DIRECT ACTION



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THE ENEMY WITHIN

Labour MP's, including two front benchers, defied Kinnock and voted against the new Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill's Second Reading. This is to replace the existing PTA, also a 'temporary provision', in existence since 1974 when the last Labour government passed it on a wave of anti-Irish hysteria. Their reasons for voting against are instructive. Many objected more to Kinnock's style of management of the Parliamentary Labour Party than to the PTA. They were aggrieved he was taking away their right to token gestures of opposition by insisting on abstention.

Some, of course, like Clare Short, figure-head of the 'Time to Go' campaign, were more concerned that the Bill is 'counter-productive'. Apparently it 'undermined the rule of law on which the fight against terrorism must be based', they want a 'lawful' repression of those who have found that British imperialism listens only to the argument of force. Labour has always been keen on 'the rule of law', 17 years of Labour government between 1945 and 1979 saw 23 strikes broken by troops, in the same period the Tories broke seven. Labour claims to be the workers' party, in fact it's the TUC bureaucrats electoral machine, so they believe workers have no right to act independently of them, this is their 'rule of law'.

A SMALL BUT VIRULENT MINORITY



The chief new proposal in the Bill regards 'terrorist' finances, Labour supports this. This serves partly as an opportunity to institutionalise in law British allegations about IRA 'fundraising' which, needless to say, is the usual propaganda about 'rackets' and 'godfathers', part of Britain's 10-year-old criminalisation strategy, designed to cover up the mass support and political reasons for the armed struggle.

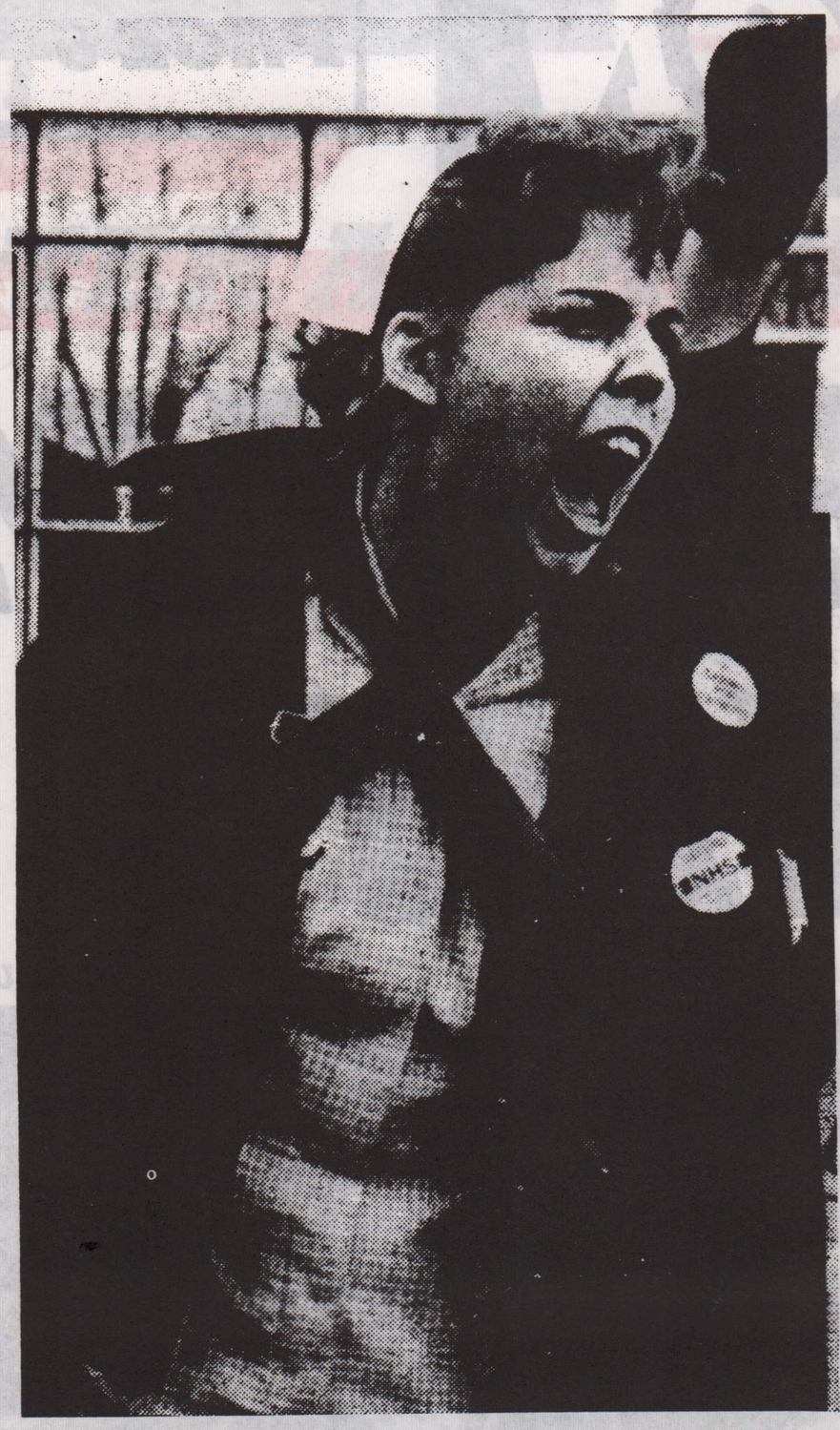
The actual proposals are also familiar, they smack of the efforts made to track down the NUM's funds after they had been sequestrated during the 1984-85 Miners' Strike. It is a common myth among liberals and some leftists that techniques of repression learnt in Ireland are gratuitously introduced into Britain. Here is an example of a lesson learnt in the fight against the 'Enemy Within' - militant workers - being used in the fight against Irish Republicanism.

These people should admit the existence of the class war and as well as arguing that it is in workers' interests to oppose British imperialism, and take a class position on the fight against British imperialism. The paramilitary riot police in Britain may have been imported from Hong Kong, but this was in response to the defeat of the police by the workers of Birmingham at Saltley Gates in the 1972 Miners' Strike, with the 1981 Uprisings as an excuse.

The British State identifies its enemies as all those who 'threaten the safety and well-being of the State and ... undermine or overthrow Parliamentary democracy by political, *industrial* or violent means'. The fight against 'terrorism' and the fight against the 'Enemy Within' are one and the same. Make no mistake, measures against 'terrorists' will be applied to 'subversives' and trades unionists. Labour is only concerned that such measures should not provide their targets with 'propaganda victories', they are as much our enemies as the Tories.

LOSING PATIENCE

From Cardiff to Charing Cross, and from Plymouth to Paisley, industrial action has been breaking out in the Health Service. Hospitals in virtually every town and city in Britain have been affected. In the vast majority of places the action has consisted of 'working to grade'. The government Health Secretary Kenneth Clarke has desperately tried to penalise any staff who work to grade by threatening legal action and not to regrade anyone who takes such action. But after all, what is wrong with working to grade? Why should you do a job that you are not paid for and is not in your job description? And no doubt Kenneth Clarke 'works to grade' by not doing his own office cleaning nor doing other ministers jobs.



'SHUT YOUR MOUTH AND LOOK AT MY WAD' - KENNETH CLARKE

Strike action has affected various hospitals all over Britain. The biggest strike so far has been at Prestwich Hospital in Manchester. 900 nurses are involved in indefinite action. At Prestwich, of the 379 nursing auxiliaries, all but three have been given the lowest grade — A. Of the 143 sisters/charge nurses only 52 have been given the higher G — grade. An indefinite strike by workers at the Leavesden Hospital in Hertfordshire, where 87% of nursing auxiliaries had been graded A resulted in the whole grading structure being withdrawn and a return to the old system pending negotiations. Forty-four midwives at North Middlesex Hospital have resigned as a result of this. The 15-day nurses strike at West Cumberland Hospital in Whitehaven was supported by catering and ancillary staff who came out on strike in sympathy. This action prompted the hospital management to appeal over local radio for volunteers on the weekend 19-20 November. In other areas managers have been 'acting down' to scab on strikers which prompted the East Anglian Health Authority to admit there was 'minimal disruption to patient care and the main effect was difficulties caused to management'. That's good enough for starters.

HIGHER WAGES

All this industrial action has broken out because the new grading structure has opened up a Pandora's Box of problems and called into question the old working relationships. The Health Service has been held together for years because 'junior' grades of nurses have done much more skilled and responsible jobs than they have been given credit for. For example nursing auxiliaries or students are often left in charge of wards ,especially at night, and often a single sister or charge nurse is responsible for 15 wards — about 300 patients. The new grading structure is so controversial because it ignores reality and people are not being paid properly for the job they do.

The Royal College of Nursing has disgraced itself yet again during this dispute. (It is such a stuck-up organisation anyway that they do not even accept nursing auxiliaries). The RCN agrees with virtually anything the government says via Kenneth Clarke. Clarke says that nurses should appeal individually to resolve anomalies and hope to get a higher grade. But Clarke admitted on 20th November that most nurses would in fact lose their appeals because there is not enough money available to pay for all the higher wages.

Anyway, the appeals procedure is for 'anomalies'; it does not tackle the bread and butter issue of basic low pay in the NHS. There is evidence from the Manchester strikes and elsewhere that RCN membership helps some nurses get a higher grade, in the same way as the UDM was treated favourably during the miners strike. This 'I'm alright Jack' attitude is a scabby way to behave. Anybody with eyes in their head can see that all the talk about appeals is just a government ploy to defuse strike action and the 'working to grade'. The RCN is aiding and abetting the government.

The strikers at Prestwich, Leavesden and elsewhere have set a courageous example to all other healthworkers. During the NHS dispute in the early '70's about 30 striking healthworkers from a Leeds hospital picketed outside the local NCB transport depot with the end result that most of the Yorkshire coalfield ground to a halt. More action like this and the current dispute in the NHS can be won.

STAMPED OUT

Recent weeks have seen a series of one-day strikes around the country by counter and clerical staff in the Post Office. These have been in opposition to the planned regrading of 750 Crown Offices with 5,000 job losses, so paving the way for privatisation. Despite a narrow majority voting in favour of the strikes and the Union of Communication Workers instructing strikers not to put up picket lines (so the strike won't spread to letters and parcels) the response has largely been solid. Not surprisingly the Post Office has not backed down. The UCW must be living in fantasy land if it believes a series of useless one-day regional strikes can stop the governments main ideological and economic weapon.



