

FOR THE CONFERENCE AGAINST POLICE REPRESSION
- HARINGEY, 14th SEPTEMBER, 1985 -

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE STOP 'THE CITY' PROTESTS 1983/84,
CONCENTRATING ON ATTITUDES TO POSSIBLE AND ACTUAL POLICE
REPRESSION, AND EFFORTS TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE PROTESTS.

Also includes leaflets and discussion documents produced by those involved at the time:

- * Map of 'The City' + general briefing for STC 4..
- * Police official briefing (internal). 4 pages. For STC 2
- * Attitudes to police:- non-cooperation, ideas for actions, clogging up the court process, related protests.
- * Account of STC 2 (and covering STC 1) + analysis and quotes.
- * A Haringey account of STC 4
- * Account of final evaluation meeting (October 1984) and suggestions for the future..
- * November 5th (1984) Day of Protests leaflet - which came out of the evaluation mtg.
- * General reflections and analysis
- * STC 4 poster.

Compiled by Dave,
(an STC participant, and a member
of London Greenpeace).

Here's a brief account of the Stop 'The City' protests concentrating on attitudes to police repression.

SUMMARY

Dates

Feb 1983 Members of London Greenpeace (involved with peace movement blockades of military bases) call for blockades of city centres to halt war preparations.

Sept 29 1983 1500 people successfully occupy and protest in the 'City' of London.
(203 arrests)

March 22 - 29 1984 Week of local town centre protests against financial institutions to oppose oppression. (15 - 20 towns).

March 29 1984 STC 2 - 3000+ people successfully occupy and disrupt the centre of the 'City' to oppose oppression and exploitation. (450 arrests) May 31 STC 3, 600 people - 170 arrests.

August 1984 - 'Stop Leeds'. Day of various actions by about 400 people.

Sept 20 - 27 1984 Week of local town centre protests (as in March, but smaller).

Sept 27 1984 2-2500 people attempt to disrupt the City - met with heavy police repression. (470 arrests). STC 4

October 1984 'Stop Birmingham' Maybe only 150 take part. Police smash the protests.

Dec 1984 Edinburgh Day of Action against Oppression. Maybe 100 participate - many successful small protests.

April 30 1985 International 'Stop Business-As-Usual' Day declared. Hundreds of varied and successful small-group actions all over England, Scotland and Wales. (Few arrests). Also other countries.

How it developed

a) STC 1

When the idea to stop the City of London (one of the major financial decision-making areas of the world), and the real seat of power in this country) was proposed, nearly everyone said 'it can't be done', 'they'll never allow it', 'you'll be smashed' etc. However, people involved with peace movement protests at military bases and elsewhere had a great deal of experience and confidence in organising independently and refusing to be intimidated. Hence they were the backbone of the first STC which was specifically opposed to war and arms manufacturers/financiers. No-one knew what would happen.

In the end, despite an early morning police raid on a co-ordination building, we held a strong, friendly, informative and disruptive protest in the heart of capitalism. To counter peoples' fear and fantasies of what the police 'might' do, we had encouraged each other to come in self-organised groups, with our own plans - a assemblying at 3 points, where maps, briefings, ideas, legal back-up, help to form groups etc were provided. Messengers spread information.

Police were out-organised and taken by surprise. They expected leaders and sheep (there were none). The carnival and creative atmosphere also put them on the defensive, as well as the thousands of workers looking on.

b) STC 2

By March 29th, the police had a semi-military control plan. However, they were still confused and the police Chief rang 15 contact phone numbers begging to talk to 'the organisers' and negotiate. No-one did. STC 2 was much broader (aiming to close down the 'City' on the last day of the financial year in opposition to all exploitation and oppression). All active social opposition movements were invited to take part in the way they wished. 3000+ participated. We had created excellent briefings, back-up services (including our own first aid and legal support teams). The central streets were virtually under our control at times. Police were unable to use more than 'minimum force' in case full-scale resistance by protestors lead to our seizing control/building barricades, increasing our damage to financial property. Demonstrators largely refused to attack police, partly through fear but also through the desire to preserve harmony among ourselves (many being pacifists). But there were hundreds of independent actions, as well as surges, spontaneously coordinated by those involved. Dozens of groups distributed up to 40,000 of their own leaflets to workers. Many responded fairly positively, and most were fascinated. . . . this again gave us strength. Because there were no leaders, people communicated and took initiatives themselves. 450 arrests had failed to break a 7-hour long demo.

STC 2, the 'City' courts were choc-a-block with STC defendants. Some of them

had given false names and done a runner. Others had good, coordinated defences (which had been helped by defendant's meetings organised after both STCs and publicised in the briefings handed out during the events). On some days there were collective protests inside and outside the court. We were fairly successfully making the court and police look silly.

c) STC 3

Police changed their tactics. A poorly publicised and deliberately unco-ordinated protest - STC 3 - May 31st 1984 - failed to attract the previous participants, let alone any new ones. Only 5-600 arrived, in dribs and drabs. Police responded by searching everyone, stealing all leaflets and useful equipment, and told people to fuck off out of the City or get nicked. This is what happened. 170 arrests. No back-up.. Almost no actions.

But Sept 27th had already been chosen for the next major day of protests (STC 4) and most people had ignored the May one as ill-conceived and too rushed. But the police success may have scared off a lot of people who would have been expected to join in after the March STC. At the same time, the media was busily caricaturing all the participants as 'punks'. This was to help marginalise us, to create a psychological barrier between us and the workers, as well as between us and the many hundreds of thousands of people active in a broad range of struggles (against racism, in the labour, peace and animal rights movements, in unemployed and tenants struggles etc...). Many of these were beginning to be interested (especially the unemployed and the miners), despite either lack of interest or outright opposition to the STC idea by almost all Left-Wing and Alternative organisations and magazines.

d) STC 4

Throughout the summer there was a great deal of work to publicise STC 4 and involve people. Monthly evaluation/preparation gatherings restarted. There was a new atmosphere amongst us regarding the police. Many people having experienced the repression/Courts had become angry and more determined to fight back next time. They felt that we could defend each other and attack the police if necessary. But others had dropped out, either due to fear or disapproval of confrontations. Also there was more discussion of techniques for avoiding the cops (small-group, mobile actions covering a wider area) and plans to disrupt their radios and vehicles. The character of a mass, diverse, open demonstration/street festival was gradually changing into a day of independent small-group actions, co-ordinated yet separate (and some secret).

On Sept 27th, maybe 2000 came - mostly anarchists and unemployed, as well as some peace and animal rights campaigners. Police repression was well organised and strong. It was impossible to gather at the City centre (St Paul's and the Bank of England, used previously, were cordoned off). Individuals and isolated small groups who were 'looking for the demo' were threatened with arrest, and soon left, disillusioned. Anyone looking like a punk was particularly harassed. 470 were arrested and held hostage (only 35 were charged) to break up the collective strength. However, many people who'd organised into independent groups were able to do quick actions all over the place (graffiti, smashing bank windows, a quick occupation etc). 2 or 3 times 3-400 people came together for a march into the centre.. Hundreds who were dressed up smart continued to float about (giving out leaflets, passing messages, doing actions...). But generally the City became a no-go area almost for us. Many demonstrators therefore decided to go to Oxford St and Soho in central London and were able to make quite a few effective protests at various banks, offices and stores etc.

e) The aftermath.

Despite an impressive amount of successful and courageous actions in the face of repression, maybe a majority of participants were disheartened and some disillusioned. At the following evaluation meeting in Leeds it was generally felt that, although local town centre protests could (and did) continue, any future attempts to close down the ~~head~~ heartland of British capitalism would need to involve tens of thousands of people.

The STC groups weren't strong enough to overcome their isolation - to explain themselves and draw in their neighbours, and other campaigning groups and individuals who may still think that parliament is where decisions are made, or that we can trust others to 'look after our interests' or improve the world for us. The image pushed by all the press that this series of protests were chaotic, obscure, ineffective and nasty, and only relevant to young punky anarchists gradually took hold. In fact, stopping 'the City' is a VITAL NECESSITY for everyone as capitalism is a vile, destructive and oppressive System which we ourselves have the power and the responsibility to change.

Further protests against the 'City' may develop again out of new struggles (strikes, unemployed movements...). But for the moment those involved with STC have moved on to other forms and areas of opposition (such as local groups, Stop Business-As-Usual protest days, back to single-issue campaigns (groan!), conferences like this, ...).

SOME CONCLUSIONS ABOUT DEALING WITH REPRESSION

We must realise that each struggle, although we are all fighting the same System and its police, has its own character. A strike, a riot, a series of peace protests, a one-off demo, in the countryside or town centre or residential area etc - each is different.

From our experience, in all protests, excepting a community uprising (as in Handsworth, St Paul's, Liverpool 8 etc) an enormous amount of preparation, organisation and discussion is vital. The idea is to create, at the grass roots, the greatest possible sharing of information, responsibility, decision-making, awareness, initiative, communication, confidence, mutual aid, independence etc. The miners strike, the peace movement, the struggles in Ireland and STC networks had/have some of these strengths.

Here are some suggestions from the STC experience :

1) Beforehand Don't fantasise about police strength (they are nearly always overrated). Don't be intimidated. Concentrate on getting the maximum number of people involved. Organise yourselves early. Encourage many local and practical groups for various tasks. Hold regular open meetings to co-ordinate. Don't have leaders or spokespeople.

Survey the area. Print good maps, advice (legal and ideas) for possible activity). Do good publicity. Inform/involve local residents and workers as far as possible.

2) During a protest You are stronger in groups, self-sufficient in ideas, plans, initiative, provisions (food, first aid etc), leaflets... Legal, first aid and co-ordination support networks may be vital. Maps should be distributed. Communication between all groups and areas needs to occur continuously (word-of-mouth, messengers on bikes etc). Spread accurate info to all.

We've always got more power than we think we have. We must try to keep the initiative and put the cops onto the defensive - keep them confused, uncertain, afraid, one step behind. Disrupting their vehicles, radios, command structure etc is useful. Keep mobile wherever possible, or stand your ground at a suitable place (refuse to be boxed in somewhere irrelevant where you can do nothing or get arrested). Leaflet and talk to all passers-by. Don't get into arguments - appeal to them to join you.

3) Try to encourage people to do what they wish to do (never obey orders from stewards), yet build up collective decision-making also.

c) Afterwards. Have already-publicised evaluation meetings. Also defendants' meetings and set up a bust fund to raise money for fines. Do reports. Publicise our strengths and successes (not go on about what the fucking police did). Print photos of us, not the cops. Be willing to learn from your own strengths and weaknesses/mistakes. Be honest.

