

Action - Time Vision



"We're not just fighting for ourselves. When we win, you'll all win." Lorna, Timex striker.

343 Timex workers have been picketing their Dundee factory since February - when the multinational sacked its entire manual workforce. On 15 June Timex announced the factory was to close in December. Two days later a workers mass meeting voted overwhelmingly to reject company proposals for an "orderly closure" of the plant. The fight continues to win re-instatement for all, with no cuts in wages and conditions.

Daily picketing will continue - with more mass pickets. An international campaign is being launched. The only hope for stopping closure and for a workers' victory lies in a massive extension of solidarity action, coupled with the physical prevention of the dismantling of the Dundee factory. A world-wide refusal to handle all Timex and Olsen products is vital. An occupation - as carried out at Timex's Dundee Milton plant in 1983 - could stop the removal of valuable machinery.

Workers will need to be ready to reject a Union negotiated closure agreement. A Union sell-out deal, including a £30 per week wage cut, was unanimously rejected by the workers on 3 June.

Shut the Gates

The Timex workers have called regular mass pickets.

Thousands of pickets from all over Britain forced Timex to cancel all production and deliveries on 19 June.

On 17 May 3,000 supporters sealed off the factory for hours. Police made 38 arrests. Drew McEwen of the SWP and Sally Llloyd face seri-

ous charges. A Defence Campaign is supporting all arrested.

Dundee workers from NCR, Levi Jeans, non-unionised Bulkbag, and Ninewells hospital laundry struck to join the 7,000-strong Timex demo on 12 April.

Pickets blockaded the strikebreakers' buses on 22 March. The scabs arrived over 2 hours late. There were 14 arrests.

More appeals to the local unemployed and scheme residents could boost picket numbers. And direct action could spread. Scab pick-up points are an obvious target.

Solidarity Forever!

Timex Support Groups are active in Dundee, Glasgow, Edinburgh and elsewhere. In Dundee the Support Group has boycotted firms aiding Timex. Supporters have picketed H.Samuels and Argos (Timex watches) and the Fort Hotel

Let the Water Run Free

WE NEED water to live. It should belong to everyone. It should be free.

For the Tories, though, the stuff of life is just another commodity to be bought and sold for profit. In England and Wales privatised water companies cut off the water to 18,636 households in 1992-93. And now the government wants to sell off Scotland's water - despite 96% opposition to privatisation!

Infernal Machines

But the water barons are meeting resistance. The Merseyside Campaign against Water Meters is organising collective non-payment of the astronomical water bills calculated by the hated water meters.

The Teaney family of Edgehill, Liverpool saw their annual water bill soar from £69 to £364 after they moved into a house with a water meter. Together with other locals with water meters the Teaneys are witholding payment to North West Water plc.

Action Groups to oppose water

meters are also active in Bradford, Birmingham, Sheffield and Chorlywood.

The Welsh Water Rights Campaign too are opposing water cut-offs.

Pirates Ahoy!

The government is likely to issue a White Paper this summer, detailing plans to rob Scotland's water. Legislation would be introduced in the autumn, becoming law in 1994.

It seems likely they will go for franchising; this means the water and sewage industry will be owned by local authorities, but run by private companies for profit. Franchising is a form of privatisation. It must be totally opposed. But how?

A leaflet from Stockbridge New Town Solidarity Network in Edinburgh urges: "We can stop water privatisation by * campaigning against implementation to scare off investors * collective non-payment of water bills * physically preventing the installation of meters * joining together and stopping water disconnection by force of numbers..."

This strategy is echoed by a growing number of communitybased groups in central Scotland, some independent and some involved in the Militantinfluenced Hands Off Our Water campaign. But beware the phoney opposition of some local Labour Party dominated groups - only mass direct action can sink the Tory water privateers! CONTACT: Glasgow - Ibrox Cessnock 041 427 6398, HOW 552 1179. Edinburgh - Broughton 031 558 3153, Haymarket Tollcross 229 7487, Stockbridge 667 4299.

Welsh Water Rights Campaign 0222 830029.

HOW THE STRIKE BEGAN 7 JAN Timex lays off workers. 29 JAN Strike begins. MID FEB. Workers agree to end the strike, accepting lay-off agreement but rejecting benefits and conditions cuts. 17 FEB Timex sacks manual workforce and hires 200 scabs.