'LOOK - NO GIROS'

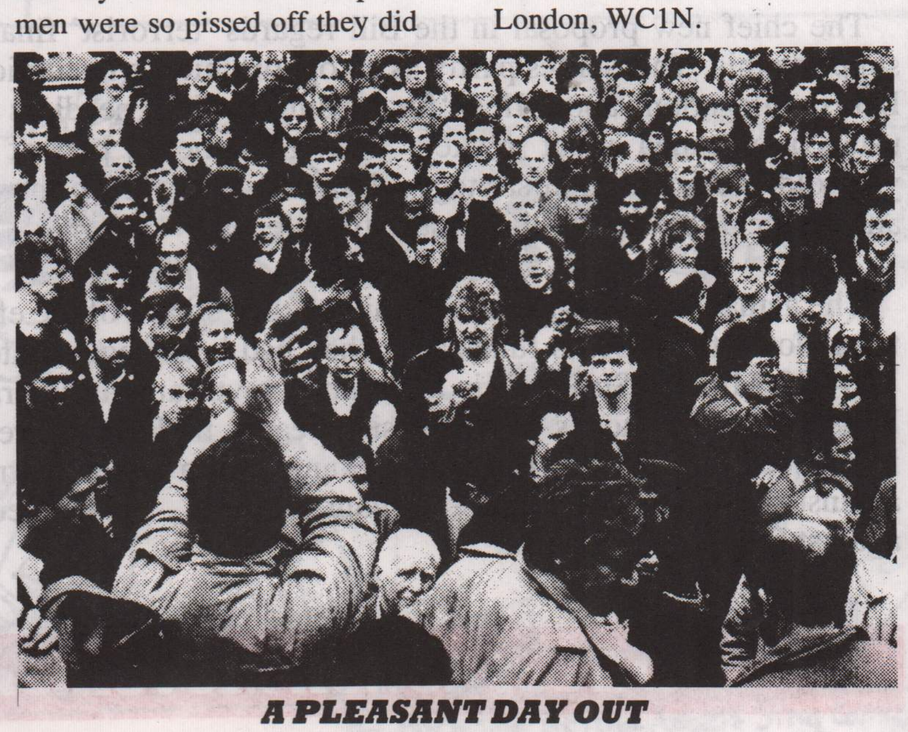


Privatisation affects everyone sooner or later. In the Post Office they will try and privatise everything. They are doing it one step at a time at the moment knowing that the UCW will follow their lead in dividing the workforce and the action they take. United militant action is needed if postal workers are likely to stop one of the major assaults of this government. The UCW will not organise it as they are scared of postal workers industrial power, just as management is. Independent industrial action is needed to defeat the PO and the government.

Despite all the UCW manoeuvres postal workers in South East London came out in solidarity with counters on their one-day of action. Some postmen were so pissed off they did not even come back to work until a few days later.

In other sections of the Post Office there still the same level of local wildcat action, mainly against management attempts to butter up the letters side for privatisation. Nottingham found themselves locked out when management tried to remove the seniority system (the method for deciding duties and holiday). Melton Mowbray walked out when a worker was suspended for refusing to take part in an announced test on his delivery (this generally leads to a job being cut when two or three deliveries are merged into one).

DAM Postal Workers are playing a highly active role in the rank and file of the Postal Workers. With other libertarians, in the Communicaton Worker Group, they produce *Communication Worker,* a bulletin for postal workers which gets national distribution. *Communication Worker* itself is very popular amongst postal workers, it calls for more independent strikes by postal workers and the spreading of the strikes to as much of the post office (and other industries) as possible. The effects of it are all ready being seen. *Communication Worker,* BM Box 3644, London, WC1N.



A PLEASANT DAY OUT

GIROMANIACS

The Alliance of Unwaged Organisations recently held a conference in Oxford where Claimants from all over the country met others of similar organisations and with similar problems.



QUEUING UP FOR MOORE

Workshops and discussions were held on the Poll Tax, Housing Bill and Employment Training (ET) to see what could be done to resist the present onslaught of Tory legislation. On the Poll Tax, the consensus of opinion was for a nation-wide campaign of non-payment from community based groups. Tenants' action against the Housing Bill/Housing Action Trusts has already sabotaged government plans in several areas. On ET, workers' groups and networks are to be developed wherever possible; pressure on Restart is to be kept up, as it is the recruiting ground for ET; and continued pressure on councils to boycott ET, and on trade unions to ensure their boycotts stick (although some unions are in favour of ET).

Steps were also made towards forming a federated national organisation. Whilst at the moment local groups are achieving a considerable amount in their own areas, there has been no attempt to put claimants views and needs on a national level. The Alliance of Unwaged Organisations would appear to be the basis for this, but at present it exists (conference aside) only in name and theory.

HUNGER MARCHES

It is useful to consider the situation in Britain in the 1920's and 1930's. After WW1, the running down of wartime industry threw millions of people into unemployment — the provision for which was, needless to say, pitiful. Local unemployed organisations quickly sprang up to campaign or merely to beg for money. Some of them evolved into the National Unemployed Workers Movement (NUWM) which had a mainly Communist leadership (which unsurprisingly caused problems later). Briefly, the NUWM organised, amongst other things, a series of Hunger Marches which consistently forced the Tory, Labour and National governments of the day to back down on benefit



cuts, which were the order of the day then, as now. They also forced the abolition of the 'Not Genuinely Seeking Work' clause. This again bears a remarkable similarity to the 'Available For Work' rules being used to force people off the dole today.

'FRONTS'

The success of the NUWM in defending the unemployed's rights is little known today. The usual image of unemployed protest in the 30's was the 'acceptable' Jarrow Crusade — which achieved nothing. The NUWM's Hunger Marches were, on the other hand, remarkably effective.

One of the NUWM's problems was its centralised nature, especially in later years. Their national headquarters in London flooded groups with memos, directives, and demands for money. This inevitably deprived local groups of their much needed cash, and also initiative. The other problem was the close link with the Communist Party, which alienated many people.



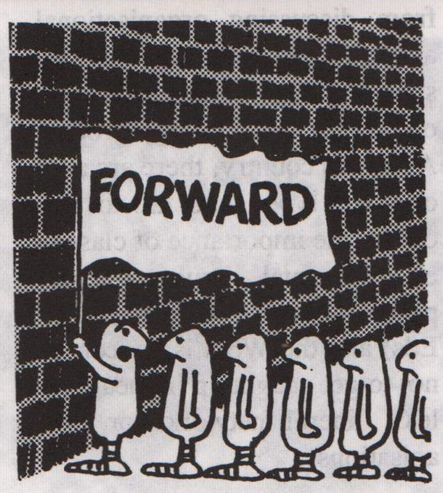
Nowadays, there are some national organisations, but they are either, as with the Alliance of Unwaged Organisations, only in existence two or three times a year, or they are 'fronts' for political parties. What is needed is a means of bringing campaigning groups together in a decentralised but effective organisation to force the State to meet the unemployed's demands.

The Alliance of Unwaged Organisations looks like the only federation free of politicking, and capable of meeting such a challenge for the unemployed without betraying its roots.

7-DAY WONDER

Has the British Communist Party (CPGB) finally abandoned its long-standing ambition to affiliate to the Labour Party in favour with an accommodation with the Owenite SDP? The reason for such speculation is the recent draft of their new programme, welcomed by the *Guardian* lead writer and Bryan Gould — the guru of the Labour Party right-wing, both well-known fighters in the class war, which has to be finalised next March by the CP executive. Oh yes, then agreed to — sorry, discussed by — the bi-annual conference in November 1989.

The document praised Gorbachev (surprise, surprise) and steps back to the 1950's CPGB position on nuclear weapons, ie multilateralism. It



supports the EEC and calls for stronger 'European economic institutions', 'socialist' share-ownership (what!), an extension of home ownership, and in its rejecting of traditional nationalisation calls for — no not workers' control — but planning by 'technologists, designers and managers within companies'. Of course, these people have always been at the forefront of the class struggle. But wait, the final flourish — it rejects class as the fundamental division of society.

Social, moral, sexual, ethnic and even religious divisions have to be given equal status. While we accept gender, race and sexuality are used by the ruling class to create divisions within our class this document shows how far removed the CPGB has become from ordinary working class life.

It is hardly surprising, it is the culmination of the message being preached through *Marxism Today* for the past few years by Eric Hobsbawm, 'Neil Kinnock's favourite marxist', an academic and historian who has advocated a broad anti-Thatcher alliance of 'the left' — which includes the SDP of course — and has argued that class struggle is a thing of the past.

It probably is for the likes of Hobsbawm who in common with other 'academic intellectuals' would not recognise class struggle if it hit him in the face.

The acceptance by the CPGB of this document would mean another revision to that well known classic *The British Road to Socialism* (what do you mean you've never heard of it!). The last revision in 1971 caused the split of the Stalinist 'Tankies' around the *Morning Star'*. By the way, the document is called *Facing up to the Future* - sounds like a Tory conference slogan doesn't it?



FILTH-O-FAX

In November Portuguese Civil Guard policeman Antonio Antunes shot dead four colleagues, wounded a dozen others, and then shot himself on the parade ground in Lisbon.

As part of the Sharpville Six Reprieve deal, four South African policemen convicted of murder were also reprieved. Whereas there was no evidence against the Sharpville Six, evidence against the pigs was unequivocal. Captain Jack Le Grange (former head of Johannesburg Murder Squad, ironically) and Warrant Officer Robert Van der Merwe killed two blacks for money and then tried to cover it up as an operation against terrorism. The other two cops who were reprieved sadistically murdered a defenceless black youth in Graaf Reinet.



Five Carabinieri policemen were found shot dead inside their barracks in a north-eastern Italian village in November.

