

SEDITIONIOUS WHISPERS

PAY WHAT YOU CAN



Is Big Brother Ignoring You?

1984 is here, but the totalitarian state painted by George Orwell appears to be very distant. We can joke about the 'Newspeak' type terms such as Department of Employment - that deals with unemployment. We can laugh about Britain being Oceania's (USA's) Airstrip One - especially now Cruise has arrived. And the similarity between Sun Bingo and Orwell's mind distracting lotteries must bring a smile to everyone's lips. But what about BIG BROTHER?

Of course we all know this is not a totalitarian state; there are no pictures of Big Brother looking down on us. But the potential for recording and watching in 1984 is very great.

We are all on dozens of computers; Inland Revenue, DHSS, Driving Vehicle Licensing Centre etc etc. More information is stored on us than on any people before us. It's all pretty mundane stuff; how much we earn, who we live with etc but the present potential and that of future computerisation for more in-depth surveillance is huge.

As with British Telecom's new System X details will become more specific, such as recording what numbers we phone (and no doubt who phones us) and for how long we talk. This new system will also make phone tapping easier.

As real money becomes less and less used, not only will they be able to recall what you paid and borrow, they will be able to find out what you spend, where you spend it and what you buy.

MI5, - British Secret Service - has a computer twice the size of the National Police Computer at Hendon, and from 1984 once the Data Protection Bill is passed, it will be

able to plug into the police, immigration, DHSS, Inland Revenue, Banks, Credit company computers as well as the 200 other data storage systems that the government has. With a computer twice the size as the national police one, MI5, whose job it is to keep an eye on political activists, can keep an eye on a lot of people.

But who are these political activists that MI5 watch? The Special Branch (the police department that does the same job as MI5) has 2 million people on their files, so the number on the MI5 computer MOD-X must be in millions. But who are these millions? Have you ever joined a political organisation, written a controversial letter to a paper, been active in a union, been on demonstrations or signed petitions?

We live in a liberal state, a state that is strong, with a population that generally expects its lot, so there is no need for it to use strong arm tactics. But the state still keeps a very watchful eye and their information gathering system is very efficient. If you sign a petition or your face appears on a demonstration (which are filmed and recorded) then at the press of a few buttons they can find out and record details about you. If they want to go deeper they can tap your phone, intercept your mail, watch your home. All this information is stored and filed.

At present most people are only watched and recorded, but in the future, when people aren't so content this information would be put to use.

Big Brother may be sleeping; but he sleeps with his eyes and ears open.

S. Yorks anarchist paper. No 14

about south yorks

Donny council is looking for out of town crew to stop the travellers on Blackbank burning off cable.

The reason the council is recruiting from outside the borough, is because recent attempts to confiscate the acrid smoke producing cable following complainys from people living in the area, have been halted by threats from the travellers. So the council is looking for people from outside the area who would not be recognised by the travellers.

This group costs the ratepayers of the DMB £10,000 a year and maybe Donny council would be doing a better job if it looked into buy the travellers a cable stripping machine, Which could no doubt save money and let the travellers get on with their useful work of recycling metal; without causing polution and inconvenience.

But of course for the council to try and reach some form of compromise with the travellers would be going against their consistant attacks and racist abuse which they have directed against the people who choose to live in caravans.

In the nuclear free zone of Sheffield all of the nuclear waste flasks used by the Central Electricity Generating Board are made. The flasks, costing £250,000 each are made at the River Don works of Sheffield Forgemasters.

As the present flasks are to be scrapped following signs of weakness, it is also believed that Sheffield Forgemasters have the contract for the new flasks.

The latest means of forcing advertising down our throats has arrived in Doncaster's main Post Office (and no-doubt in all other major Post Offives with a similar one queue system).

The advideo or videovert has arrived. While we quee it babbles on forcing all the crap we don't want and can't afford down our throats, but the marvel of it is that once we are convinced we need something we can buy it straight away as soon as we get to the counter. As all the products advertised are mail order and once we have changed our Giro's or pensions into real money we can change it back into a postal order and send off for the latest craze.

