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Another Secrets Trial?

The raid on the home of investigative journalist Duncan Campbell of the New Statesman, and the seizure of his personal papers and research documents, seems to signal the start of a general tightening up of security and the commencement of a campaign of harassment against whistle blowers. Sarah Tisdall, the 'mole' who leaked secrets to the 'Guardian', was the first to be pounced on, and she is charged with an offence under the Official Secrets Act. Grassroots, the radical bookshop in Manchester, was raided for stocking material that contained references to criminalised drugs (ie marijuana). They could be charged with selling material 'likely to corrupt...'. Criticising state policies could also be defined by the establishment as inducing corruption; after all Heseltine was specifically brought in to head a propaganda campaign designed to promote the notion that anti-militarism equals pro-Sovietism, while the real peace army are our 'boys' in the ranks. The recent attack on the integrity of the staff at the NATO listening post of GCHQ at Cheltenham has succeeded in eliciting a new and revitalised loyalism from those concerned and from the TUC stalwarts. With no Falklands to unite the country for another five years of Thatcherism, patriotism will need to be kindled by a spot of McCarthyism. The right wing of the Tory Party is still in it a ascendancy, despite the belated revelations by the Young Conservatives and the BBC of fascist infiltration (the same information that has only just come to light in the national press was revealed in greater detail by Stuart Christie in a Refract publication over a year ago). The fascists are learning that it's much easier to get their cronies into power by working with those already in power; for a while, at least, they yearn for respectability. They are, therefore, extremely sensitive when their collusion is tackled head on. Which brings us back to Duncan Campbell who, it appears, was working on, amongst other things, an investigation revealing intimate dealings between the Special Branch and the far-right. This of course is no surprise, but with the report just published by the YC on fascist infiltration into the Tories, it would be useful for the Branch to attempt a campaign to discredit Campbell at the first available opportunity. They still haven't forgiven him for his report a few years back bringing the dealings of GCHQ under public scrutiny. To discover who his contacts are - if any - amongst security personnel, from the list of his address book of 900 or so, would in the context of a nationwide crackdown on staff in sensitive establishments generally, be somewhat of a coup for them, the government and the MOD, to say the least. The NUJ has meanwhile indicated that they will do everything they can to help Campbell. The best way, though, people like Campbell can be assisted, is by more being prepared to ensure that he is not always the one who ends up with the attention a good investigative reporter is bound to attract. Two Duncan Campbells are plainly not enough! Duncan Campbell has assured everyone though that he feels it very unlikely that the SB will attempt to bring about a prosecution and is emphatic that there is nothing in the items confiscated (but now returned) by the police that would induce them to risk another ABC trial. But isn't that what was said last time, and didn't the Crown win on that occasion? Given the right climate of opinion a government will try anything - the odd bit of repression, a few economic cuts, some anti-union legislation, even a small war, never mind a good old political trial. But having said that, we share Duncan's optimism, even if we are in 1984, and there are still enough liberals around to throw their often useful weight, should an investigator of his merit need it. Needless to say, if the occasion demanded, we'd do our best to make things difficult for his adversaries in our own inimitable way.
P.S. Get well soon.

Interested in Anarcho-syndicalism?

Contact: DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT -
INTERNATIONAL WORKERS ASSOCIATION
c/o Raven Press,
8-10 Great Ancoats Street
Manchester 4.



CNT Unification?

On 15th December 1983 an article appeared in the Spanish newspaper *Las Provincias* under the title "The Unification of the CNT in Valencia is Now a Fact". The same story was also printed later on in *El Pais* (newspaper with the highest circulation in Spain) and claimed that an agreement had been signed by Juan Bueno and Carlos Martinez on behalf of the Valencian Metalworkers Union of the CNT-AIT and the Valencian CNT-Renovados.

In response to these events the Valencian Federation of the CNT-AIT (which represents all CNT-AIT unions in the province) issued the following statement published in *Solidaridad Obrera* No 141 Feb. 1984:-

"As a result of an article published in the daily newspaper *Las Provincias* on the 15th December concerning the supposed reunification of the CNT, accomplished by Juan Bueno and Carlos Martinez, this Federation (of the CNT AIT) feels obliged to communicate the following:

1. That Juan Bueno does not represent any part of the CNT-AIT as he does not belong to the organisation.
2. That the agreements passed at the last CNT Congress, the sixth, are clear and explicit: "...the CNT calls on all comrades

Municipal Anarchy The Opposite

At the same time the Govt. is planning to run down the Greater London Council, the GLC itself is planning to run down the London Salvage Corps. It is being disabled along with the only other corps in the country, in Liverpool and Glasgow.

