

BLACK FLAG



Vol. VI

No. 3

1980

25p

Organ of the Anarchist Black Cross

PRESS HYSTERIA: CIENFUEGOS MANUAL

We were complaining in the last issue that "few of the books published by Cienfuegos have been reviewed".

The Sunday Telegraph led the pack in giving our latest book full coverage (though one could hardly call it a fair review). They state that the book 'Towards a Citizens Militia' "is to be brought to the attention of Mr. Whitelaw, Home Secretary, and Sir Michael Havers, Attorney General" and that "police in Scotland have been alerted to the existence of the book". ("Alerted"! After all that money on advertising!)

Into the fray came Mr. Winston Churchill, Conservative MP for Stretford and (despite his ancestry) out of favour with Mrs. Thatcher since revelations of his sex life became public. He was supported by a precious pair, Julian Critchley, Tory MP for Aldershot, and Ian Sproat - a team which might well be suspect as part of a right wing conspiracy to take over the country and which are extremely angry that anyone should publish anything that shows how this could be frustrated. While all three defend the rights of the National Front to march (surrounded by thousands of police) against the threat of the authoritarian left, they call for the police to step in and prevent the rights of the libertarian left to publish.

RUSSIANS

The advertisements for the book - never mind the book itself - made it plain that the public needed to know what to do if the Russians invaded. What would they advise? Make it plain that we won't be going to the Olympics? Cancel the Arsenal's visit to Moscow Dynamos???

Why should this right wing trio be so concerned about the suppression of resistance to the Russians? It might be because in the event of the collapse of any resistance the Russians would choose their quislings as Hitler did his. Hitler did not pick men of the extreme right (unconvincing) unless he had no others; the Russians would not pick those of the extreme left. It would be those who provide an illusion of patriotism - like "the hero of Verdun" (Petain)... like... Winston Churchill? Has that turned over in his mind?

CHRISTIE AGAIN

Other papers, especially Scottish, dashed in - the Daily Record surely taking the oatmeal biscuit with its description of Sanday as the "island of anarchy" - and, of course, one and all

"had a go" at Stuart Christie, cited as publisher. We were reminded that he had served in Spanish and British prison for "anarchist activities" (strange, someone said you couldn't serve time in England for political offences). He was even given the freedom of the air for a brief period to explain that one didn't have to have hidden subsidies to publish anything on the free market... And, needless to say, that pretentious fellow

- Cont. on back page, Col.2.



Assault on Anarchists by Spanish police.

RAF PRISONERS DESCRIBE ATTACK

On January 23rd 1980 an attack took place on five women political prisoners held in a West German isolation prison, Luebeck near Hamburg, described here by one of the five prisoners who are: Annerose Reiche, Inge Hochstein, Christine Kuby, Krista Eckes - members of The Red Army Fraction.

"Shortly after noon we were tricked into leaving our cells; told to come into the hallway as Hensch (the security officer responsible for us) wanted to tell us something. We were hardly in the hallway when our cell doors were shut and bolted behind us.

"As we were in the hallway a Rollkommando (Mufti Squad) which had previously been hidden suddenly emerged. We were immediately grabbed by our hair, our heads, arms twisted, dragged along and thrown into cells. At the same

- Cont. on back page, Col.1.

POLICE ASSAULT— STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

At last the police are getting the right idea when it comes to beating people up.

A few weeks back officers of the West Mercia police assaulted one of their own colleagues - a police detective from Merseyside who was involved in an investigation in the Worcester area. Detective Constable Brian Vasey, attached to Number 1 Regional Crime Squad at Liverpool, was in Worcester investigating a fraud

and as a matter of courtesy 'phoned West Mercia police to tell them what he was doing - he even suggested that he meet them for a drink in the local police club when the job was finished. However, the West Mercia police had different ideas and as Vasey was leaving a pub after doing an interview, they challenged him as to his credentials and he was then taken to Worcester police station where he was assaulted.

FALL IN CRIME

Worcester has been known to have had a falling crime rate recently and local opinion on the matter is that the West Mercia police are either keeping themselves in training or they were bored and Vasey was just as handy as anyone to do in.

We hope that this trend will continue - keep it up lads, we're all with you.

INSIDE:

Italy: the arrests

War School: Kitson and

CNT- the split friends

Espiritu Santo,

Direct Action: T.U.C. versus

Prison News, State of

Play, International

News, Court Circular,

Roon 'n' Aboot, Anarcho-

Quiz, Letters, etc.

BLACK FLAG



Organ of the Anarchist Black Cross

BLACK FLAG

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LOSS	£204.50	
Previous deficit	2632.84	

Deficit c/fwd	£2837.34	
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BLACK FLAG, as a commodity, aims to help class-war and libertarian prisoners. It seeks to keep in touch those who are aiding prisoners, direct and collate sources and outlets for that aid, and so help the international revolutionary struggle.

AS A journal; its aim is to explain anarchism in terms of current events and to popularise the libertarian idea.

ON THE WHOLE, it succeeds as a commodity, in keeping the lifelines open to a limited group of prisoners who are not helped by Amnesty or other bodies. Without the paper or at least an occasional bulletin, the Black Cross would be totally ineffective. We are facing a crisis within the Black Cross in that, because of the inability to decrease the Flag's deficit and get payment for the copies we produce, we have to limit aid to prisoners. It is quite unrealistic to think of doing anything for anyone beyond a limited circle while we are in this predicament. (It would be solved if people paid for copies they had; or, alternatively, if people would tell us when they change their address or wish not to receive the paper any longer, since our main cost is postage and huge sums are spent unnecessarily because we don't like to cut people off just because their subs. are not renewed).

IS THE PAPER a 'street' paper? It can be sold in the street, and it can be sold at the workplace if you're well dug in organisationally, but it never tries to use demagogic slogans or excite the reader into thinking that it represents more than it does (though with the Press sensationalism that is occasionally built up around us, this would be quite easy). Readers often object that although we have a lot of news about struggles these are usually elsewhere in the world - but what are we supposed to do? Invent actions that do not take place? If we have nothing on which to comment, and nothing unique to say, we skip an issue rather than bore the reader. This is one reason why we haven't been able to fulfil our intention of becoming a fortnightly. (Perhaps with the creation of an Anarchist Centre, and the step up of contacts that hopefully will go with it, this may be possible).

Black Flag has a heavy deficit - which would disappear overnight if every copy we sent out got paid for. We spend an exorbitant sum on postages, often made up by bulk mailings to groups which may, for all we know, have vanished. We hope readers, and non-readers, will help us solve our financial problems and enable us to go ahead with our Black Cross activities as well as our educational programme.

* Donations:

London JT £5; JG £3
Huddersfield I & CL £10
Dublin RC £20 - Total £38.00

ADDITIONALLY WE OWE SOME £400
FOR PRINTING. BUT SO FAR
(DUE TO HOLIDAYS OUR END
WELL) WE HAVE RECEIVED
NOTHING IN PAYMENT FOR OUR
LAST ISSUE.
MAYDAY CALL!!!!

(If any readers would be prepared to take to the streets with the 'Flag' then we would really like to hear from you.)

POSTERS (£1 each)

ADVOCATING THE MURRAY
CAMPAIGN FOR CONJUGAL
RIGHTS ARE AVAILABLE
FROM

STEVE WOODS C/O
15 ST. AIDANS PARK ROAD,
FAIRVIEW, DUBLIN 3.
(PROCEEDS, OF COURSE, TO
THE CAMPAIGN). MARIE
AND NOEL MURRAY ARE
HOPING TO TAKE THE REP-
UBLIC OF IRELAND TO THE
INTERNATIONAL COURT.

THE HIGHER LUNACY

We can pick over the 'Persons Unknown' case for years for instances of the higher lunacy when the Establishment meets Anarchy. A nice piece came, for instance, in the Times letter columns (Dec. 28) from a "vacationing American trial lawyer", as he called himself, a Mr. Daniel Reith. He was actually criticising Judge King Hamilton for his "frontal attack on what we in America consider our shared Anglo-American jury system".

Yet he concluded his letter "when either judge or jury refuses to accept the role of the other, we have a form of anarchy ultimately as disruptive of social order as that of which the defendants in this case were accused, tried, and found not guilty".

This American fat-head - as if we did not have enough of our own - was under the impression the defendants had been found "not guilty" of being anarchists. How did he come to think so? The jury found them not guilty of crimes alleged against them. But he knew well enough - and so did all the other lawyers - that in reality it was a political trial in that they were - despite judicial denials interspersed among the bias - being tried for being anarchists.

Anarchist Centre

The next meeting will be on
July 23rd at 7 p.m., Conway Hall,
Red Lion Square (Holborn tube).
Subscriptions: £15, cheques, etc.,
payable to 'William Godwin
Memorial Society'.



The Wobblies

is a documentary (U.S.A. 1979, 88 minutes) produced by Stewart Bird and Deborah Shafter, that succeeds admirably in conveying the spirit of the Industrial Workers of the World, the gutsy, tough expression of American syndicalism that nearly brought off a working class revolution. It can't be too highly praised not only for its showing of the achievements, the defeats, the confrontations with State and employers; but for the wonderful pioneers of the American movement, now in their eighties, people who lit up the screen with unquenched vitality and sincerity. It's a tonic, and so far has only been shown over here in the incongruously trendy surroundings of the I.C.A. cinema down the road from Buckingham Palace.

Rescue it, someone, and show it where it belongs.

Black Flag Page 2

SUMMER CAMP IN BRITANNY

Organised by the OCL
(Libertarian Communist Organisation) from 12 July to 17 August.

Site: adjoining fields at Saint-Tugen, between Audierne and Plogoff in S.Finisterre and about 10 kilometres from the Ponte du Raz.

It is about 500 metres from the sea.

It is hoped to have various stands and shops and facilities for children.

Price per day: 20 francs, children free.

HOW TO GET THERE:

(1) By car...go to Audierne and take the road out to Pointe du Raz. A few kms. outside Audierne the road veers to the right.

(2) By train...go to Quimper then take the coach to Audierne. From Audierne there is a coach service to Pointe du Raz. Get off the coach about 3 - 4 kms. from Audierne where the road intersects with the Saint Tugen road. Just follow the arrows from there.

(3) Or just hitchhike.

For further details contact:
Dieudonne Moisan, B.P. 82.,
22200. Guingamp.

MIRIAM DALY was a woman of integrity and spirit: she worked hard on the Murray Defence Campaign in defence of the libertarians Noel and Marie Murray. She was on the executive of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, but she was a good comrade to us who fought many battles in Belfast as well as elsewhere. Now she has been murdered, the latest victim to the struggle of the two dinosaurs of Northern Ireland.