(accomodating scabs). Argos have stopped displaying Timex watches. 2 local firms have cancelled substantial contracts with Timex. Benefit offices have been leafleted, urging the unemployed not to scab. Timex workers call for products of all companies owned by Timex boss Fred Olsen to be boycotted worldwide. Timex Dundee makes circuit boards for IBM computers, switch circuits for Stoke on Trent based Creda cookers, and packs clocks/watches. H.Samuels in Swansea was

Continued 3rd col page 2

Striking the Blow

Most of the recent and current struggles, although hard fought by the participants have been isolated and sidetracked by the Unions and Labour politics.

To defend our wages and conditions and our benefits, to fight cuts in services and jobs, to fight for our needs against the requirements of profit and the market, we urgently need to develop an independent movement of our class. Struggles may start off within the confines of trade unionism and under the influence of Labourist ideology but they must rapidly go beyond these confines. They must begin to consciously recognise who the enemy is - not just the traditional establishment, the Tories, churches, judiciary, press etc., but also the capitalist institutions, like the Labour Party and the trade unions representing the working class.

Our class is quite capable of this. Without the benefit of The Left to advise them, and up against Stalinist and military dictatorship, Polish workers, briefly in 1981, showed the potential which exists. They organised their own strikes and occupations through mass assemblies and directly electable committees made up of recallable delegates. These actions were coordinated through centralised committees with delegates from different workplaces and areas. Common demands were thrashed out. Workers in one sector refused to go back unless the demands of all sectors were met. They organised the beginnings of a system of dual power which challenged the apparatus of the state at all levels. There are many examples.

A new movement of this kind, against the background of the present world economic crisis of profitability, restructuring and overproduction, could spread across national boundaries and begin to re-organise society on the basis of human need, without wages, money and markets.

We need organisations which can help that make that happen. Not 'rank and file' groups hanging on the coat-tails of the trade unions. Not 'campaign' groups which operate within the facade of capitalist democracy through petitions, lobbies and media stunts.

We need groups that bring together the minority of committed militants in the workplace, independent of union and sectional divisions, to discuss and inform struggles and agitate for their extension wherever practicable. Such groups need to concentrate on the real struggle and not be sidetracked into union reform campaigns or grandiose schemes to set up new unions, which would just end up the same as the old ones. Outside the workplace we need 'solidarity' groups which promote mutual aid and direct action. Any such groups need to be under the direct control of the people involved, without being tools of different left groups. Some anti-poll tax groups and miner support groups have taken tentative steps towards transforming themselves in this direction but most seem content to remain trapped within a 'campaigning' role.

It won't be easy. But there is a growing mood amongst many public sector workers and others involved in recent disputes to push for united struggles that can repel the bosses attacks. It is the militants from these struggles who now need to think hard about setting up independent groups and networks which can have some real influence on the course of events.

Text from Subversion Dept 10,1 Newton St., Manchester M1 1HW.

Teachers Boycott Tests

REBELLING against a huge extra workload, teachers in England and Wales successfully boycotted the government's new compulsory tests during June. A teacher writes:

"Teachers in all 3 Unions united in a refusal to administer, invigilate, prepare or hand over results for the exams at Key Stages 1, 2 (primary) or 3 (secondary).

The government's motive was to get a system of streaming and selection...and to control teaching methods and content. Childcentred learning goes out the

MAGIC MUSHROOMS
YORKSHIRE'S own Timex dispute is being waged in a mushroom farm at Whitley, near Selby. 89 part-time women workers were sacked from Middlebrook Mushrooms last November for fighting for rights for casual workers and resisting a wage cut and attacks on their conditions. Its owner is Booker, a multinational, employing 22,700, of Booker Prize fame. The women have good links with the Timex strikers, hold daily pickets and leaflet workplaces in Sheffield, Hull and Wakefield

The cops have been fairly strict about the number of pickets - so on the mass picketing days there are 6 official pickets and everyoe else is attending a 7am "coffee morning"! Picket supporters are very welcome - if production is halted even for 1 day it will ruin much of the mushroom crop.

They're talking about their next

TIMEX - from Page 1 picketed on 28 May - act now! But a consumer boycott alone is not enough - it is vital that workers refuse to deliver any supplies to the Timex factory and refuse to transport or work with any Timex or Olsen products worldwide. The AEEU and the STUC union bosses refuse to call for this, due to craven obedience to the Tories' anti-worker laws. Direct appeals from the Timex workers to the workers concerned are needed. Already posties won't deliver to Timex, and TGWU bus drivers won't take buses into the factory.