The corps were funded by the insurance companies to protect damaged buildings and contents from smoke and water damage. Now salvage tenders will be given to the Fire Brigades. It is clear that the GLC and other councils involved have done a deal with the insurance companies by which their responsibilities have been taken over with public money.

It is the insurance companies which under capitalism should be financing both fire and salvage. It is obviously in their interests; it is the province in

Wooden Horse

GCHQ - General Communications Headquarters - at Cheltenham has managed to provide the best compromise deal the government could hope for, in terms of union matters, for years. The TUC fell straight into the trap set for them and in conclusion it can only be said that if Thatcher can be described as being Reagan's poodle then TUC chief Len Murray can no doubt be a close runner as her Pekinese. GCHQ has claimed its victims and at the same time provided a precedent as a model for future compromise solutions on the road to criminalising trade unions. But is TUC acquiescence unexpected, and is it that undesirable? Those who run this listening post are as much a part of the military machine as those who fire the weapons. It seems ironic that the cause celebre for union rights is being enacted with civil servants whose loyalty to the state is beyond question. If the government had to choose a sector of the 'essential industries' to initiate its campaign of de-unionisation, what better than one whose staff will bend over backwards to come to an amicable agreement in the governments favour. The GCHQ staff will agree to sign away any union rights they thought they may have had, in order that they can retain the 'right' to an association - TUC backed or otherwise - which will patently have no muscle to it at all. Thus we are presented with the face of a totally ineffective national body struggling to assist the GCHQ staff to set up an even weaker organisation. A simple comparison: it would be like the officially-backed state union in Poland supporting a call for retaining union-supported arbitration procedures within a security establishment functioning as a Soviet earpiece!

who have left the organisation to rejoin their respective union."

3. That the union involved (the Metalworkers Union) has no right to sign nor make pacts behind the back of the CNT. Our agreements have always been characterised in practice by their clarity.

4. That this isn't the first ill-considered attempt to integrate the CNT and the State."

The Statement goes on to cite previous examples of attempts to infiltrate and discredit the CNT, including the "Caso Scala" (see last Newsletter), and points out that since Franco's death and the return to democracy in 1975 the CNT has been under constant pressure by each successive government to make pacts and collaborate with the bourgeoisie, and to isolate the anarchist influence within the CNT. The statement ends:

"What will our action be? Simple and direct opposition to the policies of the PSOE (Spanish Socialist Party now in power) plus resistance in the streets and factories against the manipulation and the destruction of the Union movement.

We won't abandon the defence of the workers from an independent position which profoundly questions the social structures. The CNT is still sufficiently capable of resisting and preventing such manipulation".

which they make huge sums out of the public to invest elsewhere and make gigantic profits.

The salvage personnel now dismissed have made huge savings for the insurance companies. Millions were saved in recent years, salvaging goods, securing houses, preserving records and manuscripts, all for the benefit of the insurance companies; the fire brigades have been, rightly so, more concerned with saving life.

The whole fire and salvage system should be financed by the insurance companies so long as they exist, as a part of the debt they owe society for operating. The role of the council is totally irrelevant. The corps should be placed right away under workers' control, deriving its income from insurance company subsidies; eventually becoming part of one whole sector of insurance, fire, salvage, protection, running the industry by workers control on the public behalf.



A few years back and the conditions for inducing TUC support for toothless no-strike staff associations would not have been there. What is uncomfortably obvious is that it will still take a few more Health Worker's disputes, Warrington's and Rail strikes to convince the working people that hierarchically organised unions, controlled from above, serve only the interests of the union bureaucrats and the state politicians. And furthermore, that the creaking TUC dinosaur will eventually need a shove from the outside before its superstructure finally caves in, terminally stunning those still gnawing at its bones.