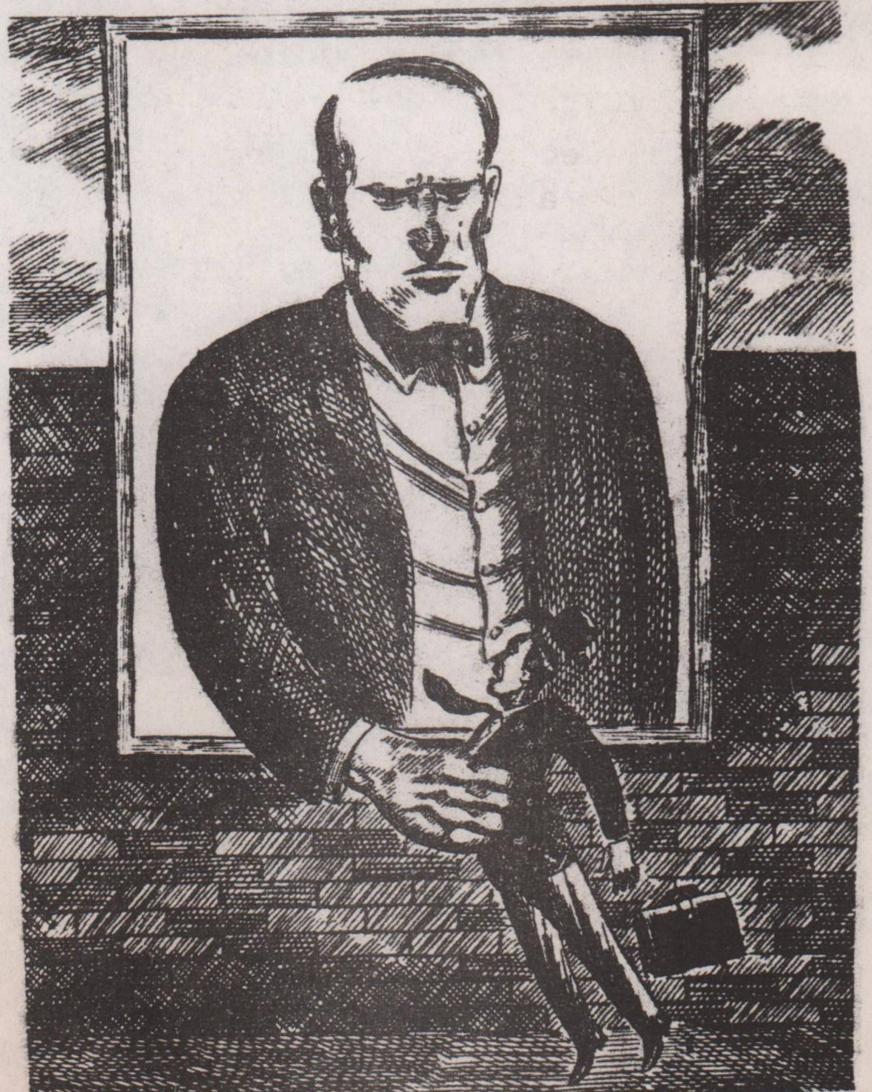
But with some of the things they try to sell there I just don't think it is going to work. Who wants to pay £14.40 p&p included for a 52 minute video of the Queen. Never mind when we get fed up with all this crap we can always pull the plug out.

Doncaster Council is going ahead with its plan to build a huge Leisure Park complex. Which will be the best in Europe and will attract over 4 million visitors each year, create hundreds of jobs etc etc.

It appears to be a sound idea, and I have no doubt that things such as an ice rink would be well used, but what is the advantage of putting all these things in one place, other than of course making the biggest complex in Europe to inflate the egos of petty councillors and so Donny can hold the 1988 Olympics. we need facilities in our own areas, not in the centre of town, we need areas of grass and woodland where kids can play and people walk on our doorsteps. Build the facilities but put the ice rink at Rossington, a full size pool at Stainforth, snooker hall at Bently, don't stick them all on the doorstep of Bessecarr.

Jack Taylor leader of the Yorkshire region NUM came up with a classic at the Trades Unions Working for Peace conference in Sheffield;..... "The most radical meeting I've ever been to is one of Methodist ministers, where every one sat down and exchanged ides"..... Doesn't say a lot about thte methodists, but sure says a lot about the NUM and the Labour party.

Award of scab of the year goes to Brodsworth pit delegate and Yorkshire region executive member Kevin Hughes, left winger and heir for a MP's seat. For shitting on the Dodworth men who had come over to Brodsworth to ask for solidarity, by telling the Brodsworth men to cross the picket line.



FINNINGLEY PEACE CAMP

On November 9th, representatives from the Greenham Peace Camp, 'Greenham Women Against Cruise', filed a case against the U.S. Government and President Reagan. They were applying for an injunction to restrain the U.S. government from deploying Cruise missiles in this country, using international laws of genocide and the American constitution.

On that day, peace camps were set up and actions taken outside all of the 102 American bases in this country. This was in support of the 'Greenham Women Against Cruise' and was to show the widespread opposition to the deployment of Cruise missiles in this country and to all nuclear weapons throughout the world.

One of these camps was at R.A.F. Finningley. And although this is a training base at present, it has been designated a 'Collocated Operating Base' - that is - handed over to the U.S.A.F. in times of 'crisis'. Also, in the proposed 1984 U.S. Defence Budget, 12 million dollars has been earmarked for R.A.F. Finningley for new ammunition, fuel dumps and shelters.

On the evening of November 8th we set up a camp expecting to be simply a token presence. But before long tents were lined up opposite the main gate, and that evening over one hundred people came to stay or to visit so that they could show their support. Our brazier and 'main tent' were the focus for gathering - spirits were high. Three men arrived. They had never been involved in the peace movement before, but they were so concerned about the escalation of the nuclear arms race which Cruise represents. After reading about the camp in the local paper they came straight over. Two of them were able to stay overnight. We kept on meeting people like them.

