

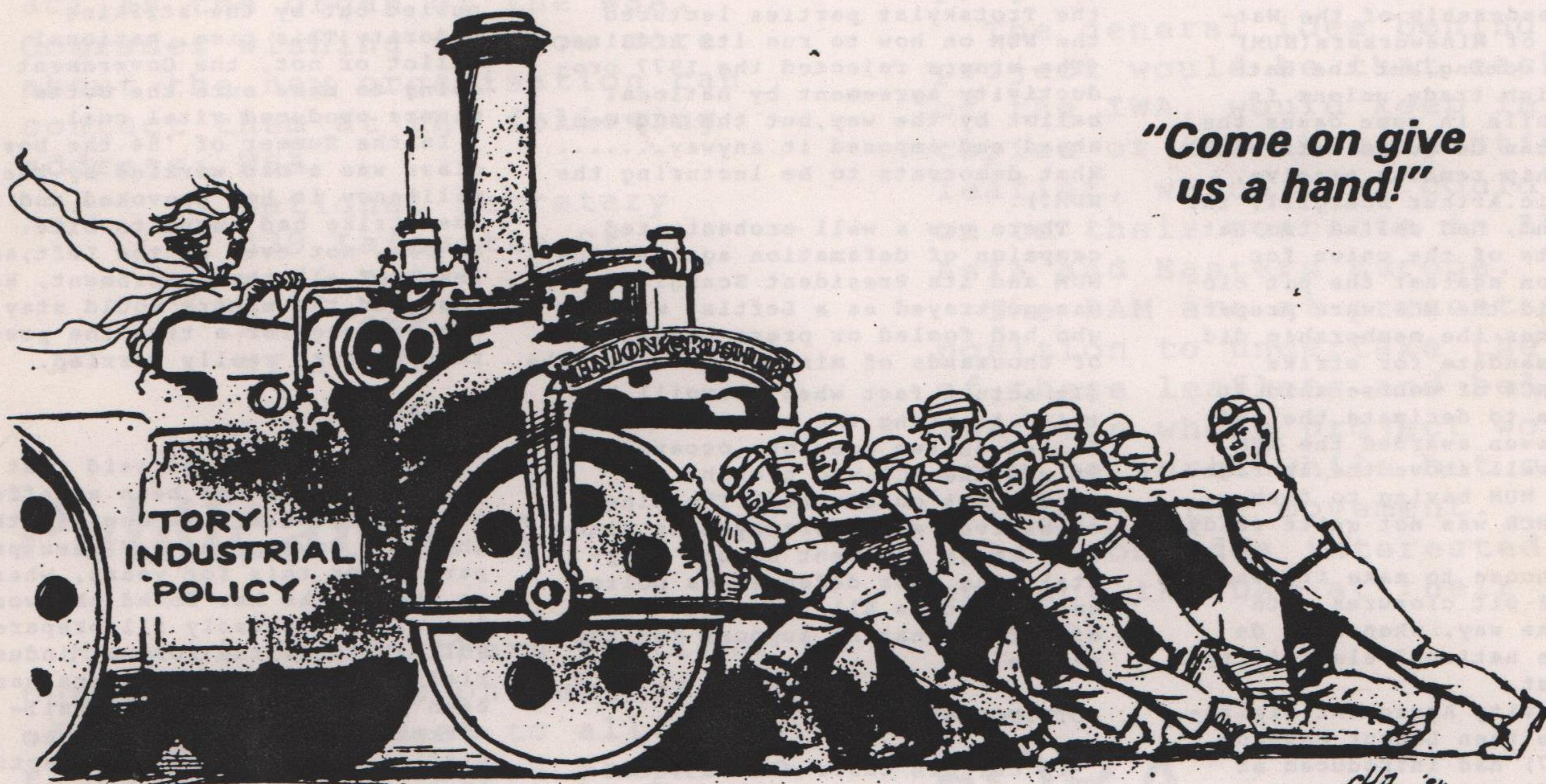
NEW WORLD

NO. 2

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BRITISH MINERS STRIKE 1984-5

by Dino Marcone.



This is an account of the British Miners strike. During the strike there has been no shortage of advice to the miners on how to run their strike from every Leftist clique. No doubt after the strike many academics will make a bomb with their books about the struggle. This though is meant in no way to be a definitive account. First of all the writer isn't a miner, and at the time of writing the strike is still unresolved. Hopefully, one day a "first hand" account will be written by a militant from the mining industry.

