

FREE NO 29

COUNTER INFORMATION

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No Blood for Oil!

No War but the Class War

ON 2 August, Iraqi tanks invaded Kuwait leading to the largest military buildup since World War 2. The reasons for the invasion were due to the social and economic instability in Iraq in the aftermath of the Iraq-Iran war and Iraq's failure to regain control of the Shatt-al-Arab waterway. Saddam Hussein feared the results of demobilizing a million jobless soldiers and Iraq's huge debts fuelled the need to raise oil prices. Invading Kuwait gave access to Gulf waters, increased the price of oil and enabled Saddam to write off the Kuwaiti debt.

BLOOD FOR OIL

Our rulers in the West intervened in this conflict to protect their oil interests and to prevent a major recession. However their blatant self interest is masked by their avowal to defend democracy and freedom. Kuwait 'the democracy' which must be defended, is an autocracy where only 3% of upper class men have the vote and where a majority of Arabs live in poverty. As recently as February 1990, there were unprecedented demonstrations by Kuwaitis protesting against this 'false democracy'.

It is a fact that while Saddam acted in the West's interests he was unchallenged. The West sold arms to Iraq during the Iraq-Iran war and did nothing to protest against the gassing of Kurds.

The U.S. had nothing to gain from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait except the chance to use it to extend its power in the Middle East - and Saddam fell for the bait. Four days before the invasion the U.S. Ambassador in Baghdad assured Saddam that "We have no opinion on the Arab-Arab conflicts like your border disagreement with Kuwait ... the issue is not associated with America".

A BOSSES' WAR

As in every bosses' war, our rulers want us to put the 'Nation's' interest before our own, to rally round and forget our own struggles, to tighten our belts and accept wage cuts and job losses. Patriotism is coupled with racism. In Britain there have been calls for Iraqis to be expelled or interned! We are expected to be outraged at the use of Western hostages but not to care about the working class Iraqis who will suffer as a result of the food and medicine blockade imposed by the West.

It's great for capitalism and our rulers to have a war. This ensures a stronger military at the expense of housing, health and welfare services and fat profits for the armaments industries. In all wars we can be certain of one thing. It is the working classes of all countries involved who will suffer and be killed while our rulers, the politicians and generals, stay out of the firing line. Only by supporting the class struggle can we stop the bosses' war.

In Britain, the poll tax has sparked off massive working class resistance where we learn to confront our rulers. Strikes, like the oil workers' strike, can weaken the economy making it difficult to wage war. Instead of fighting each other we must fight those who exploit us - like the U.S. troops in Vietnam who rose against their officers helping to bring an end to the war. In Iraq workers have a history of militancy and the army a history of rebellion. During the Iran-Iraq war there was fraternisation between Iranian and Iraqi troops in North Kurdistan and at present Iraqi troops are deserting. We support the destruction of the Western and Iraqi war effort.

Bush, Thatcher and Saddam are all on the side of the rich and powerful, fighting to safeguard their interests not ours.

Saddam is aware of the danger of a full scale spontaneous uprising - Romanian style, and this will grow as the plight of the Iraqis worsens. His war plan to evacuate the 4 million inhabitants of Baghdad if war occurs is not to protect them but to protect himself from their fury. We must support the struggle of working class Iraqis and the working class everywhere to fight against their oppressors. Only by fighting for social revolution can we create a classless, international community where concern is for human need not for rulers' profits.

Working class people the world over are taking action against the war machine in the following ways:

Bangladesh: 3 Sept. police used batons against demonstrators protesting against the despatch of 12,000 Bangladeshi troops to the Gulf

France: 21 Sept. workers held up a ferry carrying troops to the Gulf for 12 hours

29 Sept. 10,000 people demonstrated in Paris

USA: 24 Sept. over 200 local anti-war local actions
Marine Jeff Patterson is in military prison for refusing to fight for "American profits and cheap oil", (Committee to defend J Patterson c/o Eric Seitz 820, Miliani, Suite 714, Honolulu HI USA)

20 Oct; 15,000 marched in New York against the war and there were protests in 14 other cities. Veterans of the anti Vietnam war movement point out opposition is appearing at an earlier stage.

Australia: Sailor Terry Jones is on trial for going awol from a warship destined for the Gulf

Iraq/North Kurdistan 9 Sept. soldiers attacked demonstrators rioting against food shortages

Greece: Sept. large demos took place against Greek military involvement

Turkey: Aug. 4,000 maintenance workers on U.S. run bases struck over pay, hampering the U.S. war effort

Spain: Sept. 2,000 march in Madrid and 3,000 in Barcelona against deployment of Spanish warships

Japan: 20 Oct. 23,000 marched in Tokyo to protest at Britain's proposal to send troops to the Gulf

Britain: Demos in London against the war on 1 and 8 Sept. and on 15 Sept 4,000 took to the streets. 6 Oct. 500 marched in Edinburgh.

