PRESS SETTLE OLD SCORES

NATHALIE MENIGON & JEAN MARC ROUILLAN TAKING IT EASY IN A BOULEVARD CAFE

The year ahead promises more confrontation between the resistance and the war-mongers. The guerrilla groups have multiplied, re-organised and formed tactical alliances. On the other hand the Euro-Security States are now working in closer cooperation, especially on counter-insurgency and the disarming of any effective anti-militarism. We predict more draconian steps towards the criminalisation of any kind of anti-state propaganda, on the lines employed by the West German Model Security State.

Much has been said in the press about the recently announced accord between the Red Army Fraction and the France-based organisation, Action Directe. The alliance appears genuine, but as usual the press, following State emphasis, has placed more importance on it that it perhaps deserves.

As we went to press with our last issue we learnt of raids on known anarchists by the French authorities. This was preceded by a vigorous press campaign highlighting the 'anarchist' connection'. Jean-Marc Rouillan and Nathalie Menigon, both founder members of Action Directe, have been singled out by the press, without evidence, as architects of the current AD campaign. Both were active in the mainly Spanish Anarchist underground, GARI (International Revolutionary Action Groups, formed out of the MIL - Iberian Libertarian Movement - after the garroting of Puig Antich, and responsible for around 20 anti-francoist actions including the kidnapping of Bank of Bilbao chief, Suarez) and after a series of 'witch-hunts' instigated by rightist elements in the Reseignements-Generoux and the press, culminating in the infiltration of AD by the RG, Rouillan and Menigon were forced into exile (partly to escape murder by state forces) in Belgium. Their sojurn in Brussels lasted less than a year, before they returned to France to go underground. At the same time an anarchist publisher, Pierre Carrete, who had published information about AD, was also forced to go into hiding. The Belgian police are now putting around the story that Rouillan and Menigon helped to initiate the CCC (Fighting Communist Cells). They also believe that the CCC has acted as arms supplier (from a 1800lb cache stolen at Ecousines last June) to AD and the RAF. The campaign to get the two first generation AD activists may well have been behind the reason for the raids on anarchists by the police after the first wave of CCC attacks.

The press, of course, have been pushing an Italian connection, amongst others (eg, Soviet stooges, Lebanon trainees, and even Syria via the semi-mythical Ramirez Sanchez, aka 'Carlos'). The main claim though is that Action Directe is not just in alliance with the RAF but is closely working with them, with RAF fighters taking part in Action Directe operations. Some substantiation is given to the latter claim in that the woman who rang through the claim on the assassination of General Audran (responsible for the procurement of arms) by Action Directe, had a German accent and that a letter posted the day before the assassination claiming responsibility was in German and imperfect French (implying RAF prominence). The assertion is that France is very much a safe haven for 'sleepers', the implication being that there will be a tightening up on the future movements of emigres. More recently, though, the press and TV have referred to an alleged pre-planning meeting that took place in Lisbon last June, with the Portuguese guerrilla organisation, FP25, the hosts.

But with conspiracy theorists having their field day, little mention is given in the press of some of the many, less spectacular, attacks that have taken place in the NATO countries, in W Germany in particular, in support of the more media-hogging ones. Since the commencement of the December-January campaign (see 'January Offensive', page 5 this issue and 'Hunger Strike Diary' for December actions in the last issue) there have been over 60 attacks on militarist and state targets in W Germany alone, causing over £7m worth of damage. In France around 30 attacks have been recorded, while the arrest rate in all the countries concerned has proven a resounding failure for the security forces.

In Germany, however, there is now a massive hunt for two RAF members, Werner Loetze and Barbara Meyer, both of whom have been allegedly identified as the assassins of Zimmerman. In France, apart from the ongoing campaign directed against Rouillan and Menigon, outrageous allegations have been made in the press against anarchist groups, prisoner support groups and leftist groups generally. The editorial collective of the prisoner support paper, L'Internationale, and certain journalists associated with Liberation, have been the subject of intense police activity. With the latter this came about because of a bogus story put out by Paris Match involving the publication of a so-called photgraph of members of Action Directe engaged in an '83 meeting on the bank of the Seine; in fact the photo was of a group of leftists meeting in '82 and included the journalists from Liberation. Meanwhile in Brussels the city has been placed under an almost state of siege, with left and anarchist groups under continuous surveillance.