ANARCHO-QUIZ

1. The survivor of quite the most reactionary group in the world was killed, by mistake, by Bolshevik troops during the civil war - to the lamentations of the scientific world. Who?
2. How does one explain that English, German, Dutch, etc., speaking Anarchists are 'comrades' - but not Italian, Spanish or (at any rate, older) French speaking Anarchists?
3. What have scallawags, carpet baggers and copper-heads in common?
4. Who was possibly the only person in the Victorian establishment who would have been delighted that 'Rhodesia' is no more - having regarded Rhodes as a dangerous adventurer from the word go?
5. Which anarchist poet served possibly the longest term of solitary confinement in a modern prison?
6. What so upset the respectable audience at the Munich Opera House in February that a wire fence had to be lowered to protect the performers?

ANSWERS ON BACK PAGE

The anarchist connection

What is really going on in the island of Espiritu Santo? Britain and France, as rulers of the condominium of New Hebrides, gave independence to the islands in a somewhat begrudging manner, particularly on the French side. Espiritu Santo said that it wanted to go it alone without the rest of the (artificially united) archipelago. Britain - which supposedly wants to stay out - has therefore sent in troops, while France - which supposedly wants to stay in - simply objects. There is some dirty work at the imperialist crossroads here. But is Espiritu Santo part of it, or is it genuinely concerned with independence?

The local people seem determined to be free of central government whether from Paris, London (or both together), or from Port Vila. Jimmy Stevens proclaimed independence in the island, there was a bow-and-arrow rebellion, and the local radio, Radio Coconut, has been proclaiming unilateral independence ever since.

The Rev. Walter Lini, Chief Minister of the new set-up in New Hebrides, has been calling for the repression of Espiritu Santo ever since. Every allegation in the book has been thrown at the independent administration, which has significantly not referred to itself as a government and equally significantly retained a totally democratic reference back to the local population. In fact the lack of brutal militarism and nationalism has caused endless press sneers at the islanders.

LIBERTARIANS

Said to be involved in the 'financing' of the rebellion are sections based on the new American political party which has gained dramatically in support and thrown the Right Wing into disarray. This party, or at any rate substantial sections of it, claim to be "anarchist" but also "capitalist". Their Phoenix Foundation is said to finance "mini-nations wanting to be free from officialdom", said Professor John Hospes and had provided "a radio station and transport planes".

They also claim, in the manner of some American individualists, often thought of as anarchists of a kind (Tucker, Spooner, Thoreau, and so on), that private property rights are compatible with liberty and that the State is an encroachment on those rights. By extension they say that they are anti-statists - anarchists - but of the right wing; 'conservatives' and supporters of 'agorism' (free market) or capitalism but nevertheless (bringing in the myth of American homesteading) libertarians. They have advocated tax avoidance, pointing out that it is not a crime but that the State is the criminal. Unlike the British right wing which tries to equate Hayek and other 'free market' gurus with repressive and authoritarian policies, they link this with more or less libertarian causes. (To my surprise, I find this tendency, which I had thought only, and typically, American, has some adherents in Britain, which centres at the Alternative Bookshop in Covent Garden, London - there you may find anarchist books and papers alongside defences of 'Capitalism, the forgotten ideal' and defences of people one thought of as nearer fascism - though

possibly unjustly).

That "right wing anarchists" should be backing a revolution in Espiritu Santo is therefore an interesting new development. Some press reports say that the Americans doing so "only want it as a tax haven". A small price to pay for a haven from government! Maybe they look at it that way there.

ATTITUDES

Non hyphenated anarchists of the traditional brand look on this "right wing libertarian" trend with some suspicion. But it isn't always justified, certainly

not in circumstances such as this. Anarchism as a society has room for private property. Where it would be different from that of these people would be that entrenched capitalism, with the swag gained by Statism and Statist methods over centuries, will never relax its authoritarianism unless made to do so by common effort. But in countries like those in emerging Africa - and maybe too in the southern hemisphere - economic development isn't going to go the same way.

The struggle is against a capitalism or a state socialism imposed from without; and in these circumstances the relevance of anarchism, even distorted, is apparent.

A.M.



Ayatollah (and friends) still desperately looking for the "revolution".



POLICE & THE NAZIS (wot again)

Mr. Eldon Griffiths, the Conservative MP and police spokesman (parliamentary adviser to the Police Federation) warned the police of "political activists and anarchists" whom he denounced while casually referring to a rising crime rate, teenage crime and "individuals intent on using violence for their own ends". The latter might be a blanket reference to include the National Front, but at no time did he say anything about fascists, only to defend police actions in heavily swamping racist processions in order to defend the National Front and like organisations.

This is a highly significant speech, in which Mr. Griffiths clearly showed the blatant political bias of the police, which is an indication of main-line police thinking on the need for a take-over on the lines of the Army takeovers in other countries.

It is noticeable that in speech after speech by Chief Constables, anarchists are denounced and fascists never mentioned, save for the remark that "freedom of speech" must be preserved in which they can

operate. We do not disagree with the latter; what we disagree with is the blanket concentration of police to defend the fascists, turning a street corner rally into a major demonstration. Always remember the famous Manchester march of Martin Webster "on his own" when the "mass" march was banned - walking through the streets with thousands of police around at public expense and without public consent.

BOMBINGS

When, recently, in the 'Persons Unknown' case, some anarchists fell into the hands of the police, they were originally subjected to questioning about a series of bombing attacks and fire bombings which any sane person knew were caused by racials and fascists. This was - as we said at the time - an attempt to get the fascists off the hook and to "solve" the crimes - for the public (conditioned by the prostitute press) would believe anything of the anarchists (at least, so it was hoped - a jury proved otherwise). These attacks on ethnic community centres and on dissident community centres have

for the most part not been solved; or where someone has been arrested, by mistake, every effort has been made to disentangle the fascist-racialist commitment from the criminals - as compared with the determined effort to involve the whole anarchist movement and the raids and provocations upon anarchists in the 'Persons Unknown' case, or the Angry Brigade case.

ARSON

Among the 'mistakes' was one case that (from the Police Party point of view) mis-fired. Kenneth Mathews, chairman of the Southwark branch of the National Front, Steven Beales, a prominent party member, and one Stephen Fitzpatrick, a 'sympathiser', planned to burn down a south London community centre, with both Black and Left connections, the Union Place Resource Centre in Vassall Road, Brixton - one of the many places where SWP and socialist groupings have obtained public grants to carry on propaganda amongst the Black community. But they were overheard by a community worker, purely by the coincidence of a crossed telephone line.

Mr. Gill asked the police to come and protect the place but they were "too busy"...they had the public at large to protect (like Mr. Webster on his lonely march). Mr. Gill then, incredibly, managed to photograph the men in the very act of arson and telephone the police before they had a chance to get away. How could they not have been arrested? One got six years, one three, and the other a Borstal sentence. It may be remarked that with remission, these sentences are comparable to those served by our comrades who were acquitted of all charges.

TERRORISTS

They were not terrorists! No connection was made by the police with the National Front, which suffered no harassment, whose doors were not broken in, who were not subjected to a lengthy and insidious press campaign amounting to incitement to violence, as the anarchists were.

It is natural that in a clear choice between authoritarians and libertarians which the police would prefer. And "libertarians" is now the dirtiest word in the police vocabulary.

CNT: the split

We confirm that there has been a split in the anarcho-syndicalist union of Spain (the C.N.T.) and that in some places is taken extremely bitterly. After the Madrid congress in December, some elements of the C.N.T. broke away and decided to hold their own congress which took place in March in Saragossa.

They refer to their organisation as the "impugned" C.N.T. (the vagueness of the term reflects the vague - though deep - nature of the split).

We have several reports, highly contradictory, which we are trying to knock into shape for the next issue. But at the moment it would seem that there are differences as to whether to have a C.N.T. "blanket libertarian" movement; or a movement purely of trade union activities; or of whether it should be anarchistic. Also, how far the politicals should be able to infiltrate (and whether anarchist infiltration is the same thing); the nature of the intervention of the exile movement; and the nature of the Anarchist Federation (F.A.I.) and whether it exists. However, contrary to some reports we have read, it is just not true that there is a clear division so that one could say that all those who take one line are here and all who take another are there.

The Spanish libertarian movement is now paying the price for forty years of neglect - the sheer lack of theoretical and practical discussion and analysis, and also the lack of major support for the activists within Spain during that period. In the same way the English-speaking movement is now paying the price for years of bourgeois pacifist infiltration rendering a total caricature of anarchism and this giving rise to doubts as to what anarchism is (and terms like anarchist-communism, anarcho-syndicalism and councilism being used with confusion).

The existence of these problems has not resulted in a clean cut division but in personality differences, and these in turn are reflected in the division between the two organisations - the 'officials', who represent the greater strength of the movement, and the 'impugned', who represent a minority.

REPRESSION

At the same time as this has happened, the state has thrown its full weight of repression such as can nowadays be consistent with public opinion (the Falange must accept reluctantly that the days of genocide are over). Police chief Martin Vila has stated openly that he is not concerned about "E.T.A. and its bombs" but about "the confederal union card" as a major menace. The falsification of charges, such as in the case of La Scala, the wave of imprisonments, the tactic of giving back to all other union centres their property - but not the C.N.T., the refusal to legalise its unions (a mixed blessing!) and the newspaper campaign against the C.N.T., have been directed at breaking the C.N.T. as much as was the years of genocidal repression and deliberate news suppression.

PARTIES

Yet there is a unique factor in Spain and that is that while all parties are rapidly losing support (the Communists who were riding the crest of the wave, and in the way of property, getting back more than they lost, have had to suspend their daily Mundo Obrero - which managed to appear weekly under Franco!), the anarchist movement can still be reckoned a considerable force. There is strong disillusionment with the 'democratic' parties,

socialists, and with the communists. (Marxist-Leninists are mostly in the student milieu and becoming something of the farce their parties are here). The only movements to retain any form of popular credence are the libertarians and the various movements for national independence (which are appealing to a past which, in the case of Catalonia, Valencia and Andalusia, was anarchist so far as its labour movement was concerned).

It is still being reiterated that "the C.N.T. is losing members" (it has in fact suspended taking on new members while the dispute is going on) but that is meaningless. What counts are the numbers in the anarchist movement generally, or in the work-based organisations (who may or may not be signed-up members).

A.M.

