

R U S S I A

FREEDOM IS NOT INSANE!

LAST WEEK Dr. Yuri Shikhanovich, a well-known dissident, was confined to a mental hospital after a Moscow court had declared him unfit to plead on charges of "anti-Soviet activities". The Russian rulers were forced to take this action to silence him because he is reported to have worn out five different secret police interrogators who all failed to break him down.

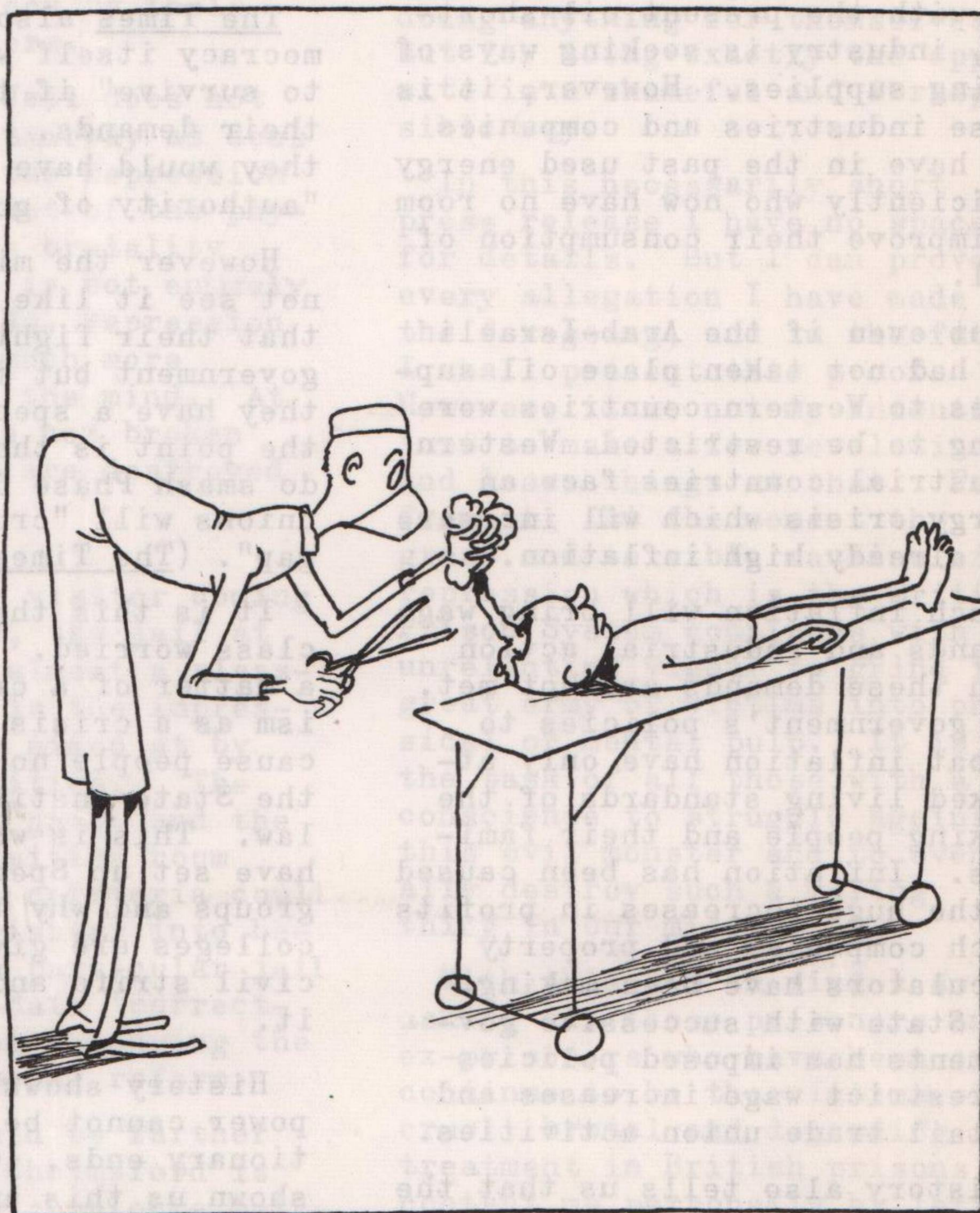
Since his arrest over a year ago Shikhanovich has not been allowed to see his wife and family, or a lawyer. At the court proceedings last week he was not present - obviously his speech to the court would have been too embarrassing for the regime. Allegations were made that Shikhanovich was involved in the distribution of the underground journal The Chronicle of Current Events, which has not appeared for a year. Evidence was provided by two former dissidents, Pyotr Yakir and Irina Belogorodskaya, who were treated lightly by the authorities because of their renunciation following prolonged interrogation by the secret police.

Ever since the official suppression of all opposition to the Communist Party in Russia in 1921 the resistance has continued from small groups and individuals. Inevitably, censorship and the suppression of public discussion result in fragmentation of the resistance and the isolation of individuals who are often unaware of the existence of other dissidents. In recent years this isolation has been at least partially broken by the appearance of the Chronicle, produced by and mainly for dissident writers.

One of the most catastrophic consequences of the isolation produced by a repressive regime is the way in which different groups within society are cut off from each other and their struggles. So in Russia the dissident writers and academics are isolated from the resistance of the workers in the factories. However, in the Hungarian uprising of 1956 and the Polish food riots of 1970 the nameless workers also demonstrated their courage and their hostility towards the Communist dictatorship. Although the Russian dissidents are not anarchists - they frequently appeal (in vain) to the Soviet constitution to justify freedom of expression - we can admire and seek to emulate in our own situation.

Despite the prison camps, the torture, and the mental institutions, men and women in Russia still aspire to be free and to control their own minds and lives. The flame is still flickering and one day it is going to ignite a social revolution which will sweep away the rulers all over the world.

Terry Phillips



John Olday

I R E L A N D

Settlement or Sell-Out

AFTER MONTHS of secret negotiations and political manoeuvring, representatives of the Official Unionists under Faulkner, of the Social Democratic Labour Party under Fitt and of the middle-class Alliance Party, have formed an ad hoc government with the approval of the British and Eire governments. From a libertarian point of view this development is opportunist, unstable in the long term and obviously in the best interests of world capitalism. However socialist opposition to this new government does not effectively exist in any part of Ireland and it

would be unrealistic for us in Britain to indulge in wish-fulfilment by seeing the strong opposing forces to the Northern Ireland Executive as potentially progressive.