WHAT WE THINK

"It's a free country." So the politicians and the mass media always tell us.

But we say there is no real freedom

- * when thousands of police beat demonstrators off the streets
- * when a demonstrator is jailed for 2 years for allegedly kicking a police van
- * when some live in mansions and others in cardboard boxes
- * when millions starve while food is destroyed and farmers paid NOT to produce, to keep prices up
- * when workers have to do boring useless jobs to enrich big business and the state
- * when rulers like Hussein, Bush and Thatcher prepare to kill thousands in their lust for oil, power and wealth
- * when pornographers profit from portraying women as sex objects, inferior and submissive to men.

But millions of people have a message for the rich parasites and power-mad politicians : we're fighting back!

- * Over 10 million are not paying the poll tax
- * Anti Gulf war protests are growing in the USA, Europe and Japan
- * Workers are resisting employers attacks - a wave of strikes and workplace occupations hit Greece in September
- * Women are taking direct action against pornography
- * People are resisting the racist oppression they experience - like in the anti police riots in Lyons, France in October.

When we are fighting injustice it is no good relying on politicians or Union leaders. Look at the Labour Party - sending in bailiffs for the poll tax! Instead we must build up peoples grass-roots power in the communities and workplaces, moving towards a revolutionary takeover of society's resources.

We must get to the roots of our exploitation. 'People power' overthrew the repressive regimes in Czechoslovakia, East Germany, etc.. But now the new "democratic" rulers are enforcing cuts in living standards.

We don't want new bosses - we want no bosses. A co-operative classless community, based on peoples needs and desires, not profit and oppression. A really free world.

Mutiny in Greece

FOLLOWING last months 48 hour general strike in Greece workers occupied their workplaces in several towns. One mine on the island of Mantoudi has been occupied since 31 August. In Halkida the doors of the court were broken down by supporters on Oct 2, and the trial of arrested people from the mine stopped. In Patra the Patraika textile factory is still occupied by its workers protesting against privatisation and austerity. Both occupations are flying red and black flags!

Whilst the new right-wing government was still recovering from this massive resistance to their austerity measures, a huge wave of resistance from prisoners broke out. Starting on 9 October

in the Alikarnossos prison, Crete the mutiny soon spread across Greece: In Stefanos (Patra), Korydallos 1000 prisoners mutinied The youth prison in Athens and the womans prison in Pirias also joined the mutiny. By 19 October the prisons in Komotini, Halkinda, and Larissa had also mutinied. Prisoners in Hamia, and Meapolis refused food in solidarity.

The demands of the prisoners include: The right of appeal for lifers sentenced before the right of appeal was introduced in 1979. The release of lifers after serving 15 years subject to a suspended sentence of 5 years for the rest of their term. The abolition of the youth prison. Drug addicts to re-



Demonstrators outside the George Hotel in Edinburgh where Menzies AGM was being held at the end of August '90. An Edinburgh 4 Defence Fund was set up for women arrested during demos against pornography and pickets organised for the court cases. Court cases - 10am 9 Jan. India Buildings, Victoria St., Edinburgh - 10am 15 Feb., District Court, Parliament Square, Edinburgh. Weekly pickets at Menzies are also planned. Contact EWAP, c/o 43 Broughton St., Edinburgh. photo Paula Jane Carley

Cardinal Sin

WARSAW, Poland : On 22 September several hundred students, feminists, anarchists and others demonstrated outside the palace of the Primate, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, with slogans such as "A Church monopoly is replacing the communist monopoly" and "Religion back to the churches".

Sparking off the demonstration, which was the first public protest against the Catholic church, was the overwhelming vote in the senate to turn abortion back into a crime.

Approval of the bill - which would mean up to 5 years jail for anyone who performed or helped

a woman get an abortion - was another success in the Church's drive to re-establish its influence and principles in public life after 45 years of "Communist" rule.

Feminists and anarchists also demonstrated outside the Parliament building during the stormy abortion debate, which ended on 29 September with a 50 - 17 vote in favour of the bill.

United Forever

ON 14 October two teams with a following of Neo Nazis and 'hooligans' played in hamburg. After football games they have often gone on the rampage; attacking "foreigners", "leftists", punks, other groups of people. Alternative social centres and squates are also attacked.

