

DIRECT ACTION



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**We do not inherit
the world
from our
forefathers**



we borrow it from our children

ASBESTOS KILLS



Most of us are aware, as of late, a lot of publicity has been given to the material asbestos. The controversial programme screened by Yorkshire T.V., "Alice A Fight For Life", which slammed the materials use in industry, as done much to enlighten public awareness to the health risks associated with asbestos containing materials.

Why so much controversy should surround asbestos, is in itself cause for much discussion, when one considers that there is not one single use for which asbestos is really necessary and that, many people will die for something as insignificant as an oven glove, a vinyl floor tile or the pad of an ironing board, then the public must ask itself why, in spite of the hazards do we continue to use asbestos?

The answer to this must obviously lie in the fact that asbestos is profitable. Britain's largest asbestos company, Turner and Newall, last year turned over a profit of £8.5 million. Just how much things have changed can be seen in the fact that in June of this year and prior to Yorkshire T.V.'s documentary, Turners informed shareholders, "that much of the steam had gone out of the anti-asbestos lobby and that there was not that much concern in the UK."

Does this sound like a company that proclaims to be working its butt off to find alternatives to asbestos? Why Turners should find so much difficulty in finding substitutes is strange to say the least, when you consider that in 1980 alone, 1,000 and more patents were filed relating to asbestos substitutes. Perhaps, the answer to this problem may lie in the fact that Turners themselves have significantly reduced their staff working on research into substitutes.

It is often argued that of

the different types of asbestos only the blue type (crocidolite) is dangerous. It is an opinion I myself have heard all too frequently and is a dangerous myth however popular a notion it may be. In Britain alone, a tremendous amount of research is taking place which suggests that one fibre, be it blue, white or brown, can kill. During the 1970's a voluntary ban was put on Blue asbestos in this country. However, it is interesting to note that blue asbestos at the time amounted to only 5% of the industries business. This has led many to conclude that, blue asbestos albeit extremely hazardous, has been used as a convenient scapegoat, which consequently has left the other varieties virtually unaffected.

The most damning evidence to date against white asbestos (chrysotile), is that of Professor Irving Selikoff, of Mount Sinai Medical School, New York. For the last forty years he has been studying 632 New York asbestos insulation workers who, in the main, have been working with white asbestos. Of the 632 all but 100 have now died. He maintains that of a comparable number of people chosen at random and matched for age, sex etc., statistically, one would expect that of these, 64 would die of cancer. Of the age group he studied, cancer killed 238 of the

men. Furthermore, one would expect of the group chosen at random 16 would die of lung cancer. Of the 632 insulation workers, 105 died of lung cancer and 50 died of mesothelioma. The chances that anyone would die of this disease are one or two in ten thousand.

You may ask what is the government doing about it? The answer to that is quite simply, little or nothing. The fact that at least 200 former employees of Acre Mill, Hebden Bridge, a factory once owned by Cape Asbestos, have contracted asbestosis and mesothelioma, despite the fact that successive British governments have been aware of the lethal qualities of asbestos since as early as 1906, suggests criminal complacency at the very least. Moreover, production of asbestos world wide, doubled between 1930 and 1976, according to the World Health Organisation.

Following the aftermath of Acre Mill, the government set up the Advisory Committee on Asbestos, chaired by Mr Bill Simpson who was chairman of the Health and Safety Commission. The committee met for 3 years and was hailed as the inquiry to end all inquiries. To date, not one of its 41 recommendations have become law. The government has now decided to introduce new regulations into the use of asbestos. However, it is felt by many that the four recommendations are likely to have little effect on the asbestos industry. There is, for example, still no compulsory labelling of asbestos products.

What could be done to protect people from the dangers of asbestos? There is doubt that nothing short of a total ban on asbestos will effectively protect people from the hazards. Sweden has already banned it. There is however, not much evidence to suggest that this possibility has ever been taken

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A FAIR COP?

The fact that we have the finest police in the world is beyond doubt but, the finest at what is the real question. Just a quick look through the state press will soon give you the answer.

A Birmingham couple were given £1,700 damages in an out of court settlement against the West Midlands police after their four year old daughter was knocked over and killed by a police car speeding along the road.

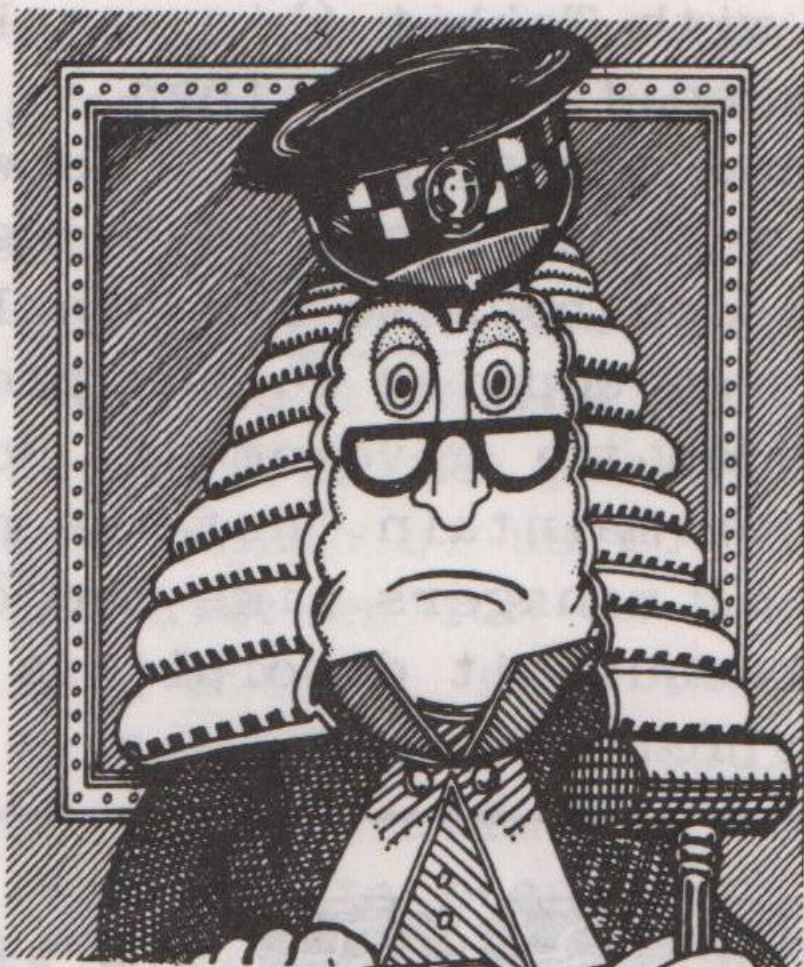
:PC David Wactell of the Thames Valley police was dismissed for selling information from the police computer to private detective agencies, strange we always thought Thatcher was in favour of free enterprise.