On the republican side the new Executive is opposed politically by B. McAlisky, M.P., F. McManus, M.P., the Official IRA (potential M.P.) and some others using socialist phraseology and nationalist abstentionist strategy. The Provos of course are continuing their military struggle which is becoming more confused and irrelevant to everyone except the "heros and the victims".

On the Loyalist side there is also strong opposition to the Executive, varying from the Unpledged Unionists and others in the Assembly to Paisley etc. in Westminster to the military tactics of the assorted UVF, UDA, UFF, etc., etc.

Irish politics is dominated by the intermeshed struggle for power and it is simplistic for the British Left to identify any as a potential struggle for workers' power. In the short term anyway I can't see why we should undermine the new Executive with its mild and new non-sectarian bourgeois politics in favour of the potential militarist nationalists of both colours who are seeking to and are capable of overthrowing it.

continued on Back Page col. 2

IT COULD HAPPEN HERE

THOSE WHO DEFEND and support the present capitalist system do so on the basis of its efficiency at delivering the goods. But being efficient is the last thing on which anyone could base a defence of the profit motive system. Even without the present oil crisis many other raw materials are in short supply, so much so that we even have a shortage of bottles and packaging. Such shortages are caused by expansion and the waste incurred in bottling and wrapping. Now with the present oil shortage, industry is seeking ways of saving supplies. However, it is those industries and companies who have in the past used energy efficiently who now have no room to improve their consumption of fuel.

But even if the Arab-Israeli war had not taken place oil supplies to Western countries were going to be restricted. Western industrial countries face an energy crisis which will increase the already high inflation.

Such inflation will bring wage demands and industrial action when these demands are not met. The government's policies to combat inflation have only attacked living standards of the working people and their families. Inflation has been caused by the huge increases in profits which companies and property speculators have been making. The State with successive governments has imposed policies to restrict wage increases and curtail trade union activities.

History also tells us that the ruling class does not stop at using the law to defend its privilege, power, and wealth, but will bring in the armed forces when their rule is threatened. The Times in an editorial has already voiced the fears of the ruling class by writing that "the most calm and respectable people [will] come to believe that the only remaining choice

*
More than five hundred Americans died on the roads during the four-day Thanksgiving holiday. Last year the total was 658.

*
The conviction of a London cafe proprietor for possessing cannabis was quashed by the Court of Appeal as the evidence of two police officers was 'befouled' by their later conviction for perjury. Lord Justice Lawton, hearing the appeal, said: "This is the occasion for reminding police officers that if they stretch their evidence - and even more if they fabricate it - for the purpose of getting convictions, they are befouling the administration of justice."

is to impose a policy of sound money at the point of a bayonet."

The possibility of such action should not be dismissed out of hand just because we live in a "democracy". In fact the points of bayonets have and are being used in the United Kingdom. We should not forget how fragile are our "democratic rights" and "freedoms" and to what lengths the authorities will go to defend and safeguard the present institutions.

The Times also says that "democracy itself will not be able to survive" if the miners gain their demands. This is because they would have destroyed the "authority of government".

However the miners' leaders do not see it like that. They know that their fight is with the government but they argue that they have a special case. But the point is that if the miners do smash Phase 3 then other unions will "crowd through the gap". (The Times.)

It is this that has the ruling class worried. It isn't so much a matter of a crisis of capitalism as a crisis of authority because people no longer respect the State institutions and the law. This is why the police have set up Special Police groups and why their training colleges are giving lectures on civil strife and how to combat it.

History shows us that State power cannot be for revolutionary ends. Chile has clearly shown us this and illustrates how far a ruling class will go to protect its interests. That also was a "democracy". It could happen here! P.T.

THE Prime Minister was expected to appeal to the miners' leaders today that their patriotic duty



'IT'S CURIOUS but the country only becomes ours when there's a bloody war or we're out on strike.'

*
The American Bar (lawyers') Association is annoyed at the rising sales of do-it-yourself legal material -- the divorce kit, the will kit, the bankruptcy kit and now the corporation kit.

Sancho Panza.

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THE DWARFS

THE DWARFS, as a large-scale movement, are disbanding, although some local groups may continue. Individuals and groups in the movement are diversifying into specific projects - free schools, alternative technology projects, community newspapers and so on - and the various activities of the movement's local chapters will continue under other names. This is the result of a decision to carry decentralisation to its logical conclusion, which means no organisations on a national, international, or any scale larger than the local community. Information on activities will be provided by OASIS info service, 14a Hansard Mews, London W14 8BJ (send 9" x 4" s.a.e. for reply), and the old Dwarf News will now be published under the title Whole Earth News, from the same address.
Tony Brantingham

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From one of our longtime
comrades: "I have great
pleasure in sending you this
from my recent rent rebate."

DON'T ROCK...cont'd from P. 5

State propaganda, nor are we
friends of Leon Trotsky's memory
(the butcher of Kronstadt). We
have no allegiance to any state,
professional politician or
bureaucratic union leaders. Our
ideological raison d'etre is
FREEDOM. Freedom from anyone or
anything wanted to keep humanity
dependent on authority and co-
ercion, and those wanting to
perpetuate the exploitation of
man by man. We believe in only
one revolution - the Social
revolution - and fighting for
this revolution thousands of our
anarchist comrades all over the
world have lost their own liberty
and their lives. This is the
heavy price they had to pay for
rocking the boat.

Claude

HALF-FREE IS STILL ENSLAVED

DO YOU REMEMBER white bicycles?

In fact, do you remember who
the original Provos were? Unfor-
tunately their very name has been
appropriated for the Provisional
wing of the Sinn Fein - a very
different kettle of Friday fish.
The Provos, a Dutch anarchist
group, sponsored the idea of
leaving around, in cities, white
bicycles which belonged to no-
body, and which anyone could use
and leave in the street when they
had finished with them.