However on this night a demonstration of 3000 people gave a strong clear message that intimidation and harassment from Nazi thugs would not be tolerated. Besides many Anarchists and Autonomes, the demo also had huge support and involvement from activists in the Kurdish and Turkish political community; two groups which have borne the brunt of State and Nazi attacks. But the Nazis never appeared. Powerful mobilisation from the community winning again.

ceive medical help, not prison sentences. A doctor in every prison. The end to detention without a stated charge. Access to outside psychiatric clinics. All financial costs imposed by the courts in obtaining documentary evidence to be abolished.

Supporters have held solidarity demos outside some of the prisons. On Oct., 20 1000 Anarchists marched to Korydallos prison. There were also demos in Athens, Alikarnossos, Halkinda and Hamia.

Three prominent prisoners involved in the mutinies are all Anarchist prisoners. Info on these prisoners and up to date news from: Athens ABC, 8 Arisidou St., 10038 Athens. Greece.

Against the State

ON the night of German unification on 3 October, Berlin rioted. This followed a demonstration of 16,000 people opposing Unification. The police presence was one of the biggest ever. The city was already under virtual police rule; the State obviously fearful of anyone spoiling their carefully manufactured veneer of peace, freedom, and consent. When this veneer was disrupted the State responded with teargas, water cannons and brutality. 150 people were arrested.

The banners and placards of the demo included those from Turkish and Kurdish groups opposing the repressive new laws recently passed against foreigners (see C.I. 28). Womens groups marched against plans to replace East Germany's relatively liberal abortion laws with more restrictive and repressive laws from W. Germany. Anarchists and autonomes highlighted the alarming growth of state power and Neo Nazi groups. Overall the demonstration declared "Never again Germany, Against the annexation of the DDR (E. Germany), and against German nationalism". The new united Germany is a unified State against foreigners. The new regime in the East now uses bribes of up to £1000 to tens of thousands former residents to return to countries like Vietnam and China. Forced repatriation can not be far behind. W. Germany now has thousands of people seeking asylum in "refugee camps". New laws for refugees forbid ANY "political" activity, and restrict the freedom of movement to only the local town or city. In some camps there is forced labour. Those seeking political asylum have few, if any, civil rights and ultimately a third of applications are refused.

To a growing number of people it would seem that the new Germany is a unified State against refugees, immigration, organised workers, women, and all political, ethnic, sexual, and cultural minorities. The only freedom on offer here is the freedom for capitalism to coerce and exploit.

For W. German capitalism, unification was necessary if only to try control the huge changes occurring in the East. German Unification and the annexation of Eastern Europe by Multinationalism will bring untold misery and new forms of poverty to millions of people. In Germany this will be felt both East and West. Capitalism knows this won't happen without active opposition and resistance from the people it exploits. This is why they need to introduce new repressive laws. The same also happens across Europe through the EC and shadowy international police groups such as TREVI. The united Europe of 1992 is a continuation of this process. As seen recently in Britain with Poll Tax resistance, even the right to demonstrate is now open to attack.



ON 3rd., Nov. a major riot broke out in the Gaza strip following the death during interrogation of a Palestinian youth. Tension is also high on the West Bank. After the death of 21 Palestinians at the Temple Mount, on 8th., October, a wave of reprisals erupted involving Palestinians and Zionist settlers.

INSIDE INFORMATION NEWSHEET

For news of class war prisoners and resistance to oppression in prison please write to: Inside Information, c/o Pigeonhole Cl, 11 Forth Street, Edinburgh.

A WORLD TO WIN

Clinical Operation

IN Brixton a group called the Clinics Defence Campaign was formed to oppose the "militant anti-abortionists" Operation Rescue.

In North America, Operation Rescue has bombed clinics which carry out abortions, attacked staff and intimidated women entering the clinics.

The Clinics Defence Campaign has successfully moved these scumbags from a Brixton clinic by giving them a hostile reception every week with banners supporting a woman's right to choose.

CDC has shown the way to defeat Operation Rescue is not by being passive but by strong united and determined local opposition to show these people clearly that their presence will not be tolerated.

From Boston to Brixton we will chase them off the streets! Contact CDC, c/o 121 Raiton Rd., London SW2. (Info: Direct Action)

Piccadilly Kiss-In

PICCADILLY Circus never saw anything like this. On 3 September 200 Lesbians and gays turned up for a kiss-in at Piccadilly. A protest against the law prohibiting the showing of affection in public places between gays was openly flouted in front of the police. As usual there was the odd nutter there. The religious freak handing out leaflets "You were born a sinner". Who cares? I'm happy. The event lasted over 2 hours. There were no arrests.