All change is a long process. Unfortunately most people tend to adapt and accept (most of the time) their roles. All of us have a lot to learn and must try to better help each other to be confident, to fight for our needs, to express ourselves. It's no good thinking we have all the answers or ordering others about. We can show by example what is possible.

A FEW FINAL THOUGHTS.... * We are sick of seeing articles and photos of cops beating people up. Let's see and read about our strengths. Also they always apologise for riots, sabotage etc.. 'Thatcher/Unemployment/Cops are to blame etc'. We should rather advocate and applaud this sort of resistance, and encourage it to spread widely, until the whole country(world) becomes a no-go area for our oppressors (cops, bosses, politicians).

* Let's not forget that harassment doesn't just happen on demos, or to minorities - all working class people have to put up with this shit in our daily lives, especially.

* Who wants cops to be 'accountable'? They should be non-existent.

* Wherever people gather (at work, on the street, at school, in shops, at the DHSS) - there is our strength to support each other & fight back. Politics is about our everyday lives.

Well, that's about it. Who knows what the future may bring, and whether we'll be successful in making a better world. We have to fight like hell from now on..

in solidarity and love,

Dave (speaking for myself). xxx



400,000 people, mostly office and counter workers, commute in and out of this area each day. Only about 6000 live here. It used to house most of the population of London up to the middle ages. The area is now packed with thousands of international banks, companies and financial concerns - 'concerned' that is with making profits through exploitation.

Let's reclaim 'the City' streets with bicycles, discussions, pickets of buildings, music ... our world belongs to us, not these institutions.

Stages

Stairs

Today's concerted attempt to Stop 'the City' is another in a series of protests against profits being made by financial institutions and Governments out of exploiting people and animals, funding wars, ecological destruction and generally controlling us all. This is the financial nerve-centre of Britain. It is here that violence, destruction, fear, manipulation and death all over our world is planned. Some of the aims today are:

- to communicate to (and learn from) the ordinary workers about the function of business here, and how they are being exploited too
- to slow up or stop work being done
- to reclaim 'the City' for people, not commercialism
- to show that there's an alternative... a world based on sharing, freedom and co-operation... and that it's up to us all to create it.

There'll be protests around the area throughout the day (8am-6pm). People are encouraged to act on their own initiative and join up with others, be flexible, imaginative and determined. Don't be intimidated by police - we are strong together. There are no leaders or spokespeople so it's up to you! Communicate constantly, support and respect each other. Don't just stick with your friends - link up with others. Encourage passersby and workers to join in. Let's do our best to make a successful human challenge to the machinery of oppression.

CRECHE and FIRST AID at Pinsbury Square. Legal advice both there and St Paul's. Volunteers welcome. Some planned events:

9am. Cyclecade from Pinsbury Sq as a protest against profits made from the dangerous and destructive traffic system. Joggers too. 11am. block roads, use zebra crossings All day (especially lunchtime).. Free Food stall at St Pauls (without animal products) - bring, or take. 2pm. a call for everyone to come out on the streets together and encourage workers to join us rather than go back to work after lunch.

Other ideas are to sit-down, picket, stop all traffic (as often as possible), leaflet, talk, sing, dance, run about in groups, paint, percussion and noise... dont wait, do it!

Whatever happens today, our everyday struggles must continue to develop and grow. People are questioning and resisting - in pit villages, at military bases, at home and in the streets. Also in Central America, Poland, Indonesia, Russia, Amsterdam... everywhere..

Together we are more powerful than money and tanks.

Sat Oct 6th 7pm. countrywide Stop 'the City' evaluation/follow up discussion, at Leeds University, Committee room A. Thurs Oct 11th 8.30am. STOP THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM. Meet St Philips cathedral, Colmore Row.

LEGAL GUIDE.. VITALLY IMPORTANT.. PLEASE READ AND PASS ON..

If nicked ph 388 9512 if able. When released ph 607 8271/2 Come to Defendants/witnesses meeting, Sat 29th Sept, 12-6 Dickie Dirts, juctn Coldharbour Ln/Denmark Hill, SE5

1. Record details of arrests (who, when, where, witnesses, cop no.). Give to assembly point.
2. If nicked, call out your name to someone, or it'll be difficult to track you down.
3. It's not advisable to give police any info about yourself. Name and address is enough. Birth date gives them access to their computer. Never talk about others. Many people give false info (they'll probably check the address), or refuse to co-operate.
4. They've no right to take fingerprints or photo IF YOU REFUSE. They will use lies and threats - dont be bullied. Watch out for a surprise photo attempt.
5. You've a right to pen & paper in the cells (and water, toilet, food etc). Demand them.
6. They may use bluff and threats to make you say you did something. Say & sign nothing.
7. If you want bail, tell the police a verifiable address.
8. When released, ph the legal team. We'll send a full legal fact sheet, and court advise. 607 8271 on the day, or 388 9512 any time after.

If you see arrests, don't just stand there. Help out, if possible. Use your strength and use this to stop people being kidnapped. Also, let's make sure no-one's left to cough up for their fine (if they get one) on their own. Rally round, Organise fund-raising. Send donations to Bust Fund Network, Housmans, 5 Caledonian Rd, N.I.

Don't forget the Defendants/witnesses meeting on Sat 29th (see above).

GOOD LUCK TO ALL OF YOU ENJOY THE PROTEST LET'S SUPPORT EACH OTHER

- from the STC legal people

ps STOP PRESS - benefit gig for the Bust Fund at Dickie Dirts (see above), Fri 28th, 8pm

DIRECTIONS TO CONSTABLES FOR 29th MARCH, 1984

POLICE BRIEFING (LIBERATED)

I, the Commissioner of Police for the City of London, by virtue of the powers conferred upon me by Section 22 of the City of London Police Act, 1839, as amended by Section 8 of the City of London (Various Powers) Act, 1956 for the purpose of keeping order and preventing obstruction of the thoroughfares in the immediate neighbourhood of the Mansion House and Guildhall of the said City, the Royal Exchange, the Bank of England, the General Post Office and other places of public resort within the said City and liberties on the 29th March, 1984, when the streets or thoroughfares within the said City and liberties may be thronged, or may be liable to be obstructed, hereby direct Constables on the 29th March, 1984, in all the said thoroughfares:-

1. To prevent the gathering together of persons within a group.
2. To disperse any group of persons which may gather together.
3. To direct any person found loitering to move.
4. To prevent any procession.
5. To prevent the deposit of any refuse, litter or other object.
6. To secure the removal of any refuse, litter or other object by the person a Constable has reason to believe is responsible for the deposit thereof.
7. To prevent the making of any unnecessary noise which the Constable has reason to believe causes, or contributes towards, disturbance of the peace.

Dated this 26th day of March 1984.

John Mansham

The Commissioner of Police
for the City of London

City of London Police,
"A" Department,
37, Wood Street,
London, E.C.2.

29th March, 1984

"STOP THE CITY" CAMPAIGN
THURSDAY, 29TH MARCH, 1984.

INFORMATION1. PROPOSED EVENT

Following the first "Stop the City" Day of Action on 29th September, 1984, a second Day of Action is planned for Thursday, 29th March, 1984.

Approximately ten separate groups are involved in organising this event - these include anarchists, anti-nuclear and animal rights groups.

As with the first "Stop the City" Campaign, there are no firm indications as to the size or scale of the demonstration but from intelligence so far gathered, it now seems likely that in excess of 2,000 persons will take part.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Campaign is to disrupt normal City working life as much as possible for as long as possible. By achieving their objective and stopping the City the disparate organisations hope to gain valuable publicity for their various campaigns against the alleged exploitation of animals, the financing of the arms trade, particularly nuclear weapons, and the capitalist system in general.

3. TIMING AND ASSEMBLY POINTS FOR DEMONSTRATORS

Disruptive action is expected to commence at about 0800 hours and will continue until 1800 hours. The demonstrators will assemble at the following points prior to moving to their targets:-

- (a) Tower Hill
- (b) St. Paul's Cathedral
- (c) Finsbury Square
- (d) Bank Underground Station

4. PROBABLE TARGETS

All police officers must be alert to any disruptive tactics wherever they occur but the following are the most likely targets:-

- (a) Disruption of traffic by the use of abandoned vehicles, by large numbers of persons sitting, standing or walking in the carriage-way, or by attempting continuous marches round selected buildings and busy streets.

- (b) Disruption of financial centres, e.g. Bank of England, Stock Exchange, plus other principal banks, finance corporations and insurance companies. This will be attempted by blocking entrances and adjacent footways with large numbers of demonstrators to prevent employees, messengers, etc., from entering or leaving their buildings.
- (c) There will be a 'picket' of about 100 persons outside the Central Electricity Generating Board premises in Newgate Street. These demonstrators will remain on private property in the forecourt.
- (d) Forcible entry or damage to property must be anticipated in the fur trade area and possibly at the experimental laboratories of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, due to the large number of Animal Welfare/Liberation Supporters likely to participate in the demonstration.
- (e) Some attempt may be made to disrupt public transport and communications by operating emergency brakes, refusal to pay fares, cutting telephone cables or making bogus '999' calls.
- (f) Police stations, police vehicles and traffic signal installations are also likely targets, based on previous experience.

INTENTION OF POLICE

The police intention will be to prevent the disruption of the City by the demonstrators. No processions, marches or similar events will be permitted in the City area.

METHOD OF POLICING1. NIGHT DUTY POLICING

From 2300 hours, Wednesday, 28th March, 1984, to 0700 hours, Thursday, 29th March, 1984, the Night Duty strength will be supplemented by 3 motor cyclists (one to each Division) and 4 additional C.I.D. cars. All Night Duty officers are to be briefed to be on the look-out for persons causing damage to buildings with paint, posters or glue, or trying to occupy premises, e.g. fur warehouses, in preparation for the forthcoming demonstration.

2. DIVISIONAL POLICING

From 0700 hours onwards on 29th March, a minimum number of regular officers, supplemented by Special Constabulary, will be allocated to normal foot duty patrol. Divisional Chief Superintendents will arrange adequate briefings for these officers as to the likely events and requirements of the day.

3. POLICE COMMAND FOR "DAY OF ACTION"

Commander H. Moore will be in command of Police arrangements assisted by Chief Superintendent K. Richiardi.

Divisional Chief Superintendents or their Deputies will be expected to attend any serious incident occurring on their Division and, if necessary, take command.

The senior officer present will liaise with Control as to any further assistance he may require and arrange for Control to be updated at regular intervals.

