

The State is Organised Violence

A FEW WEEKS AGO the British Army opened fire on a demonstration in Derry and thirteen human beings were violently done to death. Irish politicians were appalled, they expressed their horror, and the Irish Republican Army swore an eye for eye and promised to kill thirteen British soldiers in revenge.

Last week a bomb went off in Aldershot and seven human beings—a gardener, five women cleaners and a priest—were blown to pieces, violently done to death by the IRA. This time it was the turn of the British politicians to express their horror and to swear that the gunmen would be eliminated, that is, killed.

Both sides condemn violence . . . when it is used by the other side.

The British Army is the organised violence of the British State. It exists to kill people. It is a monstrous organisation which turns young men into killers who will kill people they do not know, have no quarrel with, but will kill because

authority orders them to do so. The IRA is smaller but is essentially the same. They have taken up arms to achieve a United Ireland. They are nationalists. They want the people of Northern Ireland to be ruled by an Irish State instead of a British State.

If the British Army wins, nothing will change for the British people. We shall still be wage slaves condemned to live out our lives working for people who are rich and privileged. If the IRA wins nothing will change for the Irish people. They will still be slaves condemned to live out their lives working for people who are rich and privileged. A change of flags doesn't end wage-slavery. Nationalism and patriotism

are a fraud and a deception. It was for nationalism and patriotism that millions of people have been killed in two world wars . . . and still slavery exists, and privilege exists, and rich and poor exist, and States exist, and governments exist, and violence continues to dominate the relations between men and men.

We believe that vast numbers of people are, today, in all countries, sick of violence. In their private lives they are less violent than ever—but life is more and more violent because States are becoming more and more powerful. States are organised violence. They uphold the right of privileged minorities to own and control the wealth of the world. They uphold the right of this rich minority to force the rest to work for them. Without prisons, policemen and soldiers, these laws could never be upheld. The people would work the land in common and share equally in its fruits. If we didn't believe that, we wouldn't waste our time in fighting against governments, and oppression, and coercion.

We cannot get equality and justice in the world because those who are against it control huge armed forces that they have trained to kill. It is necessary that these instruments of violence should be destroyed, but asking governments to do that is like asking them to commit suicide. Without an armed force they cannot govern. All they could do would be to make simple suggestions which the people might or might not carry out.

So long as the British Army exists it will be used in Northern Ireland in the interests of the British Government. It should be withdrawn, indeed, it should be **disbanded**, and the people can do that if they have the will. Not by violence but simply by refusing to have anything to do with it at all. We should not join its ranks, or the ranks of the police or the prison warders, or the clerks who service these forces. We should not pay our taxes which sustain it, we should not make the arms and

TERRY PHILLIPS.

the supplies that it needs. Each one of us can do that and when each one of us becomes **most of us** then the victory against violence is won.

This may not sound very revolutionary to those who think in terms of doing things FOR people instead of encouraging people to do things for themselves. But refusing to serve the armed forces in any way is something that each man and woman can do all by themselves—and if they get into a conflict with the State because of their actions then each one of us can speak up on their behalf, can pour scorn on those who

would arrest and imprison men and women who have sworn absolutely never to have anything to do with violence.

The labour movement needs some absolutes. Too long has it existed on a diet of expediency in which to kill is all right for your side but not for the other side. It is time that those who are opposed to killing refused to give any support whatsoever to those who would have us kill one another—and that goes for all governments as well as for all politicians who, by advocating killing, hope themselves one day to form governments. EDITORS.

Long March to the same Goal

AS THE CLICHES flowed from the mouth of President Nixon and were bounced by satellite to punctuate the endless soap opera on American TV, there was one utterance which struck an only too realistic note.

At his first day's talks in China, Nixon spoke of the 'long march together, but on different roads leading to the same goal'. The stated goal was 'the building of a world structure of peace and justice', but in view of the ways in which both states defend and sanctify the power of ruling groups to exploit and terrorize their respective workers, it would be more accurate to describe the goal as the more or less peaceful co-existence of two tyrannical empires.

Of course, to the politicians 'peace' and 'justice' are synonymous with their rule. In 'democratic' America and 'communist' China the rules of the game are the same. Yesterday's 'enemy' can be today's 'friend' if it is economically advantageous or militarily necessary in the ever-changing alliances of the international power game. Trade between China and America shows great poten-

tial. Both ruling groups are concerned about the economic and military growth of Japan. Similarly, both are concerned about the increasing influence of Russia in the Middle East and elsewhere. Whatever your ideology, it's a hard life being an imperialist! However, the little problem about the war in Vietnam and Cambodia can be resolved: the puppets can be strangled by the strings which animate them.

What cannot be tolerated by any ruling group anywhere in the world, and whatever ideology they profess, is the demand of workers to control their own lives free from the dictates of the politicians and free from economic exploitation.

A harmonious international community will not be built by the phoney cordiality of poisonous hypocrites like Nixon and Mao, or by abdicating responsibility for one's life and work to any politician, political party or 'revolutionary' leader, but by co-operating with other workers to build a free society where everyone can realize his or her potential for real creativity and community.

Julio Millan Gets 23 Years

JULIO MILLAN HERNANDEZ has been sentenced to 23 years' imprisonment in Madrid at a trial which lasted less than three hours. Such is the justice dispensed under the Franco dictatorship at a Military Tribunal directed by Garcia Rebull, who tried and convicted the 16 Basque nationalists in Burgos. Julio Millan was accused of taking part in two 'terrorist actions'. The first was on December 2, 1962 when an explosion took place in the Treasury Building in Madrid, while the other concerns the discovery of explosives on a plane bound for Barcelona on March 4, 1963.

