

# SOLIDARITY FEDERATION

BRITISH SECTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ASSOCIATION

CIRCULAR No.2

AUTUMN 96

Welcome to the second SolFed Circular. The purpose of the circular is to let you know what we are up to, both as the SolFed and as part of the International Workers Association.

## MACDONALDS WORKERS DAY OF SOLIDARITY

The High Court libel trial brought by the \$26 billion a year McDonald's Corporation against two unwaged anarchists and London Greenpeace supporters is by far the longest trial in British history. In October 1995 over 30 ex-McDonald's workers from around the world testified about their pay and conditions and publicly lifted the lid on McDonald's exploitation of its workforce and hostility to trade unions.

For the second year, the Support network for McDonald's Workers are calling for an International Day of Solidarity with all McDonald's workers on October 12th 1996. This will be the fourth anniversary of the death of Mark Hopkins, a worker electrocuted at McDonald's Manchester store.

On the day and in subsequent months, the aim is that workers at many McDonald's stores around the world will be leafleted encouraging them to get together and organise against their bosses who are exploiting them for massive profit. In London we are holding a picket of McDonald's at Leicester Square (opposite the Swiss Centre) 5-7pm.

Many young people have little choice but to take poorly paid jobs for companies that produce rubbish. Out of the one million workers at McDonald's, worldwide, approx 300,000 are under 18. We want to put the case that there is an alternative and that such workers are in the best position to organise it. We are under no illusions that this is an extremely difficult task and that McDonald's openly victimise trade union activists. Our strategy is to provide information and support in order for workers to organise themselves. Contact SolFed National Address for posters, leaflets etc. or tel: 0161-231 8177 (answerphone)

**DIRECT ACTION RELAUNCH - DA WILL BE OUT IN OCTOBER write to Sheffield for more info**

## WHITE ARROW EXPRESS UPDATE

Thanks to all who handed out leaflets outside their local White Arrow depots. You will be pleased to know that not only did the dispute turn out favourably for the workers concerned but also that "Transport Worker" got mentioned during the negotiations following on from the initial strike on the 7th and 8th of June.

After threatening to shut down the depot if the strike went ahead the company pleaded with workers on the night before to take the matter to arbitration. However the strike went ahead regardless. The first half of the following week saw negotiations between management and the T&G. While these were going on it was discovered that the company had plans to move Liverpool's work to depots at Blackburn and Burslem (Stoke). It was made clear that the artic drivers would not co-operate with this move. By Wednesday the company had backed down and all written warnings were rescinded and the nationally agreed sick pay scheme was re-instated.

The future may hold further moves against the Liverpool depot especially in the current climate of job-cutting so watch this space!

## SOLIDARITY WITH CHILEAN MINERS

Solidarity with the coal miners in Lota, Chile continues. SF members held a picket of the Chilean Consulate in London, while comrades in Spain occupied Chilean businesses in Madrid and have raised money for the miners. The Chilean government has taken the side of the bosses and an attempt is being made to starve the miners into submission. In this context the soup kitchens set up by supporters, including the Pro-IWA group of Concepcion is vital.

## PROTEST TO THE CHILEAN EMBASSY!

The Chilean Embassy is at: 12 Devonshire St  
LONDON W1, telephone 0171-580 6392.



## SUPPORT COMATEC WORKERS

Comatec is a company which cleans the Paris metro. Many of its workers are affiliated in the CNT, our sister organisation, including 10 who have been dismissed for union activities. Comatec wants to get rid of the CNT and just have unions who co-operate with them. They are part of the giant French multinational General des Eaux, who also own several British utility companies, Onyx the private cleansing company and various others. Protests against them would be welcome, as well as messages of support to our

French comrades at CNT, 33 rue des Vignoles, Paris 75020, France

## NEW CONTACTS

**Unemployed** members are getting together to organise against the JSA. They can be contacted via Norwich address.

**Postal workers** are also getting together. Contact via Manchester address.

A new network is proposed to link **carers**, **homeworkers** and others in a similar position. If you are interested write to the National Secretary,

# SOLIDARITY FEDERATION DIRECTORY

NATIONAL ADDRESS: PO BOX 29,  
SWPDO, MANCHESTER M15 5HW

MANCHESTER, PO BOX 29 SWPDO,  
MANCHESTER M15 5HW

## INDUSTRIAL NETWORKS

EDUCATION WORKERS NETWORK  
COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS  
NETWORK  
both PO BOX 29, SWPDO, MANCHESTER  
M15 5HW

PRESTON, PO BOX 384, PRESTON PR1 6PQ

SOUTH HERTS, PO BOX 493, ST ALBANS  
AL1 5TW

LIVERPOOL, PO BOX 110, LIVERPOOL L69  
8DP

TRANSPORT WORKERS NETWORK, PO  
BOX 73, NORWICH NR3 1QD

TYNE & TEES, PO BOX 1TA, NEWCASTLE  
NE99 1TA

PUBLIC SERVICE WORKERS NETWORK,  
PO BOX 1681, LONDON N8 7LE

NORWICH & NORFOLK, PO BOX 73,  
NORWICH NR3 1QD

## LOCALS

NORTH & EAST LONDON, PO BOX 1681,  
LONDON N8 7LE  
RED & BLACK CLUB (S.E.LONDON), BM  
HURRICANE, LONDON WC1N 3XX

EDINBURGH, PO BOX 516, EDINBURGH  
EH10 5JH

Write to the national address for contacts in  
Bristol, Wales and the South

NORTH SOMERSET, PO BOX 1980,  
RADSTOCK BA3 3FH

## OTHER CONTACTS

SHEFFIELD, PO BOX 1095, SHEFFIELD S2  
4YR

ORGANISE!, PO BOX 505, BELFAST BT11  
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