International solidarity is growing. Olsen's Oslo offices have been picketed, and had their windows smashed on 17 June. Timex workers in Connecticut, USA (site of Timex world HQ) have expressed solidarity, and Timex workers are sending delegations to Denmark and the USA to seek solidarity action

Spreading it

Isolation means defeat. Timex workers have been linking with other struggles, such as the Middlebrook strikers and the mining communities. Many activists are advocating a 1 day general strike in Scotland.

This needs to develop further, so that different groups of strikers present common demands, all refusing to return to work till all demands are met. There is potential in Dundee, where disputes are simmering in several workwindow. Teachers have to 'teach to the test'.

Teachers nationally are fighting education cuts redundacies. It will take more than a boycott to resist this onslaught. Instead of the NUT's slogan "We want to teach" teachers should assert "We want

to strike!"

picket being a Tupperware party Magic!! Donations/info Cliftonville, Plough Garth, Kellington, nr. Goole DN14 ONJ. Tel. 0977 662923

ACTIVELY REFUSING.... CLAIMANTS in Lambeth, London have beaten the government's compulsory new scheme for the unemployed, Jobplan Workshop. If you've been signing on for a year they can order you to attend Jobplan - if you don't go, your Income Support can be cut by

40% for 1 week. But 16 participants forced onto the week-long course in Brixton in May refused to take an active part in the proceedings. The 'trainers' had to give up, and on the second day told everyone to go home. No-one lost benefit. Now Lambeth Unemployed Action Group aim to spread the resistance. LUAG, 12-14 Thornton St., London SW9. Tel 071 733 5135.

places. Local firm ABB Nitran backed down on plans for 60 redundancies, probably due to fear of the Timex factor.

Spreading the struggle means going beyond trade unionism. The AEEU have condemned "illegal mass pickets", and threatened the Timex workers with expulsion from the Union and loss of strike pay if their actions are not "wholly within the civil and criminal law." STUC boss Campbell Christie condemned the successful mass picket on 22 March. STUC "support" for actions such as 19 June is only to try and contain the struggle. It is no good appealing to the

Rather we need effective independent grass-roots structures. Act in solidarity with the Timex workers. Picket shops selling Timex - refuse to work with Timex and Olsen products link your struggle with Timex it's TIME FOR ACTION!

Union bosses or Labour Party.

Donations/info: Timex Strike Fund, AEEU, 2 Union St., Dundee, Scotland. Tel. 0382 22406. Speakers available. Defence Campaign same address.

FUTURE ACTIONS

1 July: Day of Action - Join the Timex picket, organise strikes and solidarity action country-wide. 4 July: Pickets of USA Consulate, Edinburgh and USA Embassy, London.

The Other Israel

Out of 65 Palestinians shot dead by Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip. 30 were children. In 6 years, Israeli State terror has included 1,100 "extra judicial executions" of civilians, hundreds of homes bulldozed & forced expulsions. Following the deportations of 415 Palestinians, radical israelis joined in protests Info: the Other Israel POB 2542, Holon, Israel 58125 (phone/fax (03) 5565804).

COUNTERINFORMATION

Not Costing the Earth!

A summer of discontent started on 24th May when 52 were arrested at the devastated area at Twyford Down near Winchester. 200 direct actionists, including Earth First, occupied a temporary bridge across the A33 to oppose the environmentally irresponsible M3 extensions.

Similar actions are likely at Oxleas Wood for the £200m East London relief road, at Hackney marshes threatened by an extension to the M11 and at the Timbnet complex in Oxford, accused of trading in hard woods stolen from the planet's rain forests.

