Reactions to our supplement No 3 (with 166) were fewer than anticipated. Mostly they came from Class War supporters objecting to 'personal attacks' on Freedom Press and Woodcock.

One comrade wrote: 'I am deeply worried about the viciousness and venom which is finding its way into our movement. Can we do anything to build up a greater sense of comradeship? We've seen the ego trippers, the transient and armchair revolutionaries, but somehow a reasoned perspective has always ultimately prevailed, and it hurts me to see the movement tearing itself apart and losing sight of the real enemy'. This begs the question of conscious penetration, but it is echoed in differing tones by several letters. 'I have read · Black Flag for several years and will continue to do so but I would prefer if you don't waste my time and yours by producing such garbage', writes Charlie from Manchester, 'Why waste valuable resources on producing shit like the aforementioned when it

priced supplement from Black Flag. As to wasting valuable resources, one friend, Mark, asked the cost of the supplement so he could pay for it, an unexpected action which made his feelings clear, at least!

is clear that more down to earth agitational

material is needed ... 'This was a separately

A pseudo libertarianism is being given out as anarchism, and is being adopted by every party from the Tories and even the fascists to the Labour Party and the SDP. Ostensibly from within the movement, the historical record is falsified, the theory garbled. Should we stand aside and say, Oh, sorry, we know you're on an ego trip, or something worse, but let's be buddies?

George Woodcock's Anarchism is issued all over the world by Penguins, perpetuating lies and myths. Yet some people think this is merely a 'London' matter—as they can't hope to meet the worthy doctor now that he's made it, they take it that references to him are just a 'trip down memory lane'. But his attitudes are Dear Black Flag, still flogged by them. In attacking him, are we talking only to 'anarchists'? Are we not talking to the next generation who will otherwise learn about anarchism and its alleged activists only from Woodcock or by courtesy of the Amsterdam Institute-or from the rubbish that appears in the press? Will the workers ever want to switch back to Anarchism if this lie prevails? And can one be so blind as not to see that this is precisely the point of the exercise and what makes the Anmsterdam Institute (Dutch Statefunded) and Woodcock (Canadian State subsidised) tick?

'Drowned Rat' of Bristol thinks we are 'increasingly concerned with talking to anarchists and not bothering with the fact that most people are not anarchists' (a strange reading of Black Flag) but a Northern Ireland comrade who found the article fascinating and a Scottish comrade wanted the supplement reproduced as a pamphlet for the younger generation; while another felt that he had always been puzzled as to the apparent lack of democracy in the anarchist movement, thinking Freedom was its official organ yet having no responsibility to anyone. Vernon Richards, as president for life (or whatever) of Freedom Press who has planned the succession after his death by nominating his own trustees (some not claiming to be anarchists) has a position unique in British politics! One might assume, and many do, that it is his enterprise, funded and founded by him. Not so. In response to our article he grandly declares, without any explanation, in true Woodcock-style, all the factual statements about Freedom Press are lies! We ask therefore: how does a paper allegedly a hundred years old come to be in his personal fief? By election? By purchase? By acclaim? Did Kropotkin found a business dynasty (if he did he lost it before his death) or a service to the movement which it no longer is?

Malc of Bradford says sarcastically, 'Yawn! Yawn! So George Woodcock can't spell Durruti. Shock horror! Neither can I, so that does that make me a Liberal Fascist?'It sure wouldn't help establish your credentials for writing about the Spanish Anarchists as if you were an expert, mate. Dr Woodcock has for years been putting forward a false impression of the FAI (which incidentally percolates to all the groups outside the DAM and even some people in it). That he can't spell the name of its most written-of activist only gives a clue he doesn't take his 'evidence' from the Spanish sources but from other humbugs, mostly Marxist academics, all copying each other like the proverbial launderers taking in each others washing But, like cribbing schoolkids, giving themselves away by copying each other's

Malc worries that we're 'venting certain people's personal vendettas'. Strange that he doesn't worry that the whole FAI, with its

proud record to the anarchist movement, is denigrated and misrepresented within the anarchist movement solely because of Woodcock's vendetta., What 'personal vendetta' have we? We dislike him for his atrocity stories about our Spanish friends not for the colour of his

eyes. You may call it 'vendetta'; we call it 'solidarity'; Woodcock calls them murderers, we call him a liar and a swindler, and put that in the historical record as fact. Perhaps if Malc comes to learn about Durruti he may come to dislike Woodcock, in whose defence he tries to compare a professor with a printworker—after all, if you work for a reactionary firm you're just as bad as they are aren't you? A supplement explaining Class Struggle is clearly called for (and promised).

Dear Black Flag,

Having already suffered at the hands of the 'Daily Telegraph', I now find myself on the front page of the Black Flag Supplement under the headline 'Liars and Liberals'. Ihope I fit into neither category.

I think my article makes some worthwhile points about the way in which information technology may change the face (but not the reality) of capitalism, and the way we struggle against it. Sam Dolgoff in the US has recently written an article on a similar theme. There's not much I can do if bourgeois journalists choose to extract two sentences from my article to support conclusions which your reviewer accurately describes as 'right-wing drivel'.

I think that those who read my article to the end will find that it offers no comfort for anarcho-capitalists, Bennites or liberals. Larry Law

EDITORS: There is something you can do. Try papers where there is no chance they will be misunderstood that way, if this one was.

In your Liars and Liberals supplement you made use of a Daily Telegraph journalist's distortion of Larry Law's article in the Freedom centenary issue as part of your attack on 'Freedom'. Rather than right wing drivel, Law's article is a warning against anarchists falling into any kind of accomodation with capitalism.

Dave Batchelor Nottingham We are much obliged for the warning.

Most dearest Black Flag, Having just read through your excellent Supplement to No. 166 I was astonished to find that your 'Anarchists in Britain' was more of an 'Anarchists in England'. You failed to mention the excellent Edinburgh-based COUNTER INFORMATION. It is much better than the Green Anarchist, comes out more regular than Anarchy and is on equal terms with Class War for regularity. Counter Info has a print run of 6,500 and may have to increase to 7000 to meet demand. I hope that you could inform your readers of the greatest Anarchist publication from Scotland at the moment!

Editorial note: Counter Info, P.H.81, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh is better than Stevie makes it sound: it's free from national bias.

Dear Black Flag,

Congratulations! Your supplement was if anything a little too restrained and tolerant as a response to years of outrageous lies, tomfoolery and reactionary nonsense churned out by Freedom, but it needed saying anyway. From an old nag who is unrealistic to support the activist anarchist stable and knows a ringer when he sees one!

Dear Comrades,

You will see from the enclosed Freedom that we have announced your Omori demo taking the details from Black Flag. We would welcome the opportunity of publishing all your announcements.

Love peace and personal automomy ... Donald Rooum pp Freedom editors To the London Anarchist Black Cross. Ho, hum, turning the other cheek? We still stand by our supplement.

The next supplement will be GOD AND THE STATE REVISITED: Anarchism and religion pro and contra debate. Future supplements include Anarchism and Police, Class Struggle and Syndicalism etc.

HOMAGE TO ...

It aggravates me when I hear someone dismissing the Spanish Revolution (but never, it seems, the Russian revolution, which was a minor affair from the point of view of workers' achievement) as something that happened 'years past'. It wasn't a historical event of fifty years ago. The active post-war resistance went on all during the Forties and into the Fifties.

In the sixties the republican forces plotted a comeback, directed against the libertarian resistance rather than the Franco regime. Now they try to smother the Resistance and forget about the Revolution. But witness to both is a solid 'family' of working people, spread across the world, solid in adversity and upholding their principles despite more Spanish workers being killed after the civil war ended, as a result of firing squads, the garrotte, starvation, and the rigours of prison, than German Jews were killed by Hitler during the twelve years of Nazism (Hitler only had the evil laugh on Franco because he had the rest of Europe to draw on too).

There were a few people who devoted themselves to first aid work such as Nancy Macdonald, who has written this stirring

(Insight Books, Human Sciences Press, NY).

Her work has been for all anti-Fascists, but she admits to a preference for the anarchosyndicalist movement. The Anarchist Black Cross can bear testimony to the amount of invaluable help she has given the ten thousand Spaniards who found themselves in desperate need after the war but who carried on the struggle or gave active support to it.

Nancy Macdonald's story is of the solidarity given by Spanish Refugee Aid. It is not primarily about the Spanish resistance itself, though part deals with the leading role they played in the French Maquis. Long-time Black Flag readers will recognise characters in the Spanish Resistance, such as Miguel Garcia Garcia, and from the days of the civil war, there is a gripping reminiscence of Antonio Martin, little known here, in the stirring days when the Anarchists of Puigcerda took over the control of the border in defence of the revolu-

Homage to the Spanish Exiles: voices from the Spanish Civil War: published by Human Sciences Press (\$19.95) is available from Spanish Refugee Aid, 386 Park Avenue South, New York NY 10016 USA at \$16 (US) or £12, post free.



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CONTACT IN HERTFOR-DSHIRE

Hello people: Just to let readers know there is

now an Anarchist contact address in middle class scumbagland. For all those who want to get in touch - for squatting, direct action and other things to make our lives a bit happier, contact P.O. Box 245 St Albans, HertforPUBLIC ORDER? OR ...

ORDERING PUBLIC !!

As we go to press, the Public Order Bill becomes Law, on the first of April, 1987. How this will affect our 'right' (the State giveth and the State taketh away) to now picket, rally, march and organise will depend on how the government and the police decide to implement their newlyincreased powers.

They could follow a tactical path of selective victimisation of small industrial disputes, anarchist demonstrations, peace camps, repression which they judge will not cause a backlash. Or, they could enforce the letter of the Law, which, in the case of the Public Order Act will mean that all opposition to the Government will be criminalised. In the next few months we will be able to see which sections of society will be hit hardest.