FASCIST TALK

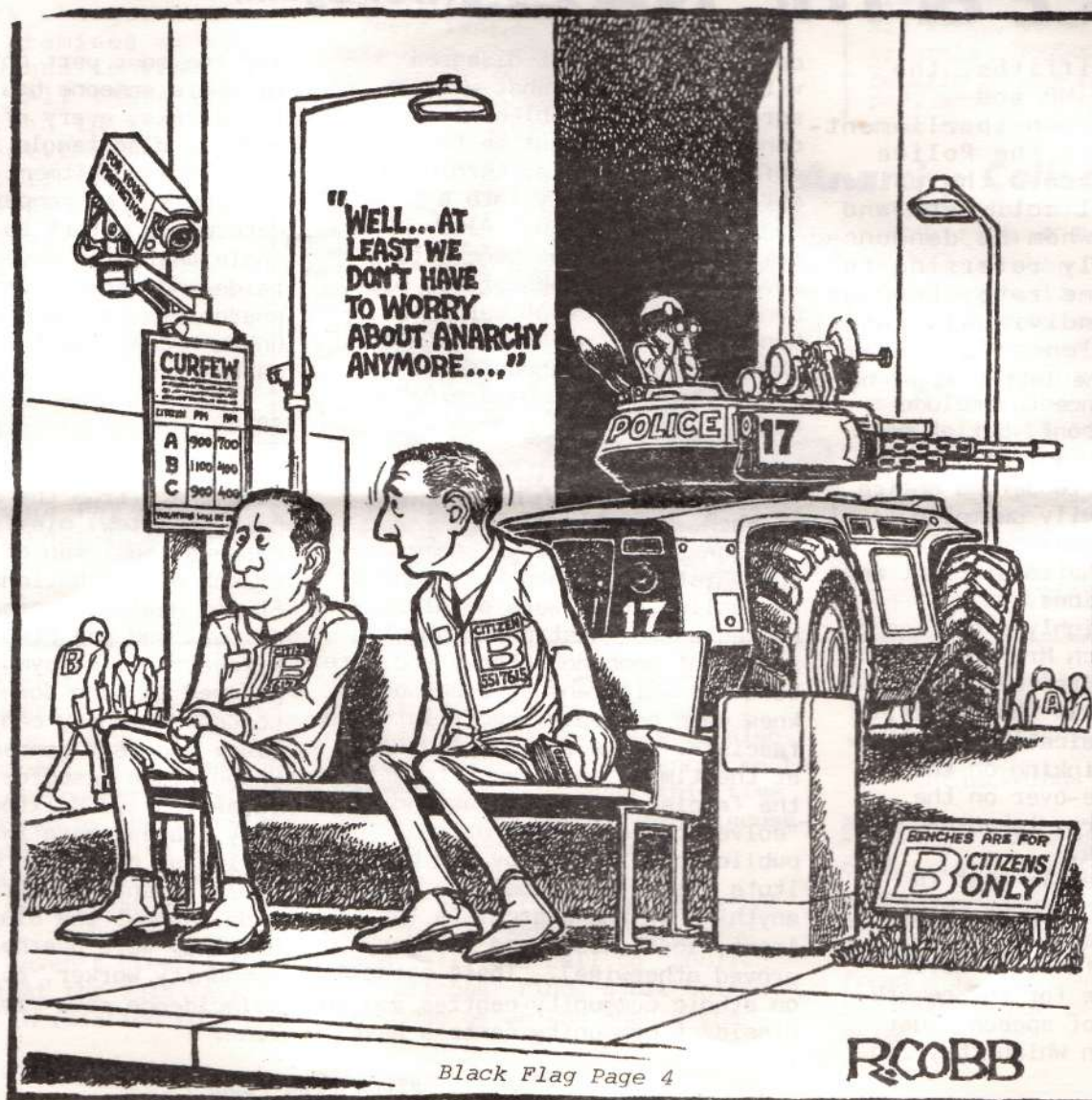
The new black civil rights organisation to be set up that is calling for black people to "withdraw co-operation from the police" is an inevitable response to the almost universal capture of the police force and prison authorities by the National Front and other fascist tendencies. Rejected elsewhere, fascism has flourished there, despite individual policemen who quite genuinely believe no such control exists. On the whole it is a groundroots movement within prison staffs, without top level support; it is a top level movement within the police force with less groundroots support. Anyone who thinks otherwise simply doesn't listen to what is being said openly.



Anarchists often have occasion to hear police officers express fascist points of view and in particular the fascist objections to anarchism. Nobody has ever heard a policeman or prison warden express a Marxist objection to anarchism (petty bourgeois individualists), a liberal objection (beautiful idea but it will never work) - what is it one hears? Bombs, chaos, criminality, mindless violence against law and order - all taken from the fascist dictionary.

Like racial insults, they come trippingly from the tongue. But where are they picked up? Not from actual experience. From propaganda. Whose?

The Eastern European police are as repressive of the anarchists as the Police Federation could hope, but their phraseology comes entirely from Marxist propaganda. "Deviationists, counter-revolutionaries, petty bourgeois". They are State Communists and use the appropriate jargon. What are British police and whose jargon do they use? Just listen.



ITALY: ASSAULT ON ANARCHISM

The arrest and detention of Bonanno, Weir and Marletta

On Friday 23rd March at 5.20 p.m. police raided the home of Alfredo Bonanno and Salvo Marletta in Catania, Italy. Acting on a warrant issued by the procurators office in Bologna (over 400 miles away - Catania is in Sicily), they arrested those two and Jean Weir who was staying there. They were driven to Bologna by van, with two overnight stops. They were accused of having taken part in six armed robberies in Emilia (the region about Bologna).

Their arrests are part of one of the most serious state attacks on the anarchist sector of the autonomist movement in Italy.

Italy today

"This cannot be understood without a general picture of the level of the class struggle in Italy today, and the measures being put into effect by the state with the aim of quelling the ever increasing revolt against work, unemployment, and of capitalistic life in general.

"In response to the effects of the acute economic and political crisis in that country, and its attempts to resolve this through the inclusion of the Communist Party in the management of exploitation, there has been a clear horizontal development of direct action. This is no longer the patrimony of such vanguardist groups as the Red Brigades, but small armed nuclei are springing up in all the main cities. Clashes with the police during demonstrations are hard. Molotovs strike chosen targets (principally fascist meeting places, Christian Democrat headquarters etc.) and blazing cars constitute effective barricades to keep the police and their bullets at bay.

"The characteristic of this new movement is its libertarian essence; its refusal to constrain itself within the straightjacket of ideology, its refusal to suffer 'leaders', its 'illegality', where such mass actions as expropriations in restaurants, self-reduction of theatre tickets and absenteeism put themselves alongside 'harder' actions - the burning of company directors cars, the bombing of Christian Democrat headquarters, the knee-capping of fascists (and C.P.) journalists, the smashing of ticket machines on buses, sabotage in the assembly lines of Fiat, and so on, revealing a very important *qualitative* jump in the level of the struggle.

Autonomy

"The so-called 'area of autonomy' is the new movement in Italy, comprised mainly of students, young workers, young unemployed, alienated, prisoners, etc. The traditional groups of the left are in crisis. Some have tried to coat their traditional ideologies with a libertarian sugar coating to make them as palatable as possible - hence the many shades within the actual 'area of autonomy'.

"The anarchist movement is no exception in the situation of crisis in which the extra parliamentary left finds itself. For some time now a polemic has been developing between those groups (federated) who have been seeking a quantitative growth in the anarchist movement itself, who to a greater or lesser degree are in the position of 'waiting', interpreting anarchism as an ideology which must remain untainted - therefore remain abstract - and be propagandised as a system of ideas or opinion; and those (autonomous) groups and individuals who are seeking to penetrate the social reality of today, for whom anarchism is a *method*, to be experimented, analysed through concrete experience, modified, clarified, in the reality of the struggle against exploitation.

"In coming out of the realms of such sweeping statements as can be found in most anarchist literature, i.e. "we must destroy the State", into the particular identification of the State in its instrument of repression, "the police, the judiciary, the employers", comrade Bonanno is giving a precise indication of the imperative of today: "shoot now comrades, *before a new police tries to stop you*" (our italics). And so the State retaliates - all forms of opposition to its persistence must be silenced."

That was the start of an article by Jean Weir about the attempt to imprison Bonanno over the publication of 'La Gioia Armata' (The Joy of Arms), a book arguing for the concept of the destruction of oppression as a

liberatory act at the level of the individual, and the concept of the revolution as a joyful event. Arguing for the generalisation of the self-managed struggle of the masses and criticising the concept of the armed vanguard party (e.g. The Red Brigades), for the purposes of using it in an attempt to silence Bonanno, it was treated by the prosecution as a defence of such groups. That was two years ago. After two appeals the charges were dismissed and the three year sentence Bonanno had received at the first trial quashed. Two years later Jean Weir herself and four others are in prison in a more concerted effort to silence Bonanno and the group around the review 'Anarchismo'.

Arrests

On their arrival in Bologna Alfredo, Jean and Salvo were split up. Alfredo was sent to Parma prison, Salvo to Ferrara and Jean to the tiny womens wing of Moderna prison. With the three who had been selected as 'ring-leaders' isolated, the police struck again. On the Sunday after the first raid, they again raided Bonannos house arresting the five people who had gathered there (including one, Kenneth Burgon who'd heard of the arrests in London and travelled to Italy only to be arrested himself). Roughly simultaneously a dozen other raids were mounted in Bologna, Forli and Catania. In all thirteen people were arrested, most of them associated with the review 'Anarchismo' and the publishers of 'Edizioni Anarchismo'. 'Anarchismo' was founded in Catania in 1975. Later the editorial offices were moved to Forli in Emilia, but the printing was still done in Catania. 'Edizioni Anarchismo' published a wide range of books and pamphlets - the classics as well as recent writings. Jean Weir and Kenneth Burgon were part of the Bratach Dubh group. 'Anarchismo' concentrated on struggles in prisons, state repression and armed struggle in Italy and abroad.

The police claimed to have found explosives, munitions and "very interesting" documents. Among the box loads of Italian material seized were the proofs of five new Bratach Dubh pamphlets. The munitions and explosives were 5 bullets and 50 sticks of dynamite. Sandro Vandini, a former editor of 'Anarchismo', was given a 7 month sentence for possession of the former; Massimo Gaspari (22 years old) has been given 4 years and 10 months for the latter. The second wave of arrests was accompanied by a hysterical press campaign. In contrast to the transport arrangements for the first three arrested, those taken in the second raid on Bonanno's house were made part of a publicity seeking security exercise. Driven to the airport to be flown to Bologna, a full scale 'anti-terrorist' alert was staged there with machine gun wielding police and snipers. According to the press Bonanno and co. had been transported in a specially armoured plane; in general the usual shock horror anti-terrorist propaganda was served up.

All those arrested in the 'second wave' were put in Bologna prison, except Massimo Gaspari in Forli prison where he's now serving his sentence. Initially all were held in solitary and the British consul was refused access to the three Britons arrested. After a couple of weeks, however, those in Bologna were moved into communal cells, with a corresponding improvement in morale. The plight of those isolated still, especially Jean in Modena, gives great concern to their comrades. It also has exacerbated the problems of legal defence. The tactic is a familiar one in Italy. "The prosecutor has imprisoned and isolated the defendants (without possibility of bail), and only then has he attempted to build his case. This is a dangerous precedent (reminiscent of the West German *Kontaktverbot*), for it puts the defence lawyers in an extremely difficult position. It is impossible for them to defend their clients from vague general charges supported by 'evidence' that is contradictory and constantly shifting." Written not of this case but of the Negri, Scalzone, etc., 'Potere Operaio' case. Clearly the precedent it speaks of is one the Italian State has taken to its heart.