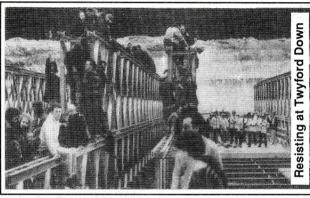
Other news of an upsurge of direct action to protect the planet: - • A 200 strong demonstration on February 25th occupied part of the Runcorn plant of CFC manufacturer, ICI. Banners stated: "Ozone - we never had it so thin"(source:Green Student; ·Bulldozers at White Cliffs near Doncaster were blocked by activists in February objecting to a planned 34 acre industrial and domestic waste site. (Source Planet News);

• Opposition to the Narmada dams project in NW India is intense, with 100,000 villagers threatened with "relocation". A suicide squad of villagers are prepared to resist expulsion from their homes and drown under the flood waters. In Brazil, Gurrani tribal peoples opposed to a dam on the Cipivari River are trying to sabotage World Bank funding for the project threatening their 6,744 acre reserve;

·An international campaign against South Korean company Hyundai's plans to clear 300,000 hectares of Siberian forest and devastate the native Udege tribal life has forced the Russian Supreme Court to stop the logging operation. Source: Planet News .; •An International series of "Action Days" began on May 15th as Amazonian indian and environmental groups protested against ozone depletion. Over

January to block roads had led to Riot Police using tear-gas and batons. In Tomsk, Western Siberia, the explosion in April 6th was the worst since Chernobyl, contaminating a 20km square area;

· A Caledonian Green Circle campaign to stop the despoiling of an area carved up for a motorway extension to connect rich commuters and Glasgow's south-western suburbs is continuing in Pollok. On May 26th an "Outrage" was planned to stop bulldozer destruction of countryside in south Pollok, and appeals made for community support to halt the destruction along a corridor segregating working class housing from the Pollok Estate - Info 146 Earl St., G14 tel. 041-950 1983;



50 people blockaded traffic in Edinburgh in a successful bid to Reclaim the Streets for pedestrians and cyclists. Info on actions from Reclaim the Streets :031-667-0847,071-737-0100.

•In the Czech republic, demonstrations in Prague and disobedience have highlighted concern over a proposed Nucleur plant at Temelin. In Germany, threats to disrupt the transportation of nuclear waste from Belgium to Gorleben have caused delays, after earlier attempts in

· Direct Action and disruption of the start of the construction of the Skye Road Bridge took place on June 2nd. Protestors are pledged to protect an area used by otters and other wildlife. Designed to replace the Ferry, linking the Scottish mainland with the Isle of Skye, the Government placed a contract before 'consultation' was exhausted and instead of a free' bridge, the tolls will be £6, the highest in Europe. Info: Skye Environmental Action c/o S.E.C., Broadford, Skye, IV49 9AQ (tel./Fax 0471-822 487).

No to Euro-State

On the evening of the 18th May Danish Referendum, the gloss of the 'yes' victory was disturbed by TV coverage of rioting which led to 11 activists being shot by police and 78 police injured.

Groups of 'autonome' (independent socialists) decided to make a Happening by liberating Norrebro an inner city area once famed for squatting. By 10pm barricades blocked the area and the police were attacked by waves of activists organised with paving stones and metal spears. With many police injured, live bullets were used against the insurgents. The combination of tear-gas and the antics of plain clothes police (who regrouped behind the advancing police action) inflamed the 300 activists.

After police reinforcements arrived around midnight, live ammunition and retribution (beating injured activists up) continued. As with the Trafalgar Sq. Riot in London, activists are detained although the sentences aren't as severe as in England. On the 20th May 2,000 demonstrated against the use of firearms, the police keeping their distance.Info ABC-Denmark,c/o Peter Bach, Strandvejan 93,4200 Slagelse.

McLiars

Two unemployed activists from London Greenpeace are being sued by the massive McDonald's Corporation for publicising the truth behind the the super-hyped myth

A demo is planned at the High Court in London for the trial provisionally starting 4th October. A national demo is planned for 1pm 16th October, London. Euston, weekend of 16/17th Oct. will have local actions everywhere against McDonald's.

McLibel Support Campaign, c/o London Greenpeace,5 Caledonian Rd.,London N.1. Tel./Fax 071-837-7557.

A World to Win

Boycott Texaco!

Act Up in Britain have taken their campaign against petrol giants Texaco to the streets and phones. Days of action have involved blockades of Texaco's freephone number, and demonstrations outside petrol stations and Texaco HQ in London. Act Up are high lighting Texaco's discriminatory policy of compulsory testing of prospective employees for HIV.

Right to choose!

Far from placing Germany's abortion laws on par with the former east, the German Courts have declared abortions in Public Hospitals illegal from June 93. Only the rich who can afford private clinics will have the right to terminate a pregnancy

BanglaCharter

Riot police were used against workers who staged a two-day road and rail blockade on 15/16th February, during a strike of 400,000 jute & textile workers for a Charter of demands.