:PC Martin Jones of the Dyfed-Powys police let a fellow police officer punch him in the face so that they could fake evidence of assault against a 15 year old boy. Apparently after beating up the boy in the street he realized that there is no such charge as "being a police punch-ball" hence the need for a face change.

:Now dont start thinking that its only PCs who find themselves in the dock. Inspector John Waters of the West Midlands (we love fast cars and small girls) police was found guilty of assaulting a insurance consultant whom he was trying to drag to the police station while off duty.

:We must feel a little sorry for Sergeant Gerald Smith of the Wiltshire police because he failed in his attempt to murder policewoman Louvaine Woolway. Better luck next time Gerald.

:Remember its not only in South Africa that people "die" in police custody. In 1981 the number of deaths in Britain was 49. In 1980 it was 63. In the Metropolitan area it has increased from 20 in 1980 to 27 in 1981. An inquest verdict was given in 42 of the 49 cases and death was due to natural causes in only 17 cases.



:If by now, you were wondering whatever happened to the cream of the worlds finest, dont despair here they are. Scotland Yards latest corruption inquiry has run into a spot of bother. The man chosen to head the operation was himself involved in the case which lies behind the current allegations. He has a spotless record but you know what they say about one rotten apple in the barrel.

:Still in London, a super grass has told how he carried out burglaries with his partner, a Detective Inspector of the Flying Squad (strange its not like that on the TV). In evidence at the Old Bailey the informer also said that two other Flying Squad detectives had tried to discourage him from giving evidence about police corruption.

:Ever wonder what they do in those Freemason lodges. Well according to supergrass Michael Gervaise singing at the Old Bailey last month, they exchange information but it seems to be all one way. Masons in the police tip off their fellow masons in the underworld when things are getting a bit too hot.

:A Bradford man was awarded £24,275 for wrongful imprisonment. When asked to make a statement a Home office spokesman said that £25,000 was awarded last year in another case of wrongful imprisonment. Perhaps it was the only thing he could think of saying, now if he just waited one day look what he could boast about, £51,000 damages awarded to a Jamaican couple after the Metropolitan police smashed in their front door and savagely attacked them. It sounds like justice but when you just think it took them six years before the case was brought to court and even now the police are appealing against the award.

:Pc William Wilson another Wiltshire police man (it must be all that cider) is somebody we must admire, after falling behind with the paper work he had a brainwave and set fire to the police station, unfortunately he only managed to destroy the personal property of nine of his colleagues.

:An unnamed senior police officer has been suspended from duty while detectives investigate a discrepancy of between £1,800 and £3,000 from the books of the West Midlands police football league.



UNION NOTES

Manchester Council, a bastion of socialism, is to sack all its part-time lecturers in Manchester Colleges. In order that the contracts of the full-time lecturers can be renegotiated they're all getting the sack.

On June 8th there was a mass 'return to sender' demo at the education office where about 60% of those lecturers who had received their notice of dismissal demonstrated.

The Socialist Workers' Party in their usual revolutionary fashion dished out a leaflet which called for an all out strike in September. A good idea would have been to refuse to mark exam papers rather than call a strike in the Autumn after the long summer vacation.

The Department of Employment in 1979, commissioned Prof. Gennard of Strathclyde University to conduct a survey on the closed shop. Prof. Gennard's Report has been in the hands of the Dept of Employment since Dec. last year, but it has not yet been made available to the public.



Mr Tebbit claims that 100 per cent trade unionism reinforces restrictive practices. Leaks of Prof Gennard's report, however, suggest that 12% of managers agree with Tebbit (his sample was taken from more than a thousand companies.) It is wrong that this report is being suppressed because its conclusions run counter to the prejudices of the government. However, we maintain that the majority of managers like the closed shop because it disciplines the labour force.

NALGO members have rejected affiliation to the Labour Party by a massive majority in a ballot to decide the issue. The membership voted almost eight to one against and also turned down the proposal for a political fund.

58% of the membership voted, quite a high figure for a union ballot, the votes cast were as follows:- For 49,925 (12%) Against 382,577.

The Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association (AMMA) in a recent report has been belly-aching that thousands of extra teachers will be necessary and millions of pounds will have to be spent to avoid disruption in schools if corporal punishment is banned.

If the union was really interested in its members, it should welcome the abolition of corporal punishment with open arms. Instead it is demanding heavier fines and imprisonment for the parents of persistent truants rather than using abolition as a way towards more jobs, smaller classes and less stress for both teachers and school students.

MINDLESS MILITANTS

Way back in 1937 a young man called Ted Grant arrived in this country from South Africa, to join the Workers International League. This was to merge in 1943 with the Militant Labour League and form the Revolutionary Communist Party. The Party was to follow the ancient Trotskyist tradition and fragment into a thousand pieces (well it would have if it had had enough members) one fragment of which was to evolve into the darling of Fleet Street, the dreaded Militant Tendency. The M.T. has long since followed a course of 'entryism' into the Labour Party as a means of winning the masses to its viewpoint.

The M.T. star really began to ascend in the mid 70's when Labour Peer Lord Underhill began his investigations into Labour infiltration. The Militants became everyone's reds under everyone's beds as the nation's free press began their shock horror stories of the threat to our wonderful, demo-

cratic institutions. The right wing of the Labour Party used Militant as one of its excuses to form its opportunist Social Democratic Party. Scumbags such as Roy Jenkins and David Owen launched their dream to become heads of our ship of state.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Militant carried on muling its way through the Labour Party with gay abandon. They denied they were 'anti-democratic' and claimed they had undying loyalty to the parliamentary process. They denied they have an internal organisation (they have, the Revolutionary Socialist League) but adhered to their variety of Marxism. Only by winning the Labour Party to a clear socialist programme, nationalisation of the top 200 companies etc, could Britain be made Great again, they claimed.

So once again, we the people, are asked to pin our hopes, put our crosses, for the new harbingers of the Golden Age. The Militant Tendency, whether

it claims to be revolutionary or reformist, follows the well-worn paths of politicians through the ages, don't do things yourself but vote for us and we'll do them for you. With votes at recent bye-elections barely scraping over 50% it seems more and more people are having healthy cynicism for that kind of rubbish.