Meyer, Klar

The trend now is for greater centralisation and computerisation on the part of the security organisations of the NATO occupied nations, and for greater decentralisation (on the lines of the tried and tested cell structure - as per the Revolutionary Cells), on the part of the guerrilla alliance. Coordinated but decentralised operations means less chance of infiltration, an objective openly admitted by a Georgetown (US Center for Strategic and International Studies) chief in response to the latest offensive. Ultimately such infiltration will lead to more emphasis on the creation of pseudo-gangs, the selective assassination of known guerrilla activists by police agents and the criminalisation of support organisations. Already Newsweek has referred to Onkruit, the long-standing Dutch anti-militarist/anarchist paper,as a 'terrorist organisation', something clearly it isn't and while it may be too early to pass any qualified comment, the indiscrimate bombing of a US bar in Athens by an unknown nationalist group (referred to by NATO and the Western press as 'leftist') and the relatively minor actions by a Dutch group who foolishly call themselves the Northern Terror Network, may well be early warning manifestations of this pseudo-gang policy.

In addition to comrades already in prison in France, for their alleged involvement with Action Directe (as reported in a recent issue of Black Flag), is 53 year old Helyette Besse, a militant anarchist and founder of the bookshop 'Le Jargon Libres' in the rue de la Reine Blanche, Paris. Her bookshop also functions as the base for the paper L'Internationale, which gives information on the various European guerrilla groups and news on prisoners.

BLACK FLAG

ANARCHIST FORTNIGHTLY 30p

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HELP NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER

ILP DRAWING FROM 1926.

On March 6 we see the anniversary of the Miners Strike. Twelve months of hardship for the mining communities: sometimes having to fight alone, sometimes getting support none would have imagined possible.

As in 1926 the TUC has failed to provide the sort of physical support that was needed to ensure a victory. Many trade unionists have done what they can. The rail workers and the dockers and seamen in particular. And the Support Groups have organised on a scale unprecedented, with the women at the forefront of the struggle from the very beginning.

There has been much said about the significance of the strike and how the government is not only determined to smash the NUM but trade unionism also. But the calls for mass solidarity action have gone unheeded. There has been no mass strike action, apart from selective and token action in a couple of industries, or the odd, partially heeded, 'day of action' in certain regions.

The tendency to scab is a cancer that appears to be spreading in the wake of the many who refused to give solidarity. This now leaves the way for two classes of working people: those who are for justice and those who are pleased to appease the State at all costs. As for those who sit on the fence, those who talk but don't do: they have sold out and are to be as despised as much as those blacklegs who took management money, accepted government advice and helped create the laws for the entrapment of their sisters and brothers.

But, as it becomes more and more obvious how much the government is prepared to go to achieve total defeat on the miners, it is equally obvious that there is no such thing as too late. One week of all-out strike action or a longer period of selective action in key plants from the power workers could bring this strike to an honourable end. Indefinite action by workers in other key industries (eg, rail, the docks, etc), would have the same affect. IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO CHANGE TACK AND TO SECURE A VICTORY. Nor is it too late for those who have fallen to scabbing to act with honour and join their erstwhile comrades on the picket lines.

The consequences of this strike will be faced for years: not content with a victory at the Falklands, not content with changing the face of trade unionism, not content with securing nuclear fortresses in the wake of a planned Military State, not content in creating a vast sub-class of wageless and lower waged, this government seeks the breakup of communities and to impose the strict obedience to central authority.

This need not be so. We have the power to stop it. We have the power to send all these megalomaniacs packing. We've the power to curb the trend to greater poverty and injustice. We have the power through our collective action. And when we use that power, those who only know how to exploit and how to create suffering - these mandarins of Business and State - will tremble and capitulate, providing our will and our determination is sufficient.

It is never too late to act in the interest of justice. The miners need our physical support now - they need not words but industrial action. Not one day strikes, but indefinite strikes. Not just money and food, but action that could have ended this strike 11 months ago.