Police in the Netherlands staged a three-week 'Campaign of Silliness' to get more pay in November. They played shrill flutes and off-key music in public. They then raided a TV chat-show and they drove around in police vans covered in black plastic. The government gave in, and increased the police budget by about £30,000,000. DA *wonders who are the biggest jerks — the police or the government?*



On a cross-channel ferry trip two white men severely beat up an asian man with a bottle, calling him a 'bloody Paki' while they were doing it. The asian man nearly lost his ear in the incident and was hospitalised for four days. All three men came from Rotherhithe, London. More specifically, they all came from Rotherhithe Police Station.

LECHEROUS

Whilst it was possible to be optimistic during the course of the August strikes in Poland, the confused situation at the end due to Lech Walesa's actions provokes more thought than enthusiasm. Solidarnosc is a determined movement predominantly run by the rank and file, but accepts to shelve its struggle on the personal decision of a leader more charismatic than competent. A leader who, compromising the aims of the movement with the help of his advisers, has allowed himself without a single mandate to trade tens of thousands of workers and their struggle with the government for the promise of several seats around a discussion table — but only for himself and several of his christian-democratic friends.

Walesa's ideas, through which he was elected by the strikers of 1980 to represent them, are rather over-rated. He was put forward by the KOR (Komitet Obreny Robotnikow — Workers Defence Committee — the main opposition group before 1980, founded by a group of left-wing intellectuals) and should have acted as support for the workers movement as a delegate. It may have been Walesa who signed the Gdansk agreement of 1980, but it was Audrzej Gwarda of the KOR who negotiated Solidarnosc's legislation. Walesa deserted his delegate role and instead took up the game of power. Despite his poor abilities as an organiser, Walesa took advantage of his indisputable popularity to influence the direction of the movement. Naturally influenced by his strict Catholic origins he soon became the Church's pet. Come each show of strength, he was systematically the supporter of compromise, presenting himself as a dignified man of high politics.

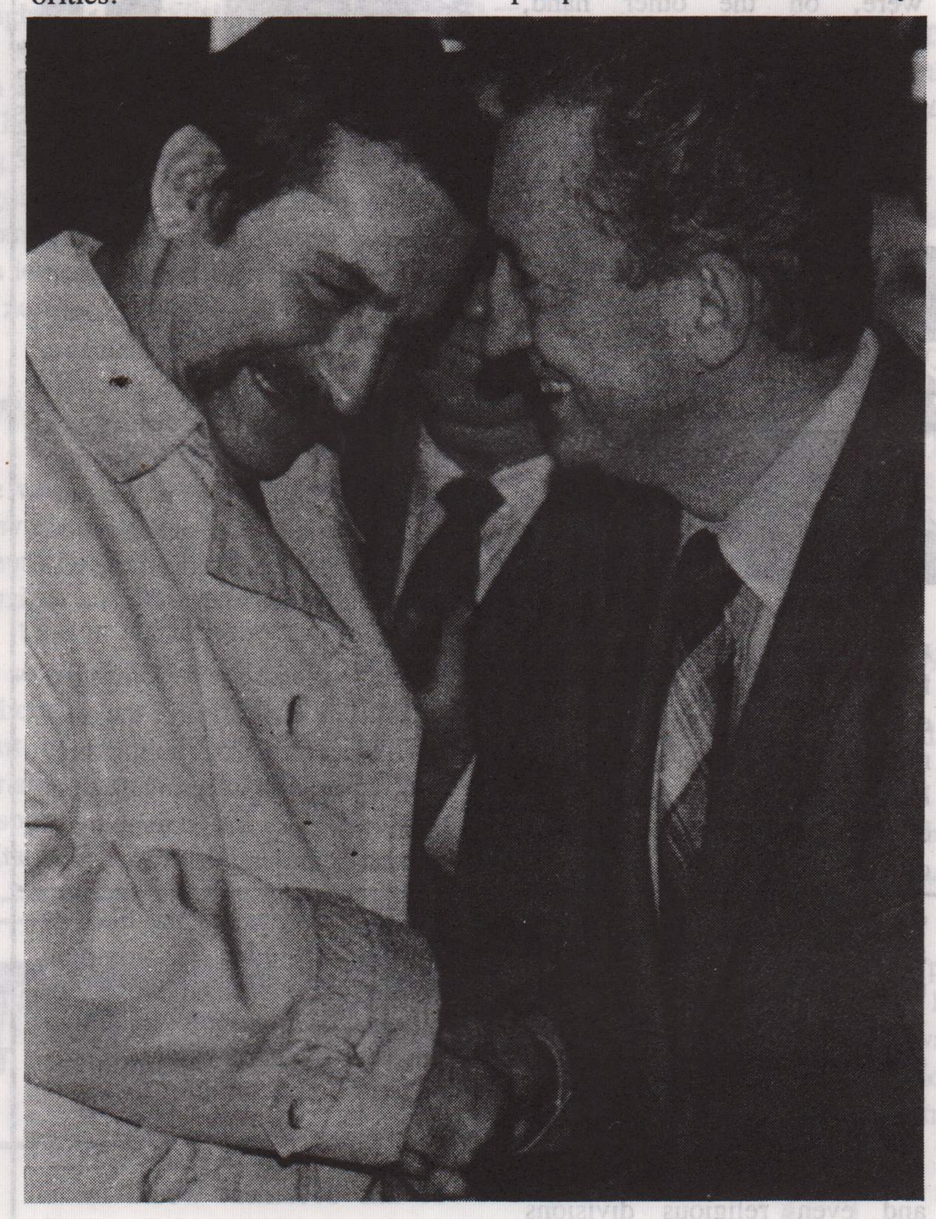
FIERY SERMONS

His compromises were nothing but concessions made to the state by the Church so that it could easily play the role of mediation from which it gains its political power. Notably because of the lack of workers control due to the constraints of secrecy during the state of emergency, the union structures of Solidarnosc were able to be taken over and transformed into a true political party in the hands of the rising class: the 'nouveaux riches' of 'private enterprise', and above all the Catholic and liberal intellectuals. They hope to bottle up the workers' struggle, which they plan to use as the instrument for their rise to power.

To achieve this, they are blending Solidarnosc with Lech Walesa and his strong personality cult, but still directed by his advisers — the aforementioned 'intelligensia'. He intends to make himself indispensable to the regime, so that he can control the working class. If the state party is reluctant about the offer, Walesa and his pals can threaten to stir up the underlying disaffection with fiery sermons, and then, as soon as revolt erupts, run about compromising, to better please the authorities.



JOHN PAUL AND GRINGO



GOLDEN HANDSHAKE?

This strategy, perfectly adapted to the political situation is fruitful. Jaruzelsjki, not as dumb as he might seem, knows too well that the clergy's appeals for calm are much more effective than his hackneyed propaganda. Rather than have to explain himself to strike committees made up of militant workers, more likely to kick over his negotiating tables than sit around them, he prefers to talk with 'worldly' people (lecturers and priests), whom he can let dream of having 80 out of the 400 seats in the Diete (parliament), or even a legal opposition party.

But in August, Walesa and his friends' — no doubt full of themselves — went too far to remain credible. As usual, these men of the intelligensia thought the workers half-witted and gullible. After having tried t postpone the strikes, they declared them over, without any consultation or explanation. Whereas the discussions in August 1980 took place publicly, nothing filtered out from the private conversation behind closed doors between Walesa and Kiszcak, the interior minister.

The working class, more and more aware of the manoeuvres of which they were the victim, began to react. The majority considered that the president of Solidarnosc had failed to stick to his mandate, and that he should pay for his offence by stepping down. Nobody could say that a leading syndicalist would consider stopping the strikes as a success. Even less that these strikes were not in the interests of the workers who had led them, only those leaders who pretended to represent them had anything to gain from such an outcome. Feeling deprived of the benefits of their struggle, some shouted *'Walesa — Traitor'* whilst leaving their occupied workplaces.

Koscivszko, Pilsudski, Jean-Paul II, Walesa: Polish society has had hard times with its 'leaders' in its struggle to unify resistance against the state. Walesa, certainly has shown his incapacity, and has had his time. *'When on strike he can stay'*, said a young worker in the shipyard, *'He can stay, but he'll guard the third entrance with the others, as an electrician'*.

Beyond its failure in August, the movement's achievement must have been in bringing about a serious blow against the 'Walesa myth'. But there remains another hold to break free from: that of the church nd the intellectuals, true parasites of the Polish struggle, who invariably re-route and turn about the workers' revolts for their own profit. Let's hope that the next wave of strikes will at least progress past that hurdle.

SOURCE: Le Monde Libertaire

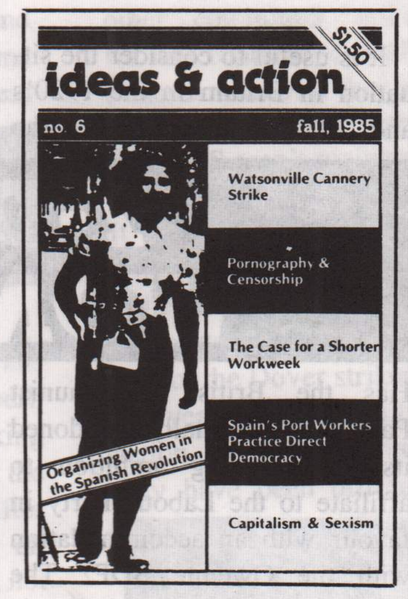
IDEAS IN ACTION

The following is a brief report, based on feedback from comrades recently returned from the USA, on the current situation and activities of our sister organisation the Workers Solidarity Alliance.

The WSA is a young organisation, less than four years old. It is small and its membership widely dispersed - in some places there are distances of 2,000 miles between groups! However, the organisation is slowly growing (the mere fact that it even exists in a place as harsh as America is only just short of a miracle!)

In July, the WSA held its annual conference (or convention as they call it) which was reasonably well attended. Aside from discussing organisational and international matters, they spent time working out position on dealing with ecology groups. As in this country, there are a lot of green types who fail to recognise the importance of class in environmental issues (Greenpeace, *Green Anarchist*, etc. — Eds) and the WSA is concerned not to get caught up in meaningless, liberal networks or organisations.