For the "Stop the City" demonstration a Chief Inspector (Administration) will be attached to each Division (See Appendix 'D' for list of duties).

4. MOBILE UNITS

(a) 40 personnel carriers will be deployed in the City from 0630 hours until dismissed. Each carrier will be allocated a radio call sign and will contain 10 Police Constables with supervisors. 20 of these units will be provided by this Force and the other 20 as aid by the Metropolitan Police. Each Metropolitan Police unit will be allocated a City Police Sergeant as Liaison Officer/Guide and two City radio sets.

(b) The carriers will be deployed throughout the City and will act on the instructions of 'OJ' Control. In order that best use of this mobile force can be made it is essential that radio communication is made in a brief but efficient manner. Other than in sudden emergency occurring in their vicinity, the carriers and crews will only attend an incident on direction by 'OJ' Control.

(c) Officers in charge of units will ensure that Control is kept up-to-date as to the current location and "state" of the vehicle, e.g. on stand-by, at refreshments, engaged dealing with an incident, etc., in each case quoting location.

(d) The first unit attending the scene of a disturbance must inform Control of the situation and need or otherwise for reinforcements.

5. TRAFFIC PATROLS

(a) The traffic patrol car and vehicle removal vehicles will be available throughout the day to remove vehicles abandoned by the demonstrators. In addition, special equipment will be available to deal with very large vehicles which are beyond normal police removal capability.

(b) Motor cyclists will patrol, as separately briefed, paying attention to traffic movement and enforcement of the ban on Heavy Goods Vehicles having no legitimate reason for access to the Centre of the City. The officers will pass details via Area Traffic Control as to groups of demonstrators seen.

C.I.D. DUTIES

C.I.D. officers will be deployed in accordance with instructions issued by Detective Chief Superintendent H.Q. Their duties will include the provision of support at Divisional Charge Centres, patrolling/observation to report on the movement of demonstrators and collate evidence in support of criminal charges. They will not become involved in making arrests except in an emergency.

7. SPECIAL CONSTABULARY

Members of the Special Constabulary will perform duty on this date. Details of personnel are shown at Appendix "G" for Divisional Chief Superintendents to deploy on foot patrols.

8. MOUNTED BRANCH

The maximum number of Mounted Branch Officers will muster for duty at the Stables at 0830 hours.

9. GENERAL

(a) Officers are reminded that after 0800 hours Commissioner's Directions prohibit marches in many City streets, including those in the vicinity of the Mansion House and Bank of England. Further details will be given at briefings.

* (b) On Thursday, 29th March, 1984, there will be a protest march in the Metropolitan Police District with possibly some 25,000 persons taking part. The march will end during mid-afternoon at Jubilee Gardens and nothing is known of the subsequent intention of the marchers.

Should they decide to join the "Stop the City" Campaign, the Metropolitan Officers who are on duty with the march will be available to assist this Force.

(c) British Transport Police will provide extra uniform and C.I.D. coverage at City underground stations and Fenchurch Street/Liverpool Street main line stations. In addition, British Transport Police personnel in vans will be deployed in the City area, adjacent to railway premises.

ADMINISTRATION

1. CHARGE CENTRES

Divisional Chief Superintendents will arrange charge centre facilities at each Division. Care should be taken to provide sufficient women officers to deal with the large number of female prisoners expected.

2. USTER AND BRIEFING

(a) Divisional and Departmental personnel warned for special duty will muster at 0600 hours, Thursday, 29th March, 1984, for briefing.

(b) Divisional personnel will muster at their Divisional Stations.

(c) Details of "A" and "B" Department personnel muster points will be sent to Divisional Administration Units by Monday, 19th March, 1984.

(d) Mounted Officers will muster for duty at the Stables from 0830 hours onwards. They will be detailed from Control as to their specific duties.

3. DUTY PERIOD

Officers engaged on this duty must expect to be retained on duty for a minimum of twelve hours.

4. CATERING

(a) CATERING LIAISON OFFICER

The officer in charge of catering will be Chief Inspector Thorogood, assisted by Inspector Falle. These officers will co-ordinate refreshment times in liaison with Divisional Chief Inspectors and Control Centre to prevent overcrowding or slack periods.

(b) MAIN MEALS

Operational feeding will apply on this occasion. All officers will receive two meals. Two meal vouchers will be issued to each officer on mustering, plus a snack voucher.

(c) SNACKS

In addition to the main meals there will be snacks available at Police Stations or on specially designated vans which will be brought out to units unable to go to a Divisional Station for a break.

(d) MEAL TIMES

(i) MOBILE UNITS

All meal times and snacks for mobile units will be allocated by Control, after consultation with the Catering Liaison Officer.

(ii) FOOT UNITS

Foot units will be allocated their refreshment and snack periods by their parent Divisions.

5. DRESS

Dress for this duty will be normal patrol uniform with rain coats

available. The wearing of covert protective clothing will be at the discretion of individual officers. Women police officers engaged on this demonstration will wear trousers and flat shoes. The wearing or carrying of handbags or shoulder bags will be optional.

6. LEAVES CANCELLED

Leaves (except Annual Leave) falling between 2300 hours, Wednesday, 28th March and 2300 hours, Thursday, 29th March, 1984, are cancelled and re-rostered, per previous Police Order issued.

7. SPECIAL COURTS

Two courts will be convened, if required, at Guildhall Justice Rooms from 1500 hours, Thursday, 29th March, 1984 (earlier if required).

8. PRE-EVENT BRIEFINGS

There will be two central briefings:-

(a) 1400 hours, Wednesday, 21st March, 1984.

(b) 1400 hours, Wednesday, 28th March, 1984.

Both briefings will take place in McMorran Hall and will be for the rank of Sergeants and above.

Commander Moore will conduct both briefings.

9. OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION

Officers requiring overnight accommodation should contact P.S. Rew at C.P.6. or P.S. Coles at Bernard Morgan Section House.

10. PUBLIC ORDER FORMS

(i) MOBILE UNITS All Inspectors in charge of mobile units will submit a Public Order Form 147 to "A" Department before going off duty.

(ii) FOOT PATROL UNITS Form 147 will not be used for foot units. All duties will be recorded on Form 305 by Divisional Patrol Sergeants.

11. COMPLAINTS OFFICER Superintendent J. Pridmore will act as Complaints Officer and will be on duty from 0730 hours, available on extension 2203 or through Control.

12. PRESS LIAISON Detective Inspector Graham Watson will act as Media Liaison Officer from 0700 hours and will be available on extension 2220. Inspector Dore will assist in this role.

13. PRISONER ALLOCATION OFFICER Superintendent Philips and Inspector Salmon will liaise with Divisions and keep Control up-to-date as to the accommodation of prisoners. Facilities have been made available at Metropolitan Police Stations to lodge overflow prisoners and the above officers will be responsible for recording the movements and situations of all prisoners. They will be based at Wood Street on extension 2141.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT

1. COMMUNICATIONS

(a) Channel 3 U.H.F. will be used for the special duty. Channel 1 U.H.F. will be used, as normal, by personnel retained on Divisional street duty reliefs.

(b) Radios will be carried by as many foot units as possible.

(c) Chief Inspector "A" Department (Communications) will ensure that every mobile unit has at least two City of London Police radios. Each mobile unit will also have four spare batteries for use in emergency.

(d) Inspector Plumb ("A" Department) will perform duty as liaison officer at Special Operations Room, New Scotland Yard, (G.T.) from 0600 hours.

(e) Chief Superintendent and Superintendent "A" Department will be on duty at Control Centre from 0600 hours.

(f) A liaison officer from the Metropolitan Police and from British Transport Police will be in the Control Room from 0600 hours, Thursday, 29th March, 1984.

(See Appendix 'A' for Control Room Operation Order).

2. TRANSPORT

Chief Inspector "A" Department (Transport/Traffic) will arrange for:-

(a) Twenty personnel carriers and drivers to be available from 0600 hours, Thursday, 29th March, 1984, until dismissed.

(b) Motor cycle patrols listed under Method of Policing 5(b) to be briefed and in position by 0600 hours, Thursday, 29th March, 1984.

(c) A marked car to be available for Commander Moore from 0700 hours until dismissed.

(d) Special briefing sessions for drivers on the system of deployment to be used for this operation.

DISMISSAL

(a) Personnel on special duty will be dismissed only on the instructions of Commander Moore.

(b) Inspectors on Divisional duties 2300 hours, 28th March, 1984, to 0700 hours, 29th March, and 0700 hours to 1500 hours, will not dismiss their reliefs without prior consultation with Superintendent "A" Department via extension 2121.

Hugh Moore
Commander

"STOP THE CITY" CAMPAIGN
- Briefing Notes

These briefing notes are intended to up-date and amplify the Operation Order previously issued. They should also form a basis for subsequent briefings by unit commanders.

As the name implies the object of the demonstration is to "stop the City". All Officers should bear in mind that this is not a lawful protest march/demonstration, it is a deliberate attempt to paralyse the financial heart of the country by mainly unlawful means.

The motives of those taking part are to protest against financial institutions and their role in the international armaments trade, repression and exploitation of women, animals and the poor, as well as ecological destruction. Among the organisations taking part are anarchists, animal liberation, various gay groups, third world activists and women's groups including Greenham Common. All are anti-establishment, unco-operative with Police, and in the case of some extremists potentially violent.

They intend to commence activities by 08.00 hours and continue until 18.00 hours. Various activities are planned, some of which are at present unknown to Police, but according to intelligence reports and past experience the following will certainly be attempted:-

1. Causing traffic hold-ups by means of human barriers, abandoned or slow moving vehicles, nails or other sharp objects in the road, forming marches and carnival processions. Obviously these can happen anywhere but favourite locations are Moorgate, Threadneedle Street and the Bank junction (shown on the map).
2. Blockade or occupation of "target" buildings of which there are many, but those certain to receive attention are pointed out on the map and shown on slides at this stage, e.g. Stock Exchange, Bank of England, Royal Exchange. Each will be separately discussed.
3. Chaining themselves to each other and/or street furniture. Dumping of rubbish at the entrances of buildings, especially the Bank of England where the women's movement intend to dump household refuse and items which they consider indicative of male dominance; street theatre in which people dressed in animal skins will have them dragged off leaving the 'body' apparently bleeding; and the "Jerico Rumpus". This latter event is intended to take place every hour for two or three minutes, and consists of making as much noise as possible with musical instruments, Indian war whoops, etc.
4. Disruption of the Fur Trade Area (shown on map and slides), including occupation of buildings, criminal damage, etc. The Annual Fur Auctions are currently taking place.
5. So called "picketing" of and damage to premises associated with the sale of meat, e.g. Smithfield Market, butchers' shops, MacDonalds Restaurant and the "Burger Bar". Any attempt at "picketing" will in fact be dealt with as obstruction.
6. Chemists' shops, particularly Boots, are likely to be targets for women's groups who may attempt to remove or destroy items they regard as "Anti Women's Lib".
7. An attempt will be made to put Police vehicles out of action by slashing tyres or placing sharp objects under the wheels while stationary.
8. Blockade of entrances to Police Stations combined with the making of excessive noise to show support for those detained and, during the late afternoon, march to the Guildhall Court and Police Stations to show solidarity with those arrested.
9. Some or all of the activities previously described will be preceded by diversionary tactics designed to decoy large numbers of Police out of position.

