



C★OUNTER INFORMATION

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JUNE 18th 1999

JUNE 18 1999 is when the G8 summit of the richest states meets in Koln, Germany, to forward the interests of global capitalism. It is also the time when people across the globe will come together to challenge the root of our social oppression and the destruction of the environment - global capitalism.

June 18 will see actions world-wide in financial centres, banking districts and at multinationals offices - including in the City of London.

Environmentalists, workers, the unemployed, indigenous peoples, peasants' groups, women's networks, the landless and many more will act together against the exploitation of people and the planet for the profit of a few.

ACTION ACROSS INDIA

DIRECT ACTION by groups like subsistence farmers, fisherfolk, sweat-shop workers, women's groups and villagers is sweeping India. Their targets are the multinationals, the World Trade Organisation, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank - and the Indian authorities.

Structural adjustment and neo-liberal reform have made the rich richer and the poor poorer. Hundreds of desperate peasant farmers have committed suicide.

Struggles include

- A fishing union strike, with harbour blockades against industrial over-fishing
- A *Cremate Monsanto* action last November when genetically modified crops were burned
- Farmers India-wide forming

collective seed banks to resist the multinationals patenting seeds, forcing peasants to buy from them

- Opposition to patenting seeds and plants has twice stopped the Patent Amendment Act being passed
- In January the National Alliance of Peoples Movements protested in Multai, Madhya Pradesh against police killing 24 peasant farmers
- Direct action against building dams which submerge villages. Thousands, mainly women, have invaded the construction site of the Maheshwar dam. Women, often at the forefront of direct action in India, have faced beatings, arrests and

gang rape by police.

200 grass roots organisations formed the National Alliance of Peoples Movements in 1993, and 55 farm and labourers unions created the Joint Forum of Indian People Against Globalisation in 1998.

TIED TO A TREE

One very active group is the 10 million-strong Karnataka State Farmers Association (KRSS). Although they do contest elections, and can be criticised for including some larger farmers who employ land labourers, KRSS carry out very positive activities such as :

action against institutional racism. Hypocrites! New Labour legislation includes:

- forcing refugees to live in particular areas
- ending appeals against deportation for those in Britain over 7 years
- giving the immigration service police powers
- extending immigration detention
- more internal immigration controls
- withdrawing benefits and substituting vouchers. And all this for people facing deportation to danger and repression!

CONTINUED FOOT BACK PAGE



like it's 1999!

Global Contacts for 18 June and beyond

India KRSS 2111,7-A Cross, 3rd Main, Vijayanagar 2ndStage, Bangalore 50 040

swamy.krrs@aworld.net Peoples Global Action pga@agp.org

UK Reclaim the Streets PO Box 9656 London N4 4JY <http://www.gn.apc.org/rts/01712814621>

rtts@gn.apc.org (new leaflet available) Germany Koln 99 Alliance Koeln99@gmx.net USA ban@tao.ca

Nigeria oilwatch@infoweb.abs.net Indonesia N. Sumatra Peasant Union putratan@indosat.net.id Plus more from RTS

500 PEOPLE from India, Bangladesh and South America are organising activities throughout Europe in the run-up to the June 18 actions.

This Intercontinental Caravan, co-ordinated through Peoples Global Action, has participants from India - the BKU Peasants Union in 10 states, anti nuclear activists, indigenous people, landless, people resisting the Narmada dam - plus the MST landless movement (Brazil), Mothers of the Disappeared (Argentina), and the womens peasant movement from Bangladesh. Half the Caravan are in London from 27 - 30 May.

The Indian participants state that the current global crisis provides "a unique opportunity for people to reclaim their future, to disobey the institutions that run the current, self-destructive system of global economic, political and military governance, and to take their own power in their hands in order to construct a different world."

Our resistance is as transnational as capital

- Forbidding government officials to enter villages without their permission - many officials who ignored this ban were tied to a tree
- 1000 activists occupied the Cargill company office in Bangalore, making a bonfire of the equipment
- Using iron bars to physically dismantle one of Cargill's seed units
- Occupying Kentucky Fried Chicken and destroying the equipment
- A mass gathering outside the Karnataka state government when the entire crowd laughed all day at the government's policies
- Uprooting environmentally-unfriendly Eucalyptus seedlings and replacing them with local trees - they successfully stopped a national eucalyptus planting programme
- Challenging patriarchy. Women have their own structures and mobilisations within KRSS, organise women's rallies, present their own demands etc

Ultimately KRSS want the "Village Republic", based on direct democracy, with all participating in decision-making, and affairs affecting several communities decided by all communities affected.

CLOSE THE PRISONS OPEN THE BORDERS

MUCH MILEAGE has been made about "illegal" immigrants being "economic migrants" rather than true "asylum seekers". Immigration officials have the power to decide who is a "genuine immigrant". Apart from the sheer arrogance of anyone telling you where and when you can live, and the myth that political borders exist to

protect the citizens within them - the whole idea of 'immigrants' is a con of modern global capitalist economics and old expansionist colonialism.

In the UK refugees face having their already reduced rights diminished even further. After the Inquiry into the racist murder of Stephen Lawrence the government have been promising



Millions for Mumia

THE WORLD-WIDE movement to save framed US activist Mumia Abu-Jamal from execution is growing.

Two Millions for Mumia mobilisations are planned for 24 April, in his home town Philadelphia and in San Francisco, to demand a new trial. In Britain solidarity action has been taken in Edinburgh, London, Manchester, etc..

Mumia has campaigned tirelessly against racism and oppression since joining the Black Panther Party at the age of 14. He has been on death row for 16 years since being framed for the murder of a policeman after a rigged trial.

On 29 October he was refused the right to have an appeal heard. This means Pennsylvania governor Tom Ridge could now sign the death warrant setting an execution date.

Write State Governor Tom Ridge,

We Shell Not Be Moved

OIL GIANT Royal Dutch / Shell, backers of the military crackdown in Nigeria's Niger-Delta responsible for over 200 deaths in the recent weeks, was host to some unwelcome first-footers on 4 Jan. 13 protestors seized 2 senior manage-

ment offices and the corporate library of the London premises, Shell-Mex House, while on nearby Waterloo bridge a banner read "Shell: Filthy Theiving Murderers - It's Time to Go" and hourly updates of proceedings appeared on the web. The activists repeated the demands of the Ijaw people - whose actions, at times, have cut Nigeria's oil output by over a third - that Shell pull out of the Delta by Jan 11 and end all oil exploration. The occupation was evicted by the TSG riot police but all 13 were released without charge following their arrests. The next day the invaders returned to leaflet Shell employees.

Defend Michal

A CZECH class struggle anarchist, Michal Patera is being threatened with a 25 year prison sentence after he shot a known neo-nazi in self defence. The Czech support group are severely short of funds and request help with donations to mount Michal's defence. Letters of support: Michal Patera (1976), PO Box 5, 14057 Praha 4, Czech Republic.

Letters of support and donations: FSA Praha, PO Box 5, 15006 Praha 56, Czech Republic 'sam20uj@axpsu.fp.slu.cz' or SF International Secretariat, PO Box 1681, London N8 7LE.

As long as Workers are exploited and oppressed there will be...



WORKING CLASS RESISTANCE!

State Capitol Building, Rm 225, Harrisburg, PA 17120, USA fax 001 717 783 4429. Write Mumia Abu-Jamal, AM8335, SCIGreene, 1040 East Roy Furman Highway, Waynesburg, PA. 15370. Leaflets from 0171 326 0353 & 0131 557 6242 (UK). Latest info www.mumia.org

REAL POWER FROM BELOW !