50 people stayed overnight, even though some had to be up early for work the following morning. During the night the vigil was kept going with the candles, by the side of the road, remaining lit, and the fire glowing. Marion stayed up to talk with the police, etc,

The Wednesday saw the arrival of 200 or more visitors - people arriving from Sheffield in their dinner-hour, people who could only stay for a few minutes but wanted to show their support - people bringing gifts. About 30 of us leafletted the services married accomodation and were met with incredible hostility-"I'll listen to anyones point of view except yours!" - as well as verbal violence. 2 others leafletted in Doncaster & were met with frienliness and support. A middle-aged woman arrived from Derbyshire. Her other-abled mother and two sons hadn't wanted her to come, but she did, to her first ever peace action, on her own! That's how strongly she feels about the whole issue. It is meeting people such as she that gives you the courage to go on, especially when faced with the apathy and inertia of people who are supposed to be campaigning for the same things as you are.

Some people decorated the fence - silver-wool 'spiders' webs - weaving 'PEACE' into the wire with autumn leaves. The candles, on each side of the road were kept lit. We talked together, shared food, shared ideas. We came from many areas - Wakefield to Alfreton, Stocksbridge to Thorne, Doncaster and Pontefract to Warsop. We were ordinary people coming together to show our opposition to nuclear weapons; we came together in a positive way. Together we felt strong.



"and when freedom is achieved"

You have used a word
Which means nothing.
You have given a word
The power to send men to death.
Men are not free who are sent to die.
Only those who send them are free.
You should have freedom stuffed down your fat throats.

Kenneth Patchen



"I understand it was an offer we couldn't refuse: either we took it or had it fired at us"

POLICE & CO. FILE

The Chief Constable of West Midlands has decided that it was alright for the Special Branch (political police dept.) to investigate a woman who wrote to her local paper complaining about the siting of Cruise missiles. One of the advantages of a 'free press'; the letters page is an instant filing system of dissidents, agitators and other malcontents.

West Midlands Special Branch is made up of 1 Chief Superintendent, 3 Chief Inspectors, 6 Inspectors, 16 Sergeants and 47 Constables.-

Judge Bruce Campell (ex army officer and Tory MP), who was fined for smuggling 125 litres of whisky, 9,500 cigarettes and 500 grammes of tobacco said "I'm afraid we drink perhaps over half-a-dozen bottles over the weekend." As they say, "As sober as a judge."

Grenada isn't the only place where British methods of policing and training are exported to; 1,000 black bicycles have been donated by Britain for rural policemen in Uganda.



"We went wanging down there, jumped out of the van and just started fighting... It was a great day out, fighting the Pakis. It ought to be an annual fixture I thoroughly enjoyed myself."

London P.C. recalling the Southall disturbances in July 1981.

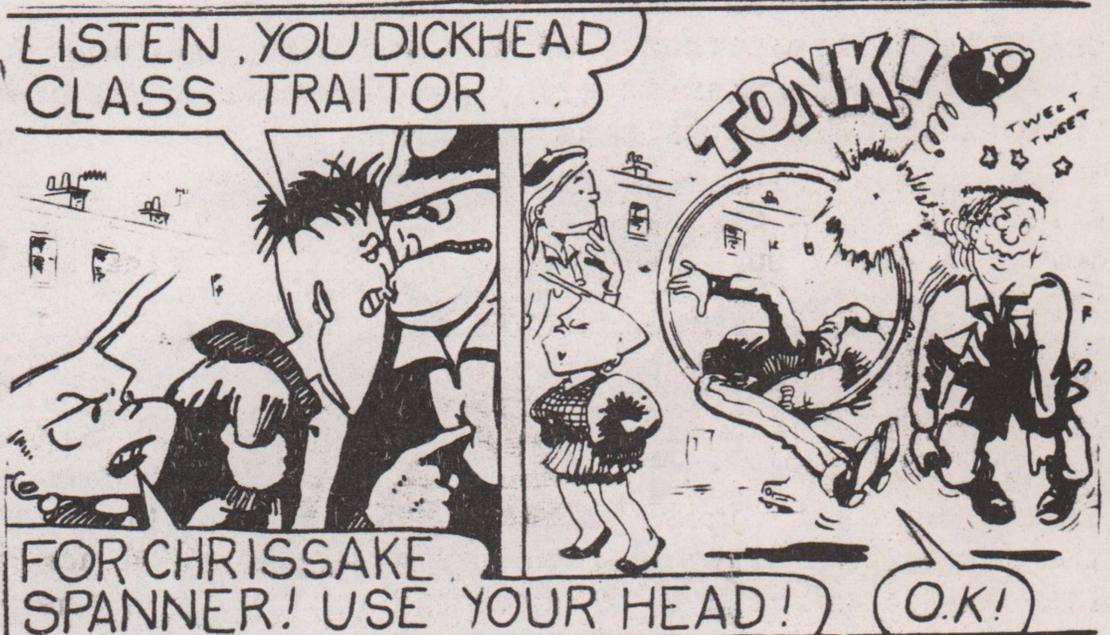
Two former policemen were jailed for 15 and 9 months, for stealing £130 between them from Oxford car parks, where they worked. They also had to pay a total of £12,000 costs.