GET THE MINERS !

The Spring of 1984 saw the outbreak of an important and bitter strike in the coal mining industry which has now lasted a year. The spark was the announcement on March 6th by the National Coal Board (NCB) of the planned closure of 20 odd mines with the loss of over 20,000 jobs in one year alone. And this was to be the first instalment of a complete restructuring of the coal mining industry, with the aims of; 1. increasing profitability (through the discarding of pits requiring a high investment, the introduction of new technology etc.) and 2. breaking once and for all the power of the coal miners.

The miners have always been amongst the most class-conscious and militant elements of the British working class. They also possess tremendous industrial muscle because Britain still depends heavily on coal generated power. Coal powered the Industrial Revolution, which began in Britain. The British economy was built on coal.

Thanks to the North Sea oil fields Britain is today one of the worlds most important oil producing countries. During the Miners strike the Government has been able to avoid large scale power cuts (and has kept those there have been very quite) though through substituting oil for coal in power generation on a massive scale. This though at an enormous cost. Britains weak economy now depends on North Sea oil to keep it afloat (hence the panic on the money markets when oil prices are unstable). But the government sees the sacrifice of valuable oil sales revenue to defeat the miners as a "good investment", no matter how expensive, (and anyway it will be the working class that will be handed the bill).

THE NUCLEAR OPTION

Whilst Britains capitalism is trying to re-duce the number of miners and mines it is ready to spend billions of pounds on the

development of the nuclear option.

And this has to be seen in the light of the fact that coal is Britains cheapest energy source. Electricity generated from coal is 50% cheaper than that generated from oil, much cheaper than nuclear energy leaving aside all environmental issues, and cheaper than North Sea gas.

WHAT A WASTE

Britain is very, very fortunate to have the fule reserves it has. North Sea oil was found just when British capitalism most needed it. And Britain has coal reserves to last another 300 years! So the coal will still be there long after North Sea oil has been exhausted to pay Britains way internationally. Another generation will probably see the capitalists having to open up the pits again! This crazy energy policy by British Capitalism can only be explained by a desire to break the power of the relatively militant coal miners and ensure that workers cannot, by their indispensability to national energy production, threaten the Government of the day as the mineworkers did in 1974.

Of course, a defeat of the mine-workers, given their traditional position at the fore of the British workers movement, has enormous ramifications for the living stand-

ards, union rights and working conditions of all working people in Britain. Also the confrontation has to be seen as part of the general restructuring of capitalism worldwide which is tending to shift heavy and manufacturing industry to the developing countries, leaving the developed countries to undergo a new technological revolution which leaves to them the new technology and strategic industries.

NCB PREPARED

With its announcement of the closure of 20 odd pits the NCB deliberately provoked the strike, confident of a victory because the conditions were not favourable to the miners. In fact the Government had been preparing for a show down with the miners for years. The leadership of the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) had seen it coming, but the nature of British trade unions is such that while in some cases the leadership can be quite left-wing the membership remains passive, and apathetic. Arthur Scargill, the NUM President, had called two national ballots of the union for strike action against the pit closures he said the NCB were preparing. Both times the membership did not give a mandate for strike action. The NCB of course said it had no plans to decimate the industry, and even awarded the NUM a pay rise well above the average without the NUM having to flex a muscle. The NCB was not quite ready yet.

The NCB choose to make its announcement of pit closures with Summer on the way, when coal demand for the national electricity grid is least.

A Productivity Agreement (introduced by the then Labour Government in 1977) had introduced an element of division in the miners ranks. Geological conditions in the mines vary. Thus, where coal is more easily extracted the miners can, with the Productivity Agreement, earn more money. Moderation is favoured because the mines have a more secure future (and this had a lot to do with the stand taken by the Nottinghamshire miners in the strike). When coal is more difficult to extract earnings are less, the future of the mine is more precarious and consequently the miners tend to be more militant, (obviously a generalization). The Productivity Agreement had allowed the NCB to build up huge stock piles of mined coal with which to sit out a long strike.

