

# SUBVERSION!

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Class solidarity against unemployment and wage cuts

## Ambulance pay 'cut' by NHS trust

David Brindle, Social  
Commentator

## Cut staff, colleges urged

### Greyhound, Daily News Strikes

Workers Persevere  
Despite Uncertain Future

Marathon strikes against Greyhound  
Lines, Inc. and the

## Strike threatens all air

travel from Soviet

## Barclays axes 470 jobs

### Print workers

Industrial action  
returns to Wapping

Polish miners  
go on strike

Miners at Poland's biggest

Strikes disrupt  
city services

Saab to close plant  
and shed 900 jobs

LIBRARY staff have  
against low

State bails out Australian Clyde shipyard  
bank in billion dollar plan sacks 1,600

Major signals  
thousands  
of Whitehall  
jobs to go

1,000 face sack  
at Rolls-Royce

Workers block road  
Hundreds of workers from an  
engineering firm blocked the  
trans-Yugoslavia motorway  
yesterday in a protest about  
paid wages. — Reuter.

Thousands caught in Spanish  
transport workers' pay strike

not met before then. Other  
strikes affected the Barcelona  
underground

cuts in the Department of

## BOSSSES ATTACK SHARPENS

No longer, in Britain, is it a case of a wage cut OR redundancies, a wage rise BUT with worse conditions. Today we are faced with a massive onslaught on our class, involving wage cuts, worsening conditions AND compulsory redundancies. Neither is this onslaught restricted to one economic sector or area of the country. It covers everything from Local Authorities, Health Services and Public Transport, through the engineering sector (Govan shipbuilders, GEC, Fords, IBM, ICI, etc) to the services sector (Barclays Bank, Woolworths, Marks and Spencer, etc) and from north to south.

### WORLD WIDE RECESSION

Labour politicians would have us believe this is all the fault of the wicked Tories. But although Britain's economy may be more fragile than some others, this cannot hide the fact that the whole world economy is in a state of disintegration.

The economies of the so-called Third World and Eastern Europe are in a state of near collapse. The motor industry, whose health generally reflects the state of modern industry, is suffering a major crisis right across the globe, involving plant closures and redundancies on a huge scale. Hi-tech computer industries have now also been caught up in the downward spiral of recession. Germany, the power-house of central European capitalism, is heavily burdened with the costs of reunification and even Japan is showing the first signs of economic decline, despite its competitive lead. The GATT talks on trade continue to flounder as each nation desperately tries to stop itself sinking at the expense of others. The whole world, not excepting the USA, is burdened with historic levels of public and private debt.

Our bosses and politicians from left to right are orchestrating a fierce attack designed to make us pay for their crisis ridden economy.

### WORKERS FIGHT BACK

Our class has not sat idly by and accepted all this shit!

There has been a wave of strikes involving miners, textile and transport workers and many others right across the USSR and Eastern Europe and more recently in that last Stalinist strong-

hold of Albania. East German workers have long since forgotten the false euphoria over re-unification and are fighting back against redundancies and the withdrawal of social services.

There have been militant strikes of bus, railway and newspaper workers in the USA. Major strikes and demonstrations have taken place in Brazil and other South American states racked by hyperinflation, IMF imposed austerity measures and government corruption.

There have been a number of lengthy strikes amongst textile and other workers in India that have been sustained by a high level of 'community' support.

In the midst of war in the Gulf, militant Turkish miners and their supporters threatened the stability of the Turkish government.

Examples abound of the world wide nature of working class resistance to the bosses attacks.

Here in Britain the beginnings of a fight back have been evident amongst Liverpool Council workers, Massey Ferguson, Post Office, Tube and other workers.

### POTENTIALITIES AND PROBLEMS

There exists the potential for a widespread, militant and unified response from our class that could at least temporarily push back the effects of the crisis and lay the basis for an offensive against the whole rotten economic system.

Unfortunately there are still many

obstacles in the way of our class taking the first essential steps towards such a unified response.

Two such major obstacles are NATIONALISM and the UNIONS.

### NATIONALISM

In the USSR and Eastern Europe, where the old rigid Stalinist regimes have recently crumbled, local ruling class factions are flexing their muscles in a desperate bid to avoid being dragged under with the rest of their former compatriots.

They are using the resentment of workers at decades of central bureaucratic control and suppression of local languages and culture to bolster their own positions of power in a wave of petty nationalism. The struggle of workers is being diverted from their common class interests towards futile programmes of decentralisation and new nationhood dressed up in the language of "freedom" and "democracy".

On the Indian sub-continent a whole plethora of nationalisms, ethnic and religious divisions is fostered in a similar attempt by local ruling class factions to rest some degree of power

and influence from an economic situation out of the control of the bloated bureaucracies of central governments.

In the 'middle' east and elsewhere, both major and minor imperialist powers cynically use national and religious rivalries to their own ends in total disregard to the suffering of that lands shifting refugee crisis. The sheer immensity of suffering amongst the people of this area has so far almost totally smothered earlier glimmerings of independent working class action.

In western Europe, nationalism doesn't have quite the same force, but it is still at work, particularly through expressions of racism against North Africans in France, Turkish workers in Germany and Asians in Britain.

Here in Britain, politicians of all varieties try to present the economic ills we are suffering as a peculiarly British phenomenon. They invite us to take part in THEIR democratic debates as to the best solutions - in or out of the EEC, Tory or Labour managers for UK plc, etc. In Scotland and Wales the nationalists and their partners in the Green Party add colour to this dull discussion by promoting their own petty nationalist concerns. As if an 'independent' Wales or Scotland would be any less affected by the world slump or



*On their march to Ankara, the miners and their families spent two nights on the road before being turned back*

being sacked by a Welsh or Scottish boss was more agreeable.

## UNIONS AGAINST THE WORKING CLASS

If nationalism is not enough on its own to derail our struggle, the Bosses rely on the Unions to assist them.