Police Int on To prevent so far as practicable all the foregoing events and to deal with those who commit offences.

Commissioner's Directions Commissioner's Directions have been made, under the provisions of the City of London Police Act, 1839, as amended and a copy is attached as an appendix to these notes.

* Any person refusing to comply with the instructions of a Constable acting in pursuance of these Directions will be obstructing him in the execution of his duty and may be charged with that offence.

Power of Arrest * The power of arrest for "obstructing Police" appears to be limited to those cases where an Officer believes a breach of the peace would otherwise occur, and Officers must be instructed as to the evidence required.

A power of arrest exists under Section 35, of the City of London Police Act for any person who, being acquainted with the Directions, fails to comply.

A person may, therefore, be told that a "Direction" exists which prohibits the action he is taking and be warned of the consequences should he persist. If he then continues his conduct he may be arrested by virtue of the above powers and subsequently charged with, e.g. obstructing police, etc.

Police Command & Deployment

City Police Control will operate on Channel 3 UHF

Call Sign

Overall Command Assisted by
Commander H. Moore
Ch.Supt. K. Richiardi
Supt. D. Perry
Ch.Insp. G. Balchin

O.J.
O.J.J.
Alpha
Alpha 1

Sector Commanders:

'B' Division
Assisted by
Ch.Supt. J. Moss
Supt. B. Townsend
Ch.Insp. C.J. Billing

'C' Division
Assisted by
Ch.Supt. R. Fowlie
Supt. E. Keeble
Ch.Insp. R.K. Thomas

'D' Division
Assisted by
A/Ch.Supt. J. Buttner
A/Supt. D. Warren
Ch.Insp. J. Cardwell
Ch.Insp. J. Binder

Bravo
Bravo 1
Foxknot Sierra 54

Charlie
Charlie 1
Zulu November 58

Delta
Delta 1
Alpha 2
Yankee Tango 54

Sector Commanders will ensure a Senior Officer attends any appropriate incident to take charge, informing Control when he does so.

Forty Transit vans will be deployed for this operation, each containing ten P.C.s plus supervisors. Twenty of these vans will be crewed by City Officers, the remainder by Metropolitan Police as aid.

Each Metropolitan van will be assigned a City Sergeant who will act as liaison/guide. The Liaison Officers, equipped with two City radio sets and refreshment vouchers for the crew, will meet their respective vans in London Wall at 06.30 hours. All the vans will be allocated a call sign (Mobile 1-40) and for the duration of the operation will use Channel 3 UHF of the City sets.

Each Unit, after "booking on" by radio, will be allocated a holding location from which they will be deployed as required by Control.

In order to ensure efficient response to incidents and avoid over reaction to hoax or diversionary calls, it is essential that Units do not change location for any purpose without consent from Control.

Control will allocate specific Unit(s) to incidents and the first Unit on scene must give an urgent situation report to Control, indicating the need or otherwise for further assistance.

Officers in charge of Units must ensure that Control is informed of the location of the vehicle and its status, e.g. on stand-by, engaged with an incident, closed down for refreshments or with prisoners.

Prisoners

In order that Arresting Officers spend as little time as possible "off the street", a simple pro forma will be completed by them on arrival at the Station. The staff of the Charge Centre will then deal with the matter. Sufficient detail must be shown on the pro forma, e.g. if the arrest is for assault/obstruction of another Officer, his particulars must be shown.

Units with prisoners should seek directions from Control as to where they should be taken.

Motor Cyclists

Will patrol as separately directed, and operate an "exclusion" zone round the City centre, into which no H.C.V. can enter without a bona fide reason.

Vehicle Removals

Removals crews will be available should any vehicle be used as a "road block" by the demonstrators. If a very heavy vehicle evades the motor cyclists and is so used, special heavy removal equipment is available on request at about ten minutes' notice.

Special Equipment

Some designated vans will carry "NATO" helmets and overalls but the crews will not use these without instructions from Control. Bolt cutters and brooms (for removing nails from carriageway) will be carried on some vans. Loud hailers will be available.

Catering

Two hot meals and two snacks will be provided during the day. Breakfast will be served commencing at 06.30 hours. The snacks will probably be brought out in vans. No Unit will leave its location for refreshments until directed by Control.

Liaison

There will be a City Liaison Officer in "G.T." Control and Superintendent Rowe of the Metropolitan Police will be in the City Control Room.

Liaison will be maintained with British Transport Police as to the movements of potential demonstrators.

C.I.D. Officers will be deployed to observe the demonstrators, collate evidence and pass information to Control or individual Units as appropriate. (Discuss "spotters").

Other Events

A protest march of about 20,000 - 25,000 persons will take place in the M.P.D., passing close to the City and ending at Jubilee Gardens in the early afternoon. The movements of the dispersing marchers will be monitored to see if they move towards the City.

An appeal against a murder conviction in the case of a man named Kelly will be heard at the Law Courts. Kelly has attracted a large following in the past, who demonstrated violently at Walton Prison when he was convicted.

Between 80 - 90 Senior Officers from the Imperial Defence College (men of various races) will be touring the City and visiting Bank of England, Stock Exchange, and other institutions. If this becomes known it will inflame the demonstrators (war/finance links).

A Royal visit (Princess Alexandra) to Guildhall, arriving at 18.00 hours. The other guests will arrive from 17.00 hours, furs and Rolls Royces annoy our demonstrators.

The demonstrators have an intention to disrupt the transfer of documents and cheques to and from the banks and the clearing house. Even in this computer age cheques over £10,000 are physically taken to the clearing house and this will be about 15.30 hours on Thursday. A determined attempt to disrupt these transactions will be made but the following points should be borne in mind :-

1. The clearing house has recently moved from Lombard Street to St. Swithin's Lane. (Map).
2. In case the demonstrators are aware of the move, these transactions will take place at the rear entrance in Walbrook.
3. Instead of the fleet of grey vans normally used, about 60 private cars will carry out the operation.

Cameras and observers from the media can be expected, and the demonstrators will have cameras and "legal" observers of their own.

All Officers should be briefed to act in a calm, professional manner and not allow themselves to be influenced by the deliberately provocative actions of some of those taking part in the demonstration.

Supervisors must ensure firm and efficient co-ordination of their respective Units and consider the advantage of "linking" charges when large numbers of people are arrested together.

Form 147, will be completed by Officers I/C Units at the completion of the day's duty.

The last "Day of Action" on 29th September, 1983, was the first demonstration of its kind held in the country. None of the principal objectives of the demonstrators was achieved but they appear to have learned some lessons therefrom, as have the Police.

In order that we may continue to improve contingency planning for this type of event, a de-briefing will take place in the McMorran Hall at 14.30 hours, Thursday 5th April.

All supervisors will please note any comments they or their subordinates may have on the events of 29th March, with any suggestions for improvement, so that they may be raised at the de-briefing.

Hy J. Pave
Commander

APPENDIX "A"

FORCE CONTROL CENTRE

For the purposes of the Stop the City Campaign, the Control Room will be split into separate control areas.

Control Area 1 will include:-

Channel One O.J. Control
Channel Two O.J.
Teleprinter
Switchboard

and will be manned by normal duty relief personnel during N/D, 7/3 and 3/11.

However, no relief will be dismissed without the authorisation of the Commander.

Control Area 2 will include:-

Chief Superintendent Richiardi - Control Officer
Superintendent Perry - Incident Data Officer
Chief Inspector Balchin - Control & Communications Officer
P.O. 417th Dⁿ Cooper and
P.O. 177th Bⁿ Holt - Reliefs

P.O. 122th Dⁿ Marsh - Assistant Data Officer
P.S. 26th Dⁿ Holliday - Radio Supervisor/Channel 3 O.J.
P.O. 374th Dⁿ Sabine - Incident Radio Controller
W.P.C. 634th Dⁿ Morris - Incident Loggist
W.P.C. 274th Dⁿ Sapsford - Incident Telephonist

Control Area 2 will be self-contained and self-relieving.

TIMES OF MUSTER:

Control Area 1:-

Night Duty)
Early Turn) As normal
Late Turn)

Control Area 2:-

All officers muster at 0545 hours in Control Area 2.

DRESS:

Shirt sleeve order may be worn by all officers in both control areas.

REFRESHMENTS:

Operational feeding will apply to those personnel in Control Area 2 and those officers performing Early and Late Turn Reliefs on 29th March 1984.

ADMINISTRATION:

All overtime and associated claims will be submitted via Chief Inspector (Communications) as soon as possible after the event.

POLICE COMMUNICATIONS LIAISON:

- (a) Inspector Plumb will perform duty at G.T. Control Room mustering at 0600 hours at his post until completion of the operation.
- (b) Area Traffic Control will be operational from 0600 hours and will remain open until the event finishes or until 1900 hours.
- (c) An officer from the Metropolitan Police will be attached to the Control Room from 0630 hours and will act as liaison, where necessary, between City and Metropolitan Police.
- (d) An officer from B.T.P. will be attached to the Control Room from 0630 hours and will act as liaison, where necessary, between City and B.T.P.

GENERAL:

Metropolitan Police D.S.U.'s assigned to assist during this event will be issued with City Police radios and be under the direct control of the Commander via Channel 3 U.H.F. They will not use Metropolitan Police frequencies. If further Metropolitan Police D.S.U.'s are assigned after the event has begun, they will be issued with City Police radios on Channel 3 before being used operationally.

CONCLUSION:

All officers engaged on this event must expect to perform a minimum of 12 hours duty in difficult and fluid circumstances during which only the most professional approach will be of any benefit to those officers physically policing the demonstration.

