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SOCIALIST OPPORTUNIST

No. 3

TROOPS OUT



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JUST OVER A MONTH AND A HALF HAS PASSED SINCE THE LAST ISSUE OF "SOCIALIST OPPORTUNIST" WAS PUBLISHED, AND MUCH HAS HAPPENED, BOTH DIRECTLY INVOLVING THE MAGAZINE ITSELF, AND IN THE WORLD IN GENERAL.

THE MONTH HAS SEEN AN ATTEMPT TO MURDER THE TORY CABINET AT THE BRIGHTON CONFERENCE, SHORTLY FOLLOWED BY THE RELEASE OF PICTURES SHOWING PEOPLE IN ETHIOPIA BEING SLOWLY MURDERED BY THE GREED OF THE REST OF THE WORLD. MURDER IS MURDER, AND WE ARE NOT FOOLED BY EITHER CLAIMS OF "UNAVOIDABLE NATURAL DISASTERS" OR "POLITICAL ASSASSINATION IN THE NAME OF LIBERATION" BOTH ARE TO BE CONDEMNED. WHAT IS TO BE GAINED BY THE ASSASSINATION OF POLITICAL LEADERS? AGAIN, THIS MONTH SAW THE ASSASSINATION OF INDIRA CHANDI, FOLLOWED THE VERY NEXT DAY BY THE EMPOWERING OF HER SON AS NEW PRIME MINISTER. AND SO IT GOES.

THE STATE IS A VERY SOUND (THOUGH NOT FLAWLESS) STRUCTURE, AND IT HAS BEEN PROVED TIME AND TIME AGAIN THAT WE GET NOWHERE BY SIMPLY ATTACKING THE FACADE. THE FOUNDATIONS MUST BE OUR TARGET.

ON A MORE PERSONAL LEVEL, THE PAST MONTH HAS SEEN A GREATER INVOLVEMENT WITH THE MAGAZINE. WITH MORE PEOPLE WRITING ARTICLES, AND NEW PEOPLE HELPING TO PUT IT ALL TOGETHER. THE SLIGHT DELAY IN THIS ISSUE COMING OUT IS MAINLY DUE TO THE BRITISH POLICE, JUDICIAL AND LEGAL SYSTEM, WHO HAVE BEEN KIDNAPPING, BEATING UP, THREATENING AND GENERALLY HARRASSING MEMBERS OF THIS GROUP, FOR VARIOUS REASONS, WHICH HAS TAKEN UP MUCH OF OUR TIME. BUT WE WILL NEVER LET SUCH TRIVIA STOP US!

WE ARE NOT SOCIALIST OPPORTUNISTS. THE STATE, BE IT LEFT OR RIGHT, IS INHERENTLY AGAINST THE PEOPLE UNDER ITS RULE. AN OPPORTUNIST ACTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CIRCUMSTANCE. WE DO NOT. WE WILL CREATE OUR OWN CIRCUMSTANCES: WE WILL FREE OURSELVES FROM THE STATE.

ANY CRITICISMS, COMMENTS OR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME. PLEASE SEND ITEMS TO:
BOX 91,
84b WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET,
LONDON E01.

WE REMEMBER

Sunday 11th November is designated as Remembrance Sunday; the day officially set aside to remember the thousands of British soldiers killed in the First and Second World Wars.

It is, of course, important to remember their deaths, and indeed for most of us its impossible to forget, among these killed may have been our friends or our relatives.

However, its equally important to remeber why they had to die (and indeed why men, women and children are dying in wars today).

Although none of us want to see our friends and relatives killed in wars, we have all lived through a period when this country has been at war - some will have outlived two or even three such periods.

Why then in a world populated with people who do not wish to be at war, who wish neither to kill or to be killed, do wars continue?

We must remember that those who rule our society, base their affairs on profit making. In order for them to make the largest profits, they need to control the largest possible amount of resources with which to make their goods, and the largest possible markets, in which to sell their goods.

It is these markets and resources which the rulers send us to fight over. This is known as war, ie protection, freedom etc (war is short of competition between rulers for which you and i (the ruled) pay - sometimes with our lives. It's as simple as that.

As long as we, the 'ordinary' people of this world, are content to hand our fate, by accepting their rule, and permitting the current system to continue, then we will continue to be sent to war.

So what can you and i do to remove the threat of wars from our daily lives?

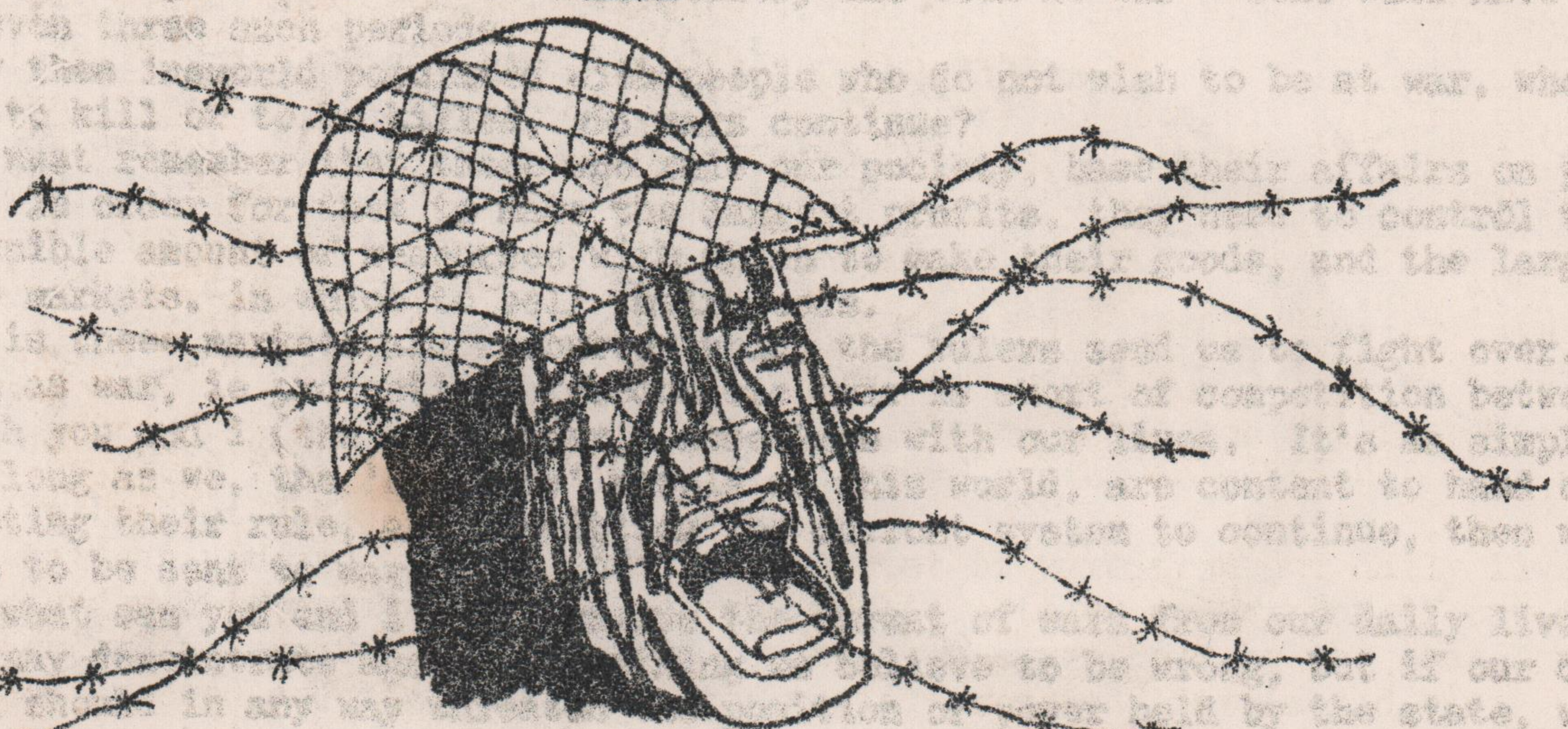
We may demonstrate against something we believe to be wrong, but if our demonstration should in any way threaten the position of power held by the state, we will be silenced, mocked and discredited in the media, arrested, imprisoned etc.