Whatever the benefits of the Unions in the last century, it is clear that today they are totally integrated into the structure of capitalism.

Not only are the Unions major capitalist investors in their own right, but their structure reflects the hierarchical organisation of the capitalist state and big business as well. They are junior partners in the management of the economy with special responsibility for controlling the work force. This job is all the more effectively carried out precisely because they maintain a FORMAL independence from the corridors of power. This is a lesson well learnt by the failure of the old Stalinist Unions in the USSR and Eastern Europe. That they can do a better job for the bosses by being 'independent' is well illustrated by the history of **SOLIDARITY** in Poland. It was **SOLIDARITY**, not the old unions which brought the escalating struggle of the workers there under control and which helped enforce subsequent austerity measures.

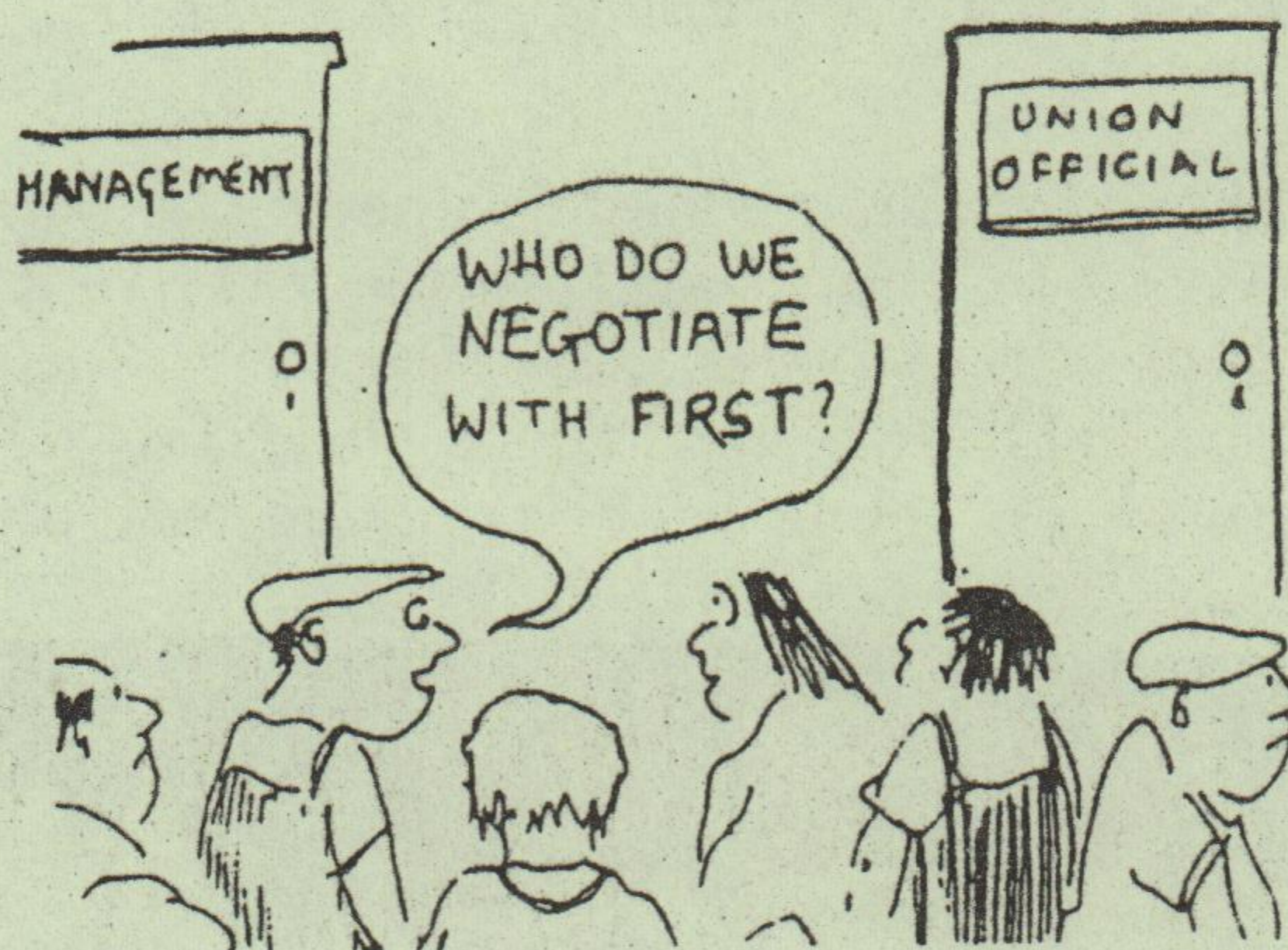
## UNION TACTICS

In Britain, the Unions are even more experienced at heading off trouble on 'the shop floor'.

These are just some of their tactics against us:

- Holding separate ballots amongst different Unions in the same workplace.
- Holding open ended ballots which don't commit them to any particular line of action.
- Continually re-balloting every time the bosses make a slight alteration to their offer.
- Keeping strikes and strikers isolated from each other by monopolising the means of communication.

- Bringing different groups of workers out on strike at different times when their interests are the same and they would have more impact by striking together (viz Tube, Bus and Railway workers in recent disputes).
- Doing behind the scenes deals with the bosses.
- Calling for militant action prematurely, then referring back to failed actions when workers are really keen to go on the offensive.
- Calling campaigns on side issues (like the engineers 35 hour campaign) when workers need to fight for jobs and wages.
- Splitting workers between 'profitable' and 'non-profitable' firms (like the arguments of the power and BT Unions at present).
- Arguing that we "shouldn't rock the boat" in the run up to a parliamentary election and lying that the Labour Party will solve our problems.



- Threatening withdrawal of strike pay (OUR money) if we don't agree to their deals with the bosses.
- Arguing for "lawful action" when the law is DELIBERATELY designed to defeat us.