Because of their few numbers and because of great distance problems, WSA groups and individuals tend to concentrate on local activities. In Tennessee, they are very active fighting the Ku Klux Klan, and in Colorado they concentrate on rank and file strike support work. Other activities include Eastern European solidarity work and the production of the WSA's paper *Ideas and Action* (the Californian comrades are responsible for the paper. Anyone interested in obtaining a copy should write to the DAM National Secretary who'd be happy to oblige, or directly to *Ideas and Action*, PO Box 40400, San Francisco, CA 94140). Lastly, the WSA participates in international actions called by various sections of the



IWA - last year they picketed Laura Ashley shops in solidarity with actions the DAM initiated (see previous copies of *DA*), and have also done pickets in support of Katsuhisa Omori, a Japanese political prisoner.

Due to the WSA's size, they do not have any industrial networks, but their people are active within their unions (where they exist). WSA members include taxi drivers, electricians, civil servants, meat packers, printers, and airline workers.

A FREE IRELAND?

Irish Republicanism - Part 2

Armed struggle is only half of the political strategy of Irish Republicanism. While the attacks on British military targets in Ireland, Britain and Europe keep them in the headlines, the Republicans are aware that withdrawal is not the only British option. The overall Republican strategy is to make withdrawal the only viable option for the British state.

The majority support for British withdrawal (of troops) invariably produced by opinion polls is not the product of mass anti-imperialist consciousness. It is the product of a racist view of the Irish war peddled by the media, combined with a desire to stop British soldiers being killed in what is regarded as someone else's inexplicable quarrel. 'Let the Irish fight each other' goes the argument, ignorant of the fact that British 'Ulsterisation' strategy was an attempt to do just that.

'Ulsterisation', though still current, has failed on two counts. Firstly, the more vulnerable RUC and UDR were pushed into the frontline, and the IRA targeted them accordingly. This has had the effect of nearly breaking RUC morale, particularly when isolated rural police stations were being regularly demolished by the IRA in winter and spring 1986-87. Secondly, the IRA now has the hardware to be able to hit the British Army effectively, and its success against the RUC has brought the more heavily-armed Brits into the firing line. In addition, the IRA has embarked on long-planned campaigns against British armed forces in Europe and Britain.



The RUC/Unionist parties and the British Army/Westminster are both faced with the need to stop their foot-sloggers from getting killed. The former's subordinate position means their demands are subjugated to overall strategy. The IRA has survived the 'conveyor belt' (Torture Centre — No Jury Court — H-Block), Republicans have served ten year sentences and reported back to the IRA afterwards. The Supergrass System has collapsed,and now the Shoot-to-Kill policy is seen as being the most effective method, although not a long-term strategy. This leaves Internment itself, which more than anything else helped to create the Provisional IRA.

The RUC, Unionists and the more lunatic Tories have bayed for its introduction, Thatcher is adamant that it will only be introduced if it can work. Its proponents say that it will be effective now because of improved data, but its net will have to be cast so wide that the alienation of 1971-72 which created support for the Provos will be repeated among previously unfavourable sections of the anti-unionist community. It might also kill off the SDLP, and would seek to be combined with the repression of Sinn Fein.

On 22nd August, after the bombing of a British Army coach at Ballygawley in County Tyrone, the Daily Telegraph quoted a Tory backbench spokesman as saying that Internment will only be acceptable if introduced in the South as well. Sinn Fein agrees that southern government agreement to do just that would be a prerequisite, and have geared their strategy to this possibility. In post-Hillsborough Agreement Ireland, 32 County repression of Republicans is a reality — two prominent Sinn Feiners, Cork Organiser Don O'Leary and Donegal County Councillor Liam McElhinney have both been framed for IRA membership - evidence was one poster and a speech respectively, earning five years each!

The new repressive measures taken against Sinn Fein at the end of October are based on Section 31 of the 26 County Offences against the State Act. They will have no effect on the IRA, or any other illegal organisation, and are effectively punishment for voting for Sinn Fein. Although they don't officially ban coverage of speeches, unlike Section 31, self-censorship will probably fill in any gaps. Listing a large number of paramilitary groups in the new banning is designed to portray SF as 'terrorists', equating them directly with the UDA, a collection of racketeers and sectarian assassins.

The leftward turn of Sinn Fein has been muted in favour of gaining influence with other Irish nationalist parties — the SDLP, the majority Catholic party in the north, and Fianna Fail, the party of the current southern government. Sinn Fein aimed its recent talks with the SDLP at working towards a unified commitment to demanding a timetable for British withdrawal.

This lines up with the campaign against extradition in the South, with its denunciations of the treachery of Fianna Fail leaders, as 'levers' to 'republicanise' the rank and file support of these two parties, strengthening the republican base in the North and breaking Sinn Fein's isolation in the South where support is limited to border areas, traditional strongholds like Cork and Kerry, and long-standing Republican families.

Since the SDLP is linked with the Catholic hierarchy, and controlled by the Catholic middle-class, and the more republican elements in the Fianna Fail tend to be rural conservatives, drawing in their support requires pure and simple nationalist politics. The Republicans are committed to a Stalinist-type 'stageist' theory, which puts a united Ireland and bourgeios democracy first, and relegates what they call the 'struggle for socialism' to a second 'stage' after this has been achieved.

Some results of the 1987 Ard Fheis (conference) illustrate what this 'socialism' would be. Letterkenny (Donegal) Cumann called for a rank and file movement of trades unionists and the unemployed 'committed to united action and co-ordination of all forms of resistance to the plight faced by workers at the present time'. This was decisively rejected, Sinn Fein wants not social revolution, but to be a socialist government with workers obeying their 'leaders'.

Similarly, the 'woman's right to choose' policy on abortion passed after hard work by northern working class women at the 1985 Ard Fheis was scrapped in 1986 to avoid rocking the boat. While there are no internal barriers to women's participation and achievement in the movement, women's emancipation, along with all other social change, is relegated to the far future.



MAIREAD FARREL

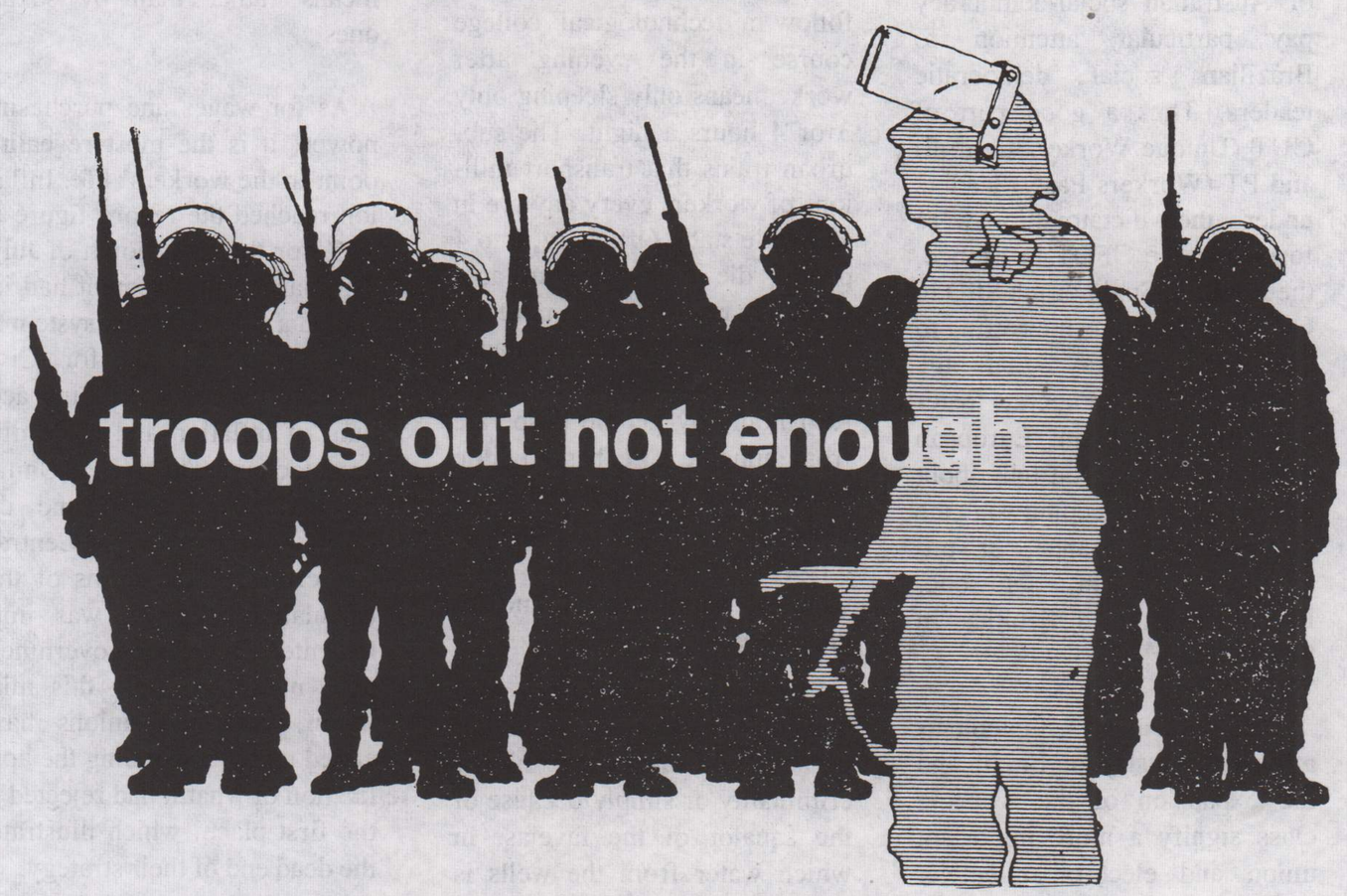
It has been possible for women to fight as equals in the IRA, to take part in the dirty protest and the 1980 Hunger Strike in Armagh Jail, for the editor of *Republican News* to be a woman, and for the late Mairead Farrell to be a member of the IRA Army Council. But divorce and abortion are treated as questions of personal conscience, with a weak call on voters to let the individual, not the state, decide.