What we must do, to remove the threat of war from our lives, along with all other injustices, is to remove our support and participation from the machinery that keeps their state going. Without the co-opertion of us, (the majority) the minority can no longer hold power. If we refuse to work for the armaments industry, the police force, the capitalist press etc, and create our own organisations based on understanding and needs, rather than profit and exploitation, then we would be taking back the power to control our own lives and would be able to start building a just civilisation.

Only when we are truly free to organise our own lives, will we be able to live without war.

Let us work together for the day when number of war deaths, remembered on Remembrance Day do not increase every year.

EMMA



Wear your poppy
with shame,
not with pride...

THERE HAS BEEN A FILTHY CONSPIRACY

A conspiracy to murder! Behind the locked doors of the cabinet; in the boardrooms of the multinationals; in the editors' offices in Fleet Street; in the cloistered rooms of the nation's churches, the leaders of the British State have together, plotted the mass extermination of thousands (possibly millions) of people, in other parts of the world.

THE WORST OF MANY

The disaster, currently brought to the attention of the West, is in Ethiopia, where successive years of drought have hit people, already living in extreme poverty, so badly that an estimated six million are seriously at risk and seeking aid.

THE FACTS ARE GROTESQUE

Despite what we are led to believe, famines are preventable. A famine does not suddenly happen; there is always a long onset period - a warning period. In the case of Ethiopia, the first request for emergency food supplies was made in 1982, after a very poor harvest, and it was abundantly clear (to anyone interested) that by the end of 1983, when the harvest had failed for the second year running, that a severe famine lay ahead. While the Ethiopian government and the various voluntary agencies were desparately sending out reports and warnings of the impending tragedy to unresponsive Western governments - the food ran out.

HOW?

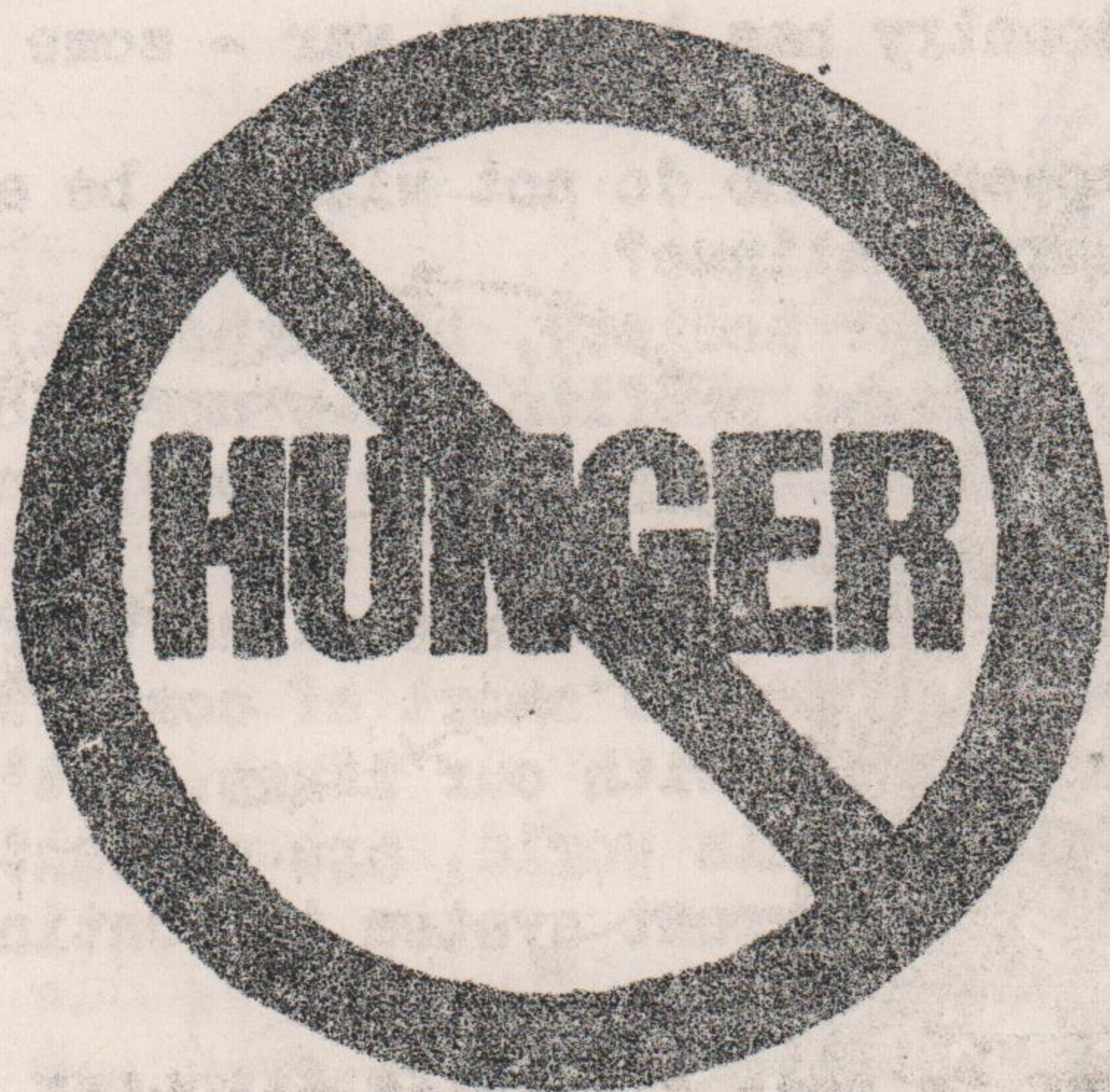
How can we tolerate the fact that the British state has caused millions to starve, in full knowledge of their plight? How dare the government shed crocodile tears, with its pathetic offers of aid and the loan (for a very limited period) of two RAF Hercules transport planes!

How dare the Church use the death of thousands as a public relations exercise, showing how concerned it is, TWO YEARS TOO LATE!

And how dare the press use this suffering to sell more papers!