Ideas have a curious knack of
turning up again in society and
history and almost always assum-
ing a different form or twist
which turns what has been useful,
useless, or what has been a
comedy, tragedy.

The Provos believed in freedom
of access to the needs of life.
Free food, free shelter, free
transport. We have seen, in re-
cent years, some of these ideas
carried out in microcosm or,
what has been worse, incorporated
in part into the programme of
some social welfare agency.

'Free' food was part of the U.S.
farm surpluses distribution
scheme, and almost of the surplus
butter allocation to old age pen-
sioners. 'Free' shelter was the
lost cause of squatting as taken
over by council-sponsored housing
groups. 'Free' transport is the
benevolent charity of the G.L.C.
towards 'senior citizens'. Nothing
is for nothing and one can point
to rates and taxes paid by the
homeless, the poor and the pen-
sioners which contribute to sub-
sidizing these.

But all this bureaucratic
handling of 'free' commodities
only serves to turn what should
be a deserved right as a gift,
into a concealed or open chari-
table insult. Red tape swathes
all the gift-parcels; the social
worker housing group is but the
old landlord writ large with
rent and evictions as usual;
busmen and cinema cashiers de-
mand proof of old age and the
poor still pay rates and taxes.

* * *

A prime example of the failure
of half-free methods to work is
vividly illustrated by Judy Hill-
man of The Guardian. In Mont-
pellier, France, the Promotion
Co-operative du Transport Indivi-
dual, for a £42 life subscription
provided keys to Simca 1000 cars
left in reserved parking spaces.
The cars were fitted with TIP
meters which were operated by
plastic counters (sold at 5% com-
mission by tobacconists). The
counter guaranteed eleven miles
of motoring including petrol,
maintenance, insurance and clean-

ing. Employees of Procotip saw
to it that vehicles did not all
collect in any one district.

The co-operative, which is now
bankrupt, started with insuffi-
cient capital and merely rented
37 cars on a contract basis. Only
25 were in fact put into service;
this limited membership of the
co-op to 100 of the 360 or so who
wanted to join. Even this 100
did not pay the £42 subscription
immediately.

Technical difficulties were
experienced with equipment, inclu-
ding mini-cameras to record the
number of the driver's cassette
and mileage. There was diffi-
culty too because other motorists
parked their private cars in TIP
parks.

The town hall charged TIP for
its parking at the same rate as
taxi-ranks and the town hall was
pressurized by vested ratepayer
interests not to grant TIP special
privileges. With true bureau-
cratic panic the town hall con-
tacted Paris who handed down the
ruling that TIP would become a
form of 'public transport'
if membership was open to all.

By this time TIP had run into
financial trouble and it closed
down last spring.

It is reported that no cars
were stolen during this experi-
ment, thus upholding the anar-
chist belief that given free
access people do not abuse
liberty.

* * *

We can see in the Montpellier
experiment just how the imposi-
tion of monetary values and the
lack of any idea of free access
as a social service (within a
consumer society) sabotages the
very positive ideas the scheme
embodied.

It has long been obvious that
the under-usage of the commuter
motor car has been a great factor
in the class into which most big
towns are slipping. Recent de-
velopments in natural, induced
and enforced petrol shortages
make it even more imperative
that free transport on the white
bicycle-Montpellier Procotip car
lines should be instituted.

But let not the municipalities,
assuming that they institute the
scheme, talk of anyone paying for
anything, or think of the instal-
lation of expensive checking
equipment and meters. These
chains will drag on a free social
service. In any case, Mr. Mayor,
look at the money the Council
will save on new roads, parking
meters and attendants - especi-
ally if petrol is short!

Jack Robinson.

A BLESSING IN DISGUISE?

DURING THE halcyon days of CND there were certain comrades who looked forward to The Bomb with a certain kind of gloomy joy. It would simplify things for anarchism. One of the difficulties of any political philosophy is the transitional period. The Bomb would eliminate that difficulty; we should pass over from a Capitalist State to a primitive state in a matter of seconds. Having started with a clean sheet it is (or was) much easier.

However, there are certain drawbacks to the post-atomic era which make one welcome the opportunity given by the present 'energy crisis' to draw up a scenario for a new society.

Already, probably with the help of Arabian advisors, the Ministry of Transport have decided to halt the run-down of the railways. Previously, with a strange prescience (or disillusionment) the authorities had already tapered off on road building projects. But we still have with us (like the stump-monument of Ozymandius in the desert) Concorde, the Channel Tunnel and Maplin, all conceived for a fuel-replete society. 'Look on my works ye mighty and despair.'

The ecologists have been discomfitted by the possibility of a switch to coal or atomic power since these are still highly pollutant, as will be North Sea oil and gas on to which so much future hope is pinned. Nixon was able to defeat the conservationists' lobby against the Alaska oil pipeline by citing the nation's dire need for gasoline. Similar excuses will no doubt be used for other 'emergency' projects both here and in other countries hit by the oil shortage.

It is possible to work out a rough balance sheet of profit and loss from the pre-supposed scarcity of petroleum and its by-products, primarily in reference to Great Britain but these situations will, no doubt, apply to other countries too.

Firstly, and obviously, the policy of 'continuous growth' of the gross national product (whatever that is) must come to a halt. Based upon an idea of infinite supplies of raw materials and energy sources it has proved unsound on at least one of its premises.

The growth of commuting over vast distances to places of work must be considerably modified if not abandoned altogether. Official attitudes are revealing when it is Sunday driving (i.e. for pleasure) that is banned in order that the wearisome daily grind to work shall be guaranteed inviolate. When rationing comes to Britain, as come it must, doubtless penalties for use of petrol

for 'pleasure' will accompany it.

With the attrition of commuting must come the abandonment of the 'two-car' 'two-home' family ideal. In fact the philosophy of consumerism will take some hard knocks. The ideas of built-in obsolescence have no attraction for consumers on a low income scale, and a self-sufficient society has nothing to waste.

The absence of oil to spare means an absence of chemical by-products (the average break-down of a barrel of oil - according to Philip Jordan in the Guardian is 4% heating kerosene (paraffin), 4% aviation kerosene, 4% bitumen and lubricants, 7% naphtha and light chemical foodstocks, 20% gas oil and 42% fuel oil. This means a shortage of some plastics, some chemical fertilisers and some pharmaceuticals.

