

# ★ Liberation ★

PAPER OF THE ANARCHIST COMMUNIST FEDERATION

20p

NUMBER TWO

NOW WITH MORE PAGES!!

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## DEAN AND DUBBINS LEAD THE WAY



At the recent SOGAT conference in Scarborough, the union leadership showed its attitude to the strikers at Wapping.

Stewards locked strikers out of the conference hall and barred them from the coffee lounge. When Neil Kinnock addressed conference, rank-and-file militants were excluded, while SOGAT officials invited the press.

Meanwhile the leadership of the London branches came to a compromise with the union bureaucracy. Control of the strike at Wapping has been placed firmly in the hands of Brenda Dean and friends like Tony Dubbins of the NGA.

So how do Dean and Dubbins propose to win the dispute? Well, to begin with they have committed themselves to negotiating a settlement "within the law"; in other words, the state can dictate terms. And SOGAT chiefs are prepared to offer union cards to Wapping scabs in exchange for union recognition. This amounts to no less than a sell-out of the 6000 workers sacked by Murdoch.

But all is not lost. A demand for the calling out of Fleet Street could gain increasing mass picketing at Wapping. Such action could be the beginnings of a revival of rank-and-file militancy.

More is at stake at Wapping than the jobs of 6000 people, important though that may be. Murdoch's attack on union organisation is part of a wider employers' offensive. The bosses want to make working-class people pay for the economic crisis. If the printworkers lose this struggle, as the miners lost theirs, trade unionism everywhere will be side open to attack.

The efforts of Dean and Dubbins to sell out the Wapping dispute are typical of the actions of union officials. When it comes to the crunch, their jobs are not on the line, their livelihoods are not threatened.

Rank-and-file action is our greatest source of strength. At Wapping, the rebuilding of militant activity is a priority for us all.



The people who can win at Wapping





## comment

## All circuses

When the Roman Empire was at its height, politicians had a technique for keeping the plebs quiet. They called it "bread and circuses". It was a simple idea: give the lower classes something to eat, throw in some entertainment, then they might be too busy to be troublesome.

Deep down, politicians don't seem to have changed very much. The "bread and circuses" technique still figures large in their calculations. Or at least, the circuses do. They aren't providing much bread nowadays.

But the circuses get bigger and better. A royal wedding, the Falklands War, a General Election and now another royal wedding.

In antiquity, the Roman lower classes sat back and enjoyed the show. Now and then the slaves rose in revolt but plebeians and slaves never united to overthrow the Roman ruling class. Eventually their society disintegrated into chaotic civil war and barbarism.

Isn't it time we learned the lesson?

## Green Belt profits

Hidden in Cobham Woods near Rochester, Kent, away from any disturbance and away from anyone's eyes is a shed. In this shed is a man called Andre van Beest. He bought his plot of land and built his shed and now lives in it being as self-sufficient as he can.

Elsewhere in the same wood is a mausoleum. This was never used. A private investor has been given permission to turn this into the entrance hall of an extremely large old people's home. This means roads being built up to it through the woods. It also means a large profit for the investor from the old people who will live there.

Both of these are on Green Belt land.

Andre, having had his shed knocked down once already by the local council, has been told that he must take down his new home or face a court order. In spite of local support, Andre has little money with which to fight legal battles. He has recently been advised that any attempt to fight back against the court order will fail.

The council is tearing apart one man's life, while smoothing the way for another to make bigger profits. They pretend to have the interests of the wood (one of the few natural amenities left in the Medway Towns) at heart. Yet the proposed home will take up over seven times the amount of land presently covered by the disused mausoleum.

## This Britain...

Merton, the stingiest council in London if not the world, can still find money to replace the lifts in its offices at a cost of £325,000 - the most expensive of five options considered. Another hospital/school goes down the shaft!

How much would you expect to pay for a single room, bed and breakfast on the Lambeth/Wandsworth border? £50 pw? £100 pw? £150 pw? There are whole families living in such rooms at a cost of over £240 per week! Needless to say this is being paid by councils out of our money - no sane person would pay that much themselves. Perhaps the councils could save the money and build council houses instead - or would that be too sensible a solution? There are 94,000 homeless households in London at present and this will top 100,000 by the end of the year.