Devolved assemblies & parliaments, with varying political power, are being set up for Northern Ireland, London, Wales & Scotland. On 6th May elections to the Scottish parliament and Welsh assembly will be held.

It is too easy for radicals to adopt 'I told you so' attitude and emphasise the global forces without any local presence to back their arguments up. Assent for a Scottish Parliament was overwhelming and draws on a cultural identity, that despite being distorted, expresses real aspirations. These are mainly expressed in a need to participate in a civic sense and take responsibility for the world we live in. There is a consensus that what passes for local and national government is bankrupt, as it reinforces a sense of social exclusion from decision-making.

These aspirations are interpreted by politicians to suit their own agendas. They supposedly 'represent' electorates & the public mood. In reality, with few exceptions, they subordinate this role to a career within the political system. Parties aim to win power through being electorally acceptable. They therefore exist to manipulate popular aspirations within the 'pragmatic' reality of the world-as-we-know-it. In Scotland the radical opposition to so-called 'Thatcherism' in the '80s, has not been totally blown away by 'New Labour's' audacious pro-capitalist policies.

BRAVE NEW WORLD

Much of the distrust of Tony's 'brave new world' is expressed in support for the S.N.P. or in 'maverick' old style Labourism for personalities like Dennis Canavan. However, many Scots see beyond the 'trust in us to provide' from above attitude of Labour & the Unions. New means to channel such aspirations are already being created through the Scottish Civic Forum, intended to exist 'below' the Parliament in order to clamour for participation & accountability. This development mirrors past movements in 'enlightened' nationalism [Slovenia, Estonia etc.]. A leftist alternative to Labour, comes from previously fragmented support for the Scottish Socialist Party, seeking to utilise the new proportional 'Party list' 2nd vote, with a mandate to pressurise the Parliament to 'save jobs'. But in truth both these developments are a denial of global economic reality.

Devolution is part of a move towards a 'Europe of the Regions'. This illustrates the system's need for new political legitimacy at a governmental level far below European Community, the G8 group of 'rich nations' and the economic leverage of multinationals in a global economy. Such 'empowerment' is an illusion unless it links with global anti-capitalist resistance. The examples of southern India & Chiapas in Mexico, and the direct action and solidarity worldwide gives us a glimpse of 'self-determination' not led into a 'national' & parliamentary cul-de-sac !

[send SAE for 'Declaration of Autonomy' text circulated with Glasgow April 3-4 event, see Glasgow Get Involved Back-Page.]



A WORLD TO WIN

THE FLAG WITH THE HOLE

ON 18 & 21st January 15,000 Romanian miners, who had marched 90 miles towards Bucharest in protest at pit closures and low wages, clashed with police who used helicopters and tear gas. Locals joined forces with the miners who had national flags with symbolic holes. An agreement was reached with the government & the march called off as the strikewave spread. On 15.2.99 a miners leader was jailed for 18 years.

SATURDAY MOTHERS

SINCE 1995, the relatives of the 1000's of people who have "disappeared" in the brutal repression of Kurdish and Turkish opposition groups have been holding weekly vigils in Istanbul. In recent months, while the disappearances continue, the peaceful protests of the "Saturday Mothers" have been attacked by the British-trained police, with harassment and mass arrests. Turkish and Kurdish community centres in London have suffered increasing police harassment and the new "Terrorism and Conspiracy" Act may criminalise political campaigning by the exiled communities. Vigils in support of the "Saturday Mothers" are held outside Wood Green library every 2nd Sat. of the month from 2.30-4pm. International Committee Against Disappearances, ICAD (British Section), PO Box 8446, London N17 6NZ.

AXMED NOT FORGOTTEN

100s OF people marched in Edinburgh to mark the 10th anniversary of the racist murder of Axmed Abukar Sheekh, a Somali refugee, who was stabbed in the city's Cowgate by a gang of racist thugs. Only one of the accused spent a paltry 21 months in jail.

NOTICE TO QUITO

5 CONSECUTIVE days of demonstrations throughout Ecuador have shown strong opposition to the government's economic policies. Students clashed with police at the Central University of Quito on 14 Jan. * **PEASANTS & WORKERS SEE RED** POLICE KILLED one protestor & injured 100 as 3000 peasants demonstrated in the Chinese province of Daolin Hunan against rises in local taxes & corruption in the bureaucracy. (Umanita Nova * 31.1.99) On Oct 21, 100s of workers from the state-owned Peijiang iron and steel factory in Jiangyou, Sichuan Province clashed with over a 100 police while protesting over unpaid wages. 500 had occupied a station on the Baocheng railway line disrupting trains for 4 hours. Thousands of villagers facing relocation in a DAM project from the River Yangze in China to militarised slave labour are threatening violence & resistance if their petitions go unheard.

LAND AND FREEDOM

2000 LANDLESS workers have occupied the Bacuri estate, near Belem in Brazil. The occupation, organised through the Movimento Sem Terra, aims to force the government to sign over the land to the workers. Meanwhile, Sem Terra launched an appeal in December for international solidarity far political prisoners in Brazil on hunger strike. (Umanita Nova 6,13.12.98) <http://www.geocities.com/CapitolHill/Congress/5383> e-mail: semterra@mst.org

G-REED GUBBED

OFFICES of recruitment agency Reed have been plastered with posters denouncing their profiteering participation in running the New Deal in London. 23-25 October saw giant GREED posters cover 15-20 London offices plus Brighton, Edinburgh, Manchester and Sheffield offices. Just before Xmas Brighton Reeds was occupied by protesting claimants.

Now government legislation aims to introduce compulsory jobseeking interviews for many disabled and single parent claimants plus other cuts. Brighton residents showed their opposition when a visit by Employment Service Chief Executive Leigh Lewis was disrupted by 30 demonstrators. As protesters moved to accompany Mr Lewis into West Street Job Centre for constructive discussions, cops assaulted and arrested people.

Anti Reed leaflets from Haringey Solidarity Group 0181 374 5027 (see p4). Brighton against Benefit Cuts, PO Box 2356, Brighton BN2 6LX

WORKERS GIVE ETT LALDY

ALL ROUND the Spanish State people are resisting the exploiting temporary job agencies - known as ETTs. Flyposting, glued locks, occupations and molotovs have hit many ETTs since December.

ETT jobs have very low wages, no employment rights, no Unions, no sick pay, no holidays....Now the anarcho syndicalist CNT and other collectives are fighting back.

On 18 December CNT Valencia and others occupied a local ETT, emptying rubbish containers all over the office. Police repression has followed - CNT members were remanded in custody for a month and face possible prison sentences.

CNT, c/Cuena 80-2, Valencia, Spain

SHELTER FOR ALL

THE Ontario Coalition Against Poverty have occupied an empty Toronto hospital to demand homeless shelters, picketed the home of a welfare manager who threatened a family with eviction, successfully defended the right of homeless people to sleep in a park (occupying the park all night despite being outnumbered by cops), and organized a huge march which thwarted a planned bill to outlaw squeegee youth and beggars. Most local businesses have been scared out of involvement in work-fare. The 10 Feb. Day of Action against homelessness saw riot police confront 250 demonstrators at the Canadian Parliament in Ottawa while 50 people occupied Revenue Canada offices in Vancouver. OCAP, 249 Sherbourne, Toronto (ocap@tao.ca)

NO MEAN FIAT

WORKERS at Fiat, Turin struck in November and December against lay-offs, increases in over-time, worsening conditions and holiday cuts. The Italian car plant, is once more seeing a presence of workers self-organisation through grass-roots unions.