The charges

All those arrested were questioned after a few days by an 'enquiring' magistrate, a few were released, the rest remanded pending investigation. Two and a half months later the 13 still held were questioned again by an 'examining' magistrate to decide whether there was sufficient evidence to go for trial. Pages of charges were produced, but no evidence, and most were released. (Kenneth Burgon was, without legal justification, ordered to leave the country within five days.) The only ones held were Bonanno, Weir and Marletta, and the two already tried and convicted. There were three basic

charges against all 13: firstly, constituting and organising an armed gang, under the name Azione Rivoluzionaria (an anarchist armed struggle group which has claimed responsibility for a number of armed actions since 1977). They are charged that they a) organised and acted across the nation with other persons (presumably an attempt to explain the geographical dispersal of those arrested and the events that the real Azione Rivoluzionaria claimed, in 1977/78, at least in Pisa, Milan, Florence, Livorno, Turin, Aosta and Rome - only one in Bologna and none in Sicily or Scotland for that matter); b) that they circulated a theoretical programme (this refers to the fact that 'Edizione Anarchismo' produced a pamphlet of A/R communiques and statements and a chronology of their actions.); c) that they planned and executed robberies and kidnappings to finance the band (hence the robberies that the three are charged with so far without any evidence); and d) building deposits of arms, munitions and explosives and distributing the technical know-how to use the, (explaining the ill-assorted bullets and explosives found and refers, again, one assumes, to 'Anarchismo's' publishing activities.) Connoisseurs of State Conspiracy Trials will have recognised the standard model conspiracy in use.

All 13 were also charged with 'subversive association'; that is, publishing and distributing documents illustrating the ideology of armed struggle. (This refers to 'Anarchismo' and the 'Azione Rivoluzionaria' pamphlet.) This is a charge created in the 1929 Fascist penal code, designed specifically to outlaw left organisations. Subversion is vaguely defined and potentially all-inclusive. Rocco, the Fascist Justice Minister said of it: "What is in question here is a law against political, and only political, associations - its target is only those who disseminate political ideas ... Any State conscious of its own authority - that is, a Fascist State - cannot tolerate such ideas without renouncing its own *raison d'être*." The charge was revived for Negri and the 'Potere Operaio' militants in April last year. Implicit in its use is a broadening of the category of 'terrorist' to include all political activity seen as a subversion of the existing order.

All 13 were also charged with spreading propaganda advocating social and economic disorder. This charge relates to a demonstration of homeless people in Catania in January this year. There had been a good deal of police violence against the demonstrators - in one incident Bonanno pulled police off an old man they were beating up. (He has now been sentenced to 8 months for assault for this). The further charge pending against those held alleges that they organised the demo. in an attempt to deliberately create public disorder and stimulate violence. It will be evident that this set of charges attempts to criminalise all rights to publish or demonstrate where they can be defined as subversive.

The evidence

As stated after questioning by an 'examining' magistrate, all but Jean, Alfredo and Salvo were released. (It is not yet clear whether any further charges are to be pressed against Sandro Vandini or Massimo Gaspari already convicted on possession charges) Against these three there were further charges, or more accurately, sets of charges. A further set relates to six armed robberies, for cash, of notaries (lawyers) in the Emilia area. No evidence has been produced to substantiate these allegations: no money, no guns, no confessions. The robberies appear to have no common thread. The descriptions of the robbers in different cases varies. On some they are supposed to have had central Italian accents, where Bonanno and Marletta are both Sicilian. A woman took part in some of them - the only link with Jean is that the woman didn't speak and therefore must have been foreign! At the time of some of the robberies Jean is known to have been in Scotland and Salvo is understood to have been in Sicily throughout the period in question. Because of the lack of evidence the three agreed to go on identity parades to establish once and for all that there was no possible case against them. (The parades took place on the 18th June - the results are not yet known).

It's possible these charges may be dropped - if not, it will mean a separate series of trials for the first set of charges. As this was written it was learned that another, entirely separate, charge relating to bank robbery has been confirmed. No further details are yet known.

Internment

These three sets of charges which if all pursued, means three separate trials for those charged and are widely seen as an ongoing attempt to intern those held for as long as the state considers them potentially subversive. This internment was reinstituted with the passing of the Legge Reale in 1975, a set of 'anti-

terrorist' laws modelled on West Germany's, severely curtailing personal freedom and allowing the police to kill without repercussions. The initial set were strengthened in a new package introduced by the Christian Democrat/Communist Party 'coalition' last year. Political dissidents could be held for 12 years without having committed an offence. (There is no bail in Italy and in political cases you can be held for three years before you have to be tried or released; there are then statutory periods before you can appeal and, if still unsuccessful, go to the Supreme Court). By multiplying and juggling with the sets of charges it is thus possible to extend this internment indefinitely.

The charges have been widely recognised in Italy for what they are - an attempt to close down 'Anarchismo' which has been successful now for three months (though there are hopes to restart it) and an attempt to get Bonanno in particular out of the way. In addition to the three cases against him above, he faces another twenty three trials on different charges and that's just the last count.

Trials

Why this latest, and most serious, attack on 'Anarchismo' and its workers? At one level it is believed to be a matter of internal police politics. The arrests were carried out by Digos police from Catania with and under instructions from Ucigos officers from Bologna. These are specialist anti-terrorist squads, part of the Public Security police. It is the rival Carabinieri who've been making all the big 'anti-terrorist' cases. It's thought this is an attempt by the PS to save face. There is at the moment in Florence a completely separate trial of people accused of being members of 'Azione Rivoluzionaria'. They include a university professor, Gianfranco Fiana, arrested last July and accused of being the head of the group. He is charged with having committed an action claimed by the group, the attempted murder (knee-capping) of a CP journalist for 'L'Unita' in Turin in 1977. The police justification for the subsequent arrest of the second 'Azione Rivoluzionaria' is that when Fiana was arrested then Bonanno took over as leader. This conveniently ignores the polemic with 'Azione Rivoluzionaria' conducted in the pages of 'Anarchismo'.

The crisis

More broadly, both Christian Democrat and Communists blame the continuing political crisis in Italy on 'terrorism', instead of admitting that it's the result of wide-ranging economic and social dislocations. There is thus an attempt to criminalise the autonomous movements against capital and the state. The search for 'terrorists' has concentrated not on the armed groups in isolation, but necessarily on groups and activists who have tried to interpret, organisationally and theoretically, the various social phenomena constituting the autonomous resistance. This lies behind the Negri/Potere Operaio cases. Their arrests and detention have served as the model for this case. It's the standard 'anti-terrorist' tactic, described by Herold as "draining the sympathisers swamp". The attempt is to drive all direct action into 'underground' isolation, while simultaneously criminalising all remaining 'overground' expression of support via the anti-subversion laws. (In this country it's achieved by the combination of the 'Official Secrets Act', the conspiracy laws and the P.T.A. Since struggle has not developed here to the level of generalised autonomous resistance, the state's attacks are levelled at 'subversives' - at one level, the A.B.C. trial of information gatherers, at another, the Persons Unknown trial of anarchist militants). In West Germany this strategy has been successful. Integral to it is the driving of immovable wedges between the 'established' left and direct activists. In Italy the autonomist movement has been forced at best into greater clandestinity and the left forced into denouncing 'terrorism'. The tide of arrests since the Moro killing has turned into a flood since the revelations of political 'supergrass' Peci earlier this year. That the state is winning victories and not the war can be seen in the wide-ranging condemnation of the detention of the 'Anarchismo' activists, from 'Lotta Continua' to the respectable Radical Party which has asked questions in Parliament.

When it came to the point and the courts had to decide whether there was any evidence against Jean Weir, they had to admit there was none. She has therefore, we understand, been released. The fate of the other comrades concerned is not yet known.

This account produced by BOX C.11, 182 Upper Street, London, N.1. England

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

FRANCE

A statement by the nine French lawyers of the eighteen 'Action Directe' case accused, who are charged with causing explosions, attempted murder, and criminal association, complains of State obstruction in the performance of their duties. For information as to the charges against their clients they have been obliged to refer to the press. They also complain of the continuing remand of their clients who are not being allowed to associate in prison.

SENEGAL

Of all the reasons given by censors for banning a film, President Senghor takes the prize for originality having banned the film 'Ceddo' - made by Africa's best known film maker Ousmane Sembene - for spelling it with two d's instead of one, which the President claims is correct.

What really upsets the government is Sembene's hostility to Islam, which, he says, "de-personalised" Black Africans in exactly the same way as Christianity and the slave trade did later. The film deals with those of the Ceddo (or if the President likes, Cedo) who fought against Islam, preferring their tribal gods.

The government is not Islamic, but - like the West - it is fearful of provoking the Muslims, and the government depends on local Muslims for support.

Sembene is determined to go on making films as he wishes though he does not believe the ruling classes in Africa will ever allow a revolutionary cinema to come into being. He says he is "without illusions". The new ruling classes are as determined as the old imperialists to maintain their domination even if some of them, for military reasons, style themselves socialist.

U.S.A

Prisoners in the Washington State Penitentiary filed a massive civil suit in the Federal district court claiming the penitentiary was cruel and inhuman, that treatment and conditions violated the U.S. Constitution, and that brutality was rampant and over-crowding beyond human tolerance. On 23 May 1980 Federal District Court Judge Tanner agreed with the prisoners in full and ordered massive changes at the penitentiary to begin immediately. The first thing to go on the very day of his decision was the torture chamber box cars cells in the Intensive Security Unit. The officials have thirty days in which to reduce the population of the penitentiary down to approximately 850 prisoners from over a 1000. The judge further ordered that all four man cells be reduced to one man cells. An over-seer from the Federal Court is being appointed to see that all these changes and others, especially around racism in the penitentiary, are made. In the Civil Suit prisoners also asked for damages against brutality and medical neglect suffered in the penitentiary. Many beatings took place in the summer of 1979. One well known case was the beating and rape with a riot baton of Carl Harp, anarchist militant, and member of the Anarchist Black Dragon Collective; another prisoner lost his leg. A jury trial around this case is expected shortly with victory assured for the prisoners. The prisoners are represented by private attorneys, Prison Legal Services, A.C.L.U. and the Justice Department.

LATEST

The Anarchist Black Dragon publication of the Anarchist Black Dragon Collective of the Washington State Penitentiary has been declared contraband by prison officials on the grounds that it advocates the overthrow of the American government and its institutions. The Collective has accepted the State's challenge with three Civil Suits in Federal District Court claiming First Amendment Right to print and say what it has and does in its publication. Constitutional Law is on the side of the Collective in many prison cases of similar nature, but support is vital to a win and survival of those involved in the suit who are all members of the Collective. For details and how to support contact:

John H. Bosch, P.O. BOX 520, Walla Walla, Wn. 99362.