The time to organise is now. For example the setting up of bust funds, false identities, disguises on demonstrations, prisoner support groups, safe houses, legal contacts, diversions while actions take place, and most importantly, affinity groups which look after their own members. We know the State gets away with murder, so we can organise without illusions.

More information from : Campaign Against The Public Order Act, C/-BM Box 73, London WC1N 3XX.

BULLY



FIGHTING

Civil guards, Spain's hated para-military force, on the receiving end of people's fury in the industrial town Reinosa. Trouble flared recently

hostage by workers after announcing several hundred redundancies at the plant. After the Civil Guards failed to disperse an angry crowd of

workers and ran out of anti-riot materials, they were surrounded and beaten up by local inhabitants. Several guards were taken prisoner

when some three hundred guards invaded the town in order to 'liberate' the president of the local steel plant who had been taken

and disarmed by the crowd. Others were nearly lynched, before being chased out of the town.

SPAIN

TRAPPED!

After several years 'on the run', Stefano delle Chiaie, Italy's most notorious and elusive neo-Nazi terrorist has been arrested by police in Caracas, Venezuela and extradited back to Italy to face charges relating to the Bologna railway station bombing in August 1980 which killed 85 people and injured many more.

Delle Chiaie, now 50 years old, is believed to have been recruited by the Italian Military Intelligence in the early 1960's while he was a member of the fascist 'Ordine Nuovo' group and has prosecution ever since.

In 1966 he went underground to coordinate a campaign of infiltration by fascists into Maoist and Anarchist groups in order to discredit the left in general and throw Italy into a state of chaos and confusion that would lead to an eventual right-wing coup d'etat.

Bombings perpetrated by fascists but blamed on Anarchists at this time include two bombs in Milan (at a Trade Fair and Railway station) and the Banca de Agricu ulta in the Piazza Fontana in December

Anarchist Guiseppe Pinelli who was later found murdered whilst undergoing police interrogation. Another victim of the anti-Anarchist panic, engineered as a result of Stefano delle Chiaie's bombing campaign, was Pietro Valpreda. He spent several years in prison before being allowed to be kept under police supervision and

eventually cleared by the Italian Courts. Delle Chiaie's last ten years seemed to



have been spent in Latin America, working with right-wing Juntas and their death squads in Argentina, Bolivia, etc. In August 1980 a bomb ripped apart Bologna railway station leaving 85 dead and 200 injured. Two years later an international warrant was issued in connection with the bombing against Delle Chiaie.

NB. For a well-researched biography of Stefano Delle Chiaie read Stefano Delle Chiaie - Portrait of a Black Terrorist' by Stuart Christie, published by Refract Publications at £4.50. Copies are available c/o ASP, BM Hurricane, London WC1

PAGE8BLACK FLAG

KING RAT

seemed to have enjoyed protection from

1969 which killed sixteen people.

The latter bombing led police to arrest

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THE

The massive Labour defeat at the

Greenwich by-election has provoked

the usual predictions from the pollsters

and political analysts, but the long and

the short of it is that Labour has lost the

inbuilt working-class vote. That class

vote has been a determining factor in

building up the Labour Party, in its

victories, and in the nature of British

genius to predict how Merthyr Tydfil or

Bournemouth would vote, only a knowl-

edge of geography. That has vanished

except where Mrs Thatcher has made

the Tories hated beyond measure. You

Liverpool but Deirdre Wood couldn't

manage in Greenwich, always Radical,

can still get away with a Derek Hatton in

HOME NEWS

NO SELL-OUT FOR TRADER

Sacked printworkers involved in the Midlands Trader dispute (see Flag no. 168) have successfully resisted attempts by their union leadership to wind up the struggle. They've also won a victory in the courts against their former boss Lionel Pickering, who was trying to sabotage pickets at his plants by slapping injunctions on key activists.

The Trader dispute began last December when Pickering - a union-hating millionaire sacked ninety printworkers at his Heanor Gate plant. At a meeting with NGA reps on February 27 the printers could see that they had already accepted defeat, and only wanted a date to end the dispute.'

'We forced them to change their minds,' said John Allen, one of the sacked printers. 'When they saw the strength of the chapel and learned that Pickering could re-open the Heanor Gate plant with scabs at any time, they had no choice but to make the dispute official.

Meanwhile Pickering tried, with half truths

and lies, to lodge injunctions against eight named printers. By singling out individuals as examples he hoped to crush the resolve of the rank and file. But at a court hearing in London on March 28, the judge threw out the cases against four of the accused - and awarded costs against Pickering. The remaining four did have injunctions made against them, but only forbidding them to picket 'in a threatening or abusive manner'

A 200 strong march and rally in Derby, organised solely by the strikers, showed the extent to which they were in control of the dispute. But this inspiring example was not matched by fellow-NGA printers at one plant in South Wales. Despite a national appeal not to handle Pickering's titles, thousands of copies of The Trader come off the presses each week. Calls for solidarity are met with the time old excuse 'Of course we sympathise, but.....

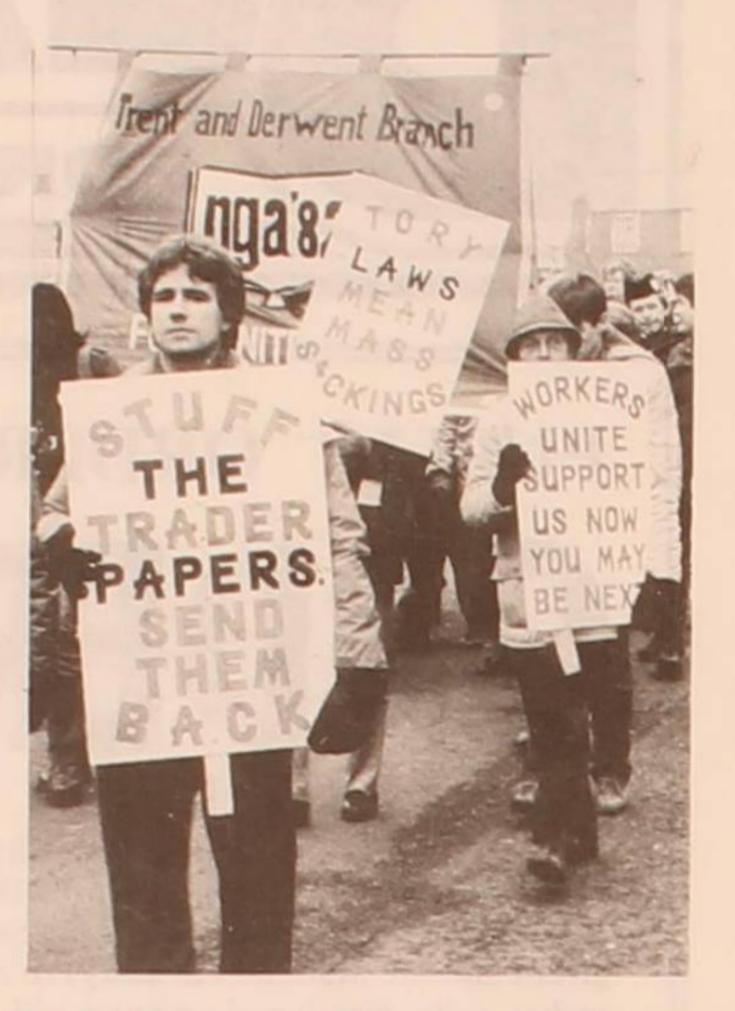
Trader Printer support groups now exist in Derby, Nottingham and Leicester. Part of

ssive, they regard it as using ideas like a LEFT football. They resented the whigs more than the tories; they resent Trotskyist students more than they do Thatcherite financiers; and whether they are right or wrong, whether this Labour since the war. is 'workerist' or not, if the workers aren't prepared to vote for Deirdre Wood you can't Is this a rejection of the Hard Left? What's de-select the workers and choose Deirdre that? The Labour Party has become a prey to

Wood. At this point an experienced politico place-hunters all putting in their own separate joins the SDP, and says in effect that you don't bids for power, whether by way of Trotskyism, laundered libertaranism, racial or have to support either so you might as well vote for me; sometimes this works but not sexual sectionalism. Once worshipping majority decisisons, now worshipping any minority, it is a mishmash of package-deal No one is fooled by the consensus-minded Leftism and concensus Rightism, with every-Kinnock; nobody votes for anyone any more,

thing up for grabs, besides which the Conservthey only vote against. Whether at the General Election enough people will be against ative Party with its Stock Exchange speculator Thatcher continuing is a matter for conjecture, but bearing in mind that the propaganda medium is the major factor in politics today and is in Mrs Thatcher's hands, one would be advised to go easy on bets with William Hill, which seems the only way out of the economic mess. For none of this has anything to do with democracy: the only place where it rears its head in in industry, and it is there that it is all but banned. There must be a connection. But the only people who can see it on the Hard Left, so-called, are unwilling to give up their places on the gravy-train.

They see themselves as social workers, in fact, a social workers party! In this role long may they feign.



Trader Printers On The March In Derby. March 7 1987.

their work is to target major advertisers in a boycott campaign to get them to reduce or cancel their advertising - and rumour has it that he is already offering advertisers a 45% bonus to fill up their space.