Of course, this lack of conventional communication will mean the death-blow to the big city, already staggering -- for the most attractive thing about the big city is the chance to get away from it.

It is possible that with the disappearance of a consumer society, much of television will disappear for lack of financial support. The mass communications industry will suffer a similar blow additional to its present troubles of newsprint shortage - whether naturally or artificially induced is not known fully.

With the lack of some sources of power many of the great industrial complexes will be physically broken up and a scarcity-haunted society would have no rational reason to maintain an armaments industry whilst the aeroplane, that most profligate consumer of fuel, will have its wings clipped.

With a more decentralist, self-sufficient society the super-market, the hyper-market, the convenience foods and their concomitant factory farming would lose their reasons for existence and a more leisured society centered round the home would arise.

NEW POWER SOURCES

We have to research other sources of power which, whilst not so universally applicable or slickly convenient have a potential which has been neglected, abandoned or by-passed. For example there is methane, which opens up the whole idea of waste products. It is reported that the Russians (with no obvious petrol shortage) have introduced cars running on methane. Colchester sewage works (to name only one) is conveniently lighted by methane gas.

The whole grouping of tide, wind and water mills is available for the relatively clean and free utilization. We have technically advanced with storage batteries which will store up these mill-powered energies for later use.

It may seem a joke for Britain to use solar energy but with the same principle of storage, Joseph Lucas are marketing such equipment.

We may even discover the use of our feet again and not only for propelling bicycles.

BLESSINGS

What is certain, if we are to survive as an integrated society, is that the network of canals and old railway lines must be put back into circulation. The voluntary societies have done much and could show what could be done by the displaced labour which will follow such industrial scaling-down. Work too will be needful on the recycling of waste which will be so necessary.

There will be a necessity, due to lack of transport, for some work to transfer itself not only to the home but located nearer than at present. This will make it possible to integrate farm and workshop labour, since the farms too will be in need of manual labour for new methods of production away from ideas of factory farming.

Workers in the workshops will be available at harvest-time and thus develop a more healthy balanced work-pattern.

Time wasted on travelling to work and the production of useless products will be available for the pursuit of hobbies and one knows that a hobby can develop into a useful contribution to the community and society since at present, the majority of us do what we must do at work and what we want to do in our leisure.

The crazy market economics have brought home to many the necessity of growing their own food. The opportunist Daily Express has raised the moribund cry 'Dig for Victory'. With opportunity and leisure, and lack of some chemical fertilizers, it is possible that the great organic vs. inorganic controversy could be settled, once and for all.

Of course the bicycle will return, and even possibly the horse. The slower tempo of life will no doubt obviate the necessity for some of those oil-based pharmaceuticals which modern man finds so necessary to a tranquilized and barbituate existence.

Kropotkin's statistics on the contribution of Brighton's horses to Surrey's market-garden may have to be revised but the ferti-

Don't Rock the Boat

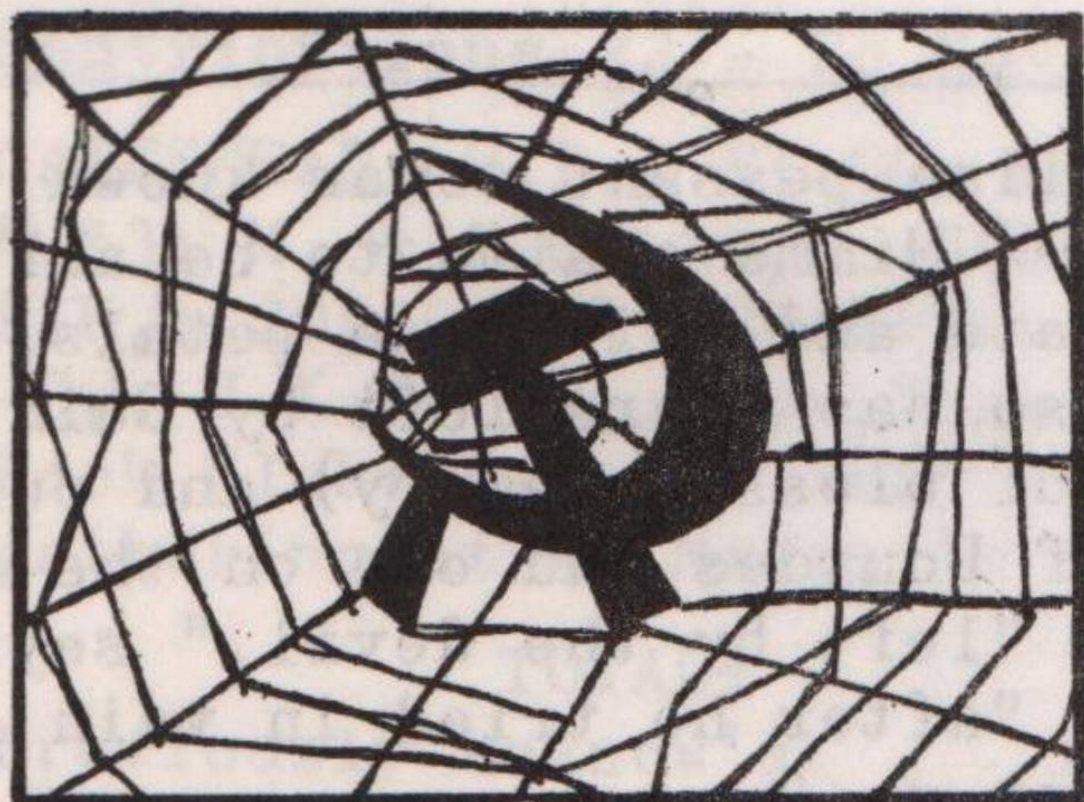
ACCORDING TO Mundo Obrero (17 Oct) organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Spain, representatives from the Communist Parties of Austria, Belgium, West Berlin, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, Gt. Britain, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, West Germany and an observer from the Dutch C.P held a series of meetings on the 27 and 28 September in Stockholm where they decided to arrange and publicise for January 1974 a conference of all the West European Communist Parties.