(Source: Burning Issue, Australia).

Greek Resistance

An english language Information Bulletin lists anarchist action throughout Greece. Donation to PO Box 30658. Athens 10033.

French Strikewave

Steel and coalworkers in Lorraine blockaded railways, motorways and Metz city on 24th February to resist joblosses. Riotpolice used teargas but didn't directly attack workers used to defending themselves. Earlier, railway, other workers went on strike throughout France. Source: A.Infos, France.

Bhopal in Shangri-La Strikers at the Nepal Battery Company of Katmandu - a subsidiary of Union Carbide-are appealing for international solidarity. The 76 workers are battling company and State repression to win improvements in wages and safety conditions. Contact General Fed.of Nepalese Trade Unions, PO Box 160 District Post Office, Paton Gate, Lalitpur, Nepal(Info Le Monde Libertaire).

Death to the Law

In March 11th, anarchists were ejected from the Kyoto local Government assembly after a protests with banners stating: Death to the Law/Smash the Suppression". They rallied against "1200 years of massacre" following similar protests in Tokyo last November. Info A.R.P.,PO Box 57, Sakyo, Kyoto, 606 Japan.

Anarchy of the Market Protests errupted in Kumasi. Ghana in February against 200% increases in market tolls & rents. Against Moldavian Nationalism After being sacked, Tamara Budenko has been harassed by the Moldavian KGB, like fellow anarcho-syndicalists for propaganda against an authoritarian State.



FREE GUNTHER

ON 6 January 1993 Gunther, an anti-fascist from Wiesbaden, Germany was arrested and accused of disturbing the peace, serious assault and damaging property.

Earlier that evening a meeting held in neighbouring Mainz by 'Deutschen Alternative', a prohibited nazi organisation, was attacked. Two nazi cars were demolished, several nazis injured.

While police tolerated this illegal meeting, they set up road-blocks to find anti-fascists involved in the attack Gunther was arrested at one of

these road-blocks.

Although there is no concrete evidence to link Guther to the attack he's been imprisoned on the justification he might run away or tamper with the evidence.

On 17 April a 2,000 strong anti-fascist demo took place in Mainz, where 300 neo-nazis were celebrating Hitler's birthday. A central demand at this demo was for Gunther's freedom.

Send letters demanding Gunther's immediate release to : Justizminister Caesar, Ernst Ludwig Str 3, 6500 Mainz, Germany. Fax: Germany 6131

More info from : AG "500 Jahre kolonialismus und widerstand", Infoladen, Weider Str 8, 6200 Wiesbaden, Germany.

OUT OF JAIL

AFTER an international campaign, the 4 imprisoned members of the "Awareness League" in Nigeria were conditionally bailed on 29 January * see CI 36).

HUNGER STRIKE

ON 1 June John Perotti and another inmate at Mansfield, Ohio began a hunger strike. In May John was yet again set-up on a false charge. He was accused of planning to stab his best friend. John and his friend told the screws it was a lie but they have both been put in the hole - inhumane isolation. They are now on hunger strike to protest at this harassment and the conditons in the 'hole'. John is a long-time prison activist and has endured constant perseccution from the prison authorities.

Messages of solidarity to: John Perotti, PO Box 1368, no. 167712, Mansfield, Ohio 44901 USA.

TEN DEAD IN OHIO

ON Easter Sunday 1993 at the Southern Ohio Correctional Facility in Lucasville, Ohio, USA the years of oppressive racism, brutality, inhumane treatment and murder of prisoners finally took its toll. A full scale riot, which lasted 11 days, erupted when prisoners were forced to take compulsory blood testing, allegedly for TB. A 21 point demand list was accepted by prison authorities on the conditon of release of 8 prison guards who were held hostage. One guard had already been executed, as well as at least 9 prisoners regarded as grasses. Send SAE for a 4 page account by prison activist John Perotti.

BLAST OF FREEDOM

ON 27 March a newly completed hitech prison in Weiterstade near Frankfurt, Germany was effectively destroyed after a bombing by the Red Army Fraction. No-one was

Organise, educate - and resist racism

The British. Austrian and German states are introducing Asylum Bills, dramatically decreasing the rights of asylum seekers. Political refugees are being criminalised, with France "ahead" in İmplementing "Zero immigration".