Message of support and donations to Trader Sacked Workers Dispute, c/o 114 Stonehill Road, Derby. Rich Cross

Laura Ashley MADE IN A SWEATSHOP

Twenty-one women from Ardbride Products in Ardrossan, Scotlamd, have been on strike since September last. In the lampshade and pottery factory, the conditions are terrible for the women and YTS trainees. Their top wages are £1.70 an hour. There are no safety guards on the machinery, dust levels are twelve times the permitted level; workers have fainted because of glue fumes. They decided to join a union and so a minor pay rise was stopped in revenge. The TGWU called in the Health and Safety Executive who did not know of the factory's existence, though it was started largely by public money for this 'model en-

On Sept 15 the workers went on strike demanding an hourly rate of £2.50, the right to join a union, and for safer conditions. Two days later they were sacked. The DHSS refused them benefit, the TGWU gave some support at first but as they had only been in the union for 26 weeks and not the required 32 they were refused strike pay. Two have already lost their homes. Result: they organised their own pickets despite harassment

from the boss and police. The Achilles heel for the firm is the major retail customer is Laura Ashley, who sells their 'handmade' lampshades for between £15 and £80 a piece. Pickets are being mounted Laura Ashley shops, calling for a boycott of Ardbride Products. Help them win the struggle. Boycott Laura Ashley. Support to: Anna Druggen, 28d Montgomerie Street, Ardrossan KA22 8EQ Scotland. Edinburgh DAM is helping in the the boycott. Contact Box 83, 43 Candlemaker Edinburgh.

ANARCHO-QUIZ

British police? 2. How did most of the casualties in the legendary revolutionary storming of the Winter

1. When was the King of Poland trapped by the

Palace at St Petersburg occur? 3. What Russian, now thought of as a leading Christian, was refused a requiem mass or burial in sanctified ground by the Greek Orth-

odox Church, being regarded as an atheist?

4. By what process of democratic selection did the Bolsheviks choose the peasant delegate to the signing of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk? 5. What connection did the founder of the first English Communist Party have with Anar-

(answers to quiz on page)

politics. This distinguishes it from any philosophy looks strangely familiar. other Socialist or Social-Democrat This is not to deny that some, or even many, Party. When one says 'there are no safe of the causes it espouses aren't progressive; seats any more' .. what is meant is there though populism tends to rouse the workingare no class determined majorities any classs on anti-progressive measures, it is more: it required in the past no political

HARD

always through the working class that progre ssive measures become accepted and acceptable. As a matter of historical fact some prejudices and oppressive acts have been opposed by individual members of the middle and even upper classes but countered by the majority of such classes, who have appealed to the working class in populist demagogy. The working class resents the whig attitude that

combines superior assumptions with noble sentiments. They do not regard this as progre-

News In Brief

OCCUPATION OF CATERPILLAR FACTORY

On Monday 23rd March after a meeting of some 800 Caterpillar employees (hourly-paid members of the AEU), they voted 418 to 352 for continuing the nine weeks old occupation of the works.

It drew an immediate reply from the Caterpillar management in exile, on the eighth floor of the Hospitality Inn in Glasgow.

'We are very disappointed by the outcome of today's meeting. There is no alternative to the factory being closed down immediately. The matter is now in the hands of the law and will have to take its course.

Despite full page advertisements in the Scottish press urging 'their' staff to 'resume normal practices' and attempts at dividing by offering redundancy payments in excess of the statutory minimum with early retirement for some, the majority remained steadfast. After a head-count by two clergymen, AEU shop steward John Brannon told the press the majority decided to stay in occupation. The factory came under a form of workers control, with AEU shop stewards and those white-collar workers backing the occupation forming a Joint Occupation Committee.

The occupation has received support from all over Europe. The Caterpillar workers at Charleroi (Belgium) and Grenoble (France) have told the JOC they will also strike if any action is attempted by the police in Scotland. Efforts by the management to divert parts bound for Uddingston to elsewhere in Britain have been stopped by Greenock dockers. On the walls of a corridor are letters of solidarity covering its entire 25 yard length. Street collections have been organised in Scotland; the WFTU has donated some 4000 after a visit and - while official Labour and Scottish TUC support has been minimal (and will vanish once the bailiffs and police take action)—morale is high. As Brannon put it, they will meet to discuss the future 'any time, any place, but not to discuss the closure of the plant'.

To offer sharing of resources or send messages of support or material aid, contact Strike Committee, Caterpillar Tractor Co Ltd, Factory, Tannochside, Uddingston, Lanarkshire (Scotland).

HANDSWORTH

On 29th January 1987, Banner Theatre offices in Handsworth were attacked. Racist graffiti was sprayed on walls, office equipment was stolen, furniture smashed, files destroyed and telephones ripped out.

On 5th February Banner's equipment store room was attacked. A holer was drilled through through the plastic exterior window and petrol was sprayed into the room and ignited, gutting it.

Similar attacks have been attempted recently in the area on the Other Bookshop, Key Books and the Peace Centre, in an attempt to stop them operating. This highlights the growth of street fascism in this country - a threat we can't afford to ignore... Mark - Crewe

FACTION FIGHTING IN FASCIST FRONT

After several months of internal strife within Britain's largest fascist party, the National Front has finally split itself in two. And to add chaos to the confusion both factions involved are calling themselves the NF!

The split, which originated in a power struggle last year amongst leading members of the NF's 'national directorate' (a sort of fascist central committee) was sealed in early January when one faction led by long-standing fascists Joe Pearce and Ian Anderson described by rival NFer Nick Griffin as an 'alcoholic gypocrite' and 'gross, ex-psychiatric patient and heavy drinker' respectively!) decided to go it alone and break away from the main party. Things seemed to have come to a head after the Griffin faction pushed for and won several major structural changes within the party at the NF's last Annual General Meeting in November 1986. Annual dues many NFers will follow them.

rocketted from £8 to £120 and a new year-long probationery period for new recruits was introduced in an attempt to 'grow by providing the intensive training needed to integrate new recruits into a closed movement where assets, membership records and activities are widely decentralised, but where overall authority and ideological direction are centralised' (sic).



It was at this point that the Pearce/ Anderson faction, formerly organised around the 'National Front Support Group' (similar to 'Militant' in that it operated within the party but maintained its own publications, activities and propaganda), decided to get out and set up shop elsewhere. Time will tell how

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Looms Over Omori Execution

On March 30th, 1987 a protest was held outside the Japanese Embassy in London on the fourth anniversary of the death sentence being passed on Katsuhisa Omori, an innocent man fighting for his

A comrade from Japan was in London and spoke at the picket's end in a nearby park to a meeting of those who came to demonstrate their solidarity.

At a public meeting the night before, a new video (approx:10m long and in English language) about the Omori case was shown for the first time. This video is now available through our BM Hurricane address for £5. Another public meeting was held in Manchester on March 25th.

On April 29th in Japan, Omori will be appearing in Court and support groups there, in London, and elsewhere, will be protesting at this impending murder by the State. Only by international pressure

Clara Thalmann was a veteran of the

ing in Venice 1984. She was a Swiss

council-communist and anti-Nazi

iastic anarchist and remained so for

fifty years. She had warm discussions

with the British contingent at Venice

comrade who had been in the German

movement whom we met for the first

time at the International Anarchist meet-

resistance, and had gone to Spain to fight

in the Durruti column with her companion

Pavel Thalmann. She returned an enthus-

will he be saved, all readers are urged to protest and thereby help him, now.

Demonstrate at the Japanese Embassy 46 Grosvenor Street, London W1 Telephone (01) 4936030

The London Anarchist Black Cross will be protesting on April 29th at 12 midday.

NB. On March 24th, 1987, two members of the leftist 'East Asian Anti-Japan Armed Front' had their death sentences upheld by the Supreme Court in Tokyo. They are due to be executed (by hanging or the electric chair) as we go to press. Police accuse the two of involvement in bombing a Tokyo Misubishi office in 1974 and of plotting to kill the Emperor of Japan. More details in the next issue of Black Flag.

The Free Omori campaign ask for information on other class struggle prisoners - to be sent to the Tokyo Omori Support Group, Chitose, PO Box 35, Tokyo, Japan.

and intended to send articles to Black Flag

Her last act was typical - she sent off

a printed postcard to her many friends and

Spanish and English) I am going to make

there was not; she was stricken by cancer

if, as she said, 'there was time'. Sadly

and died in January at her home, La

comrades, saying (in French, German,

the revolution in the "sky".

Salud companera

Serena, in Nice.

Captivity Arizona

Avi Naftel (born in Manchester and a British citizen) is held in the Segregation Unit of the Arizona State prison in conditions that amount to torture to try to change his 'behavioural pattern'. He is subject of searches and interrogations.

The crime he was convicted of sounds bad (aggravated assault and kidnapping): in fact he was arbitrarily stopped by the police while hitchiking with his wife, and threatened with a revolver, which he seized, holding the arresting officer hostage - because he feared his wife and himself

would be shot if he gave in, which is not unknown in Arizona. As a result of what may be considered a foolhardy act, no more, he got 15 years for a first offence. He has already spent five years of it. All he is asking is to be able to com-

plete his sentence at home in England, where his family and friends are; the laws of Arizona allow it, the US Justice and State departments are for it; the British government has approved. All

that remains is for the Arizona State authorities to agree. They are jealous of their rights to keep prisoners as long as they wish. Avi Naftel, P.O. Box B-45287.

Florence, AZ 85232. USA

Please send letters appealing for Arnold Naftel's return to England to: Mr Sam Lewis, Director Arizona Dept. of Corrections, 1601 West Jefferson, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Governor Evan Mecham 1700 West Washington Phoenix AZ Tel (602) 255 4331

Mr David Neal, Home Office Criminal Policy Department, Queen Anne's Gate London SW1 9AT England

Mr Philip T. White, Office of International Affairs, Criminal Division, PO Box 7413 Ben Franklin Station Washington, DC 20044

Picketing Electronic

Of Canada's 150,000 bank employees, 90% of whom are women, only about 1% are unionised. Workers at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce decided to unionise after no increases for five years, although favourite employees received up to 30% more on a merit basis. The second largest bank in Canada also announced a 28% profit rise pushing up its top executives salaries even higher. Job insecurity, new technology and sexual harassment from supervisors also pushed things over the top.