BRIEFING NOTES FOR DRIVERS

1. On this operation 40 mobile units will be deployed in the City. Twenty of the mobile units will be supplied by the City Police and as a back up the Metropolitan Police will supply 20 D.S.U.'s.
2. The City mobile units will be manned by: 1 Inspector, 1 Police Sergeant and 10 Constables. Whilst each unit will be autonomous and under the Command of its own Inspector, Control will - wherever possible - deploy units in pairs. The first unit deployed will go to the seat of the action with the second designated unit standing off, ready to act as back up.

This system is designed to prevent vehicles or officers being isolated. However, the principle of each unit being self contained and working within the framework of its own individual command structure remains the ideal deployment for this demonstration.
3. It is most important that assignments are only taken via the Force Control Room and that the Control Officer is aware of the location of each mobile unit at all times.
4. Vehicles should return to their pre-allocated stand-by position at the completion of each assignment.
5. Radio transmissions should be reduced to a minimum, but the Force Control Room should always receive location up-dates when necessary.
6. Drivers should remain with their vehicles at all times and remember that they are part of a 2-vehicle mobile unit on this day.

REMINDERS FOR DRIVERS OF SUPPORT UNITS (TRANSIT VANS)

1. On being deployed drivers must get as close to the crowd as possible. Thereafter, their main consideration must be safety of personnel, protection of vehicles and the efficient deployment of units.
2. Leave sufficient space around vehicle for de-bus.
3. Do not forget space required by your No. 2 Unit.
4. Drivers should give careful thought when parking so as to avoid unnecessary traffic congestion and not hamper the operational movement of Police.
5. Your responsibility to protect your vehicle at all times so as never to render it immobile. Stay with vehicle.
6. Never ram barricades.
7. Work as a team with your second unit.
8. No direct action without first informing Control and being given permission to take action.

NON-COOPERATION WITH THE POLICE (SUMMER '84)

REASONS:-

The main aims of non-cooperation are to minimise arrests and to use up as much police time as possible if arrested to keep them off the streets. Non-cooperation in the courts costs them time, money and effort, discouraging future mass arrests.

ON THE STREETS:-

Mutual aid is the key to less arrests. If protesters outnumber police at any time it is possible to pull people away from any officers attempting arrests. This need not involve violence (it's up to you). Of course this depends on the situation but we must be prepared to help each other whenever and wherever we can. Groups going down should discuss this before going to give confidence of help in a nasty situation.

If arrested it is NOT illegal to go totally limp and this hampers arrest and takes up the time of more than one officer. Always look out for a chance to escape (e.g. if some/all of the police are distracted by other protesters' actions). If you escape but are then recognised and re-arrested you may be charged with 'resisting arrest' so it might be wiser to leave the area and use some other form of protest, such as 'plinging-up' City numbers to talk to people working there. Again, it's up to you.

If you see an arrest but are unable to help then note the officer's number, take a photo, ask the protester his/her name and contact the following with the information: **Box STC, Housmans, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1 9PX**
(It will all be used at a defendants meeting to be announced)

AT THE STATION:-

DON'T let them take your photo (BEWARE! They may try to take one when you're not expecting it, e.g. as you enter the station).

DON'T let them take your fingerprints (they need a magistrate's Court Order for this).

You don't have to give them anything but your name and address (and date of birth if in charge of a vehicle). Refusing to give any further information will not affect how long you're kept.

THE POLICE WILL LIE ABOUT YOUR RIGHTS-DON'T TRUST THEM!

For instance, they may threaten to keep you overnight if you don't allow photos/fingerprints to be taken-this is a lie.

Giving false names and addresses can be useful (a large group all giving the same name is one idea). However the police will try to check up and if your address is found to be false they may not release you on bail.

One tactic is to have somebody on the end of a phone verifying that you do live at the address you've given (don't give someone's home number if they live there permanently). If you plan to give a false name don't take any identification.

DON'T identify anybody else if you recognise them as they may have given false information.

DEMAND YOUR RIGHTS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. You have a right to a pen, paper, food, drink, tissues, specs (if you have any), a solicitor, one phone call and a copy of your rights (this may not be reliable-don't trust them). Other tactics include asking to go to the toilets one by one, flooding the cell (forcing them to move you) and anything else you can think of!

REMEMBER you are not alone. Many people will have been arrested (unfortunately) and you're all in the same situation. Being arrested doesn't mean an end to protest, causing hassles in the station keeps police off the streets and away from the Demo.

Totally refusing any information or cooperation is very effective, especially with the large numbers they will have to deal with. However this may result in being detained until the court case, so involving a risk.

Finally, if you wish to get out quickly then cooperate and tell them a complete pack of lies, but make sure they're verifiable.

GENERAL IDEAS SHEET

The following is simply a list of ideas, which can be acted upon at any point during the day, that came out of the September 1st general meeting. It is not meant to be comprehensive-merely a guide to SOME of the things that can be done. The list is divided into two broad categories: A) those which require some sort of equipment or pre-planning (however little), and B) those which can be initiated spontaneously at any point without need of preparation. Some of the ideas do not necessarily have to be planned, but work better if they are, eg. occupations.

- A) noise (whistles, horns, musical instruments, etc.); smoke /stink/paint/ink bomb & rotten fruit & veg throwing (at/in banks, police vehicles etc.); graffiti; flag/banner waving; supergluing; leafletting; decorating military statues etc.; various stickers eg. on photographic literature; throwing streamers & things (balloons & tacks & nails in roads/carparks etc.; balloons/balloons or air filled); chains & locks, for various gates etc.; wearing 'official' press/NOCL armbands etc.; dressing 'straight'; turning around/defacing street signs; putting marbles behind nub caps of police vehicles/balls royces (will think something is wrong); occupations; cycling around.
- B) human snakes/trains; playing games (chase/runouts etc); ignoring police/media people; drumming/chanting/singing/whooping; everyone skipping/jumping; blocking roads; walking back and forth across zebra crossings; telephone blockade; die ins; covering up/damaging traffic lights etc.; waving at people in offices & tapping on windows; talking to people; asking police/business men awkward questions; taking things (eg. tampons) & throwing in the street; putting large objects in road; redistribution of litter; turning on fire hydrants; pulling emergency cords on tubes (make sure still in station, so nobody's hurt); immobilising police vehicles (letting down tyres, pulling off spark plug caps from bikes, etc.); shouting, in unison, numbers of cops behaving particularly badly; if arrested, continue protest in police station/vehicle (try to escape/occupy police for as long as possible/sing & chant in cells/smuggle in graffiti materials/flood cell by smashing bog, etc.).

GOOD LUCK! POLICE OR PUPPETS?

I missed most of the afternoon of Stop the City II; I was in a cell at Snow Hill police station. But I overheard some interesting conversations that night as various police strolled along to peer in at me. One phrase was used which is delightfully appropriate to the terms in which you invited discussion: as far as some police were concerned, it was all they could do to contain events and respond to our activities. In the words of one policeman, we "were calling the tune".

Of course, as was repeatedly demonstrated to me whilst in their custody, you can believe very little that a policeman says... Still, they probably didn't know I was listening when they discussed how much more restrained and peaceful we were than they were!

There's still lots to discuss and digest, but I know one thing: next STC, I'm determined to be there again.

Cliff

From 'Peace News' →

Just over 200 people were arrested at Stop 'The City' actions on Sept. 29th. Many were picked out individually from crowds; others were arrested for totally spurious reasons. The Police and the State attempted to control and suppress the demonstration, and the temporary imprisonment of 200 people was one method they used.

Obstruction charges are most common; there are also cases of criminal damage, possessing offensive weapons, being drunk and disorderly, and assaulting police. All deserve and require our full support in dealing with their court cases and any further consequences. People are invited to attend the hearings, to picket the building (Guildhall Magistrates Court, Basinghall St.) and to show their support by taking further action against the war machine and the financial system, which serves it.

Many people are appearing on Nov. 4th and 11th. The Stop 'The City' evaluation meeting in London decided to encourage all supporters to take actions against the banking system on these days. Let the 'authorities' know that each time they use the courts against us, we will use our imaginations and resources against the system they use to reed or us.

FRIDAY NOV. 4th and FRIDAY NOV. 11th: DAYS OF ACTION AGAINST THE BANKS

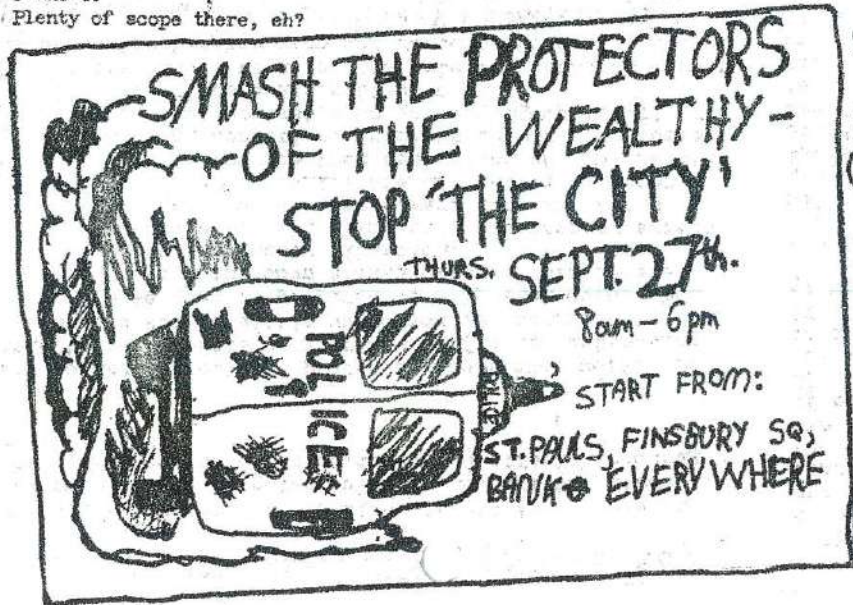
We hope groups will organise their own local actions on these dates in support of the defendants. Please send us news of what you get up to.

Just a few suggestions to get you started... leafletting, picketing, occupying, climbing onto roofs, decorating, blockading, partying in the lobbies, opening and closing accounts en masse, putting customers off by forming long queues, helping yourselves to all their bits of paper, graffiti, telephone blockades, writing 'novelty' cheques (got a police helmet?), 'bank' theatre, fundraising to pay fines, more direct actions... (5th Nov. is bonfire night, remember!)

Everyone knows that the banks are parasites on our wealth. Let everyone know that people are facing prison for opposing this system. Military institutions, State institutions, financial institutions; they all need each other. Resist War, resist Oppression, attack the financial system!