RANK & FILE SPREADS STRIKE

The strike began in the Yorkshire and Scottish coal fields where the miners are traditionally militant. The force behind the strike was the rank & file of the NUM. Gradually the strike was spread to other coal fields. At the start the NUM membership seem to have been split down the middle on the strike, one half for the other against; but little by little the flying pickets strengthened and extended the strike. By the Summer over 80% of the miners were out on strike.

THE "DEMOCRATS"

As the strike spread there was a desperate campaign in the news papers and on television calling for a national ballot of the NUM on the question of the strike. With this pseudo-democratic propaganda the boss class wanted to impede the spreading of the strike and weaken its momentum. The bosses liked the idea of a national ballot in this instance because it offered them the opportunity to isolate the less conscious miners from the influence of the militants, thus leaving them open to all the bosses anti-strike pressures. The fact that by now only a minority of miners thought a national ballot necessary was quietly forgotten as everybody, the NCB, Government, the Labour Party leadership, much of the Trade Union Congress and even some of the Trotskyist parties lectured the NUM on how to run its affairs. (The miners rejected the 1977 productivity agreement by national ballot by the way, but the NCB went ahead and imposed it anyway..... What democrats to be lecturing the NUM!).

There was a well orchestrated campaign of defamation against the NUM and its President Scargill, was portrayed as a Leftist wrecker who had fooled or press-ganged tens of thousands of miners out on strike.

(In actual fact when Scargill had tried to bring the miners out he failed on two previous occasions, it was the NCB who brought the miners out on strike). The miners themselves were portrayed as mindless thugs who went around hospitalizing poor defenceless police men and scabs. All this with the aim of alienating support for the strike.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

In certain cases miners themselves swallowed (or parroted?) the bosses propaganda, above all in Nottinghamshire and the Midlands. The Notts. miners are traditionally moderate and the vast majority in this important coalfield (very productive) have scabbed during the strike. It's a situation similar to 1926, when Nottinghamshire also carried on working when the miners struck for six months, the Notts. miners even going to the extent of forming a breakaway company union led by a Labour Party member of Parliament (Spencer). However, the Spencer Union did not last long due to its pathetic record of defence of its members interests, and there is no reason why any similar move undertaken by today's working Miners would last any longer.

As was to be expected the NCB announced a scheme of "generous" redundancy payments for miners with many years service - yet another attempt to sow division in the miners ranks. Daily the NCB bleated about mines in danger of permanent closure due to lack of maintenance during the strike etc.

"VIOLENCE"

There have been bloody clashes between police and strikers and between strikers and scabs. Four miners have died on picket lines,

a further seven have died as a result of incidents related to the strike, thousands of miners and their supporters have been injured and arrested on picket lines.

OPERATION STRIKEBREAKER

The police launched a nationally co-ordinated operation to prevent the pickets reaching the working mines. Nottinghamshire became a de facto Police, State, and movement in all the coalfields was policed. Harassment and intimidation of strikers and their communities were the order of the day. The Government prepared all this after their defeat at the hands of the miners in 1974. Then too, in a national ballot the Notts miners had been against a strike, but had been pulled out by the striking majority. This time, national ballot or not, the Government was going to make sure the Notts miners produced vital coal.

In the Summer of '84 the boss class was a bit worried by the militancy it had provoked and the strike had begun to bite. No-one, not even on the Left, and least of all the Government, had imagined the miners would stay out so long. For a time the powers that be were really worried.

SOLIDARITY

However, it must be said that the strike has not been as effective as it could have been. Truth is that the Government had been preparing for this for years, whereas the strike has found the working class hopelessly ill prepared. Solidarity in the form of industrial action with the miners has been patchy. Some workers; railworkers, seamen and some power station workers have taken action in support of the miners, sometimes putting their own jobs on the line. But the trade union movement as a whole has failed miserably to support the strike.

Movement of coal was never completely halted, indeed transport union members were amongst those who kept the power stations supplied in the Summer. The Steelworkers union even co-operated with the British Steel Corporation to defeat the miners pickets which were trying to stop transportation of coal to the steel plants. The steelworkers were conned into believing that the best way of securing their jobs was to work hand in hand with the bosses, rather than making common cause with the miners.