Fascists put to flight

50-100 anti fascists took over the traditional fascist paper selling area at Brick Lane, East London on 14 October and distributed anti racist leaflets. They were then charged by about 30 Fascists, who were seen off. A success for the anti fascists, despite 4 arrests.

Kiwi Cuts

UNEMPLOYED and claimants from all over New Zealand organised protests in Wellington on 10/11/12 July. They are resisting the benefit cuts and "work for dole" policies of both the National and Labour Parties. Actions included a 2,000 strong march and an occupation of the 'Business Roundtable' offices.

Info: Te Roopu Rawakore - the national Unemployed and Beneficiaries movement, PO Box 3813, Auckland, N.Z..

Real green action

ITALY: 500 citizens successfully blockaded roads near Carrara on 12/13 September to stop the dumping of mud waste from the famous marble quarries. The villagers declare that if the authorities go ahead with dumping the lead-polluted waste they will picket to stop all marble quarrying activity. Direct action - not parliamentary game-playing - is the way to green the planet! Info: Umanita Nova 23/9.

Back in the USSR

ON 11 July 1990 the first mass political strike took place in the USSR. It was organised by the Confederation of Labour (KT) which is a mass workers organisation.

Throughout the USSR, KT set out demands including - resignation of the government - social guarantees for all workers - redistribution of party and official trade union property.

Among the actions that took place were:

MAKEEVA, DONBASS (Ukraine): A meeting of miners decides to drive out the party committee and take over the local party newspaper "The Miners Word".

GOR'KY (Volga): City wide meeting supports KT's demands.

VOLGODONSK (S. Russia): Thousands block the road to Rostov-on-Don planned nuclear power plant and demand its construction be stopped. Also support KT's demands.

KAMCHATKA (Far East): 3 mines and 60 fishing crews' strike.

CHERVONAGRAD (W. Ukraine): 12 mines on 24 hour strike.

NOVOKUZNETSK: 50,000 take part in the strike.

SVERDLOVSK (Urals): Bauxite mines hold 24 hour strikes.

After the strikes the authorities tried to make the action "illegal". The Communist Party appealed to workers not to join the strikes, but with the crumbling of the authoritarian state, workers in the USSR are now finding breathing space and are hoping to set up autonomous workplace and community collectives outwith the control of party and state bureaucrats.

Info: KAS (anarcho syndicalist) activists and radical workers - who are now setting up "Resistance", a syndicalist union.

GRINDING TO A HALT

FOR 12 million people in Britain the Poll Tax is no nearer being paid or collected. Mass non-payment is a reality and for the vast majority refusing to pay, THERE IS NO TURNING BACK.

Councils are shell-shocked by the levels of non-payment. Southwark and Lambeth in London have 60-70%; in Liverpool 51% are holding out; in Saffron Walden in rural Essex 61%; 46% in Glasgow, 45% in Hackney. In Bristol, Bath, Haringey, Birmingham, Manchester, Norwich and dozens of other towns one in three are making the Poll Tax grind to a halt.

Oblivious to the evidence, the Tory Government refers to a few exceptional places like Poole, with 93% collection, as being the norm. In reality, their strategy is to criminalise and stigmatise the Anti Poll Tax movement, and force Councils to slash services by enforced privatisation and draconian lay-offs.

STAND FIRM

The State has relentlessly hounded those who fought back in the "Trafalgar Square Riot" of 31 March. Operation Carnaby is a massive Scotland Yard police operation aimed at framing arrested demonstrators and tracking others down with video and photographic "evidence". Over 30 have been jailed, and the Trafalgar Square Defendants Campaign (TSDC), with little help from the 'Militant' led Anti Poll Tax Fed., has arranged legal representation, mounting 7 pickets of jails.

Writing in the latest **STAND FIRM** Simon O'Reilly says "The judge told me he was going to make an example of me...I got sentenced to 2 years for 'violent disorder'..." His alleged "crime" was kicking a police van. He is now in the maximum security prison, Camphill, Newport, Isle of Wight (RA 9741).

The TSDC organised 2 protests to coincide with the ritual welcome for the "Peoples March" on 20 October. A lively picket at Horseferry Road Magistrates court and a feeder march of over 1,000 was followed at 4.30pm by a picket of Brixton prison. As Federation buses headed home, 3,500 protestors were attacked and provoked by 5,000 riot Police intent on "revenge" for 31 March. 120 were arrested and TSDC volunteers documented numerous cases of vicious beatings. The TSDC has already held pickets on 22 and 30 October in solidarity with the defendants.