This is all so sick. How can we allow it to go on?

Gray.



COLIN ROACH: THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

Many people will remember the tragic death of Colin Roach in the foyer of Stoke Newington police station in January '83. What most people don't realise, however, is that the behaviour of the state towards members of the Colin Roach Campaign undoubtedly points straight to the fact that Colin Roach did not kill himself. Several demonstrators were imprisoned, often for such minor offences as threatening behaviour. Cyrus Noor, a leading campaigner, was jailed for nearly two and a half years, then certified insane in an attempt to silence him; and more recently, Ace Kelly, the chair of the Stoke Newington and Hackney defence Campaign has been the innocent victim of police brutality and lies. Obviously, the state is very anxious that the truth should not be told.

THE EVENTS:

12/1/83: A friend drives Colin Roach, a black youth from Bow, who is concerned about something, to Stoke Newington police station. Colin enters the building at 11.30pm. The friend is worried so he collects Colin's father James Roach, and they return to the police station at 12.15 am. The two of them are questioned at length and forced to make statements. Finally, at 3.00 am Mr Roach is told of Colin's death. According to the police he shot himself in the foyer. Why then were Mr Roach and the friend treated in this way, and why did it take the police at least three hours to tell Mr Roach of his son's death? Later that night the police enter the Roach's house and assault Mrs Roach, and the next day the family are subjected to bad treatment from the Stoke Newington police.

14 & 17/1/83: Pickets are held outside Stoke Newington police station by friends of Colin Roach. On both occasions the police totally overreact, about fifty of them charging out of the station and indiscriminately grabbing people. Eight are arrested on the first picket and eighteen on the second.

The next few weeks and months saw the Roach family Support Committee's

call for an Independent Public Inquiry receive growing public support and media attention. It also sees more police brutality, assaults and lies. There were four large marches calling for an independent public inquiry. On the 22/1/83, 12/2/83, 12/3/83 and 14/5/83, a total of 83 people were arrested on those, plus nine more on court pickets and in the court itself. Several are imprisoned just for demonstrating. James Roach is arrested and assaulted on the 12/3/83 march. Initially four to five police carry him away and then ten to twelve of them bundle him into a van.

6/6/83 - 20/6/83: The inquest at Clerkenwell Court. The evidence that a suicide was how Roach died was vague. For example, there were no fingerprints of Roach on the gun which was found a few feet away from his body, and there were no fibres of the towel or bag he was supposed to have had on the gun. Suicide was the eventual verdict, but the jury complained to the Home Secretary about the behaviour of the police on the Roach family. The demand for an Independent Public Inquiry is still yet to be answered.

CIRUS NOOR:

Cyrus Noor, an active member of the Colin Roach Campaign has been a victim of the state's brutal attempts to cover up the truth of the death of Colin Roach. Here are the events that eventually led him to prison and worse:

12/2/83: Noor arrested on a Roach Campaign march. He is charged with threatening behaviour, assault on police and obstruction of police and highway. His crime was merely his wish to peacefully demonstrate. He was assaulted by the police and held for two days.

24/2/83: Noor's house was raided by nine police with dogs, and without a warrant. They gave him the excuse that they were looking for a man who was supposed to have entered his house. He complained to the Deptford police station and was further intimidated.

12/3/83: Arrested at the next Roach demo for having an offensive weapon. Sentenced to one month suspended.

26/3/83: Noor arrested on a bus for breaking his bail condition which stated he did not go within two miles of Stoke Newington police station.

8/4/83: Arrested for being 'in uniform'

on leaving a picket of the South African embassy. Charge dismissed.
12/4/83: Cyrus planned to bring publicity to the Roach campaign by getting himself arrested and then having a big trial. He wanted to fake fire-bomb Bethnal Green police station by using parafin-filled containers which he had tested and found that they would not explode. The plan worked, no one was hurt and no damage was done, but unfortunately the police believed he was trying to burn down the station and he was charged with four counts of attempted arson. Two teachers who happened to be walking by were also arrested and held for 23 hours. Their houses were raided, property confiscated and they were questioned at length about the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign but finally released without charge. Cyrus was then remanded until the trial and moved from Brixton to Pentonville where he was beaten up and possibly drugged.

17/11/83: Cyrus is attacked by screws during a visit by Ace Kelly. The screws told Cyrus to leave and he agreed to do so once he had finished his coffee. Suddenly five officers attacked him, throwing him onto a table, onto chairs and onto the floor. The Prison and Home Office deny that Cyrus Noor was assaulted, deny that thirty wardens were involved and deny that Cyrus received any injuries. As usual they are lying.

The next day he is charged with attempted assault and put into solitary confinement. His barrister witnesses extensive bruising.

20/11/83: A friend of Cyrus, Ruby Noorani, is arrested outside the prison after visiting him, and told she is under arrest for smuggling a letter. The fact that Cyrus was in solitary, which obviously made it impossible for him to do anything without notice, didn't occur to the police. She was strip-searched, intimidated and released without charge.

21/11/83: The situation gets worse. Cyrus, who is already doing five days solitary for the pleasure of being beaten up by thirty screws, loses twenty-eight days remission, and yet worse still, the psychiatrists who now visit him daily, tell him that he is mad and if he doesn't accept largactil - 'the liquid cosh' -

used to control prisoners, he will be sentenced under the mental health act and therefore certified insane, allowing the state to hold him in a mental hospital indefinitely (forever if necessary).

28/11/83: The trial, which was due to start on the 21st but couldn't, due to Cyrus' extensive bruises, begins now the bruises have gone. He has been in prison for seven and a half months waiting for the trial. He is acquitted of attempted arson but convicted for having parafin-filled bottles and receives two years for this plus one month for an offensive weapon, nine months for breach of probation and four months for breach of suspended sentence.

1984 sees the situation for Cyrus and the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign get worse again. Firstly, Detective Constable Brown, who arrested Cyrus, receives a 'high commendation' award and £50 from K. Newman. Later, in April, Cyrus is drugged with Modecate, and the next day, 25/4/84, he is certified under section 47 of the mental Health Act. Two days later, Ace Kelly, the Chair for the SN&HDC, is arrested while walking in Bethnal Green. He is strip-searched and questioned but released without charge. At the beginning of June, Ace receives a letter stating that Cyrus was never sectioned, just prepared for sectioning. But the threat of this happening to him is still there. Late that month an independent psychiatrist examines Cyrus and is not given the previous notes of the prison doctors or the ...

On the 10th June the state's desperate attempts to silence active people gets very desperate when the police arrest Ace Kelly for something there was absolutely no way he could have done. He was arrested at a bus-stop with his daughter Simone who was then nearly six. The police tore them apart and refused to let Ace know how or where his daughter was. He was then charged with kidnapping a three year old (they thought his daughter was the missing three year old even though she was nearly six) and GBH on a two year old. Police claimed that on June 8th, under the name of Norris Junior McDonald, Ace forced his way into the mother's flat taking the oldest child and slashing up the younger one. It turned out that this McDonald, who had no connection with Ace, was merely late in returning the child, who was only actually 2½, back to the mother. How could the police suspect

that Ace's child was 2½ or 3 years old when she was really almost 6? Was it because there was to be a picket at the Home Office Prison Department the next day in support of Cirus Noor? Of course. They wanted to ensure that the picket did not happen. The picket did take place, but instead of dropping the charges against Ace, they added new ones two months later: breach of the peace, two counts of assaulting the police and obstructing the police, which was added immediately after the initial charges were dropped.