Sinn Fein's 'socialism' today consists of activism and lobbying around community politics and social amenities, their elected representatives make good 'constituency' Councillors, but breaking down social hierarchy and building working class confidence through direct action are beyond their comprehension. Their electoral strategy is geared to broadening the base of republicanism, not promoting social change. The Armalite and ballot box go hand in hand easily because the former is what the Republicans put their faith in for forcing British withdrawal, and the latter is there to prevent isolation, and therefore make withdrawal the only way to stop British casualties.

Anarcho-syndicalists reject both 'stageism' and republicanism, for the goal is social revolution, and the immediate objective working class unity. While we recognise that partition and job discrimination make such unity on any significant scale a temporary phenomenon, and will have to be ended before significant progress can be made, the basis of unity must be built now. Resistance must be to all aspects of oppression — the churches, sexism, the bosses, job discrimination — not just military occupation, and can not be limited to the Six Counties.

What is needed is a 32 County anti-imperialist working class movement, which has as its goal not national unity but social revolution. Sinn Fein would undoubtedly oppose such a movement as divisive, and its more Stalinist elements would mutter about CIA agents (as they have done with the IRSP). But Sinn Fein's strength lies in the North, and we do not accept that the war makes the North the best place for revolutionary progress, quite the reverse.

The potential of the southern working class has yet to be tapped, and a strong movement there would be a beacon to both the Catholic and Protestant workers (who view the clerical reactionary 'Free State' with equal loathing) in the North of the possibilities of *real* freedom in Ireland. Anarchists should support not the Republicans, but those who share our class perspective. For the DAM this means our comrades 'Organise!' who are working to lay the basis of a 32 County anarcho-syndicalist federation.



COB THIS!

During the last IWA Congress in Bordeaux, the COB (Brazilian Workers Confederation) became one of its sections. During the summer, D Vincent from the Bordeaux Young Libertarians group made a militant's journey to Brazil. For nearly two months he went through six states, going through the most important towns and regions in the country, meeting COB activists. The article that follows is a summary of the first impressions our comrade brought back from his journey.

Brazil is by virtue of its size a continent itself. It is the largest Latin American country. It is also the most populated with 140 million inhabitants, 60% of whom are either black or half caste, which makes it the largest black nation in the world. It is a country which through its wealth of soil and subsoil, and the 'return quality-price' of its workforce, is an object of desire for many Western Countries. Contrary to belief, it is courted by Europe far more than by the United States. Hence, during these last few years, the firms that have most invested in Brazil are European; amongst the more important are Volkswagen, Michelin, Fiat, Phillips, SKF, Nestles.



The 'ideologues' of European or Australian social-democracy pay particular attention to Brazilian social democratic leaders. Thus a good part of CUT (Unique Workers Central) and PT (Workers Party) leaders under the dictatorship were formed at the CFDT in France, the PSOE in Spain or the SPD in Germany. It is thus interesting to see the publicity that the Brazilian social democrats foster towards the brilliant European examples. When you talk about the homeless sleeping on the pavements in France, or unemployment in Europe, Brazilians have difficulties in believing it.

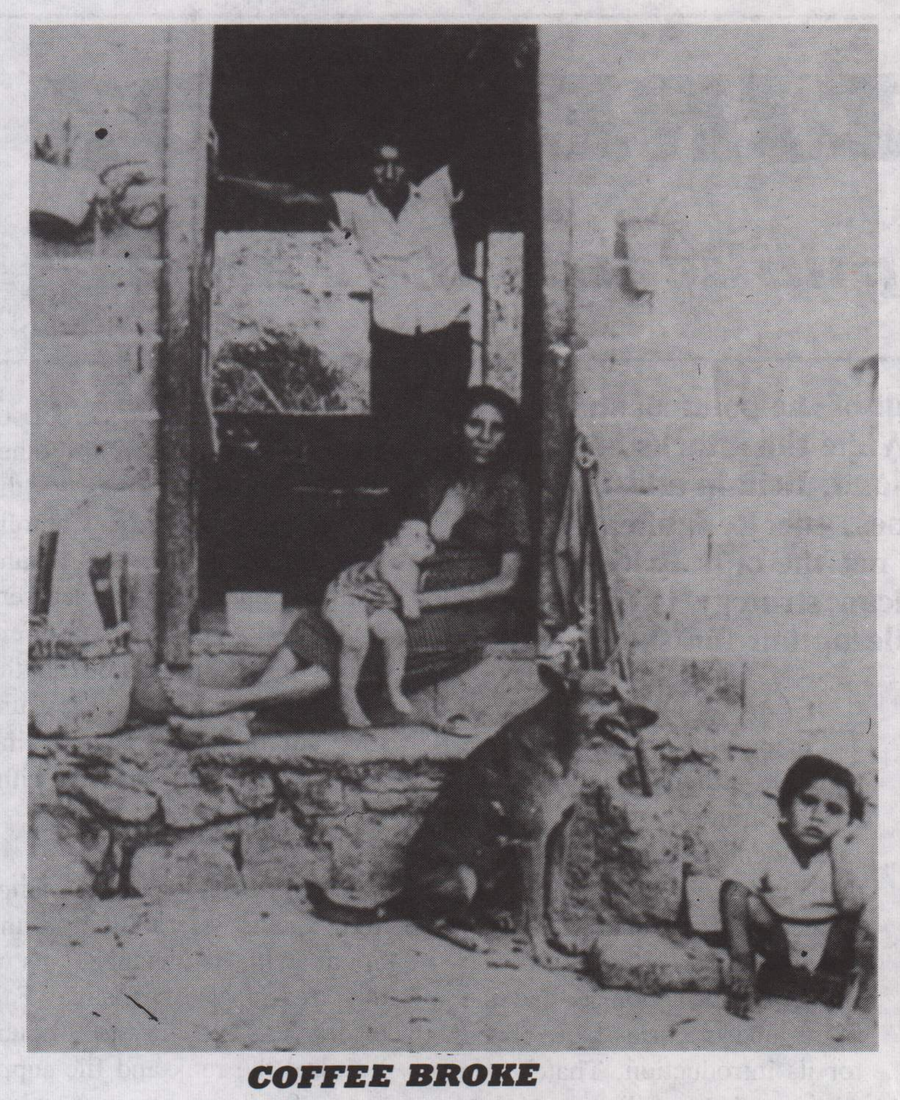
The increasing implementation of industry in Brazil and the expansion of the working class signify a more important union and electoral clientele. The stakes are clear, for them it means to paint in glowing colours, the possibility of changing Brazil into a 'Welfare State' to a part of the Brazilian working class. Brisola, ex-governor of the state of Rio de Janeiro, who learnt his politics at the Australian social-democracy school, believes that Brazil can become a sort of Australia. An American liberal economist has even stated that Brazil could be the United States of the 21st Century.

WORKERS EDUCATION

But while all these people talk and write, or even give strike notice from their offices without taking any risks, the life of Brazilian workers continues to be a life of misery and extreme violence.

Misery is not necessarily daily hunger, even if it more than exists and occasionally takes on aspects of genocide, like during the great Nordeste drought from 1978 to 1984. Misery exists more in the absurdity of working conditions, transport, housing, etc. In Sao Paulo, the largest city in Brazil (15 million inhabitants), workers who live in the 'favelas' (shanty towns) on the outskirts of the east zone, can spend up to eight hours a day on buses, trains and metros on top of their normal working day! I met some friends, for whom, to follow a technological college course in the evening after work, means only sleeping only 3 or 4 hours a night. The suburban trains that transport millions of workers every day are in a terrible state. Officially, 3 to 4 people die every day in accidents. In reality, many more die because there are armed attacks committed on the trains during rush hour, by people desperate from hunger. Life has so little price that even gratuitous violence is committed, such as throwing stones at train windows simply to try and hit the passengers.

But workers' insecurity is also housing insecurity, either because of an even higher criminality or simply because of the squalor of the favelas, in which water from the wells is often in contact with rivers polluted by factories. I have seen favelas, in the east zone of Sao Paulo where the inhabitants practically live with their feet in a reddish water during flood periods. Nearly all the children had skin diseases. In Salvador, a Nordeste capital, in an area surrounded by favelas, a Nestle's chocolate factory caused such pollution that 70% of the inhabitants of the area are suffering from sinusitus.



COFFEE BROKE

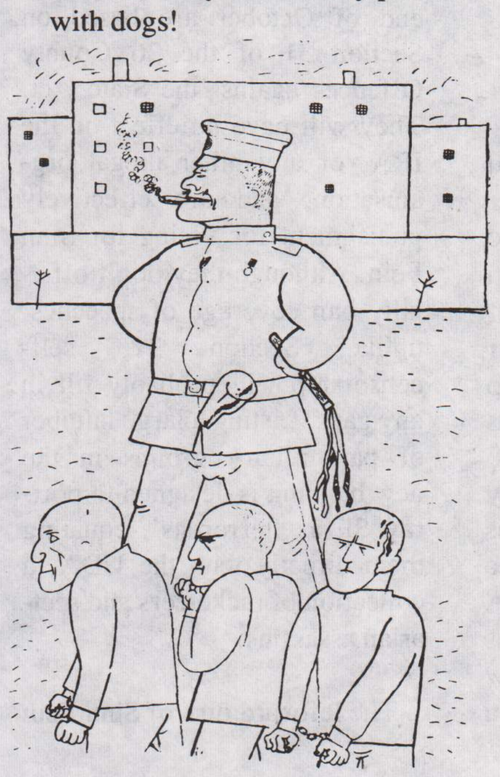
In hospitals, health workers' working conditions are very hard. Basic salaries are very low (around $150 per month in July 1988). Hierarchy as in all Brazilian firms is very extensive and the influx of sick and wounded stem from a veritable nightmare. Auxiliary nurses suffer a lot from nervous illness due to their work. Furthermore it is not rare that they catch patients' illnesses due to the feeble protection they have at their disposal. The most common illnesses are: yellow fever and malaria in the Nordeste; meningitis in the favelas of the big cities; and AIDS causing havoc — mostly transmitted by blood transfusion or by hereditery means rather than by sexual ones.

As for wages and purchasing power, it is the most revealing point in the workers' life. Inflation reached the record figure of 24% for the sole month of July. The Sarney government had installed a very complex system of monthly calculation for Civil Servants' salaries, keeping account of inflation and more diverse factors. The URP (Unitad de Renda Poscental) and the CUT (Workers Unique Central) had criticised the terms of this calculation when it was implemented. But as the government does not even apply this minimum, reformist unions have ended up by demanding the application of what it had rejected in the first place, which illustrates the dead end of their strategy.