SOURCE: Direct Action

Public Confidence

Five years ago a man held hostages at gunpoint and wrote to the News of the World explaining that the reason why he was doing this was that Banbury CID had raped and beaten his wife and threatened their five year old son, to keep her quiet. News of the Screws published the letter, headlining it: 'Siege man tells us why he did it'. Nobody was named but there were ten male policemen in Banbury CID: all sued. In February the High Court gave them a record £250,000 damages - £25,000 each, the reward of a lifetime's hard work which few manage to get, or the cost of a decent house - to compensate for the damage done to their good, if unmentioned names. What damages are awarded to rape victims? In the same week as the award was made a woman, having been raped three times, crawled away to a passing jogger for help and got raped again. The humiliation of going to the police and being treated as a 'slag' or a joke is well known to rape victims. It was announced the same week that as 'Ripper' Sutcliffe, the rapist murderer, had wisely gone bankrupt, nothing was available to relatives of the dead or the surviving rape victims.

Being libelled as a rapist rates, it would seem, far higher than being libelled as a rape victim, indeed than being raped. To those hoping for libel damages from the press for persistent libelling - who more than anarchists? - a word of caution: there seems to be an unwritten law that says that you can't be libelled unless you're rich, powerful, with the establishment or right-wing (and the Banbury police hit the jackpot with at least two of the four, or maybe three).



JAMES DAVEY

James Davey was killed by police in Coventry in March 1983. Originally arrested on suspicion of being involved in a gangland killing in London, he died 11 days after the arrest of brain damage, so much so that even though his heart was restarted in hospital, he was pronounced technically dead. A report by an independent pathologist, Dr E Milford Ward, states that Davey 'was held almost certainly by an arm from behind and his head forced backwards'. Brain damage would take only a few minutes if the victim were over-excited and breathing too fast: it would take extremely little application of force. An internal police enquiry has been held, but its results have been delayed. The family of the victim insisted on further post-mortem examinations, but the body had been deliberately left to rot. When a pathologist went to examine the body he reported that it was 'covered in a growth of mould' up to three quarters of an inch thick' and 'in such bad condition that little can be learned from it'. A call has been made for a public inquiry with wide backing. The DPP has decided that no such enquiry should take place and no charges will be brought against the police responsible. The Home Office have rejected the idea of an enquiry, even though its backed by 74 lawyers, doctors, councillors and MPs. Davey was murdered. The body was deliberately left to rot to sabotage any attempt at examination.

PRISONS

DEATH ROW

Suicides are now almost commonplace in the Glenochil Youth Detention and Young Offenders Centre in Scotland. Their 'death row' has claimed four young men in the last 18 months. Glenochil employs the 'short, sharp shock' treatment and functions as a containment centre for the young and job-less who have discovered that petty crime is the only way they can survive each week through. The latest death was that of a 17 year old, William McDonald. As with the other cases death was by hanging. Capital punishment may have been abolished in theory but the conditions that can guarantee the same end result - a sudden unpleasant termination of life - are rife amongst regimes such as that at Glenochil, where psychological torture is a fact of everyday life. The original 'short, sharp shock' came from a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta where the shock in question was to have your head cut off. The prison authorities have almost got it right.

Lie Detector

The lie detector is a clever misnomer, the polygraph does not detect lies, it merely measures breathing rate, pulse, blood pressure and the electrical resistance of the skin (it varies with sweat). It works best on those who believe in it, so if you know how, it's fairly easy to get round it. This will be valuable as it comes into widespread use (how long before the DHSS move them into the dole offices).

When answering truthfully bite your tongue or tense yourself to heighten your pulse rate, or put a stone or pin in your shoe and step on it when telling the truth. When lying relax as much as possible.

The drug Meprobamate (miltown) has helped beat the machine.

If you know how, use yoga, deep-breathing or bio-feedback when lying. When telling the truth think of something to make you angry, afraid, guilty.

There is a pause of several seconds between each question. During this time keeping your mind focussed on something other than the question. Some people do mental arithmetic, others concentrate on their favourite song. In an experiment the majority of victims learned to fool the nasty little machine, easily.