The end of June saw Cirus in a bad way. According to friends who visited him he was drugged, had a loss of memory, was drowsy and shaking. The Home Office then claimed he had lost remission, so his release date is now April 85, not January 85. Yet last

month a letter arrived stating that it was no longer necessary to section Cirus, so at least he will definitely now be out in the next few months after the new year. The treatment that Cirus Noor and Ace Kelly have received from the state dispels any doubts I had that Colin Roach did not kill himself. Okay, he is dead and nothing will change that, but the police are obviously hiding something, so I for one will not lie down and accept their stories, their cover-ups. I say STROKE NEWINGTON POLICE MURDERED COLIN ROACH.

Send support to Cirus c/o B63620, NMP Wandsworth, Heathfield Road, London SW18.

To help the campaign: SNHDC, 380 Old Street London EC1: 739 8549.

Ace Kelly is at Horseberry Magistrates Court on 5th, 6th and 7th of December. There will be a picket.

BE THERE!

Bill C.

RAUST FILTH IN ACTION:



COCKSPARROW FARM DEMONSTRATION:

Yesterday, November the 4th, I went to the latest in the Cocksparrow farm demonstrations. Cocksparrow farm is a fur farm near Nuneaton; it houses about 1500 silver foxes bred and brought up in wire mesh cages three foot above the ground for senseless slaughter because some pathetic human beings like to wear corpse coats. Silver foxes are nocturnal creatures and being exposed to daylight causes great psychological pain. They also burrow to keep warm, and being exposed to our winter in a wire mesh cage causes frostbite. Cocksparrow farm is a particularly abhorrent place because the owner is slaughtering them on the premises without a license, and because he has done building without planning permission to try and thwart demonstrators and activists. This in mind, we arrived for a peaceful demo (peaceful because the place is going to be closed down so action was unnecessary), to find about six hundred police and vanloads of riot shields - speaks for itself. There was about a thousand of us and when we arrived at the farm we found ourselves in an enclosure about twenty foot wide formed by police barriers and barbed wire fence protecting a field. As the demo finished we were all beginning to leave when the police horses appeared. They started pushing people along the enclosure, with no small amount of force. People nearest the horses were either trying to find out why this was happening or trying to get out of the way. All that happened was a step-up in force; people were being hurt by the police use of horses. This, obviously, caused a reaction, some people tried to stay where they were and were trampled on (not seriously hurt - luckily), others tried to get away and in the panic dogs were trodden on, a blind man was nearly knocked over and people from

children to middle-aged wimmin were knocked over. A lot of people cut themselves on the barbed wire. We were continually forced up the lane by policemen smiling and goading their horses at anyone trying to get out of the way. When we got to the end of the lane (where the coaches were waiting) they hadn't had enough fun so they separated us into two groups and forced us all in opposite directions down the road by galloping towards us. People on our coach were left behind because the driver was worried about his windows, and there were five arrests for "breach of the peace".

It was only luck that stopped people being badly hurt, and the arrests and violence shows that the police will protect an illegal business by force rather than close the place down. The demo was on T.V.; I didn't see it but I wonder whether they showed the police violence or our reaction to our safety being jeopardised. One good thing is that many many people who would otherwise have left the demo thinking about nothing much apart from how bad the farm is, left there talking about burning police vans, police state and fighting back - this includes "respectable middle-aged wimmin", so they are making even more enemies.

P.S. Watch out for the NF at demos connected with halal slaughter or race in some way. The animal liberation movement wants the animals liberated from the oppression by humans no matter what culture, creed or colour. The NF are using us as a vehicle for their own warped state of mind...

donald duck...

SOCIALIST OPPORTUNIST - 'WORTH A LOOK' - IT'S OFFICIAL

In an in-depth review (printed here) of this paper, in FREEDOM (ANARCHIST MONTHLY, OCT '84 - 8 pages 30p) Mr David Peers, although a little concerned over the 'smudginess' of the print, declared your soar-away Socialist Opportunist as "worth a look."

Mr Peers then went on to totally miss the point of the front cover (if you haven't seen issue No 1 yourself, you can still get it by sending a large S.A.E. & 15p to our box number). Still, we mustn't forget that Mr Peers is, after all, a busy member of the Freedom Collective, of which a recent editorial statement said "I would...like to see an intellectually higher level of debate"! So perhaps we shouldn't expect him to spot humour when he sees it.

REVIEWS

SOCIALIST OPPORTUNIST, 20 pages, price 15p Box 91, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1

Socialist Opportunist (for all specialists in indirect action) describes itself as a 'special miners issue'. Maybe in spirit, but there's very little coverage inside. Again there is a statement of principle. The first two articles are personal, an emotional cry about the degradations of the DHSS and a conversation with a senior policeman at the May 'Stop the City'. There is a fair amount of attention to the police, including a piece on police weapons. Two contrasting articles put the violence/non-violence debate. The last, longer article is on the Labour Party. The presentation is rather smudgier, but still worth a look.

DP

THE HARRINGTON AFFAIR - THE LATEST

Tomorrow I am going to the High Court in The Strand and may be jailed - simply for picketing against Nazi Patrick Harrington at the Polytechnic of North London. In doing so, I am supposed to be in contempt of court.

I was arrested on this Friday's picket, for sitting on the step of my own polytechnic, and I was held by two coppers while a third punched me in the face, giving me a black eye. Another arrested person was less fortunate, and is presently in hospital with concussion. We are both being charged with assault.

The filth messed up trying to get my fingerprints though; they didn't try to take them until after I'd been charged. I refused and, because I knew my rights, they could not hold me overnight (as they threatened); after you are charged, they must release you. This was a further humiliation for the Kings Cross bobbies.

The other humiliation was the march of three hundred pickets who followed us to the police station, and staged a picket outside their own doors.

Tomorrow they can jail us, fine us, whatever, but we will continue fighting against the presence of fascist Harrington until he is OUT!

Message understood?

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6th:

Yesterday was the court case. The judge adjourned the case until Wednesday Nov 28th due to "lack of evidence". This was despite our confessions of contempt and our assurance to the judge that we will continue to break the law in this way. But he still refused to try us. He was too scared, it is as simple as that.

We are going to win.

Steve. T.

FLAVOUR OF THE MONTH.

The miners' strike is now over six months old, and during those six months I've heard and read an awful lot of rubbish about the miners and the potential of their industrial action.

"All over the country workers and unemployed are rising to fight the class enemy". (Black Flag 20/8/84). Really?

Let's get the matter into perspective. The National Coal Board wants to introduce a closure programme for "uneconomic pits", which would of course bring with it a huge loss of jobs (at a cost of some £4,300 million, in redundancy payments, coal, etc.)

The miners are striking to maintain their jobs. Personally, I would fight against having to go down into the ground to dig up the planet.