But if such industrial support is still not forthcoming then it will be up to those of us at rank and file level, those of us who are part of the wageless 'sub-class', and those of us who have stood by the miners from the moment the strike began, to join together on March 6 to make certain this government knows the extent and depth of anger our class feels. Whatever else happens we should make March 6 a day that will truly commemorate the strike. March 6 should be a Day of Direct Action, throughout the country. And in London, where a mass march is planned to head for Whitehall - where the strike began in its embryo - nothing less than major disruption and a blockade of parliament itself - reminiscent of the near-storming of the House of Commons that took place last summer - will be good enough.

N.B. February 24 is also a day when many miners and support groups from around the country are planning to converge on the capital. Whether this day or the anniversary itself proves to be a day for massive retaliation remains to be seen.

Angry Words

"We decided to plant the explosives on the electricity pylon north of Maltby in order to damage the pylon, disrupt the Supergrid link from the Midlands to the North East, and to show that the system is vulnerable.

We see the state employing here the techniques of repression developed and practised against the people of Ireland. But we too have learnt lessons from the Irish struggle.

As we move towards open CLASS WAR, you will not find us unprepared!

VICTORY TO THE HIT SQUADS. Teeside, Humberside, join the ANGRY SIDE.

ANGRY BRIGADES
RESISTANCE MOVEMENT
IRSM."

(The above communique may be genuine or a hoax. For obvious reasons we destroyed the original letter and envelope.)

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Peeved Griffin

Cambridge graduate Nick Griffin, member of the National Front Directorate and editor of the NF's Nationalism Today, is using his well-to-do family farmstead (Hill House Farm, Huntingsfield, Suffolk) as a temporary training camp for 'third positionist' type fascists. Griffin fancies himself as a potential 'strategy of tension' organiser for the UK and is still seen openly cavorting with visiting Italian operatives.

Just lately though Griffin has been caught up in somewhat more local concerns. After a series of assaults on Black people in the Suffolk vicinity and an NF attack in the Ipswich area on people collecting for the miners (in one incident 7 thugs battered an elderly man, but were then laid into by a lone miner; later another visiting miner was set upon by NFer's), a local CND activist and anti-fascist, Brenda Shelley, had her home firebombed by Griffin's cronies after she had refused to accept an invitation by Griffin to an open debate (note: Black Flag received a similar open invitation last year, which we too turned down) on nuclear weapons. Her home was badly damaged.

Unfortunately the local MP is Eldon Griffiths, arch right-winger and spokesperson for the Police Federation, who had dismissed earlier calls for preventative action to be taken against Griffin after Ms Shelley had received intimidatory threats. Griffin, it seems, has police immunity too. Like the magazine Searchlight, perhaps this NF luminary gets police favours not for nothing?

Sabotage

Three men have been jailed, one for three years, after being convicted of arson on a police communications mast in North Yorkshire.

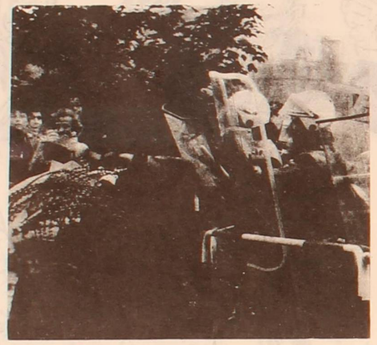
The three - all CND supporters - allegedly believed that the mast was part of the Fylingdales Early Warning System. Cutting through a security fence the saboteurs poured petrol and diesel oil on to a protective building and set it alight. Altogether over £200,000 worth of damage was reportedly caused, while the overall effect was to completely sabotage eight channels of communication used by the local police force and fire service.

Cell Death

After four hours in his remand cell in Brixton prison, Michael Bird was found dead. He was supposed to have hung himself from his cell window by the torn waistband of his jeans. A 'suicide' verdict was returned by a Coroner's jury.

On February 12 a picket to protest his death was held outside the prison. It was organised by Inquest, the group that specialises in campaigning into prison deaths.

In the last two years there have been a total of 10 deaths in Brixton gaol, another died from a heart attack and one more from causes that are officially 'a mystery'. Further details on 'deaths in custody' can be got from INQUEST, United Campaigns for Justice, Ground Floor, Alexandra National House, 330 Seven Sisters Road, Finsbury Park, London N4 2RJ.