TENSION RISING

Over the last few weeks there have been a number of attacks by screws on prisoners in Wandsworth nick. The prisoners concerned include Garfield Parnell, Charlie Dignan, David Grimes, John Seabourne, Rif Memmet and Jimmy McCaig. All had been on a 'dirty protest' and consequently violently assaulted by guards. Afterwards each prisoner was placed in solitary in a 'sensory deprivation' cell. Around the same time Jimmy Anderson had his life threatened by a screw. The prison staff resent Anderson because he recently won a legal case allowing him (and other prisoners, in theory) the right to have allegations against prison officers heard in court rather than via an internal hearing. As a result of this legal victory Anderson was told by five screws that if he proceeded with his allegations he wouldn't leave Wandsworth alive. Unfortunately Anderson's legal victory has been short-lived. After the recent threat, he applied for a restraining order to be placed on the principal officer involved, but this was rejected in court, the matter being referred back to the prison internal complaints system to be dealt with there. In other words the original decision granted in Anderson's favour has now effectively been overturned. No doubt an appeal will be lodged. In the meantime, this doesn't help Anderson: by taking the matter further he has made life difficult for himself, he is still being threatened, and his correspondence with his solicitors - Birnbergs - is being interfered with.

N.B. There have also been reports of violence used against prisoners recently in Wormwood Scrubs. As a result 6 prisoners have spent periods on hunger strike in protest.



Security

A computerised register of Swedes who might be a security risk is responsible for at least 1000 people losing their jobs each year. The claim is made by Professor Dennis Tollberg after a five-year study of employment policies by the Swedish government.

The government will soon answer charges in the European Court of Justice concerning the case of Torsten Leander, a Swedish carpenter, who apparently lost an innocuous job at a Maritime Museum after being categorised as a security risk by Sweden's secret police.

policing



An appeal to the boys in blue in south Wales: consistently opening up and tampering with the mail of our comrades for the past two years may be one thing, but pinching their copies of Black Flag and Direct Action to put in your files is something else. We don't expect you to subscribe, but we will accept an exchange. How about your notes: Intimidation and Harassment Procedures and the Framing of Politicals for Conspiracy Trials? If that's a bit pushy, we'll settle for weekly copies of the Police Gazette: it's a fair swap, guv!

Are the Anti-Terrorist Squad cracking up? After revealing that the ATS were called in to deal with a small time burglar at the ITCA building (see last issue), it is now reported that they are into kidnapping antique and memorabilia collectors.

It was all supposed to be part of a crackdown on a major international terrorist operation, involving paramilitaries in France: a flat was raided in north London and a Mr David Singleton was taken in, held under the PTA at Paddington Green nick, charged and held in maximum security conditions in the Scrubs. All exciting stuff! Especially when it was revealed that Singleton was apparently in possession of arms, explosives, grenades and ammunition. Had the ATS discovered a new link in the INTERNATIONAL TERRORIST CONSPIRACY? Were they up to their old tricks of planting evidence in order to secure an arrest at a point in time when their track record in hunting down nationalists ain't exactly top of the form? The answer, unfortunately for the ATS, was neither: Singleton was a crank, the arms and ammunition were old WW2 collectors items. In the end he was charged with possessing an old Belgian revolver (with no firing pin, no handgrips and a broken main spring) and a few rounds of ammunition. Not exactly very big time Enemy No. 1, nor a prized arms cache. Apparently the ATS got their tip-off about Mr. Singleton from a very reliable source: a friend of Singleton's who was having a nervous breakdown at the time. So this is what the Neighborhood Watch is all about! Isn't it about time that they brought back Cremer. At least when they fitted people up in those days, they did it in style.

WYERS 2 FEB. 10TH

The "Day of Unrest" which was called in Amsterdam today caused destruction of property, fights and confrontations with the police. According to the squatters:

Everybody who's fed up does their own action today to make clear what's going on. A diversity of groups, like squatters, anti-fascists, ex-prisoners, ethnic minorities & women's groups joined in in actions. The success of the idea of actions all over is worth studying in relation to Stop the City in London on March 29th.