If coal (and we all know there is only a finite amount of it under our planet) continues to be dug at the current rate, we will be without fuel by 2004. The coal industry is a bit like genocide, when you consider the wealth of renewable (i.e. it won't ever run out) energy in the sun and waves, simply because it's not as profitable as coal, so no money is put into researching and developing alternative energy resources.

So much for the jobs and industry. What of the miners themselves? Let's not be fooled by the fact that some of the pickets throw bricks and fire air rifles at the police. Like the rioters of that long hot summer of 81, are they really fighting a corrupt social order? No. Just as the rioters were merely striking back at authority (and helping themselves to the "consumer carrots" that had been dangled in front of their noses all their lives - i.e. the videos etc that were looted) so the miners are fighting, mainly, for their jobs.

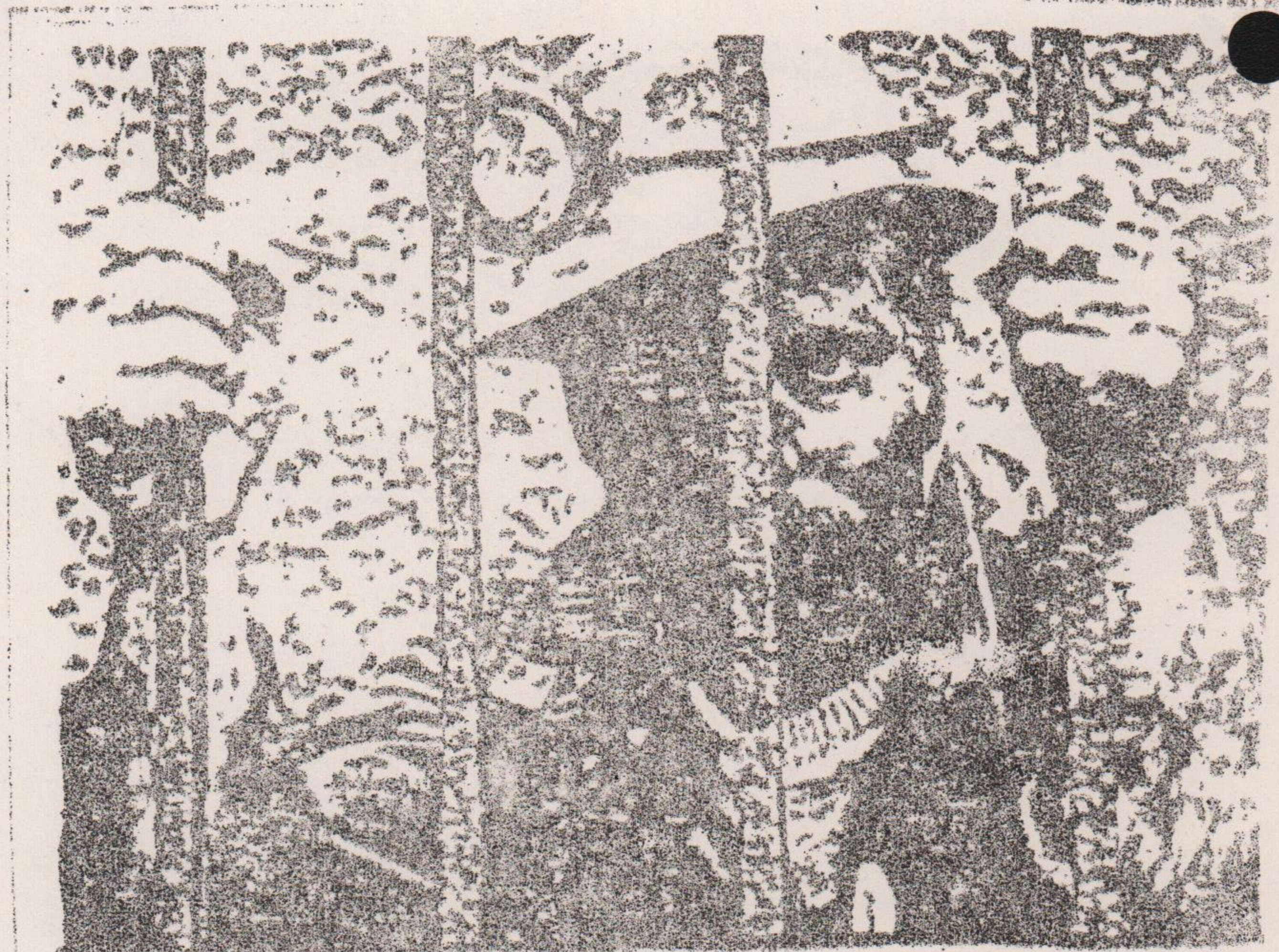
Those miners that I have met (and I admit it's only been a few) have been as firmly entrenched in the current status-quo as the average "John-down-the-pub". They were sexist, racist, macho males. Some of my friends have stayed in mining communities, and came back to London full of stories of "revolutionary spirit" amongst the miners and their families, but were able to turn a blind eye to the miners' unquestioning loyalty to their leader, Mr Scargill.

Come on now. Let's not be blinkered. We can't afford to see the miners' struggle through rose coloured glasses. A few barricades and lobbed bricks do not change the world.

Having said all that, I won't pretend that workers can't begin to discover their own power through strike-action; that the devastation of whole communities should go unchallenged. Neither will I stop giving and collecting money for mining families; or pointing out the importance of the strike in challenging the unchallengeable authority of government.

But I do all this with my eyes wide open.

Mick.



START!

AND SO YOU SEE JUST WHAT A GREAT DEAL IT MEANS TO ME.

WHERE WAS IT I HAD TO MEET SHIRLEY?

YES, IT REMINDS ME OF THAT TIME I NEARLY GOT A JOB

...MAYBE IF I MOVE FAST ENOUGH IT'LL WORK OUT.

I ALMOST BECAME A TRAFFIC WARDEN ONCE, YOU KNOW

I GUESS THERE'S QUITE A STRONG CHANCE OF BEING CAUGHT OUT

I GUESS THERE'S QUITE A STRONG CHANCE OF BEING CAUGHT OUT

AH, THOSE WERE THE DAYS...

MAYBE IT'D BE SAFER IF I DIDN'T RISK IT?

WHAT'S HE GOING ON ABOUT?

YES, PROBABLY YOU'RE RIGHT; I AGREE ENTIRELY.

ANYWAY, IT'S TOO COLD ROUND THIS TIME OF YEAR.

I'M MEETING SHIRLEY TONIGHT

IT'S SO COLD - DAMN! IS THAT -

THE TIME? HELL, YES - BETTER DASH. IT'S BEEN GREAT TALKING TO YOU AGAIN

YES, WE MUST GET TOGETHER AGAIN SOMETIME BYE!

MILITARY MYTHS

The police and military are always seen as the last barrier to overcome before we can overcome the state itself. Yet the hopes of a successful confrontation evades even the most militant of us. After all, the history of struggle against the State gives countless examples of the violent and bloody repression inflicted upon anyone or group who dare challenge the powers that be.

