

ANTI-STATE

DOCUMENTATION & NEWS NETWORK

January/February 1983

The Anti-State Documentation and News Network is a long-term project designed to facilitate the circulation and documentation of counter-information and encourage greater participation in local intelligence gathering. It was conceived in response to a number of needs which can be identified as follows:

1. the need to be able to exchange news, especially urgent news, quickly and reliably
2. the need to develop an alternative investigation and intelligence gathering capability
- and 3. the need to store information and research that is both fully cross-referenced and accessible

Currently the circulation of news is undertaken either on an ad-hoc basis, between affinity groups, or through journals/local papers, which often have long or non-coordinated copy and issue dates. Invariably, we end up relying on the capitalist press for 'up-to-the-minute' news and, if we are lucky, we might get to find out more details, through our own efforts, at a later point in time. Local on-the-spot reporting and news gathering is something we, more often than not, neglect—our own resources being limited or under-used. Even more severe is the problem of urgent news (arrests, riots, wildcat actions, etc.) and how such news is circulated to, perhaps, a wider number of contacts. On a totally different level, it is generally the case that the information we hold is dis-connected, patchy and prone to, often, unnecessary duplication. Some of us, for example, may be researching into the activities/movements of local fascist organisations, their links with other authoritarian/statist agencies, their financial resources and international connections; or, perhaps the dealings of a particular multi-national. But is such research—whether published or unpublished—ever keyed in to similar research undertaken elsewhere? And to what degree are we skilled at monitoring organisations, carrying out investigations, etc? And how do we document and disseminate the results of such investigations? To help counter these problems ASDNN has three specific proposals to make.

1. ANTI-STATE DOCUMENTATION INDEX

To assist in the development of an efficient and reliable News Network, regional Documentation Centres, responsible for the storage of local news/reports, counter-information/investigations, etc., could be set up. (A London documentation centre is currently being developed in south London; many other such centres exist in different countries, some having been in operation for many years.) A documentation centre is by no means difficult to set up: material can be loaned, donated, or simply 'pooled' from local activists or sympathisers. Neither need such centres be in one physical place: each centre could card index their material/information held (summarising the information, detailing what is covered and where it is stored—in terms of either regional centre and/or local contributor or contact). The regional indexes can then be cross-referenced and linked in with each other to form an ASDNN INDEX, which in turn would link in with international documentation centres and their indexes. From the ASDNN Index, 'files' could then be created

ASDNN, BM HURRICANE, LONDON, WCI 3XX

ANTI-STATE

DOCUMENTATION & NEWS NETWORK

and regularly updated: e.g. an 'International Anti-Militarism/Security Forces File', an 'Industrial/Company-information File', a 'Police and Policing File', a 'Fascists and Fascism File', etc, etc. The actual information would be held locally but linked together through ASDNN so as to help build up a more accurate and accessible data-base of counter-information. To a certain extent a documentation and news network already exists in embryo. Affinity groups naturally link up with others to provide support, exchange information, and publish papers, and in some cases form local/regional federations. To move on from this to a more efficient, wider communications network would be but a simple transition.

2. ANTI-STATE NEWS SERVICE

As a back-up to existing communication networks (local and regional federations, etc) and facilities (local and regional papers/radio, etc), a ASDNN News Service, to disseminate news and reports on a wide scale to as many contacts as possible, will be set up. The Anti-State News Service, published as part of the 'BLACK FLAG NEWS BULLETIN', will, hopefully, provide a valuable input to our existing media, regularly pooling and circulating news. The News Service will, of course, only function well if reports are sent in on a regular basis from as many contributors as possible. ASDNN will, in addition, create a mailing list of contributors/subscribers, to be used as a means to send out URGENT NEWS—news that is too important to wait for publication dates. The Urgent News Mailing is a two way arrangement: if it is critical, send it in and it will be circulated.

3. ANTI-STATE PUBLICATIONS

For the more in-depth research/investigations, these could be circulated and published as part of a series of reports using the 'pooled' resources of ASDNN contacts. Both the work-load and the financial requirement would then be spread out and minimised. ASP--jointly organised with 'Black Flag'--would operate on a strictly mutual aid basis: if you have material for publication, equipment to loan, or can offer financial support, distribution/promotional facilities, time and energy, etc, ASP will seek out and link together the appropriate contacts.

PARTICIPATION

The ASDNN Mailing List will cover Urgent News Mailings, Index and ASP updates. To subscribe to the ASDNN Mailing List costs only £1.50 U.K., £2 overseas per year to cover postage. Annual subscription to the News Service costs £9 U.K, £17 overseas and includes all issues of the (fortnightly) Bulletin as well as the Black Flag Quarterly. All cheques/postal orders/money orders for the Mailing List subscription to 'ASDNN' at address shown below. All cheques/postal orders/money orders for the News Bulletin subscription to 'Black Flag' at its temporary mailing address: c/o Box ABC, 121 Railton Road, London SE24. (This address is also the address point from which the London Documentation Centre operates.)

Please circulate this letter, plus enclosures, to comrades locally. Hope to hear from you soon...

IN SOLIDARITY

ASDNN, BM HURRICANE, LONDON, WC1 3XX