A recent report shows that women magistrates treat women more severely than their male counterparts. But both male and female magistrates treat divorced, separated and women living alone more severely than women who are married.

A Los Angeles policeman, who shot dead a 5 year old boy by mistake is to be given £23,000 because of 'psychological damages'. The policeman burst into a locked flat and shot the boy dead while he was watching the television and playing with a toy gun.

A 51 year old police inspector was sent down for 18 months for taking a £1,000 bribe from a restaurant owner - to help him get a drinks licence. His wife and daughter, have tried to kill themselves because of the shame - more likely because of the loss of the police house, £24,000 golden handshake on retirement, and a £100 per week pension.

A Kent solicitor was jailed for a year and a half for embezzling £42,000 from his clients over a period of a year.



A new police training film shows new techniques for arresting women demonstrators. As a police spokesperson said, "Women demonstrators idea of civil disobedience is normally just that. They will lie down put their arms by their sides, and just make it awkward for the arresting officer. If a fellow is on the floor, his automatic reaction is to start kicking and punching - in which case you need different technique"

Three detectives were jailed for beating up a British Leyland worker in order to force a confession out of him. The BL worker was pulled in for questioning about the theft of four light clusters from the Longbridge plant - the charge was later dropped. The three detectives, all of 'long service and previous good character' got terms of 12 and 9 months, with half the sentence suspended.

NUCLEAR NEWS

At a scientific conference in Washington recently, a set of studies was conducted by independent groups, 3 American, 2 from the U.S.S.R. Their conclusions were horrific.

If the Americans had a 'successful' first strike ie they knocked out the Russians retaliatory forces before they were fired, the smoke and soot from the explosions would alter the structure of the atmosphere. The sun would be blotted out and the earth plunged into a deep nuclear winter. The temperature would be below zero for months and there would be a constant twilight. This means that there could be no agriculture to feed any survivors there might have been. They may, in fact, freeze to death, also there is the danger of poisonous fumes because of the combustion of plastics, and so on. Added to this is a real danger from radiation from a source not

considered before; the 'intermediate fallout' caused by particles in the smoke

This would lead to an increase in background radiation to 250 rads leading to cancer and embryonic damage.

The combined effect of the cold and no agriculture plus all previous suppositions about the aftereffects of the nuclear explosion mean that the damage will spread to the southern hemisphere, thus killing the tropical rain forests and 2/3 of the plant and animal life of the planet.

If these findings are correct, and there is little doubt that they are wrong, even if the U.S. acquires an effective first strike, they will have committed mass suicide. No-one could hope to survive long in a nuclear winter.

Secondly, the various governments civil defence regulations are shown up for what they are - STUPID.

Governments are aiding and abetting in the assumption, lie, that we either die or we may survive the short time a nuclear war takes to run.

The more time goes on, the more evidence there is that nuclear weapons are no defence. They are weapons of tyranny; weapons of the state to terrorise those under its yoke. In a nuclear war there are no survivors.

"So few people realize that preparedness never leads to peace, but that it is indeed the road to universal slaughter."



The Government has just finished a training course on civil defence for local government officers at Easingwold in North Yorkshire. This course, concerning a nuclear attack on this country to say the least is a joke, and shows the stupidity and ignorance of those who rule over us.

The computer based course called Exercise Regenerate is typical of the governments attempt to convince us and themselves that we (or at least some of us) would survive a nuclear attack.

For South Yorkshire the computer comes up with 'Enormous damage around Sheffield, but as little fall-out, radiation sickness will be low. Open-cast coal mining resumes quickly. Shortages of food, clothing, scrap metal, vehicle and plant components, chemicals.

Just like to point out a few things to these experts; a) there is no open-cast mining in south yorkshire, unless of course they mean the hole made by a nuclear explosion. b) All the nuclear strikes to the west of sheffield will produce fall-out that will be blown over south yorkshire. RAF Finningley will no doubt be hit by a ground burst - which produces increased fall-out, but maybe the enormous damage around Sheffield means the total destruction of Doncaster as the result of an attack on Finningley. As for scrap metal, I assure them there will be plenty of the stuff, including a lot of which will be melted down.

The whole course is based on stupid assumptions; such as some areas would be back on a banking and wages system 28 days after being bombed.

All the politicians, scientists, generals, councillors and others who plan for our deaths with their silly little games should be sealed in their bunkers and left to rot.

Quote from para's guarding the blue gate at Greenham Common:

"I joined the army to kill people. It's sport innit If they'd give us weapons we'd shoot you lot, and a fucking good thing that would be. If it weren't for you we could be in Northern Ireland. I've killed lots of people in Northern Ireland and the Falklands."