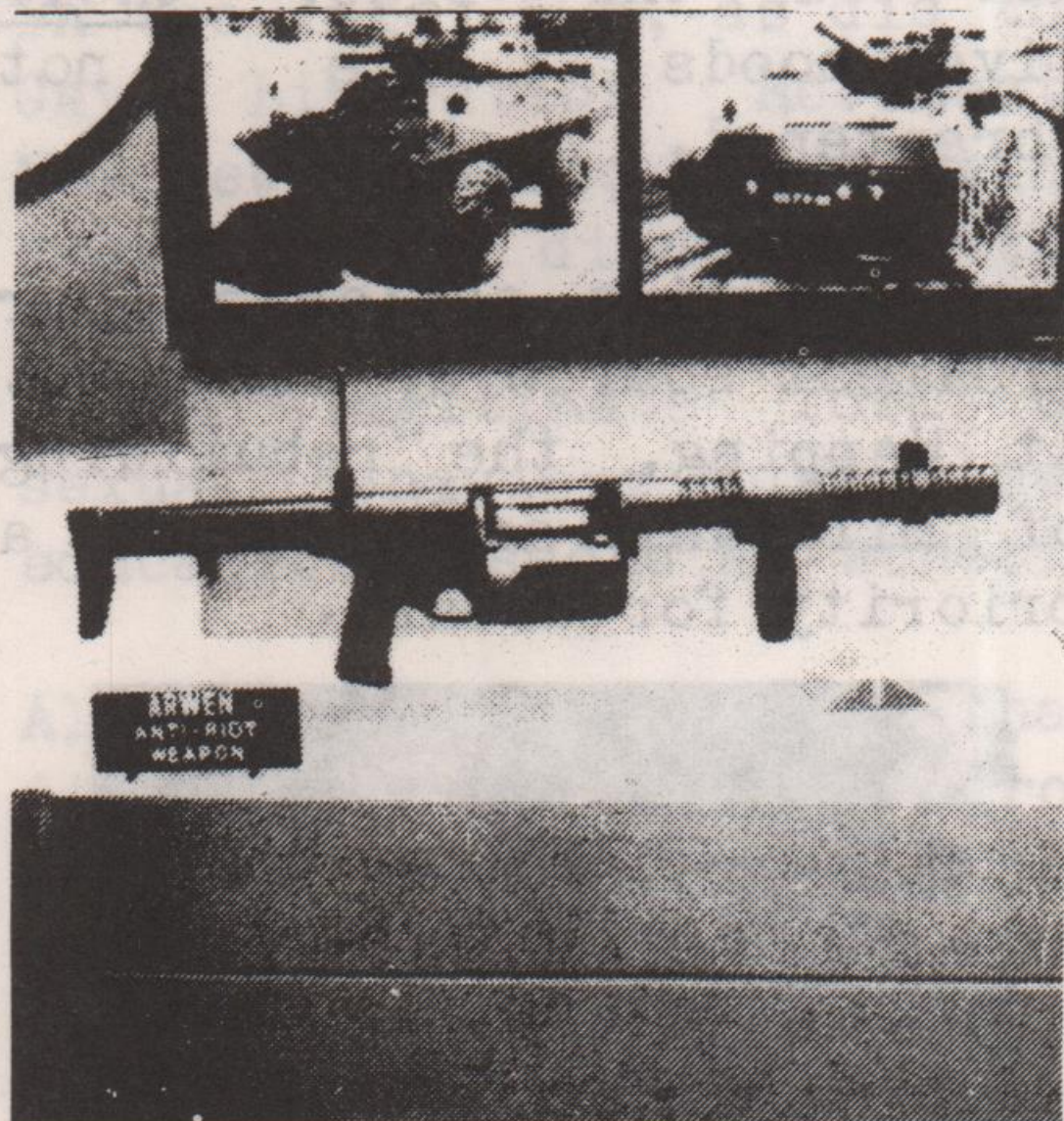
Still on the subject of housing (or lack of it) ... two pensioners in Rugeley ended up sleeping in the local park when the Normid Housing Association evicted them from their home of 20 years.

When 64-year-old Elizabeth Wilson and her 66-year-old brother-in-law, James Gardner, returned home from a shopping trip they found that their doors had been locked and their windows boarded up.

The housing association informed the press that the couple, both of whom suffer from arthritis, were £700 in arrears with their rent. Relatives believe that arrears are only £300 and that the housing association acted because the pensioners had been arguing about the amount.

Normid's housing services manager pointed out that they "followed the correct legal procedures to regain possession..."

A local vicar makes £2,000 from it. Last year, 13 of them were arrested for indecency and 170 had their cars removed during the day. 18 tons of strawberries are topped and tailed every morning at 5 am for it. Nine tons of smoked salmon are consumed as well as 300,000 hot drinks, 126,000 ice creams, 56,000 sandwiches, 13,700 pork pies, 20,000 sausage rolls and 33,000 bath buns. 12,000 bottles of champagne, 190,000 pints of beer are drunk. Yes, the middle classes at play again - it's Wimbledon! No wonder the local traders look so happy.



According to Defence Secretary, George Younger, speaking at the British Army Exhibition, arms sales rose by 17% in 1985. Guests at the exhibition included representatives of the Israeli and Iraqi governments. Strange, as the Tory government has supposedly banned arms sales to the Israelis until they get out of Lebanon and are theoretically neutral in the Iraq-Iran war. But where there's a profit there's a way.

## Royal wadding

Britain is suffering from poverty and unemployment so royalty trots out another wedding just as it did after the war to cheer the masses up. Randy Andy's wedding will cost £2 million but what the heck if it makes people happy.

The Royal Family is a symbol of lifelong monogamy and duty. They are not even particularly British, renaming themselves Windsor instead of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha during the war, through embarrassment at having Kaiser Wilhelm and Tsar Nicholas II as cousins. They established their good PR during the blitz when the King refused to leave the country and his family wouldn't leave him, thereby upholding the principles they were there to represent.

Politicians need the monarchy to take workers' minds off reality, like soap opera. Fergie isn't quite the Di type - stupid and pretty and trained only for motherhood. Di failed 'O' levels at two attempts but was awarded the Legatt Cup for helpfulness. Di achieved the joint miracles of being fashion's perfect size - 5'10" size 10 - and being a virgin at marriage: nearly the Virgin Mother stakes.

The royal women should conform to a certain type and woe betide Anne for not

doing so. If she had been male her horse riding achievements would have been praised to the heights and the fact that she has been shot at with real bullets (unlike the queen who faced blanks) and grappled with the gunman should have made her the Press' darling but she refuses to play up to them so they vilify her.

Fergie will have to conform to some extent: only the wicked Margaret smokes among the Windsors, so Sarah will have to give up her 40 a day, if she is to avoid the bad publicity Margaret has had ever since not being allowed to marry a divorcee in the '50s after which she "hit town". She is the career 'Cosmo' girl, earning £15,000 a year, to Di's madonna.