The list is endless and no doubt you could add a few more from your own experience.

## ANOTHER WAY

Of course the Unions don't always get their way. Recently, Massey Ferguson workers in Coventry responded to the announcement of 60 day lay offs by

holding a mass meeting and going on IMMEDIATE all out strike - without waiting for ballots.

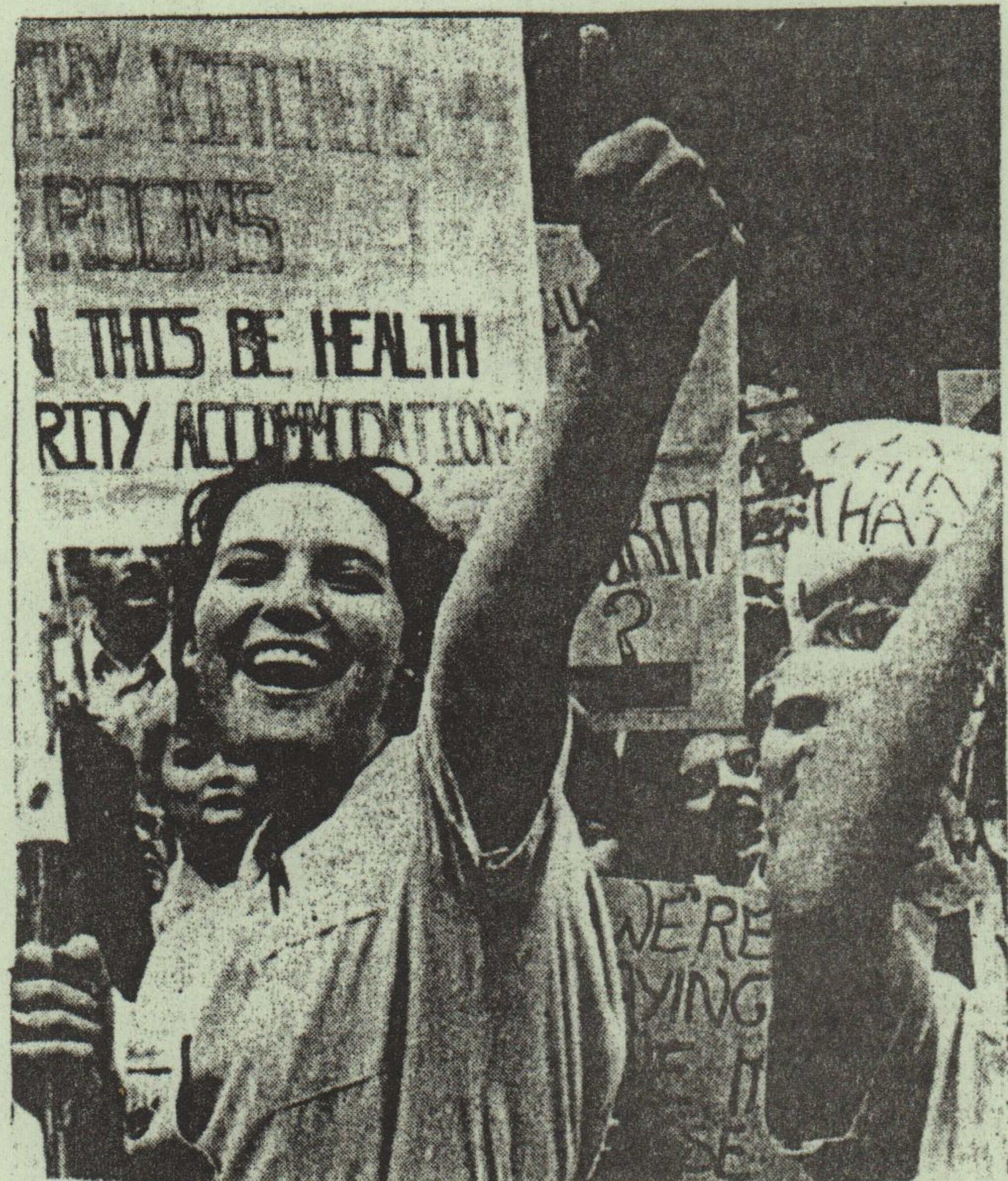
There is a long and honourable history of wildcat strikes amongst workers, but only rarely have these completely broken from the trade unionist framework on any scale.

It is vital now that workers everywhere begin to take matters into their own hands.

This means opposing the diversionary tactics of the Unions by uniting our struggles across Union and other sectional boundaries.

Strikes need to be organised through mass assemblies open to ALL those involved and with directly elected strike committees. Strikes over basic issues like redundancies and wage cuts need to be spread as widely as possible by sending large delegations directly to other workers facing the same threats. Efforts must be made to involve the unemployed and other unwaged workers:

To deal with the unions monopoly on communications, networks of militant workers in different areas and industries need to be built up to spread information and agitate for joint action. Groups of militant workers need to meet also to discuss the POLITICAL implications of the struggles going on.



Increasingly solidarity action across national boundaries will become both necessary and possible.

The experience of all this kind of organised action will help develop a new independent community of resistance. We can begin to develop the confidence and practical understanding necessary to challenge the whole economy of wage labour and production for profit.

#### NEWS OF INTERNATIONAL CLASS STRUGGLE

'ECHANGES' is a well established, cheaply produced, bulletin which regularly reviews and summarises the contents of many interesting radical and revolutionary publications from across the world.

It also translates and reprints longer articles reporting on and analysing the international class struggle.

Although rarely bang up to date, it provides some valuable background information for understanding the nitty gritty of class struggle in many different countries.

You can also obtain from them other publications, such as Anton Pannekoek's book 'Workers Councils'.

Their bulletin is available on subscription, in either English or French.

Write for details to:-

Echanges Et Mouvement  
BM BOX 91, London WC1 3XX

#### PUBLIC MEETINGS... PUBLIC MEETINGS

SUBVERSION is currently holding a series of public meetings in co-operation with 'Class War' and the 'Anarchist Communist Federation'.