The Gaullist Interior Minister, Pasqua has ordered a Police 'crackdown' based on racist harassment of african youth, resulting in 3 deaths between 8-12 April:17 year-old Mkome M.Bouole shot in a police cell, Rachid Ardjouni and 18 yearold Eric Simonte shot dead in 2 separate acts of state terrorism. Riots broke out in the the northern Paris 18th district in response.

In Britain, the murder of Stephen Lawrence, a black student, on 22 April in Eltham by a racist gang(after 3 similar recent deaths), led to a march on the Headquarters of the British National Party in Welling S.E.London. 5,000 marchers attempted to trash the shop despite riot police on horseback attempting to protect it.

In Germany the deaths of 3

young Turkish girls and 2 women in Solingen on 29 May led to angry mass protests throughout Germany by antiracist Turks and Germans. During the passing of the asylum law, 10,000 angry protesters laid seige to the Bonn Parliament, opposed to the abandonment of the country's liberal asylum laws capitulation to nazi terrorism. with Faced imminent deportation of Angolan, Mozambiquen and Vietnamese workers from east Germany, The Free University of Berlin is calling for international pressure stop the deportations. Send reports of actions/info from Freie Universitat Berlin(Asta), Kiebitzweg 23,1000 Berlin 33.

We cannot rely on the State to counter racism and defeat fascism. In Britain it is estimated blacks and asians are attacked or threatened every 30 seconds. Only determined resistance and education in every neighbourhood can remove the cesspit of ignorance & racist nationalism.

ACT NOW

It is estimated that up to 50,000 women and girls have been raped during the war in former Yugoslavia, and that up to 30,000 women have become pregnant through rape. Escaped victims testify to the existence of 16 rape/death camps where women and young girls have been raped, sexually abused, tortured and murdered. Rape has always been used as a weapon of terror and humiliation, an act of violence against women seen not as individuals but as a piece of the enemy's territory to be conquered. Rape is part of a culture of male violence, domination and nationalism.

Rape is a war crime against half of humanity; women have to take action now!

Demos in support of women in ex-Yugoslavia have been held in France, Italy and Netherlands, where monthly demos are held in Hooghalen, Assen. There is some resistance to the war within ex-Yugoslavia. Up to 300,000 men are estimated to have refused conscription between 1990 and 1992, many through an underground network which aids conscientious objectors and deserters.

Anti War Centre/Women in Black, Kralja Milutina 46, 11000 Beograd, Serbia. Mirovni Pokret (Peace Movement), Korzo 2a, 51000 Rijeka, Croatia. ARK-ZAPO, Tkalciceva 38, 41000 Zagreb. Tel. 041 422495. Fax 041 335230. (Zagreb anarchopacifist organisation)

Info: Bad Attitude & Germinal. The Child Support Act attacks single parents on In-come Support by threatening benefit cuts if they do not authorise the pursuit of the absent parent for mainte-nance - all of which goes to the state. Resist! Never go to an interview alone. Don't sign the Maintenance Application form without getting advice from the Campaign against the Child Support Act. CACSA,PO Box 287, Act. CACSA,PO Box 287, London NW6 5QU. 071 837

GET INVOLVED!

If you like Counter Info, we invite you to write to us, and also to the other groups listed below:

AK Distribution, 22 Lutton Place, Edinburgh. Anarchist Commnist Federation, c/o 84b Whitechapel High St., London E1 7QX (contacts Britain-wide) Attack International BM6577 London WCIN 3XX Autonomous Network c/o FUN, 28 King St., Glasgow G1 5QP (network to link struggles in Scotland) DS4A, Box 8, 82 Colston St., Bristol. (mail order)

Class War: PO Box 1021, Edinburgh EH8 9PW: POBox 772, Bristol BS99 1EL(Britain-wide & international) London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1 Norwich Solidarity Centre and Norwich Direct Action Movement - both at: PO Box 73, Norwich NR1 2EB Stockbridge New Town Solidarity Network, c/o J.Ball, 24 Dean Pk. St., Edinburgh EH4 1JT Tottenham Solidarity Network, c/o 72 West Green Rd.,

Wind Chill Factor, POBox 81961, Chicago, IL 60681, USA. (If your group would like to be considered for listing, write CI)

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