

resistance anarchist bulletin

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ANTI-NUKE ACTION

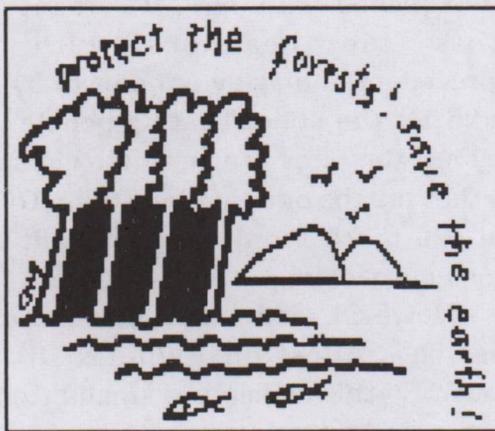
NOBODY WITH MORE THAN TWO BRAIN CELLS doubts the need to close down Sellafield. The only question is how?

This article is aimed at bringing to attention what we regard as the most significant anti-Sellafield action of recent times. Most significant in that it actually had a direct impact on British Nuclear Fuels. On the 14th of February about 180 people took part in the blockading of the two main access roads to the Sellafield plant, disrupting the arrival of it's workforce. This followed on from a protest at British Nuclear Fuels Headquarters the day before and a smaller blockade last December. The actions were organised by Irish environmentalist group Gluaiseacht, and are only the beginning.

It Can Be Done

Success can be achieved. The anti-nuclear movement in Germany, where about a third of electricity is generated from nuclear power plants, has not only stopped the State's nuclear programme but has reversed it - the German government is now committed to closing down it's nuclear industry. That phasing out is to happen very slowly, over decades, and only if they don't make a U-turn first, but nonetheless it is a first step.

The successes of the German anti-nuclear movement flow from two things: firstly direct action, for instance the blockading of railways, roads, and train stations in the path of shipments of nuclear waste (often on their way to Sellafield). Secondly the participation of all sections of the community, not just an activist elite. This isn't something peculiar to Germans, there is only one reason that there isn't a nuclear industry on this side of the Irish sea, that's because ordinary people stopped the government from building nuclear power plants in Wexford in the late 70's/early 80's. Then a widespread network of independent groups around the



country protesting at E.S.B. offices, a series of free festivals in Wexford, and finally the threat to occupy the construction site, saw the government's plans quietly shelved.

We could wait for the politicians to sort it out for us: but it's been supposedly at "the top of the agenda" for years now without any impact, the only thing changing is Sellafield is getting bigger. It's taken them 50 years to come up with a anti-nuclear civil defence programme, and when they do it's a fiasco. So a cynic might say they're happy with their bunker in Athlone and screw the rest of us. We say it's time to fightback. ★

DEFEND YOURSELF

ON MAY 31ST, just as we were going to press, 27 employees of Control Plus (Dublin's car clampers) were arrested under the Public Order Act for picketing the entrance of the company's compound. Wildcat strike action began a four days earlier in reaction to management's breach of an agreement on promotions, and was escalated after the bosses threatened firings. 117 workers are on strike. Initial reports have it that picketing will continue but without obstruction to company vehicles, and the arrested people were released without charge.

There is always the significant possibility that effective action will encounter the attention of the police and the courts. Police and courts acting in

their eternal role as the defenders of the rights of property, profit, power and privilege. One of the main purposes of this bulletin is to publicise and promote effective action, and as such it would be remiss not to report on the development of a legal defence group which aims to establish a permanent fund for meeting the financial costs of police action against direct action. In other words fundraising for legal fees.

Its other proposed roles include solidarity protests and the provision of general information about the laws you may be done under. The goal is a permanent response to state repression rather than reacting to it as it happens.

As the founding statement of the Anarchist Legal Defence Group says:

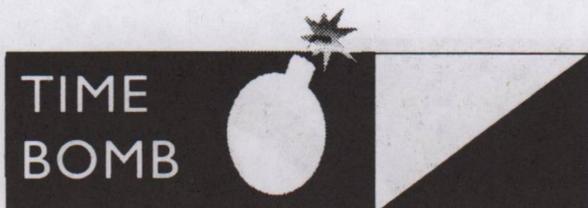


"We are a group of individuals who have come together as a response to recent incidents of state repression against activists in Ireland. Our goal is to help counter attempts by the state to obstruct dissent and direct action.

We aim to support activists who, by their involvement in direct action, public protest or related activities, find themselves in a court, a police cell or a prison.

We accept the law in Ireland and throughout the globe reflects the interest of the ruling capitalist class. We don't want the bosses' law imposed on us but it is and with this a reality we want to offer activists the confidence that this organisation will support their struggle."

If you want to help us, contact ALDG at: libertad_absoluta2002@yahoo.ie or P.O. Box 1528, Dublin 8. ★



The M11 Campaign

THE 3.5 MILE M11 LINK ROAD in east London was constructed in the mid 90's. It destroyed 350 houses, parks and woodlands. It forced those in the way to move away. It crushed the community spirit of those who remained by depriving them of easy contact with one another. It gave them nowhere to go to walk their dogs. Meanwhile, it saved commuters the grand total of 7 minutes in journey time to get to their jobs in the City.