One hundred women walked out quickly joined by sixty from another section. The strikers devised new tactics. Most effective was 'electronic picketing'. Using their knowledge of computer systems the women set up a computerised automatic redialling system to continually recall the bank. This jammed the bank's switchboard with up to 50000 calls a day, each giving a recorded message of the strike demands. Other calls were set to emit an excruciatingly high pitch whistle of the kind fitted to deter 'heavy breathers'. Unions cancelled their accounts at the bank. Strikers and supporters opened up and closed accounts at peak times choking up counters as they sang 'Bank Busters' their theme song, and handed out 'Marie

Antoinette Cake' to the delayed customers. A mock annual shareholders meeting run by the strikers heard reports from unionists posing as bank executives. A confetti storm of deposit slips showered the bank's central lobby as supporters handed out leaflets outside. Customers were serenaded with strikers carols and bank managers were presented with bread and roses - bread for workers low wages and roses for their dignity" being denied.

Finally after seven months on strike the women were told management had agreed to being unionised and met most of their demands for increases etc. Impressed with the women's victory more finance workers are organising too.

Source: International Labour Reports, PO Box 5036, Berkeley CA 94705

NB Like the previously reported story on the 'Freephone' of Jerry-Moral Majority- Falwell being 'jammed' every 30 seconds, running up the born-again bible-belter a \$1/2m. bill and during the Telecom dispute, the jamming-up of Murdoch's Fortress Wapping plant causing the exchange to seize up for. three hours, the chance to get back through direct dialling is an underused but efficient tactic.

International News In Brief

CANADA – COPS REQUEST DUMDUM BULLETS

A ten member equipment advisory board has unanimously recommended that the Ontario (a Canadian province) Police Commission request that cops be allowed to use hollow-point bullets, better known as dumdum bullets.

'It might seem rather callous and militaristic, but when a hollow-point strikes, it generally breaks into four or five separate pieces, and each has its own impact,' commented Paul Walker, the president of Metro Toronto Police Association. 'What we're using now can virtually pass through the individual's body without causing too much in the way of damage or stopping that person.'

NURSES RESULTS IN AUSTRALIA

The Victorian Industrial Relations Commission granted pay rises to the State's 24,000 nurses following the historic fifty day strike by Royal Australian Nurses Federation members (see Black Flag issue 165). Students, lower graded nurses, associate nurses and associate charge nurses achieved the new award (back paid) through their own direct action and solidarity from workers in related industries and patient's strike

support groups. Many nurses have vowed to campaign against Labor politicians (their current State and Federal Governors) as the ALP is a threat to the labour movement.

CNT-AIT HOLDS THIRD NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The CNT held its third national conference on the 16th January 1987 over three days, in Madrid. Although the conferences are not decision-taking events (like the Congresses) they afford an opportunity for the CNT to put forward opinions, analyse the present-day situation and formulate plans for the future.

The recently staged union 'elections' (see Flag No. 165 and this issue) were a major topic for discussion as was the CNT's boycott

The electoral boycott was moderately successful, with some 30% of the workforce eligible to participate (about half the working population) abstaining. The high level of fraud (votes stolen, results

from no longer existent companies etc) also helped discredit the elections. On the other hand,, participation in the elections was up proportionately from the 1982 elections, with nearly all the votes going to the Socialist UGT and (communist) Workers Commissions.

Significantly, the so-called 'other CNT' (the phoney one) got a pathetic 1% of the vote and there are signs that this is the end of the road

The conference also decided on the need for an internal bulletin, and hopes to set up an international committee for the recovery of its heritage. Intense activity around the electoral boycott has led to a reported increase in CNT membership in several areas, including Madrid, Estremadura and Alicante.

TOTALITARIANISM

A hall-mark of totalitarian control is not just repressive policing, the installation of a one-party State or dictatorship, or even the banning of all forms of open dissent. It is when a state can boast total control and knowledge of all that can be fundamentally known about every person living within society. Information about who we are, where we live (and lived), our financial transactions, our employment details or lack of them, our movements within the country and outside it, and who our associates are — in other words, all the important personal details that can be used to control our lifestyle further and limit what freedoms we have.

To know such information does not necessarily require massive surveillance, merely cooperation (as the Gestapo knew so well). And when most of that information is already known, it is only a matter of passing that information around to ensure that the management of that information is coordinated in the interest of state

fact working closely together, at least in the area of information technology.

TAKING ADVANTAGE

The process of government agencies exchanging information about us, held in their respective databanks, has been going on for as long as there has been a need for such cooperation. In practice, though, that cooperation has been subject to the usual failures of any bureaucracy attempting to store, record and process massive amounts of information. Incomplete files, inaccurate records, and the sheer time and expense involved in passing on information and coordinating it has tended to mess them up.

Most of us, for example have had the experience of 'using the system against itself'. It has also been possible to get work using false job references, and it has been common place for people to be able to dodge bad debts, de-fraud credit companies, take loans under different names, conceal one's true identity, etc. The size of the bureaucracies that attempt to control the sitation has tended to work in our

some of them are vast bases covering much detailed information about segments of the population. Some hold databases that even cover the entire population. For many of the agencies the information they store is duplicated in other databases and therefore can be verified. Where it cannot be checked for duplication it can be added to by simple cross-referencing and then filling in the gaps.

The quality and accuracy of the information held depends to a large extent on the degree of cooperation practiced. This varies from agency to agency and where cooperation is not unusual between agencies, information sought can be obtained from others through an agency that can act as a gobetween. Manual checking though, has tended to impede the process. But with computerisation this has all changed. Even so, certain agencies have always entertained close relationships with other agencies, and have succeeded in cooperating in the exchange of information regardless of the shortcomings of manual transfers and the mistakes that can occur.

______ Inland Revenue Home Office Security and Intelligence agencies P----Suspect Index Customs and Excise Immigration Service Passport-reading 1==== Secret Intelligence computer (Special DHSS (social security) ______ department Universities/Colleges Statistical Record Education Registers of Birth departments credit agencies Deaths, Marriages II Social work records _____ Office of Population TV Licence Office (Scotland) Surveys (OPCS) Records Office TV licences Census and Registry Offices Private sector L________ Data banks Computer links" ----- Manual links demand Partly computerised

In Britain such information, needed by the State is already known: we have already freely provided it. From birth right through to death we offer information about ourselves. Sometimes to withold information is to risk incurring penalties, sometimes it means we cannot get employment or education. In the end 99% of us volunteer the information required.

Knowledge is power, and when that information becomes available to all the agencies and departments of both local and central government (and private sector organisations) then we need to worry. When that information is also available to policing and security agencies, which are integral to the state apparatus, then we need to take serious steps to change the situation.

Just published is a book that examines some of these questions and provides detailed information about current systems of information exchange and programmes for making these systems more efficient. The book - On The Record, by Duncan Campbell and Steve Connor - looks at the computerisation of government data banks, at new surveillance technology connected to information control, and shows how the seemingly diverse and sometimes unrelated agencies of the state are in

But according to Campbell and Connor all that is about to change. They have evidence to demonstrate that a programme is well under way to rationalise and extend the information gathering facilities the state has at its disposal. Nor is it but mere speculation. The programmes are already operational and some nearly complete. But to understand how these programmes come about, first it is important for us to see how the basis for coordinated information control has been established, how the information concerned is exchanged, and to what extent state agencies already use such coordinated information to limit our freedom.

favour, if we knew how to go about things.

CURRENT INFORMATION EXCHANGE

Campbell and Connor illustrate the means by which state agencies (and private sector agencies) exchange information, with the aid of a complex diagram, reproduced here. The diagram indicates major databanks, most of which are now computerised. It shows where manual transfers of information are still the norm. In this respect the diagram accurately rortrays the current state of play.

All of the age is shown hold data;

The Department of Health and Social Security and the Employment Department have enjoyed a long standing relationship. So have the Police and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre. But this is only the tip of the iceberg.

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MAJOR DATABASES

The DHSS also manages the National Insurance Central Index records. The DHSS Central Index (NI) database (held in its complex in Washington, Tyne & Wear) has a total of 54 million records on file, linked to 140 terminals. This in turn is linked to the National Insurance Contributions System database, held in Newcastle, which has 52 million records on file. The DHSS has responsibility for other databases, including the National Unemployment Benefit System, which has two fully computerised storage centres at Livingston and Reading. Both NUBS and DHSS Area computers are linked via terminals to Unemployment Benefit Offices. NUBS has a direct line to the Inland Revenue Pay As You Earn databases held at Telford, Peterborough, West Byfleet and Llanishen. PAYE information is cross checked with information supplied by employers, much of which nowadays is done via computer tape.

necessary, be verified with the aid of credit reference companies. However there is now a breed of information resource company that heralds a new generation of information gathering, epitomised by one company in particular, CCN Systems PLC, to which Campbell and Connor refer to in detail and this reviewer once had the opportunity (by faking a job application/interview) to examine its operations at first hand. CCN Systems is a company based in

Within the Private Sector, client inform-

ation is often sought by Banks and Credit

and Finance companies direct from the

employer too. This information can, if

Nottingham that guards its operations as if it were Fort Knox. It boasts the largest and most complete database in the private sector. Its files, in fact, amount to records held on every household in the country. These files are in turn sold, via on-line VDU's, to clients. What CCN does, simply is to match information obtained from a variety of sources, verify that information, and store it for updating. All entries are logged according to postcode (a complete postcode file is supplied by the Post Office) Information sources include the Electoral Roll (open to anyone), Credit Reference agencies, the County Courts (who pass judgements on defaulters), Consumer Lists agencies, etc. CCN boast that they can supply information as to who lives where, how long they have been living there and the credit ratings of the occupants, etc. They also claim that the 'consumer lifestyle' of the occupants can be verified by cross-matching their data with on-line data provided through ACORN - a system devised by a marketing organisation to categorise neighbourhoods by housing types, linked to information held on consumer habits as supplied by direct mail agencies, etc. CCN is used by public and private sector organisations alike as a means of checking known information or updating records.