The meetings are intended to provide an introduction to the politics of revolutionary communism which all three groups share and to provide a forum for exploring some of the important differences between us, in a non-sectarian way.

Anyone interested in coming to future meetings in the central Manchester area should write for further details to:

SUBVERSION c/o Dept 10  
1 Newton Street, Piccadilly,  
Manchester M1 1HW.

## CHARITY MAKES US SICK

I've got two small kids. Their favourite TV programme is Blue Peter. Since last November, they've been bombarded with images of deprived orphans in Rumania and starving and dying Kurds. So we had to help raise money for these causes - the children would never have forgiven us if we hadn't. Throughout the country, children raised over 6m pounds for the Rumanian orphans and countless thousands for the Kurds. Since then I've been involved at school (I'm a teacher) in fundraising for Rumania and now for Bangladesh. I've also personally raised money for the CF Trust and helped at a fundraising do for the NCT.

So why do we say, "CHARITY MAKES US SICK"?

### THE WORLD TODAY

It's estimated that almost 30 million people in Africa are in danger of starving to death. Maybe 200,000 people died in the recent cyclone in Bangladesh. God knows how many thousands died in the mountains of Kurdistan.

Yet there is nothing natural about any of these so-called "natural disasters".

Starving people in Africa need about 3 million metric tonnes of food this year. This sounds like a lot. However, in 1988 the world grain surplus was 360 million tonnes! That's 120 times as much as is needed to feed these people. At the same time the EEC is drawing up new schemes to take land out of cultivation - because too much is being produced! BANGLADESH

In Bangladesh a cyclone has killed well over 100,000 people and many others face the risk of disease and famine. Yet a similar occurrence in the USA led to a few tens of deaths. Why is this the case?

A lot of the problems in Bangladesh were due to poverty. People lived in ramshackle huts, in overcrowded conditions and low-lying islands. The cyclone simply washed them away. In the USA most people live in stronger houses in better locations. In Bangladesh the government hasn't built a single cyclone shelter in the last ten years. All the ones that did exist, and



incidentally saved thousands of lives, were built by organisations like the Red Cross.

It would only have cost \$200 million to build the 5000 shelters that could have held 10 million people. This is far less than was spent on day one of the Gulf War. Part of this is, of course, due to inefficiency and corruption - problems bred by the very poverty that existed there in the first place. CAN'T PAY - WON'T EAT

Clearly, the problem of food isn't that people can't grow enough food to live. We have already seen that there is more than enough food in the world. The problem comes down to the fact that the world doesn't operate on the basis of supplying peoples' needs. It operates

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on the basis of producing things for sale on a market and expects them to make a profit. If you can't buy something, then you simply can't have it.

## EX-COLONIES

The problem isn't either that third world people are incapable of producing the food they need themselves. At the root of the problem is the way world production works. Most third world countries are ex-colonies. Their economies were always intended, by their capitalist owners to exist to serve the imperialist homeland. So, for example, the Bengali cotton manufacturing industry was destroyed to make way for a cotton growing economy that would export cotton to Britain for production into cloth. Other countries were to produce other primary products for refining in the capitalist heartlands, like Britain, France and the USA. Today, they still mostly produce primary products.

## WANNA BORROW A DOLLAR?

This is made worse by the way that money is loaned to third world countries. Most of this comes with strings attached. Governments stipulate what loans can be spent on. When Third World states cannot get loans from commercial institutions or other states, they turn to either the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund. The World Bank and IMF lay down terms that prevent governments spending on social programmes - and insist on prompt repayments.

Most loans that come from other states come with strings. The country receiving the loan is told that it must spend it on imports from the donor country. It is even told what these imports must be. So the country borrowing is forced to use the loan to further develop low profit primary production that can then be exported to the donor country. The cycle of underdevelopment and dependence continues. On top of this the debtor state has to pay interest.

In 1989 the poorest countries in the world paid out 63 billion pounds more in interest on debts to Western banks

and governments than they got in aid.

It was this kind of thing that led to the grisly situation of Ethiopia exporting meat and grain while millions starved in 1985.

UNICEFs published a report in 1987, "Adjustment with a human face". It said that "adjustment packages" imposed by world bankers meant that "expenditure per head at constant prices decreased in nearly half the African continent for which data exists and in 60% of the countries in Latin America. Education expenditure per head declined in a third of African countries and 59% of Latin American countries". The report went on, "Many children will die, and many of the survivors will suffer permanent damage, because of the failure to act now."

Another example is Morocco. In "A Fate Worse Than Debt", Susan George says, "Morocco, once a North African granary and major supplier for France, is today reduced to importing over 3 million tons of wheat annually - while its unwanted oranges and tomatoes rot in the fields or in the docks". It was the IMF who "planned" the switch in Morocco's economy to the export of products nobody suddenly wanted.

## CANCEL THE DEBT?

Unfortunately, there is no chance of the banks simply cancelling the debt wholesale. The whole of the banking system relies on the paying of interest on these debts. These repayments keep the crisis-ridden economies of the rest afloat. Cancelling the debts would mean the collapse of the banking system and maybe the western economy. This would hardly benefit the Third World!

Forced to produce primary products, third world countries have been faced with the reality of falling commodity prices, and hence the problem of having to produce more to repay the same. As the rulers of these states are unwilling to give up their living standards, the only answer that capitalism has is to force down the living standards of the poor. The rich have nothing to fear, however, because the imperialist states also have major industries only too willing and able to supply the means of repression to keep

the working class and peasantry in their place.

### THE AID GAME

When things get really desperate the rich countries provide aid. But even aid is not always a gift. Most cash 'aid' provided to third world states is "tied". That means that it has to be spent on programmes specified by the donor country - on products made by that country. On top of that 80% of food 'aid' is not a gift, but rather is paid for by exchanging raw materials. Often food aid is simply a way the donor uses to get rid of unwanted surplus production, rather than food which is actually useful to the starving masses.