The campaign built around saving the area affected by the proposed M11 really kicked off in December 1993. Claremont Road in east London was taken over by activists after a chestnut tree was cut down by the local council. For over a year, the occupation of the road, the squatting of the houses, the street theatre and sculpture offered a living testimony to the creative energy of the protest, and a determination to build a culture of resistance that followed closely in the footsteps of the earlier Twyford Down campaign.

Like before, the strategy of the protest was to make it more and more expensive for the road builders the longer they stayed away, and drive a wedge between themselves and the government who refused to underwrite the costs. In the case of the occupants of Claremont Road, it took 700 cops, 400 private security guards, 120 vehicles, and 89 hours to evict the street at a cost of 2m pounds. Barricades, lock-ons and a greasy scaffold all helped to frustrate the authorities, boosted with the new powers given them by the British Criminal Justice Act passed a month earlier (October 1994) which virtually illegalised civil dissent.

However, the protest helped raise an awareness of the damage inflicted on our environment on a daily basis. The atomization of communities, the danger to our health (Greenpeace International calculates 7.5m elderly people and 9m children are at risk of contracting asthma and bronchitis caused by exhaust pollution), the lack of space (a car travelling 40kph requires more than 3 times as much space as one travelling at 10kph; a person driving a car at 10kph needs 6 times as much space as a bicycle travelling at the same speed -figures from *Where There's Brass There's Muck- Ecology and Anarchism*) are all related to the increasing tarmacing over everything green.

What as anarchists can we do about this? Get involved in local campaigns, forge links with transport workers and those threatened by road schemes, build support

amongst the local community. What do we want? -an accessible public transport system involving popular planning, minimising the need for transport through self-reliance, less pollution and disturbance to the environment, and ultimately a society with more walkers and cyclists on our streets.

For a copy of *Where's There's Brass There's Muck - Ecology and Anarchism*, contact the Anarchist Federation Ireland ★

RTS GBH-ED

THE RECLAIM THE STREETS party in May exploded onto our T.V. screens and across the headlines with an unprecedented display of honesty by the media. Yes the police beat up people. Yes they are the ones prepared for violence. Yes they are the ones out for a fight. Guess that it'll teach them not to assault and arrest journalists.

However, missed in all the uproar was the question 'what's it all about?'. So this article is a small attempt to answer that question.



Charge of the Pig Brigade

"Cars dominate our cities, polluting, congesting, and dividing communities." "But cars are just one piece of the jigsaw and RTS is also about raising the wider questions behind the transport issue - about the political and economic forces which drive 'car culture'"

"More goods travelling on longer journeys, more petrol being burnt, more customers at out-of-town supermarkets - it is about increasing consumption, because that is an indicator of 'economic growth'."

"... short-term exploitation of dwindling resources regardless of the ... costs. Therefore RTS's attack on cars cannot be detached from a wider attack on capitalism itself."

"More importantly, RTS is about encouraging more people to take part in direct action."

"Direct action is not just a tactic; it is an end in itself. It is about enabling people to unite as individuals with a common aim, to change things directly by their own actions." (shamelessly stolen from www.reclaimthe streets.net)

Of course we need cars, we need cars to get to work, we need cars to get to the supermarket, we need cars to get the kids to school. What alternative do we have? The point is, when did we decide that one form of transport, one with many environmental and social costs, was to be given first place over all others. We never did. That decision was made for us, to satisfy the private profit of the petrol and car companies, not to meet the social need for transport.

After the May 6th police riot a number of people have been subjected to bogus charges, a legal defence group has been set up to help deal with this. More details on www.indymedia.ie. Also it is reported that people who have made complaints to the official Garda Complaints Board have since experienced police harassment. ★

THE AFI WEBSITE has proved a huge hit (over 1000 hits in its first month) and we plan to make additions to it on a regular basis. We also encourage you to send an email to: irishanarchism-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and participate in debate there. ★

Join the resistance

The Anarchist Federation Ireland (AFI) is an organisation of class struggle anarchists aiming to abolish capitalism and all oppression to create a free and equal society. This is Anarchist Communism. We see today's society as being divided into two main opposing classes: the ruling class which controls all the power and wealth, and the working class which the ruler exploit to maintain this. By racism, sexism and other forms of oppression, as well as war and environmental destruction the rulers weaken and divide us. Only the direct action of working class people can defeat these attacks and ultimately overthrow capitalism.

As the capitalist system rules the whole world, its destruction must be complete and world wide. We reject attempts to reform it, such as working through parliament and national liberation movements, as they fail to challenge capitalism itself. Unions also work as a part of the capitalist system, so although workers struggle within them they will be unable to bring about capitalism's destruction unless they go beyond these limits.

Organisation is vital if we're to beat the bosses, so we work for a united anarchist movement and are affiliated to the International of Anarchist Federations.

The Anarchist Federation has members across Britain and Ireland fighting for the

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