Defendants are also appearing on (at least) the following dates:
Nov. 18 and 25... Dec. 2, 12, 13, 16... Jan. 15, 24, 27, 29... Feb. 3, 17, 24...
Mar. 2 and 4.

Plenty of scope there, eh?



Sticker for STC 4 (Sept '84)

A policeman tells you to move, Do you? probably not. So more policemen come and try to carry you away. What do you do? you go limp, offering no resistance, but not co-operating with them either. Or perhaps the police man says either you move or you'll be arrested. If you've previously decided to take that risk, again you refuse to co-operate. So you're hauled away and arrested, you are asked your name and address. Do you continue with your non co-operation? Most people don't at this stage, the action for them is probably over, their bit of protesting is done, so there's nothing to be gained, and when the policeman says 'give us your name and address, then well let you go home until we summon you to court, there is suddenly a lot to be lost, reunion with friends, discussion of the day on the way home, food a hot bath and bed, but there is a tradition of 'continuing the non-co-operation by refusing to give names and addresses. As recently as last spring hundreds of people gave the same name during an occupation of the Vandenberg nuclear testing base, others have since repeated the action - 3 at pine gap U. S. satellite station in Australia a hundred and eleven women gave their name as Karen Silkwood.

This isn't a tactic which has been tried on a large scale in this country, but it is being used on a small scale and is proving effective. By staying anonymous at actions we disrupt police work and the jail system, at least temporarily. 'the fill the jails idea' has the attraction of costing the police time and money, and providing potential for continuing publicity, a being part of our escalation of pressure on the governments of the world. It does have drawbacks, not everyone has or should be expected to have the time or the inclination to go to jail, It could encourage a breed of heroes, but as long as we do it for the right reasons it has the advantage of keeping people together in police custody and gives us the opportunity to make a united protest. Additionally the period in jail could be linked in with the action, made part of it not only in the way it is presented to the public and the media but also at the planning stage.

Having been part of one of these actions in London, and spoken to many people who are already in jail or taking part in similar actions, and having spoken to lawyers against the bomb & a group called International Law. It is clear that if this action were stepped up even slightly then the legal system would be incredibly congested and if undertaken by a large number of people prepared not to co-operate, it would rapidly overload an already stretched system in both terms of space and the already amazing layers of prison bureaucracy. If we continue our protest after we have been arrested, we benefit from being kept in remand, and that any time spent on remand is taken into account when we are sentenced in court. Many people do already prefer to go to jail rather than pay fines. A period on police remand is 'better' than time served as a convicted prisoner and if your sentence is taken up on remand there is the likelihood that there would be no further worry of future sentencing after the court appearance.

There are many possibilities for action, one recently discovered tactic was discovered by Jacqueline under the pseudonym of Bertrand Russell. The police won't except the pseudonym on the basis that the name is of a different gender. What if all the women call themselves Gandhi, and all men used the name of Karen Silkwood - The police just write 'male' or 'female' - They would be holding X no. of females, and X no. of males. I have spoken to police officers and they confidentially admit that they don't know what they would do. They suggested that we could be numbered, I replied that we would simply exchange numbers. They do not know what to do with us, The potential is there, our non-violent co-operation is for us to use, it is our strength, and march the 29th seems highly appropriate, let's consider making our protest continue, whatever specific issue your group is highlighting, let unite in making this the first repressive institution to come to a Stop.

Love and peace Steve Biko.

For details of International Law contact George Delf - 90 Gladstone St Bedford Tel. 62558.

Lawyers against Nuclear Warfare - 2 Garden Court, Temple, London EC4.

PEOPLE AGAINST PROFITS in the 'City' of London

- ISSUED APRIL 1984 -

Last September after 6 months of discussions and preparations around the country growing out of the actions against military bases, about 1500 people came to Stop the City of London in protest against wars and Arms Trade profits. The success of that day in terms of communicating to workers, disrupting business and creating a determined and festive event encouraged many others to join in preparations for another protest - on the day profits for the whole year were symbolically to be counted up - March 29, 1984.

Having been in the 'City', seen how it works, how all companies and banks are interlinked, it was decided this time to make a general protest against the profit system. This would be a chance for everyone involved in trying to change things - opposing the exploitation of women, of nature, of animals, opposing wars, repression and poverty, and the power of money over us - to come together on the appropriate day and challenge the financial heart of the country.

As a network grew, everyone encouraged each other to create the kind of day they wished, to protest about the things they felt most strongly about and in the way they wanted. A truly decentralised yet well co-ordinated attempt to stop the 'City' and reclaim it for the people. The week before, on March 22, there were local protests in financial centres of 7 or 8 towns, with pickets, occupations, leafletting, graffiti, processions and music.

On the 29th, up to 3000 people took part together in London, and this is an attempt to get down on paper some of the amazing and diverse activities....

STOPPING THE 'CITY'

7-8 am First aid, creche and assembly points set up. Police divert all lorries from the 'City', 30 cyclists set off to do very slow tour of streets, and stop the traffic. Balcony of Arms Trading company in Holborn occupied by London Peace Action, banners and balloons.

8-9 am Green CND protest at Electricity Board HQ all day. St. Pauls packed already, many go to Bank area. People try to block roads. March down Cannon St. Threadneedle St. blocked. Radio reports. People at Stock Exchange forced to move on. Women's action at Bank of England to protest about unpaid domestic exploitation, foiled by police - continue to leaflet nearby. Many groups all over 'City' leafletting, dressed up, with placards, puppets, games etc.

9-10 am 500 people at Royal Exchange. Police try to split people up. Leafletting and smoke flare in Bank tube station. 150 people disrupt Leadenhall meat market against animal exploitation. People continue to assemble at Bank - up to 1000 - police try to block everyone in and keep traffic moving. Hundreds of cars begin to be quietly immobilised in car parks (all day). Free vegan food distributed for hours at St. Pauls. Many locks glued up throughout the day.

10-11 am The crowd who'd taken over the front of the Royal Exchange resist police efforts to force people out, wooden barrier collapses. People then hemmed in, police using horses. Lots of noise. Everywhere workers look from windows. Group go to do Fleet Street action - too many police. Spirits still high everywhere despite police violence. Lots of graffiti. Anti-nuclear street theatre at Nat West Tower. People enter banks to open and close accounts. A couple of groups walk back and forth over zebra crossings.

11-12 am American, Soviet and British flags burned at Bank. Three to four hundred march around fur trade area. 100 people break out of police cordon at Royal Exchange and attack windows of financial institutions - Barclays, Navigation House, Nat West and 30 other places. Car overturned as barricade and constant moving means police unable to stop action. Smoke flare, paint thrown etc. Securicarvan too heavy to turn over. Rolls Royce which tries to run someone over is wrecked. Still hundreds at St. Pauls, and others running excitedly around (for fun). Leafletting at Bank tube station continues.

12-1 pm Anti-apartheid picket of Barclays forced to move, so visit nearby branches. Jugglers, singers, puppeteers also threatened, and police try to clear Bank again. Traffic blocked. Quiet for a while. A group take 2000 leaflets to GLC 'democracy day' march. Evening Standard quote police being 'worried about possible link-up'. Creche going well (8 kids). Our own legal back-up people begin to get busy. 30 people 'die-in' on roads at St. Pauls. Cacophony of noise everywhere on the hour. Some of large crowd on steps of Mansion House resist mass arrests. Statues, especially military ones, 'decorated'.

1-2pm Claimants group burn UB40 identity cards at Bank. 30 women visit Fleet St, raid Boots chemist and throw Tampons in the street to protest at their 'luxury item' V.A.T. classification. Protest outside The SUN newspaper also. People again break free of police cordon at Bank, resist their violence and damage bank property - Norwich Union, Leeds Permanent, American International and Moscow Narodny Bank... Spikes to stop traffic thrown in road.

2-3pm More rumpus on the hour! 20 cyclists again stop traffic. Mobile carnival stage with band playing and people following, almost reaches Bank from Tower Hill, but seized by police. Over 200 people held in police cells continue their protests and have fun by making noise and causing floods etc. NatWest Tower entered, files ripped up and fire alarms set off. Police bike knocked over. Groups of 'nuns' and 'stockbrokers' still leafletting. At St Paul's - facepainting, and also 'God is dead!' charge into the Cathedral. Musical and noisy processions around Royal Exchange. Orange smoke flare set off - thrown back by policewoman who hits another cop. 200 people go to guildhall courts but are driven back by police - court opened but no-one brought to appear so closes again. (Later we discover 'Princess' Alexandra was due to visit at 6pm).

3-4pm 200 people make human barricade across London Bridge. Traffic stops till police arrive. People begin to congregate at Bank again, spilling into street all around. Lots of chanting, angry and good humoured at the same time! Still many hemmed in. Still groups of leafletters and singers walking around.

4-5pm 1500 people at Bank, Surges into the street and back. London Clearing Bank window smashed as movement of crucial 'City' cheques is disrupted. Stockbrokers' messengers are fouled up. Thousands of workers begin to go home, many watch with interest and often amusement what is going on, as at lunchtime. 350 prisoners held in cells and up to 200 held in police vans. Incredibly, despite police violence people still good humoured, but gradually getting worn out.

5-6pm People hemmed in but relax, and gradually everyone disperses. 3-400 go to block Whitehall and Ministry of Defence in central London as protest against Cruise missile convoy movements during previous night - and in solidarity with women from Greenham who had blocked its path on the motorway.

It's impossible to do justice to everyone's activities. Throughout the day many people were also hanging around, taking photos or watching. For some, this was the first experience of a self-organised protest and so they were unsure of what to do, the need to come prepared, take initiatives, talk to others etc. Also many were angry yet intimidated by police violence. But also loads of people wanted to join in and kept asking 'what's happening?', 'where's the action?' and so on. Some came for just an hour or two to show support. Everyone made a contribution in their own way.

WHAT WERE THE ACHIEVEMENTS?

Well, it was certainly a day people in 'the City' will remember. The machinery of oppression thrives on appearing invincible, unquestioned and eternal, and our protests have begun slowly to break this spell.

All day workers looked from windows, stood in doorways and on balconies, or walked unhurriedly about. No-one seemed threatened, some were prejudiced yet many more seemed excited, thoughtful, amused or provoked to think and discuss with colleagues what was happening and why. Some were surprised and angry at police violence which partly aimed to keep workers and protestors apart. I collected leaflets being distributed by 31 different groups, a dazzling range of opinions and ideas - complemented by graffiti. But there were still many working there who didn't understand or feel involved.

Likewise, many of us benefitted from trying to talk to and understand the people there, their attitudes to work, difficulty in challenging their roles and employers.

