run therefore, there is no alternative but to fight the leadership which has been imposed from below and overthrow the capitalist system as a whole.

The behaviour of the TUC in 1984 has not differed, in essence, from its behaviour in 1926 when it called off the General Strike after nine days and left the miners to go down to defeat alone.

To be an MP or full-time union official (never mind leader of the Labour Party or a union General Secretary) is to enjoy definite privileges in relation to the ordinary working class voter or rank and file trade unionist.



murdered by her uncle. Then Baldur von Schirach amended the press statement, saying that she had died in an accident. Hitler never forgave Gregor Strasser for his indiscretion and their quarrel came to a head a year later splitting the party. When Hitler came to power, Otto Strasser claimed it was a clash of principle, and himself and his brother were the 'Trotsky' of the Nazi movement versus the betrayer of the 'revolution'.

4. He asked the CIA if they had been responsible.
5. Lenny Bruce, the anti-Establishment satirist, was pursued with a ferocious vendetta by the US courts (and denied entry to the UK) allegedly on grounds of 'obscenity' and 'Blasphemy', actually because of his biting social criticism, and died of an overdose of heroin. His friends alleged that the FBI had persuaded the dealer to substitute pure heroin, thus causing his death.

MORAL VALUES

Outrage over our reproduction of the Dutch poster 'Reward for killing the Pope' on the front page, a few issues back was noted from at least one parliamentarian and as a result, a national daily newspaper did a story on it, but this was held over because of other 'pressing needs'.

Not surprisingly that newspaper did not do a follow up story on the recent Papal visit attended by Italian and French fascists, including Jean Marie Le Pen (the French National Front Leader) and Giorgio Almirante (of the Italian neo-fascist MSI). Another 13 fascist parliamentarians also attended. The Pope spoke about moral values and the threat to them. Later the MSI stooge Almirante commented that he and the Pope are on the same path.

FEEDBACK

LETTERS

Dear Comrades,

While I consider the best anarchist paper around to be Black Flag, I do feel that it does fall short on one count. Recently, and justifiably, some anarcho-syndicalists (including myself) have been instrumental in slugging the Green Anarchist, in particular one article arguing that revolution is an unrealistic option. While I consider many of the proponents of 'Green Anarchism' are more interested in ancient Chinese cultures, growing brown rice, fashion, and getting stoned than forming an effective revolutionary movement, on reading Black Flag one would think that class struggle aren't interested in important issues such as the fact that the world is presently facing up to the fact that pretty soon the destruction of Amazonian rainforests will mean that the eco-system can no longer provide enough oxygen for us to survive (that is if we haven't already been poisoned to death by acid rain, given cancer via nuclear radiation or hormones/additives in food). While I agree that there will be the inevitable partial obscuring of these issues (with the wider class struggle at the forefront of our endeavours), we should not surely, totally reject them.

On some issues I do feel that the 'greens' do show the way forward.

For example, what happens when the coal does run out? Surely windmills, solar panels et al are preferable to sending people hundreds of feet underground to mine coal in dingy cramped conditions for much of their lives.

Also, while I consider that many of the punks/animal liberationists spend too little time criticizing the exploitation of homo sapiens, they have at least convinced me that giving up meat was practical both healthwise and production-wise, and on reading more widely on this matter I consider this life change to be extremely sound, if realitively insignificant. While fighting the cause of our oppression we should not forget those that we consider it to be our natural right to exploit.

Or am I the only green anarcho-syndicalist around?

Yours

D.M.H.

We have reported so many real struggles against exploitation of the land — which certainly cannot be done by flower power and peaceful protest — that we are a bit amazed that the conclusion can be drawn that we're not interested in ecological matters. Just because a particular group wants to exploit a single issue, it doesn't become exclusively theirs — in the Anarchist Black Cross we have never presumed that only we were interested in anarchist prisoners, let alone that anyone who wasn't in our particular organisation positively wanted anarchists in prison! Anti-militarism doesn't belong to a particular pacifist organisation and interest in the earth isn't the private property of the Green parties. Nor are those who oppose the Green parties into scorched earth any more than people who don't accept 'non-violence' are ipso facto violent.