- A list of actions performed on the Day of Unrest:
- The Palace of Justice (the main Court) has been painted and had its locks glued up.
- Cables connecting the canalboats to the tourist roundtrips were cut, setting the boats adrift.
- The windows of the rightwing newspaper *Telegraaf* were smashed.
- The glass doors of the big hotel just a stone's throw from where the New Holiday Inn Hotel is supposed to arise (formerly Wyers) were smashed, also ten flags outside were burned.
- Locks of various banks and insurance companies were glued up.
- Barricades and blockades on a prospective and unwanted, big main traffic route, causing major traffic jams.
- Ships were set alight.
- Sex club with a bad reputation in house speculation was painted up.
- Sabotage of trafficlights at various important crossings.
- Several bonfires in the streets.
- Anarchists tried to clean the statue of a famous Anarchist of the last century. Police prevented this using vanloads of plainclothes-cops against the 30 or 50 people involved.
- From the rooftops of about 18 squats in the innercity, barrels of oil and old tyres were set alight, giving off lots of smoke.
- Anti-militarist actions at army barracks.
- Union of junkies demonstrated against police violence and the ruling of making assembly unlawful in one particular street.
- Temporary occupation of various hotels (as people had booked rooms up, hung out some banners and left without paying).
- Proletarian shopping (large group shoplifting), especially paint to use later in other actions.
- Anti-porn actions at shops selling porn magazines.
- Windows smashed (again!) at the office of the so called Evangelical Help for Homosexuals.
- A 2,000 strong demonstration through the centre in the late afternoon.
- A police van, guarding the French Consulate since a bomb attack more than a year ago had its locks glued up without the cops inside noticing anything!
- At the Montplein 50 squatters blocked the street with burning tyres, despite the fact that the cops were ready, as the action was accidentally leaked on the Squatters Radio (which was on all day). 2 people were arrested & some injured as vanloads of plainclothes police attacked.
- At Keizersgracht a Brixton squatter was arrested (& held for 4 days) for setting fire to a skip (large rubbish bin) in front of an evicted squat. The Fire Brigades are facing cutbacks in Budgets so the locals support the Fire workers!
- At 4.00pm a mass demonstration took place, marching round the city & smashing windows.
- Actions outside Amsterdam in various Dutch cities supporting actions were held, either at Holiday Inn's or financiers. In cities elsewhere in Europe, including London various solidarity actions and pickets.



Attack on a Police HQ building. A'dam 10/2/'84
By the anti-militarist group ONKRUIT.

Towards Political Censorship

A Manchester Anarchist Mike Don was due to stand trial on charges under the 'Obscene Publications Act' in Manchester

Crown Court; charges which carry a possible three year prison term. They relate to the selling of drug-related books. This is the first jury trial arising out of a series of police raids during 1982 - a number of other, similar trials are pending.

'Liable to deprave and corrupt' is a definition without limits (especially when one looks at the 'clarification' by senior judges in former trials) in this particular case it seems that a key prosecution argument will be allegations that the relevant books encouraged or 'incited' readers to illegal activities. A victory for the state here will surely, given this Govt.'s record, soon lead to publishers & sellers of 'left' and radical - as well as anarchist - papers, finding themselves in the dock.

Lurchsight

When a small magazine (5,000-10,000; even 20,000) refers to its "correspondent at the Channel ports" watching on what miniscule party is sending how many delegates to a foreign conference, is it any wonder suspicions are aroused? Who is it that can vet people of one particular persuasion coming in and out of the country, out of so many ports, so many passengers, other than Special Branch?

Searchlight is a magazine ostensibly interested in the fascist parties, and for that reason having a wide circulation among the left. But much evidence has been collected (see the latest issue of *Anarchy*) to show that *Searchlight* has regularly collaborated with Special Branch, always ready to ditch the minor fascists, provided the big fish who will provide the real

QUESTION + ANSWERS ON ANARCHISM

Q: Reading *Anarchist* writing you never come across the word democracy as part of Anarchism - how come? Why do Anarchists use the word libertarian when the right wing also do so? What do Marxists mean when they talk about democratic centralism?

A: Democracy is usually taken to mean parliamentary democracy - which in most countries (especially this) means elective dictatorship. Originally democracy meant rule by the poor - who generally happen to be the majority - later it was taken to mean general public participation in government - today it is normally applied

to its old 'salami tactic'. First go for causes which elicit a consensus of public support (ie video nasties - the banning or destruction of which should not be left to the power of the State) then move onto books on drugs, what next? Grassroots decided to opt for a jury trial, which, although carrying heavier penalties if convicted, was felt to offer a better chance of acquittal than the magistrates court. Ironically enough, Mike no longer works at Grass Roots; four months ago he was 'asked to resign' from the collective - the 'last straw' was an allegation that he failed to ask permission before taking copies of *Black Flag & Direct Action* from shop stocks to sell around the pubs.

NB. Latest news is that the Prosecution has dropped charges against Don, on the instruction of the Director of Public Prosecutions, and indicated that their original intention had been to take out an order for the destruction of the offending material. The test case will be that brought against *Knockabout Comix*, due to be heard in May.

right wing authoritarian movements can get off the hook.