Faced with this situation, our rulers have the cheek to turn round and tell us that the answer is charity!

Talking about the need for charity shifts the burden of blame for the appalling state of the world. Instead of millions starving because of the greed of capitalists and the inadequacies of the profit system, we get the idea that it is the inadequacies of the victims that is to blame and the fault of all of "us" in the rich north. This, we are told, can only be overcome by a reduction in our standard of living. This kind of line is very popular with the Greens and the

Ecologists. Of course, this means a reduction for working people, not the bosses. And we must all give to charity to assuage our guilt for living such indecently "affluent" lives. It is a way of selling austerity to us all.

Our response to that is that we don't want our standard of living to suffer, we want that of the masses in less well-off parts to improve. Unlike those who control the media, we don't see the masses in the Third World solely as passive victims. Recent events in Ethiopia show that. Workers in India are regularly involved in massive confrontations with their employers and states. Workers in the townships of South Africa were a beacon of class struggle in the 1980s. Even a casual glance through the foreign pages of the press will throw up countless other examples. We need these workers to link up with those in the capitalist heartlands to get rid of the profit system that caused the problems in the first place.

### CHARITY STARTS AT HOME?

Charity also takes the form of an additional tax on our incomes. The state no longer pretends to fund decent health care for working class people. It no longer pretends to provide a decent education - or even books - for

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our kids. Instead it is down to our own ability to raise funds. What they give us with one hand in the form of tax cuts, they expect us to take away for them. Hence all the efforts for hospitals like Booth Hall, the Mandy Turner Scanner Appeal and countless more. Hence our kids raising 6 million for Rumania - less than one third of the cost of a single plane shot down in the Gulf War.

So, yes, charity is shit. It's shit we have to put up with, because without it life would be so much worse. In many ways it is the working class's humane response to tragedy and need perverted by the profit system. We know it's not

the answer to the many problems we face from day to day. The only answer to that is to get rid of the system that created the problems in the first place. We need a revolution to get rid of the bosses and their profit motive, and replace it with a human community that takes from each what they can give and in return gives each person what they need for a decent, fulfilling life.

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The issue of boycotts will be discussed in an article in a subsequent issue of SUBVERSION.

## CON-PACT



## COMPACTS

The so-called Compact scheme first started in Boston in the USA and when it failed there, it was introduced into schools in East London. According to the glossy handouts, the student enters into a compact with a listed number of firms. The students have to meet certain personal goals: not less than 85% attendance in the fourth and fifth year, 90% punctuality, satisfactory completion of courses including a graded result in English and maths, two weeks work experience and satisfactory attendance on a Personal and Social Education course. In return the employers, supposedly, offer jobs with good training and prospects, including work experience. It is now being introduced in many towns and cities across the country, although there is no guaranteed job at the end of it, only an interview if you're lucky! Employers have actually said that they want to introduce their own 'test' which would exclude a large number of pupils from even the interview stage. The employers involved in the scheme provide very little and in return get the choice of the best qualified school leavers.

Teachers are having to work harder and longer hours doing pointless and time-consuming administration for initiatives which do not even benefit the pupils. The Compact scheme is an initiative designed to benefit employers. There is no evidence to suggest that young people get anything out of it. It is part of the whole 'Education & Training' racket which has more to do with making tomorrow's unemployed youth more 'marketable' and 'employable' so as to compete with those already in jobs and thus reduce wage bills. It has nothing to do with education. It is a waste of time and should be avoided at all costs.

## want to help?

If you agree broadly with our politics, there are a number of ways you can help SUBVERSION.

Take extra copies to distribute in your area.

Write to us. We would welcome short articles (not more than 400 words), or the kind of information we could use to put into articles of our own.

Send some money. Although we distribute SUBVERSION free it still costs quite a lot to produce - so all contributions are welcome.

Please make all cheques/postal orders payable to R.Knight.

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS  
BETWEEN  
EMPLOYERS AND EDUCATION

# SATS FAIL THE TEST

The Easter NUT conference vote to back teachers who refused to implement the National Curriculum and boycott the Standard Assessment Tasks (SATS) appeared to be a setback for the Government. Parents were prompted to demonstrate their opposition to tests for seven year olds, meetings were held, schools leafleted and petitions signed. Encouraged by the success of the Scottish campaign, where the tests had started a month earlier, and where over 50 per cent of parents had withdrawn their children from the tests, it looked as if a major challenge to the Tories' plans in education was underway.

Yet, as the result of the NUT ballot showed, only 12% voted for action in the end. What went wrong?

## BOTTOM OF THE CLASS STRUGGLE

The first answer to this question must surely lie in what has happened in education during the last five years. Despite the changes that have been imposed upon schools since 1986, most of which have served to pose a major threat to teachers' conditions and jobs, there has not been a single days national strike action over any of them. Pay, in real terms, has deteriorated. And the threat by some councils to ignore national pay scales and introduce individual teacher performance-related pay only serves to underline the extent to which teachers have been divided and set against each other.

This contrasts with Scotland where there has been more resistance to attacks on conditions, and where pay is still significantly higher. Given that SATS is only directly affecting a small band of primary teachers at this moment in time (though they will impinge upon all schools by 1994), it was unlikely to be the issue which would reverse the defeats of the last five years and unite teachers.

## SIT NO SATS

A more significant factor is how teachers themselves perceive SATS. Many will not have seen the link



with other apparently disparate initiatives like LMS, performance-related pay and appraisal where the results of SATS will be used to reinforce the idea of "good" and "bad" teachers and schools. Under LMS, the amount of money that schools will receive depends on the number of pupils within the school. All state schools will be teaching the National Curriculum. The results of the tests will be published. Open enrolment will put an end to practices designed to maintain school rolls and mixed ability entry. Some schools may thrive. Others will not -- schools will be competing with each other for limited pupil-linked resources. Like SATS, performance-related pay will be used with no consideration of other factors -- social, economic, domestic, linguistic, etc. -- which will be ignored.