Assassins/Pseudo-Gangs

An interesting short piece in Lobster, the investigative magazine favourably reviewed in one of our previous issues, on an outfit known as WORLD VISION. Having links with the CIA, USAID, etc and having set up 'refugee camps' on the Honduran/Nicaraguan border, World Vision, vowedly anti-communist, also has proven links with Cuban-exile terror groups, Omega 7 and Alpha 66. Interestingly a World Vision board member is John Hinckley Snr, the father of Reagan's attempted assassin, while Mark Chapman, the assassin of John Lennon, was a World Vision employee. No wonder conspiracists are speculating that the outfit is a cover agency for dirty tricks/assassinations, etc.

The spook-watchers in issue 7 of this well documented paper harbour an interesting view on the application of Kitson's pseudo-gang theory. In addition to attributing the '74 Birmingham pub bombing to British Intelligence (the bombing was the ideal 'shock-horror' necessary to secure the passing of the already prepared Prevention of Terrorism Act; at the time Black Flag also revealed information implicating a Security Service/Fascist alliance) and the Dublin car bombings (prior to Republican Government anti-IRA legislation), speculation is also given as to which of the trotskyist groups in Britain are agencies of the state, set up to split the labour movement. Their bet is on the Militant Tendency (aka Tapeworm Tendency), which we have always insisted are to the right of the labour movement, not on it's 'left'.

Security

Operation Yealstead - the name of the operation involving over 3000 troops and police to take and secure RAF Molesworth and to evict 100 peace-campers - was devised last year and approved by Defence Minister Heseltine. Requiring more troops than was needed to take Port Stanley during the 'Battle of the Falklands', the overreactive nature of the operation was confirmed when it was later revealed that a contingent of armed police were on standby because of 'intelligence reports' that some of the Peace Convoy people were armed with 'shotguns and machetes'. This was not the case and one suspects that police press liasion personnel leaked this information in order to detract 'violent types' from any future actions at the base.

At the same time it was perfectly clear that the degree of force used to take Molesworth from such a small, relatively defenceless, group of Peace Campers, was totally disproportionate and therefore the exercise was more of a public demonstration of State might and power and of future intention, rather than an operation to solely achieve any short-term end.

State paranoia is further compounded in terms of the extensive precautionary measures that have been and will be taken prior to the Spring and Summer protests. In addition to the alleged extra-strengthened 3m high metal fences surrounding the base, 16 watchtowers will be erected at intervals, a permanent force of 200 MoD police will be on shift duty, latest technology (including infra-red sensors and thermal imaging devices) is to be deployed to assist surveillance, and full use will be made of a new trespass law (carrying heavy fines/imprisonment), road blocks (as seen during the Miners Strike) and, as a contingency measure, 'mutual aid policing' via the National Reporting Centre.

With this scenario the government hopes that no mass protests will get anywhere near the base and that individual 'adventurists' will be deterred by the 'fortress' capability.

Furthermore it has been revealed that 'processing centres' are being set up to deal with mass arrests. Also, as with the Miners Strike, we can expect preventative policing on the lines of arrests of 'potential' protesters whose 'intention' is to commit an offence. This catch-all tactic was used to arrest pickets on their way to picket lines and has also been used against individual protesters at the 'Stop the City' actions

These defensive measures by State forces are a sign of the way the increasingly militarised State is organising to crush dissent. The Nuclear State is no longer a reference to mere weaponry powers or national military strategy, but a description of a new escalation of centralised 'order' that will make the nightmare of the 'Model West Germany' look more like a daydream.

N.B. With the restriction of 'Cruise Watch' people from the county of Wiltshire, the tendency of imposing restrictions on the free movement of defendants as part of their bail conditions (as seen so vividly during the Miners strike, in an attempt to criminalise picketing) is on the increase.

Power Plants Short

Drastic measures were clearly necessary when the decision was made to commence the coal convoys to move massive supplies out of the largely strike-bound Silverwood and Thurcroft pits in South Yorkshire to supplant the dwindling coal stocks at the Trent Valley power stations in Nottinghamshire. The cold weather and the strike must at last be having an effect, biting into the government's contingency arrangements.