The items on the 1974 Commissars' agenda will be:

The actual crisis of capitalism in Europe. The action of the Communist Parties towards social progress, democracy, national independence, peace, socialism and the struggle for unity among working class and democratic forces.

The West European Commissars have also agreed to hold at the same time "colloquies and collective encounters" in order to discuss the following topics:

*The Monetary crisis
*new contents and forms of working class and popular struggles.



lizer salesmen always had their human competitors (did they but know it) and another pollution problem - of the beaches - could be solved.

All this, you may say, is speculative. That may be so, but we have an occasion - short of atomic war - for extrapolating the possibilities of a freer, decentralised society. It is possible that 'this is the way the world will end/not with a bang but a whimper' and a resourceless mankind may whimper to its end like a child deprived of its toys.

But this fuel situation must force us to rethink our position, our work, our travel to it, our housing, our food, our amusements, our hobbies and skills - or lack of them. We must seek for a new quality of life away from our dependence on power (of all kinds) to independence and interdependence which is real power.

Jack Robinson

*the immigrant workers in Europe
*today's situation of the intellectual in European capitalist societies and cultural freedom.

With so many important "commitments" in their 1974 agenda, do the western communist parties pose a serious threat to capitalism? Well, I suspect that Lenin's heirs are more interested in talking to each other (preaching to the converted...) about peripheral subjects than in giving a push to or leading the workers, victims of capitalist exploitation, towards a global confrontation against the bosses; a move which would leadership do it motivated by the belief that Bolshevik parties are part of the system, too respectable and too rich for their liking, always compromising with the bosses, governments and the military. All over Europe the embourgeoisement of the Communist parties is denounced by Maoists, Trotskyists and anarchists alike. But we anarchists differ in our critique from any Marxist groups, giving to our criticism a third dimension - the need to abolish any state and authority.

Anarchist slogans such as "No man is wise enough to be another man's leader" reflect our rejection of paternalistic attitudes toward the working class, generally embodied in the Marxist-Leninist philosophy, which more or less states that workers are too stupid to make a revolution (lack of class consciousness) and need a revolutionary workers party to lead them into it and finally to preserve the revolution through the existence of a socialist state. We say that no one has the right or the authority to dictate to workers how they should make a revolution. It is up to the workers themselves to decide when and how and what will be the shape of their revolution: we also say that any revolution will be incomplete if the problems of the oppressive nature of State and authority against society are not resolved by the workers themselves setting up an anarchistic society.

So it is not surprising to us not to see on the commissars' agenda for 1974 fundamental items such as: workers' self-management, individual freedom, freedom of assembly, sexual freedom, State capitalism, the class nature of a state, police, army, judiciary, and any other topic putting in question authoritarian society, be it capitalist, fascist or socialist. A full emancipation of the working class will not be achieved by preservation of dogmas, but only

certainly upset the cosy peaceful existence between East and West that allows capitalist and "socialist" states alike to enrich themselves at the expense of workers struggling for a living on both sides of the economic fence and especially in the 'third world'.

The fact that countries like Spain, Portugal, Greece, Turkey, and to a certain degree Northern and Southern Ireland impose on their working populations fascist methods of government, using political police, the army, a network of informers and the church to give continuity to inhuman and brutal regimes does not appear to bother the so-called champions and defenders of the international working class. For to free these victims of European fascism, the national communist parties would have to adopt independent lines of struggle and start speaking a revolutionary language unacceptable to their masters in Moscow. Instead, and under the guise of demagogic programmes like "The British Road to Socialism", workers all over Europe are disgracefully castrated of their revolutionary ideals and led into the path of obedience to dogmas and concepts of State socialism which are not in their authoritarian outlook radically different from those exploiting us today under capitalist rule.

To us anarchists, it is not surprising to learn that since the events in France of May 1968, more and more workers and young people are adopting direct action tactics such as factory occupation with attempts at self-management, squatting, army desertions, sabotage and daily defiance of capitalist laws. We can proudly say that anarchist have been in the forefront of these types of struggle, and those who today try to emancipate themselves over the heads of so-called working-class party when all dogmas (including anarchist dogmas if any do exist) - religious, political and economic - have been rejected by those governed and exploited by Capitalism or the State.

Obviously, discussion about the abovementioned topics would directly or indirectly criticise the Soviet Union; and as far as European Bolshevik parties are concerned Russia, motherland of socialism, is above criticism.

* * *

At this period of Chinese flirtation with the USA, Chile and many other "running dogs" regimes, I wonder what are the orders to European Maoists "emanating ideologically" from Peking. Would it be also "DON'T ROCK THE JUNK?"

Anarchists are not salesmen of Russian, Chinese or Albanian
continued on Page 3 col. 1

by Sam Cohen
Detroit

She's beautiful !

Blue jeans and boots, and words to match, she's a picture of sublime self-reliance, an image of Anarchism, a fireball of Freedom! She and I, in the campus restaurant, are over our second cup of coffee covering everything from the Chilean Coup through the Russian Revolution through the Stain of Statism through psychoanalysis through Wilhelm Reich.

In the course of the last two topics, she reveals seeing a psychiatrist. And aargh! Her beauty, to my eyes, is down a notch or two! Like I'm suddenly discovering Henry Thoreau high-tailing it to a shrink. Or in his day a priest. Her beamingly adding that it costs her, from some community setup, but \$2 a visit somehow doesn't bring back her original charm, not least when she adds, "What I'd ever do without my shrink, I don't know!"

I bring up this woman as illustration of a phenomenon I increasingly come by, a freedom-loving soul caught up in formal psychotherapy, buying it, and thinking nothing contradictory about it. Thinking, indeed, psychiatry as helping her find herself, her real being, and hence accentuate her freedom-bent. Whatever the analyst's particular orientation -- Freud, Gestalt, Drugging, Rational Therapy, etc. -- the goal is inner individual freedom, a richer personal life, personal fulfilment. Small wonder the Land of the Free took to Freud like a duck to water.

Yet what is psychiatry, what is Freud? What are all these modern psychotherapies? They are at-bottom, as psychiatrists themselves admit and indeed write books about, modes of adjustment. To, that is, the status-quo.