As a result of the denunciation by *Anarchy*, *Searchlight* in its February issue launches an attack on "poor old" Stuart Christie, the "veteran" Anarchist editor and publisher as it describes him (though as a matter of fact, not of *Anarchy*, to which he has only contributed one article, on Freemasonry). *Searchlight* imagines him not only editor, publisher but sole contributor - is this not the belief of many Special Branch people too of Christie's relationship with the Anarchist movement generally?

Searchlight provides some useful information on the minor inadequacies of fascist leaders and many Anarchists read it. Better not subscribe, though, if you're at all cagey of coming to SB attention.

to majority rule with legal parliamentary sanction. None of these descriptions fit Anarchism. The name 'libertarian' was coined by a French anarchist (Sebastian Faure) and exclusively used by anarchists (partly as a description, *Libertarian Socialism*; partly as a more respectable-sounding name than Anarchist!). Later the name 'libertarian socialist' was stolen by the left socialists and later still 'libertarian' on its own by the right-wing individualists.

Democratic centralism is the means by which a party, or state, is governed from the top but is supposed to be influenced from the working class.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

JAPAN

OMORI

The Japanese Embassy in London have stated to us decisively that "because of the hostile publicity...and the fuss and bother of picketing" that they have received in the Omori case, in no circumstances will they discuss it with us or anyone else; but they add the interesting information that it is still before the Courts.



Japanese flag burning outside the Japanese Airline Building. PHOTO: Tracey.

WEST GERMANY

Wasting time with the Ecology Party? Why not have a look at how the "Greens" are doing in Germany?

In the state of Hesse (West Germany) the Socialist Party of Germany (SPD) has been a minority government. The rightist parties have made it difficult for them to carry on. The Greens, on the other hand, have made great strides everywhere in Germany, but especially in Hesse, with their appeal to ecology and against nuclear armament.

Both rightist parties, the CDU and FDP, have been trying to become a partner with SPD leader Holger Börner. But he has realised his natural allies are the Greens.

Hesse thus becomes a national test case. Up to now the Ecologists have been "ringers" for the Anarchists in some obvious directions. But now the crunch has come. To take parliamentary power or not? They are not hesitating to step in. All that seems to matter is whether the Social Democrats think the Greens can do the trick of being a fourth party, that is to say an alternative catchment for votes repelled by Socialist bureaucracy. Explanation by the Greens: this is "realpolitik", this is pragmatism. This is a sell out.

RED ZORA

The car of a Hamburg gynaecologist, Hans Joachim Lindemann, was firebombed by a group of women called Red Zora and the underground Revolutionary Cells. They were protesting the sterilizations Lindemann performs, usually on older women, without their permission, during exploratory gynaecological surgery.

Lindemann is a self-appointed 'expert' in sterilization matters in the Third World. He had been briefly threatened with a trial in West Germany, and had planned to move to Chile, where sterilization is commonly done.

Red Zora announced in a statement: Lindemann...personifies the strategy of 'experts' who, via their 'population politics' control the fertility of women. Red Zora promises further action if the sterilizations continue.

SOURCE: Outwrite.

BENEFIT FOR ANARCHIST PRISONERS

AT THE AMBULANCE STATION
306 OLD KENT ROAD,
SOUTHWARK S.E.1

TUBE. Elephant and Castle

BUSES FROM TUBE 53, 63, 21, 141, 177.

WEDNESDAY 29th FEBRUARY 1984 8pm-12pm

BANDS:

D.O.A. Vancouver band who put out a benefit single for the Vancouver 5: Fuck You (by Gerry Hannah - one of the Vancouver 5) b/w Burn It Down.

MICHAEL BELBIN Political Poet.

THE HAPPY END 15-piece Revolutionary band

& ANARCHIST PRISONERS

ET ENTRANCE
THE VANCOUVER 5 are five young Canadians who have been framed on a variety of charges in 1983 relating to a series of bombings across Canada during the previous year. The bombings included a controversial power station in British Columbia, a factory in Toronto making parts for the Cruise Missile and three Porn Video Emporiums in the Vancouver area. All 5 are pleading not guilty and have been in prison since January 1983.

K. OMORI a Japanese anarchist under penalty who was convicted of the bombing of a government building on flimsy evidence. He is due to be hung early this year. An appeal against this sentence is now before the the Japanese courts

All Enquiries: Anarchist Black Cross,
c/o 121 Bookshop, 121 Raiton Road, London SE24. Tel: 01-274 6555 2-6pm.