If Britain loses its "star attraction" not only will the tourist income decrease but England will have to finally take its place in the world stakes as a third rate country dependent on the USA. If politicians are willing to pour millions down the drain of nuclear weapons to keep up the myth that we are a superpower, they are not going to sacrifice the relatively cheaper status symbol of royalty without a lot of persuasion from us.

## TERROR PLAN BY POLICE

## The real enemy

'Terror plan to smash the rich scum and their lackeys', 'Royal wedding riots planned' - the headline screams out at Sunday Mirror readers. One wonders who they are referring to - interesting idea - then we read further to find that the article is actually referring to Class War and ourselves as the publishers of Virus! Now this is the first we've heard of any plans to disrupt the royal wedding - not that we'd be terribly upset if it was disrupted. And there's more that comes as interesting reading to anarchists. Did you know that we are "motivated solely by a desire to destroy, to maim and to sabotage"? or that we "have close links with terror groups abroad"? or that the anarchist movement is so well organised that there is a "plot to join forces in a campaign of violence"?

The article is a fine example of objective reporting with a liberal use of words like "ruthless", "sinister", "evil", "chilling" and "shadowy". It also so happens that in the same box is a separate article on the Angry Brigade and European "terror organisations".

This all makes for a good laugh and might bring in a few more members. Class War is fairly well known but for us in the ACF, a new organisation, it's quite a compliment to be given so much attention.

However, there is a serious side to this recent wave of publicity. A small group like the ACF would not normally think that anyone would bother to infiltrate. We're hardly a threat to the system, unfortunately. But someone did. We had received a letter from someone who said he was interested in coming to a meeting. Of course we asked him to come - most people join in this way. He showed up, another new face amongst several. He was very quiet except he did mention something about bombs at

some stage. He must have been very disappointed that no one showed much interest. Even more of a let down for him was the topic of discussion - how to create a democratic organisation. This is not the stuff that sells newspapers.

We decided to investigate, not being sure that this person really was a reporter. So one comrade went to check out the address that we had written to in reply to the initial enquiry. It was in West Hampstead. He looked at the front door to check the names and then round to the side door to look at the names there. When he came back to the front, he was confronted by three plain-clothes cops and arrested for attempted burglary! Now there may be no link but it's pretty odd that outside of this particular house in the middle of the afternoon were three cops.

So who's doing the plotting? What's clear from these incidents is that it is the police and their friends in the press who are plotting to create a situation where anarchists are blamed for any riots that may take place. This shows how little they know either about riots or anarchists. Though there may exist the odd anarchist who sees him/herself as a vanguard conspirator, class struggle anarchists see riots not as a result of plots but as an expression of anger by people who have to put up with shit every day. As William Cobbett said about riots back in the 19th century, "They can find no agitators. It is a movement of the people's own." Because of the recent growth of the anarchist movement we are seen as a threat but for the wrong reasons. This may be positive but it also indicates that the police state is becoming a reality and that the anarchists may be the first scapegoats.



## Where We Stand

We believe that:

1. Capitalism and other social systems, in which wealth and power are the property of a ruling class/elite, must be destroyed.
2. Reformist and statist solutions will necessarily fail and therefore revolution is the only possible means of achieving anarchist-communism. How far such a revolution will be peaceful depends upon the degree to which the ruling class clings on to power through violence and state repression.
3. Genuine liberation can only come about through the self activity of the great mass of the population. We regard parliament, representative democracy and political vanguardism as being obstacles to a self-managed society. Institutions and organisations which attempt to mediate in the fight against domination cannot succeed. Trade unionism, as it is presently constituted, plays an important part in maintaining class exploitation, insofar as it regulates and justifies it through collective bargaining and bureaucratic structures. Nevertheless, it is important to work within the trade union movement, in order to build up a rank-and-file workers' movement which encourages workers' control of struggle and cuts across sectional boundaries.
4. Workers and other oppressed sections of society will, in times of revolutionary upheaval, create their own democratic institutions, whether they be based on the workplace or the community. To this end we encourage the creation of organs of struggle based on the rank and file, independent of political parties.
5. Pure spontaneity is unlikely to be sufficient to overthrow entrenched class domination. Anarchists must indicate the libertarian alternative to class societies, participate as anarchists in struggle and organise on a federative basis to assist in the revolutionary process.
6. Capitalism is international and needs to be fought internationally. We therefore try to maintain contact with as many anarchist-communists as possible in overseas countries as the preliminary stage to the creation of an anarchist international.
7. We do not simply seek the abolition of class differences, for inequality and exploitation are also expressed in terms of race, age, sexuality and gender. Personal relationships are now often based on domination and submission. We seek not only an economic revolution but a social and cultural revolution as well, involving a thorough-going change in attitudes and organisation of everyday lives to free us in our social and personal interactions.
8. We reject sectarianism and work for a united revolutionary anarchist movement.



For details of the ACF send this form to the National Secretary, ACF, c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX.

Name.....

Address.....

.....

## local groups

MEDWAY: Meet alternate Wednesdays at 'The Rendezvous', Watts St (off Ordnance St), Chatham, 7.30 pm  
23 July: Can apartheid be reformed?  
5 August: Marxism and anarchism

CANTERBURY: meets every Thursday. Write c/o national address  
COVENTRY: Box 125, Coventry CV3 5QT  
STAFFORD: Write c/o national address  
BRIGHTON: Write c/o national address  
LONDON: meets alternate Tuesdays. Write c/o national address

Other groups and contacts in Bristol, Newcastle, Southend, Welwyn Garden City, Luton, Crawley, Thanet, Glasgow.