The Electoral Register is completed, of course, under duress (if you are traced, and shown not to have completed it, you can face a fine). Nowadays it is not only used to supply information to all sorts of private sector companies, but forms a basis for establishing databases for Political Parties keen to establish which sections of the Electorate can be targetted (for direct mail

Perhaps one of the most important sources of personal information held is the DVLC. Its Swansea centre holds files on 33 million vehicles and 37 million drivers. The DVLC can verify the last known address of a registered keeper of a vehicle as well as the keepers' full name and date of birth (shown in code as part of the relatively new Driver Number, included on all Driving Licenses issued in recent years. The DVLC supplies information direct to the police, the Security Services, the Inland Revenue and personal enquiries from private detectives acting on behalf of a number of organisations (such as the Economic League, which keeps lists of subversives for labour vetting purposes see Black Flag 168 for article on the E.L. listing anarchists).

One new development in information exchange soon to take place, is the so-called 'counter-revolution' of Post Offices. As part of a nation-wide computerisation programme all main post offices are set to have on-line link-ups with government agencies. First in line are the DHSS and the DVLC. It will mean that post offices could function as go-between information points (in addition to existing direct line link-ups) on behalf of the DHSS and the DVLC, for the crossreferencing of information and for the validification of identity details. As post offices are the 'cash-point' for all claimants, such a link-up would mean that the DHSS will be 'present' for every giro encashment.

COMMUNITY REGISTER

Another database under the management of the DHSS is that which is held and organised by the Office of Population, Census and Surveys. The OPCS holds a compulsory national census every 10 years and the results are stored on computer at Titchfield Hampshire. The OPCS is also responsible for the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (which is undergoing computerisation at present). As part of this programme the OPCS has been asked to look at the computerisation of a national Electoral Register, which is held, and already partly computerised, by some local government authorities. However, there is more to come.

In addition to the Electoral Register, a similar register, to be known as the Community Register, if introduced, will also be compulsory and will identify everyone - namely

all adults - liable to pay a proposed Community Tax. The Community Tax, if implemented, will replace local government authority Rates — the difference being that 37 million people will be expected to pay it instead of the 16 million people who currently pay. The tax will also be a flat annual payment of around £200, a reduction for the rich and a 200% increase for the property-less. If that wasn't bad enough, non-payment, according to the plan, will result in automatic deductions from wages or Benefit payments, or the seizure of goods. The Community Tax will be controlled by central government, which will add to the centralisation of revenue. The Community Register itself will provide, of course, further back up for government information gathering. The information it will hold will obviously, through the OPCS be cross-checked with that held on the Electoral Register.

SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY

Analogous to these developments in databank technology are developments in surveillance technology that need to be examined in context.

Knowing where someone lives, or who the owner is of a vehicle is not enough. The authorities also need to know your movements. In respect of vehicles there is a device that can assist in this need. This is the Vehicle Scanner, which is now four years old and has been used in an operational capacity for at least three years on at least two known strategic sites. Tested in 1983 at the Dartford Tunnel entrance in Kent, a more sophisticated version was installed over the M1 motorway at Hertfordshire, close to the Police Scientific Research and Development Centre, where the prototype was designed.

The Vehicle Scanner uses OCR (Optical Character Recognition — developed by the Post Office at its Swindon laboratory) to read vehicle registration plates and then feeds the information direct to a computer for logging and cross-referencing with details held on the Police National Computer. The M1 device was protected by a variety of security controls including video-cameras, infra-red electronic sensors, burglar alarm and regular police patrols. Eventually the device was removed after a period of several months. A new model is being developed that will be mobile and require less costly

security back-up. It is known that other scanners are in place at strategic points in London, ostensibly for traffic control, but presumably for the monitoring of demonstrations too. One experiment that has been temporarily abandoned was that developed by the company Optica, for the police with the production of a prototype 'spy-in-the-sky' planes that can, using highly sophisticated cameras, zoom in on specific targets right down to individual people. This project suffered a set-back when one of the planes carrying the equipment crashed killing a police pilot, and when (more recently) the factory in Wiltshire where the equipment was being manufactured was destroyed after alleged arson, to which the police blamed 'insiders while the media blamed the 'Angry Brigade' (which does not exist).

Meanwhile, the 'privatised' company, British Telecom, is continuing with its work on surveillance technology. However, one of the more recent additions to this work will be dressed up to look otherwise. Quite soon BT will provide a new 'customer service' called Itemised Billing. It has been doing this for some time for International calls, and in fact it has had the capability of doing it for many years, on a selective basis (ie. by request) for all calls. In future, however, the service will be available to all customers, and for all Trunk and International calls, automatically, whether requested or not. Itemisation of bills will mean that all calls

will be logged. They will be logged according to the time and date of call, the duration of the call, and the number dialled. In other words, thanks to the new technology, BT will be able to have a record of every call dialled by every subscriber in the country, ready to be analysed prior to billing. The system that enables BT to do this - System X – also provides for computerised phonetapping, as well as automatic cut-off of all 'non-preferential users' in times of severe industrial unrest by BT employees or in times of Civil Unrest. System X also means that Voice Recognition technology, developed by GCHQ (Government Communications Head Quarters, can now be implemented for automatic monitoring during tapping of calls.

shortly to take a quantum leap. This year for the first time in Britain, all applicants for new or replacement passports will be issued with standardised, Euro-approved, 'machine-readable' passports. It will mean that with the completion of up to 40 terminals at ports of entry, all exits and entry by passport holders can be monitored and checked by computers linked to whatever database the authorities choose.

The news gets worse. The development is also being adopted by most European countries, as and when the technology is available. Machine-readable passports are already held by all passport holders in West Germany and Belgium. The EEC wants at least a common Euro-passport that is machine-readable to be introduced by all member states.

With on-line terminals at the ports of entry the MI5 and Police 'Suspect Lists' will be easier to check. Currently the UK Suspect List includes around 18,000 names. Machine-readable passports can store political information (in West Germany, for example, all dissidents of the left are entered as such for verification via their passport

The monitoring of those entering and leaving the country who don't hold British passports is also being made more efficient. Currently, information about those entering the country is supplied via the Landing Card, details of which are automatically input on a database known as INDECS, stored at a complex in Bootle. The actual processing of the cards takes place at Lunar House in Croydon. Embarkation Cards indicate when someone has left the country; these are also processed in the same way and added to the same database. And any 'overstayers' are then extracted and automatically put on the Police National Computer, when a check is made at the last known address. The latest news is that the recent overhaul of the INDECS programme is drawing to its conclusion. For over-stayers and long term over-stayers ('illegal' immigrants) the process of 'find me if you can' is still the same. However, with the completion of the INDECS programme, the main implication is that information about how long a person has been in the country, and where that person has stayed, will be much

NATIONAL IDENTITY CARD

more accurately verifiable.

Identifying a person or tracking a person down, matching that person with known biographical information, comparing job records with Claimant records, crossreferencing with Credit ratings or informat-

name. It also contains a machine-readable magnetic strip. And the NI number on it is unique to you. Everyone has one, whether working or unwaged. It will follow you around for the rest of your life, telling the DHSS where you are claiming from, the Inland Revenue where you are working. It is the key code by which you can be identified. And all sorts of agencies — the Police the Economic League, MI5, Credit Companies, Finance companies, etc – use it to check up on people or trace them.

POLICING/SECURITY

files on about 1 in 5 of all adults in the country. Many entries are completely gratuitous and inaccurate. As well as convicted criminals, for example, the PNC holds entries on all arrestees (whether convicted or not), suspects generally, and even the victims of crime and those who complain about the police. It also contains entries relating to random stop-checks. Political activists are, of course, on the PNC, but also all owners of vehicles parked at or near demonstrations or venues of political meetings. Plus, even the relatives and associates

The Police National Computer (PNC) holds

of those people who are entered on the PNC According to Campbell and Connor the PNC includes entries relating to the owners and occupants of all vehicles stopped by police at road blocks during the 1984/85 Miners' Strike. In fact all industrial disputes are covered in this way. On average they estimate that around 250,000 vehicles per year are included on the PNC as a result of checks on vehicles at demonstrations alone. In addition the PNC has a list of 70,000 persons entered for the purpose of 'special

surveillance'. With added tracking facilities the Police will be able to improve their surveillance and information gathering. The NI number is already used to this end, the use of machine readable technology is another aid The link-up between different databases add adds to this evolution. But it doesn't stop

PLANS FOR COORDINATION

According to The Guardian newspaper there is a programme well in advance, to bring together and unify most of the major databanks presently held separately by the different government agencies and departments. This programme has been given the go ahead and is due to commence in September of 1987 (this year). It is to be known as the Government Data Network (GDN).