URUGUAY

On 18th January 1984 the workers of Uruguay held the first general strike for over 10 years against the military regime whose totalitarian repression gave the country the name "Torture chamber of Latin America" from being the "Switzerland of Latin America".

The example of their brothers and sisters in other countries of the southern cone, Argentina & Chile, inspired the people to fight against their own military oppressors. The collapse of the Argentinian regime was greeted with street demos in the capital Montevideo; later on a battle between student protestors and riot police resulted in the death of one student and many arrests.

In November '83 a rally in Montevideo by all the banned parties attracted 400,000 people, one third of the population of the city.

Riots occurred with the closure of an Independent radio station and a week before the general strike when 2,000 demonstrated in support of a workers occupation of a textile factory.

The general strike paralysed the whole of Montevideo with demands being made for a wage rise in the face of a worsening debt laden economy; an amnesty for political prisoners, many who have been in jail long before the military took power, and an end on the ban on political activity.

The response of the military was predictable: outlawing the interunion plenum which called the strike, banning all union meetings, stopping the media from reporting union activity. But the people have had enough of the military's rule by terror. Like the Pinochet regime in Chile General Alvarez is trying to divert the struggle; however the workers continue to resist the civilian 'front' of the military and their politicians. The Tendencia Combativa, who were the best supporters of the last strike when the military took over in 1973, now face the choice of industrial or 'political' struggle, ie between self-management and Statism.

SOURCE: Leeds DAM

IRELAND

Mrs Nuala Fennell, Irish Minister for Women's Affairs, ordered an inquiry into the case of a 15 year old convent girl, who had died giving birth in a churchyard. Mrs Fennell said, quite rightly, that Irish schools "stood indicted" for their attitude to schoolgirl pregnancies - the girl "must have been living in appalling fear, guilt and shame", having concealed her pregnancy and going on attending convent school right up to the day of her death.

To hear Irish politics being spoken about - at least by expatriates - one would think that the only thing that concerned Ireland was the boundary and once that problem was solved Ireland would be free...well, it would have a republic, wouldn't it? It has one in the southern part of Ireland and it isn't free nor even relevant: the dead hand of religion rules supreme in personal life. Mrs Fennell is talking big, but she will not be the first to tackle the problem and find the voters desert her when some hooligan priest speaks up.

USA

In Massachusetts, some time next year, some prisons may be patrolled by a short stubby robot named Denny that can smell, hear and see escaping inmates and warn 'You have been detected'. The robot, still under development, will be used to supplement guard duties. When a robot encounters a human, it will warn in a stern voice, 'You have been detected'. The robot will do its own thinking with a brain using two 32-bit microchips encased in a bullet proof cage. It may even be an improvement on the H-Block guards - conversation wise - if they decide to import it to this side of the Atlantic.

SOURCE: Orlando ABC.

'PEACEKEEPER' ASSASSINATED

The US Director-General of the multinational peacekeeping (sic) force in the Lebanon was assassinated by activists in Italy. There have been two claims for responsibility: one from the Lebanese Armed Revolutionary Brigades - the Nabil Hamdah Commando (who also claim responsibility for the death of Charles Ray, the US military attache, in Paris last year) - and the other from a Red Brigades group/organisation named The Fighting Communist Party. As usual anything attributed to the RB ends up being the source of speculation and confusion. It is unclear for the moment whether the two guerrilla organisations - the RB and the LARB - are one and the same, or whether they are related in any way (other than ideologically). The message delivered by the RB said that all imperialist forces must leave Lebanon. Presumably they include the Syrians in their definition as well. The RB also demanded that Italy leave NATO and that there be no Cruise missiles at Comiso (Sicily). The Director-General of the multinational force, Mr Leamon Hunt, was gunned down by two men with automatic weapons who approached Hunt's car as it paused outside the gates of his residence. He died of head wounds.

ITALY

The Union Sindical Italiana (the Italian section of the IWA) celebrated their first congress on 8-11 December 1983 in Ancona. During the Congress they reviewed (among other things) the present situation of worker's struggle in Italy, the effects of modern technology, multi-nationals and the integration of the reformist trade unions into the State machinery.

Comrades wishing to receive more information about the Congress can write to Lotta di Classe (the newspaper of the USI) c/o USI Lazio - Via Osteinse, 150 Roma (ITALY)