## feature



## Spain 1936

In July 1936 the Spanish military, in alliance with the Catholic Church, the Fascists and the monarchists, rose in revolt against the Left Republican government that had been elected a few months previously. They were resisted, not by that government, but by the Spanish working class, who set in motion one of the most fundamental revolutions of the 20th century. Within days of the rebellion, the mass organisations of the workers had inflicted severe defeats on the fascists and their supporters in most of Spain and especially in the major industrial areas. The bourgeois government of Jose Giral and Azana was powerless to resist either Franco or the workers' revolution. Wherever the fascists were defeated, workers committees, factory committees and peasant collectives took over from ruling-class institutions. The Spanish working class began to organise itself for the fundamental tasks of defeating fascism and consolidating and extending the social revolution.

The civil war that followed lasted nearly three years. By the time the fascist victory was complete, the social revolution was long dead. Within the Republican Zone, the ruling class, reduced to irrelevance in 1936, slowly but surely reasserted its power. The working class suffered defeat after defeat. By 1939 "law and order" had been restored in Republican Spain. Workers' committees had been disbanded, revolutionary organisations had been outlawed and thousands of working-class militants had been jailed, tortured and murdered. The Spanish revolution was defeated long before the final victory of Franco.

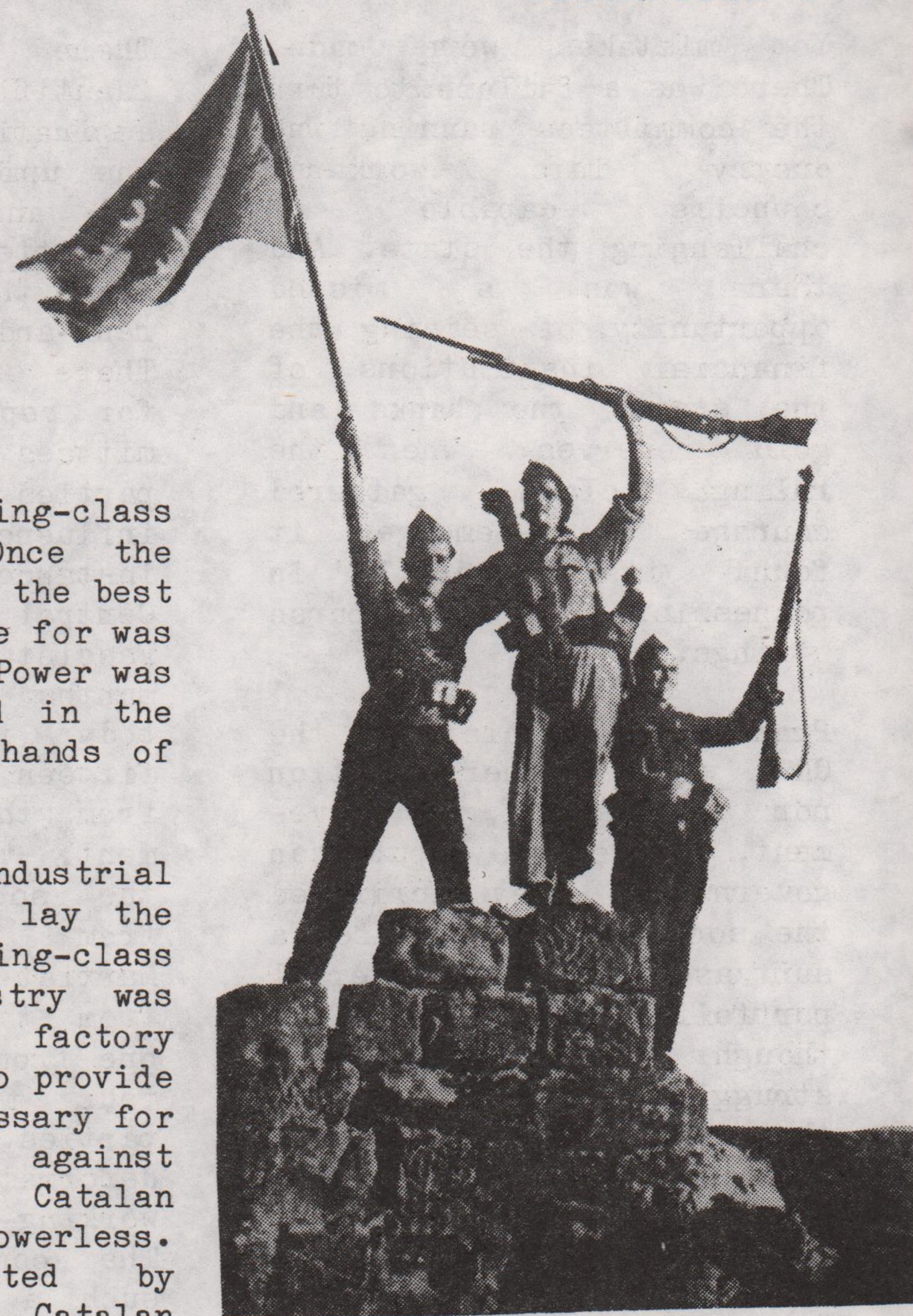
In 1936 the Republican state lost well over half its army and police force to the fascist rebels. Faced with the rebellion, the government at first tried to negotiate, thus losing valuable time. In Madrid and Barcelona thousands of workers gathered outside government buildings demanding arms - and when it became obvious that they had to fight, the Spanish government at last issued

arms to the working-class organisations. Once the workers were armed, the best the state could hope for was a paper survival. Power was in the streets and in the factories, in the hands of the common people.