WINTER

During the Winter of 84/85 the strikers and their families have been on the defensive. Besieged by the State, and abandoned by most of the labour movement. Cold, hungry and mounting debts have taken their toll and many miners have been starved back to work. (You can't lump those miners who have gone back in the last few months because of hardship together with the scabs who have betrayed their class from the start).

GENTLEMEN OF THE T.U.C.

Reformist unionism, as embodied in the TUC, has not been able to act in a way which would have assured the miners, and the entire working class, a victory. Vertical unions, run from the top down, make for an apathetic membership, and of course when the union membership is not class conscious the bureaucrats have an excuse to wash their hands of the matter. So, the miners have been left to fight almost unaided for a year. Conclusive proof, if anymore was needed, that the TUC is a paper tiger.

LESSONS TO BE LEARNT

Collections by miners and their supporters on the streets and in the workplaces have raised millions of pounds from ordinary working people. This has sustained the strikers and their families this long. But the key to a complete victory from day one was always concrete solidarity in other branches of industry, and that was never forthcoming in a consistent manner. For this kind of solidarity to have materialized there would have had to have been union structures controlled by

class conscious rank and file. Nothing less will do. That has to be the biggest lesson of the miners strike for every serious working class militant.

CLASS WAR

That lesson has to be learnt and acted upon now. We have to be as prepared and organised for the fight as the bosses have been for this strike. They made use of their courts to hamstring the unions work. They have used their thugs in the police to break bones and intimidate. They have used the media to isolate and demoralize the strikers. They have lied and misinformed at every turn, as with their fantastic "drift back to work" figures flashed across the television screens night after bloody night. No doubt they would have been prepared to bring out the Army if they had to. This is not a game, where the majority of the workers can leave the miners to fight alone for a year and the leaders of the labour movement can prattle on about "violence" by the strikers and how there should have been a national ballot.

This is CLASS WARFARE, and if the working class is not prepared

to wage that war it will go down to defeat after defeat.

However the strike now ends, one thing is certain: majority of the miners and their families have put up a marvellous fight, with all the odds and the full might of the state ranged against them. The miners struggle has been followed by workers around the world. From Australia to Poland, from Sweden to Italy workers have supported the miners with donations of money, food and clothing, and even in some cases with industrial action. However the strike ends history will judge the miners and their families to have won the ultimate victory.

The pickets, the people who have organised the soup kitchens, the miners and their supporters who have collected money the length and breadth of the country and abroad, even the strikers children, all those people who have been touched by this strike will never be the same. It must be remembered as a year of courageous struggle and an example to every class conscious member of the working class in the world. Victory to the Miners!

WE'RE IN HERE FOR YOU

On the 25th February, the British Government revealed the numbers arrested since the coal miners strike begun. So far 7,785 miner and their supporters have been arrested, they have been charged with 10,153 offences. Only 5,329 of these have been dealt with by the courts and 1,300 of these were found not guilty and set free. Thirty Yorkshire miners arrested in Nottinghamshire who had their case dismissed are now taking legal action through the courts against the Chief of Police in Nottingham.

The DAM is trying to put together a full list of all imprisoned Miners, they have already issued a list of 18 imprisoned Miners to all sections of the IWA (DAM Communique No. 5). For the sake of those who did not see this list, we reproduce it here again.

David Gaunt, Derby, 3 years; Kevin Beal, Derby, 2½ years; Steven Goodall, Derby, 2½ years; David James, Derby, 2½ years; Paul Jones, Derby, 2½ years; Ian Kestle, Derby, 2½ years; David Mason, Derby, 2½ years; Michael Southwell, Derby, 2½ years; Peter Pearson, Derby, 2½ years; Philip Sterland, Derby, 2½ years; Terence French, Kent, 5 years; Chris Tazey, Kent, 3 years; Michael Jones,

YOU'RE OUT THERE FOR

Staffordshire, 2 years; William Bannister, Staffs., 2 years; Gary Mould, Staffs., 2 years; Raymond Patton, Staffs., 2 years; Stephen Lowe, Staffs., 2 years; Peter Hurst, West Yorkshire.

All the above are members of the NUM with the exception of Steven Goodall who is a farm-worker.

DAM

The DAM has elected a new international Secretary for 1985. He is Ian Swain of the Leeds DAM. All information should be passed on to him through the following address; Box DAM, 59 Cookridge St. Leeds LS2 3AW.