MILITARY POLICE

There are some employees in average size shops who's sole role is to raise prices every day, and in this field computers are particularly employed.

In this crisis situation, many peasants flee the interior in order to get to the cities, which immeasurably increases the size and number of the favelas. With constant price increases of land and rents, combined with lower purchasing power, workers are forced to live ever further from their workplaces. The rhythm of growth in the suburban favelas is practically on a daily basis. The same food is found on the Brazilian plate from north to south: rice, black beans, manioc flour, and sometimes a little meat (usually sausages of doubtful origin). The minimum wage was approximately $30 last August, but children often earn less than $10 a month. The only way to survive in those condition is to have a large family whose children work from the age of eight or nine and live in hovels on occupied land rent free. This means that people have to move quite often, as the local authorities push the favelas further away from the centre of the towns. The expulsions are particularly brutal; they are carried out by the military police with dogs!



Everyone agrees that Brazil has rarely known so bad a crisis. Workers did not take very long to understand that democracy, extolled by all the political classes, from the left to the right, is only a farce. In a poll carried out in July in Curitiba (Parana) more than 45% of the people questioned answered that they no longer trusted any political party, from the conservatism of the PFI (Liberal Front Party) to the ineffectual gesticulation of the PT (Workers Party).It is interesting for this reason to look at the PT radicalism, and of 'it's union', the CUT.

With the crisis, the workers' disenchantment is such that strikes are started very easily in post offices, banks, transport, metallurgy, etc. However, very few of these strikes are successful, because there isn't the minimum preparation. Sometimes these are strikes called by the bureaucrats of the CUT who aren't even in the workplace, and do not encourage debate between workers through General Assemblies. These struggles, despite their apparent radicalism, restrict themselves in purely pursuing claims or defensive actions. When workers obtain even a 10% increase in wages through these strikes, the ever increasing inflation makes them lose this. To call workers to this sort of struggle without preparation, is a criminal attitude and is as good as leading them to the slaughterhouse.

The CUT plays this role simply because it acts as the transmission belt of the PT, and also during electoral periods, is convenient to agitate. The CUT only reproduces here the old pattern in which workers are only the foot soldiers, incapable of being conscious, the avant-garde party being there to gain power in order to realise social transformation.

THE COB

The present period is an important period of transition for the Brazilian working class. Having hoped for democracy during the years of military dictatorship, it only took them a few years to be totally sick of it. In this dramatic context, the COB can participate and already has established an important role for itself. It does not put itself forward as a miracle cure for which people only have to vote for. It wants to destroy the myth that surrounds social-democracy and its eventual implementation in Brazil. The COB proposes to organise workers in a truly independent way. It is in fact only a resurgence of the necessity for autonomy and direct action on the part of the working class.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

COB THIS!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

In Brazil, all unions — the CUT (socio-leftists), the CGT (euro-communist) and the USI (reactionary) — are linked to the state and run by Mussolini's union charter (imported to Brazil by the dictatorship of Getulio Vargas in 1935). The COB has often proved that it was possible to organise outside of these structures and win struggles, for example during the national railway strike in October 1986, and also during the supermarket workers strike. The COB is an illegal organisation in Brazil; it is tolerated but with every struggle and each time the state wants to repress it, it uses the accusation of 'clandestine association'. For the time being no comrade has been condemned as a result of such accusations.





The legalisation of the COB can occur in either one of two ways: state integration as the other unions have done; or by a declaration of civil association of workers, company by company. The first form is obviously unacceptable to the COB and is not within the state's aims. The second method implies that association gives the names of all its members to the federal police, thus opening the way for more oppression. This is why the COB remains a semi-clandestine organisation, with drawbacks of course, but also with several advantages. It does not pretend in any case, to represent or negotiate for anyone. In all its struggles, its practice is that of sovereign General Assemblies, and negotiating collectives elected by the General Assembly, even if it includes collective members who are not in the COB.

PRIVATE POLICE

This kind of practice, because it threatens the fascist Brazilian union system, suffers repression from the state and the bosses, as well as from the political forces of the left. In order to develop, the COB must face two big problems: police and union repression, and lack of financial means. Repression often manifests itself with suspension from work, hitting COB members badly (around 50 activists who took part in the October railway strike in 1986 have not been able to get work since), but sometimes it manifests itself more simply through the use of murder, as was the case for Jose Ulysses d'Alberquerque, murdered on the picket line on the 4th February 1988 by the private police of the CBTU (railway firm).

As for the lack of financial means, it is a very serious handicap for the development of the COB. At each public meeting, at each distribution of leaflets or other propaganda, workers join the COB but the smallest leaflet or poster, given the lack of funds, costs dearly. However, little by little, through ingenuity, tenacity and solidarity our comrades overcome their problems. The COB today is in a struggle for survival and for a decent society, while waiting to be able to put in place another form of organised society. Concretely though, for the moment, there are three axes of intervention.

The first axis, important for the future, is the organisation of youth through the medium of 'Jovens Libertarios' that gathers together student-workers and the unemployed.

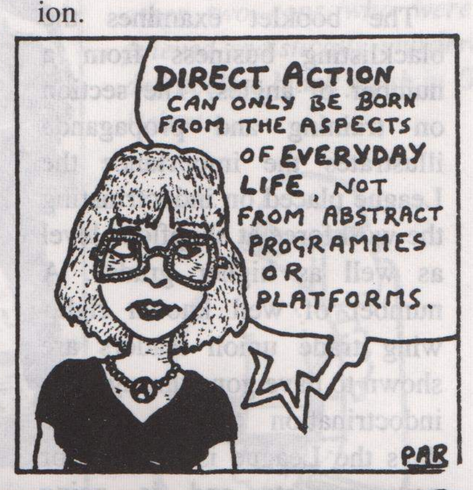
The second axis of intervention is in the districts. Capitalist exploitation also hits workers in the favelas, through squalor and insecurity. The COB owes to itself to equally organise workers in that sector; it does it by taking part in occupation struggles such as those at Curitiba (Parana), by creating schools for workers in Sao Paulo and Brasilia. In the long term, COB activists want to link to the struggle of resistance, a more cultural struggle of education, and a reappropriation of workers know how (most workers in the favelas are of peasant origins, yet no longer know how to cultivate land, thus increasing their dependence.

The third axis of intervention is the union struggle axis. Since the beginning of its reconstruction in 1986, the COB has been part of many struggles either as sole participants or alongside others. It naturally continues the development of its unions that have already been involved in struggles. The transport workers union (UTT-COB) that has been launched, regroups railway workers, hauliers, metro, taxi, bus drivers, as well as any other workers involved in transport. The transport sector is important for the COB as workers there have particularly difficult working conditions and are very militant. Furthermore, considering the size of the country, if transport is paralysed, so is the whole economy. Finally, it is a sector which lends itself to the propagation of anarcho-syndicalism in the most remote places of Brazil and other Latin American countries, through travelling and spreading ideas.

In several states, shop-workers, especially in supermarkets, are organising themselves; the working day is among the longest (10 to 11 hours on average). At Cubatao, on the coast near Sao Paulo, and in Salvador, COB activists are organising in the field of petro-chemicals and refineries, with the double aims of struggle for decent wages and against pollution (Cubatao is one of the most polluted parts of Latin America). Furthermore, the militant work carried out in the multi-nationals is orientated towards practical considerations on the role of these in world economy. For example, Michelin workers in Sao Paulo will carry out research and solidarity work in conjunction with the CNT militants in the Clermont-Ferrand (France) Michelin plant.



Finally, where capitalism creates a necessity of resistance, whether in the favelas or the factories, the COB intends being present and to participate in the organisation of the struggle along anarcho-syndicalist principles. The present period seems favourable to the development of such a strategy. Indeed, after four years of democracy, Brazilians are sick of political parties and expect less and less from them; but resignation is a luxury they cannot afford, as they are dying in the hands of capitalism's ruthlessness. Anarchism's popularity is such that capitalism is making a profit out of it, anarchist books are the most popular, and surfs and skateboards can be seen with the label 'Anarquia', there is even Bakounine vodka. COB activists intend using this aura so that revolutionary ideas will recover their real content of direct action.





BRAZILLIAN CAR WORKERS DEMONSTRATE FOR A SHORTER WORKING WEEK

UNDER-MINED

As reported in *DA 53*, the Peruvian miners' strike which started in Mid-October, their second strike this year, is still going strong. Over 70% of the workforce are on strike demanding inflation-linked wage increases. The government had conceded these demands at the end of the first strike but has since reneged on its promises. The strike is costing the Peruvian government £2.5 million a day, the total cost to them this year due to the strikes is over £350 million.

Things intensified at the beginning of November, with 15 union leaders being arrested at the union headquarters. Shortly afterwards a national State of Emergency was declared, partly due to the strike, and partly due to the civil unrest generated by runaway inflation rates. Geurillas have blown up electricity pylons and in Lima, Peru's capital, there has been no electricity for weeks and the water supply is contaminated, making it unfit for human use.

The government still refuse to talk to the striking miners, and there appears to be no end to the strike in the near future. If things do not improve soon, it is quite likely that Peru's economy, bad as it already is, will totally collapse.

ECCENTRIC LEAGUE

It is estimated that the Economic League has around 250,000 names on its blacklists and over 2,000 companies subscribing to its vetting services. The League is an organisation 70 years old yet survives intact and unchallenged. Over recent months there have been a number of investigations into this organisation, one of these being *Against Democracy*, published by the 1 in 12 Collective in Bradford.

Against Democracy is no doubt possibly the best investigation into the EL yet, producing a wealth of leaked information. Its extensive appendices include exhaustive names and addresses of League officials and offices as well as a comprehensive list of League subscribers and donations.

The booklet examines the blacklisting business from a number of angles. The section on training and propaganda illustrates the importance the League placed on indoctrinating the workforce at shopfloor level as well as higher grades. A number of well known right-wing trade union leaders are shown to have gone through this indoctrination process. These days the League is looking for new markets and is going through a process of reorganisation. For that reason it has less resources to devote to its non-blacklisting services.