The police are now trying to ban Anti poll Tax demonstrations in London. Pressure must be kept up to ensure the Federation does not distance itself from the TSDC and keeps its commitment to hold a mass demo in central London next 30 March - no matter what the authorities do.

BEATING THE BAILIFFS

Councils are now desperately trying to reverse the success of the non-payment campaign. In Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire 20 out of 120 summonsed turned up on 20 September with only 3 cases heard and the others adjourned. A South Notts activist said "It was great to see people coming out who had probably never been involved in anything before....standing laughing and chatting with people on the demo, and still determined not to pay." Liability Orders were granted against those who failed to turn up. In Camden (London) every person who turned up had their case adjourned till Feb. 1991. On 26 October a mass picket of the courts in Bristol led to 4 arrests.

In South Wales and Somerset Bailiffs fared badly in August. A Bailiff firm called Roach and Co. were shown up to

WORLD-WIDE SUPPORT

There was action world-wide on 19/20 October to support the Trafalgar Square defendants and all arrested for demonstrating against the poll tax. Protestors took to the streets in Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Berlin, Hamburg, Athens, Melbourne, Nijmegen, Oslo, Boston. In Britain there were actions at Scotland Yard, in Hackney, Plymouth, Glasgow, and in Edinburgh where 100 defied police and took over the area outside the Scottish Office main entrance.



20 Oct. Anti poll tax demonstration in London

CLASS JUSTICE

On 27 September Bob Phelan, a 57 year old anti poll tax activist, was forcibly removed from Coventry Magistrates Court for clapping a speech. The police, ignoring pleas from his wife, threw him onto court room steps, where he had a heart attack. They refused to call an ambulance. He died 2 hours later. His death is a scandal. A media blackout has meant his killing going almost unnoticed.

be dopeheads, as they were defeated by a combination of local people power and a blockade of the bailiffs by Bristol anti poll tax groups. As 3D reported "In Barri over 50 people were outside the houses of the threatened families; telephones on the window sill; another 200 people ready to respond to a phone call; vehicles roaming the area watching for bailiffs; kids, prams, ice cream vans creating a carnival atmosphere. In Bishop Lydeard half the village decided to take the day off. All the roads in were sealed off by the community. All cars going through were required to identify themselves. The bailiffs never got near the village...this has inspired people throughout the South West."

Chaos is widespread at the point of collection. In Greenwich 160 housing workers won a strike for regrading, during which Poll Tax collection was brought to a standstill. In Haringey 600 jobs are threatened and the union NALGO is desperately trying "to avoid confrontation". Other summer disputes involving Poll Tax workers took place in York, Hammersmith, Slough, Ealing and Sunderland (info Organise).

BONNIE SCOTLAND

Councils like Lothian are now demanding greater powers to require people to disclose places of work. In Aberdeen the Council tried to use a 1592 Act against Council employees but were only able to arrest the allowances of 14 SNP councillors.

In Strathclyde a relentless media campaign has been waged to blame non-payers for projected Poll Tax increases in 1991 and threatened lay-offs. By the end of August only 9,000 Income Support arremstments had been carried out in Scotland out of an initial total of 54,388. Bill Blackstock successfully appealed against his arremstment (info Federation tel 041 552 1179).

A 'Militant' councillor in Baillieston, Glasgow had a threatened poisoning on 21 August but a mass mobilisation deterred any sheriff officers.

The Poll Tax is causing chaos in local government services, and tens of thousands of Anti Poll Tax activists are determined to make it totally unworkable. In parts of England less rate support grant means the crunch is coming sooner and radical opposition is set for confrontation with the state.

3D monthly newsletter and network c/o 116 The Avenue, London N17 6DG.
Refuse and Resist, quarterly paper, PO Box 239, Glasgow G3 6RA
Stand Firm, TSDC Newsletter: TSDC, c/o Haldane Society, 205 Panther House, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X 0AP. Tel. 071 833 8958
Organise, PO Box 125, Coventry CV3 5QT.

COUNTER INFORMATION: Write, P/H C.I., c/o 11 Forth Street, Edinburgh, EH1., UK. Write for info on local C.I. distribution and other local activities. Or N.England; C.I., c/o 52 Call Lane, Leeds. W.Scotland; C.I., c/o P.O. Box 239, Glasgow, G3. C.I. relies entirely on donations, as this issue went to press on 5/11/90 we have received only £200. Each issue costs us £500. We desperately need donations and new standing orders. WRITE!