Despite the seemingly inevitable state oppression the fight for a better existence has continued. So are we forever doomed to suffer at the hands of law and order or is there a chink in the armour?

As there is a history of opposition to the state, so the state has a history of improving the reliability of its defences.

Since the 2nd World War ended the military has moved away from an army based on mass conscription to one increasingly composed of highly trained elite units, using complicated and expensive weapons.

This trend started with the end of conscription and the disbandment of the county regiments. A county regiment was composed of men all from the same area such as Kent or West Yorkshire or sometimes even cities, the idea being that the servicemen would identify with each other more, so making for a more efficient unit.

However, in the event of these units being deployed for internal security, it would be most undesirable to have for example a riot in Leeds, put down solely by soldiers from that area - after all, they might be more concerned with family and friends and desert.

The trend towards more complex weapons operated by small highly trained teams demonstrates how the infantry man has become politically unreliable. Modern weapons are now designed to be used by a small number of soldiers. Their training increases their commitment and reliability. Despite the incredible cost of these weapons systems, they are more desirable than the possible loss of men during conflict due to identifying with the opposition.

An example of such a weapon is the Close Combat Laser Attack Weapon (CCLAW). This is designed to cover a battlefield with a laser powerful enough to blind anyone who looks into it, yet it only requires two men to use it. The US army has started to use CCLAW under some secrecy mainly due to its undisclosed cost.

Most research on the reliability of soldiers concentrates on the US Army. Throughout the Vietnam War insubordination, sabotage, drug abuse (12% of all casualties) resulted from the inability of servicemen to identify with the aims of the war. Hundreds of senior officers were shot in the back, and many units never came into contact with the Viet Cong because they avoided it.

One embarrassing example is that of three aircraft carriers which failed to complete their patrols because one had a sabotaged engine and the other two had race riots on board.

Militarily, America could never have won in Vietnam simply because the US servicemen were unwilling to die for a cause they didn't believe in.

More recently, in West Germany, almost every week cases of attacks on senior officers, destruction of equipment, riots and mass drug abuse have been collected. In Britain, US servicemen are sent home for having eye contact with women.

at Greenham and again widespread drug abuse takes its toll.

A terrifying example of this is that aircrew flying Fl.11's out of Upper Heyford take LSD on missions where live weapons, including nuclear ones, are carried.

Within the British army drug abuse is increasing and the high turn-over in personnel means that it is difficult to maintain efficiency. Most telling is the difference in attitude between elite units such as the Parachute Regiment and the trade oriented units such as the Royal Engineers, which many join for training before getting a civilian job, whereas the Paras are trained to kill. The difference between the Royal Engineers and the Paras that I have met is almost unbelievable - like comparing ordinary people with psychopaths. By no means can many units in the British Army be relied upon in the event of civil insurrection in this country.

What of the police then? As we have seen and experienced on picket lines and direct actions, the police display great charm and enthusiasm in stopping us. Yet each police force has its own characteristics. Yorkshire and Nottingham police are the hardest on picket lines, whereas Welsh police let miners through their lines to attack scabs.

The creation of the Immediate Response Unit and the increase in armed detectives has placed a third force between the army and the military, a situation which has dismayed many police persons I've spoken to.

Since the miners' strike started, the expected mass rise in crime has not appeared, so what are all these coppers doing with themselves?

The most intriguing aspect of current police operations is the lack of awareness of what they are up against. Stop The City, as we all know, has no formal organisers yet the plain clothes police have this obsession with finding organisers. I've seen senior officers asking people if they are an organiser or if they know who is. Yet Special Branch must have some ideas to what's going on: police tactics have been more concerned with stopping leafletting and talking to workers than preventing smashed windows. After all, 30 people out of 470 arrested have been charged for the 27th Sept S.T.C.

Possibly they've been kept in the dark. A police person is just as vulnerable to persuasion as the next person, when isolated from others. On the other hand, maybe Special Branch are in the dark.

I don't believe that the military and the police are as invincible as we think. Although those in control are beyond our reach, squaddies and coppers are not, and in the event of a general strike, leading to civil insurrection, police and military units will have family and friends involved. Their loyalty may be determined, not by those in authority, but by coming from the same class and background as those who oppose their bosses

N.F.T

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

We plan to have a regular list of forthcoming events (actions, demos, pickets, meetings, etc). Your help in making this possible is vital. Please, please, please send us details of anything you know that is happening within the near future.

A smell of bad apples in Wood Green Crown Court.

ON 20TH AUGUST I RECEIVED A JURY SUMMONS FROM THE CROWN COURT AT WOOD GREEN. AS A REGISTERED ELECTOR (A SUPPORTER OF DEMOCRACY IF YOU LIKE) YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR JURY SERVICE. HOWEVER, AT THE BOTTOM OF THE SUMMONS THERE IS A WARNING IN SMALL TYPE: 'A PERSON WHO, WITHOUT REASONABLE COURSE, FAILS TO ATTEND FOR JURY SERVICE....IS LIABLE TO A FINE OF £100'. ENFORCED DEMOCRACY YOU MAY THINK.

There is an air of expectation in No.3 Court, Wood Green, as the twelve jurors settle in their seats.

In front of them are two men sporting black gowns and white, curly wigs: The defence and prosecuting counsels. They in turn face a counter where the judge will preside over the proceedings. A huge crest is suspended on the wall behind his chair.

Suddenly there are three deliberate knocks on a door, followed by a voice crying, 'Court rise'. The court duly rises. The judge takes his seat. The court then sits down.

The defendant is led into the dock escorted by two policemen. He is black, young and unemployed.

The prosecuting counsel (in a black gown and curly wig remember), stands up and reads the indictment. The defendant is accused on 5 counts: Two counts of robbery, two counts of unlawful intent to resist arrest and a single count of unlawful damage to a police uniform.

We are told that having searched the defendants flat, the police found 'proceeds' of two robberies in a hallway cupboard. The proceeds are exhibited. There is a brown holdall, less £300, a driving licence, a bus pass (with photo) and a Daily Telegraph from the day of the robbery. Proceeds from the second robbery are also exhibited: A tesco bag, less £50, some letters bearing the victims name and address, and a bunch of house keys.

Already, many of the jurors have passed sentence. The court has been in session for just 10 minutes. It has taken nearly a year for the case to be tried.

More information is brought to light: The defendant has lived alone in a flat with his father for 12 of his 18 years. A social worker calls round regularly. He has been in and out of custody since the age of 15 when he was convicted of theft of a car. The lists of convictions, records, arrests, remands, visits to police stations are all assembled for the display. For all concerned in the court, it is a juicy story, replete with naked personal facts. The counsels have unashamedly succeeded in prejudicing the present by dissecting the past.

In this case all evidence is presented by the police. No independent eyes saw either of the robberies. Neither of the victims identified their assailants. The prosecution case rests on the testimony given by the police.

The defence, on the contrary, believe that the defendant has been set up, that the exhibits on display do not belong to the defendant. More importantly they believe in the spuriousness of two written interviews at which the police allege the defendant 'confessed' to his crimes. The pages were unsigned.

The situation has been watered down to 'their word against his'. The Queen V. the defendant. At stake is the integrity of the police.