(Umanita Nova, C.so Palermo 46, 10152 Torino, Italy. fat@inrete.it)

BULLIES ON THE WEB

As we go to press legal action is being threatened by the Employment Service over Edinburgh Claimants web site - apparently due to the 3 Strikes activity of naming and photographing bullying Edinburgh dole officials like Marianne MacDonald and Alastair Mathieson.

This attempt to stop claimants resistance will fail. The new site will be found via <http://burn.ucsd.edu/~lothian/> For latest info + to report dole bullies ec@punk.org.uk c/o 17 W. Montgomery Pl., Edinburgh EH7 5HA 0131 557 6242

Children of the Revolution

THE last few months have seen strikes and demonstrations by school students in France, Greece and Italy. On 15 October 20,000 students demonstrated in Paris during a national day of action which ended in riots, with students overturning vehicles and setting light to shops. Hundreds of thousands marched throughout France. The students were demonstrating against an over-centralised school system which has seen thousands of children without subject teachers and in massive classes.

A few weeks later, unpopular education reforms in Greece saw strikes and violent clashes with police by Greek school students, teachers and parents. Inspired by the struggles in France, protests spread across the country, with school occupations becoming the standard method of protest. By Christmas over half the schools in Greece were occupied.

Arrogant Greek Education Minister Arsenis refused to listen to students' concerns. There were

spectacular demonstrations on 15 and 21 January, with tens of thousands in the streets in Athens, Salonika, Patras etc.. Students also perfected their road blocking techniques, causing daily collapse in the country's already overcharged road system.

Now barricades are in place at most state schools. The struggle is being described as the "children's revolution".

In Italy strikes, demonstrations and occupations are opposing a proposal to give private Catholic schools the same access to public funding as state schools. This would cut the resources available for state education, and also increase the power of the Church over the young. In late November many schools in Milan were occupied and being run in a self-managed way.

Info • Student Activist Network <http://www.ainfos.ca/~students/> • Umanita Nova • UK - contact Angry Youth 0131 557 6242 (see p4)

WORLD WITHOUT BORDERS

BORDERS BOOKSTORE who have recently opened stores in central London, Glasgow and Melbourne are the target of a worldwide campaign by the Industrial Workers of the World Union.

Borders are well known in the USA for their anti-union activity and harassment of staff who attempt to unionise shops. Their protest attracts diverse support from the likes of Noam Chomsky, Philadelphia City Council and the

US National Writers' Union all of whom have attacked Borders' behaviour towards unions.

Borders issue their managers with a Union Awareness Training Manual which includes headings such as 'What Can Be Done to Avoid Unionization in My Store?' and 'Recognizing the Early Signs of Union Activity'. The manual can be viewed at the Borders Cyberpicket website

<http://parsons.iww.org/~borders/>



A HOT WINTER

IN France the unemployed are fighting for total reform of the benefits system, with benefits for under 25s and a guaranteed minimum income.

50 towns have seen actions, including collective expropriations - taking goods free - in supermarkets.

20,000 marched in Marseilles on 3 December. Occupations of Socialist Party, employers association and benefit offices followed. Marseilles council was

forced to grant 10,000 emergency payments.

Hundreds occupied the AXA insurance company HQ and the Stock Exchange Commission in Paris on the 21 December National Day of Action.

In Nancy the unemployed held a successful 12 hour blockade on 26 December to support striking bus workers, formulating joint demands for new permanent jobs and free travel for the unemployed and low paid temporary workers.

Info NEUAG@aol.com CNT, 33 Rue des Vignoles. 75020 Paris

WORKERS SOLIDARITY

Library Workers Dispute

IN January Glasgow Council workers voted to increase their UNISON union subscriptions to sustain the two-year library workers dispute over cuts in their conditions and working hours. However, the Labour Controlled Council is refusing to collect the increased subscriptions.

In a second blow National Union persuaded the local branch to re-ballot the library workers over the latest, and no better, management offer. Workers were shocked when, without any campaign for a yes vote, the ballot paper also asked if they were prepared to take all out indefinite strike action. A letter from national Union official Smith undermining the present action accompanied the ballot paper. The local branch has managed to abort this, and a new ballot will be run.

Is it any surprise that the attempts to undermine industrial action come in the run up to the Scottish Parliament Elections in May?

"We're all part of the Union..?"

IT was a cold & damp[dreich] morning, but February 2nd was different. 30 pickets huddled on a pavement, the Glasgow City Union banner propped up against a wall. The pickets are drawn from the thousands of Glasgow social work staff who walked out on illegal strike [see C151] last August. The effects of the strike which ended after the Labour Council used Tory legal powers to obtain an interdict, are still being felt.

The picket comes to life. Matt Smith, a Unison regional officer is flanked by two police. But far from coming in solidarity, Smith is being protected from his own irate members. The Union hierarchy are investigating 'strike leaders' such as Roddy Slorach, vilified in the press for daily strike mass meetings. Smith, and General Secretary Bickerstaffe are attempting to marginalise 'militant' activists from a discontented workforce. They are puppets of the ruling class.

Hillingdon Victory

21 STRIKERS at Hillingdon Hospital, Middlesex have won their 3-year fight, after an industrial tribunal ruled that they should be reinstated and given compensation. The strike began after private contractor Pall Mall won the contract to provide domestic services to the hospital and imposed a 20% pay cut and reductions in holidays and sick pay. Despite losing strike pay from their union, Unison, which urged them to settle the 'unwinnable' dispute, the women fought on and, in October, were rewarded with £11,300 compensation and their jobs back. The struggle isn't over, however, as Granada Healthcare Services, which took over the contract, is refusing to reinstate the women and is appealing against the tribunal's decision. Contact: Hillingdon Hospital Workers, c/o 27 Townsend Way, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 1TG; tel: 0956 135311

tales of resistance

People resist oppression every day.
We welcome more first-hand accounts.

NEW DEAL = NAE DEAL

I CLAIM Job Seekers Allowance. I was asked to attend a New Deal interview on my usual signing on day. I was sent a letter telling me to go to the second floor (Torphichen St. bru, Edinburgh) to be interviewed by my New Deal adviser, Louise Curnyn.

I ignored the letter and went to my usual signing on point on the first floor. There, I was told of the interview. I asked if it was compulsory, the claimant adviser lied to me and said it was compulsory for the over-twentyfives if they'd been signing on for more than two years.

I had to attend the interview as I would be signed on there. Before Ms. Curnyn could launch into her spiel I informed her that New Deal wasn't compulsory for the over-twentyfives and I just wanted to sign on. She got flustered and asked me if I knew what it was about. I told her I wasn't interested but if it was compulsory I would do it and if not I wouldn't. I also informed her that I'd completed my Jobseeker's Agreement for that week and only wanted my giro.

BATTERED

She exploded- she battered her hand off the computer monitor and said "Two jobs- you've only applied for two jobs- ever!" I told her I didn't want to talk to her and demanded she get me the manager. She stormed off.

The assistant manageress came over and asked if I would accompany her into her office. I agreed. She brought over my signing on book. She informed me that New Deal was not compulsory for the over-twenty fives. I told her I knew that and complained about my treatment by my lying claimant advisor and the angry Louise Curnyn.

The assistant manageress tried to reassure me that New Deal was a good thing and nothing like Project Work (last year's joke!). She then focused on my Jobseeker's Agreement and asked if I thought it was still valid. She even suggested that I might benefit from a computer course at Lauder college- the Jobplan Workshop college!

It was beginning to remind me of a restart interview so I stopped her and asked to sign on, stating that I'd completed my Jobseeker's Agreement for that week. She let me sign on and as I was walking out she said that New Deal may become compulsory later in the year- can't wait.