DO NOT PUT ANARCHIST BLACK DRAGON COLLECTIVE ETC. ON ENVELOPE. IF YOU DO MAIL WILL BE 'LOST' BY THE FORCES OF EVIL. Pass the word to all concerned.

Twelve Ku Klux Klansmen have been charged with murder following the deaths of four members of the Communist Workers Party (a Maoist organisation), in Greensboro, New Carolina. The Klan had been challenged "to come out and face the wrath of the people" by 'Workers Viewpoint' (CWP) organising the anti-Klan march through a Black neighbourhood. But the Klan did come out...shooting, as about fifty people had gathered for the march.

As usual with the Klan, the shootings took place from behind cover, and with reliance on the hope that the police would not intervene. The presence of television cameramen, however, made it imperative for the police to act.

How much longer will the American people tolerate this murder gang? Its members move freely around the world. They are not classed as terrorists and have no problems at airports - even in Black countries to say nothing of Asia, or elsewhere. If an attack had been made on the Klan, or an armed defence made against it, the people concerned would be listed for the attention of the world's police.



A VICTIM of a shootout between reported KKK members and anti-klan demonstrators is watched over by a friend with a gun in Greensboro, N.C.

GREECE

A hunger strike is currently in progress in Corydalos prison, Piraeus, (affecting both men's and women's wings) and looks like spreading to all forty of Greece's other penal establishments. This comes in the wake of the repression and mediaeval tortures visited upon political as well as non-political prisoners.

The strike in the women's wing began when repression reached a new height and prison officials attempted forcibly to remove to a psychiatric ward, ordinary prisoners Evangelie Adamaki and Elsa Walter (who is Austrian). Tension grew in the prison. Walter tried to hang herself in her cell whilst another prisoner Frosso Arbanitaki slashed her wrists with a razor and some broken glass. The prison governor ordered the blood-stains in the cell to be washed away, but this proved impossible, for the striking female prisoners prevented it. Refusing to return to their cells, the prisoners issued a series of demands, above which they had written: "We are on hunger strike to press our demands for more humane living conditions". Among other things, they have asked:

(1) That the Procurator of the Republic come to the prison.

(2) That they be allowed to describe to journalists the tortures to which they are subjected daily.

(3) That the notorious torturer, Sergeant Tsabrou, as well as the perverse psychiatrist Malatos be removed from the prison.

(4) That conditions of detention and the penal code itself be changed. (Sophia Kyritsis is presently ill on account of huge drug doses ordered by Malatos. Sophia is serving a five year sentence).

In addition the prison authorities have tried to

isolate the prisoners on strike in these ways:

A female non-political, Despina Kyrimopoulou, with a reputation for subversive activity in prison, was removed to a psychiatric ward (a male psychiatric ward) along with two other women.

Isabell Bertrand and two others (all three of them French) were transferred to Trikala prison in Thessaly.

Efi Kotsou, a far-left marxist militant, was transferred to Larissa prison in Thessaly where she is being held in solitary. Anne Pratsefsky, Avgi Platsi and Macridou, all three far-left marxists, have been moved to Patras prison in the western Peloponnese.

HUNGER STRIKES

We also have news of the hunger strikers in the men's wing of Corydalos. Our anarchist comrades, Philip Kyritsis (serving nine years) and Bouketsides, have been beaten with batons. Georges Zizinis, a far-left marxist is being held absolutely incommunicado. The anarchist militant, Kyriacos Vassiliades has been shifted to the prison on the island of Egine.

COURTS

Two weeks from now fourteen far-left activists will appear before the courts on charges of having killed the assistant commander of the Greek equivalent of the CRS, in Iori. There is no evidence against them.

At present, two police officers are being tried. Efst Stathoulis and Georges Kyrisis, accused of having killed 26 year old Spyridou Spyropoulos on 29 May 1978. The two cops claim that it was not that Spyridou was hit by bullets from their guns so much as that Spyridou hit the bullets fired from their guns. In which case, they argue, Spyropoulos's death was self-inflicted!!

Athens Anarcho-syndicalist Group

Our address is: Nikos Kaziotis, Democritou 21, Metamorfosis, Athens.

WAR SCHOOL (BBC 1)

Armies have usually been the prototype and the blueprint of the State, so any insight into the training and mentality of Officers is useful in understanding the nature of hierarchy. These four programmes were exceptionally rich in material both for the connoisseur of conspiracy theories and the dedicated student of obfuscating clichés, but what lies behind is much more interesting.

The Staff College's aim, we are told, "is to teach leadership", but then all officer training revolves around this abstract core of the military mentality. At Sandhurst the key assessment of performance is the O.Q. (Officer Quality) rating, which is supposed to measure an individual's ability to get others to do what you tell them. In fact the winner of the Sword of Honour is little more than a military Miss World, and those who win this distinction frequently come top of the unofficial poll of the Officer most likely to be shot in the back by his own men when going into the attack.

When discussing leadership, and 'Motivating the men properly', one officer said 'in the final analysis, when he (the officer) says go - they go'. But behind this confidence lies the secret fear of everyone in authority, and especially the Army officer, who can sweat and turn at night with nightmares that his orders will be ignored, or that he will be laughed at by those he is supposed to command. This can be compared to a man who prides himself as a stud being afraid of not getting a hard-on, because in both cases the fear cannot be admitted. If it is admitted and becomes a preoccupation, then the fear can develop into a self-fulfilling prophesy.

In one of the programmes General Sir John Mogg described the officers' fear of being an inadequate leader at a moment of crisis when he described 'having a lot of people looking at you...rather like Labradors sitting on their haunches, waiting for some word of command, either to fetch a pheasant or something like that'. This simile was greeted with deep male laughter which was both sycophantic and slightly nervous. The heartier the laughter, and the greater the bonhomie, the deeper the unease being concealed. They suffer from this unspoken and unspeakable fear of not measuring up to their own definition of leadership. A man 'who has proved himself in a tight corner' is envied not just for the reputation he has achieved by his act, but because it is assumed that he doesn't have to worry like the rest of them any more. Ironically, the great comfort of the tribal system of regiments (which the British Army believes in so strongly) can increase this fear of disgrace in front of their peers.

The tribalism and 'the close relationship between all ranks' which comes with the neo-feudalism of the British regimental system has administrative disadvantages but great strength against subversion. Then above this unit tribalism there exists another bond which is in fact little more than the defensive reaction to being cut off from the rest of society. The army is not just a profession, but a way of life and a whole set of attitudes. 'We have been moulded into a certain type of person' one of them admitted, but that does not mean that they have been systematically brain-washed, for such a course is unnecessary. They had the requisite basic attitudes before they were even accepted for officer training, and from then on they lived in an insulated world of mirrors reflecting the appropriate values, and prejudices. As it affects their whole existence, their wives have to be adaptable to the hierarchy and social pecking order

of their husbands' careers, and often become even more jealous of such protocol than the men. Their choice of friends is as much affected by their husbands' career, as their interests. Needless to say they are the most fervent fans of the Royal Family in the country and totally enchanted by the magic of snobbery which they feel rubs off on to them as a result of the Monarchy's continuing links with regiments.

Kitson (the General who runs the Sandhurst Officer training school) describes his officers' social backgrounds with that favourite middle-class euphemism 'professional people' when he means those whose education and upbringing make them believe that they are the natural and impartial administrators of society. But this tiny minority's image of reality is often cut off from even their civilian counterparts. The traditional officer likes to feel that he has more in common with a gamekeeper or a farm labourer than a banker, partly because he exalts the image of the contented rustic uncontaminated by politics, and partly because he fears that the banker probably despises him. Patriotism and the traditional military virtues often embarrass others of his own class now, and one officer even said that 'with the current collapse of middle class confidence, it is not fashionable to have any air of command at all'. Kitson expressed the same general resentment saying that 'we've become so tolerant that we've forgotten how to exert will power'.

There were many self-conscious, frustrated and defensive remarks in these programmes. 'We're not a lot of thickies' said one major, and another muttered something about being thought a load of buffoons. 'The army repels idealists' said another thrusting out his chin to emphasize that he could take the misrepresentation of his motives from a lot of biased civvies who wanted somebody else to do their dirty work for them. One officer attacked the media as 'a socially-insulated area of society' with out any irony in his voice, and then the most aggressive of them revealed the real product of their inarticulate fears when he talked about subversion in every area of life and especially in the media. Difficult as it may be for those on the left to comprehend, there really are people who believe that Fleet Street is left-wing conspiracy and that even the Daily Telegraph is not untainted. Within the army this attitude rises to the hysterical levels after events like 'Bloody Sunday', but on the whole they have become accustomed to working closely with journalists, and their most feverish suspicions

of 'bolshie newsmen' has decreased, as the very existence of these programmes proved. Nevertheless they also revealed that other aspects of the authoritarian-conservative conspiracy theory have been strengthened, and Afghanistan is just what they needed to say that they had been right all along and that military spending must be given top priority. Counter-suggestions that hospitals and schools are more important are seized upon by the most bigoted as further proof of a KGB manipulated plot. This is the outer fringe of the basic hypothesis that the Soviet invasion across the river Elbe will be accompanied by sabotage at home carried out by KGB recruited subversives. (This generic term for a commie agent covers Trotskyists, Anarchists and trades union militants simply because those who are not with them must be against them, and therefore by definition an ally or active tool of the KGB). The most ludicrous manifestation of this during the programmes, and apparently the only scene to provoke protests, showed an Anthony-Blunt type mole, a trades unionist, a Scottish nationalist, and a Russian spy combining in revolution and singing the Internationale. The enlightened policemen justifies his job by saying that he cannot do anything about the conditions which breed crime. But when it comes to 'political crime' in the form of any extra-parliamentary activity, then the army and the police cannot admit conditions breed reactions without needing incitement or agitation. Throughout history, those in authority have tried to link unrest at home to a foreign enemy. In the Soviet Union in 1937 Trotskyist saboteurs were in the pay of the Gestapo. In Britain in 1979 Anarchists were in the pay of Moscow according to the armed police in a dawn raid in Huddersfield.



ABOVE: TWO S.A.S. TERRORISTS ABOUT TO ATTACK THE IRANIAN EMBASSY IN LONDON.

Northern Ireland is a little more complex for the perceptive army officer's conspiracy theory application test, because it deals with nationalism, even though there are Marxist elements in the IRA. And when things are complicated in this way, his gut reaction is to hate everybody responsible for the messy fight he is in, Catholics, Protestants and the politicians. He is unsettled when he does not have a clearly identifiable object of hate. This is a good example of how the left must not also formulate simplistic theories about the army

and describe it in 'pidgin-agitprop' formulae. With the exception of a minority of repressed psychopaths who are inevitably drawn to such an insitution, the mass of the army detest being in Ulster and the colonialist oppressor label is misleadingly superficial. The army's brutality in such circumstances comes from several sources - Long periods of boredom with back-ground tension make people over-react when the possibility of action finally arrives. A member of an aggressively macho institution like the army represses his fear thus producing the most violent of all emotions. Also they have lost friends who have been shot or blown up and so there is inevitably an indiscriminate urge in the subconscious to avenge them when the chance arises. In general the army would love to get out, but it believes strongly that if it does, there will be a blood bath. Once again one must remember that officer feeling unappreciated and forgotten while still doing his duty for which the civvies despise him. This nobility of duty forces him into defensive clichés - 'the price you pay for freedom' - but he is kept going by the idea that 'when the balloon goes up' (the real man's day of judgement), all those civvies will realise they were wrong to scoff, and will flock to the colours. And once again society will be secure and internally peaceful through lack of politics within a military framework as it was when we all pulled together during the second world war.