The joys of parliamentary democracy, the occasional X on a bit of paper for someone you may or may not ever hear of again, should not be defended (even phonily) but exposed as the sham it is. The Labour Party may one day be won over to a 'socialist programme' but the real powers that run society would never allow such measures to be taken anyway. The only hope for change in this society is for it to come from the working people organising themselves and putting faith in themselves alone. The Long March through the Labour Party is a long march to nowhere.

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RESISTANCE

CONFEDERATION OF
ANTI-MILITARISTS

After the weekend conference of the Direct Action Movement which was held in Leeds on the 26/27 June 1982 a meeting was held by comrades from several Libertarian groups who had taken an active interest in the work of Anarchist Action. It was proposed and agreed that the provisional name of Anarchist Action should be changed to that of "RESISTANCE".

The reason being that AA was too sectarian a title and therefore many friends and comrades who otherwise would be sympathetic to its aims would find themselves unable to work under such a name. It was further agreed that due to one reason or another many of the comrades who attended the conference in Manchester on 13th Feb. 1982 had failed to maintain a strong interest in AA and that there would be no point in calling a general meeting just to discuss a change of name, it is hoped that all interested groups and individuals will understand.



A general discussion followed and the comrades present laid out the reasons for an organisation like Resistance;

- 1) CND, its failure as seen by Resistance.

- a) The fact that CND was not really an anti-militarist organisation.
- b) The failure of CND to oppose Britain's membership of NATO.
- c) The naive faith of CND in the Labour Party.
- d) The elitest nature of the CND organisation ie. once a year conferences, paid officials, central councils, central headquarters etc.



- e) The pro-statist nature of the CND, demonstrations organised in collaboration with the police.
- 2) The need for an umbrella organisation to bring together all autonomous groups who are fighting;
 - a) Militarism
 - b) Statism
 - c) Capitalism
 - d) Racism
- 3) The need for close contact between groups before all demonstrations, public meetings, industrial strikes etc. to decide what course of action may be taken if any.
- 4) The need for sound information about future demonstrations etc. when, where, how to get there, who will be going, where to meet beforehand and what should be done there.
- 5) The need for good intelligence on military bases, recruitment shows, nuclear waste movements across the country etc. so that the following courses of action may be taken;
 - a) Pickets, demonstrations etc.
 - b) Leaflets warning the public

ie. dangers of nuclear waste etc.

- c) Posters on route of nuclear industrial waste etc.
- d) Other actions.
- 6) The need for a central address and phone number(s) to maintain contacts and the quick return of information.
- 7) The need for a regular national bulletin and the money to publish and send this bulletin out if need be by first class mail.

On the above points it was agreed to set up a contact address at:- Box A, LAP, 59 Cookridge St, Leeds 2.

A number of comrades of the Leeds Anarchist group agreed to take care of all incoming mail. An appeal will be made through the free press for all groups and individuals interested to contact the above address with information, suggestions, money etc.

Comrades present:- Leeds DAM, Leeds Anarchists, Huddersfield DAM, Huddersfield Anarchist Group, Newcastle Anarchist Group, Burnley Anti-nukes, East Anglia DAM, Hull Anarchist Group, Hull DAM, Burnley DAM.

KING ARTHUR

Arthur Scargill, N.U.M. President, has frozen the Miners' pension fund currently standing at £1½ Bn. He has blocked further investment in South Africa and the USA. Scargill has refused to endorse the budget and expenditure programme of the fund which already owns the Watergate building in Washington. Arthur is on record as saying he wants the

money invested in British Industries. If investment is used 'wisely' it will add to the political clout of the union, but also, it underlines the fact that the present union have made their peace with Capitalism. Labourism only seeks the 'best' deal for the working class under capitalism; it has no intention of putting an end to the system.



PRINCIPLES OF

Revolutionary Syndicalism

1, Revolutionary Syndicalism, basing itself on the class war, aims at the union of all manual and intellectual workers in economic fighting organisations struggling for their emancipation from the yoke of wage-slavery and the oppression of the state. Its goal is the re-organisation of social life on the basis of Free Communism, by means of the revolutionary action of the working class itself. It considers that the economic organisation of the proletariat are alone capable of realising this aim, and, in consequence, its appeal is addresses to workers in their capacity as producers and creators of social riches, in opposition to the modern political labour parties which can never be considered at all from the point of view of economic re-organisation.

2, Revolutionary Syndicalism is the confirmed enemy of every form of economic and social monopoly, and aims at their abolition by means of economic communes and administrative organs of factory and field workers on the basis of a free system of councils, entirely liberated from subordination to any Government or political party. Against the politics of the state and of parties it erects the economic organisation of labour; against the government of people, it sets up the management of things. Consequently, it has not for its objective the conquest of political power, but the abolition of every State function in social life. It considers that, along with the monopoly of property, should also disappear the monopoly of domination, and that any form of the State, including the form of the "dictatorship of the proletariat" will always be the creator of new monopolies and new privileges. It could never be an instrument of liberation.

3, The double task of Revolutionary Syndicalism is as follows: on one hand it pursues the daily revolutionary struggle for the economic, social and intellectual improvement of the working class within the framework of existing society; on the other hand its ultimate goal is to raise the masses to the independent management of production and distribution, as well as to transfer into their own hands of all the ramifications of social life. It is convinced that the organisation of an economic system, resting on the producer and built up from below upwards, can never be regulated by Governmental decrees, but only by the common action of all manual and intellectual workers in every branch of industry, by the conduct of factories by the producers themselves in such a way that each group, workshop or branch of industry is an autonomous section of the general economic organisation, systematically developing production and distribution in the interests of the entire community in accordance with a well-determined plan and on the basis of mutual agreements.

4, Revolutionary Syndicalism is opposed to every centralist tendency and organisation, which is borrowed from the State and the Church, and which stifles methodically every spirit of initiative and every independent thought. Centralism is an artificial organisation from top to bottom, which hands over en bloc to a handful of people, the regulations of the affairs of a whole community. The individual becomes, therefore, nothing but an automaton directed and moved from above. The interests of the community yield place to the privileges of a few; variety is replaced by uniformity; personal responsibility by a soulless discipline; real education by a veneer. It is for this reason that Revolutionary Syndicalism advocates

federalist organisation; that is to say, an organisation, from below upwards, of a free union of all forces on the basis of common ideas and interests.