'FREE MARKET'

Interestingly, the League was originally set up to combat syndicalism and the 'communist threat'. It was linked to strike-breaking organisations. Unofficially the League was a section of Special Branch, a policing department that arose out of anarchist and Irish 'terrorism'. The League's early philosophy was closer to that of the Italian fascists but is free market these days.

But would the league stand any competition themselves? An anti-League conference held in Leeds recently, to which a region of the DAM sent a delegate, was asked to consider this very question. No one committed to a more progressive society can stand by and let these McCarthyites carry on with their insidious work. Yet the official trade union movement has done nothing to stop them. This is hardly surprising in that the official unions have themselves been involved in the blacklisting business for years — and there is much evidence to prove this.

The only reason the League survives is because we have allowed it to. There are ways to stop it. Ceasing to treat it as a sideline is the first step.

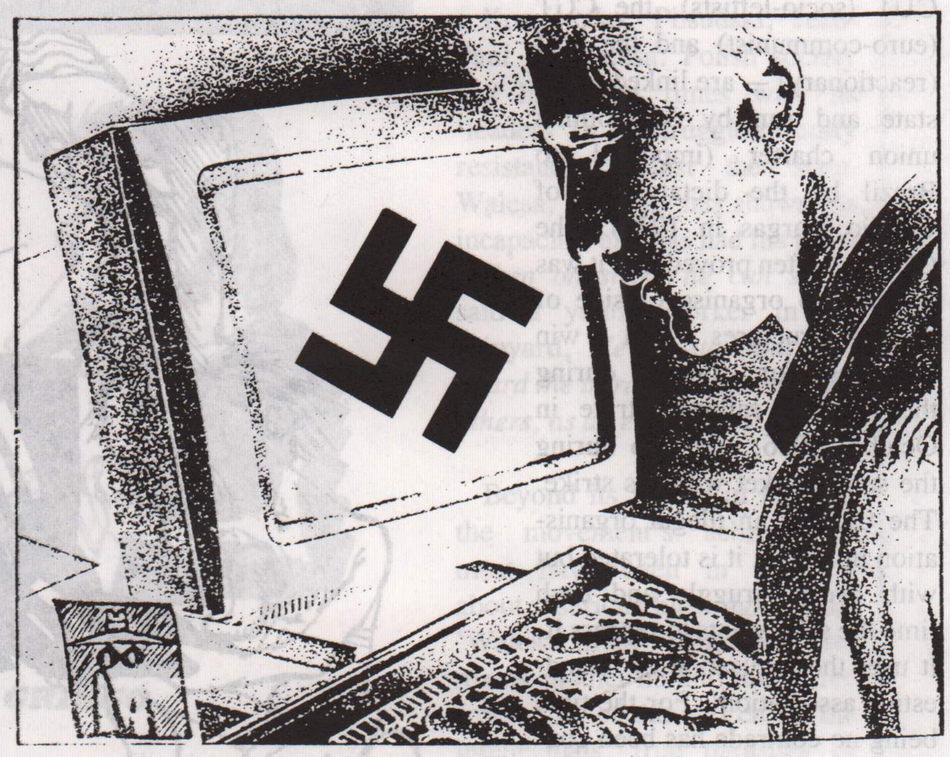
Investigating the people behind the League and the companies supporting it is an important element of the overall strategy to combat the League — and *Against Democracy* and similar investigations should be seen in this light. While our own intelligence on the League needs to improve, it is interesting that the League's understanding of the DAM is way out: we are confused with the ALF. The League is famous for its errors but not as defendant in libel cases. Get a copy of *Against Democracy* and then do something about it.

Against Democracy: £3.99 from 1 in 12 Publications, 21-23 Albion Street, Bradford BD1 2LY.

TH

FLOPPY FASCISTS

German fascists, in an attempt to recruit more young people into their ranks, have launched a series of approximately 70 fascist computer games. One such game is *Aryan Test* where the player has to input their place of birth, surname, etc., to determine whether they are 'an Aryan' or a 'wretched Jew'. Accordingly, an 'appropriate' message also appears, such as '...we need men like you to restore Germany's good reputation which has been spoilt by Jewish parasites.', or '...Caught! 100 per cent Jew once more — you will be gassed because every Jew is entitled to the death he deserves'. Other 'games' include *Clean Up Germany* which involves killing homosexuals, beggars and ecologists, and *Stalag 1* where the player runs a concentration camp.



The newly-launched *DA* software house *Operation Cleanup* is proud to announce its new range of computer games to put the nazis out of business. Titles include, amongst many others, *Remembrance Day, Fight The Fascist,* and *Swastika Slaughter.* For a hefty donation to the *DA* coffers, we'll gladly come round and show you how to play them...

Just recently a number of DAM groups (and possibly others) received a copy of *National Front News.* This was done without our knowledge or consent and is obviously something we can't stop, short of having no contact addresses.

Although it is extremely tiring and, as some would say, boring and unnecessary, let us make our position and attitudes towards these people clear one last time. If only for some of the morons involved with the professional (sic) elements of anti-racism/fascism who have over the past few years made many slanderous allegations against anarchists, DAM among them.

Our *only* interest in Fascism is in destroying it completely. We will not tow *any* party or personality line to prove our point. We don't particularly care if the NF and all other right-wing groups have split into more factions than the left has, or found more 'ways' than the Karma Sutra, we will *always* see them and treat them for what they really are — fascists.

As such, we have nothing in common with them and their absurd notions of race, and never will do. After all it has been the fascists/military who have been responsible for smashing mass working class anarchist movements. We hate them: always have done and always will do.

The war against fascism will continue as long as the class war does, for the ruling class will always fall back on it to save itself. Here and now, within our own limited means alongside other committed anti-fascists, we will continue to confront the bastards whenever they appear.

LETTERS

Dear DA,

Can I just point out that it is sexist to write 'Many of the dead are women and children', as you do in your article Rabbid *on page two of your November issue. Each time I read a sentence like that I feel I must be one of a sex which must be protected by the men as I am unable to take part in the fighting myself, being as helpless and innocent as a child. Of course this is often the case about women by force of society, but there is no need to perpetrate this image of women in an anti-sexist paper.*

Yours in solidarity,

JP

Dear DA,

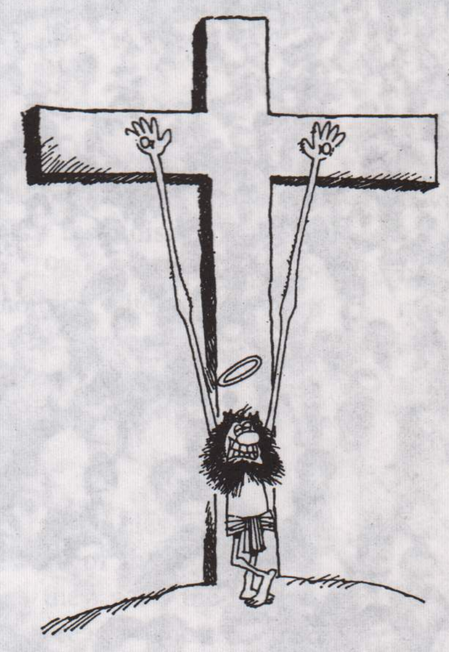
Please cancel my subscription and send no further copies.

The anti-Christian cartoon in your last issue, DA 53, *was in my opinion offensive, and contemptuous towards any of your readers who may have views about Christian faith and teachings that differ from yours, and also that Christ was good and your ridicule unjust.*

Yours,

PGC

If there are any readers out there who *don't* believe in 2,000 year old fairy tales about bearded old hippies who could turn water into wine, feed 5,000 people with a couple of granary loaves and a handful of sprats, walk on water (Frank Bruno does it better), and who could somehow



come back to life after being dead for three days, part two of *Thank God For Religion!* can be found on the back page.

INSANITY SAM

NUS leader Sam McCluskie has come up with yet another superb idea to help the striking seafarers turn the tide against the P&O management. After grovelling to travel agents all over the country asking them not to sell P&O holidays and cruises, good old Sam hit upon the brilliant idea of using religion in the battle against P&O. He approached Dr. Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury, asking him to have a quiet word in Jeffrey Stirling's (P&O chairman) ear — presumably to threaten him with the wrath of god if he didn't accede to the strikers' demands. Needless to say, Stirling was not at all swayed by what Runcie said to him.

We wonder what McCluskie will try next? A national lottery to raise money for strike pay (the NUS aren't giving any on a regular basis at the moment)? It would appear that he'll try anything now to end the strike. If he hadn't pulled the plug on the ports that came out in support of the Dover strikers earlier this year after their initial strike action, the situation would probably have been different now,



SAM McCLUSKIE

with P&O giving in to the demands of the seafarers. As it is, the strike at Dover is still going strong, and only solidarity action can help them to win, not 'divine intervention' as Sam McCluskie seems to think.

SHORT FUSE

Short Fuse is a local anarcho-syndicalist paper brought out by members of the DAM in East Anglia. Features include: *Economic League, local radio, Orange Order, Burston Strike, Housing, Unemployment, Poll Tax* and more. For copies of issue No. 1 of *Short Fuse,* write to *Short Fuse,* c/o Norwich DAM, The Greenhouse, 48 Bethel Street, Norwich. Please include a donation to cover postage and production costs.

SUPPORT DIRECT ACTION

Many thanks to the friends and comrades who have sent donations;

Manchester DAM £84.00; R, Manchester £10.00; S, Manchester £13.00; S, Bradford £2.50; D, Cambourne £20.00; Anon, Rayleigh £1.00; Doncaster DAM £75.00; M, Berlin £2.00; A, London EC3 £14.00; A, Kilburn £20.00; J, Lancaster £20.00.

The people listed here have set a fine example. If you like *Direct Action* put your money where your mouth is and send us a donation.

Have you got a secret? We've got the photos. For safe return of the negatives, send *all* your money to *Direct Action,* PO Box 761, Camberwell SDO, London, SE5 9JH.

DAM CONTACTS

SOUTH EAST

Brixton DAM — c/o 121 Railton Road, Brixton, London, SE24 0LR.

