



bulletin

northern sections

INTERNATIONAL WORKER'S ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE ARBEITER ASSOZIATION
INTERNASJONALE ARBEIDER ASSOSIASJON ASOCIACION INTERNACIONAL TRABAJADORES

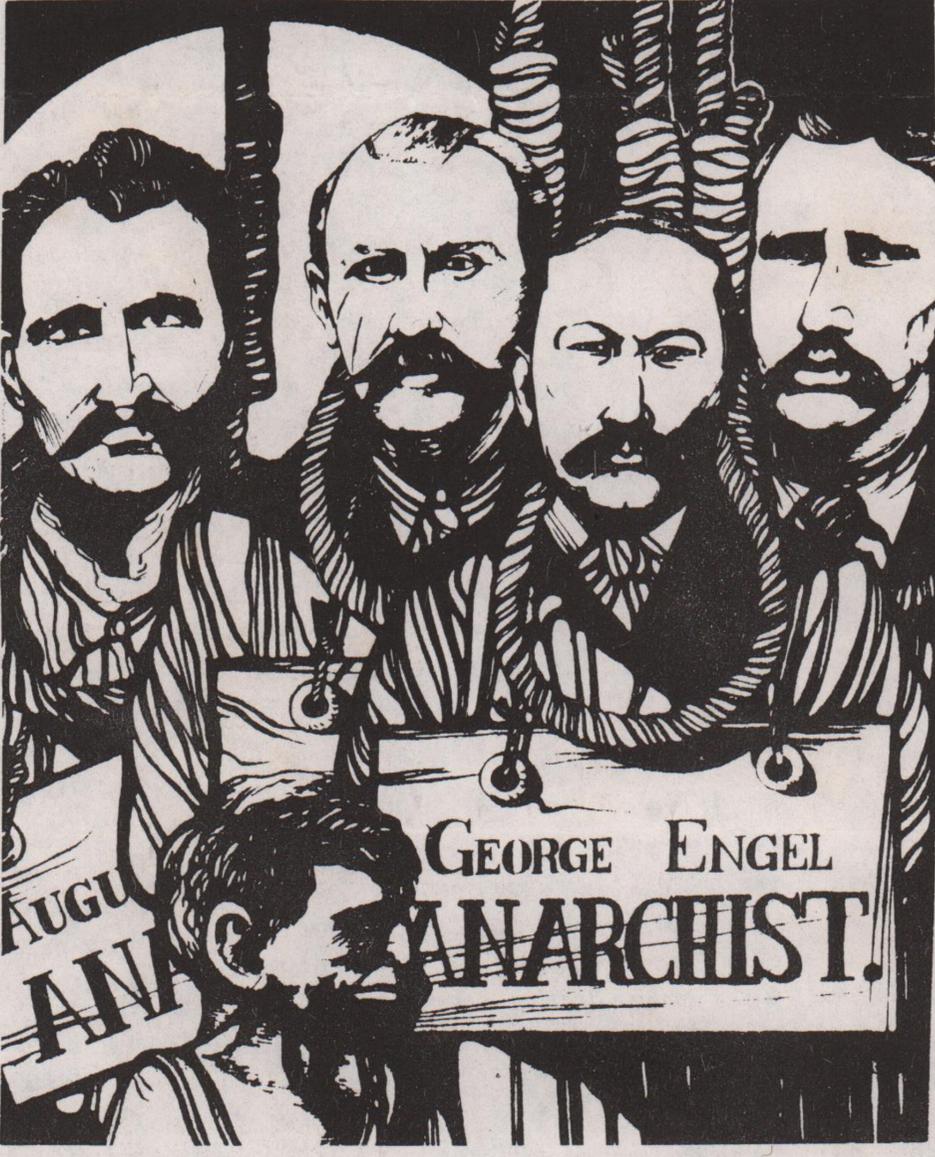
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MANIFESTO TO THE WORKERS OF NORTHERN AND WESTERN EUROPE

With its high unemployment-rate the present "crisis" exceeds all other postwar-depressions. The employers know how to take advantage of this situation in two ways: On the one hand they use the unemployed masses as a reserve-army on the other hand they claw back attempted reforms of thereformist parties and unions and respectively wipe them out. In this context the fack proves to be short-sighted and fatal, that a vast majority of the working class have put all their trust in just these reformist elements and neglected the development of an independent rank and file-organization and an efficient rank and file mobilization.