DEFENCE BEGINS AT HOME

Defence Begins At Home is the Churchill-esque title of a project, launched on March 7th last year, to organise a Home Guard as a counter to the 'Threat'. Yes, the 'Threat'! What threat? Why, the Soviet Threat you goddamn pinko subversive! Their glossy literature introduces DBH as a group of individuals who advocate the creation, by the government, of a local volunteer force as a second line to the Territorial Army Reserve. The idea that DBH is something akin to a citizen's militia is immediately quashed as you cast a glance at the members of the Steering Committee. The Four Horsemen of this particular Apocalypse are certainly not drawn from the ranks of mere mortals:

Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill Norton GCB is a former Chief of Defence Staff,
General Sir Anthony Farrer-Hockley GBE KCB

DSO MC B.LITT and ex-NATO Commander-in-Chief for northern Europe,

Air Marshall Sir Frederick Sowersy KCB
CBE AFC Commandant at the National Defence College and

Sir David Wills CBE TD DL ex-TAVR Officer and prominent Oxfordshire Tory.

Apart from their large numbers of initials after their names The Four share a common authority in military circles. They are all creatures of the establishment and thus their organisation, currently a pressure group, is constructed from the top downwards. They envisage a thin blue line of 20,000 platoons, 35 volunteers in each, a total of 700,000 recruits. The strongest interest in the group has so far come from the Home Counties. They draw a parallel with the Anglo-Saxon Fyrd and their role would include patrolling, guarding, surveillance and active defence.

The HDF differs from the ideas of other Colonel Blimps in its tacit approval by government. Furthermore, by appealing directly to the MOD they hope to bypass the troublesome I54 nuclear-free local authorities. The threat of Soviet invasion isn't at present taken too seriously. The British public haven't yet reached the level of hysteria experienced in the USA. The HDF cabal aim to change all this. Their introductory prospectus spells out the threat in terms of missiles, armed strength and the words of the Soviet leadership. Apparently the red aggression is all down to historical expansionism brought about by the Leninist doctrine of world domination. Sounds more like sour grapes. The old sabre rattlers are a bit cheesed off that the Russkies can get away with invasion after invasion when

every schoolboy knows that it's only the British who are allowed to indulge in empire building. After all, look what we did for the Indians, Africans, Irish: civilised them and gave them independence. Ungrateful lot. The point may be lost on the peoples of South America but then this high-ranking cadre tend to suffer from 'do-as-I-say, and not-as-I-do-itis'. Even though in this democratic age the Brits have become the lap dog of America. The danger isn't just a Soviet one but the result of the struggle between two super-powers both with the capability to destroy terra firma.

The American enthusiasm for democracy becomes American dogma, they create the conditions for the growth of communism and then complain at the results. Of such stuff the HDF junta is made. Throughout they assure us that such an organisation wouldn't conflict with civil rights, refuse to indulge in strike-breaking, and decline to be a party to a government purge of political. The pressure on such a group to participate in the above would be too great to resist: the armed forces do all ready.

No doubt such HDF volunteers would be used to gather intelligence on the potential subversive, commie sympathisers, disgruntled minorities. They would provide the state with a constant watch of their fellow citizens. Big Brother will have arrived and right on time. The HDF would be just another arm of the State.

HDF - Home Defence Force

David.

TERROR BOOK

A whimper of outrage echoed through the hallowed halls of Fleet Street at the publication of the Text book of Close Combat. Across the 320 pages detailed illustrations show how to kill with a everything from a knitting needle to a carpet knife. This literary gem is available for the modest sum of £4. The most unusual thing about this murderous almanac is that it isn't the brain-child of a frustrated lefty tucked away on an island of anarchy (?typist), but the work of a sergeant major of the UDR. Of course such a publication had to be condemned by officialdom who lamely claimed that such a book may fall into the hands of 'terrorists' who may wish to brush up on their tactics: how delightfully naive. The fact that a member of the UDR was the author of the murder manual went unnoticed.

CLOSED SHOP

The National Graphical Association's dispute with Eddie Shah and the Messenger Group brings up the question of the closed shop. The closed shop, the compulsory membership of a union, is necessary to ensure the strength and solidarity of a workforce according to unionists and leftists. But is it?

As anarchists we oppose the forced membership of any organisation, be it the army, schools or unions. Not only because we believe in the rights of individuals against that of the state and authority, but because we believe that the free association of free individuals is the strongest form of organisation.

Those who argue in favour of the closed shop say that it gives the union strength. It may give union negotiators the strength of representing all the workforce and it may give the union strength financially with increased dues. But when it comes to a confrontation between workers and bosses, strength lies not in the closed shop, the rhetoric of union bosses or union hierarchies, it lies in solidarity, common cause and unity.

It is argued that a closed shop is essential in dangerous industries such as mining. But what is the point of having union members who are willing to overlook safety and health matters for better bonuses or to make their job easier. A union that conscripts all workers, be they anti-union, fascists, or individuals who are willing to put other workers at risk, is not a strong union.