In Spain's major industrial region, Catalonia, lay the centre of working-class anarchism. Industry was taken over and factory committees set up to provide the essentials necessary for the struggle against fascism. The Catalan government was powerless. This was admitted by Companys, the Catalan president, who said to the anarchist militants, Durruti and Oliver: "Today you are masters of the city. If you do not need me, or do not wish me to remain president of Catalonia, tell me now and I shall become one more soldier in the struggle against fascism." His offer was not taken up, however. The Catalan government was considered irrelevant. Economic power lay in the hands of the workers; the police had been disarmed and police functions undertaken by armed workers' patrols. The anarchist mass union (CNT - National Confederation of Labour) organised untrained and poorly-armed militia to replace the army and the long military struggle began.

Madrid, Valencia and Malaga were administered by joint socialist-anarchist committees. In Asturias, where the Communist Party had some influence, a system of workers' supervision was established, though the mines were rarely taken over by the workers wholesale. Only in the Basque provinces did the capitalists retain control of the factories and here, significantly, resistance to Franco was short-lived and half-hearted.

The social revolution in industrial Spain had its counterpart in the agricultural regions. The crying need for land reform had been consistently ignored by both left and right in the Republican governments of 1931-36. Now the peasants were willing to wait no longer. The fields were expropriated and those landlords that were not ordinarily absent had to flee or were shot. Village committees took over the administrative functions of the area and hundreds of



Spain 1936: a genuine working-class revolution

thousands of acres were collectivised. For the first time the Spanish peasants felt in control of their own destiny and the results were remarkable. Production was actually increased and this at a time when all the special difficulties of civil war were present. With the help of the militias the last vestiges of the old regime were destroyed and the peasantry declared in words and deeds its desire to carry out the social revolution.

Women took an important role in the social revolution. 'Mujeres Libres' or Free Women, an anarchist organisation was set up. Women won many rights, despite open hostility from some men in the CNT. "It's vexing to note that the same comrades, who were the most devoted union militants, were so reactionary from the point of view of women's liberation. It wasn't unusual to see these comrades ignoring women comrades, considering them incapable of understanding problems. When they would address them, it was with an air of condescension, as if they were doing them a favour." (Pepita Carpena, a founder member of ML) Despite this, 'Mujeres Libres' attempted to relate women's liberation to the social revolution.

The responsibility of the anarchist movement in launching the social revolution was enormous. Even in areas where anarchism had little organised expression, the influence of anarchist ideas was apparent. Over half of Spain's industrial workers belonged to the CNT.



Yet mistakes were made. There was a failure to turn the committees running industry into workers' councils capable of challenging the state. And there was a missed opportunity of seizing the financial institutions of the state, the banks and gold reserves. When the ruling class gathered courage to re-emerge, it found itself still in possession of the purse strings.

Prominent anarchists of the CNT, with neither sanction nor approval of the movement, entered the Republican government! They sacrificed the social revolution for a suitcase full of ministerial portfolios. Some anarchists thought the anti-fascist struggle and the defence of the republic came before the revolution. They were mistaken. Franco could only have been defeated in a revolutionary war that involved an intensification of the social revolution. Durruti, before his death in battle, realised this and a group of anarchist militants, the Friends of Durruti, criticised the mistakes that were being made.

There was a too ready identification of workers' aspirations with those of the unions, both socialist and anarchist, and union committees were established where there should have been rank-and-file committees. There was even bargaining for representation on committees for groups and parties with little or no influence in the area. For instance in Catalonia, the Central Committee of Anti-Fascist Militias, for many months the most important body in Catalonia, had fifteen members. Five were from the anarchist movement, three from the UGT, the socialist union, one from the anti-Stalinist Marxist party POUM, one from the Peasants Union, one from the Communists and four from the bourgeois parties. Clearly this is a deformation of revolutionary working-class organisation. The committee, formed by such a disparate group of people representing organisations rather than groups of workers of field and factory, was subject to "politics" in the worst sense. It was divorced from the masses and beyond their immediate control.

The last fling of the Spanish workers took place in Barcelona in May 1937. The workers of Barcelona, abandoned by the "Anarchist Ministers", attempted to prevent the state seizure of the CNT-collectivised telephone exchange. In the armed conflict that followed the Friends of Durruti took an important part, denouncing the joint Stalinist-ruling-class provocation and calling for a strengthening of the social revolution. But the workers were defeated and demobilised. Many POUM leaders and members were shot or imprisoned because they had denounced Stalinism. Many of the anarchist workers who had fought the provocation were imprisoned or shot. The CNT ministers remained silent and allowed it to happen.

The Spanish Revolution failed because it was crushed by Franco and the fascists, betrayed by the Communist Party and undermined by the bourgeois Republican parties. The "Anarchist Ministers" contributed to this defeat by their confusion and vacillation. Yet in spite of this, workers and peasants carried out inspiring experiments in collectivisation and self-management and the anarchist movement had in important role in both preparing for, and participating in, these attempts to move towards a just and decent new society.

## Bring it home

How many times have we heard some MP proudly announce that the world has enjoyed peace for the last 40 years? This is impossible to believe when you look at the long list of countries who have felt the "guiding hand" of the Northern Hemisphere since '45.

Much blood has flowed; over 30 million people have died in this "peacetime" and most of those were in the Third World.

American "aid" to El Salvador, in the form of arms for their puppet guerillas, left 45,000 dead or badly wounded. In Lebanon 19,000 were left dead. Vietnam is still suffering the horrific ef-

fects of napalm and agent orange. Cuba, Nicaragua, Korea and Chile have all been stomping grounds for the US cowboys ... and the list goes on.