## SINK SCHOOLS

Even before the National Curriculum has got properly underway, some councils are considering ignoring national pay scales and introducing performance-related pay for teachers. The results of the tests will also increase the differentiation which has already started in the inner city areas where there is greatest shortage of teachers and resources. The private sector, where the ruling class send their kids, has not been affected by any of the recent legislation. As for the rest, there will be a few "good"

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schools which are relatively well resourced and a larger number of "sink" schools. The poorest, most deprived children will go to these schools and, inevitably, a large number will be black. The Government's real intentions were revealed by a senior official at the Education department, drawing up plans for the National Curriculum and testing, who said, "People must be educated once more to know their place".

#### UNION SABOTAGE

Why has the fight against testing not been led by the Unions? Those on the Left, like the Socialist Teachers Alliance, believe that it should have been and that it is only the sluggishness of the current NUT

leadership which is getting in the way. Far from getting in the way, they have been doing all they can to sabotage any calls for a boycott of the tests (as did also the EIS leaders in Scotland).

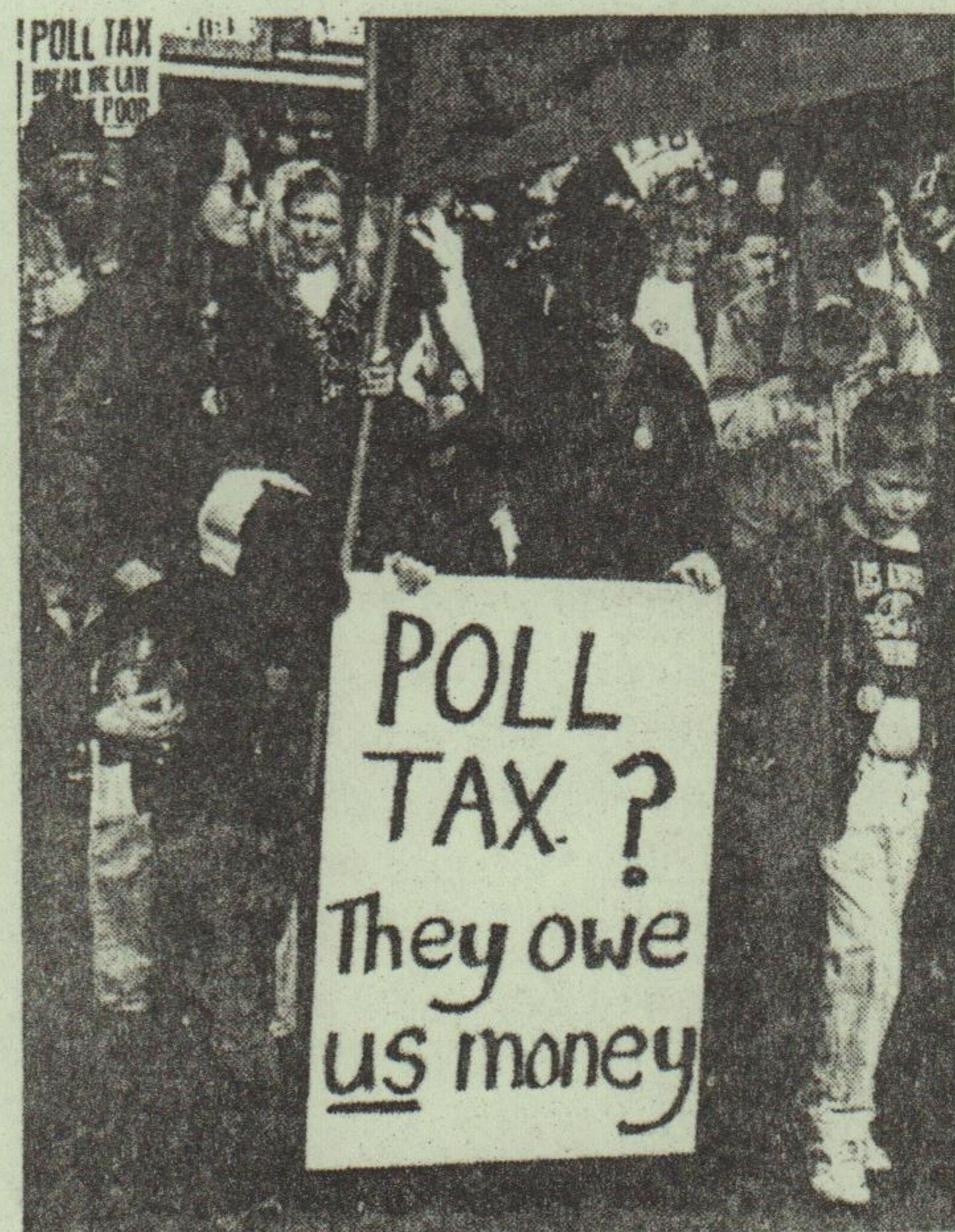
The successful fight against redundancies, the ultimate end product of SATS, will depend upon teachers organising independently of the Unions. It means taking decisions about what action is necessary through directly elected committees of all those involved regardless of union membership. It means getting parents involved as has happened in Scotland. And ultimately it means challenging a system where 'education' is reduced to churning out factory fodder and failures.

#### ANTI-POLL TAX MOVEMENT:

#### DEFENDING OURSELVES OR DEFENDING THE STATE.

The activities of the 'Militant' dominated Anti-Poll tax Federation have been exposed in the pages of 'Subversion' before. One organisation in the movement we have however supported, is the 'Trafalgar Square Defence Campaign'. They have been the main organisation providing practical support for arrested anti-poll tax protesters and prisoners, on a politically 'unconditional' basis. They continue to carry on this essential work and deserve all the support they can get in their efforts.