5, Revolutionary Syndicalism rejects all parliamentary activity and all cooperation with legislative bodies. Universal suffrage, on however wide a basis, cannot bring about the disappearance of the flagrant contradictions existing in the very bosom of modern society; the parliamentary system has but one objective, viz., to lend the appearance of legal right to the reign of lies and social injustice, to persuade slaves to fix the seal of the law onto their own enslavement.

6, Revolutionary Syndicalism rejects all arbitrarily fixed political and national frontiers, and it sees in nationalism nothing more but the religion of the modern State, behind which are concealed the material interests of the possessing classes. It recognises only regional differences, and demands for every group the right of self-determination in harmonious solidarity with all other associations of an economic, territorial or national order.

7, It is for these same reasons that Revolutionary Syndicalism opposes militarism in all its forms, and considers anti-militarist propaganda one of its most important tasks in the struggle against the present system. In the first instance, it urges individual refusal of military service, and especially, organised boycotting of the manufacture of war materials.

8, Revolutionary Syndicalism stands on a platform of direct action, and supports all struggles which are not contradictory with its aims, viz., the abolition of economic monopoly and of the domination of the State. The methods of struggle are the strike, the boycott, sabotage etc. Direct action finds its most pronounced expression in the general

strike which, at the same time, from the viewpoint of Revolutionary Syndicalism, ought to be the prelude to the Social Revolution.

9, Although the enemies of all forms of organised violence in the hands of any Government, the Syndicalists do not forget that the decisive struggle between the Capitalism of today and the Free Communism of tomorrow will not take place without serious collisions. They recognise violence therefore, as a means of defence against the methods of violence of the ruling classes, in the struggle of the revolutionary people for expropriation of the means of production and of the land. Just as this expropriation cannot be commenced and carried to a successful issue except by revolutionary economic organisations of the workers, so also the defence of the revolution should be in the hands of these economic organisations, not in those of any military or other organisations operating outside the economic organs.

10, It is only in the revolutionary economic organisations of the working class that is to be found the power apt to carry out its emancipation, as well as the creative energy necessary for the re-organisation of society on the basis of Free Communism.

(Adopted by the First International Convention of the International Workers Association (I.W.A./A.I.T.), Berlin 1922)



REVOLUTIONARY UNIONISM TODAY

The International Workers Association (Asociacion Internacional de Trabajadores I.W.A./A.I.T.) is the anarcho-syndicalist International. It was

formed in 1922 as a revolutionary alternative to the Red Trade Union International (a front organisation for the Russian Communist Party). In the inter-war years the AIT had a membership of several millions and sections in 25 countries. As dictatorships came to power throughout Europe, the revolutionary unions in Italy, Germany, Spain and Portugal were smashed. Other sections in Bulgaria and Argentina were also forced underground. The nightmare rule of fascism, the devastation of world war and the subsequent cold war reduced the AIT to a mere husk. Only now has the revolutionary union movement begun to rise from the ashes of these historic defeats. Today the anarcho-syndicalist International is undergoing a period of expansion and renewal. This is the direct result of the rebirth and amazing growth of the AIT's most prestigious section: the Spanish CNT.

The Confederacion Nacional del Trabajo (CNT), Spain's anarcho-syndicalist union federation, was the major organisation of the Spanish working class up until the victory of Franco in the Civil War. At its peak it had over 2 million members. Four decades of fascist repression reduced this to 20,000, which was its size when it emerged from the underground in March 1977. With more freedom to organise, it began to expand rapidly and re-assert itself as the most militant of the organisations of the Spanish working class. By Oct. 1978 it had more than 1/2 million members and was still expanding, making it the largest revolutionary organisation in the world (unless you consider the various 'Communist' Parties revolutionary). Inspired by the success of the CNT other sections of the AIT began to re-animate themselves.

In Italy the USI (Unione Sindacale Italiana) played a crucial role in some of the most famous episodes of Italian Revolutionary history (such as the Red Week in 1913 and the

factory occupations in 1920). At its height it reached 800,000 members but was destroyed by fascist violence when Mussolini came to power. After its re-founding in 1978 it too is building up rapidly.

In Germany the Freie Arbeiter Union (Free Workers Union) which had 200,000 members until crushed by Hitler, is also being reconstructed. In Norway the Norsk Syndikalistisk Forbund (Norwegian Syndicalist Federation) was re-formed in 1976 as a rank and file grouping in the social democratic trade union central (LO). Its greatest strength is in the Oslo local of the Iron and Steel Union. Other sections of the AIT include the CNT in France, another CNT in Bulgaria (exiled and underground in Bulgaria) the Argentinian FORA, the Portuguese anarcho-syndicalists grouped round the paper 'A Batalha' and propaganda groups in New York (Libertarian Workers Group) and Britain (Direct Action Movement).

There are 3 revolutionary union organisations which aren't sections of the AIT but which maintain friendly links with it.

The SAC (Sveriges Arbetare Centralorganisation; Swedish Central Workers Organisation) is Sweden syndicalist union. It has members numbering 18,000 and organises lumber, construction and foundry workers as well as a growing number of service and white-collar workers.

Little known in Britain, the OVB is a Dutch union organised on syndicalist lines. It initials stand for the Independent Alliance of Industrial Unions and it exists as an autonomous workers organisation of more than 13,000 members. The membership is mainly in the West, South and North, and works in building, fishing, docks, taxi-driving and metal-working though now public sector workers (ex teachers and social workers etc.) are joining. It also has a growing youth section.

The Industrial workers of the World (IWW) - better known as the 'Wobblies' was founded in 1905 at a convention in Chicago with socialists, anarchists, trade unionists and revolutionaries present. Though the delegates differed on many issues, they agreed that the American Federation of Labour (their TUC) with its craft unionism, class collaboration, and 'pure and simple' trade unionism, class unionism, had to be replaced by an organisation which stood for industrial unionism, organisation of all workers regardless of skill, sex, colour or nationality, and the establishment of a new social system to replace capitalism.

The IWW went through two splits and emerged in 1908 as a revolutionary union devoted to economic activity, opposed in general to political action, and seeking its goal of "one big union" (OBU) through direct action, sabotage, passive resistance and labour solidarity.

The history of the IWW is a long list of strikes, free speech fights, set backs and the murder, deportation and imprisonment of wobblies. There have been many notable victories and workers lives changed dramatically for the better. The union today is best remembered for its martyrs such as Joe Hill whose advice to members on the eve of his judicial murder was, "Don't waste time mourning for me...organise!". During the First World War the union took a strong anti-militarist stand. This led to attacks on the union such as the 'Criminal Syndicalism' Law used to great effect for many years (it was only repealed in 1972).