Cambridge DAM — Box DAM, c/o Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir Street, Cambridge.

Central & North London DAM — c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 7QX.

Deptford DAM — PO Box 574, London, SE4 1DL.

East London DAM — c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 7QX.

Kent DAM — PO Box 574, London, SE4 1DL.

Norwich DAM — Box DAM, The Greenhouse, 48 Bethel Street, Norwich.

Oxford DAM — Box A, EOA Books, 34 Cowley Road, Oxford.

For contacts in Hertfordshire, Reading, St. Albans, Salisbury and Southampton, write to South East DAM secretary, c/o Deptford DAM.

NORTH WEST

Bolton DAM — Box DAM, Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester.

Burnley DAM — 5 Hollin Hill, Burnley, Lancashire.

Liverpool DAM — Box DAM, 82 Lark Lane, Aigburth, Liverpool 17.

Manchester DAM — Box DAM, Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester.

Preston DAM — c/o Black Cat Press, 16-18 Lancaster Road, Preston.

For contacts in Crewe, Cumbria, Lancaster, Rochdale, Salford and Stockport, write to North West DAM secretary, c/o Burnley DAM.

INDUSTRIAL

DAM Building Workers — c/o East London DAM.

DAM Civil Service Workers — c/o East London DAm.

DAM Council Workers — c/o Doncaster DAM and East London DAM.

DAM Despatch Riders — c/o Deptford DAM.

DAM Education Workers — c/o Bolton DAM.

DAM Healthworkers — c/o Cambridge DAM.

DAM Postal Workers — c/o East London DAM.

DAM Railworkers — c/o Manchester DAM.

SCOTLAND

Edinburgh DAM — PO Box 516, South West DO, Edinburgh 10.

Glasgow DAM — Box DAM, c/o Clydeside Press, 37 High Street, Glasgow.

CONTACTS

ASP (anarchist publishing group) — for catalogues write to BM Hurricane, London, WC1N 3XX.

Black Flag (anarchist monthly) - BM Hurricane, London, WC1N 3XX.

Ford Workers Group ('The Combine') — c/o 634 Green Lane, Ilford, Essex.

Luton Class War — PO Box 196, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU2.

Nottingham Anarchist Socialist Group — Nottingham ASG, Box 1, Hiziki, 15 Goosegate, Nottingham.

Organise (anarcho-syndicalist group and newspaper based in Ballymena) — c/o Just Books, 7 Winetavern Street, Smithfield, Belfast 1.

NORTH EAST

Doncaster DAM — PO Box 96, Doncaster 4, South Yorkshire.

Leeds DAM — Box DAM, Leeds, LS2.

Teesside DAM — Box DAM, Leeds, LS2.

For contacts in Newcastle, Sheffield and York, write to North East DAM secretary, c/o Leeds DAM.

OTHER GROUPS

Bristol DAM — Box DAM, 37 Stokescroft, Bristol 2.

Leamington Spa DAM — c/o Box 123, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

For contacts in Corby, Cornwall, Kettering, Nottingham, Plymouth, Swindon and Wolverhampton, write to National Secretary, Second Floor, 27 Priory Road, Sheffield, S7 1LW.

DEADLINE - 13th JANUARY

DAM AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

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 by independent organisation in the workplace and the 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 such delegates of such workers' organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers.

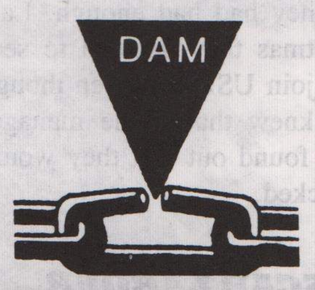
6—We are opposed to all states and state institutions. The working class has no country. The class struggle is worldwide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all states do not exist to protect the workers of those states, they exist only as the repressive arm of the ruling 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 enviroment.

8—The Direct Action Movement is resolved to initiate, encourage and wholeheartedly support the creation of independent workers' unions based on the principles of anarcho-syndicalism.

9—The Direct Action Movement is a federation of groups and individuals who believe in the principles of anarcho-syndicalism: a system where the workers alone control industry and the community without the dictates of politicians, bureaucrats, bosses and so-called experts.

The DAM was formed in 1979 from the SWF (Syndicalist Workers Federation) and other groups and individuals believing in the principles of anarcho-syndicalism. It is the British section of the International Workers' Association (IWA), the anarcho-syndicalist int ernational, which was formed in 1922 and has sections in France, Spain, Italy, West Germany, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Bulgaria, USA, Japan, Australia, Brazil, Argentina and Venezeula.



SUBS SUBS SUBS

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OVERSEAS

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WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

I would like to find out more about the Direct Action Movement. Please send me information:

Send to DAM National Secretary, Second Floor, 27 Priory Road, Sheffield, S7 1LW.

Name

Address

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DIRECT ACTION

Please note that our new permanent address is:

PO Box 761
Camberwell SDO
London
SE5 9JH

COUNTER ATTACK

Chelsea Girl is a chain store owned by the Lewis Group of companies. Its favourite boast is that in 35 years, and with a total of 150 stores to its name, it has never had a strike by its employees. Could this have anything to do with the fact that employees of this company are not allowed to join a union under the threat of instant dismissal?

After years of being treated as half-wits and dogsbodies by their employers, low pay (*Top Shop* workers receive about £200 a month more for the same work), and demands for overtime without extra pay or reasonable notice, employees at the Belfast branch had decided that they had had enough. Last Christmas they decided to secretly join USDAW even though they knew that if the management found out that they would be sacked.

SCAB LABOUR

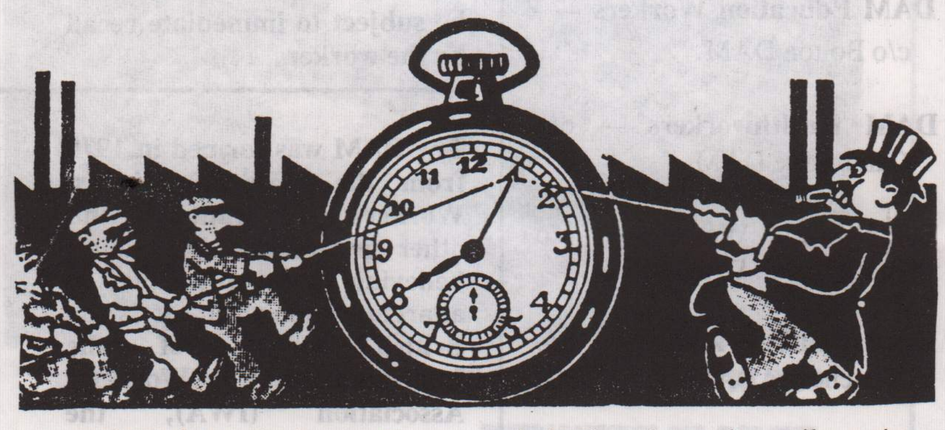
Everything finally came to a head a few weeks ago when the company 'asked' its employees to do overtime on Tuesdays during the run up to Christmas — without pay.

The workers refused the 'offer' and said that they would strike rather than work for nothing. 34 of the branch's employees — all women — were sacked there and then.

Since the sacking, the women have mounted a successful picket outside the Belfast store and very few shoppers cross the picket line. However, this hasn't



prevented the management from bringing in scab labour from other branches, or more recently, recruiting new workers



to replace the sacked ones. How long will it take for the new recruits to realise how bad things are at *Chelsea Girl*.

Originally the strikers produced a leaflet which they handed out to passers-by while standing on the picket. However, this proved ineffectual as people were just not reading it, so it was decided to organise a petition instead with a short explanation at the top explaining the reasons for the picket.

As there have been no letters of dismissal issued by the company, the workers cannot claim social security. They have been to a tribunal to try and get interim strike pay until the results of the dismissal tribunal are known, but they have been turned down by union officials (how unusual — eds).

They have received some moral support and some help with publicity for their cause from various unions and individuals, combined with the efforts of people passing the picket line giving them encouragement, all of which has helped to keep the strike going solid, and also to keep up morale. To help win this strike, pressure must be brought on the Lewis chain of stores throughout the country to accede to the strikers demands.

SOURCE: Warzone Collective, PO Box 148, Belfast, N. Ireland.



SPANNER IN THE WORKS

At the beginning of November 80 storekeepers struck at the Brown Lane Jaguar assembly plant in Coventry because their shop steward was sacked for using a photocopier without permission. The steward, Tommy Wheeler, was photocopying a letter about stress at work. The storekeepers strike quickly resulted in 3,000 other Jaguar workers being laid off, and the company estimated it lost about £20,000,000 in lost production at showroom prices. So, for the sake of a few photocopies Jaguar lost all that money. Confucius was right — people in glass houses should not throw stones!



The strike at Lucas Aerospace's Read Street plant in Coventry has ended after six weeks. An overtime ban had been in operation prior to the strike in a dispute over the bonus element involved in a 5.½% pay offer. Management ordered two technicians to breach the overtime ban. They quite rightly refused. They were suspended and the 300 other workers walked out in protest. On 7th November the strikers accepted £295 each from Lucas to come back to work, although the 5.½% pay offer remained unchanged.

We are pleased to report that the strike at Yardley's cosmetic and perfumes factory in Basildon, Essex has been won, as anticipated in *DA 51*. The 800 strikers forced the company to give them a 10% pay rise immediately with 4% to follow. Yardley originally offered 5½%. The company have been forced to pay backpay to cover the five week strike. Also 140 'temporary' staff who were previously hired and fired at the whim of the management have now been given permanent jobs.

Two conditions have marred the settlement however. Firstly, some nightworkers are now forced to work five 'short' nights per week as opposed to four 'long' nights, and secondly, the bosses are pushing very strict medical tests on the temporary workers before they are given permanent contracts. Consequently a few people have failed the medical.

DAM

'We went wanging down there, jumped out of the van and just started fighting...it was a great day out, fighting the Pakis. It ought to be a local fixture. I thoroughly enjoyed myself' — *A London copper recalling the July 1981 Southall riots, as quoted in the Policy Studies Institute's 1983 report on the Metropolitan Police Force.*

SPOT