True that psychiatry may at one early-20th-century time have been an avenue to self-liberation. Freud himself, of this humanism, would be the best illustration. But that was the early Freud. The later one is into things like the death-wish, is telling us that humans are innately aggressive. So the trend of Freud, so the trend of psychiatry as such, from refreshing breaking-with-Victorian-voodoo-ism to contemporary neo-Victorian "adjustment".

To say "adjustment to the status-quo" is massive understatement. It is adjustment to State, to State psychology and mystique. Note, firstly, the analyst as State-licensed. This may seem trivial. Its implication is vast. One does not go about in opposition to that which gives him a licence to make a living, a sumptuous living at that! One who is State-licensed is pari passu 'statized'. He, however, subtly or inadvertently, will pass the statization onto his client.

Note, secondly, the hoops the client goes through to see the shrink, the one, two or several-week waiting period, the seeing first the receptionist, the waiting in the outer office. Is it much unlike the medieval serf, hat in hand, entering the domain of his lord and master? Except that the serf had to do it, had to bring him part of the crop. We moderns do it voluntarily, the crop in the form of dollar-bills.

We're at last in the inner sanctum. And there he is, O Wise One, O Expert, Specialist! There behind his desk, we in front. A picture of relations subordinate-superordinate. As though this weren't enough, we're soon, if he's psychoanalytically-oriented (as he often is), directed to a couch, there told to lie down, while he, notebook and pencil in hand, commences to pry into every facet of our lives.

! ! !

A child looks at a naked emperor and finds him just that, naked. Shouldn't we look at a note-taker and find him just that? Note-taking and prying into our private lives? Shouldn't we look at our couch-prostration and find it just that? Prostration before another person? Like an orthodox Moslem prostrating three times a day before Allah. Except that we're on our backs instead of bellies, with Allah the analyst himself.

Note, finally, that mostly is the shrink male, mostly the client female. Nor should it be surprising. Patriarchy does, 6000 years ago, emerge with State. (That women fall in love with their analyst is commonplace. To the point, not infrequently - as recent studies are indicating - of sex itself.)

As for alternatives to the analyst's office, I have no magic ones. Short of getting rid of the deadweight of 6000-year statism and authoritarianism (whose very suffocation drives people to a shrink, like medieval-feudal oppression drove people to a priest), I can only stress and re-stress individual and Thoreauvian self-reliance, self-responsibility. Plus perhaps the looking-into of sundry self-liberating ideas not found in the media or public schools, ideas like Natural Hygiene. (Natural

Hygiene and Anarchism are analogous. In Natural Hygiene the individual physical body is spontaneously self-regulating and requires no outside authority, MD-authority or otherwise. As in Anarchism the social body, society, is self-regulating and requires no outside authority, State-authority or otherwise.)

In the meanwhile, anybody seeing a psychiatrist, as goes the pun, ought to have his head examined. Doubly so for those whose flair is Freedom.

Four police officers have been expelled from a training programme at Fairfax, Virginia, USA and suspended for 10 days for allegedly stealing copies of their final exam answers.

*

Criticism is being made of U.S. Defence Dept. for giving 100 musicians an average bonus of £1,400 for re-enlistment in the army. It was claimed that such men possessed 'critical military skills' of vital importance in maintaining morale.

*

An Italian peasant woman known as Mamma Mimma claims to be able to create and spit rose petals. She also has scars left by Saint Rita (of blessed memory) and our lady of Lourdes and one on the breast "left by the devil," says Mamma, "after he tried in vain to tempt me."

The Lords, before Lord Hailsham, overruled an appeal by the prosecution against a verdict of the Court of Appeal that "A man who dishonestly handles a lorry load of corned beef which he believed to have been stolen but which had earlier ceased to be stolen goods (by virtue of section 23 (3) of the Theft Act 1968) because the police had taken them into lawful custody, cannot be guilty of the offence of attempting to handle stolen goods". Full Marks, Hailsham!

Ecologically sound, recyclable (& recycled except for dates) Anarchist Calendar 1974 with "Anarchik" cartoon and quotation from Walt Whitman. Kropotkin's Lighthouse publ. From Freedom Bookshop 10p + post 3p. Trade terms for bulk.

IN THE HANDS OF BIG BROTHER

...a prison experience

* * *

THE BIG GATES of Canterbury Prison clanged shut behind me. For a moment I forgot the handcuffs and the other prisoner I was shackled to. A short while before I had felt so cool -- myself. Now with the merciless swiftness of a sudden blow I was hit by a staccato of bullet-like impressions -- cell windows, tightlipped wardens, buildings, walls, locked doors, and, above all, bars, bars, bars.

My mind was reeling. Ideas, images, impressions swirled like crazed demons before the blurred vision of my mental eye, faster, faster...Nothing held. Two years in jail...Two years of this for possessing leaflets...It must be some terrible dream, a nightmare...It can't be true...it can't be true.

But it was true. It was no dream. This was cold and hard reality I was experiencing. For a few hours earlier at Maidstone Crown Court in Kent, England, I had been found guilty of possessing leaflets which called on British soldiers stationed in Ireland to desert their units there. And now I was in the iron grip of the black-hearted minions who so slavishly and servilely serve Big Brother in Britain.

Before that cool April day in 1972 I - in common with so many other people of conscience in Britain - was primarily concerned with the welfare of my fellow workers, the plight of the old-age pensioners and the homeless and of everyone else who knows at first hand what real hardship, suffering and misery is. But on the day I was jailed I entered an altogether new dimension of oppression in Britain, which had not been previously known to me. And I could hardly believe my ears and eyes, so great was the outright oppression, the brutality, the cunning, the doubletalk, the secret ways, the guilt, the treachery, the lies, the hypocrisy, and the corruption of the prison system's administrators on the one hand, and, on the other hand, the suffering, the anguish, the hardships and frustrations endured by men, most of whom were jailed (or were jailed when they first started their prison careers) for committing petty crimes which many members of the general public often commit but do not get found out - not to speak of those in high places who are up to their necks in corruption and racketeering and are forever getting away with it.