The IWW have continued to organise as they always have, but with much fewer numbers than in the old days. Until recently that is, the IWW too is in a period of expansion it seems.



Syndicalism: At the turn of the century anarchists entered the trade unions in France and for a time turned them into revolutionary organisations. As a result the word 'syndicalisme' (French for trade unionism) came to mean 'revolutionary unionism'.

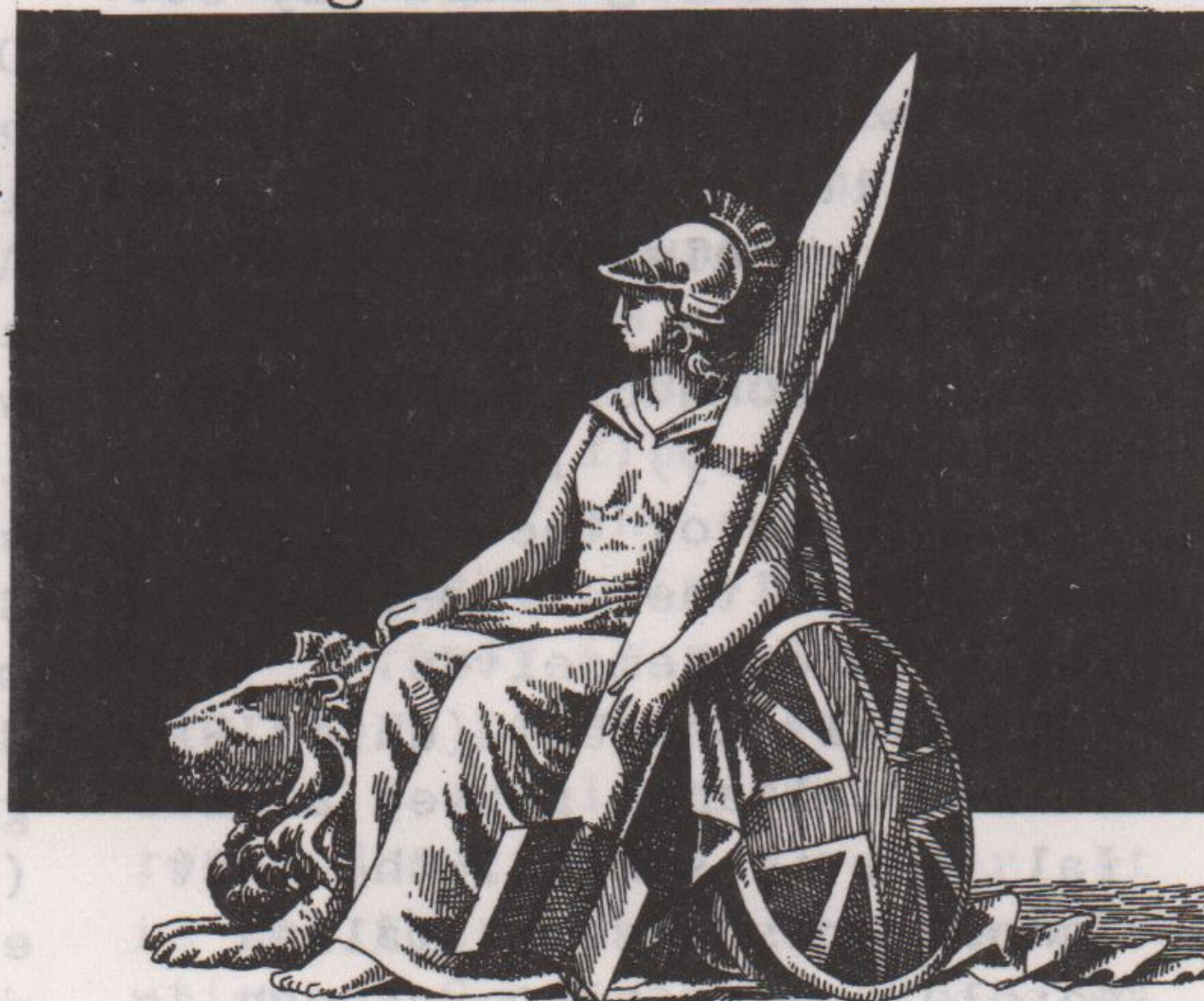
Anarcho-syndicalism: Is the movement which sees revolutionary unionism as the method but 'anarchy' as the goal (anarchy being a classless, Stateless society based on equality and freedom).

N.B. The IWW, which developed out of different conditions prefers to call its brand of revolutionary unionism 'industrial unionism', but it has obvious similarities with syndicalist and anarcho-syndicalist organisations.

Nuclear Weapons and the Falklands

For all their coverage of the Falklands war one will be hard put to find any mention in the state press about what weapons were carried on HMS Sheffield before it went to the ocean floor. The Ministry of Defence has refused to issue a categorical denial that the Sheffield was carrying nuclear weapons in the form of depth charges. But it is a well known fact that ships like the Sheffield ie. T42 destroyers carry Lynx helicopters which in the words of John Nott, the Defence Secretary were capable of delivering nuclear depth charges. A leading British academic has told members of DAM, that from information received at his university department (which specializes in defence matters) the Sheffield was not sunk when first hit by an exocet missile but was scuttled by her crew after the missile had caused so much damage that there was a radiation leak. It was repor-

ted in the press, with great surprise, at the time when the news of Sheffield's sinking first appeared, 'how could one missile sink a T42 destroyer'? Perhaps now we know why and how the Sheffield met its end but there are many who will say that this theory is tenuous. The latest news from the south Atlantic should help to change their minds a little. The Ministry of Defence has chartered two special oil rig maintenance vessels with deep sea diving bells able to



reach 1,500 feet. The ships which belong to the Swedish Stena Line have had their crews changed and are now manned by Royal Navy personnel. The story being put out by the government is that the ships are in the south Atlantic to recover 'valuable' cargo which went down in the war. Also to dispose of the ammunition littering the sea bed, which when one thinks about it would be a rather daft exercise as water or should I say the deep sea is where the military always dump their unwanted ammunition in the first place.

Those of us who watched the TV films of sailors from the Sheffield returning to Britain remember well the terrible burns on many of the men, we are told these burns were the result of contact with plastic but could they not also have been caused by radiation? We may never know but those who were there know already but will they live long enough to tell us?

HOSPITAL WORKERS

Members of South London DAM, and other A's, recently took part in actions in support of the hospital workers strike. We wanted to avoid any political interventions, patronising leaflets, sloganeering, etc - typical of trots. Instead we went to the picket line purely to provide physical support.