Initially it will bring together the databanks managed by the DHSS, the Inland Revenue, Customs and Excise, and the Home Office (ie, the Police, Prisons, MI5 etc). It has been estimated that when this first stage of this programme has been completed there will be over 80,000 terminals connected. In addition GDN will have reciprocal links to the Passport Office data-

work has been named CODIN (relieves all known political headaches?!!) - which stands for Cabinet Office Defence Intelligence. If will link together not only the databases, but also the communication networks, pertaining to MI5, MI6, GCHQ, the Special Branch, the Defence Intelligence Section, the Ministry of Defence (whose specialist police have just been given new powers, not merely to protect military bases, but to cover the whole country and adopt a 'pro-active' strategy). CODIN will act as an inner sanctum security ring for the Cabinet and Central Government. It will also assist Central Government coordination of Intelligence on all matters of

SHORT-TERM SOLUTIONS

Defence.

It all appears pretty bad. But we can be consoled by the knowledge that even computers are not infallible and that despite the rationalisation programme there are still a number of loopholes — albeit growing narrower - left to exploit. Perhaps a few obvious points need to be re-stated.

Several NI numbers are an advantage. It's easier to get them, using false addresses when you are young rather than later in life. Alternatively the coveting of an established NI number from someone who is permanently moving to another country, is risky but still possible to take on. 'Losing' your NI number ('after being abroad') and applying for another under a false name, again is still possible, but getting more and more difficult (sometimes passports are checked).

Taking on someone else's ID, by using their Birth Certificate, is only possible given certain conditions (eg, Suitable Age); and if it is to be used for the purpose of getting a passport, you will need to know someone 'respectable' who will falsely confirm your identity, and you will also need to know that no previous passport has been held in that name - difficult, unless you know the previous holder reasonably well.

Getting a job under a false name (by using false job references pertaining to employment in say, another country which explains the lack of a NI number) can have its problems. Especially if the references are checked - so use a friend

- of if your passport itself is checked. If you can get several false IDs, try and keep them 'live': you never know when your current ID will become a liability and you need another to turn to. They must also be kept separate and secure in case of raids, 'accidents' etc.

LONG TERM SOLUTIONS

The authors of the well-researched On The Record did not mention any of the above solutions - it didn't come within their scope. In fact their only solution to the problem was to argue for further Data protection legislation to prevent misuse of computerised data: a solution, if implemented, that would address the problem of incorrect entries, but would hardly be a solution to the main problem itself - that of the move towards totalitarian control. Nevertheless the book intimates how the programme as a whole can be slowed down at least. Here the authors refer to the nature of bureaucracy itself; they also point to rank and file dissatisfaction with the jobcuts computerisation brings and the industrial action that has periodically occurred in certain areas (eg DHSS local offices and at the DHSS complex at Newcastle).

Certainly industrial action will assist even more so if it is taken for political reasons (ie. against the programme itself) and is sustained; and if sabotage by staff of the programme as a whole also occurs, so much the better.

It's important, therefore, that details of the ongoing programme, of GDN, of the National Identity Card scheme, and all the other developments, are spread around (extracts from this article and the book) to build up support for direct action.

In the real long term, a solution will only be found with the advent of the social revolution itself - which is, hopefully, what we're all working towards.

In the meantime we have to ask the question, why should the state ever need to develop Gestapo-style methods when the machinery for employing them - installed under Welfarism and in the name of national security — is already in place.

On The Record. Surveillance, Computers and Privacy - The Inside Story . . Duncan Campbell and Steve Connor ISBN 0 7181 2575 4 £12.95 hbk. (get it from a library under a false name!)

ESCAPE ROUTES

The process of monitoring overseas travel is

ion held on the Police National Computer -- all this, and much more, can be easily assisted if everyone were issued with a NIC (National Identity Card). The trouble is, we already have one - or some of us do and for those of us who haven't got this

won't be long before we will. This ID card has been introduced quite openly – it simply isn't called a National Identity Card, it's called instead a National Insurance Card. It is plastic, it contains your National Insurance number and your

identity in the form of an actual card, it

bank. It will, for the state, be a Super Databank, that eventually will bring into its domain the databases of the Employment Department, local authorities, and others.

The GDN has already been sited. It will be based at Washington, Tyne & Wear. The GDN files will also be kept in a reserve site in tunnels underneath Holborn, London, in case of nuclear attack. As a complement to GDN, a special Defence computer network is to be set up as a contingency to major unrest, and as part of the ongoing militarisation of society generally. This net-

COMMENT

people living free of ideological control... as

tator'... the Flag contains 'the very vilest

effluvium'. Doesn't it sound like The Sun?

much as any Ayatollah or Reagan propped dic-

And it's the fault of Stuart Christie, our 'main

goon' (who has been out of the collective for

some five years now, working at Refract and

cyclopaedia); an account of his experience in Spain is given, taken direct from the Franco

What is Woody's final solution? It is true

American republicanism: 'maybe we could

take up a collection and induce these pisspants

to crawl into the Communist ranks where their

stink might go unnoticed'. Bully for Woody!

ringer starts taking round the hat, one small

make money all we have to do is to stop publi-

about a fifth of their income and four or five

pure but it places us beyond if not above

days a fortnight! That doesn't make us simon

However, if you think we should discont-

inue publication, why not write and tell us? We

don't here address the liberals or the fascists or

the crybaby whose article we didn't publish

because he sounded too much like a trot. We

will abide by the decision of a convincing

mailbag decision of our fellow 'goons.'

Spain is the corporate state under Socialist

control (with Communist rivalry). The

cation and each member of our collective saves

flaw in Kissinger diplomacy: if we want to

The Almighty Dollar does it! Before any

will be preferred by Anarchists.

press (or via some US equivalent of The Sun);

Miguel Garcia's account in Franco's Prisoner

some even viler effluvia, like the Anarchist En-

Repel All Borders!

There are elements within the National Front who have designs on the anarcho-syndicalist movement. They claim a Spanish 'precedent': in an article in Nationalism Today they refer to the setting up in 1934 of the National Workers' Movement (a Falangist front) which conceived the notion of state controlled syndicalism (or national syndicalism); they also quote the JONS (Committee of National Syndicalist Offensive) which copied the black and red colours of the anarcho-syndicalist CNT to sow confusion, and Accion Nacional (which promoted a far-right syndicalism, taking over from the old 'yellow unions', Catholic-controlled company unions).

The article goes on to prove there never was any ideological link between Falangism and anarcho-syndicalism and agrees the two ideologies are at opposite ends of the political spectrum. But, offensively for us, they call for co-operation between anarchists and 'revolutionary nationalists' (How many times do we have to say Fuck Off?).

It is obvious the article is rhetorical and aimed at the dwindling NF membership. The NF is in an ideological wilderness—in the same magazine it even includes a 'respectful' exhortation to the SPGB! But the article is not just a pseudo-academic exercise into the absurd, but an attempt to provide a informed background for fascists hoping to make inroads into movements they hope to subvert or destabilise. It is not numbers they're after—they can recruit any amount of headbangers by playing the racial issue. But arson and beating up stray individuals doesn't have a future as the capitalist class doesn't need them while they have Thatcher—they need some ideological cover if they are to make an (unlikely) step forward or (more likely) to cover

their retreat if they want to quit. The Spanish fascists imitated the CNT only because it had the support of the workingclass; Hitler's national-socialism imitated the Communist Party for the same reason. There were years of genocide practised by the Falangists and the Spanish 'national' movement against the CNT, now there is a re-run today of the earlier show. Some of Accion Nacional eventually joined with CEDA, the far-right Catholic party, who tried collaboration with the Communist Party in the last years of Franco; their successors are Accion Catolica who infiltrated the 'renovados' at the time of the split from the CNT, realising that with the schism they could at last achieve the penetration and taking-over of the CNT, if only of a phoney one. It was these Catholic Actionists inside the 'Renovados' (phoney CNT) who achieved the bombing of a CNT local. Yet the Renovados can still elicit support from the politically naive.

Is it impossible to achieve here? Experience has shown that nobody ever yet 'penetrated' the anarchist movement here or in the USA; but occasionally phoney grouplets claim to be 'fellow anarchists', so attacks on them are

Perhaps if someone wanted to specialise in apologies for the Catholic Action takeover of the phoney CNT; or to dip a toe in the water to try the heat by using the word 'nigger' in an anarchist paper; or denounce anarchist action against fascists or racialists, our movement would wake up to the danger. Or would Black Flag and its friends be left in their 'holier than thou' wilderness?

Well, even so, we would still be for resistance by force.

Tom Inglewood

BEING ECONOMICAL WITH THE TRUTH

The Economic League (as referred to in our last issue) compiles blacklists of people considered too dangerous to work in industry. It singles out the Direct Action Movement as people whom no employer should ever employ. To stress the point it makes use of the ringer' technique by bracketing it with Action Directe. But how then do members of the DAM manage to get jobs, often even with employers subscribing to the Economic League? As they are by no means the only ones blacklisted by this nefarious organisation, how about all the many thousands of others? If the Economic League worked effectively, those acceptable for industry would all be members of the Primrose League, and industry would run to a

The Economic League is partly used for blackmail purposes - of people in top positions who may have flirted with politics as students and are anxious to get their names off. This mostly applies to Government jobs, other employers have a different technique. During the Murdoch dispute many newspaper proprietors employers were not unsympathetic to the idea that a major competitor should get a bashing whatever they may have said in public. One of Workers Party was a Fleet Street MoC who berated the union bureaucracy and other FOCs for not calling for an immediate general strike at all other newspapers. Some thought this a ploy of Murdoch's (to close down his competitors while his own papers appeared). The Economic League called for her sacking as a dangerous Trot. Not so. Only a few weeks later, she is a member of management of the very paper she wanted to stop. That is the face

of British capitalism. and the Economic League method is alien to them.