I spent most of my sentence at Chelmsford Prison. This is one of the less oppressive of British jails. The warders do not

get away with actual murder as they do in Wandsworth and certain other penal institutions. No, the resident doctor at Chelmsford Prison does not have to trouble himself with making out death-by-suicide certificates to cover up cold blooded murder or in having to account for multiple injuries on those prisoners lucky to be left alive by saying that 'restraining' force needed to be used or that black-and-blue and bloody victims had fallen down a flight of stairs while being dragged to the punishment block by their warder/boot-butchers.

No, Chelmsford Jail does not have a slippery stairway as does Wandsworth. For the repression at Chelmsford is not of the physical kind (though brutality against prisoners is not entirely unknown there). No, repression at Chelmsford is much more subtle -- that of the mind. At Chelmsford men are not broken physically: they are destroyed mentally.

To the ordinary visitor coming to see a prisoner, the jail at Chelmsford seems almost a pleasant place. This is the impression deliberately aimed at by the prison authorities. The newly-built front gate, and the green-carpeted visiting room with the air of a cafeteria could lead the casual visitor into believing that this particular jail is a model up-to-date 'correctional' institution embodying the latest ideas on penal reform.

But nothing could be further from the truth. Chelmsford is not just a whited sepulchre metaphorically speaking. For inside it is truly a tomb in the full literal sense of the word where men are sent to rot.

And rot they do in a place built to house prisoners as long ago as 1828 - in a place which still holds the old treadmill in its basement dungeons - in a place which is so dirty and insanitary that men sometimes have to queue up for their platefuls of hunger-killing carbohydrates in pools of urine and water (caused by the overflow of wholly inadequate early nineteenth century sewage and waste water disposal systems) - in a place where men are herded together in grossly overcrowded and degrading conditions which demoralise and dehumanise so many of those unfortunate enough to be incarcerated there - where prisoners are forced to work for a few pence a week, producing a variety of goods from pot scourers to laundry bags for sale to the general public, including trade-unionists, who seem generally unaware that most of the price

they pay goes into the huge pocket of the prison system or the even bigger pockets of British capitalists - and, finally, in a place where the prison administration, though well weighed down by a ball-and-chain mentality, is very quick and adept at covering up both this and the fact that its members draw fat salaries from public funds not for doing the job they are supposed to be doing, i.e., rehabilitating prisoners and looking after their wellbeing (since they are prevented from doing anything for themselves) but for doing exactly the opposite in a shameful and irresponsible way.

In this necessarily short press release I have no space for details. But I can prove every allegation I have made in the foregoing, and in the future I shall present this proof. However, it is not my intention just to make a few revelations and leave things at that. Far from it. At the moment the great and terrible machine of repression which is the British Prison System continues with unrelenting vigour to grind its great army of victims into physical or mental pulp. It is the task of all those with a conscience to struggle against this evil monster and to eventually destroy such a maling thing in our midst.

With this aim in mind I am asking all those prisoners and ex-prisoners who have been or continue to be the victims of cruel, brutal and degrading treatment in British prisons to contact me personally by letter at the following address: (Michael Tobin), P.O. Box 10638, Amsterdam, Holland.

When I was in jail Amnesty International adopted me as a prisoner of conscience. Now that I am free again the same conscience that caused me to be locked up in the first place demands that I work for the welfare of my suffering fellows behind bars.

Michael Tobin
(September 1973)

The Sunday Telegraph congratulates the Bishop of London for appointing one of his prebendaries to be diocesan adviser on exorcism. Since Satan has hit on the highly successful strategy to "spread the comfortable notion that he does not exist, thereby tempting the ordinary Christian to lower his spiritual guard".

*

Bailiffs supported by 30 police broke through barricades to evict squatters from Church Commissioners' property in Formosa Street, Paddington.

*

FORD WORKERS
TO SUPPORT TENANTS ?

IN FREEDOM 17 November it was explained that tenants from Tower Hill (Kirkby, near Liverpool) had to appear at the Liverpool County Court on 22nd November for being on total rent strike and for refusing to appear at court on 22nd October. They once again defied the courts by refusing to appear on 22nd November.

The twelve couples who were to appear before the court are carrying out the tenants' policy which is non-attendance of the courts. When the names of the tenants were called out in court all was quiet as no one stepped forward to let the court know that they were present. On seeing this, Judge Joseph Davies made out arrest warrants. These are in the hands of the chief bailiff, and 15 tenants subsequently received letters from the court stating that unless they attended the court on 30th November the women would be committed to Risley Remand Centre and the men to Walton Jail, for contempt of court.

Some of the warrants apply to both husbands and wives. The Tenants' Action Group is seeking to rally the sympathy it has gained among local trade unionists and is asking for industrial action in the event of jailings. In the meantime some of the threatened families have been taken into hiding by other tenants. The Shop Stewards' Committee at Ford's Halewood plant has pledged that if arrests are made they will recommend strike action to the shop floor.

A Correspondent.

THANKS !

Dear Comrades,

I would like to thank the comrades who were at the A.F.B. Conference in Leicester on November 24/25 for the donations they gave to me for the Tower Hill Un-fair Rent Action Group, which amounted to £7.76.

Many thanks, comrades.

Andy McGowan.

FRIDAY 14th Dec. Campaign on Race, Education, IQ etc.

Meeting 8 p.m. at Steven Rose's 108 Regents Park Road, N.W.1. (722 1541). Subject: Further planning for public meeting on the issue. (Chalk Farm sta.)

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IN BRIEF

The inhabitants of what was once Whiteway Colony, near Stroud, Gloucestershire (where FREEDOM, in one of its incarnations, was produced in the Twenties and Thirties; and where Tom Keele - editor - and Lilian Wolfe his companion lived, Lilian up to the Sixties) have refused (says the Guardian) to have a sewage system - 'connected' no doubt.

*

A British firm has refused to supply a Dutch firm with leather because they had learned (through a Dutch anti-apartheid organization) that the finished products were going to Rhodesia.

*

IRA car bombers given savage sentences have been on hunger-strike mainly on grounds that they wish to be treated as political prisoners (an un-British category; the Government pretends it has none) and wish to be transferred to Irish prisons. Their relatives kept a twenty-four hour fast outside the Home Office; an additional grievance of theirs is that they have not been told - on supposed security grounds - where the prisoners are being held and so no visits are possible.