We arrived by van at Kings College Hospital, a large South London Hospital - there were eight of us altogether and we told the pickets that we'd come to help out. They didn't ask us who we were but were extremely glad of the offer, mainly because the male pickets, who were to picket a particular entrance, had not turned up, nor had the turned up the day before. We were therefore given an entrance to ourselves.

Some of us picketed this entrance - which was one of the two main entrances for vans bringing in supplies - and some of us stayed with the hospital workers at the other entrance. We were around for about three hours. The entrance we looked after was on a very busy main road and we made several placards to attract attention - 'The real murderers are the government - no more cuts' '12% of £43 is peanuts' 'We are not martyrs, we want a living wage' 'Hospital users' support hospital workers'.

One or two of the placards were signed off 'Direct Action Movement' and 'D.A.M.'. We also had a huge sign saying 'Honk if you support us' and about every working vehicle (buses, lorries, council vans) responded as did about 1 in 5 private motorists. Apart from talking to passersby we also talked to drivers leaving the hospital. Those of us who were picketing the main entrance managed to prevent three vehicles from getting in. One of us actually inspected the inside of one van before allowing it to go any further. Little did those drivers realise that none of us were official pickets and that some of us were not even in a union.

Inbetween stopping vans and talking to people walking by we chatted with the official pickets - cleaners, ancillary workers and catering staff. they had a sense of fun and were shouting out things like 'What do we want - 12%; what do we get - bugger all' and were generally abusing doctors and middle class types walking through. When we finally left we promised that we would come and help out the next day. This promise we fulfilled and some of us turned to picket the wing opposite that which handled psychiatric cases.

There had been several suggestions made at the last DAM meeting as to what our next plan of action should be. One suggestion is that we attempt to do things inside the hospital as well as offering continuing support to the pickets outside. Enough of us could stage an intervention as hospital users within, say, the Casualty Department. We could construe various ailments and, whilst waiting to be seen, try and cause as much trouble as possible: sabotage, leafletting, talking to patients/staff, graffititting walls, etc. We could make it clear that we support the hospital workers not only as fellow workers but as patients.

Other forms of action away from picket lines could be directed against the management: hospital management/DHSS local offices etc. Apart from leafletting and graffititting we could do such things as placing tin tacks at entrances and drive-ways to hospital service entrances; emptying bags of rubbish in the foyers of DHSS offices and generally trying to cause as much trouble as possible. Also as we get to know pickets we can introduce placards/leaflets campaigning for shorter hours/equal pay/more holidays etc., in addition to the paltry demands from the unions. We'll probably try out some of these ideas or all of them and we'd be interested to hear from other DAM groups as to what ideas they have.

Terry(south London
DAM)

SPARTICIST LEAGUE

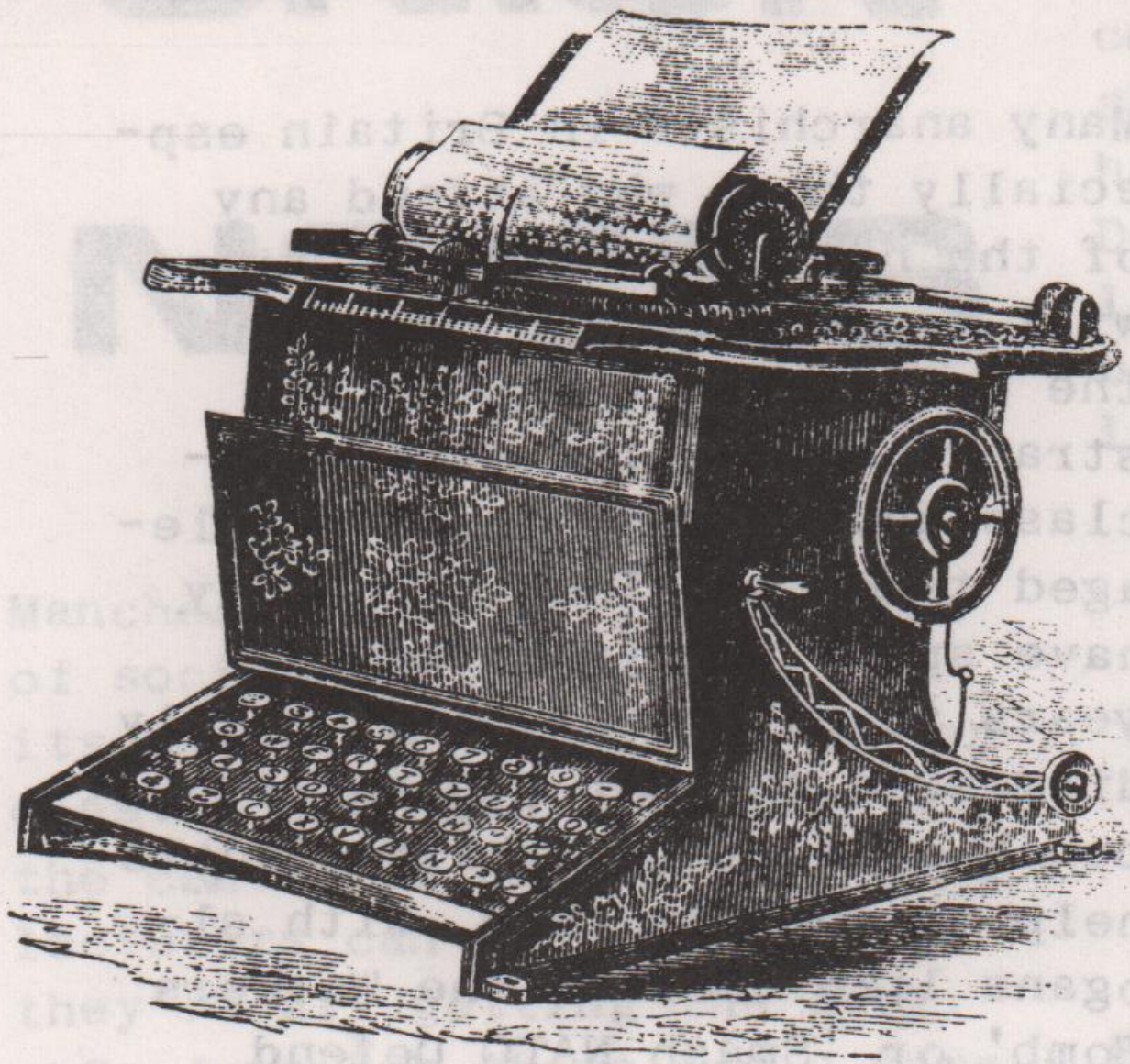
Many anarchists in Britain especially those who attend any of the national demonstrations will have heard if not seen the Spartacist League. This strange collection of middle-class and in many cases middle-aged types who look like they have spent the last twenty years at university are usually dismissed as just a harmless bunch of nutters, their banners help to confirm this, with slogans like 'Defend the Workers Bomb' or 'Smash NATO Defend the Soviet Union'.