• New Deal leaflet, and MPs letter stating New Deal is not compulsory for over 25s, from Edinburgh Claimants 0131 557 6242 (see Get Involved)

No Mine, No Yours

SCOTTISH COAL have submitted planning applications to extract a total of 18m tonnes of coal from open cast sites at Broken Cross Muir and Glentagart, of 504 & 1300 hectares respectively, both in South Lanarkshire, already home to the massive 1028 hectare Dalquhady mine.

A government commissioned study into opencast mining says: "Scotland has the capacity ... to produce...9 million tonnes per annum". The privately owned

Scottish Coal has 11 opencast sites and major shareholder, Ross Harper, is an old chum of Secretary of State, Donald Dewar. He has the final say, so the outcome seems clear: without major opposition, more land will be destroyed for private gain and at massive environmental and social cost. Act now.

Scottish Opencast Action Group, 42 Wolfords, Cobbinshaw by West Calder, EH55 8LH and Broken Cross Action Group, San Rianda, Devonburn Road, Lesmahagow, ML11 9PX

attempt to deport 2 Angolan families has failed. The Haggerston School Two were supported by school friends and the National Union of Teachers.

Following the Belgium police suffocating 20 year old Nigerian Semiru Adamn while forcibly deporting her in September, the 4000,000-strong international Transport Workers Federation, has called upon its members to refuse to co-operate with inhuman forcible deportations.

National Coalition of Anti Deportation Campaigns c/o 101 Villa Rd Birmingham B21 1NH 0121 554 6947 ncad@ncadc.demon.co.uk

CONT. FROM PAGE ONE

But these deportations and racist attitudes have been challenged across Europe.

A national demo against the new immigration legislation was planned for London on 27 February.

The Sans Papiers immigrants' movements in France and Belgium called an international day of action against detention centres for immigrants on 23 January. 20,000 marched in Milan, Italy plus demos in Turin and Livorno.

The British government's

On the barricades

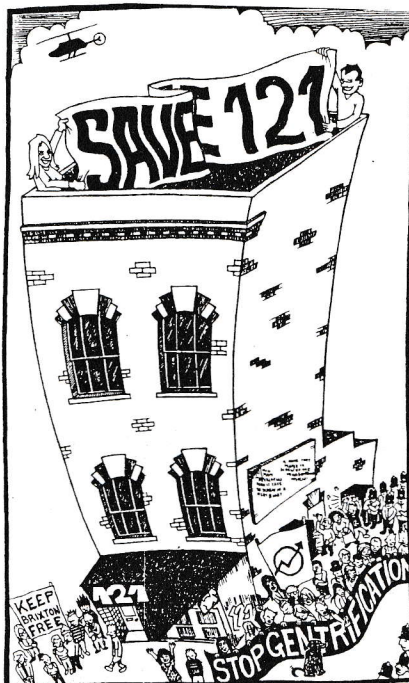
ON 8 February supporters of the squatted 121 Centre in Brixton, London barricaded Railton Road to resist eviction and the "yuppification" of their neighbourhood. The police were short-handed against 80+ demonstrators, huge puppets, a sound system and local support. That same day squatters stormed the town hall, emptying the files of Council leader Jim Dickson.

Since 1981 the 121 has been used as an anarchist centre for info, advice, food and events. The eviction of 121 is part of a larger attempt by Lambeth Council and property developers to gentrify Brixton, making it "safe" for the middle class and tourists. Squats

have been evicted, rents/house prices have skyrocketed, pushing people out of the area, and many community services face closure.

121 says: "If people get together and stand up for ourselves we can force them to back down... all the spaces we use - from pubs to street corners to community centres - are under attack. Despite big differences, as people we have a lot in common and the power to make life hard for the authorities who want to run our lives."

Solidarity to 121 Centre, 121 Raiton Rd, London SE24 OLR. 0171 978 8214 / 274 6655 mark261@hotmail.com <http://i.am/121centre> or E-protest Dickson jdickson@lambeth.gov.uk



GET INVOLVED !

• Scottish anarchist network- Glasgow contacts radfest@yahoo.com or write C.info (autonomy) as below (also the contact for 3-4 April Glasgow Conference on resistance to global capitalism)- Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh / Edinburgh Claimants / Autonomous Women of Edinburgh/ Angry Youth / c/o 17 W. Montgomery Pl., Edinburgh EH7 5HA 0131-557-6242 ace@punk.org.uk <http://burn.ucsd.edu/~lothian/> [Dundee & Aberdeen @s via ACE] • 5th May group POB 1681 London N8 7LE (Turkish/Kurdish @'s in exile) • Anarchist Black Cross, c/o 121 Raiton Rd., London SE24 (prisoner solidarity) • Anarchist Communist Fed., 84b Whitechapel High St, London E1 7QX • Angry People, PO Box 108, St. Peters, NSW 2044 Australia • Class War, PO Box 467, London E8 3QX • 56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St., London SE17 • Earth First! Action Update, c/o Cornerstone, 16 Sholebroke Ave, Leeds LS7 3HB 0113 262 9365 actionupdate@gn.apc.org • Education Worker Network, PO Box 1681, London, N8 7LE • Federation Anarchiste, 145 Rue Amelot, 75011 Paris, France • Organise-IWA PO Box 505, Belfast BT11 9EE, Ireland • Haringey Solidarity Group, Box 2474, London N8. 0181 374 5027 hsg@clara.net • Industrial Workers of the World, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB • Kate Sharpley Library, BM Hurricane, London WC1 3XX • Kommunist Kranti, Majdoor Library, Autopin Jhuggi, Faridabad-121001, India • London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1 • Norwich Solidarity Centre/Solidarity Fed. Rm 13, Muspole Workshops, Norwich NR3 1QD • SchNEWS, PO Box 2600, Brighton BN2 2DX; tel/fax: 01273-685913 schnews@brighton.co.uk <http://www.schnews.org.uk/> (weekly news-sheet) • Sheffield Anarchist Group, PO Box 446, Sheffield S1 1NY • Smash Hits, BM Box 5538, London WC1N 3XX (rev'y discussion mag) • Sol.Fed - IWA, PO Box 493, St. Albans, AL1 5TW Distros: • Active BM Active, London WC1N 3XX • AK PO Box 12766, Edinburgh, EH8 9YE Write for listing - including anyone missed out due to space or mistake- sorry! Send sae for The Agitator - addresses Britain & Ireland-wide. Thanks to Anarchist Graphics, Box 5, 167 Fawcett Rd, Southsea, Hants PO4

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EASTER RISING April 3-4 Glasgow 1999

The three day Mayday '98 event in Bradford attracted well over a hundred participants to the themed discussions, with dozens more attending fringe workshops/talks. Glasgow Easter Rising is not intended to rival Bradford in size and scope, but to continue the process of engaging in discussion which informs our future actions.

We would not pretend that the pre-consultation process prior to this April event has been ideal, and unlike with the *northern anarchist network* support for the West Yorkshire organisers, it has sometimes seemed as if we were disturbing the winter hibernation habits of the of the anarchist/ social ecologist/ libertarian communist milieu.

Hopefully, what we have arrived at will cater for your needs, combining two days of themed discussions for the more committed participants, with the late afternoon public forums for those with less time to spare.

It is appreciated that a journey to Glasgow can involve more costs, and for this reason there is NO registration fee. We may, however, encourage donations, by local people etc. to avoid the event being too great a drain on our funds. We have included a where-to-stay guide with this mailing together with some info on 'eats' near the venue etc., acceptable watering-holes, and an idea of the socialising aspect of the event.

It is vital that you respond if you intend attending. Obviously, if you are wanting crash-space or bringing kids & require a creche, have special needs etc. this is especially vital. However, even if you're making your own B&B arrangements, it would be helpful to estimate numbers so that we could book additional rooms, or slot in additional public forums.