The temptation to extend this frustrated wishfulness to a logical conclusion of the army officer yearning for a coup is not however justified except in the rarest cases. The Ulster workers' strike convinced them that an effective general strike cannot be beaten, for they have neither the manpower nor the training to cope. When Margaret Thatcher came to power the chiefs of staff warned her of this in a pointed manner in case she thought she could win a major pitched battle with the unions. In addition the army hates strike-breaking, not from any sympathy with the unions, but because officers and men find it demeaning. They were attracted and prepared for their career with macho dreams of glory, and 'keeping essential services going' is seldom glamorous. The army may have learnt more dirty tricks in Ulster, but it has also learnt its own basic limitations in internal security. The real hawks are within the senior ranks of the police force, and unfortunately I do not think we will be allowed to see a similar series of programmes on Bramshill.

Just received through enemy lines Volume 6 Number 1, March 1980, Black Flag, and want to tell you all you did a superb job with and in this issue!! It's the best Black Flag I have seen in a long time, a real piece of art work that we all here hope you keep up there. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it a lot here, and it is still making the rounds with rightONS coming from all who read it. Also want to thank you for your support of me and for printing the poem of mine. The quality of this Flag inside and out is important to us all, and I hope you can maintain this level of quality in every issue. Quantity is always secondary to quality in our struggle against the forces of evil, and I think the quality of this issue has told especially us locked-down in the kamps worldwide that you care and caring my friends means a lot to us in here. Maybe you can't do a lot for us, but knowing you're there helps us here.

The May 9, 1979 take-over of this prison is going to trial this July unless the State drops charges. The State has declared it is considering dismissing its case against me especially since this victory here, but won't know until June 15th what will happen. They do not want this trial. I am well and doing fine. Busy as always on all the levels I can be busy on in here. Maybe released from segregation by the time you receive this, but ain't holding my breath.

It appears that the transfer game in my case has been defeated due to legal and political pressure around it, but we'll see. Thank you with love for all of you for coming to my aid with your protest letters, and also thanks all of you for the letters, cards, funds and literature I have received. I felt your love and support totally, and let me tell you I sure needed it. Touch and go literally for awhile here - hung between life and death all the way. Without you I couldn't have done much of what I have and others have done here, and without you I might not have survived. Your support has saved many lives and minds here not just mine so I thank you for all of us here. Unity is our main weapon of struggle, and we are only as powerful as we are together, the inside and outside together is the only way we can win anything in here or out there. Put aside all that can be put aside and come together now for the enemy is upon us and armed to the teeth threatening total destruction of all.

Love & Rage,

Carl Harp

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The letter from 'Blackwings' has a somewhat distorted view of what Anarchists think, do and are. But it is the genuine expression of a prisoner in isolation. In our next issue we will try to relate it to practice.

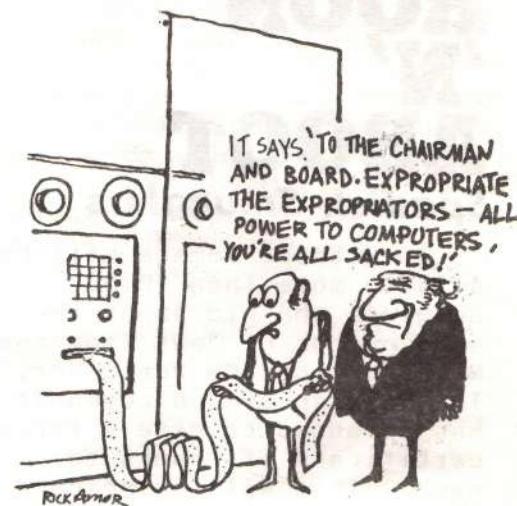
This article was originally to have encompassed a description of what life is like at ... Prison but having given that idea some thought I decided that nothing could be more boring or idiotic to write about. Anyone with a fair amount of sensitivity and independent intellect, along with a minimum of data, is well aware of the conditions in prison (I presume that the 'Dragon' has a low percentage of robot mentalities perusing each issue). However, what is the relative importance of conditions within prison? The material circumstances - food, clothing, housing, the hired help, etc. - which every prisoner must contend with - are to a large degree illusory, if not essentially meaningless.

Perhaps that is too broad a statement, but in the context of having one's liberty usurped by the state, are prison conditions really of consequence? While it is certainly difficult to ignore harsh living conditions anywhere, it seems particularly inappropriate to endeavor to make prison a more comfortable place to live. The 'best' prison is no better than the worst. The repression suffered by prisoners is not determined by the extent of abuses or, conversely, the number of privileges and amenities which are permitted but, rather, that there exists an institution of power, an authority, that legitimizes the violence which serves to create and perpetuate all prisons and condones the behaviour of its functionaries towards prisoners. The hired help may severely torment, ignore or even give some sort of play to prisoners, but regardless of the exact treatment afforded prisoners, the primary offence is that prisons continue to thrive and thus the primary task of anarchists (using the term somewhat loosely) is to undermine

is that many prisoners consider themselves and are considered by some of us to be absolved from responsibility from whatever anti-social acts they may have committed. More cogently, because prisoners are victims of an unjust judicial system and subjected to the inherent deprivations of prison, their actions - past, present, future; to whatever extreme - are therefore justifiable, though no conclusion could be more erroneous. I cannot emphasize enough how totally unrealistic and self-defeating it is for anarchists to regard most prisoners as budding revolutionaries and prison as a clandestine guerrilla training ground. The theme of revolution, with all its trimmings, is being meecilessly exploited by opportunist prisoners for material gain.

REVOLUTIONARIES

A popular fallacy is that prisoners represent the vanguard of the revolution. But the overwhelming majority of prisoners, if given the opportunity, would perform the same role as the hired help in any prison. That is not to say



release from captivity is virtually never mentioned yet said papers are replete with reportage and invocations concerning "prisoner support work". Before the rhetorical bulwarks are erected I hasten to add that I am not targeting those persons who produce anarchist papers as bearing exclusive responsibility for neglecting this issue. To continue then, what form of "support" could possibly be more meaningful to a prisoner than that which might lead to his/her deliverance? The fact that escape is not mentioned in our papers is not, as some might opine, that the printed media is not an appropriate format to discuss such a subject but, rather, because (to say the least) most "prisoner support work" does not entail such activity. Obviously I speak not of publishing details of specific projects or even general tactics but of the promulgation and promotion of extra-judicial proceedings as both viable and essential in our common struggle.

I recognize that, ironically, in respect to prisoners, anarchists practice or tolerate a de facto negation of the individual by sacrificing the well-being of individual prisoners on behalf of "the greater struggle". My choice of words may be a bit crude but I do not believe myself to be mistaken in asserting that among anarchists there is an implicit if not in fact explicit current of thought which dictates that any action which is not intended to further the goals(?) of that heterogeneous blob, "the prison struggle", albeit often through a specific prisoners, is somehow an act of selfishness or - gasp! - counterrevolution. Prisoners need not apologize for striving to be free. (FE take note: No "explanation" is necessary as to why we should support our dear brother, Carl Harp, in his particular situation.)

PRISONS NOT INVULNERABLE

I know of no prison which is escape-proof, however; in most instances outside support is required in order to effect or facilitate liberation. Not everyone is capable of actively participating in an armed incursion against a specific prison but there are any number of supportive roles which must be filled to ensure the successful extrication of our sisters and brothers. Of course, not every extra-judicial release will require an armed encounter; indeed, what is to prevent some of our people from getting jobs as prison guards and thus allow

cont. bottom Page 10.

LETTERS

or circumvent the exercise of such authority. I guess that sounds pretty simple, but to maintain that perspective is to go significantly beyond the tunnel vision which prisoners themselves, even those of revolutionary inclination ordinarily adhere to.

TUNNEL VISION

By "tunnel vision" I mean a narrow outlook of prisoners, specifically an acceptance of incarceration and, at best, a design towards improving life on the inside for all who are likewise situated. It is far more often the case that, having accepted prison, a given prisoner or group of prisoners will do whatever can be done to make their bid more bearable regardless of how such efforts affect other prisoners. To all readers who are in captivity: need I catalogue the seemingly endless exhibitions of greed, cruelty and stupidity as manifested by the majority of our fellow captives? The foremost effect of such tunnel vision, however, is that it greatly reinforces the prison system because the game is played (and in that context must be) entirely in accord with the state's rules and objectives.

A terrifically devastating consequence, or perhaps as a parallel form, of tunnel vision

they would exclusively or necessarily be employed in a prison system, but that whatever position they elect to pursue within society, their actions would prove entirely supportive of the very powers, institutions and values which we are inexorably opposed to.

The above discussion was not intended to establish that only a select minority of prisoners possess a "true and correct revolutionary awareness" (smile folks), rather to demonstrate the inefficacy of uncritical support of all prisoners. The most unfortunate consequence of such superficiality is that the "prison struggle", both in terms of direct action undertaken to advance same and the declarations of those who are ostensibly opposed to the established order, is virtually synonymous with the notion of improving a particular prison or prisons in general. Aside from the fact that what usually passes as "support" is only symbolic in nature, the "prison struggle" seems to have utterly forsaken the objective of actual liberation from prison, i.e. prior to a release date established by the state.

BREAKING OUT

It is somewhat disconcerting that in our fine anarchist papers the topic of extra-judicial

ROON 'N' ABOUT Spanish Smugglers

In October homage will be paid to more than 20,000 Belgians who hid about the same number of Jews from the Nazis during the World War. The Belgian Jewish community has arranged to give a formal certificate of thanks to each. This will coincide with the trial of three SS officers for deportation and murder. (Of 25,257 Belgian Jews deported, only 1,205 survived).

This lends piquancy to the request of Belgian Jew Andre Blumensohn, who has asked for recognition to be made of Spanish resistance fighters who also enabled Jews to escape the Nazis. No tribute whatsoever has been made by the official Jewish organisations. No record exists of even the barest acknowledgment of their help, though sometimes reference is made to the "French Maquis, including many Spaniards" and most grossly misleading and insulting of all - praise is sometimes given to General Franco for permitting the entry of escapees.

As M. Blumensohn has pointed out (and we, of course, know only too well) the Spanish 'smugglers' were deliberately acting against Franco's wishes, flooding in immigrants from Hitler, thus embarrassing his neutrality policy. Refugees and Allied soldiers alike were put into concentration camps by Franco negotiated for by the protecting authorities) or dispersed by the resistance throughout towns like Barcelona to await shipping.