But behind every group no matter how bizarre may be a plan and in the last few months we have begun to learn a little more about the SL. Our comrades in the United States have sent us a report of the activities of the SL in Ann Arbor, Michigan. During an anti-nazi demonstration which was held in March, a large number of demonstrators set off from the City Hall to the Federal Building where the nazis had gathered. The demonstration was called by the 'Coalition Against the Nazis' which was supported by Labour, Black and Jewish groups.

The Spartacists decided to hold their own demonstration and stayed behind at City Hall when the CAN demo left for the Federal Building. With the CAN supporters gone the SL attacked and overpowered the anti-nazis left to guard the public broadcasting system, which they then seriously damaged, thus preventing the anti-nazis from holding a meeting after the demo was over. The Spartacists over here are not yet as numerically strong as their American mates but, if they ever are you have been warned what to expect.



LETTERS



Dear Comrades,

It was good to see 'CND - an anarchist alternative' (Direct Action No.9), but there were some bits of the article which need commenting on.

Right at the start we had "CND believes its objectives can be realised by constitutional methods". But later on we were told "anarchists are members of CND and support its objectives". There appears to be a bit of a contradiction which needs clearing up.

I am an anarchist. I am also a supporter of the aims of CND as laid down in clause (I) of the movement's constitution. I have played an active part in the Axminster branch of East Devon CND since May last year when in effect the group consisted of me saying it would be a good idea. We are now an established group. We operate on libertarian lines, for instance rotating such functions as chairperson. The group includes people who are committed to constitutional methods, people who think something more direct is called for, and people who aren't sure. This is probably true of most CND groups.

Certainly many of the movement's 'leaders' are legalistic in their approach, but it is the official policy of the CND, as decided by national conference to support local and regional groups in taking non-violent direct action, and to take the initiative in organising direct action nationally. In fact, leaving the revolutionary language aside, all the specific forms of activity advocated in 'CND - an anarchist alternative' are official CND policy! (Probably some anarch-

ists don't realise that direct action is official policy of CND because neither the CND executive nor local groups are carrying the policy out.

It has to be added that for some of us "non-violence" is a tactic rather than a principle, and the right tactic depends on the particular circumstances. I have no doubt many CND members would without hesitation shoot some deranged militarist who was about to press the button, for instance.

So you see, the statement "CND believes its objectives can be realised by constitutional methods" is to sweeping a generalisation. WE, all of us who actively campaign for nuclear disarmament, are the CND, and many of us believe in no such thing.

I would certainly agree that "governments take and remain in office, not because of the electorate's votes, but by tacit permission of the state's ruling class". However, I'm not so sure about "no state, no matter how democratic, will voluntarily relinquish that power" (nuclear weapons).

While a military/fascist take over is certainly a possibility if the CND appeared to be within sight of its objectives, it seems at least conceivable to me that the British ruling class, which has a very sophisticated survival instinct, might if its arm were twisted hard enough, make a virtue out of necessity by 'voluntarily' starting the process of nuclear disarmament, and so take the wind out of the sails of any direct action movement against the warfare state. If it DID happen, it is possible that other ruling classes might be forced by their own people's to follow suit, just like is supposed to happen, with unilateral leading to multilateral disarmament while the class nature of society survives in a slightly different form.

However, if states and ruling classes do survive, the arms race and wars can start again at any time. Concessions given by our rulers out of fear of revolt do not get to the root of the problem. That is why we cannot allow the campaign against nuclear weapons to be just a middle class pressure group. The working class must

take the initiative.

Anarchist revolution remains essential.

Yours Fraternally,
D.C.

Dear Comrades,

We are writing on behalf of the WOMANS RIGHT TO CHOOSE CAMPAIGN. As you are probably aware there will be a referendum on a proposed Constitutional Amendment in Ireland at the end of this year. The enclosed leaflet and articles (available from WRTC, P.O. Box 1076, Dublin) give full details of the consequences of this amendment and outlines the WOMANS RIGHT TO CHOOSE CAMPAIGN's stand on the issue.

There is a broad based campaign (The Anti-Amendment Campaign) active at the moment, but this campaign is fighting on the grounds that this amendment is undemocratic not that it is an attack on a Women's right to choose. Although we would support the Anti-Amendment Campaign, we feel it is important to campaign for a Women's Right to Choose.

At the moment we have very little support for our position within Ireland. This makes it very difficult for us to raise money, which is urgently needed if we are to fight the forces of reaction, who are not only financed by the Catholic Church, but by right wing groups in other countries.

We feel sure that you will give us your support and solidarity in fighting this regressive step against women. Here are some practical things you can do:-

- 1, Send us a donation - no matter how small.
- 2, Feel free to reprint any part or parts of our literature - and maybe start an appeal from it.
- 3, Arrange benefits both to highlight the issue and to raise money.
- 4, Pass on contacts of other sympathetic groups you may know.

This proposed amendment in Ireland is part of an international campaign to further erode the already limited rights of women. International Solidarity is needed if we are to call a halt.

Yours in solidarity
E.C.

ASBESTOS seriously. The TUC recommended to the ACA that asbestos should be phased out. The emphasis has been to set a maximum exposure level, the standards set in 1969 was two fibres per cubic centimetre of air. This doesn't sound much until you realise that working under such conditions you would breathe in 16 million fibres over a working day. It has now been suggested that this level should be reduced by 50%, but after all, even with these stringent standards, would it be possible to enforce these standards with the number of Factory Inspectors available? Not a chance. It is also estimated by medical authorities that even at one fibre level at least five out of 100 people will die of asbestosis or mesothelioma. Surely common sense dictates that we follow the example of Sweden.

DP

Radio

LIBERTAIRE

Radio Libertaire has been set up by militants of the French Anarchist Federation, after the congress at Neuilly-sur-Mar, Whitsun 1981. This radio is seen as the logical continuation of their desire to spread anarchist ideas and develop the organisation. Radio Libertaire has grown quickly; much faster than they had hoped.