A 'Campaign' of this sort inevitably has to compromise with the state in the form of the courts, and with the media etc, even where participants are politically opposed to the state. Some dealings with the Federation have also been necessary in the interests of defendants. But if the TSDC is not to be drawn into a 'liberal' defence of the state, careful judgements need to be made. The need to stress 'peaceful' intentions and the aggressiveness of the police in the context of the individual defence of those arrested, must be set against the equally important task of promoting a positive and aggressive image of our class in its struggle for liberation. To often the 'Left' gets away with presenting our class simply as passive victims of the state.



A recent leaflet, criticising the overall approach of the TSDC towards demonstrations, their relationship to the Federation and recent tactics has been produced by comrades from London. We don't necessarily agree with everything they say but its worth a read. If you would like a copy send a stamped self-addressed envelope to us, or direct to:-

BM CAT, London WC1 3XX.

The TSDC can be contacted:-

C/O The Haldane Society of Lawers, 205  
Panther House, 38 Mount Pleasant,  
London WC1X 0AP.

## LETTERS

Dear Subversion,  
I'm writing with a few enquiries. Although I've read most of your propaganda I'm uncertain as to where you "stand" on organisation.

Do you see Subversion as a formal or informal organisation? An organisation or an affinity group? If you think Subversion's structure is the best model for politics, do you see it changing when more people are involved?

Although I realise this is one of the most important discussions and pages and books can be written on it, I'd be more than happy with just a few lines!  
Yours in solidarity,  
Keeley.

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Dear Keeley,  
Many thanks for your letter. You are right, the question of organisation is a difficult and important one. You are also right that we haven't addressed the issue yet in the pages of our bulletin.

Subversion is quite a small group and as such we haven't had to face up to the question of organisational structures. Quite simply, everything that needs to be decided is done so either at regular meetings or over the phone. This does not mean, however, that we see this as an ideal for others to follow. It simply reflects the position we are in at the moment.

You ask whether we are a formal organisation or not. Those involved in producing Subversion are "members", in the sense that we all agree with certain basic politics. Broadly speaking, these are as laid out in our regular Where We Stand statement. We also broadly hold to the views outlined in the old WILDCAT pamphlet CAPITALISM AND ITS REVOLUTIONARY DESTRUCTION (although if we were writing it today we would make a number of alterations). The politics expressed in unsigned articles in SUBVERSION also represent our collective views. In practice, all the articles to date are of this nature. We try to take decisions on the basis of consensus, but we are not beyond taking a vote to reach a difficult decision. If we take a majority decision, we expect everyone to

abide by it. On top of all this, we also pay monthly dues. I guess you can say that that all makes us a formal organisation.

As we are based mostly in one geographical area, we don't have to worry about other problems of organisation. However, we would not say that the way we operate is a model for others to follow. It is simply expedient. If others wanted to become involved in our activities, we would welcome them as long as it was on the basis of political agreement and a commitment to work with us. Such an event would require a rethinking of the way we operate.

We want to see revolutionary groups grow in size and influence. We don't think this should be on the basis of independent local groups. For us, the revolutionary movement needs to come together into national and international organisations. We are not particularly bothered what label is attached to the type of organisation. But we think it should be on the basis of common politics and willingness to work together. It also means being prepared to abide by democratically arrived at decisions. To this extent we see the way we operate today as being relevant to the future. As a first step towards this we try to work with other revolutionaries and their groups. For example we hold joint meetings with Manchester Class War and the ACF in Manchester. To meet others of like mind we participate in discussions at Class Struggle Anarchist Network meetings, and hope to engage in joint activity with people we find ourselves in some agreement with there.

In the long run we believe that the only way forward is some kind of regroupment that we could be part of. We believe that our politics are broadly correct, but also recognise that we can learn from others. I think that reading our publications since we started will show that we have changed quite a bit.

### SUBVERSION

NOTE: readers can obtain a photocopy of the pamphlet CAPITALISM AND ITS REVOLUTIONARY DESTRUCTION by writing to us and sending 50p to cover costs and postage.

# **SUBVERSION!**

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We meet regularly for political discussion and to organise our activities, which include public meetings and the publication of this bulletin and other leaflets. The following is a brief summary of our basic political principles:

- We are against all forms of capitalism; private, state and self-managed.
- We are for communism, which is a classless society in which all goods are distributed according to needs and desires.
- We are actively opposed to all ideologies which divide the working class, such as religion, sexism and racism.
- We are against all expressions of nationalism, including "national liberation" movements such as the IRA.
- The working class (wage labourers, the unemployed, housewives, etc), is the revolutionary class; only its struggle can liberate humanity from scarcity, war and economic crisis.
- Trade unions are part of the capitalist system, selling our labour power to the bosses and sabotaging our struggles. We support independent working class struggle, in all areas of life under capitalism, outside the control of the trade unions and all political parties.
- We totally oppose all capitalist parties, including the Labour Party and other organisations of the capitalist left. We are against participation in fronts with these organisations.
- We are against participation in parliamentary elections; we are for the smashing of the capitalist state by the working class and the establishment of organisations of working class power.
- We are against sectarianism, and support principled co-operation among revolutionaries
- We exist to actively participate in escalating the class war towards communism.

it. Yet every time it happens the people who claim to represent our interests, the Leftists, find a reason why we should support it.

## **VILE HYPOCRITES**

The SWP and other Trot groups are now urging support for Kurdish nationalism against the Iraqi regime, as the solution to the suffering now evident in Kurdistan. The same groups who only yesterday were SUPPORTING the Iraqi regime in its own national war against the West. It is harder to imagine greater hypocrisy.

Most of the so-called opposition to the war consisted of groups like the above who only opposed the Western side and supported Iraq, or of groups like CND who supported the West - but merely wished it to starve people in Iraq into submission rather than using bombs, i.e. they pushed the idea of sanctions.