Getting back to the NGA dispute; although we oppose the closed shop we support the need for workers to organise and oppose all harassment of workers because they support or join a union. The 6 should be re-instated but this does not mean that the other workers should be forced to join a union against their wishes - even if Eddie Shah agrees to a closed shop.

FREE OMORI

On March 2nd 1976 Government offices on the island of Hokaido were bombed. Hokaido is the Japanese name for the island of Ainumoshiri which was colonised by the Japanese in 1868. Since then the Ainu people have been fighting against the exploitation and racialism, but they have no nationalist aspirations and are not seeking self-government only a desire to be left in peace. The Ainu people are 'administered' in a similar way as the US Bureau of Indian Affairs treats the American Indians - the offices that were bombed were those that carried out the administration of what the Japanese state sees as an inferior people.

On August 10th 1976 a young Japanese anarchist K. Omori, who has openly supported the struggle of the Ainu people, was arrested and severely interrogated.

On March 29th 1983 after years of imprisonment a Japanese court sentenced Omori to death. The evidence which they have sentenced him on was the possession of sugar and batteries in his flat, not having a fire extinguisher (Japanese law states that all homes must have a fire extinguisher and the bomb was made in a fire extinguisher) and on the word of an individual who claims to have seen him on the night.

But it has been Omori's attitude to the court that despite the flimsiest of evidence has led to his conviction; he has refused to answer any questions put to him by the prosecutor, he has said he supports the bombing and he punched the judge.

Despite appeals coming up Omori could be hanged as early as January 1984

Write letters to the Japanese embassy at 46 Grosvenor Square, London W1. Or give them a ring on 01 493 6030 - 01 493 2103 - 01 493 2475. And let them know what you think of this state murder.

But hurry as no warning is given of when the killing is about to take place, not even the victim is told.



SHOULD WE FEAR THE U.S.S.R.?

This is not an article in defence of the Soviet Union but merely questioning a somewhat irrational fear of the USSR. Do they really want to dominate the world? Where is the proof of this? Poland perhaps; while it is probably true that martial law was imposed by pressure from the USSR, were they not only protecting their 'national interests' in the same way as the USA protects theirs by supporting guerrilla activity in Nicaragua?

But what about Afghanistan, aren't there US-SR troops there? Yes - and in no way could this be condoned - but there are American forces in Grenada. Which are there to protect the interests of the USA and other Caribbean states. So what is so different about Soviet troops in Afghanistan.

Oh, I forgot the Americans only invaded Grenada to restore democracy, but are they really? I suppose they are, as long as it is a democracy they like. Like the one in Turkey, where no matter who 'wins' the unelected president has the final say over who becomes ministers. Or like the democracy in the Lebanon where only Christians are allowed to hold office, despite being a minority in that country.

But at least Turkey and Lebanon are on the 'right road', but what about the USAs support for such places as Chile and El Salvador. Which are brutal dictatorships which have slaughtered tens of thousands of people. Well at least America is a democracy.

How nice of them to allow the American people to change the face of their bosses every four years. While oppressing millions of other people who have very few ways of influencing the American state.