No doubt an event on the scale of Bradford will follow, perhaps in 2000, but making this Glasgow event a success would be a step in this direction, if not a great leap forward. With the spate of elections this year, with special significance for Wales and Scotland, our response needs to be clarified. There is, above all, the June 18th period of imaginative protest against the global marketplace in Koln, London and other centres of modern capitalism. Sharpening up our strategy and objectives can only aid the direct action which will hopefully involve thousands and not be distorted by the media circus.

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Day for travellers outside central Scotland to arrive. We will arrange an evening rendezvous and can meet you at bus or train stations, or where airport link buses arrive from Glasgow or Prestwick airports. As it is the Easter weekend a lot of people will be travelling, so if you want to take advantage of apex bus [incl.. *National Express* or train fares [*GNER*, *Virgin*] or the various 'cheap' airline operators [*Easyjet*, *Midland*, *Ryanair*, *Go*] - Luton, Stanstead etc. act now! Hitching, you take your chance, but please don't arrive before Friday!

Places to Stay & misc Info

We will have a number of places in our flats for a maximum of 3 nights stay [leave Monday]; possible crash places at a Kinning Park community complex; you can phone Glasgow University to arrange low-price b&b [£17pppn] or self-catering [£13pppn] 0800-0272-030; you can stay at the Backpackers Hostel, Independent hostel or the YWCA in Newton Tce.; you can book accommodation via Tourist Information 0990 992244. Local guest houses near Queens Park include Glades 423-4911, Regent 422-1199 & Reidholme 423-1855. Camping would only be advisable in a private back garden, phone us - also while far south of the Arctic Circle, Glasgow is often damp! The other three Glasgow senior football teams are playing away, but Celtic [95% Season tickets out of 60,000 capacity, are home to Dundee, 551-8653]. We aim to arrange socials, with clubbing on Sunday night for those who are entertainment minded. If there is a demand, & weather permitting we can have a walk, game of football, picnic etc. on 'Easter Monday' before people leave.

Saturday 3rd April

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Trains from Central Station [above ground] get off at nearest station, Queens Park, Victoria Rd. exit on lines to Newton or Neilston.

12 bus to Calder St.; 2nd stop, 5,44*,66* bus [incl.. a services] to Victoria Rd., stop before Allison St.; 19,31,37 & 74 to Cathcart Rd, get off before or after Calder St.; 89 from Byres Rd*, via Govan, get off Pollokshaws Rd. at Allison St. [all *First Bus*]; 96/96a *Arriva* from Whiteinch>Kinning Park> Allison St., alight at Langside Rd.;

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We can send you a **Visitors Transport Guide** on request or you can pick one up from the St. Enoch Sq. Travel Centre or Tourist Info in George Sq..

Saturday 3rd April: Register from 9.50am. Allocated to your group on arrival, details from desk.

Starts at 10.30am sharp with brief welcome address

THEME DISCUSSIONS ON UNDERMINING GLOBAL CAPITALISM

As the preamble to the Bradford themed discussion put it: "The themed discussions will be in groups with diverse points of views. Here are a few questions on each of the four themes [intended to get]...people thinking about the issues before the conference. It is not intended that the points listed below are the only ones to discuss in each theme. People will hopefully disagree or agree with some or all of it, and spot important points missed out. Our intention was to provoke or inspire discussion and thoughts". We realise that it might appear ambitious to 'get through' such subjects in 90 minute 'play' and much will depend on making considered contributions while avoiding repetition & petty 'disputes' with the help of the facilitators.

10.40am- 12.10pm [1]GLOBAL ECONOMY, MULTINATIONALS, EC, G8, WORLD BANK etc.

Capitalism isn't national it's drive has always been international through imperialism & now with neo-colonialism . Protectionism & other obstructions to 'free trade' are being eroded and governments are colluding with multinational companies to extend their 'freedom' to over-ride environmental laws, move production, ride roughshod over cultural allegiances etc.. The desire to maximise surplus value is the over-riding concern with public image, the camouflage. 'New Labour', Clinton economics etc. incorporate abandonment of national solutions & aspirations such as wealth distribution, the role of the State redefined as an 'enabler' etc.. Yet the world has trading blocks, such as NAFTA, SEATO and the European Community. Is the latter an anachronism, and has many of its past solutions being driven by social control ? What are the roles of the various worldwide organisations run ostensibly by a clique of 'rich nations'. In addition there are previously secret conferences bringing together keyplayers of Multinationals, academia & Political Parties. How does our understanding of these forces shape our revolutionary response: through non-reactive campaigns, our media.

Is capitalism, as the quote from George Soros in the June 18th leaflet indicates, vulnerable at this juncture, with the millennium & market volatility as witnessed in Hong Kong, Tokyo, South Korea & Brazil ?

12.10pm - 12.30pm brief tea/coffee/biscuit/outside fag break

12.30pm - 2pm **THEME DISCUSSIONS**

[2] DECLARATION OF AUTONOMY OR STATE DEVOLUTION OF POWER **anarchist circle** text 1-3-99
[see APPENDIX]

2-3PM Break for late-lunch, go out to local eats.

3.10pm **PUBLIC FORUMS I**

Note other people will arrive for these & we need to keep to the advertised timings.

3.10pm - 5.15pm. Choice of Forums. These are not finalised at present. The number going on simultaneously depends on the number of overall participants & rooms available as well as offers to give a prepared talk. Possibilities include Social Ecology, Marxist speaker on contradictions of capitalism; the Green Anarchist controversy; Chiapas solidarity; Mumia & prisoners solidarity; workplace agitation; non-waged struggles.

leave building by 5.30pm.

Sunday 4th April Have breakfast beforehand ! 11.15am start

11.30am-1.00pm **THEME DISCUSSIONS**

[3] .THE SEDUCTION OF CONSUMERISM IN POST-MODERN CAPITALISM

This is the age of the mass consumer. Virtually everybody is deluged by advertising through television and other media, including the internet. We are seduced into individualising our needs, and expressing our aspirations through designer clothing & high-tech products. Despite wide disparities of wealth & the false 'trickle-down' philosophy of capitalism, as consumers we are manipulated into a materialistic outlook as expressed through the home, cars, holidays & gadgets. Beliefs such as Islam & Buddhism offer alternatives that stand in juxtaposition to the global marketplace. Markets arise to cater for niche & minority tastes. Even anarchists & environmentalists aren't immune, short of an illusory 'withdrawal from society' . We live contradictory lives often more suggestive of ethical consumerism or alternative lifestyles. Radical projects such as Adbusters, Chumbawamba & agitation on the World Wide Web indication contestation to the worldview of capitalism on the periphery. The *Decadent Action* group in London urged a different approach, advocating the growth of debt to satisfying materialistic cravings. Advertising is often contradictory & increasingly sophisticated. Is revolutionary intervention possible ?

1.00 - 2pm lunch +tea/coffee break ,filled rolls in Centre,or cafes outside.

2-3.30pm **THEME DISCUSSIONS**

[4] **RESISTANCE & EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION TO GLOBAL CAPITALISM**

It is over 10 weeks to the June 18th protests provoked by the G8 summit in Koln[Cologne], Germany. Some of the instigators of such opposition expect "acts, stunts, sabotage, hactivism, parties" & other direct action as well as demos. What types of action are most effective. Which empower people. Which encourage future participation and don't demoralise, lead to arrests or injury. Brainstorming session on past examples, good & bad which deserve to be 'resurrected'. Recent reference to Reclaim the Streets, CJA opposition, roads protests etc.. What contribution do movements, through temporary autonomous zones or long-term organisation make to the legitimacy and stability of capitalism. What possibilities exist to involve people away from the radical milieu in downtrodden working class areas, inner city areas with ethnic diversity or amongst women or different age groups? What are the lessons from history, last 30 years, in terms of oppositional movements. New inspiration from Mexico, India and other 'third world' movements of peasants & workers: identifying strengths and limitations. Leaving the 20th century pattern of protest.