We can confidently predict that it will be the same in the NEXT war.

## **YOUR CLASS NEEDS YOU**

To all working class people who have fallen for any variety of these illusions about capitalist war we simply say - look at the results of wars past and present, that nothing but misery has ever been achieved for the workers, and let the next war be different. It is only when workers realize that their interest is in supporting their CLASS - against all the false claims on our allegiance from whatever faction of the capitalist class in whatever country - that the overthrow of this system of exploitation, war and suffering becomes a practical possibility. The class war to overthrow capitalism is the ONLY war workers can support - a war which instead of being the instrument of death will be the instrument of LIFE. A war to create a world without oppression, exploitation, suffering or want. A world where life is truly worth living.

# SUBVERSION!

## GULF FALLOUT

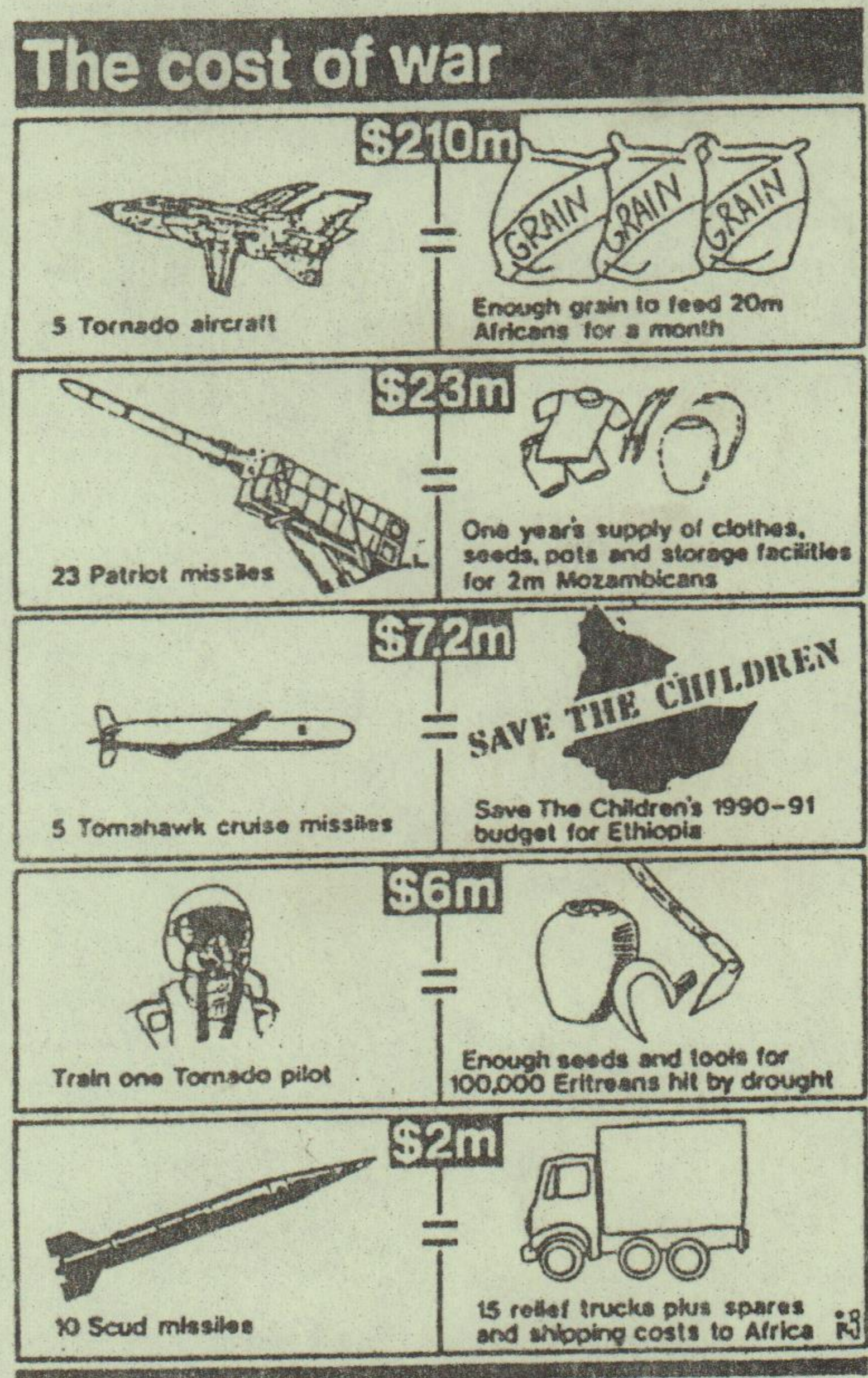
Thus ends the glorious crusade of the Western Democratic / Anti-Imperialist forces against Mad-dog Saddam / Bush the imperialist (delete as appropriate).

The situation that now exists in the region has shone the cold, clear light of day on the illusions that many had that either: a) the victory of the Western forces would remove a brutal dictator and improve conditions for people suffering under his dictatorship; or b) a glorious "anti-imperialist" war (albeit led by a dictator) would pit "revolutionary" forces against Imperialism.

The reality is there for all to see: Saddam still in power (Bush having actually SUPPORTED his regime against the uprising in the south and in Kurdistan, his preferred option always having been a Ba'athist regime without Saddam) and the position of the major imperialist powers unimpaired. All that has resulted is death and destruction on a grand scale and increased misery for the survivors. This is always the way with Imperialist wars (and ALL capitalist powers - ALL countries large and small, ALL capitalist political movements - are

Imperialist because they are integral parts of the world capitalist system, a system which is today an integrated whole and which is supported and maintained by ALL its constituent parts, for all their jockeying for position WITHIN the Imperialist pecking order).

Every time such a war happens it is a yet more insistent argument that working class people, the people who always suffer in wars for the sake of the interests of our oppressors, the capitalists, should oppose war and the system that gives rise to



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