An American top secret document put together in the '50s stated that 6.4% of the population owned 50% of the wealth. It went on to say that this was what they were "protecting" and that it was "unreasonable" to act on humanitarian grounds!

The most recent American conquest (as if you didn't know!) is Libya, although the US has had it in for Gadhafi since he threw out their military bases there in '69.



Enemies of democracy



Agree? Disagree? Then write to Liberation, c/o 84b White-chapel High St, London E1.

Libya is portrayed in our media as a massive threat with a huge weaponry: in fact Libya presents practically no threat. It's population is 4 million in a country 10 times bigger than Britain. Libya's only important export is oil; this is largely controlled by European investment. Libya is in no financial or military position to take on Europe and America. Britain played a large part in this vastly unequal conflict and it was effectively just one big ego-trip for Reagan.

Britain's past is far from blameless and the government still plays a large part in supporting the racist system in South Africa. Although America has taken over from the old British Empire in exploiting the Third World, Russia the so-called

## Build it!

A revolutionary paper should be able to attack and criticise all aspects of life as it is organised under capitalism. Politics are about life, how to struggle to gain some control over the processes that work in society. That is the way the ancient Greeks in their city states understood the word, rather than in the narrow sense of the word as generally understood in the UK.

A revolutionary paper needs to address itself to all the problems facing working people - inflation, speed-ups, unemployment, deterioration of the community and the environment, nuclear power and the energy crisis, the threat of war, the liberation of women, gays and ethnic minorities, the rights of young and old people, sexual politics, economics, philosophy etc. Obviously LIBERATION has a long way to go before it can achieve these goals.

However, things can slowly change the more we get feedback from our readership and the more we increase the size of that readership. We would like to ask all our friends, sympathisers and readers to help us improve our distribution. You can do this by

- \*taking out a sub;
- \*giving us the names of people you think might be interested in it;
- \*mentioning LIBERATION to friends and work-mates and showing them a copy;
- \*giving gift subs to friends;
- \*taking bundles on sale or return to sell to friends or in the street;
- \*offering to place LIBERATION in bookshops and newsagents;
- \*donating money to LIBERATION;
- \*writing articles, letters for LIBERATION.

"communist" state has fairly recently taken over from America in dropping napalm on the tiny and impoverished state of Eritrea.

Each of the major powers has indulged in a bit of rape and pillage in the Third World: all for their own ends. Our only way of supporting the people of these crushed countries is to bring the struggle here, to fight it here, to attack in whatever way possible "our" government, which supports and encourages imperialism and racism and the exploitation of countries who are not able to fight back.

It is up to us to stop it.



# international

FRANCE

## Chirac racks workers

The policies carried out by the Chirac government since the elections in March at least have the merit of being openly those of a government of the rich and the bosses against the workers and the majority of salary earners.

Starting off with a financial manipulation artificially designed to boost exports and a promise to unfreeze prices, the new government went on to measures such as the freezing of all salaries for 1986 (French workers receive a monthly salary-translator).

Pay negotiations envisaged by the socialist government fixed less than 1% increase in salaries and now the right has targetted 2.4% inflation for 1986 and 0% rise in salaries! All the principal economic measures favour the privileged and the rich - unfreezing of exchange controls, lightening of social security payments for firms, "measures of confidence" to invite back capital fraudulently taken out of the country, suppression of tax on large incomes, unfreezing of rents and measures in favour of landlords and landladies.

Faced with this the "left" political parties are in disarray. The Communist Party is in deep internal crisis and the Socialist Party is benefitting from this in developing its anti-

working-class policies, with an eye on the presidential elections in 1988. While the CGT (largest union, central-dominated by the Communist Party) apparatus increases its sectarianism, neo-liberal views are developing in the CFDT apparatus (union central-influenced by the Socialist Party). The demobilisation caused by anti-working-class measures (incomes policies) carried out by the Socialist government is being exploited by the right.

We have vigorously struggled against the policies of the Socialist government which has made the working class pay for the crisis. Even less reason to resign ourselves to the new government of the right.

A powerful social movement must be built which can resist attacks against the workers (salary freeze etc); will refuse to pay for the crisis of the rich and the owners and will reaffirm, against the treachery of the Socialist Party and Communist Party and their supporters in the unions that only mobilisation and collective grass-roots action by the working class can respond to a crisis created by capitalism.

(Adapted from a statement by the Union des Travailleurs Communistes Libertaires, a French libertarian communist organisation with whom we are in contact.)

SPAIN

## Dockers hit back

Spain's "Socialist" government (recently re-elected) has meant the implementation of harsh austerity measures with the working class having to bear the brunt. But workers have resisted and nowhere has this been more fierce than in the heroic actions of the dockworkers.

The background: in 1984, the government planned 20,000 redundancies in the ship-building industry. But rather than letting the UGT (Socialist) and CC.OO (Communist) unions lead them down the yellow brick road to capitulation, the workers responded with a systematic direct-action campaign against the bosses.

Grouped in the Co-ordinadora and the Autonomous Federation of Collectives, workers have launched attacks which have made the government tremble. The "Socialist" regime has responded harshly with use of the cops and with savage attacks on strikers in the media.