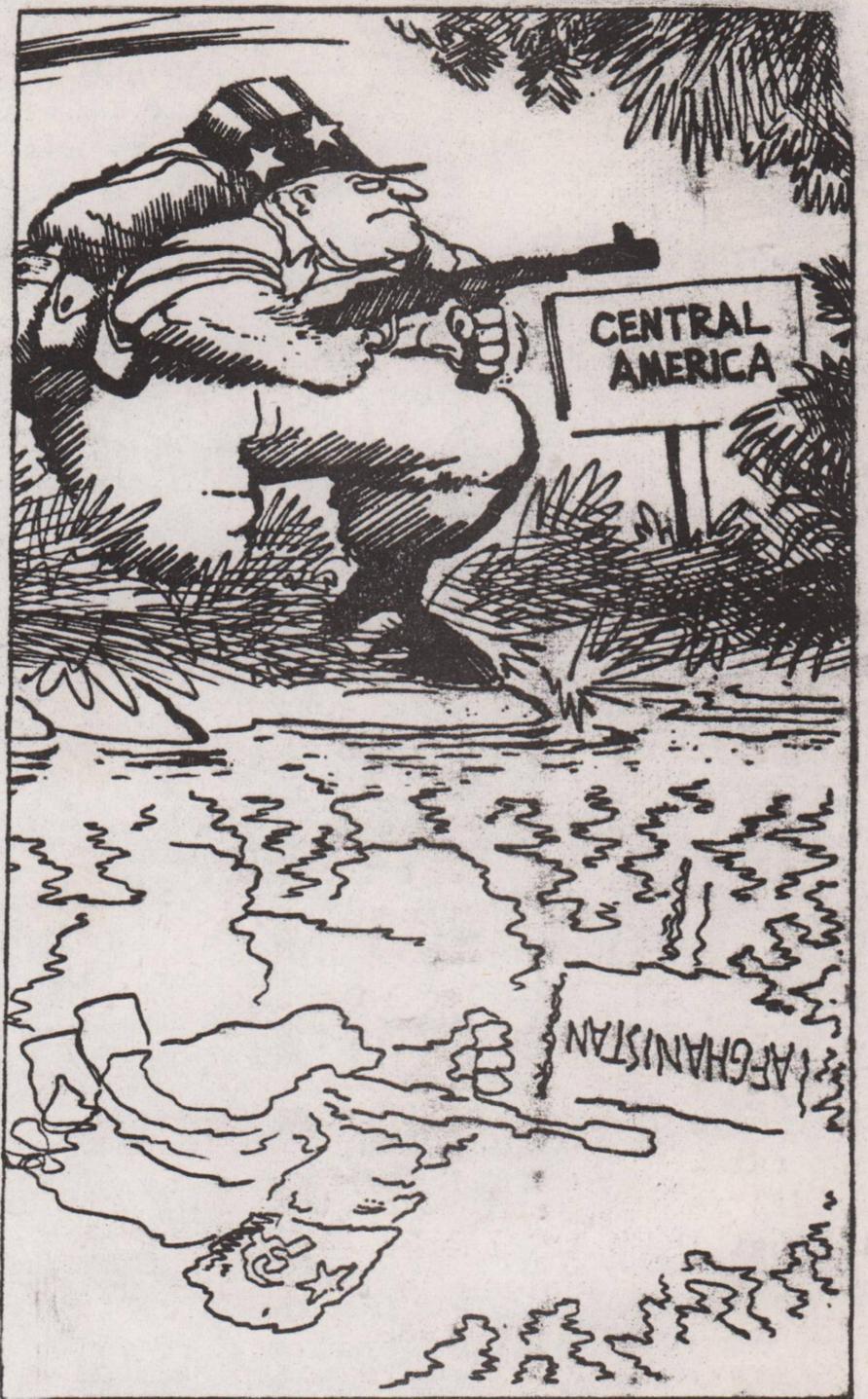
As we can see the USA has an equal track record of repression and interference in other countries as the USSR (even if it does have a face of democracy at home). So should we not be wary of the USA, and our own government, as British foreign policy is akin to that of the USA.

All this brings into question just what sort of democracy do we have?

Is it really democratic when the majority of people who could have voted, did not vote for the this present government. This is not a plea for proportional representation or electoral reforms.

What I am trying to get at is that all governments whether elected or not place restrictions on our freedom. 'We may be free as long as we obey the law' is a common enough slogan, but we have no say in the creation of those laws, or the system that they are part of.

Everybody should take full responsibility for their own actions and participate fully with



in society. We should not leave the running of society to a minority.

People can live together in harmony without the coercive elements of laws or government. Without national government there would be no need for protection from an 'outside' enemy.

If all the peoples of the world were free to associate together, without the fear of one another's governments or the authority and coercion of national or world governments, a world of self-determining people unite in freedom would be possible.

TAKE IT NOW!

Saying of the year?

"You know, I turn back to your ancient prophets in the Old Testament for the signs foretelling Armageddon and I find myself wondering if we're the generation that's going to see that come about. I don't know if you've noted any of these prophecies lately but, believe me, they certainly describe the times we're going through."

Ronnie Raygun to Director of the American-Israeli Public Affairs Committee.

AROUND OUR WORLD

Argentina has returned to 'democracy' following the failure of the invasion of the Falklands, but will the newly elected civilian government be able to control the military with its fingers in every pie. The greatest threat to the civilian government is the independent 'intelligence services. Each branch of the military has its own branch that has developed and grown during the dirty war waged against the Argentinian people. The army's S.S is now so large that it occupies the building that once held the entire staff of the army commander in chief.

But it is not only the size and the fact that these forces owe their loyalty to the military rather than the government, that is the main problem, it is the fact that they are totally self-financing.

With the money that they were given by the military and money that they have looted the intelligence services have built up their own network of companies, including shops to sell smuggled in goods. Much of this money is also invested abroad.

So even if the intelligence services were disbanded tomorrow they could continue to operate.

But it is not a situation that only applies to just the intelligence services of the military, it applies to the police and the armed forces themselves.

The army owns 25% of five petrochemical companies, as well as owning another petrochemical company, a steelworks, (Argentina's biggest) and a ballbearing company. The navy owns a submarine factory, shipyards and a turbine plant. The airforce owns the country's largest aluminium plant.

All these companies are run by retired generals and admirals who are often paid twice as much as the president.

So Argentina may have an elected government but real wealth and power remains in the hands of the military and those they support; the Argentinian aristocracy.

An American doctor is hoping to set up a scheme whereby people will give up a kidney for transplant, for a payment of \$3,300. He will charge the patient who will have the kidney £6,600. He has agents looking for potential donors, the hard up, poor and underprivileged in Britain, Latin America, Asia as well as America.

Four youths in Czechoslovakia for up to 20 months for disturbing the peace. They were part of a crowd who after a rock concert had been cancelled shouted, "We want peace and freedom."