French speaking comrades should contact the DAM through the Hull DAM, P.O. Box 102, Hull; Spanish speaking contacts through South London DAM, 121 Railton Rd. London SE 24.; German speakers through Cambridge DAM, Box DAM, 25 Gwydire St. Cambridge.

COAL STRIKE

At a national delegate conference held in London on March 3rd, it was agreed to call off the coal strike and resume work on Tuesday 5th. The fight shall be carried on in the mines.

ASO

The Anarko-syndikalistik Organisation in Denmark decided at their last conference to move their international secretariat from Copenhagen to Karrebæksminde in south Sjælland. All future international contacts with the ASO should be made through this group, the new address is:

ASO International Gruppe
Kirkebakken 70
4736 Karrebæksminde
telephone: 3 74 27 88

An international Summer Camp has also been planned by the ASO, the dates agreed are as follows, 13th to 20th July for comrades of the Northern IWA, 20th to 27th July for Scandinavian anarchist comrades. The price including food etc. will be 600 Dk.Kr. for one week, 1200 Dk.Kr. for the two weeks. The ASO would like to hear from comrades who wish to attend, as soon as possible.

FAU

During the Autumn of 1984, the Köln group of the FAU organised a two week holiday in Germany for twenty children from the mining area around the Bates Collary, Northumberland in the North East of England. The children and the two adults who came with them were all part of the present miners strike in Britain.

The organisation of the trip to Germany was a major undertaking for the Köln FAU and the other FAU groups who collected money for the holiday. The transport through Britain, from Northumberland to the ferry for Belgium was arranged by the International secretariat of the DAM and paid for by IWA supporters in Australia, most notably the RWG in Sydney and a group of Anarcho-syndicalists in Melbourne.

Since the holiday the Köln FAU have established close contacts with the Miners at Bates and just before Christmas 1984, the FAU

delivered a large amount of cloths and toys to the Bates striking miners. Comrades from the Elmshorn and Köln FAU have also visited striking miners in South Yorkshire, where they made a video film and conducted a number of interviews.

CNT-AIT

During the Summer of 1984 a comrade of the Valencia CNT-AIT addressed a number of meetings in the mining areas in Britain. At a miners rally in South Wales the CNT-AIT comrade spoke on the official National Union of Mineworkers platform and was well received by the large crowd. In South Yorkshire he also addressed several meetings organised by the local DAM group in mining villages.

Also during the late Summer a delegation of three miners and a translator from the DAM visited Spain where they addressed a number of meetings and conducted several radio and television interviews arranged through the CNT-AIT.

IWA & NUM

The International Secretariat of the DAM in London has received donations of money from nearly all sections of the IWA for the striking miners in Britain.

This money has been passed on to local branches of the NUM (the miners union), local support groups, which are usually made up of miners wives and other workers who maintain food centres in the mining villages. In addition to money being sent to the International Secretariat of the DAM by the IWA sections, sections have also made payments direct to the National Union of Mineworkers at their Sheffield headquarters.

The international anarcho-syndicalist, revolutionary syndicalist and anarchist press have carried much coverage of the strike. As well as appealing

to their readers to donate to the strike fund.

The DAM has issued several communiques on the strike to all overseas sections of the IWA and the major anarchist federations.

Money to assist the striking miners may still be sent to the following address;

International Secretariat
DAM-IWA
121 Railton Road
London SE 24
Britain

OVB

The Netherlands syndicalist union the OVB has donated over £10,000 to the striking miners through the Hull Trades Council, the trades councils in most parts of Britain have been very active in rallying support for the miners. In Hull members of the local DAM are active on the council and it was acting on a suggestion from these comrades that the council approached the OVB for support.

Comrades from the Den Haag local of the OVB have contacted the Northern Sub-secretariat of the IWA in Oslo in an effort to obtain more detailed information on the shipment of coal through Holland for Britain during the strike.

Local anarchists and libertarians in Amsterdam took a large number of miners children to the Netherlands during 1984 for holidays. While in Amsterdam the children stayed with families in Amsterdam, later a return solidarity visit to the striking areas in South Yorkshire was made by several Dutch comrades.

Scab Coal

The International Secretariat of the DAM in London is trying to find out more about shipments of scab coal across Europe to Britain, and would be grateful

for any information that other sections may have on the matter.