The radio has international links, there are close ties with Spanish CNT, who produce four hours of broadcasting a week, and the libertarian Latin American Coordination. The Mexican anarchist paper 'El Compita' send cassettes. One hour is reserved each week for transmission in the international language Esperanto.

Radio Libertaire only exists through the support and subscriptions of its listeners. Recently the radio's financial position has become unstable and therefore the 50 announcers and technicians are attempting to solve the problem by raising short term loans. They have to pay back something in the region of 150,000 Francs, therefore they are asking for financial help. Cheques and money orders can be sent to Radio Libertaire at Publico, 145 rue Amelot, 75011, Paris, France. Cheques to be made out to Publico

'IDEAS AND ACTION'

A new North American 'anarcho-syndicalist' publication known as 'Ideas and Action' has recently hit the sheets. Issue No 1 was launched as a discussion bulletin, hopefully acting as a forum for ideas and analysis of anarchist/syndicalist/socialist viewpoints (the Eds. point out that 'socialism' to them means "Worker power over social and industrial affairs, not state management of the economy. Without workers management of production/communication/transportation, genuine socialism cannot exist...") This 'project' was launched following a conference last year of the Libertarian Workers Group (IWA), the Syndicalist Alliance and many other anarchist, communist and syndicalist grouping sympathetic to the IWA. No 1 contains a series of interesting and informative articles, discussion and debate. Content includes "Trotskyism and the myth of the Workers State"; "Co-ops or workers revolution?" and an article on Poland. All in all, a worthwhile exercise. Let me end by quoting Steve Parr from the LWG, who in a discussion on the collapse of the Anarchist Communist Federation of North America, said "We should not be paralysed by our fears and regrets but go forward and realise our dream of a dynamic, working class anarchism that will play its rightful role in the coming struggles for the social revolution."

AND

NB Anyone wishing to contact 'Ideas and Action' should write to; PO Box 404000, San Francisco, CA, 94110, USA. (Issue No 2 has just come out)

SUBSCRIBE

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Send to:- DAM 164/166 Corn Exchange Bldgs, Manchester. M4 3BN.

OPEN ROAD Box 6135, Station G, Vancouver, B.C. V6R 4G5 Canada

Dear freinds,
We'er happy to announce that a new issue of Open Road is now out, Open Road No 14 is available for \$1.00. We'd also like to thank all those people who responded to our financial appeal so generously, making this issue possible. Of course costs have gone up and any additional support would be most welcome.

Love and Anarchy
Bob Graham - for Open Road

Box A,
c/o Project 35,
49a Market Place,
Doncaster,
S. Yorks.

Dear Comrades,
The north east anarchist federation is considering organising a march on 13th Nov in Leeds for anarchist day (11th). But before we go ahead with arrangements we want to make sure that any demo is going to well attended, eg about 200 people at least.

So we are contacting all known anarcs in the north west and south to Birmingham to get an idea of how many 'local' comrades support the idea and would be able to come.

So if you could send us estimates of how many comrades would be willing to come from your area, (under estimate) and any ideas you have for after march events we would be very grateful.

in solidarity
north east anarchist federation
secretariat

CARL HARP PRINTING APPEAL

A group of anarchists are planning to re-print 'Love and Rage', Carl Harp's prison diary, along with 'I Wanna be Free' (The Hapotec Pamphlet), unpublished material and an account of his killing.

The book will be linked to ongoing prison struggles. If you have any material, ideas, especially money please send to :-
Carl Harp Printing Appeal,
c/o 121 Books,
121 Railton Road,
London SE 24

LOCAL ANARCHIST PAPERS

ANGRY (Hull)
Box HAG, LAP
59 Cookridge St,
Leeds.



SEDITIONOUS WHISPERS
Box A,
Project 35,
49a Market Place,
Doncaster,
South Yorkshire.

BLACK STAR
8 Thomas St
Ryhope
Sunderland.

COMMON CAUSE
25 Liverton Crescent,
Thornaby,
Cleveland.

SOUTH LONDON STRESS
121 Railton Rd,
Brixton,
London.

OUTTA CONTROL
7 Winetavern St,
Belfast.

PRACTICAL ANARCHY
Box 3,
488 Gt. Western St,
Glasgow G.12

POISON PEN
14 Silchester Rd,
St Leonards on Sea,
Sussex.

NO CHOICE
Cambridge @
Box 4
186 East Rd,
Cambridge.

FREE WINGED EAGLE
Over the Water,
Sanday,
Orkney.
KW17 2BL

NO FRONTIERS
International - Anti-Authoritarian - News. No.1 now out
Articles on Spain, Alternative Berlin, Latin America, Sweden, E. Europe. Published by DAM and available from D.A.M. Box 20, 164/166 Corn Exchange Buildings, Hanging Ditch, Manchester M4 3BN. Price 30p

BLACK FLAG
Organ of the Anarchist Black Cross.
Over the Water,
Sanday,
Orkney KW17 2BL.

DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT:

- (1) The Direct Action Movement is a working class organisation.
- (2) Our aim is the creation of a free and classless society.
- (3) We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery in all their forms and replace them by self-managed production for need not profit.
- (4) In order to bring about the new social order, the workers must take over the means of production and distribution. We are the sworn enemies of those who would take over 'on behalf of' the workers.
- (5) We believe that the only way for the working class to achieve this is for independent organisation in the work place and community and federation with others in the same industry and locality, independent of, and opposed to all political parties and trade union bureaucracies. All such workers' organisations must be controlled by the workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers movement. Any and all delegates and representatives of such workers' organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers.
- (6) We are opposed to all States and State institutions. The working class has no country. The class struggle is worldwide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all states do not exist to protect the workers of those States, they exist only as the repressive arm of the ruling class.
- (7) We oppose racism, sexism, militarism and all attitudes and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the right of all people everywhere to control their own lives and their environment.

I would like to join/know
more about the Direct Action
Movement.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

.....

.....

POSTCODE.....

Cut out and send to DAM:-

164/166 Corn Exchange Bldgs,
Manchester M4 3BN

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MANCHESTER DAM.



VOLYA
Bulletin of the Campaign for
Solidarity with the Soviet
Working Class.
83 Gregory Crescent,
Eltham,
London SE9 5RZ

"SYNDICALISM TRANSFERS TO THE
MASSES OF NON-PARTY WORKERS,
WHO ARE DIVIDED ACCORDING TO
INDUSTRY, THE MANAGEMENT OF
BRANCHES OF INDUSTRIES, THUS
DESTROYING THE NEED FOR THE
PARTY."

V.I. LENIN 1921

LOCAL CONTACTS