As for actually disrupting business - while we were there we certainly had some effect. We enticed people away from their jobs and towards the human community in their midst. Traffic, mostly on business, was often stopped or slowed up all day. The front doors of some buildings were closed, some were picketed, and those around Bank disrupted for ages. And don't forget that some phone lines were blocked by those contributing from home or work to the phone blockade.

On two or three occasions, largish groups of people managed to directly damage property of financial institutions, both as a statement of anger and also to make them pay a little for a change. And perhaps the most significant disruption was of the movement of cheques at the end of the day when millions of pounds physically circulate around the area. According to The Times 'The banking community struggled to keep money flows moving, despite the unrest. They succeeded - but only just.' 'Bank balances were £100m below target overnight.'

The aim of creating a festive, human atmosphere was partially successful, despite everything the police did. There was lots of music and noise, clowning, puppets and banners, painted faces, joking and openly expressing our energy and humanity. There was a great deal of solidarity, warmth and respect amongst ourselves despite being strangers and of many different ideas and groups. This is so important and is a strength which will attract others to think about what we're saying and doing. Likewise, the fact that there were no leaders or formal structures, just so many people with initiative, energy and determination to do their best.

It is also encouraging to read the 17 page police briefing (which fell out of a back pocket on the day), now widely distributed, to see what their aims were for the 29th. They took the protest very seriously, cancelled all leave in the City force, and all coppers worked at least 12 hours continuously. With the miners' strike and blockades, other large demonstrations and Greenham blocking of roads near London they were at full stretch. London Transport police were brought in, and even 'special constabulary'. Special powers (1839) for the City were enacted. They clearly understood the aims of the protest, and the range of events that had been planned and publicized. And they made all sorts of preparations. However, despite their plans, 450 arrests and other violence, they failed. We showed that we have the determination and the strength, initiative and imagination to make a telling protest, and that if people everywhere only realised their strength, the power of the State could be effectively challenged on a wide scale.

INVOLVING MORE PEOPLE

But if we really are to learn from our struggles, we have also to look at and overcome our limitations. Most of the people who took part are active in anti-militarist, animal liberation or general libertarian groups, or a part of the large dissatisfied urban unemployed subculture.

It was difficult to involve those who went on strike on the same day to defend public services and the GLC, and also striking miners. Likewise, the vast majority of people who feel strongly about some aspects of what's wrong with the world, still think that joining an organisation (like CND, War on Want, RSPCA or whatever) or voting for the Labour Party is the thing to do. Many others would also like a better world but don't believe people can change things, or are afraid to express their feelings. It is all these people who need to get together to begin to move against the system.

And there are yet millions more, billions world-wide, working-class people who have to struggle where they live and work just to survive, to maintain self-respect. Many don't relate to political parties or endless protests, yet we need everyone to begin to really stop the systematic industrial destruction and exploitation of our world.

The Stop 'The City' demonstration is one small yet significant step in a developing process of awakening and of real opposition. We are learning as we take part. Many more people have to become involved, not only in large-scale protests but also in every day activities, overcoming isolation and gaining confidence. Changing society is not only about collective opposition, it is also about people creating and extending mutual aid, solidarity and libertarian relationships amongst themselves - neighbours, workmates and wherever people meet. If the Stop 'The City' idea contributes to that, and to the creation of diverse local initiatives and resistance, it will be worthwhile.

WHAT NOW?

On the 14th and 15th April there was an open follow-up weekend. On Saturday, 60-70 people, many having been arrested, came to discuss court procedures, solidarity, fines, look at photos etc. Anyone who wishes to support those arrested can come to Guildhall Magistrates Court on Friday 11th and 25th May at 10 am - or send donations to Bust Fund Network, c/o Housmans, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1. Any other legal enquiries, phone Amanda, 01 833 1633.

An exciting, unedited film was shown and is being turned into a film/video to be made available. Contact Mick (01 278 0075) if you have any additional material.

The second day was a general discussion about stopping the 'City', what happened and the future. There was a very constructive and respectful atmosphere, and a general feeling that we had achieved a lot and there was so much more that was possible - not just in the 'City', but everywhere. There will be a week of ^{local} protests against financial institutions, and the wars, exploitation and destruction they cause and profit from, September 22-29, with a general call to try to Stop The 'City' on Thursday September 27 again. Everyone in the world is invited!

Likewise, it was decided to try to Stop The 'City' on Thursday May 31 also, while the enthusiasm and memories of March are alive. A totally self-organised protest - there won't be any co-ordination meetings for May 31 so everyone is encouraged to spread the word, come prepared and do what they think best.

TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE OUR WORLD

Finally, extracts from some March 29 leaflets

- For your future, for our future, STOP NOW (Anon)
- The City is the place where your money from taxes, savings and pension funds is invested, and you have no control over them (Islington Action Group)
- We believe it's time to put a stop to the suffering of millions of people around the world, suffering created by the same economic system that runs our lives. The City of London is at the heart of all this, it is the logical place for our protest. (Leicester Green Affinity Group).
- Women not only serve their boss at work, they also serve their husbands and children at home as cooks and cleaners. Not only do women work harder, we get no pay for half the work (housework). (Stop The City Women's Group)
- Look at this fucking world, it's not ours no more. It belongs to rich fascist scum who unless they are stopped are gonna blow it to shit. The time has come to stop holding back. No longer will we march 'peacefully' to Hyde Park. It's banks what fund war, not parks (Paul)
- The industries and institutions concentrated in the City are creating a death culture which threatens to destroy all human and animal life (Green CND)
- In countries where people used to grow their own food, they are now paid minimal wages to produce non-edible cash-crops for Western companies. If dissatisfaction with this system causes social unrest, the West sells the same countries arms with which to restore law and order (LSE CND)
- What we are trying to do is to point out the grim reality that lies behind the mask of normal daily life (Grays Anarchist Group)
- Ten ways to wreck the micro-computer in your office - 1) Pour coffee (with salt instead of sugar in it) into the keyboard to gum up the works ... (Free London)
- Dear Fellow Commuter, On an average-commuter train, about 20 people are directly involved with producing goods for military use (Anon)
- What's going on? As you walk through the City area today you may see quite a lot of people involved in various forms of action, aimed at exposing the nature of London's financial district. Do not be frightened of these people, they could be your friends ... As we listen to EMI records, people in foreign lands listen to EMI weapons guidance systems ... People need each other, not money (Anon)
- We are claimants, and as claimants we are forced to live in misery and poverty because of the decisions made behind the doors of these institutions. It's not jobs we demand, but the right to a decent life for everyone (Claimants Action, Nottingham)
- I am here today because ... I want everyone in the world to be happy ... because they are stealing my life away and selling it back at a profit ... because a terrified animal dies unnecessarily every 6 seconds ... because everything has been appropriated and we want it back ... because they are giving the children guns and violence and destroying their innocence. (Mike, Brambles Farm Peace Camp)

.....THE STOP 'THE CITY' PROTESTS.....LATEST NEWS.....THE TRUTH.....

This is a brief and honest report of something we're involved in and feel strongly about. At the beginning of this week people gave out 7-8000 leaflets in Haringey publicising last Thursday's (27th) Stop 'the City' protest. The event in 'the City' of London was the culmination of a week of independent local actions around the country against banks and other institutions which rule our lives and are ruining our beautiful planet. They make money while millions of people go hungry, are killed or trapped in wars, are exploited, pushed around and generally treated like shit.

About 1500 people came to 'the City' to challenge the headquarters of these companies - the nerve-centre of profiteering. All day, 8am to 6pm, groups and individuals courageously distributed diverse leaflets, free vegetarian food, held banner protests and pickets, put stickers and graffiti on walls, ran about to liven up a soul-destroying area and reclaim the streets, and carried out actions against banks etc. This happened all over the area, and later in the West End, despite violent military-style policing.

There were protests against the exploitation of animals (pickets of a meat factory and also in fur-trade area of the 'City', taking over the admin block of London Zoo, breaking window of Skin Deep leather boutique), protests against banks and their international involvements (people broke windows of Barclays which finances Apartheid in S. Africa, Midlands, Halifax, threw horseshit inside others, and 30 people took over the Moscow-Narodny bank for 20 mins and then broke windows), actions at other money-making firms (D.H. Evans, Debenhams etc, which profit while millions of people are forced to go without). In Soho, 50 people demanded an end to sexploitation and broke windows of porn shops. Later, about 200 marched through that bastion of 'truth' - Fleet St. Saatchi and Saatchi, who do propaganda campaigns for the Government and Coal Board, were closed down with a smoke flare and window broken. About 20 cyclists did slow cyclerides with placards to slow up business traffic and spread ideas.

Many people were understandably frightened and made angry by heavy police repression

and violence, but tried to treat these hired protectors of the wealthy and powerful with the contempt they deserve - ignoring them or defending themselves (using a smoke flare under a police van, electronic radio jammers, and snatching and breaking police cameras). But the cops were so intimidating, it was almost impossible to gather naturally in the centre of 'the City'.

SOME THOUGHTS - The people who came were mostly young and already active in opposing wars, animal exploitation, homelessness etc. They generally feel that it's the whole System based on money and power which is the cause of all our problems. They believe a real fightback is needed.

But there are millions who hate the way money controls our lives, who know there's injustice and now destruction hanging over us, who'd like to live in a peaceful society based on sharing and freedom. Who wouldn't?! We hope they will join with us in these protests, especially those who're already organised and opposing the System in some way (the mining communities, peace movement, pensioners and tenants groups, people campaigning against hospital closures, etc..). But it seems that there is still the illusion amongst us that we can make things better by voting, lobbying MPs, or just concentrating on a particular concern.

We think all these struggles should link up and begin to attack directly the common cause of their problems - a society based not on people, but on profits and power.

We also realise that all around us people are isolated and don't have the confidence yet to challenge their employers and other injustice. Many seek to escape everyday boredom and meaninglessness with drugs (alcohol, dope etc), TV, material possessions and religion - but these things are in the end empty substitutes for real community and a free and creative life.

It's up to ourselves, all of us, to organise ourselves, support each other and fight back strongly against this corrupt and destructive System. Together we are powerful.

- our love and solidarity to you.....some haringey anarchists

p.s. The idea is spreading! There'll be similar protests in Birmingham, Manchester and Glasgow in the next month. All over the world, people are resisting oppression...

Dear everyone,

I hope you're all well and strong in heart and mind. Thought I'd write something - a few bits and pieces..it'll probably come out all jumbled as I'm typing in the kitchen surrounded by half a dozen people....and it's 1am at night...