It is clearly shown, how reforms, pushed throught in times of a boom, are rapidly recalled times of a crisis. This is shown by the recent wage agreements which permanently fall below the increases in costs of living, by the lack of will to determinedly fight against the sackings, by the desperate trust in empty promises. The reformist unions do not even try to stop the enormous production of armaments financed on the back of the working class. The reformist parties and



unions rapidly lose confidence. Actually, this should be the time for the rankand file to act independently for their own cause. No body else can do it for them. All these years the state has been able to sell it self as the common interest of all citizens, handing back to the working class as charity-money that was taken from them as taxes the income taxes being the major part of these taxes. Now it becomes obvious what the state is in fact: an instrument of oppression in the hands of the upper class against the workers. Faced with this attack reformist unions with their odea of social partnership stand helpless. In a situation that calls for the mobilization of all forces in order to resist, to make experiences in struggle, to oppose the lies of the ruling class, they ask their members to show discipline, they tire them out in meaningless token strikes which are taken seriously by anyone, and feed them with hopes of the struggle

for the 35-hour week. But here they are kidding the workers, trying to make them blind to the fact that a 35-hours week only means progress that has no speed ups, leads to new employments instead of letting machines take over, with at least the same level of wages implying no higher costs of living.

Only on these minimum-presises can the struggle for a 35-hours week not become a fatal setback. But they do imply quite some considerable level of workers control of the shops.

In the end, however, its can only be a step forward, for the basic system of our society, capitalism, is not made to garantee a meaningful li fe for all.

The final goal: freedom, equality and fraternity can only be reached tthrough the overthrow of economic and po,itical oppression and the establishment of a society based on self-management in all its sections, on federalism, individual and collective emancipation and the harmonizing of human society and nature. The INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ASSOCIATION, the anarcho-syndicalist international, works every whrw for these aims and also practices them bos-

singabout, no room for submission. Anarcho-syn-dicalism is an alternati-ve to both western capitalism and eastern state-capitalism.



PRINCIPLES OF AIT-IWA

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

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

3, The double task of Revolutionary Syndicalism is as follows: on one hand it pursues the daily revolutionary struggle for the economic, social and intellectual improve-

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

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

5, Revolutionary Syndicalism rejects all parliamentary activity and all cooperation with legislative bodies. Universal suffrage, on however wide a basis, cannot bring about the disappearance of the flagrant

contradictions existing in the very bosom of modern society; the parliamentary system has but one objective, viz., to lend the appearance of legal right to the reign of lies and social injustice, to persuade slaves to fix the seal of the law onto their own enslavement.

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

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

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

9, Although the enemies of all forms of organised violence in the hands of any Government, the Syndicalists do not forget that the decisive struggle between the Capitalism of today and the Free Communism of tomorrow will not take place without serious collisions. They recognise violence therefore, as a means of defence against the methods of violence of the ruling classes, in the struggle

S.A.C.s Congress to be hold in Falun in June will de-
bate this motion.

Motion 108- Syndicalist International

During the period since its last congress, SAC's mem-
bers as well as syndicalists all over the world have
seen their hopes of developments in Spain come to no-
thing.

The struggle over which organisation represents the
libertarian movement in Spain has yet to be resolved
The fight has to a large extent been carried out wi-
thin the area of writing of history and ideologica-
lly. This has paralysed union activity against the
real enemy-State and the Capital. This ideological
struggle has also influenced the I.W.A. To work out
precise principles for the goals, organisational
structure and activitys forms in an I.W.A. in which
SAC could participate would be to repeat the same pa-
ralysing struggle within our own organisation.