Like all spy organisations, the front cover of the Economic League is one thing, its real aim another. It purports to sort out troublemakers, with which no right-minded employer will disagree. It in reality provides a dossier on industry which is the stuff of industrial espionage, with the help of police and employers. If you compile a list of Pentecostalists in industry you will get a good insight into the workings of the industry. But how to get official support or finance for so pointless an exercise? You can get it by playing the zealous Rightist. The knowledge of whether there is a percentage likely to take strike action on any given issue is a vital piece of information in industrial espionage, in particular for foreign competitors. The managements themselves know perfectly well who are the ones likely to cause 'trouble at mill', they don't need the services of the gentlemen down the alley in 7 Wine Office Court, London E.C.4 The ones who want to find out how things stand are those who want to muscle in on the market - this includes Russian and Polish competitors too. How convenient for them that naive British competitors help pay for the service - and while one branch of our secret police thwart the spies, another branch is actively helping!

For every pound they get for red-swooping they get five from people submitting to blackmail and a hundred from 'security' sources. 'Never trust a professional spy because there is no such thing as a loyal agent' is an axiom learned by many employers, though the Economic League stands as a monument to their stupidity.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. Potocki, a New Zealander, last of the line of Count Potocki of Montalk with claims to be the King of Poland if it had one, a right-wing eccentric in London's Bohemia, went to a London printer to set some erotic verse; the printer did not do the work but informed the police; Potocki was imprisoned for the offence of 'publishing' an indecent work.

2. In the making of Eistenstein's film. There was more hard fighting in current Brixton or Toxteth riots than during the October Revolution.

3. Leo Tolstoy.

4. Contrary to Bolshevik dogma, the delegation contained no peasants and only one or two workers, the majority being armed scholars of the professional revolutionary type. Driving to Brest-Litovsk, Trotsky ordered the car to stop, and picked up a peasant who agreed he was in the village Left Social-Revolutionary Party. They were allies in the government so this was good enough and they took him along, to his delight at being in such distinguished company. The LSR party denounced the Treaty as a sell out and was told one of their own 'delegates' had signed it.

5. Sylvia Pankhurst, a council communist, jumped Moscow's gun by forming a Communist Party. The Comintern hastened to thwart both it and a Scottish Communist Party, proposed by John Maclean, and formed a British CP. Sylvia Pankhurst's companion, and father of her son, was an Italian anarchist.

Woody Plays With Matches

In the Match (Tucson, Arizona) Al Medwin complains that Black Flag reported a Luton anti-porn action and protests American Republicans 'have got a better attitude about free expression'; it is 'cowardly terrorism' to attack the 'small-time owner of an adult bookstore, probably already a scapegoat or a pariah in the community' (sound of violins). True, hard porn was 'small time' fifty years ago, it certainly isn't so now. It is a Mafia-funded mass empire, not dealing in eroticism, but with murder, flagellation, rape, flogging, torture, sadism. 'Der Stuermer' (other than its racism) would be rated soft porn by today's standards Medwin echoes a brand of 'Liberal Anarchism', which isn't ours, which holds Freedom of the Press as a marble saint, and rejects revolutionary action. Porn is Literature, it must be unhindered: let 'Der Stuermer' carry on; don't break up fascist marches - Freedom of Expression is enshrined, inviolable, and if they kill you off, well hard cheese, but don't resist, because violence only begets violence.

Medwin's news was too much for Fred
Woodworth, editor of *The Match* who rants
back in the best 'Der Stuermer' manner. The
Luton women are 'Fascists at Work', reported
in the 'detestably putrid sheet *Black Flag*'
(why sheet? An echo of Woodcock? Has he
seen it?) *Black Flag* has 'degenerated into a
mob of brownshirts..' they are a 'disheartening blot on the reputation of Anarchism..nobody respects them any more and
the reason is a lengthy history of thuggishness
and gangsterism'. We 'hate the thought of

Q. How can you reconcile the fact that (though both are part of the same international AIT, professing the same principles) British anarcho-syndicalists take part in trade unions and the election of shop stewards, and advocate workers councils, while Spanish anarchosyndicalists denounce participation in elections for the workers' councils?

A. The seeming contradiction lies in the fact of talking about entirely different matters. The orthodox trade union movement in this country is one that has been built up by the working class and come under the influence, not necessarily always or forever, of Socialists and bureaucrats (due to Labour Party activity). Its equivalent in Spain was the UGT; there was also a larger anarcho-syndicalist union, the CNT. Both were illegalised by Franco who built up a corporate syndicate movement, with the 'partnership' of employers, the State and workers (in that order). The so-called 'workers commissions' (CP-controlled) tried to capture this after Franco but did not succeed. The present 'trade union movement' in

workers elect not necessarily the most militant, the most eloquent or whatever they choose of their number... but delegates of political parties masquerading for the purposes as unions, which are pledged to respect cooperation with the State and employers. This is quite different from any other idea of trade unionism and is certainly not what is meant elsewhere by workers councils, a term taken in Spain to falsely suggest that what was created by the new monarchy was different from fascist syndicates or more democratic than orthodox trade unionism, or superseded 'old fashioned' class conflict of the CNT type or had some connection with the classic idea of workers councils. It is this manipulation that has enabled the

It is this manipulation that has enabled the labour legislators to avoid major conflicts and incidentally to try to break the CNT - which Franco's genocide failed to do - by the introduction of a 'phoney CNT' claiming to want to participate in 'the struggle' by electoral industrial representatives.

NEWS IN BRIEF

WHICH IS THE SOCIALIST?

At the student elections at Queen Mary's College, two people stood for the newly-created post of Welfare Sabbatical. One was to the left of the Labour Party and tolerant of organisations like the Socialist Workers Party, but with no time for the Tories; the other was a career woman who canvassed the support of the Tories. Which got the the support of the SWP?

You've guessed it. She had agreed to go to the SWP's anmnual recruitment drive, 'Marxism for Students', so that absolved her from being a right wing careerist.

Anyone who has come into contact with the SWP recently will recognise their shift to the right, which explains, perhaps, their reluctance to oppose racism and fascism in any way, except verbally.

Martin

THE OPEN ROAD - to what?

Police are reported to have stopped Leeds football fans' cars from entering Wigan. The offence the fans seem to have committed was that they did not have tickets for the match, which was presumably to be all-ticket to eliminate hooliganism, and since the miners' strike the police have assumed censorship of travel, in which capacity they decided these users of the public roads were going to the match and cause trouble.

A small minority of Leeds fans may be the sort that's got English clubs banned from European football, but football hooliganism is mostly caused by fascist groups who have elsewhere had the support of the police. But it is an alarming sign if one can now be banned from travelling without having the opp-

portunity even of being accused of a crime. We haven't heard, though. of police officers being turned away from stations because of the possiblility of what they might get up to.

ERROR & TERROR

When the arrest of members of Action Directe was announced the *Daily Mail* splashed it as being the rounding up of armed anarchists.

Strange that in the whole history of anarchism one has never found a Government so ready to help them as now! When George Abdallah Ibrahim went on trial, the French secret service planted an agent to act as his lawyer, and the State prosecutor pleaded for a lenient sentence. The judges however stood out for the maximum.

Action Directe was originally an anarchist resistance group, it was taken over by Marxist-Leninists. Now a different organisation, Arab nationalist, has taken over in turn, at least the name. The media still claims they're 'anarchists' but the government knows better and treats them as an opposing army with State backing. 'Terrorism' of today is indiscriminate, like war, for official governments wage destruction on peoples not each other and the 'terrorist' or unofficial government scene is the same in miniature. The object is always to avoid retaliation but the judges just couldn't accommodate themselves to this situation.

To speak of 'anarchism' in this connection is to insult one's intelligence, but when did the media do otherwise? The terrorism of today is Statist, as finally the USA has come round to seeing in the case of Libya, not to mention Libya in regards to the USA. Even this needs to be qualified: the State terrorism of nationalists or mercenaries is just the non-legal and decidedly minor side of the terrorism of the nation State.

RESISTANCE IN WEST GERMANY -MILITANT OPPOSITION TO STATE

The following is a continuation of an article we have begun in previous issues of BLACK FLAG.

REPRESSION.

Ascension days 1986

A public call by autonomist groups to meet at Wackersdorf on Ascension weekend gained an unexpected positive response. Instead of the 300-400 expected, demonstrators in their thousands turn up in the camp, 1-1/2 miles from the fence on private ground. A cultural programme had been arranged so many punks came down as well. There was also a discussion area to talk on structures of resistance between groups from the north and the south of W. Germany—to improve the general coordination

The call to meet at Wackersdorf was initi-

ated by autonomist groups from the south. These groups had started an office in Altenschwand (a village in the Wackersdorf region) to coordinate and to spread news and tactics concerning the fight. As a result autonomist groups from all over the Federal Republic travelled down to the camp. Also among them were left wing Turkish organisations, the motorcycle club 'Kuhle Wampe' named after a film by Bertolt Brecht); experienced militants from the struggle against the new military runway at Frankfurt airport; antifascists, anarchists, militant anti-nuclear groups and punks. They agreed on how to deal with the press. They weren't allowed entry into the camp site, except after the information tent on the site had given them special permission to enter; also a police walkie-talkie was on the site to make people aware of police movem-

Ist day: It started with a demonstration at Erlangen, a place where several big nuclear firms are situated (Siemens, KWU, AEG, etc) by a so-called 'black block' (500 people). The whole demonstration was surrounded by three lines of police, one immediately marching behind the others. When police tried to circle the people in the town's market place, people resisted. Paint bombs were thrown and a W. German flag was burnt. After that the people made their way to Wackersdorf, about sixty miles from Erlangen.

Early at night several smaller direct actions were taken which led to the massive use of CS gas by the police. (Meanwhile—after 2 people had died from the use of CS gas—its use was now announced by police loudspeakers: 'It is x o'clock. You are committing a criminal action. We will therefore now bring CS gas out against you.')