The local South London DAM group organised a picket of the Polish Embassy to highlight the hypocrisy of the Polish government's policy of shipping coal to Britain during the current strike. The picket was supported by the South East Region of the DAM and some local anarchists.

The coal shipments have been one of the major reasons why the strike has carried on so long, the other being the very weak support the miners have received from the British trade union movement.

So far the DAM I.S. are aware of coal coming from Poland, West Germany, Russia, and the United States. Early on in the strike the Australian dock workers stopped all coal going to Britain. Most of the coal arrives in small captin owned ships, these are usually Dutch or German, and they sail between the inland (river) ports of Germany and the small private British ports. The port of Glasson in North West England, so small that its not on most maps, is now the most important coal port in the country, ships coming from the Rhine-Ruhr port of Duisburg and the French port of Calais run regular services to this port. Among these ships are two West German boats MV. Elbe and MV. Huberna. Other West German ships bring coal from East Germany, particularly the port of Stralsund, the West German boat MV. Heinz Suhr is on this run.

The greed of the capitalists to get coal into Britain has even led to the use of low water ports on the east coast of England, in some cases this has resulted in the coal ships running aground before they ever reached the quay.

Coal imports from the Netherlands have since the strike began increased ten fold. This is mainly United States coal passing through Rotterdam and Amsterdam.

US coal has also been coming through Dunkirk and Ghent, it is recorded as 'French' and 'Belgium' coal.

The West German private coal producing company Ruhrkohle AG in its interim company report stated that the substantial increase in coal sales was due to 'special factors' in other EEC countries.

The miners have given up picketing these small British ports, mainly because the workforce there is totally non unionised and in many cases downright hostile to the miners cause.

Likewise unionisation onboard most of the small Dutch and German ships is nil. This has a lot to do with the fact that these ships are usually family owned, the crew being made up of no more than five or six and many of these are low waged Spaniards, Portuguese or Cape Verde islanders, whom if they unionised would be thrown off the ship.

The other major problem facing the miners with regards to the shipments of coal, is the difficulty in tracking down where much of the coal is coming from. Polish coal arrives in the Netherlands by train has already passed through two other countries, both of whom are very strict in dealing with their trade unionists, East and West Germany. Trade unionism as we know it just does not exist in East Germany, and as for West Germany the chances of the trade union movement stopping coal shipments on the rails are indeed very slim. The German state laws forbid all public employees from being members of 'revolutionary' organisations (FAU included), this means railway workers are kept under tight control and are not in a position to organise selective strikes against shipments of scab coal.

The lessons of the 1984/85 British coal miners strike are clear

for all syndicalists, hopefully they shall be equally as clear to the European and world trade union movement. Without international solidarity this strike will be lost, no union can survive in isolation.

Conference

The Northern IWA shall hold their annual conference in London on Saturday, April 6th 1985. Sections from Norway, Denmark, Sweden, West Germany and Britain shall be present, a delegation of the Italian revolutionary union, the USI have also agreed to attend.

The final agenda has not been worked out as yet, but we have no doubt that the British coal miners strike shall be one of the main subjects, as well as the role of our organisations in the field of international solidarity work.

All persons wishing to attend the conference should contact their local IWA section, before coming to London. The London contact address is as follows:

International Secretariat
DAM-IWA
121 Railton Road
Brixton
London SE 24

Tel: 01 274 6655 (this number shall be manned all day Friday 5th April, to assist overseas comrades).

Conference should start at 11.00 AM prompt, and shall carry on the following day if need be. Food shall be provided by the local DAM group. Comrades requiring accommodation should bring sleeping bags.



WSA

The Libertarian Workers Group in New York held a conference in late 1984 with anarcho-syndicalists comrades from many parts of the United States. The outcome of the conference was the launching of a national anarcho-syndicalist organisation to be called the Workers Solidarity Alliance. The magazine Ideas & Action which is published in San Francisco shall now act as the organ of the WSA. Comrades wishing to know more about the new organisation can contact them at the following address: WSA

National Secretary
339 Lafayette St.
Room 202
New York,
NY 10012

Publications

Many of the Northern sections publish pamphlets on subjects of general interest to all comrades of the IWA. These pamphlets are of course in the native language of the sections country, but as many comrades are bilingual they should keep an eye out for the publications of our other IWA groups. The DAM have produced several pamphlets on strike tactics, racism, feminism, etc. The FAU have brought out pamphlets on modern technology, anarcho-syndicalism etc. These can be had by contacting the national sections.