3.30-3.345pm brief tea/coffee break .

3.50pm - 5.20pm **Organisation of the Future** including future discussion events & coordination of initiatives.

Leave building by 5.30pm

APPENDIX

AS subjects of the British State, we learn that power is to be devolved to a Scottish Parliament. This Parliament has been granted powers to oversee certain responsibilities currently carried out by the Scottish Office in London & Edinburgh.

This is the first Scottish Parliament since a "parcel of rogues" decided to throw in their lot with the English dominated Westminster parliament in 1707. Since then the general populace, reluctantly & not without a struggle, has been granted the vote. We nominally have power to elect our political leaders. No such power exists within the economic sphere, since power is linked to shareholdings in companies, many of whom are multinational.

Constitutionally, however, we are not citizens of Scotland, far less the U.K.. We remain subject to the Crown & State, despite all the talk of reducing the hereditary powers. We are tainted and implicated in a history of colonial and imperial subjugation of people overseas. We have become largely docile, consumers of mass culture, and the insipid participation it entails.

Returning a Parliament to Edinburgh, will it is said reinvigorate the public sphere and generate a pride in our identity and tradition. There is said to have been a similar resurgence since the rebirth of nationhood across central and eastern Europe. Some have exhibited peaceful, more enlightened nationalism like Slovenia or Estonia. Others have seen nationalism equated with linguistic or spurious ethnic identity based on the politics of scapegoating and genocide.

A devolved Scottish Parliament or independent nation will exist within the new European Union and the trend towards the Europe of the regions, common currency with the Euro & standardised regulation decreed by the Commission. It is also a 'fortress Europe' as with the Roman Empire, controlling 'economic migrants' from outside its boundaries and restricting refugee status. As an emerging economic super-power it is competing with the north american, Chinese and far east trading blocs for investment from multinational companies.

SELF-DETERMINATION

The major constitutional debate, which touches on the question of citizenship, concerns how far will self-determination proceed? Unlike their Scottish Convention partners, the Liberal Democrats, Labour's devolution policy is not part of a worked out policy of linking the British Isles as a federal state. Labour's conception of a Scottish Parliament arose out of their main concern, as a conservative party, to protect the union. The intentions of the majority of the Scottish people, although ambiguous, go beyond the confines of Labour. The current rise of the Scottish National Party draws on the aspirations for self-determination to "rise and be a nation again" in the sense that the genie has been let out the bottle with the vote to proceed with a Scottish Assembly.

Labour's strategy is that, as in Catalonia with their parliament in Barcelona, within the Spanish state, pragmatism will prevail over sentiment once the parliament is up & running. However, Labour have Tony Blair as Prime Minister. Despite [or because?] his public school Edinburgh background, his concerns are seen as those of 'middle england', whose grasp of Scottish affairs rival Margaret Thatcher's genius for sensitivity. Scottish public opinion has often been to the 'left' when it comes to questions such as opposing cuts in services or extending casualisation.

It isn't clear therefore, what the outcome of the devolution process will be. The momentum towards independent sovereignty, as a republic or as a constitutional settlement with a 'peoples' monarchy, as in Scandinavia or the Benelux countries, could be stalled the will of the Scottish people to proceed further.

What is clear, however, is that any self-determination or independence will be subordinated to the global markets and operating costs and priorities of multinational companies. Any political expression of "power to the people" will be extremely limited given that the major forces which shape our lives are bound up with a global capitalist system.

Even if political power arose, in a libertarian sense, from the people as citizens, and elected representatives were subject to recall and mandated to express the wishes of their electors, rather than the Party apparatus to which they belong, they would still be economically subject to the profit motive & fluctuations of the global market. As individuals we are reduced to being wage slave & powerless!

Although the implementation of the Multilateral Agreement on investment has been stalled by nation-states led by France, multinational corporations still have the upper hand in dealings with Governments that try and regulate their dealings or implement green, 'clean it up' policies. Even without the M.A.I., corporations have the power to threaten or withdraw plants if their profits and operations are curtailed.

To invest our hopes for the future in political change, confined to the level at which we are governed and taxed, without a clear approach to the economic dynamic of capitalism, which continues to ravage the planet and exploit us all for profit, is frankly misguided. Independence and self-determination is an illusion within capitalism. No amount of fervour for a Scottish republic can escape this reality. We cannot take our desires for reality within the world as it is.

DEMOCRACY IS AN ILLUSION

We are being positive in declaring these facts. To state that a devolved assembly or an independent Scotland can 'tame' capitalism and significantly alter our lives is "leading people up the garden path". Also, instead of manipulating people, as all Parties, the Left included, by presenting an incomplete picture of how we are able "to make a difference", we prefer to destroy illusions rather than foster them.

We live in a cynical age, it's hardly surprising given the bad reputation that anything political has, from corruption to atrocities. But being 'cynical' is a pattern of adjustment to life as it is. In this "post-modern era" it has become 'common sense' to do people down or act selfishly because nobody expects that people keep to an ethical, caring attitude, or if they do so, they have ulterior motives. Instead of cynicism, we offer skepticism and a streetwise realisation that we are all inherently equal as humans in a world we have no right to destroy. However, many of us are psychologically damaged and distorted in our actions by our adherence to an unjust world and all the false justifications that scapegoat people according to age, sexual preference, disability, gender and race/ethnicity/language. We are all individual and different and have great scope for a diverse contribution to the society around us. Our worth is distorted from childhood and this contributes to how difficult it is for all of us to throw off these shackles & bad attitudes. Don't let them ground you down!

STATES TERRORISE !

The perspective we have today has been trailblazed by others throughout history. In the past century, anarchists, anarcho-syndicalists, libertarian socialists, council communists, situationists and social ecologists have understood the merits of questioning Growth; mutual aid; no justice, no peace; class war against the boss class, etc.. While many made mistakes in this process, it has been the role of States and would-be-States [Parties] to distort this legacy. We are wise today that you cannot blow up a social relationship. However bad one tyrant is, liquidating them leads to another taking their place, accompanied by repression, while the population is mobilised against 'terrorism'. In youth it is easy to be impatient, but unless forced to by circumstances, you have to organise, despite setbacks, in an open way, conscious that tiny minorities cannot bounce people into a new society that is not their own making.

Our alternative isn't simply a 'talking shop'. Around the globe, resistance occurs to companies against exploitation of people and the environment. The example of the Zapatistas from the Chiapas province of Southern Mexico demonstrates that international solidarity can be generated using technology such as the internet to stimulate resistance and debate. Similarly, direct action and mass demonstrations - such as in Hyderabad, India - have occurred against the multilateral agreement on investment and the role of institutions such as the G8 summit, International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

We are not misguided to believe that all of those engaged in a wide variety of workplace, community and environmental struggles are united in support of a Declaration such as this. However, widespread realisation is growing that popular sentiment for self-determination, accountability, autonomy from manipulation, and so on, is limited if there is acceptance that the capitalist system is a fact of existence. Reforming capitalism other than superficially, is "pie in the sky".

This is the outlook we invite you to share. Those of us who are not distorted by purely selfish or egotistical motives, aspire for a better world for our children. Many of us, even those who have "given up on humanity" are outraged at the destruction of natural finite resources and the creatures that also inhabit this planet. We are all flawed, but we can raise ourselves from our condition by consciousness linked to action. There is no blueprint for change, but at least we have no more illusions !

