

COMMON CAUSE

ACF (London) bulletin No.2

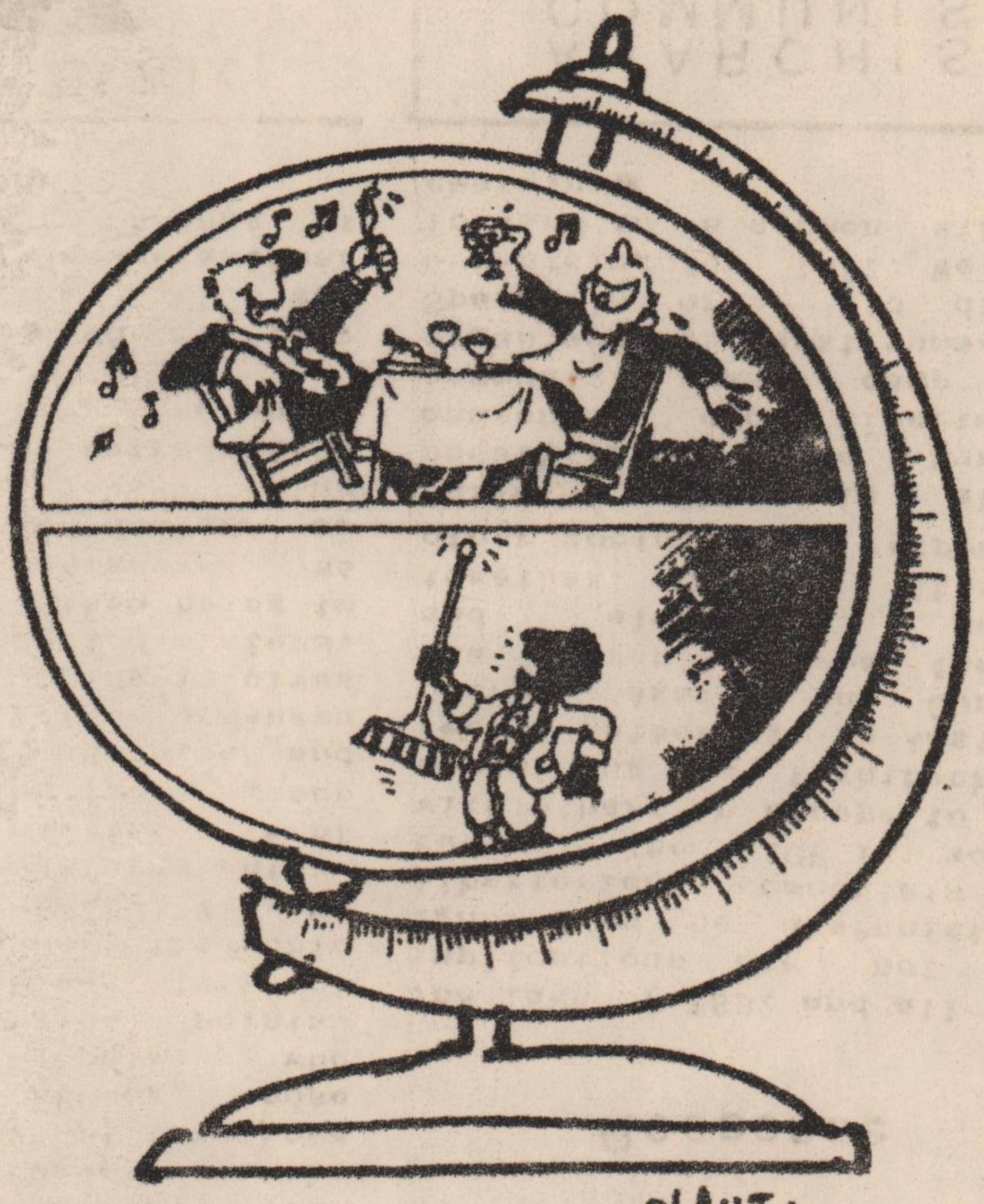
1992: for a Campaign Against Fortress Europe

1992 has been proclaimed by the various EEC governments to be the great new era for Europe. The Single European Market Act has been signed. This means basically that all tariff barriers will come down, all restrictions on trade will come to a halt. In other words, free trade for all capitalist business. To sweeten what might be a bitter pill for many people, the Social Charter has been talked about. This means that a whole set of rights and benefits will be guaranteed and made standard for European workers.