10 of us went up to the Leeds evaluation meeting to discuss Sept 27th and the past and the future. About 35 people came, from Bristol, Leeds, Stirling and Cambridge..and us. It would have been good to see more areas represented..Birmingham folks had sent details of the coming day of protests there. There was quite a long and thoughtful discussion. There were diverse views and experiences from The City demo..many found the police repression frustrating and disorientating, and hadn't been able to gather with others for support - in general, people who had this experience (maybe half of the 2-3000 who turned up) were very disappointed and a little disillusioned afterwards. Other people had been involved in some successful activities and leafletting etc, and in general felt that we had achieved some successes, despite the attempt by the State to squash us. The basic problem was the fact that so many more people could have taken part. Hence with the tailing off of active involvement after the very effective March protest, we had achieved just about as much as we could. Most of us felt we should return to The 'City' when we are sure of thousands more participating. Two or three people felt the protests had become institutionalised, and so the State has been able to contain them. However, almost all of us at the meeting saw great potential in the local protests which have begun to catch on all over the land. Also noted as a healthy trend is the increasing non-cooperation with police and courts etc..the amount of aggravation which would have been caused probably lead to the release of nearly all those arrested without being charged. Also of course is the fact that police are already stretched to suppress the resistance of the mining communities.

We discussed the miners strike quite a lot. In some ways the whole atmosphere in the country has changed. Most of us identified with their struggle and wished to do more than just collect money. Also we felt that the Union was trying to contain the struggle - the mining communities are in fact challenging the whole power structure (police, media, State etc) and rule of money over them. Hence we wished to spread the struggle into the towns, to help break down some of the State's attempts to isolate coalfields, and also to show the connections between the strike and urban centres of decision-making and profiteering. A call for a Day Of Action on November 5th across the country was widely supported. All unemployed, peace, animal rights groups, miners support groups and everyone else is urged to organise their own protests locally, as they wish.

Other things came up during the discussion about the need for both small-group actions, and large-scale open, collective protests such as SIC. Tactics using disguises, or total secrecy can be effective at the time but can lead to isolation from each other and the rest of the population. It's important that we recognise that we are just part of the people, and that they have the real power (in local areas or industries) to challenge the rulers. We must see our activities as part of a long process. That way we can reject both over-enthusiasm (leading to disillusionment) and cynicism (leading to lack of activity). We should also reject an 'all or nothing' attitude. Obviously we need 'all', but there are all sorts of struggles around us which contain the seeds of mutual aid, rebellion, caring relationships, questioning the System etc. Groups of pensioners, tenants, Claimants Unions, workplace struggles, Womens and black peoples organising, communal living, self-education, creating our own music, local action groups of all kinds etc etc..all help to contribute to encouraging the spirit of solidarity and resistance. We should encourage these activities to spread, to link up. Some local SIC groups have developed into local collectives for this very purpose.

Anyway, where was I? Another van load of enthusiastic people from north London went to the Birmingham 'reclaim the city' protests on Oct 11. They went up the night before but due to the fact that groups of local people had already been sabotaging financial institutions in the town centre, the police nicked them before they got out of the van. From what we've heard since, it seems that there were quite a few successful protest actions during the day, and leafletting too..but those who turned up just 'to join in' could do very little due to swamp policing. Apparently about 250 people took part. These local days of protest have great potential but need a lot of thought, publicity locally, encouraging diverse groups to join in, communication with workers in the area, and so on. We've just heard that there'll be a day of protest and celebration - the first of many' in COLCHESTER on Thurs November 29th.

But rather than wait for specific protests, let's get organised in every neighbourhood, and involved in all the struggles and community around us. Much love, Dave xx

STOP PRESS : ANTI-PRISONS DAY, Sat Dec 15th. Picket etc all prisons and related places. -for a world based on freedom and sharing, not poverty and repression. Please publicise.

MONDAY NOVEMBER 5th

Why should we let profits rule our lives ?

DAY OF ACTION ACROSS THE COUNTRY IN SUPPORT OF THE MINING COMMUNITIES...NOVEMBER 5th.

Hundreds of thousands of people are involved in collecting and donating money to support miners and their families. All of us know that their struggle is ours also... whether we are active in our workplace, our neighbourhoods, as claimants or in the many groups and movements opposing injustice and oppression. And our struggles are theirs! We are all up against a System based on profits and power, not people.

What is now needed is increasing industrial and physical solidarity to spread the strike. We know that most people, like ourselves, active in miners support groups, wish to see solidarity strikes and protests spread.

We in towns have a particular responsibility to make effective protests so that the struggle in pit villages overflows into large urban areas as yet unaffected, (partly due to the massive policing of coalfields). Yet it is in these urban areas that so many people are giving financial support and are looking for a chance to do more.

Hence it has been decided, after a series of discussions especially involving people in miners support groups, in unemployed groups and the peace movement, to hold a DAY OF ACTION across the whole country on Monday November 5th - for 24hrs.

WHAT WE CAN DO

The form of activities should be decided on a local level and could include educational and solidarity actions such as : - mass leafletting, picketing or occupying suitable locations and buildings, street gatherings and rallies, workplace meetings, go-slows and strikes (or sending a day's pay to local support groups), street theatre, demonstrations etc, as well as the traditional bonfires in the evenings.

Those involved with picketing pits can take the opportunity to strengthen their lines and activities. If they wish, they could send delegates to all nearby workplaces during the morning to ask for active support.

As is constantly said, we must back the miners and show solidarity. On Monday November 5th, everyone who agrees can, and must, do just that. Together we are powerful.

DAY OF ACTION in support of the mining communities

prepare now in your area for a day of pickets, protests, rallies and demonstrations, workplace meetings, go-slows and strikes....
- let's show our strength together across the country

WHY SHOULD WE LET PROFITS RULE OUR LIVES ?

WHERE NOW FOR STC?!

Over 470 arrests, a massive and, on the whole effective, policing operation, and what appeared to be very little impact. Perhaps the most worrying aspect was the low number of people who actually came - at the utmost, there were probably no more than 2500 (and that is being very generous), and in March there were over 3000. Something must be very wrong somewhere if the number of stcers actually falls. Surely the prime aim must be to grow - and yet stc has somehow managed to shrink! A stc report after Thursday declared: 'London Stop 'The City': died May 31st; buried September 27th'. Virtually everyone I have spoken to have expressed dismay at the result of stc. Maybe a few autonomous actions, already planned, did happen...but whatever happened to the mass reclamation of 'the City'? To be perfectly honest, it never happened, and never really had a chance of happening. What we all must ask ourselves now is the £64,000 question (not that we believe in money, of course!): why??

I think that there are two main areas of problems: those of a practical nature and those of a political nature. In practical terms, it was clear to me that the police have now sussed out stc - their operation on the 27th was effective and successful (copying the tactics of the police in South Africa, Chile, Poland, etc). The sealing of the assembly points dealt stc a severe blow from which it did not really recover - there were a lot of people wandering around and being hassled by the police, and there were very few large groups who had the power to hold off the police. Also, the March stc encouraged the highly mistaken view that we could actually have a mass protest in 'the City' - there is no way that the police/state/capital will allow this to happen. Furthermore, many people can no longer afford to get arrested at stc - 'Together we can get nicked at stc' has wearied and undermined many determined individuals. Although it might sound pessimistic, there really does not seem to be any way that stc can happen in 'the City' of London - unless there are 15000 people/vast number of autonomous groups, in which case the police would just bring the tactics that they have been using in Northern Ireland for the last 15 years (and the miners strike for the last 6 months) to 'the City'.

In political terms, stc has suffered from being a coalition of different groups, which has also been a source of its strength. The division between the 'violentists' and the 'non-violentists' (a gross simplification) was an important reason for the fall in numbers. Many 'non-violentists' were very opposed to what happened in March, and vowed there and then not to support stc again - failing to realise that there are many different forms of direct action, apart from sitting in the road, most of which do not involve physical harm to other people. But there are also people on stc who think that the best form of action is killing a cop - which won't exactly change the world overnight.

There are many reasons for the problems with stc, and I am sure that every individual will have another reason. But the important question is how can they be solved? I have several proposals:

individual - living your own life as according to your principles: eg not eating/wearing animal products, refusing to recognise the authority of another person over your life, sharing what you have got with other people, accepting people as people (rather than as economic commodities/objects to be manipulated, oppressed, exploited, etc): take direct action in your own life!

economic - a main aim must be to replace 'the City' (ie the entire rotting system). If we had smashed 'the City' on the 27th, what would we have replaced it with? Lets put more effort into weakening the existing social structure through our own positive actions - squatting, communal living, housing co-ops, producing our own food (eg allotments, squatting farmland, etc), community centres, food co-ops, co-ops, workers federations, sharing our skills/experiences with others (eg through 'skill banks'), etc etc. Obviously, the positive force of this would be greatly weakened if people saw it as an escape clause from continuing to struggle against the system...but the only limit is our own imagination!

constant protest - stc is not just 2 days every year: it should be a constant and continuous protest against everything that oppresses and exploits us and our fellow sentient beings.

autonomous actions - every day of every week of every year we should be positively acting in groups: communicating, supergluing, redecorating, sabotaging, smashing, talking, etc.

a day of protest - there should be a 24 hour protest against oppression, exploitation, war and profit everywhere and anywhere, doing everything and anything, whatever the individuals concerned want to do...

obviously, it will be up to individuals to choose whatever form of protest they feel most happy with - but we shouldn't be getting depressed, for stc has already done an enormous amount of good...and we shouldn't give up now: we have nothing to lose but chains, both physical and mental, and everything to gain...our entire lives free of mental and physical slavery!!! (and full of love, peace and joy!)

STOP 'THE CITY'

OF LONDON

THURSDAY 27 SEPT

(8am-6pm)

MEET: FINSBURY SQUARE,

ST PAULS,

BANK OF ENGLAND,

EVERY WHERE!

The 'City' is a place where the real decisions that affect our lives (and those of people like us all over the world) are made. People once lived in the area, but now its just packed with the Headquarters of Banks, Companies, multinationals and places like the Stock Exchange. Billions of pounds change hands every day making profit for a few, whilst millions of people all over the world are starving. Money is made from weapons dealing, destroying nature, and generally by exploiting and controlling us all.

PROTEST AND CARNIVAL AGAINST WAR EXPLOITATION AND PROFIT

During the day there'll be constant protests all over the area, including leafletting, talking to 'City' workers, taking over the streets, street theatre and music etc...

- join in or organise your own events..