There is no half-way house to social revolution. We are therefore not drawn into pressing for change which does not significantly undermine the global capitalist economy. National self-determination, even if expressed in an enlightened, liberal fashion, only alters life superficially. If you agree with this perspective we invite you to get in touch, and link up with us

Contacts: By mail:

CI [autonomy] c/o 28 King St., Glasgow G1 5QP

By e mail: radfest@yahoo.com

Web page: www.geocities.com/capitolhill/1931/radfest.html/

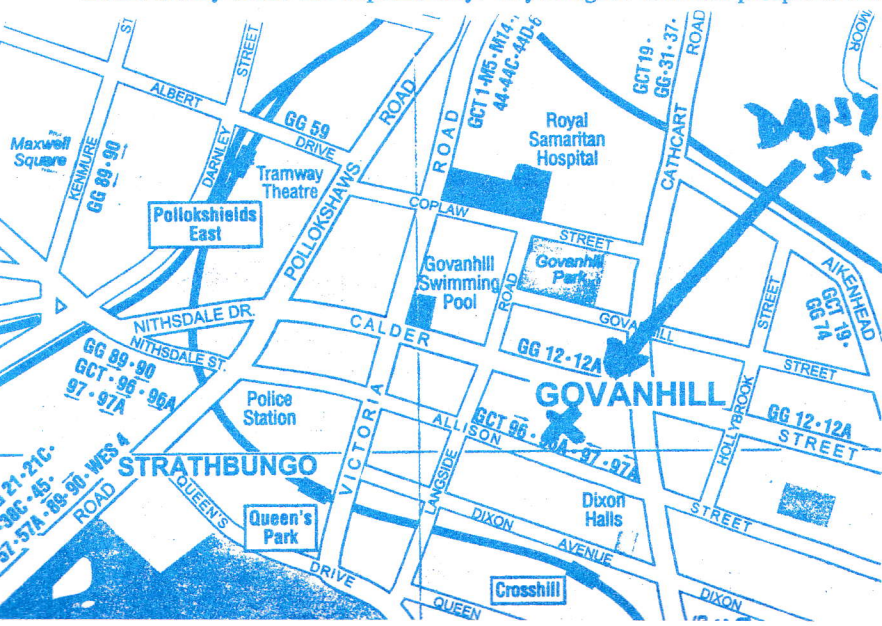
Phone: 0141-427-6398 apart from Monday nights between 7.45-8.45pm - 0141-552-5519.

You can fax 0141-810-3001 but no later than mid-afternoon 1st April.

Reading material : many of you will get this with *Counter Information* 52 to save mailing costs.

Note however, that the clydeside organisers are a more diverse group, the *anarchist circle*.

Refer also: *Class War* 73 "Open letter".
info on eats, drinks etc to be incorporated



EASTER RISING April 3-4

Glasgow 1999

The three day Mayday '98 event in Bradford attracted well over a hundred participants to the themed discussions, with dozens more attending fringe workshops/talks. Glasgow Easter Rising is not intended to rival Bradford in size and scope, but to continue the process of engaging in discussion which informs our future actions.

We would not pretend that the pre-consultation process prior to this April event has been ideal, and unlike with the *northern anarchist network* support for the West Yorkshire organisers, it has sometimes seemed as if we were disturbing the winter hibernation habits of the of the anarchist/ social ecologist/ libertarian communist milieu.

Hopefully, what we have arrived at will cater for your needs, combining two days of themed discussions for the more committed participants, with the late afternoon public forums for those with less time to spare.

It is appreciated that a journey to Glasgow can involve more costs, and for this reason there is NO registration fee. We may, however, encourage donations, by local people etc. to avoid the event being too great a drain on our funds. We have included a where-to-stay guide with this mailing together with some info on 'eats' near the venue etc., acceptable watering-holes, and an idea of the socialising aspect of the event.

It is vital that you respond if you intend attending. Obviously, if you are wanting crash-space or bringing kids & require a creche, have special needs etc. this is especially vital. However, even if you're making your own B&B arrangements, it would be helpful to estimate numbers so that we could book additional rooms, or slot in additional public forums.

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12.10pm - 12.30pm brief tea/coffee/biscuit/outside fag break

12.30pm - 2pm **THEME DISCUSSIONS**

[2] **DECLARATION OF AUTONOMY OR STATE DEVOLUTION OF POWER**

Mailout -find enclosed separate 'leaflet' on this theme [internet - text follows].

2-3PM Break for late-lunch, go out to local eats.

3.10pm **PUBLIC FORUMS I**

Note other people will arrive for these & we need to keep to the advertised timings.

3.10pm - 5.15pm. Choice of Forums. These are not finalised at present. The number going on simultaneously

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leave building by 5.30pm.

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11.15am-12.45pm **THEME DISCUSSIONS**

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12.45 - 1.15pm brief tea/coffee break ,filled rolls in Centre, fags outside.

1.15 - 2.45pm **THEME DISCUSSIONS**

[4] **RESISTANCE & EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION TO GLOBAL CAPITALISM**

It is over 10 weeks to the June 18th protests provoked by the G8 summit in Köln[Cologne], Germany. Some of the instigators of such opposition expect "acts, stunts, sabotage, hactivism, parties" & other direct action as well as demos. What types of action are most effective. Which empower people. Which encourage future participation and don't demoralise, lead to arrests or injury. Brainstorming session on past examples, good & bad which deserve to be 'resurrected'. Recent reference to Reclaim the Streets, CJA opposition, roads protests etc.. What contribution do movements, through temporary autonomous zones or long-term organisation make to the legitimacy and stability of capitalism. What possibilities exist to involve people away from the radical milieu in downtrodden working class areas, inner city areas with ethnic diversity or amongst women or different age groups ? What are the lessons from history, last 30 years, in terms of oppositional movements. New inspiration from Mexico, India and other 'third world' movements of peasants & workers: identifying strengths and limitations. Leaving the 20th century pattern of protest.

2.45pm - 3.15pm another tea/coffee break ,filled rolls in Centre or sorte outside.

3.20pm - 5.20pm **PUBLIC FORUMS II** [see programme on day]