9 out of the 12 jurors say that the defendant is guilty on all 5 counts. They believe the police to be telling the truth. The defendant has a criminal record, he looks quick tempered, crooked, cock eyed and he had the goods on him, so he must have robbed them from someone. Deep down, society has inculcated a reverence for the law into their lives.

For the remaining three jurors, no such feelings of piousness towards the police are harboured. They argue that, at best, the defendant is guilty of receiving, not robbery. A verdict of not guilty should be given in matters of uncertainty. The defendant has a right to the benefit of the doubt.

After deliberating for 5 hours, the jury are unable to reach a majority decision, let alone a unanimous verdict. The court is adjourned. There is to be a retrial. For the defendant it will mean another game of wait and see, another parade of power, another exercise in democracy; he will have to hear the ceremony in its entirety once again. But this time the police will have the benefit of hindsight. They will be able to patch up the holes in their evidence. They will no doubt do what the simpletons demand, and get the bad apple off the streets.

Greg Sloman



~~HORNSEY NON-VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION~~ ~~ACTION-DIRECT-NON-VIOLENT-HORNSEY.~~

Recently some people occupied and protested outside Alexander Palace Royal Ordnance Corps (R.O.C.) Bunker where there was to be an exercise from 8a.m.-6p.m., as part of OPERATION WARMAN. The R.O.C. were supposed to test how they would respond at a time of Nuclear crisis and after the bomb(s) had dropped, so they simulated those conditions. The R.O.C. don't actually fire weapons, instead they are to take readings of Fall-out, establish the most devastated areas, and generally liaise with the Authorities. Of course the Nuclear Attack could well start from the West. The Bunkers are certainly not independent, civilian Posts Probably the most common reason for our Protest was that we felt exercises like WARMAN did nothing to lessen the chances of a Nuclear War and in fact tend to establish a frame of mind, of acceptance, which could well make Nuclear War more likely. At different times 7 or 8 of us went down inside the Bunker to talk to the 3 R.O.C. men (2 around 60, one around 25). An R.O.C. woman did arrive at one point but her function appeared to be making tea. They were quite affable so long as we were not going to totally disrupt their day. Of course while we were there they couldn't do much work. I listened to what they said and found that they genuinely believed that they were being helpful. We tried to convince them that the reverse was more likely to be true. The Chief Observer believed Russia was dedicated to the overthrow of the West. Disturbingly, he used the word 'Evil' to describe Russia-as Reagan did last Year. He said that in Russia we would have been shot by now. I told him that I had no love for Russian repression either. I asked him what he, and the others, were doing to positively work for an end to the conditions that look likely to lead to Nuclear War. He said he contributed to JANE'S FIGHTING AIRCRAFT and had helped write a sentence in the Foreword calling for more efforts to reduce Nuclear Arms. I was not reassured by this answer. He seemed to live in the Past, for example, I made a point about the sinister way phrases like "COLLATERAL DAMAGE" are being used by American Political and Military Bigwigs. The phrase is jargon for the deaths of civilians as a result of attack-- but he had never heard of it. He had obviously been deeply affected by the Second World War. I had not gone through the horrors that he and others had gone through but I emphasised I had no truck with the politics of either side and that I believed in trying to let people see how they could take on caring responsibility themselves, collectively, rather than give it away to the elite few that rule in Russia and in

America (and elsewhere). (Will Nuclear war be any better if some of the bombs have been voted for. However in this country people were not allowed to vote for or against Nuclear Weapons, specifically. I wonder why.) The chief man in the Bunker also didn't realise that M.A.D. (MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION, where the dire consequences to both sides of one side firing its bombs is supposed to prevent it happening) is out of date, with both sides Hell-bent on working out ways of winning a Nuclear War. America certainly is, not surprising since it has never agreed to the promise of "NO FIRST STRIKE" and with Reagan's "Star Wars" Laser Defence idea being given the Hard Sell like the film. If Reagan, Right or Wrong, thinks America is untouchable then I wouldn't bet on his not pushing the Nuclear Button. And we now have 4 more years of the Space Cowboy with the Laser Beam--- if we last that long.

While we were inside a couple of us took notes about what we could see. There were some Foodstocks, enough for three days. A hand-cranked siren was next to the one bed, there were some blankets, a desk and chair and some other items. On one wall there was a map of London and one of England. On another wall there was a map of the world. This one had the Bermuda Triangle pencilled in(?) along with pencil marks at various points in Russia and elsewhere. While we were talking, a voice came through on the BRITISH TELECOM connector set saying, "62 Post--Nuclear Burst". It turned out that Ally Pally had suffered a Nuclear Burst at 8.32 a.m. R.I.P. One of us arrived and proceeded to Citizen's Arrest the R.O.C. men because they were helping with the planning of Genocide. They were half-amused and half-puzzled. The Police weren't too impressed and said they were going to ignore it. At 10 a.m. the R.O.C. senior Officer asked us to leave. Some of us did and 3 didn't. There was still laughter coming from the 3 that stayed when I left. Result of day-No Arrests and the exercise shut down 4 hours early. Although some of the day was funny, millions of lives are hanging by a thread.

As I am writing this, a couple have come into this library and have asked for the Government's criminally irresponsible Pamphlet "Protect and survive" and a book on Home Nuclear Shelters. Unless we step up our Counter-information activities they will win the "Information" War, in which Exercises like WARMAN play an important part. People are being lulled into a deep Never-ending Nuclear Sleep.

PROTEST PROTEST PROTEST PROTEST PROTEST

PROTEST PROTEST PROTEST PROTEST
TO SURVIVE.

dex.

OCCUPATION OF THE CURZON PORN CINEMA

ON Friday 19th October seven women occupied the Curzon porn cinema near Turnpike Lane tube station. It shows films with titles like "Strip Nude For Your Killer". We approached the place from two directions, walked in and sat down in front of the screen, which was showing a film at the time. The film was switched off and the owner came over and told us to leave. We shouted protests against pornography. One member of the audience was arguing with us, saying his wife acted in porn films. The owner returned, threatening us with an iron bar. We sat in a circle singing songs (general anti-state ones), and when the police came they had to wait until the end of each song to speak to us. They asked us to leave; we said we'd leave when the cinema closed down. Unfortunately, they didn't close it down but dragged us out and carted us off to Tottenham nick, still singing. In the cells we were not given any water. (Some friends brought us some food). Five of us were charged with breach of the peace and the other two had charges fabricated against them - one of assaulting a policewoman while being strip-searched, which she had no knowledge of doing, the other of breaking the hatch of the cell door, which would have been physically impossible. It was obvious they wanted to remand these two, as they had been arrested outside the Curzon the week before and charged with threatening words and behaviour and obstruction.

Our solicitor didn't turn up to see us in the cells. Five of us got a bind-over, the other two were remanded until the following Monday, when they came up in court for the previous week's charges. The one charged with assault complained that she had not been told why she was charged with this, and therefore a solicitor was of no help to her. The only reply from the judge was "So you want to see a solicitor or not?" They remanded them for another day to take their fingerprints, then the next day when they appeared in court they were given bail to re-appear at a later date.