Later the same night, at about 2am, larger contingents of people headed from the camp into the woods. They collected trees and other useful materials to build up barricades in the surrounding streets; a railway line is blockaded and a train is stopped by sabotage.

2nd day: On the way to the fence many locals join in. All over the place there are direct actions—removal of NATO-wire from the fence tops, cutting holes in the fence, petrol bombs and stones and mud against water cannons. The cops inside who want to go forward are kept at a distance by slingshots. All the cops can do is shower people with CS gas.

Various new forms of resistance develop: children are banging at the fence with stones monotonously for hours; locals form chains who intervene between police lines and miltants, thus enabling the latter to escape successfully to the woods; autonomist medics take care of injured people (carrying water bottles with them to flush gas-hurt eyes); walkie-talkie groups observe police movements; fireworks are shot.

The whole action lasted several hours altog-

ether, from 10am to 3pm. Big fence holes

appeared, the NATO-wires are almost completely removed. Water cannons had bitumen thrown at them making them much easier to set alight with petrol bombs, and the water cannons were also shot at with catapults.

After five hours of permanently being on the defensive the cops wildly break out, waving their batons and—from two sides at the same time—trying to push people away from the fence to the street behind the woods. On the street some rather isolated groups of police are strongly attacked so that they have to escape back through the woods behind the fence.

While that was happening a panic-like mood among the cops was observed which could

At about 5pm people retreat from the woods and the street, back to the camp—since the whole area is very poisoned by CS and teargas. Broken fence pieces, police shields and batons were taken as souvenirs—also by the locals.

In the camp, discussions with the locals are held. The locals had supported the actions at the fence; women, elderly people and children brought drinks and snacks along when a break in the fight occurred. Refreshment stands on the sides offered food/drinks, and 10% went into a fund for the arrested: for the payment of solicitors fees etc.

The question of militancy against police equipment as well as policemen personally, is discussed heatedly in the camp. Although there is a widespread understanding for action directly against the police— 'They are the ones who protect the project that the state is pushing through against our will, and our lives'—quite a few find it still rather hard to go straight for the coppers.

At 11pm groups go back to the fence, again cutting holes in it. A big tractor is started and driven through the woods up to the fence. But the engine unfortunately turns out to be too weak to break the fence; whose posts are several meters in concrete in the ground.

Behind the tractor were people with catapults; thus sheltered, they tried to destroy the lights of the water cannons.

After that people retreated to the camp, barricading it to be safer from sudden police attacks, before allowing themselves to have some rest.

Ascension Monday

A motorcycle demonstration to the jail in Amberg sees forty people with a black and red flag driving in a convoy, who on arriving smass the unbarred windows at the jail house and spray slogans on its walls. Through megaphones they shout soldarity to those inside—who answer with clenched fists stretched through the bars. After two drives around the block the convoy retreats.

Meanwhile again actions have started at the

Meanwhile again actions have started at the fence. But this time not too much can be achieved since the police force has been massively re-enforced during the early morning hours. More cops have been flown in by helicopters including specially trained cops from Frankfurt (where protests against the new military runway took place). Again BGS, and more water cannons have been moved in as well.

About 100 people, among them locals,

the fence. Police vans were turned upside

attack several cops on the outskirts of events at

down and set fire to. Police were particularly

furious because they had in fact already been

retreating when big fog grenades were thrown

at them from helicopters. After that incident

most people start to leave the camp and travel

Hours later those remaining are suddenly

encircled by police, beaten up, loaded into

transporter police vans, and brought to the

nearby Amberg jail. When somebody who

made, went up to the jail and shouted inside

arrested—they were beaten up by the plain

clothes cops on the pavement outside the jail,

she was looking for was among the

and were then arrested too.

wasn't in the camp at the time the arrests were

wanting to find out whether somebody he or

back home.

Criminalisation Campaign
The 'X,Y-Unsolved' programme is a popular

programme on ZDF, the second TV channel of West Germany, in which unsolved crimes are presented then solved with the help of a live audience. Viewers are also asked to ring up the TV studio in case they feel they know something which might help to 'solve the case'. It shows film from Wackersrdorf asking the TV audience for identification of masked 'terrorists'. Those who help identify somebody are offered a reward of 10,000DM (roughly £3,000). So far rewards of that amount have only been set for 'heavy criminal' offences like murder or rape.

PART 2

Secretary of State, infamous right-winger Zimmermann, pushed through the introduction of rubber bullets, which so far have never been used (but have always been presented if 'needed'). It's not the type of rubber bullet used in the north of Ireland but the type used during the youth revolts in Switzerland by police in 1980/81

A law and order campaign has been launched The call for tougher laws was put of by the media; a general ban on wearing masks is in the making.

The bourgeois press re-enforced the government: they portray the autonomist movement as the legal arm of the Red Army Fraction (RAF) and as its recruiting field. This is like being guilty before being tried—you are a 'terrorist' even if you haven't done anything. Demonstrations within six miles of the Wackersdorf area are generally banned.

The Big Anti-Nuclear Reprocessing-Plant Festival: Attempts by Bourgeois Factions to Split the Anti-Nuclear Resistance

Shortly after the Ascension holiday, a big festival with well-known progressive musicians and personalities was organised; two miles away from the fence, near a village called Schwandorf. The festival call had been organised by the Green party, Social-democratics, peace groups and some progressive, left-liberal politicians. More than 100,000 people meet for the festival. By loud-

speakers, repeated appeals for absolute non-

people, and there was a heavy police presence

Republic). Since the Ascension holidays, the

police changed strategy. They hide inside the

Another field where there were woods be-

fore (during the Ascension holidays) has been

stubbed, the ground is very muddy with acre-

like lines through it, so that is is very difficult

big water canal around the fence—as they did

at other nuclear power stations in the country

the media. The fence wouldn't be there any-

The festival itself got enormous coverage in

to make effective protests more difficult.

The cops have recently started works to dig a

woods now, in tanks covered with bushes.

in the whole area (from all over the Federal

sive police checkpoints seached cars and

State violence surrounded the festival: mas-

violence are made.

to move fast.

more if those 100,000 had attacked it determinedly—balloons and songs don't impress the ruling class!

Position of the Greens and Social Democrats

They publicly declare their distance from militant resistance, hinder and denounce it. Members of autonomist groups are not allowed to speak at their rallies. At the festival, they set an entry price of 35DM (£12), yet no percentage of that entrance-fee went into anything like bust funds. They had their own stewards who searched people.

who searched people.

Social Democrats (SPD): They opportunistically try to climb aboard the 'antinuclear wagon', and—although the party has been the main promoter of nuclear energy in West Germany—its leaders now demand 'an immediate farewell to nuclear energy within ten years'. The SPD-policy to Wackersdorf is to prevent the project by voting Social democrat, and not by direct resistance of the people—who they denounce as 'chaotists'.

Greens: By participation in mass demonstrations and rallies the Greens try to take the independent and partially revolutionary spirit of the movement away. They put themselves on top of the movement and thus try to transform anti-nuclear resistance onto a parliamentary level.

Consequence: At the demonstration due to take place on the 8 November 1986 at Hanau—which has the biggest concentration of civil and militay nuclear institutions in Europe (16 nuclear firms, US Army)—no representative of any party was allowed to speak. Three thousand autonomists finally gathered at Hanau and formed a militant and successful march through the area, smashing various banks and supermarkets and firms windows, although heavily present, police didn't intervene.

Background History of the Recent Anti-Nuclear Struggle in West Germany in 1986—Brockdorf, 7 June 1986:

A mass demonstration of 80,000 gathered in front of the main symbol of the anti-nuclear movement in West Germany. It more or less had all started there. Some days before the 6 June the Brokdorf power station actually started to work—after ten years of permanent resistance against the project.

The demonstration was a defeat because an attempt to split the movement succeeded, due to police tactics as well as the hostile behaviour of the 'peacenik-factions' (strictly non-violent peace groups). So, massive police check points in full riot gear offered free passage to all those who agreed to be searched. Many people accepted that police offer and thus isolated others who refused to be searched and who demanded free entry to the meadows near the station's fence. The atmosphere among the demonstrators was really poisonous, some people—including myself wearing masks and

In the forefield of the demonstration, large police contingents blockaded every possible way to Brokdorf. That meant that a real march couldn't get off the ground at all—too much time passed, and no coherent demonstration could be formed.

After the Ascensions days at Wackersdorf police at Brokdorf acted externely brutally. For instance, at Kleve—a small village near Brokdorf—the Hamburg convoy was stopped by the police and, going forward, the cops went wild. They beat people up, smashed car windows with their batons while people were still iside, drew them outside, arrested them and even set some cars on fire.

At the Brokdorf fence, where some thouand had managed to get through, police invaded the official rally—parallel to which small groups of militants tried some direct action—dispersed people with tear gas. More cops were brought over by helicopters through the meadows and canals.

One day later, 7 July 1986, at Hamburg:

In the course of a protest rally against police terror at Brokdorf the previous day, 800 of the demonstrators were encircled by heavy police force and kept there for fourteen hours! (Editor's Note: The protesters have just won a court case against police victimisation and some compensation). The people had to stand there all the time, drinks and snacks weren't allowed, nor the use of toilets (only much later could people eat and drink a bit and go to the loo). A seven year old was among those arrested, who one by one were led aside, searched, brought to various improvised 'prisons' (a school's gymnasium was turned into a prison) all over the town, 'ID-treated, computerised and after that people were finally allowed to

Forty taxi drivers who wanted to show their solidarity with the encircled, and arrived at the scene honking their horns were attacked by the cops too. Again the cops smashed the car windows of the taxis.

The conclusion of this article will be in the next issue...

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