A Russian soldier who deserted to join the rebels in Afghanistan claims that the use of drugs is widespread amongst the Soviet forces. Hashish is widely used and often before a battle Russian officers give the soldiers a shot or a sniff of something. But what is new, soldiers everywhere have used or been given drugs to help them overcome the misery of wars. From Heroin fixing Americans in Vietnam to opium smoking German soldiers on the eastern front drugs have been a means of keeping soldiers in wars they don't want to fight.

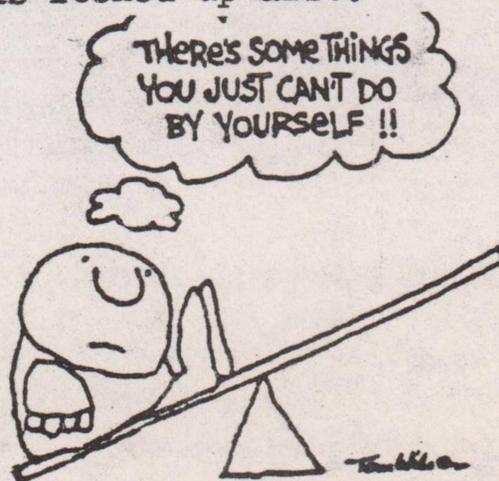
And when the drugs aren't available or no longer have the effect then even more barbaric methods have to be used. Such as the shooting of the 300 British soldiers in the 1st world war, who could no longer face the slaughter or who were so shell shocked, that their only use was to be tried and tied to a stake and shot as an example to others.

The march of Islamic fundamentalism grows every day. In Sudan an arena is being built in order that the public can watch executions and amputations take place.

The open arena, inside the British built Khartoum prison, has new gallows - for the public hangings, a 'hand amputation podium' - where thieves will sit, bound to a chair with their hand clamped to a piece of marble (what class) for the hacking off operation. They will not be drugged or anaesthetised, but as a wonderful act of humanity a doctor will be available immediately. For a second offence a thief can lose a leg. The arena will seat 5,000.

In Thailand there are many children rotting in jail. Not because of any crimes that they have committed but because of the hard social conditions the state finds it easier to lock them up with their parents if their parents are arrested.

But it is sicker than that. The Thailand police take the view that a child is the responsibility of the father; so if the father is locked up, even if the mother is still able to look after the child, the child is locked up also.



BITS

&

PIECES

You'll be glad to hear that even the Queen is being affected by the recession and is making cut backs to ensure that the Civil List (Royal dole money of £3,610,000 per year) stretches far enough.

Envelopes are to be reused (maybe the queen is a green), heating and lighting isn't being wasted (but I'm sure she doesn't go cold) and shock horror the horses are being given old newspapers instead of straw. But when you consider that the Civil List spent £8,000 (dole money for 2 families) on newspapers in 1983, its not much of a cutback.

@@

To ensure that the new windscreens for aircraft is tough enough to withstand the impact of birds at 600mph, Lucas Aerospace is firing stund but still alive (as dead birds are stiffer and don't give the correct results) chickens at them.

@@

New quidelines from the Vatican recommends sports and the esprit de corps as an antidote to permissive sexuality. As for masturbation it advices that more thought be given to "the causes(?)" rather than to the repression of it.

"The time is fast approaching when to call a man a patriot will be the deepest insult you can offer him. Patriotism now means advocating plunder in the interest of the privileged classes of the particular state system into which we happen to be born"
Leo Tolstoy.



"Patriotism is as fierce as a fever, pitiless as the grave, blind as a stone, and irrational as a headless hen."

contacts

The Seditious Whispers collective can be contacted:-
S.W, c/o J.G.S.
P.O. Box 217,
Sheffield, S1 1FD.

Anarchist Feminist Group
I2I Bookshop
I2I Railton Road,
London
SE24

Strike Back
(a Middlesborough DAM production)
Box A
I20 Victoria Road
Middlesborough
Plaese send 40p for postage etc.

A 64 year old women in California took non-violent direct action when arrested for shop lifting. She vowed to hold her breath until she turned blue - she died after being taken to hospital.

@@

The Cabbage Patch dolls that sell for £25, are making a lot of money for the 'inventor Xavier Roberts. But the workers are not doing so well. The 8,000 Chinese women are paid £20 per month and the 200 Hong Kong women are paid £100 per month.

@@

More Victorian values:- glue sniffing was fashionable in Victorian times.

@@

Petra Kelly, radical Green German MP is refusing to pay 10% of her income tax, as a protest about arms spending. She is withholding £300 per month; which means she pays a toal of £36,000 income tax per year. I wonder how much she earns.

@@

Black Flag
(fortnightly and quarterly)
Box ABC
I2I Bookshop
I2I Railton Road
London SE24.

(sae plus 20p and 75p respectively)

Black Star
PO Box 153
Wolverton
Milton Keynes
Bucks.
Please include 50p to cover costs.