Tactically, the dockworkers have employed a series of "rolling" strikes as opposed to the indefinite all-out strike tactic. Government strike-breaking has meant violent clashes between workers and riot police. Strikers have thrown up burning barricades and have made attacks on courts and town halls; bars frequented by fascists have been wrecked too. Televised football matches have been disrupted by strikers. In Vigo, Galicia, the pro-government UGT union had its offices trashed because of its scabby stance and, in order to obtain the release of arrested strikers, buses were destroyed until the authorities complied!

The recent strike of May this year saw the UGT offices in Cadiz attacked by a 700-strong demonstration after the union opposed the strike on account of it being too close to the general election. This strike coincided with a wave of strikes in various industries across Spain: bus and metro workers in Barcelona struck against attempts to reduce services; miners in Asturias went on strike too and in El Ferrol, Galicia, over 6,000 metal workers at the Bajon factory stopped working. Meanwhile in Tenerife, Canaries, the Civil Governor threatened a "state of emergency" after essential supplies were held up and 1.5 million kilos of bananas were set to perish.

Workers are using imaginative forms of struggle and it looks as if these on/off strikes will continue into the future as the government's response becomes more severe. In Spain the dockworkers are acting with confidence and strength because they are fighting for their own class goals and are not acting on the whims of politicians, political parties and salaried union bureaucrats. In the year that commemorates 50 years since the Spanish workers' revolution, the dockworkers' struggle proves yet again that no government, even one allegedly socialist, can be the friend of, or can act in the workers' interests. "Socialist" governments, like all others, are and will continue to be, the enemy of the workers.

## Chile hots up

In Chile today, worries about increasing poverty and the debt to the International Monetary Fund overshadow the expected return to democracy. In fact, the Argentinian example shows the Chilean people that a return to democracy will not solve social inequalities. For several months now there has been an upsurge in trade union struggle. The principal union centrals involved are:

- the CNT (the National Command of Workers) dominated by reformists;
- the MSU (United Union Movement) much more militant, regrouping among other elements people previously involved in the 'Industrial Cordones', a movement for self-management and workers' councils, that emerged towards the end of the Allende government.

Mobilising at a political level are:

- the AD (Democratic Alliance) regrouping the Christian Democrats and the right wing of the Socialist Party;
- the MDP (Popular Democratic Movement) essentially the Communist Party, the left of the MIR (Movement of the Revolutionary Left active under the Allende left, now tail-ending the Communist Party). The MDP has a mass influence;
- finally, around the Cooperatives, the health

centres, popular organisation in the shanty-towns and in the MSU, libertarians play a very active role.

The liberation movement was virtually non-existent under Allende but is now attempting to coordinate nationally. This attempt corresponds to intensive work and implantation among the masses. One example: the creation of a "Centre of Study and Coordination", a public meeting place for education and political information, where Oscar Ortiz, a well-known libertarian militant organises courses on unionism at the university, helping in the education of libertarian groups in the unions.

The repression has become selective and comes in waves. This is the new strategy of the Pinochet regime. This repression effects grass-roots militants above all and is aided by an attempt to implant a popular pro-Pinochet fascist movement among the people, in the unions and the shanty-towns.

The next year will be crucial for the Chilean people, with the almost inevitable collapse of Pinochet and a return to bourgeois democracy. Our comrades there will have an important role to play in any working-class movement that attempts to go beyond the democratic hoax.



Santiago: students demonstrate against Pinochet



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# Peace Convoy

The police and state harassment of the 'Peace Convoy' accompanied by a paranoid press campaign is one facet of the drive by the Tory government to stamp out any vestige of the 'Permissive Society' left over from the late '60s and early '70s. Elsewhere we have the speech of Prince Andrew where he pontificates on 'moral pollution' among the young, the attacks on squatting communities in Southwark and Lambeth and the new provisions for sex education in schools.

The festival at Stonehenge has existed now for many years. Why all of a sudden should those who assemble there every year be singled out for harassment? Last year's attacks on the 'Peace Convoy' came in the aftermath of the Tory offensive against their enemies, the miners. It was no coincidence that similar brutal policing (road blocks, baton charges) were used against the Convoy.

press drawing attention to gypsies and travellers. These groups may be next for police attacks.

The right of way over farmland may also be challenged. For years, and after struggles by the Ramblers Association, working-class people have been able to enjoy the country side, much to the disgust of those who own most of it. Rights of way may very well be threatened in the future.

The attack by the Tories in the countryside is echoed in the attacks on squatters communities in the Labour-run borough of Southwark. With the support of local tenants associations, squatters took over long-empty council property, which were fire hazards and eyesores. Now Southwark has unleashed the police on the squatters and evicted them. And if you think other Labour councils are any different, then take a look at neighbouring Lambeth, where



The Tories and the police see the 'Peace Convoy' and what it represents as enemies too. They are poor; they reject the capitalist work ethic; they have radical opinions: they must be criminalised and classified as deviants under the Thatcher Reich. And behind this attack on the Stonehenge festival are the fears of the rich that their land may be taken away from them by the poor. The area around Stonehenge is one of the most well-heeled parts of Britain, full of second homes for the rich, full of massive estates owned by wealthy farmers. It is their interests the Tories and the police protect when they attack the Peace Convoy.

The hysteria over trespass has grave implications for other groups. Already, after the Peace Convoy, letters are appearing in the

the Labour council, inspired by Southwark, is preparing to get tough with squatters.

The 'alternative society' of the hippies and the squatting movement both emerged in the late '60s, as did the Gay Liberation Movement. Now new provisions are being drawn up to discourage the discussion of homosexuality as a legitimate form of sexual behaviour during sex education lessons at school.