During this period and up until 1967, Julio Millan had been forced to work in France because he was unable to find work in Spain. While in his own country he had helped to reorganise the CNT and had known Joaquin Granados, who together with Francisco Delgado had been garrotted, for 'bomb incidents', in August 1963. When Millan returned to Spain in 1967, he was unaware that he had been placed on the wanted list by the police, mainly because he had known Granados. This 'guilt by association' was not sufficient to get his extradition from France under the agreement be-

tween the two countries. However, the Spanish police quickly arrested him on the train between the border town of Port Bou and Barcelona when he was returning on October 10, 1967.

He denies that he ever took part in these two bomb incidents and said that he was in France at the time. During his long time in custody he has been physically beaten, subjected to torture and not given food and water for periods of three days and nights. After this treatment he made a 'confession', which he later repudiated.

INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE

However, Julio Millan has been sentenced on this 'confession', the 'guilt by association' and on the evidence of one witness who spoke of cafe rumours concerning the involvement of Millan. Legal observers from Britain, France and Belgium said that the trial 'gravely violated' the principles of natural justice and that the length of custody was 'completely unjustified'. They also said that there was insufficient evidence against Millan to make a conviction. The Defence was hindered in its work and no material evidence against Julio was produced. Even the plane on which the explosives

were supposed to have been placed has subsequently been destroyed.

The observers say that 'The (one) witness who entered the court in handcuffs, having been condemned in 1963 to 25 years' imprisonment for terrorism. This witness, who in 1964 had succeeded in escaping from prison in Burgos, broke down, weeping, in the court room, and in a plea for clemency to the Tribunal, regretted his past activities.'

The Franco regime claims yet another victim. Despite his age and illness, Franco doggedly clings to power, while the prisons are full with political prisoners. Unlike the trial of the Basques, little or no information has appeared in the national papers. It remains for us to make known to the people this new outrage and injustice and to point out that when the State thinks it is being threatened, its punishment is harsh. Surely there is not so much difference between the treatment received by Jake Prescott in the British Courts for addressing envelopes for the Angry Brigade and that of Julio Millan who was convicted on a forced confession. Neither one had a chance and the State, in each case, gained its victim from those who merely opposed its rule.

We must redouble our efforts to protest about the imprisonment of Julio Millan and secure his release, along with the many thousands more who still suffer in the prisons of Spain. P.T.

'There is no such thing as a Free Lunch'

BARRY COMMONER in one of his pieces about ecology cites the above as one of the fundamental laws of the environment. For those unwise in the American way of life—American saloons (i.e. pubs) used to give away free food in order that customers would consume drinks instead of going home to lunch or dinner. The cynical said the food was of such a salty nature that it induced a thirst only slaked by the establishment's beer. Either way 'there was no such thing as a free lunch', or as the Yiddish proverb says 'Nothing is for nothing'.

Its application to the environment is obvious. This week we have had experience of a flagrant public case of deliberate pollution with a known risk, usually we are permanently subjected to quiet routines of almost unconscious pollution by the most complex poisons totally unknown to man, and apparently even to scientists.

The case which the press saw fit to disclose to our perpetually astonished gaze was of drums of cyanide (which every detective story reader knows is a poison) dumped in a brickyard which was, or could be, a play-spot for children. The theme of children is always a sure-fire basis for indignation. The result of this disclosure was that the drums were removed to some chemical plant which, by some strange alchemy, nullified them.

Apparently, the Government is to push forward more stringent laws against the dumping of such wastes in public places. Apparently the Government is impressed by the evidence of ecologists and intends to tighten up its Ministry of the Environment, or perhaps, as is more likely, the Government, knowing of public interest and concern in these matters, is seeking

to climb aboard the band-wagon. It is the easiest thing in the world to put laws on the statute book against certain pollution offences, but it is far easier to get round or break such laws, or even to pay the penalty when one is a large corporation.

If this Government is to pursue its policy of competing capitalism and exporting expanding technology such spin-offs as cyanide wastes which are too complex and costly to dispose of legally or easily are bound to occur. 'There is no such thing as a free lunch.'

Just think of the other industrial or technological wastes which have been jettisoned in the air, the earth and the water to have detrimental effects discovered later. The strontium by-products of atomic explosions caused tests to take place underground with only occasional fissures, earthquakes and probable pollution of underground streams. The discovery of mercury in tuna fish in Japanese waters and consequent deaths and disablement in Japan from mercury poisoning. The discovery of the properties of enzymes in our newer than new soap-powders. The strange effects of detergents upon rivers. The presence of 'harmless' or even beneficial lead in petrol and the dangers of lead discovered in smelting plants. The problem of what to do with old atomic waste, poison gases or deteriorating explosives—the sea has them all.

One of Commoner's other laws is 'Everything must go somewhere'. If you have ever had to get rid of a large item of awkward obsolete domestic equipment you can understand the litter-louts who leave old fridges and perambulators in

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MEETING OF FREEDOM READERS AND ANARCHIST GROUPS

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, at 2 p.m.

TOYNBEE HALL, 28 Commercial Street, E.1 (nearest tube Aldgate East)

The purpose of the meeting is to see whether anarchist ideas and activity can be made more effective in the present situation.