Porn films show violence being inflicted on women for the satisfaction of men, and women in subservient sex-roles. The Curzon may be turning to

family films soon. This is good, though most family films are sexist too, showing women in housewife roles, etc. Perhaps we should go and occupy every cinema?

This action was organised by local women who have set up an Anarcho-feminist group (meetings at the Womens Centre in Turnpike Lane every Thursday at 7.30). We expected more women on the occupation. Anyone interested in our group please come along (we are talking about other actions against porn, a reclaim the night march and an anarcho-feminist magazine).

ANTI PRISON DAY

On 15th December there is a planned picket of all prisons in the U.K. In order to protest against the insanity of locking people away instead of trying to help them in more constructive ways.

A variety of groups are involved, from prisoner support groups to Claimants Unions and London Green-peace.

The pickets will be during visiting times in order to leaflet prisoners' relatives and friends.

THERE ARE FIVE PRISONS IN LONDON.
BE AT ONE OF THEM ON THE 15TH.



CLAIMANTS UNIONS

The following was taken from a list of useful addresses sent to us by Simon from Middlesex. Claimants Unions are action groups set up and run by unwaged people to fight harrassment by the Social Security System and to ensure that claimants recieve the full benefit they're entitled to.

London and South East Federation of Unemployed and Claimants groups:-
c/o The Mary ward Unwaged Group, 42 Queen Square WC1 (831 7711)
Federation of Claimants Unions:- c/o 296 Bethnal Green Road E2 (739 4173)
(info on all CU's in UK)

EAST

Bethnal Green CU: 296 Bethnal Green Road E2 (739 4173)
East London CU: Dame Chlet House, Ben Jonson Road E1
Bow CU: Lincoln Estate Tenants Hall, Devas Streer E3
Newham CU: 53 West Ham Lane E15
Ilford CU: Ilford Jobless Centre, 203 Ilford Lane, Ilford.

NORTH

Barnsbury CU: Starting Point, 11 Barnsbury Road N1
Haringey and Islington CU: Crouch Hill Recreation Centre, Hill Rise, N19 (272 7569)
Tottenham CU: 36 Radley Road N17 (tuesdays and thursdays 1 til 4)
Camden CU: c/o Unemployed Action Centre, 102 St Pancras Way NW1 (they need help urgently). (485 6352)
Finchley CU: Blue Bettle, Hendon Lane, Finchley N3 (contact address only as they are looking for a place).
Brent CU: Brent Unemployed Workers Centre, 380 High Road NW10

SOUTH

Southwark CU: 83 Peckham High Street, SE15 (703 9011/2)
Deptford CU: The Albany, Douglas Way SE8

WEST

Notting Hill CU: 1A St Charles Place W10.

We will include another list of useful addresses from Simon in the next issue, and if you have any, please send them in to our box number, Ta!

TODAY'S CRIMINALS

Items like the two below can now be found in your morning papers almost daily; an indication of who the real villains are in this society. Dozens more could be printed from this month alone, but this morning's will suffice. Let it be a reminder to us that, despite our "criminal records", those who are supposed to defend the law are not only worse than us, but also are not immune from their own legal system. It is a sign that we will win. And after we have upturned this sick society these crimes will hardly exist at all.

THE GUARDIAN, November 21st, 1984.

"Two off-duty police officers who interrogated and humiliated a man they suspected of stealing a coat were each gaoled for 12 months yesterday.

Mr Bernard Hughes, 52, a market trader, was punched, kicked, had his socks and shoes removed and was left lying unconscious in a pool of blood...To add to his humiliation, his glasses, hearing aid and toupee were also removed."

"Two detectives allegedly filmed setting up an armed robbery have been suspended, Sir Kenneth Newman, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner said yesterday...The programme-makers...said yesterday that their switch-board had been flooded with calls alleging similar set-ups.

AND IN GOD'S HOUSE, FOREVER MORE...

I went to a funeral the other day. It was my friend's funeral - the only one I've ever been to. I don't really know why I went - I don't believe in a god - I just felt that I ought to go. I wish I hadn't.

My friend was dead. I could no longer be with him, talk to him, laugh with him. I naively thought that his funeral was, somehow, the right place for me to reflect on him - say goodbye. But I was driven to resentful, uncryable tears, by the whole sick religious event.

The whole charade - the church, the sermon, the serious-faced vicar - made me feel like they were laughing at my friend. Like one big, sick exhibition of power - the state, the law, the church - that's what you're up against. There's no stepping out of line.

The church itself reminded me of nothing more than being in court - the same wood panelled walls, the same silence, the same altar at the front (though with a crucifix instead of a judge). The same "stand up, sit down, bow your head".

And the vicar, telling us that it was alright really - that he's gone to a better place, forever to be with his god. Platitudes. Nothing but bloody platitudes, designed to hide the reality from us.

The church? The state? The law? The media? The pressure to conform; to meet their acceptable standards. That's why my friend was laying in that box in front of me. That's why the people who loved him were crying, all around me.

He couldn't live up to the demands that were put on him - couldn't be what he was expected to be. So he'd killed himself. Thrown himself under a train.

Well, I'll tell you this - they'll never get me!

Gray.

A MURDERER TALKS

"The thought of killing never bothered me...it's automatic. The only thing that shocked me was seeing all the dead bodies, the morning after...I was surprised: they were like waxworks, and they stunk something rotten - that sweet, sickly smell. I had to move a...body ...he was stiff, still huddled up, and holding a letter in his hand. I felt right sorry for him."

This frank admission, by murderer Leslie Brookes, was reported in the Observer (30/9/84). His confession is harrowing enough, but what is even worse is that his actions, and those of people like him, were actually condoned by seemingly sane members of this society.

Murder is murder, and should never be seen as anything else, not even when perpetrated by someone like Brookes - or, to give him his full title:- Private Leslie Brookes, 2nd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment, who fought in the Falklands War.

East London DAM/IWA,

DAM-IWA



DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT

INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ASSOCIATION

C/O Box A, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX.

The miners on strike, the Barking hospital cleaners fighting for their jobs back, the trade unions in Chile on general strike. Nationally and internationally, the class struggle is still there, despite the liberal reforms of better days, when necessary the bosses tighten their belts and the boot comes down on the workers yet again.

The Direct Action Movement is a working class organisation of groups and individuals who are active in the struggle for workers' control of industry and the creation of a free and classless society. Breaking the chains of bondage, abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery and replace it with self-managed production for need not profit.

DAM is the British section of the International Workers Association, the Anarcho-syndicalist international, acknowledging that the workers have no country, oppression and capitalism is multi-national. Most sections of the IWA are actually trade unions organised on Anarcho-syndicalist lines, the basic unit is the syndicate, worker groups who are organised in their workplace, who govern their own affairs and decision making. DAM is a network of small autonomous groups.

East London DAM has recently been formed to organise propaganda and give assistance to industrial struggles in that area and wherever else it can. It has been involved in miners' support and the Barking cleaners dispute. It meets on alternate wednesdays at 7.00pm at 84b Whitechapel High Street. Next one is on 14th November.

SLAY THE
DRAGON NOW!