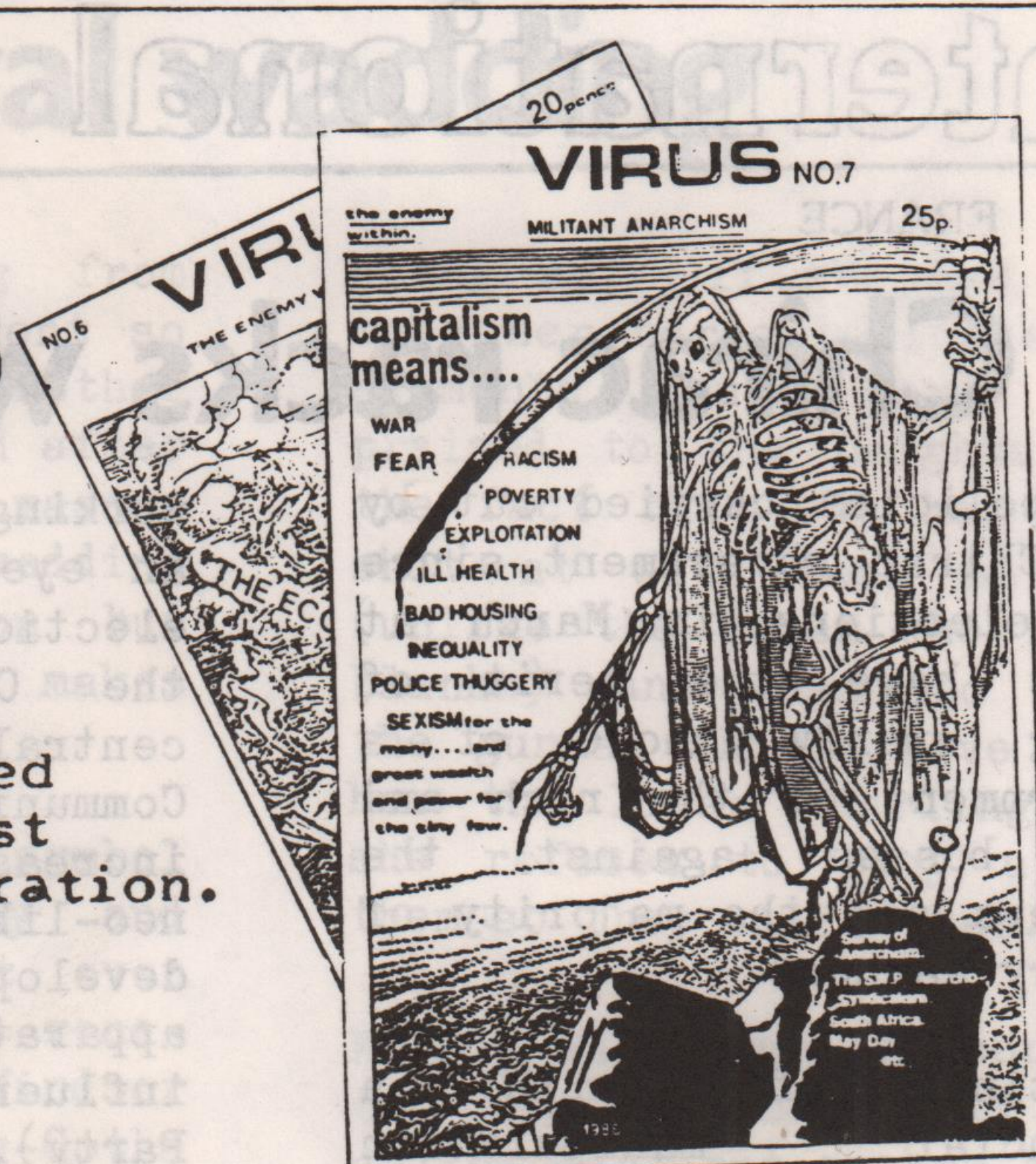
All these attacks show that it is impossible to drop out, to try and ignore the state and capitalism. Precisely those groups who attempt this, in peace convoys, rural communes or in the gay 'ghetto' are now being targeted by the Tories in their relentless drive against subversion. Only resistance can defeat them.

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## Goodbye BBC radio

Do you enjoy listening to John Peel? Tough shit! Do you like radio without advertising? Hard lines! Do you produce live music? It could affect you. This month the Peacock Committee published its report on the financing of the BBC and recommended the selling off of Radios 1 and 2.

John Peel has already been told that, if the BBC takes advertising, he hasn't a job. DJ of the Year he may be and American pop stations rely on him for discovering new bands but he doesn't pull the sort of mass audience required by advertisers.

John Peel is not alone - at least 1000 jobs will be lost to the BBC and, even if the same staff are offered jobs in the commercial sector, Independent Radio pay rates

are appalling in comparison.

Musicians Union beware! Radio 2 has made no bookings for orchestral recordings after September. That means that something is afoot after the Proms (we don't want industrial action then, do we?) Classical music may not be your thing but orchestras all over the country rely on BBC bookings to keep them in business - these will be cut at the same time as they face cuts in Arts Council grants; live specialist music too - folk, jazz and so on.

Free the airwaves might be the ultimate solution in a free society but meanwhile capitalism will ensure that the only commercial stations which survive put out very unradical trash hour after hour.



## Victorian values

Imagine my glee when I read that Gillick's daughter was found bathing topless in Greece! Victoria(n) Gillick bases her theory that doctors should inform parents of their daughters' sex lives on the idea that good parents are so approachable their children have no secrets from them. Well, how about your own 16-year-old Victoria? She went out to stay with her boyfriends' parents in Greece you thought and then immediately moved out to stay with him!

More of Gillick's offspring?