But there are questions to be asked: is this all that 1992 means? Many people might be impressed by all this "unity", "togetherness", all the talk of rights and benefits. Is there anything else at work beneath all of this?

Charter

First of all our "blessed" Saint Margaret has already called the Social Charter, socialism by the back door. Supposedly we have too many rights and benefits! Which is why she is busily taking away whatever she can. The idea of the Charter is that laws relating to workers be standardised throughout Europe and that there be welfare benefits. The problem is whether the rights and benefits will move to the highest level or the lowest level, or whether there will be some winners and some losers. I think we can all



guess that most of us will be losers even though the plans have not been fully unveiled. (It was supposed to have been done in July so if it has, we haven't seen it.)

Business

Secondly, far from being simply about trade, taxation, business etc., there is much more being done. The legislation as a whole will touch upon virtually all of us. Some of the anti-worker aspects have mentioned above. There are important sexist and racist implications to be made known as well.

ACF Dayschool

Workshops on:
Marxism, a critique
History of Class struggle
anarchism
Fighting the Poll Tax
Anti-racist/anti-fascist
struggles
Workplace struggle

*Refreshments *Creche
*Dec. 2nd. 10 to 5.30pm
Conway Hall
Red Lion Square WC1
Holborn tube

Discussion Meetings

1st Thursday of every month,
8pm. London ACF Discussion
Meetings. Marchmont Community
Centre. Marchmont St.
Russell Square Tube.

Organise!

Comment, Analysis, Discussion
Anarchist-Communist Thought
Quarterly. 30 p. 16 pages.

An ACF group is being set up in
Tower Hamlets. If you are inter-
ested and want to know more,
get in contact through the
London address.

FORTRESS EUROPE cont

The laws concerning women's rights are also to be standardised. Unfortunately there are violently anti-abortion governments eg. Eire. Will they agree to "liberal" abortion laws or will the rest of the women in Europe have to suffer even more? Welfare benefits, discrimination law, employment law will also change. To avoid having to say anything positive and to delay opposition, so far all that has been said is that most of this will be studied in committees.

Racist

Thirdly, perhaps the most glaringly obvious, new oppressive measure will be the racist section of the law. Effectively all immigration into the EEC will be halted except for the rich and powerful, these from the "advanced" countries. The movement of refugees will be halted, again except for those useful to the EEC eg. those from "communist" countries who help score political points. (Although there was talk of stopping that under the rubric of economic refugees.) Migrant workers will be refused entry.

Behind this are two sets of initiatives: the Trevi group (upon Terrorist, Refugee and Violence) and the Schengen group. Each grouping involves European government Ministers, the business of them being to brand all "foreigners" as Terrorists, drug dealers or criminals and to debase being a refugee by the introduction of the term "economic refugee".

There are also military implications: the EEC was also set up to become another superpower: 1992 brings it that much nearer.

There are many more aspects to the whole question of 1992, involving education, the young, the old and so on. These cannot be examined as present. However, what is perfectly clear is that the governments of the EEC, far from attempting to give us all a better quality of life as they state, are really attempting many more measures of oppression and exploitation. What is necessary is a watchful working class movement, aware of all the possibilities, all the probabilities. We will need to move together, all of those affected by this; the young, the old, women, minorities, workers etc. in order to oppose what exploits us and puts us down. We have another struggle ahead of us; perhaps this time we can properly unite and turn the tide.

Response

The laws of 1992 and all their implications are not being ignored by the anarchists and libertarian communists of Europe. The ACF is working with others in Europe to start organising a fightback. A recent gathering in Amsterdam - Europe Against the Current - saw anarchists from the EEC and elsewhere getting together. Out of this and other contacts, a response is building. There is also a possibility of a European anarchist and libertarian-communist summer camp being organised for next summer in Spain in order to discuss organising for 1992. We look forward to a common struggle emerging.

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ANARCHIST COMMUNIST FEDERATION

The ACF is an organisation of revolutionary class struggle anarchists. We aim for the abolition of all hierarchy, including sexism and racism and for the creation of a worldwide classless society: Anarchist-Communism.

We are active in Anti-Racist/Anti-Fascist struggles. We support black people organising themselves and community self-defence and are active in grassroots groups such as the Sheffield Defence Campaign.