Stockhoms L.S. therefore proposes:

- ◆ that SAC maintains continuons contact with the
I.W.A. and its sections.
- that SAC in its contacts with I.W.A. and its sec-
tions, maintains the principle that a workers In-
ternational must be anchored within the working
class in the different countries. Political-ideolo-
gical groups can never substitute for sections an-
chored in the working class.
- that in the event of more than one syndicalist
organisation existing, SAC gives its concrete

support to LS's or similar working class collec-
tives which are engaged in struggle with Capital
or the State, rather than to one of the rival
Central Organizations.

-that SAC in the event of the I.W.A. functioning
us a genuine worker based syndicalist Internatio-
nal and wishing SAC's admission to the Interna-
tional, opens a debate in SAC-Kontakt and there-
after that a decision be taken by a vote of the
whole membership.

Stockholms L.S.

Central committees opinion:

C.C. proposes acceptance of the motion.

C.C. wants however to bring to the attention of
Congress the causes of the I.W.A.'s problems and
the split of the Spanish movement C.N.T. is more
complicated than the motion indicates.

C.C. interprets the spirit of the motion to be
that SAC should have broad International con-
tacts with organisations anchored in the wor-
king class and who carry on independent strug-
gle. C.C. further interprets the motion in the
way that the precise shape of such an Interna-
tional should be left open.

C.C. considers that the motion is in complete
accord with the line taken earlier in desicions
made by Congress in this subject.

As vegards the third part of the motion, C.C.
refers Congress to C.C. motion 111, regarding
economic support to the Spanish movement C.N.T.

PARDON ???

PROPOSAL CONSERNING THE SUMMER CAMP

We agreed at the Conference held in Copenhagen thar
the summer camp should discuss the economic, social
and cultural situations in our differet countries.

◆ We N.S.F. consider it would be desirable to discuss
these problems with particular reference to common
activities between the sections.

The Conferance at Copenhagen decided to continue the
discussion about co-ordination in industrial work,
and this can be used as a basis for discussions brin-
ging in our other activities. Another matter of con-
cern to us is our work with Eastern Europe, especia-
lly Poland and it would be good to exchange experien-
ces on this issue. We should also make concrete plans
for our our work with those countries without I.W.A.
Sections.

Are there other examples of areas of common concern?
Concerning the issues of the summer Camp, N.S.F.
would like you consider a program where each Section
is responsible for the introduction of one topic to
be followed by mixed group discussions.

~ In this way, I.F.A.U. can introduce Mondays topic...
D.A.M. on Tuesday could introduce... and so on.
The sections must in any case as quickly as posible
give their views on the issues and how work can best
proceed.

I.W.A. Northern Sections Summer Camp in Southern
Sweden, 2.nd-10.th July 1983.

This is a proposal to the members of the summer
camp.

In order that as many comrades us possible can
attend it is possible that we could pool'some
travel expenses.

PLEASE SEND THE NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS PLUS
200.- SWEDISH KR. DEPOSIT EACH (SO WE CAN BUY IN
FOOD ETC.) TO N.S.F. POST BOX 1883 VIKA, OSLO 1
NORWAY POSTGIRO: 3924057 NOT LATER THAN 10 th
JUNE 1983.

I.F.A.U. National committee, Postlagerkarte
092822 A 5000 Köln, West Germany.

N.S.F. Postbox 1883 Vika, Oslo1 Norway.

D.A.M. Box 20 DAM, 164-166, Corn Exchange
bldgs Hanging Ditch, Manchester, M4
Englãnd.

A.S.O. Nansensgade 43, 1366 Copenhagen, DK.

A.S.F. Box 139 286 00 Örkelljunga Sweden.

Report from the Northern IWA-Conference at
Copenhagen on the 1.st-2.nd April 1983.

When the delegates arrived at the "Anarchist Bookshop" at Copenhagen, it was the third time in twelve months a Northern Conference had been convened. Besides this most of the Northern Sections met at the I.W.A.-Plenum in Barcelona in January (this year) during the C.N.T. Congress. This shows that this Zone of our International is active, and the results of the Conference promise more activity.