Leave building by 5.30pm

Contacts: By mail: CI [autonomy] c/o 28 King St., Glasgow G1 5QP

By e mail: radfest@yahoo.com

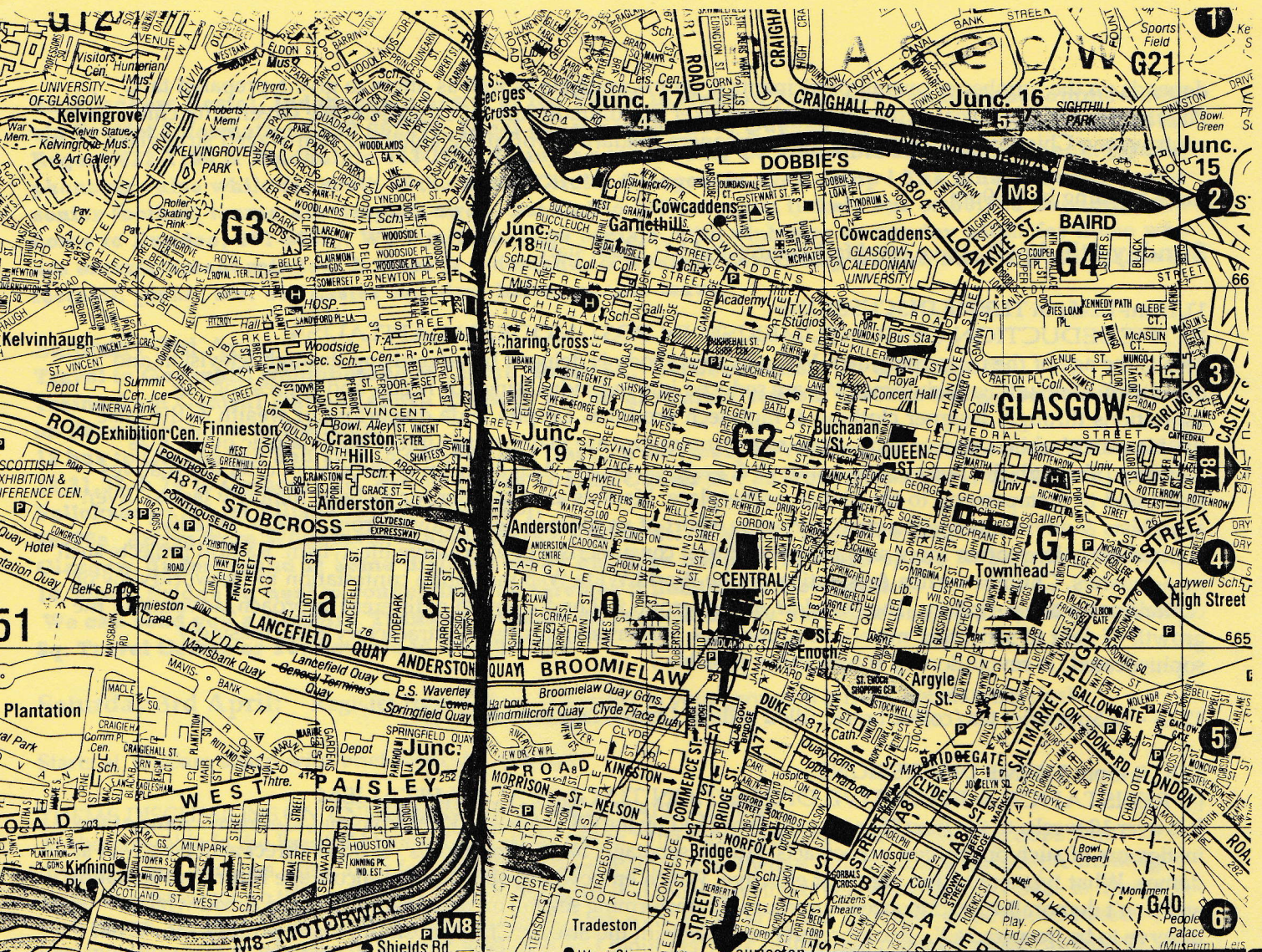
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You can fax 0141-810-3001 but no later than mid-afternoon 1st April.

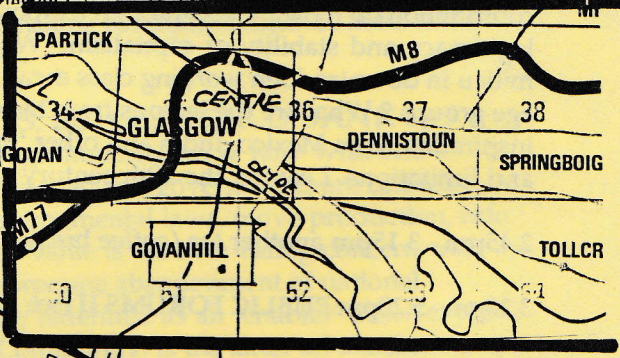
Reading material : many of you will get this with *Counter Information* 52 to save mailing costs. Note however, that the clydeside organisers are a more diverse group, the **anarchist circle** . Refer also: *Class War* 73 "Open letter ".

info on eats, drinks etc to be incorporated

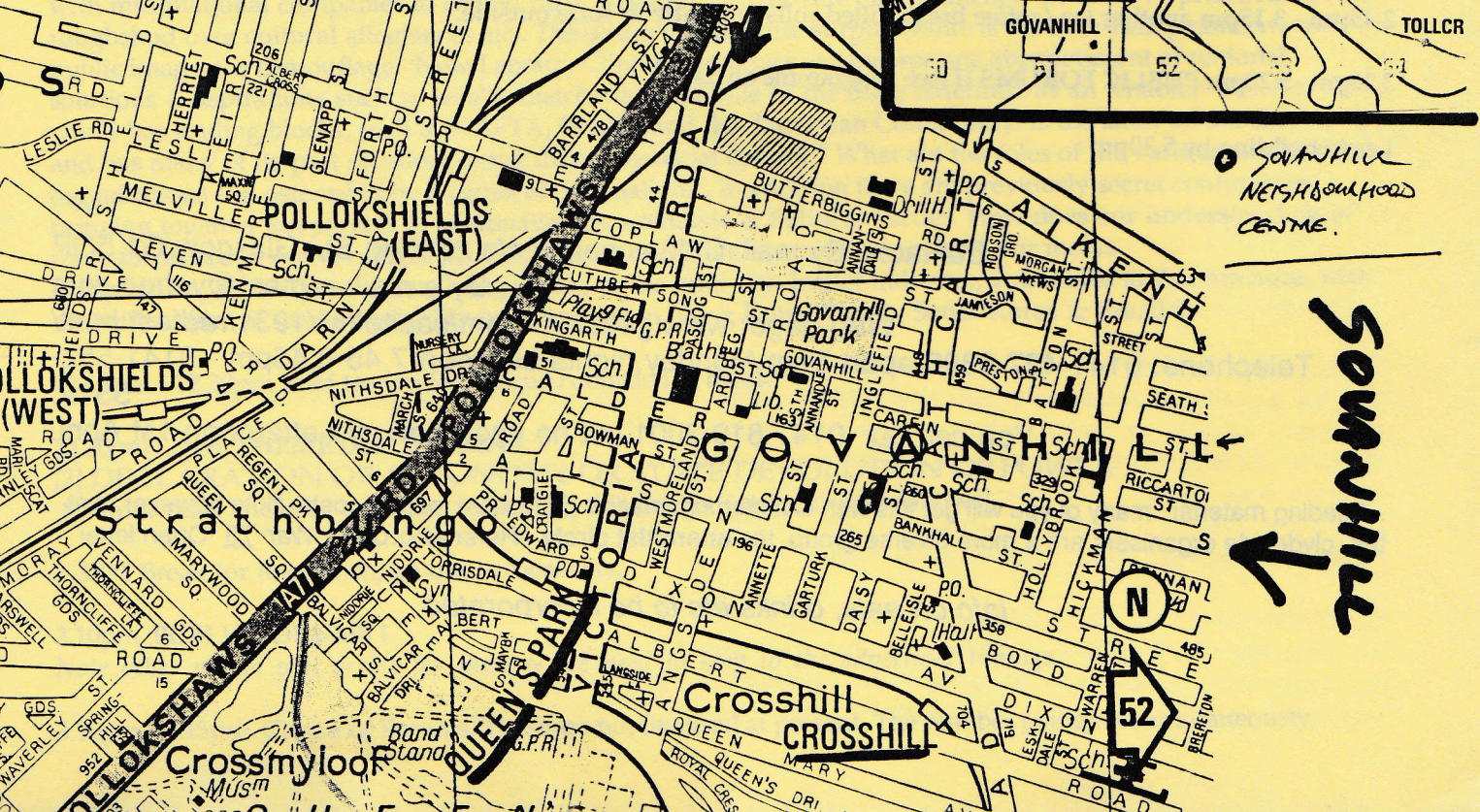


CITY CENTRE
M-A-P-S

POSSIBLE
SUMMARY
NIGHT SOCIAL
+ VESSELS
VESSEL CENTS.



**SOUTHWILK
NEIGHBOURHOOD
CENTRE.**



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