RAIDS

Not infrequently the Falange would make a raid on the boarding houses and small hotels containing refugees, such as in the Plaza Real in Barcelona (where the CNT Regional Committee now is), dragging them out in the middle of the night in their night clothes, beating them up to cries of Heil Hitler and taking those without papers to prison (and a few for a quiet rendezvous with death).

APPEASEMENT

It is purely politics that

Lies of The Times

The Times - the voice of the English Establishment once more - published a special supplement on Catalonia. (May 22nd). Under the pretence of impartial objectivity, it contains half-truths, and downright lies - the old Times formula unimpaired by its long absence.

Difficult to talk about Catalonia without mentioning anarchism once - but you don't have to explain what it is, you can rely on the deadening effect of repetitive propaganda. Difficult too to write articles about its culture without mentioning that for most of the past forty years it has been subject to repression by a central government which hated every manifestation of Catalan indigenous art and culture.

Granted this, savour the following paragraph: "In the troubled 1930's, when anarchists took over the monastery of Montserrat, with its priceless

prevents recognition being given to the Spanish 'smugglers' - who never charged those without cash, nor resistance fighters, and only made the rich pay, or the Allied governments, for aid to the escaping soldiers. The Israeli government has used its influence because of its desire to appease Gen. Franco and his successors; and no government in the world wants to give credit to the Anarchist movement to which ninety per cent of the people concerned belonged.

Desmond Keane

Desmond Keane, who was among the anarchists arrested in the Dublin case, which led subsequently to the Murrays' case, was re-arrested in February charged with "entering premises armed with a shotgun to commit larceny". All those who were involved in the case (except the Murrays, who are still serving their life sentence) had been released. Desmond has been convicted and sentenced to eight years on the present charge. It had been suggested by the police that Desmond was out to raise money for the campaign to grant conjugal rights to the Murrays, but there is no justification for this. It is true that Des has

collections of art, manuscripts and artefacts, it was a poet Ventura Gassols, then cultural councillor of the Generalitat who succeeded, through difficult negotiations, in saving the treasures".

It was not Franco, but his enemies who were the threat to Catalan culture?

CHURCHES

In the "troubled 1930's" - or more precisely in 1936 when Franco declared war upon the people he had sworn to "protect" from their enemies, the churches were being used as garrisons against the people. It was certainly "difficult" in many cases to persuade the workers' militias that this was not so. In every Spanish uprising for the previous 100 years, there had been attacks on the churches which had always sided with the repressive forces. It was "extremely difficult" for militants to persuade the majority of people to preserve the cultural heritage which the Church had grabbed. But they did it.

If you relied on The Times, to whom would you give the credit?

shown great sincerity and devotion to the anarchist cause. But the larceny charge - to which he pleaded guilty - arose from those long years in prison out of which he came to try to build a life again, unsuccessfully.

The Dublin Anarchist Book Collective have brought out the first issue of their paper 'Resistance' (70p for 3 issues including p&p) from 7 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.

The AWA paper is 'Anarchist Worker' (£1 for 5 issues) C/O A. MacSimon, 49A Leinster Road, Dublin 6. Belfast group paper 'Outta Control' (5p per issue) from 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast BT1 1JQ.

There is also an Irish anti-nuke paper (heavy on the anarchist side) called 'The Contaminated Crow' (25p per issue) from 7 Winetavern Street, Belfast.

Money for Bombs

The Crass/Poison Girls single 'Bloody Revolutions/Persons Unknown' is causing a bit of bovver. Recently paying a visit to the printer who did the cover, the police confiscated a 'sample' copy and as they were leaving said, "You need money to make bombs, don't you". We always thought that flour, sugar and weedkiller were the classic ingredients!

Meanwhile HMV, the record chain store, have ordered that all their stocks of the single, which is gradually creeping towards the Top 50, be destroyed as they are worried that police harassment against the record shops around the country may be directed against them, too.

Crass' previous single, 'Reality Asylum/Shaved Women', about Christ and collaborators respectively, had its unfair share of hassles as well, with the Vice Squad threatening to do the group for blasphemy. The DPP decided not to proceed in that instance but recently some record shops holding the single were told by the police that the record was "damaging to the morals of those under 18" and by selling it could be committing an offence. As we experienced with an earlier issue of Black Flag, satire can cause offence quite easily.

Profits from 'Bloody/Revolutions/Persons Unknown' (U.K. price 70p) go to the forthcoming Anarchist Centre. If you want to get hold of a copy or any of the other Crass or Poison Girls records, but can't get them through your local record dealer, the following outlets can be contacted:

ROUGH TRADE: 202 Kensington Park Road, London, W11; ROUGH TRADE: 1412 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, California 94133; ZENSOR: Belzigerstrasse 23, 1 Berlin 30; GIUCAR: via Ciamician 3A, Bologna. Also RED RHINO, York; REVOLVER, Bristol; INFERNO, Birmingham. Details of costs, including p&p, should be obtained direct from the outlet concerned.

Anarchy Collective

meets every Thursday from 7 p.m. at Little A Press, C1 Metropolitan Wharf, Wapping Wall, Wapping (22 bus or Wapping tube).

The magazine is coming out of temporary retirement and the new group is open to all who want to get involved. We would like to grow into something more than a paper group, although the magazine is the main focus of our activity.



cont. from Page 9.
"Blackwings"

prisoners to depart from a given dump simply by opening doors or converting a guard tower into a play-rocket (or whatever) or firing a gun far wide of the mark? After all, the fortress-like facade of any prison is intended solely to convince/brainwash those inside that they cannot possibly escape but such "awesome" structures should hardly pose as an insurmountable obstacle to people on the outside. How is it that anarchists can see right

through most of the absurdities which the powers that be pass off as civilization, normalcy, morality, success, and on and on, yet many of our number are apparently mesmerized by the illusion of invulnerability which prisons exude? I am puzzled as to the whereabouts of a creature called courage.

I hope I haven't created the impression that the sole task of anarchists, in relation to

prisons, is to free anarchist prisoners. On the contrary, I would, for example, like to also free the judge who sentenced me to eternity but, at least this time around, I wanted to avoid discussing ideal or theoretical anarchism.

To close, then, and truly not wishing to castigate those who mean well, the call to "abolish all prisons" rings a bit hollow to those of us who endure the

madness of captivity. Perhaps the above will provoke more than written responses.

'Blackwings'

ED. NOTE: It's untrue to suggest that prisons can't politicise people: the influx of I.R.A. prisoners had this effect in England. As for prison conditions, freedom is, of course, preferable; but that is not to say that so is Stammheim.

"Someone is lying, and lying hard." Thus spoke Judge Edward Clarke at the beginning of his summing up in the case against Ray Barron and Henry Baker.

Barron and Baker were accused of plotting to rob a Group 4 Security van in South London in 1978. The evidence against them looked impressive - a sawn-off shotgun and masks found in the boot of Barron's car, verbal admissions and evidence from two of the latest supergrasses, Rose and Fowles.

After having spent 18 months in Brixton on remand the case finally came up for trial in December 1979 at the Old Bailey. The jury was unable to reach a verdict and the retrial came up in July.

Barron claimed that the police had planted the shotgun in his car - he was, he said, a target for the police because of his previous criminal record. They tried to turn him into an informer and when he refused they fitted him up. Describing the 'finding' of the weapon Barron described it as being "like a magician pulling a rabbit out of a hat".

Referring to the "verbal admissions" both defendants denied having said the things attributed

to them and claimed that the police had invented the admissions. In fact one officer had said "I'm the script writer".

GRASSES

The grasses, who gave detailed evidence against the two, had previously been given light sentences in return for helping the police. The defence claimed that they named Barron and Baker in order to improve their prospects of lenient treatment.

Judge Edward Clarke did his utmost to have the pair convicted. At one point in his summing up Ray Barron left the court telling the judge: "This is the most

biased summing-up I've ever heard". (Many defendants have sat quietly through similar summings up not daring to protest for fear of alienating the jury, but it would seem from Barron's experience that it is sometimes the only thing to do. George Ince acted in the same way during the Barnes Restaurant trial; Mleford-Stevenson presiding. Iris Mills walked out during King-Hamilton's summing up, followed quickly by the other defendants in the Persons Unknown trial. Later, members of jury which acquitted them told them that it was the best thing they could have done.

As long as the protests are to-the-point and not ranting and raving, far from alienating the jury, they can be a help in persuading it of one's case).

The jury unanimously acquitted Barron and Baker and therefore, if they listened to Clarke at all, decided that if anyone was lying it was the police. In acquitting, they accepted the defence claims that guns were planted by the police, the verbal admissions were inventions, and the grasses goaded into naming innocent men.

On leaving the court Ray Barron was re-arrested. He was subsequently charged with a number of robberies but was released on bail.

In June Brian Keenan was sentenced to 18 years imprisonment at the Old Bailey on charges of conspiracy to cause explosions and conspiracy to possess firearms. In sentencing Keenan the judge told him that "the role you played in this affair is still unclear and I must be careful not to sentence you on suspicion." In fact, in uttering these words the judge was revealing the whole basis of the prosecution's case against Keenan: the case rested on suspicion, was unsupported by any direct evidence, and relied heavily on anti-Irish, anti-republican prejudice.

Keenan was arrested in early 1978 by the R.U.C. in Northern Ireland. He was taken to England where he was wanted in connection with a number of bombings and shootings. It was alleged that he was the organiser behind the unit which carried out a number of actions in this country, including the assassination of Ross McWhirter, the right-wing publisher who had offered a bounty on I.R.A. members. The unit was eventually captured after the Balcombe Street siege in 1975 and they received heavy prison sentences.

The unit had been the most successful of those operating in England and had begun to select among their targets important high-level figures. This was an important change of tactics for the I.R.A. who had previously concentrated on less important targets.

R.U.C. TACTICS

The R.U.C. claim Keenan's

arrest was made possible by an intensive surveillance operation mounted by them. For weeks they kept known republicans under careful scrutiny and collected as much information on them (trivia included) as they could glean. As part of the same operation the R.U.C. had recourse to a device used by other anti-guerrilla forces, including the Cinquieme Bureau in Algeria - the Psychological and Political Warfare department of the French Army. The device employed was to use the information gathered from the surveillance operation to fool the I.R.A. into believing that there was a highly-placed informer in the organisation. During the interrogation of suspects, carefully selected bits of information would be fed to them which would hint at the existence of an informer. It was hoped that suspicion and paranoia would hinder the organisation's activities. During the Algerian war (1954-62) the Cinquieme Bureau's attempt to do the same met with an incredible measure of success. Not only were the F.L.N.'s operations adversely affected but there were murderous purges of suspected informers who liquidated without any evidence of guilt being offered.