*

Owing to a labour dispute at Kodak's film laboratories at Hemel Hempstead since mid-September, about one million films are awaiting processing; mainly films taken by holiday-makers. Thus another joy of Christmas is menaced.

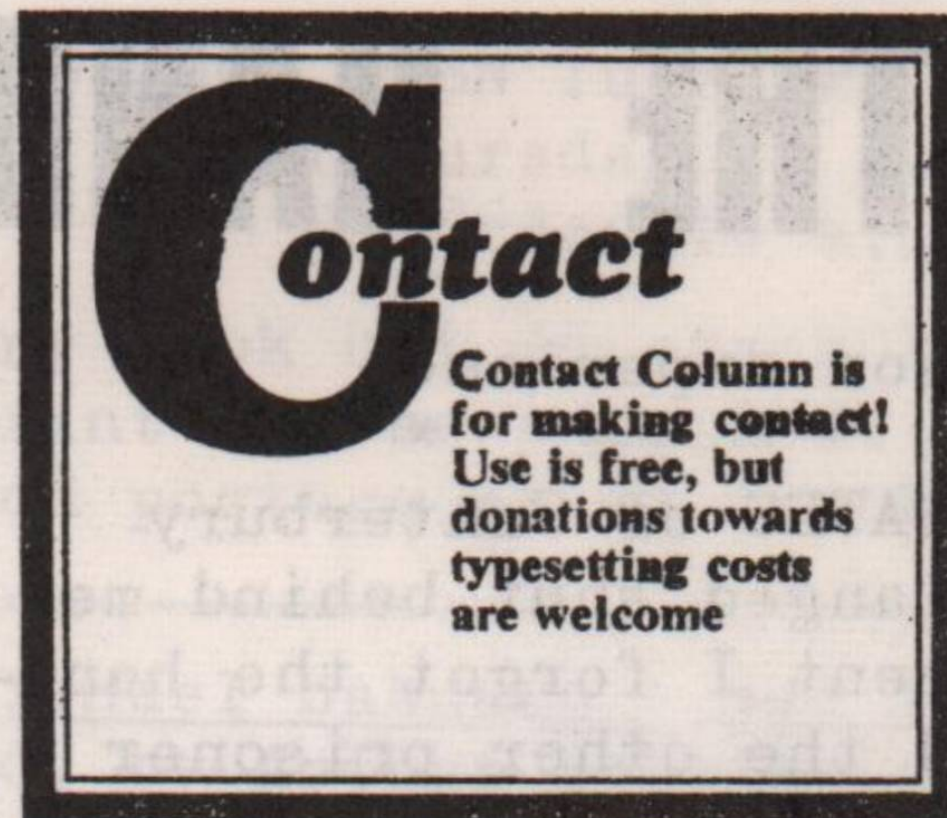
*

It is thought by the Daily Telegraph's Scotland Yard correspondent that the next negotiations by the police for a pay rise will be on the 'Phase Three 'unsociable hours' clause.

IRELAND...contd. from P. 1

In fact, principled opposition to capitalism is probably limited to educational and defensive measures in the Irish context as well as solidarity with and encouragement to the small developments of workers' unity. An interesting recent example of this which has been ignored in the British press (both establishment and lefty) was the action of Newry postmen and telephonists in stopping work and refusing to go back until a fellow postman who was kidnapped, was released by the Provos. After more than a week on strike they were successful and the postman was released unharmed by his friendly neighbourhood Provos. (Reported in the Belfast Telegraph 24.11.73) Happily, spontaneous demonstrations like this are more common than are reported over here and it is really to the escalation of these acts that we have to look for a real working class opposition to the barbarism of the whole spectrum of Irish politics.

Roy Willis.



THURSDAYS from 2 pm onwards. Help fold and despatch FREEDOM at Freedom Press

ANARCHIST WOMEN'S GROUP meets every Monday evening. Telephone 883 2457 for details.

CORBY ANARCHISTS. Discussion mtg. first Friday every month at 7 Cresswell Walk, 7.30 p.m.

LIVERPOOL ASA contact May Stone C.32 Summerfield, Tower Hill, Kirkby, near Liverpool.

LONDON ASA for details of mtgs. phone 226-0817.

INDUSTRIAL NETWORK contact W.Allin c/o 9 Wood Road, Manchester 16

INT. LIBERTARIAN CENTRE/CENTRO IBERICO 83A Haverstock Hill, NW3 tel.586-2038. Sats. & Suns.7.30 pm

IRISH LIBERTARIAN SOCIALIST FED. write New Earth, 112 Thomas St. Dublin 8

SOME LONDON ANARCHISTS meet socially Sundays 7.30 pm at Finch's, The One Tun, Goodge St. W.1. (don't ask at bar).

New York: LIBERTARIAN BOOK CLUB 1974 Lectures: Thurs. 7.30 p.m. Workmen's Circle Center, 369 8th Ave. (SW corner 29 St.) admission free. Jan 24: Julian Beck & Judith Malina "The Living Theatre" Feb. 14: IWW N.Y. Branch "LIP and Workers' Control."

VLADIMIR BUKOVSKY will pass another Xmas and another birthday in prison this year. Picket at Soviet Embassy to remember him & family. Hope you can stop by during the day of Sunday, December 30. (David Markham)

GREEK ARTS THEATRE Fri, 7 & Sat. 8 Dec. at 8 p.m. Hampstead Theatre Club (Swiss Cott. tube) an English adaptation to today's fascist Greece of Sophocles' "Antigone". Tickets 50p.

STOKE NEWINGTON FIVE SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE is at 54 Harcombe Rd. London, N. 15. GIOVANNI MARINI Defence Committee write Antonio Centurini, Casella Postale 163, Salerno, Italy RELEASE MARTIN SOSTRE COMMITTEE - new group to co-ordinate activities in Britain. Enquiries, correspondence etc. to the above at 83a Haverstock Hill, London NW3 BELFAST TEN DEFENCE COMMITTEE 88 Roslyn Road, London, N.15.

A LIMITED SUPPLY of photo-copies first issue of FREEDOM - October 1886 - at Freedom Bookshop. Price "at least" 20p inc. post.