The miners weren't fighting to maintain the coal mining as such forever; they were fighting to prevent whole communities from being broken-up and being scattered, or stay put in poverty. As things stand this can only be done by keeping the pits open.

All anarcho-syndicalists are into control of their destiny by the people by definition: this must include fighting against capitalist and Statist abuse of the planet Earth. But it doesn't mean they have to have green in their eyes... (and to love brown rice)...

STUDENT ANARCHISTS

An attempt is being made to co-ordinate student individuals and groups nationally. This is, in part, an attempt to counter-act the present domination of student affairs by the bureaucratic and inept National Organisation of Labour Students (NOLS) and to prevent radical politics in colleges from becoming the sole property of the Socialist Workers' Party and their ilk.

Any anarchist who is a student or will be one next year can write to us via 121 Bookshop, 121 Railton Road, London SE24. We hope to have a meeting early next term to discuss any ideas and try to agree some broad strategy.

Dear Black Flag,

Having gone out to the '1 in 12' Club, sold (for once!) all copies of the latest issue of Black Flag, got pissed watched the Rubella's band play, got me last bus home and totted up the sales money; went forth to the chip shop, scored a bag of animal fat fried chips, then onto the curry house — at which point I had at least 5 games of King Kong on the video machine. Then onto the next curry house and purchased 2 popadoms valued at 20p. Then home to eat a cucumber sandwich and count up how much B.F. money left. NOT £9.60 as required but £9.85, deduct 13p for the stamp and you've got £9.72 — 12p profit still.

All this goes to show selling B.F.'s is a worthwhile occupation!

Yours, one of the Kellingley Sectarrians,

Paul. x x x

PS Enclosed is the latest Knee Deep in Shit which is 30p plus SAE.

THE ENEMY WITHIN

'The Enemy Within' is a public meeting on Civil Liberties organised by the Streatham Action Group. It is being held at 8.15pm on August 7th at Streatham Library, 63 Streatham High Road, SW16. Amongst those participating will be a Nottingham Miner's wife; a sacked Kent miner; Greenham women; Newham 7 Defence Campaign plus questions and answers from the floor. Admission is free.

'When Law becomes injustice, resistance becomes a duty.'

HELP WANTED

If anybody else in Scandinavia is doing Black Cross work can they please contact the Danish Black Cross. The Danish ABC is producing a paper on their work for the Anarcho Syndicalist Organisation's international summer camp from 13-21 July. We will publish details as they come in. All those interested in helping their ABC work to continue should contact: ABC c/o Anarkistisk Bogkafé, Nansensgade 43, 1366 Kbh. K, Denmark.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The people at the Ivar Matlaus Bokkafé are preparing a mail-order list, to reach people outside their Trondhjem base. They also inform us they are now at: Ivar Matlaus Bokkafé, Box 5609 Mollenberg 7001 Trondhjem NOR WAY.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:

New World. No. 3. International News-bulletin of the Northern IWA, Summer /Autumn 1985. Northern section of the IWA London Conference, April 1985 report; Report of the Freie Arbeiter Union, Germany; Aftermath of the Danish General Strike; Blockade of Queensland, class struggle in Australia; New unionism in South Africa: a report on the South African Allied Workers Union; International Conference of Ford Workers, Liverpool; Miners in jail, full list of all imprisoned miners in Britain. 25p from: DAM-IWA, DAM-IWA, 121 Railton Road, SE24 LONDON.

Towards Anarchism 15p. 8page A5 booklet by Errico Malatesta. Published by Drowned Rat Collective, 110 Cheltenham Road, Stokes Crott, BRISTOL. 6.

Fifth Estate Spring 1985 Vol. 20 No. 1 Articles include: Nicaragua & Reagan's Big Lie; Some good anti-porn comment in the Letters Section; Draft (conscript-ion) To Make a Comeback?; Looking Back on the Vietnam War; The Rise of Biotechnology; and more. Some copies available from 121 Bookshop but can write direct to: The Fifth Estate, Box 02548, Detroit MI 48202 USA. A subscription is \$7 (overseas).