Arbeitsgrundlage	DM	2.50
Die Roboter Kommen		2.50
35 Und Keine Stunde Mehr!		1.00
Fur eine revolutionare syndikalistische Betriebs-und Gewerkschaftsarbeit		1.20

Strike Action	£	0.20
Racism & Struggle		0.15
DAM & Trade Unions		0.25
Direct Action in Industry		0.50

Projects

The International Secretariat of the DAM are planning to undertake with other IWA sections the publication of a short leaflet/pamphlet on anarcho-syndicalism, its aims and principles. The idea is to translate these in to as many non-western European languages as possible. We therefore would like to hear from or get in touch with comrades who would be willing to assist with this project.

The general idea behind the project would be that each section of the IWA, would keep in stock copies of the above mentioned leaflet, which they could pass on to their contacts in Africa, Asia and Eastern Europe.

The DAM are at present in a position to undertake the printing of these leaflets and believe that the whole project would not only be worth while but cost very little to the movement.

All comrades interested should contact the DAM at their London address.

FORA

The International Secretariat of the DAM has received a letter from our comrades in the FORA in Argentina. The present state of the organisation in that country is not very good, but the FORA have managed to hold several public meetings in Buenos Aires, they are also in contact with a new group in Rosario who have set up a libertarian bookservice and have themselves contacted the Anarchist Black Cross in London. The FORA would like to hear from, and receive publications from all IWA sections. Their address is: FORA

c/Salvadores 1200
Buenos Aires
Argentina

USI

The National delegate committee of the USI, meeting in Trieste on September 22-23 1984 decided on the following course of action with regard to international relations.

After the report by the USI International Relations Commission the discussion centred on the actual situation of the IWA after the last congress. The elaboration of an internal debate within the International on the themes (in continual evolution) of the actual socio-political-economic-union situation in Europe and the World is seen as still being generally retarded. It was agreed to undertake, as the USI, to deepen contacts with other sections (in particular with those that find themselves today in a similar position to ourselves), so as to develop the praxis necessary for our struggle to spread. The matters on which to meet with other IWA sections will be: evolution of industrial relations in Western Europe; structural and assisted unemployment; occupational reduction in productive industries and expansion of services; reduction of working hours and the salary problem; computerization and automation in the restructuring of production; growth of the IWA.

A first meeting has already been agreed with the French CNT in Turin and similar proposals for meetings will soon be made to the FAU and DAM. It was also thought necessary to meet as soon as possible with the Secretariat of the IWA, to discuss the most urgent international problems. The International Relations Commission was delegated to organise these meetings, while the Executive Committee (Trieste USI) was directed to pay the USI membership dues to the IWA for 1984.

The National Secretariat (Ancona) then told of the direct contacts established recently with the DAM, in particular to facilitate solidarity action with the British miners struggle.

Initiatives which the USI intends to intensify in a major way.

Finally the Delegate Committee was informed about the internal Spanish situation (a series of documents being presented), where there's an attempt by some groups who have seceded from the CNT to damage the CNT-AIT (an attempt orchestrated and favoured by the Spanish Government).

Madrid

We note with regret the illness of our General Secretary Comrade Fidel Gorrón, on behalf of the membership of the Northern IWA we wish him a speedy recovery.

In the meantime, the Secretariat of the IWA in Madrid have appointed Carmen Lopez Vera to the position of acting General Secretary. We wish her the best of luck in her new job.

New World

NEW WORLD is the occasional bulletin of the Northern IWA. The bulletin is issued free to all groups within the Northern IWA and all sections of the IWA. News, information, etc. should be sent to the following address:

NEW WORLD
121 Railton Road
London SE 24
Britain

The Northern Sub-secretariat of the IWA may be contacted at the following address:

Northern Sub-secretariat
IWA
Boks 1977
Vika
Oslo
Norway

The 1984 conference of the Northern IWA meeting in Oslo agreed to the publication of NEW WORLD as the Northern IWA bulletin, it also requested all sections to forward information to London for publication. We take this opportunity to remind the sections that without their information we shall be unable to publish another issue.