THE CASE

The R.U.C. claim that the arrest of Keenan is the biggest success of the surveillance operation to date. It is clear that they badly wanted him out of the way. However they were faced with the embarrassing problem of not having anything against him.

Unable to charge him they instead handed him over to the English police, who subsequently charged him with several conspiracy counts.

How badly the police wanted to put Keenan away can be seen from the choice of prosecuting counsel - none other than the Attorney General himself, Sir Michael Havers. In opening the case against Keenan at the Old Bailey in May he reminded the jury of the I.R.A. campaign of 1974-75, describing in graphic detail the injuries suffered by the victims - but as Keenan wasn't at the scenes of any of the attacks (as Havers admitted) this kind of thing could serve only one purpose - to prejudice the jury.

Havers went on to allege that Keenan was the organiser behind the units carrying out the operations - the 'Mr. Big'. He had little to support his claim - some fingerprints found on moveable objects (newspapers) at addresses used by some of those involved in the campaign. Then there was the fact that Keenan had a forged Drivers Licence in the name of Michael Campbell and had travelled to England in 1975 in that name. The evidence was remarkably sketchy and although it could be interpreted to mean that Keenan may have had links with those later convicted after the Balcombe Street siege, it could hardly be construed to mean that he was, as Havers alleged, 'Mr. Big'.

Brian Keenan did not give evidence on his own behalf and instead made a two-hour speech

from the dock. He described vividly his life and upbringing in Northern Ireland. He went on to deny the charges against him and to explain why his fingerprints had been found on the newspapers at the "safe houses". He had, he said, travelled to England to buy a black taxi for use in Belfast. (Black taxis form the basis of public transport in Republican areas in Belfast). He had been given an address before he left Belfast of people with whom he could stay whilst in London. The address was that of a house in Hornsey, later discovered to have been used by an I.R.A. unit.

Keenan's decision not to go into the witness box and allow himself to be cross-examined may have contributed to the outcome of the trial. In his summing-up the judge referred to it, telling the jury that what he said from the dock did not carry as much weight as if it had been given from the witness box. (Compare this direction with Cartley's in the Thorpe trial when he told the jury that not only was it the right of the defendant not to give evidence but a refusal to say anything could in no way be held against him).

RAILROADED

Keenan was convicted on the 13th day of his trial by a 10-2 majority. On the evidence the verdict was surprising but when the determination of the police, judiciary and state to get him is remembered it hardly comes as a shock. Despite the success of the Persons Unknown trial the power of the state to railroad people remains.

cont. from Page 7.

SPAIN

People charged in connection with the Scala nightclub fire in which four workers burned to death in Barcelona are due in court soon. This hot potato, apparently part of an orchestrated attempt to associate the CNT with this outrage, will at last be picked up. The Barcelona courts passed it on to the National Court who sent it on to the Supreme Court who in return referred it to Barcelona, and so on over 2½ years.

Those who stand trial are:

Luis Munoz Garcia, Jose Cuevas Casado, Arturo Palma Segura, Javier Canada Gascon, Maria Pilar Alvarez, Maria Rosa Lopez.

After two years in detention, Maite Fabres Oliveras has been released unconditionally.

The CNT is curious as to the Riba brothers' role in the fire. The owners of the Scala (in which two CNT and two UGT workers burned to death in mysterious circumstances) stood to collect 200,000,000 pesetas insurance money. (They did. *Black Flag Page 11*

Even though the Scala was not insured against terrorist attacks). The Ribas have since set up business in Madrid.

CNT member Jorge Caballero Sanchez, a member of the Construction Union in Madrid, was beaten to death whilst leaving a cinema, by young ultra rightists of the Fuerza Nueva party. His crime? Wearing a CNT badge. His death and a spate of similar incidents involving fascists and neo-fascists had led to calls for the CNT's Defence Committees to be strengthened to counter the fascist attack.

Film producer Pilar Miro will shortly stand trial before Military Tribunal No. 5 in Madrid on account of a scene in her film 'El Crimen de Cuenca' which shows a Civil Guard interrogating and torturing prisoners. The plot is set in 1910. The film has been banned and confiscated. She is charged with "insulting the Civil Guards". Her case is aggravated by the fact that in defiance of an order by the Military Court the film was shown at the Berlin Film Festival on 24th February 1980. Ironically, it was the official Spanish entry, chosen by the Ministry of Culture.



Black Flag's Court Circular



Press Hysteria

from page one
Jo Grimond had to come into it. After all, as MP for Orkney and Shetland, he lives within 200 miles of where the book was published and so might have inside knowledge... but, as he said, he neither knew the man nor the book. However (shy, unassuming fellow that he is) he was able to say that "all this man wants is publicity". Stuart's name appears nowhere in the book but a little publicity does a book no harm, and to be attacked by these people is like having the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval...

N.B.: Those who may be confused by the reference in the press to the price of the book should understand that Resale Price Maintenance has officially gone... so there is no reason why any anarchist publishers should charge the D.P.P., police colleges, military intelligence units, institutions in state socialist countries and the like the same as any other reader. They are only too ready to seize copies without payment when they are able to do so! They, like story-seeking newspapers, wanting subscriptions, often get quoted five times the price and have the consolation of knowing they support the sending of books to prisoners and others who could not otherwise afford them.

Anarcho-quiz answers from Page 2

1. Soldiers under the command of Maj. Gen. Mikail Topilsky, pursuing White forces through the Pamir mountains of southern Russia, opened fire on what they thought was a fleeing band of soldiers and killed a hominid creature, believed to be a degenerated Neanderthal man.
2. Traditionally, the Anarchists in French, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese speaking countries call each other Companions - and regarded the word 'comrades' as having militarist overtones (reinforced by Marxist and later Fascist use of the word 'comrades'). But 'companion' has a different connotation in English and German, hence the word 'comrade'.
3. All are terms of political abuse from the period of the American Civil War, and which later passed into the English language: scallawags was the term given to (anti-slavery) Republicans in the South, copperheads the term given to (pro-slavery) Democrats in the North, and carpet baggers the term given to Republicans who, after their victory, moved down South to take public office.
4. Queen Victoria.
5. The French Anarchist poet Roussenq served 4,000 days of solitary confinement on Devil's Island (Guiana).
6. The opera version of Handel's 'Judas Maccabaeus' portrayed uniformed Hitler Youth and victims of the Nazis comparing scenes in Jerusalem with concentration camps and atrocities in Chile.

R.A.F. Prisoners

from page one
time other screws arrived, making up a double shift of 16 screws.

"Once in the cells they demanded that we strip naked. We refused, whereupon they undressed us by force. The cells were full of male screws. They tore off our clothes. The attack lasted for several minutes. After it I had pains in my liver, my nose was bleeding and my hair was torn out in bundles.

"Christine was thrown on the floor, choked by the screws, and had her glasses broken. Brigitte had her glasses taken away. Christa was thrown around the cell by the Rollkommando. Anne has difficulty getting up. We all have pains in our joints, torn ligaments, bruising and loss of hair. We were left naked in our cells for five hours.

"Hensch said that there was no special reason for what happened - "This was normal - like 1977". This refers to the beating up of prisoners in Stammheim leading up to their murders a few weeks later."

Two months earlier the cells of the five women had been raided by the political police and defence papers and other material seized. On the basis of this material they were charged with "forming a terrorist organization" inside the isolation wing. The new charges are an attempt to extend their prison sentences indefinitely because although has double life, Christa and Anne are due for release in 1981, Brigitte in 1982, and Inga in 1985.

The new charges and the two attacks are a response to the political resistance and solidarity that the five had developed inside the isolation wing.

- they had been active in publishing their conditions of isolation
- they worked to support the setting up of an International Commission to protect political prisoners and exchanged information with the Commission.

- they consistently refused to renounce their political identity in return for "normal" prison conditions.

- they resisted all attempts by the state to crush them and deny the political content of the struggle.

On January 28th 1980 the five began a hunger strike and started a thirst strike the next day, demanding a transfer out of the isolation wing. After nine days the authorities agreed to their interim demand to be moved to hospital. They are now in the Hamburg hospital.



Day of direct action

On Wednesday June 11th, six people (a collection of anarchists and autonomists) appeared before Highgate Magistrates Court to face a charge of 'Criminal Damage'. This charge related to smashed windows at a Tory party office in Hampstead. The six pleaded guilty to the charge.

They were given a year's conditional discharge and were ordered to pay compensation of £31 each.

This event happened on May 14th, the T.U.C.'s 'Day of Action'. The T.U.C. Rally at Central Hall, Westminster had also been the 'victim' of the anarchists and autonomists. On this occasion the protesters were hastily and violently ejected by heavy stewards.

Despite the fact that the few (about 600) who attended the T.U.C. Rally did bother to take the day off work and "hasten the decline" of the small business man and the

bosses and the bureaucracy. If all we want is reformism (better pay, shorter hours) then we can stick with what we have got. It is through working as individuals or groups inside the workplace and possibly taking action

VIEWPOINT



'Daily Express' the 'Day of Action' was a non-event and has further proved what we already know - that the T.U.C. is just a wash-out. Although it still has the power to negotiate for higher pay; to lead strikes or alternatively to put down unofficial strikes; to collaborate with the Labour governments even to agreeing on an incomes policy (it does not matter that these agreements are 'voluntary') it doesn't have the workers behind it any longer. (It could be that having collaborated with the Labour government through the T.U.C. it was an insult to expect people to come out against the Tory government as both parties differ in name only).

General Strike

A one-day General Strike was suggested by one of the big union leaders and this may have gotten everybody out but the T.U.C. said no to the idea. Perhaps the T.U.C. was afraid that people might realise what a good idea it was and not just for the one day.

Though the 'Day of Action' has shown the ineffectiveness of the T.U.C., it is an equally impotent gesture to call for an 'alternative' to the present unions by reviving old organisations like the I.W.W. or creating completely new syndicalist ones. More organisations - more inaction. What is needed in the workplace is workers councils, the aim of which is to take over the workplace and abolish the

tage of union meetings, that it is possible to try and get workers councils going.

Movements

There is nothing wrong with movements because a movement is merely an expression of an idea. But people tend to see themselves primarily as being members of a movement. If it is results we want, we should identify less with the movement and more with the problems that the movement is concerned about.

Therefore, in order to avoid this diversion of peoples' energies, we should dispense with the movement altogether and hold meetings to organise for action as and when it is necessary. ***

*** As the interventionist action by anarchists and autonomists at two meetings this year has taken up so much space in the anarchist press we would hope that people would realise that although this type of action can hardly be regarded as "revolutionary" (as one anarchist paper put it) this kind of action is a good thing in itself, and therefore should be carried out. The experience gained through interventionist action is valuable and a saturation of the country with a variety of actions could possibly provoke a response from the country as a whole.

Anarchists should see this action of intervention in perspective. Perhaps the reason for such a hostile response from some anarchists is due, not to their desire to see free speech prevail, but to the totally passive nature of anarchists in this country.