Hopeless Tasks \$1.50 from P.O. Box 10469, Seattle WA 98101 USA. Peculiar mixture of fanzine, situationist & animal liberation content.

MORE PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED:

The Antrim Alternative A3 newsheet, 1 page. 5p. Contents: Elections — What's Changed; A Prisoner in Your Own Country; Women's Liberation is Everyone's Fight; Who We Are. Contact: Antrim Alternative, c/o Just Books, 7 Winetavern St. Belfast. This is the second issue.

Troubled Times. Issue 1. New Anarchist broadsheet from Belfast contains articles on anti-apartheid protests in Dublin, squatting in Belfast, Bishopscourt Peace camp and more. Price 10p plus SAE from: c/o Just Books, 7 winetavern Street, Belfast BT1 1JQ

Jail News. Volume 8. No.1. Good informative bulletin published by the Prisoner's Action Group and full of stories of the latest injustices and struggles in Australian prisons. A real eye-opener! Available from: c/o Glebe House, PO Box 215, Glebe 2037 AUSTRALIA

Organise! July 1985. Published by the Central London Direct Action Movement (International Workers' Association). A good 2-page news bulletin covering industrial news in London from an anarcho-syndicalist viewpoint. Recommended! Available from: Central London DAM-IWA, BM Hurricane London wc13xx

Rekyl. No.2 (June 1985). Denmark's best anarchist magazine's still going strong! Lots of fascinating anarchist and anti-authoritarian news and views (all in Danish) plus an Anarchist Black Cross Page. (What a great idea! Eds.). The price is still a mystery but it's available from: c/o Anarkistisk Bogkafé, Nansensgade 43 1366 Kbh. K, DENMARK

Agora. No.27. A very flash (ie. colour) 'libertarian revue' from Toulouse, France. This issue contains news of struggles in South Africa, New Caledonia, Brasil plus a special feature on prisons. A good read. (As far as we can work out!) Price 20 FF. c/o AGORA, BP1214, 31037 Toulouse, Cedex, FRANCE.

Autogestione. No.11. Another good magazine, this time from Rome. A lot of very detailed articles on the British miners' strike, Bolivia, the CNT (1960 - 1984) and industrial news from an anarcho-syndicalist viewpoint. Almost worth learning Italian for! Price 4,500 Lire. Available from: c/o Mario Figliolia, C.P.4004, 00182 ROMA-APPIO, ITALY

Brighton Bomber. No.4. June '85. News on Sunblest Bakery workers' strike, the Evening Anus, good cartoons, and a look at the Brighton Labour Party's tricks. 30p c/o @, Student Union, Falmer House, Sussex University, Brighton.

Wobble. Bulletin of the Rank & File Organising Committee of the Industrial Workers of the World. April/June. News on the hi-jacking of the Haymarket Martyrs centenary, business unionism and a call for support for the British miners in jail and their families. \$2.00 a year from: c/o Box 2824, Station A, Champaign, Illinois. USA 61820.

Pitwatch. June/July. Well produced bulletin giving up-to-date news on the continuing struggle of the miners against the National Coal Board. Produced voluntarily by a group of researchers and journalists. Profits to the National Union of Mineworkers. 25p. Available from: 9 Poland Street, London W1B3DG Tel : 01-633 2588 daytime or 01-881 7139 evenings.

If writing away to order any of the above publications please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

THEIR DICTIONARIES

In a special edition of the Oxford Dictionary for the Russian market, the Oxford University Press's gurus have revised the definitions of such terms as 'capitalism', 'socialism', 'Marxism', 'communism' in Marxist-Leninist terms, rather than in the (also biased) terms used in the Dictionary of Current English and other dictionaries. But we are sure, without access to the special Russian export order, that 'Anarchism' will be treated with an equal bias in both.

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