15 delegates from four countries attended the meeting. They were: The Initiative Freie Arbeiter-Union in Germany (I.F.A.U), the Norwegian Syndicalist Federation (N.S.F), the Anarcho-Syndicalist Organization in Denmark (A.S.O) and the Swedish Anarcho-Syndicalist Federation (A.S.F) The A.S.F. is applying for membership in the I.W.A.

At Friday's session the reports from the organizations showed that the activity of the Region is reflecting an increasing activity in the national Sections. It was because of this necessary to discuss a more permanent coordinating unit, and the Norwegian Section (N.S.F.) was elected unanimously to form the Northern Sub-secretariat. The Sub-secretariat will be coordinating views and activities between the Sections and put in to practice decisions that are made by the Conferences.

The Northern Sections will have a Bulletin for mutual exchange of information. The Swedish comrades in the A.S.F. will do the practical work for this Bulletin.

The A.S.F. will also organize a summer-camp in nice surroundings in the South of Sweden (Örkelljunga). This will be on the 2.nd of July to the 10.th of July, and the organizations must give their views on the program to the Sub-secretariat. Only a limited number of persons can attend.

On Friday when the first session finished late in the evening, the different delegates were given days session.

Both Friday and Saturday internal questions were debated, and it was natural to spend some time on the coming I.W.A. Congress in Spain in September.

The Northern Sections were united in the wish to have the Congress in Barcelona. This is most convenient for geographical and economic reasons. The Congress of I.W.A. will debate a request from the Swedish A.S.F. to become the Swedish Section of the International, and it was natural to give an exchange of views on this issue. Even though the A.S.F. is a new organization, the comrades of the A.S.F. are known by the I.W.A. by the I.W.A. because number of them have very close relations to the I.W.A. through Klippans L.S. branch of SAC-I.W.A. group.

The conference made this statement to the Swedish comrades:

The Northern sections of I.W.A. note with satisfaction that an anarcho-syndicalist organization has been built in Sweden: A.S.F. The Anarcho-syndicalist Federa-

tion, which has taken up the old syndicalist tradition and formed the anti-parliamentary alternative which can give the Swedish workers movement back its lost self-respect.

Further on the tactical tasks of the A.S.F. were debated, and the Conference had a thorough discussion about the Swedish SAC. This organization is very active almost all over the world, so it is necessary to unite in our attitude towards it because the SAC are undermining the I.W.A. By this the Sections debate a proposal to boycott the next SAC. Congress.

This Conference made these guidelines for our contact between Sections and between Sections and organizations outside the Sections:

- "1. All Sections are free to have any sort of contact with groups or organizations in any country, providing these groups or organizations are not in conflict with the I.W.A. Section of their respective country. If this occurs we can see no reasonable organization that won't accept the I.W.A. section of their country should want collaboration with I.W.A. Sections of other countries who are fighting for the same aims.
2. If there is a will to resolve mutual problems between groups and an I.W.A. Section of one country but no possibility to do so for whatever reason there might be, the I.W.A. or a Section are prepared to help find a solution.
3. If this will to collaborate does not exist I.W.A. Sections should not act in other countries without the agreement of the national Section

WE CLEARLY STATE THAT I.W.A. IS ONE, UNITED INTERNATIONAL: THOSE WHO TURN AGAINST ONE OF OUR SECTIONS, TURN AGAINST ALL OF US.

These guidelines are general guidelines, and will be used if necessary, for example if problems occur between I.W.A. Sections and I.F.A. Sections. (The Anarchist International).

On the last day the statements and resolutions were passed (Poland, First of May Manifest, "Radio Libertaire" in Paris), and the German Section will organize the next Conference on the third of December this year.

When the Conference was brought to an end, the delegates went home satisfied and with enthusiasm to work for ANARCHO-SYNDICALISM and the INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ASSOCIATION.

The Northern Sub-secretariat
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OSLO 1, NORWAY