The convoy operation took place at dawn and in total secrecy. It is unclear - given the obvious requirement for secrecy - whether those driving the trucks were plain old scabs or police/army personnel.

Nevertheless word got around quick enough and over 200 gathered to picket. The police, of course, were out in large numbers to ensure that the trucks got their safe passage. The destination of the trucks was Cottam Power Station. Neither Silverwood or Thurcroft have enough scabs to produce coal - but stocks are being moved across picket lines, and the CEGB have indicated that further regular movements from these pits and other pits in South Yorkshire are likely over the next few weeks.

The next power stations in line to receive scab coal are: Drax A, Eggborough and Ferrybridge C, all in the Aire Valley near to the Selby Coalfield. All three stations are currently down to their minimum.

In the meantime it has been reported that the Grid is under strain and that the switch-over to oil/nuclear power in compensation for the low coal stocks, is at its maximum.

The NUM may well be outlawed from organising mass picketing at certain pits, but the law is there to be broken or, at least, circumscribed: mass picketing can be (and is) organised through the rank and file membership and through the support network - a much more difficult set-up for the law to nail down. If the government is allowed to get away with criminalising mass picketing (and demonstrations) they will get away with anything.

N.B. Many miners are now ignoring the Court ruling limiting numbers of pickets. At three of the pits named in the ban - Maltby, Rossington and Dinnington - police reinforcements were called in to deal with excess numbers.

SIEGE OF HOUSE OF COMMONS, SUMMER '84 - see front page story.

Lorries Stopped

There was a mass picket of Tilbury Power Station, with about 1,500 people, while later in the day, the NCB, Price Waterhouse and DHSS buildings were picketed and heckled.

The evening before, after leafletting Fleet St. workers, with little response, 30 people, including East London DAM members, picketed Kings Cross Station. A good number of lorries pulled up, as well as taxi drivers. 2 people were arrested for obstruction, when police realised the action was effective. Then a SOGAT official turned up, and told the drivers the picket wasn't official, after which some of them started going in.

Occupation

A group of people occupied the FNV (Dutch TUC) headquarters and took over the office of the FNV President. The occupation was carried out in support of the British miners. Those who took part made it clear that they wouldn't leave until a boycott on coal exports to Britain was installed. Some miners from Silverdale and Royston were there and supported the cooccupation.

The FNV President, by the name of Kok, then called the police and a total of 61 arrests were made, although as a matter of tactics the miners were allowed to escape. All those who were arrested refused to give names, although they were all forcibly fingerprinted and photographed.

Minors Join Miners

On the same day a mass protest is planned in London to commemorate the anniversary of the Miners Strike, a nationwide protest is being organised by the young in protest at schooling.

The day has been designated national 'Fuck School Day'. Apparently leaflets publicising the protest have been circulating schools around the country. Some participants have suggested that as a result of this initial publicity some schools have already faced retribution in the form of disruptions, arson attacks, etc and that teachers have been instructed to work out means of combatting the rise in tension.

A campaign leaflet refers to the Miners anniversary protest: 'If the strike is still on there will be mass pickets and it would be good if some of the filth normally on picket lines were diverted to urban areas to police the large scale disruptions and hopefully disturbances that we desire.'

The leaflet goes on to say, 'we want to encourage boycotts, occupations, and other mass actions. The ideas contained in the various 'Wreckers Guides' are a good base' and 'It may be possible for some pupils to boycott lessons in the mining communities as an outright show of support for the strikers...'

Head Hunting

Unreported in the British press the head of Margaret Thatcher was stolen. Unfortunately it turned out to be the wax version, taken from Madame Tussauds. But the story didn't end there. The head then appeared in Amsterdam, outside the British Consulate.

On January 10 the Consulate received a phone call claiming there was a bomb outside the building. Sure enough a bomb-shaped object was placed outside, except on closer examination it turned out to be the said head, mutilated with bullet holes and tomato ketchup. Attached to it was a message, 'If Thatcher doesn't do a u-turn about the miners, this is going to happen to her'.

Carrington

'Arrived at Bold Miners' Welfare with five other anarchist comrades to be told our destination. The convenor adds that 2 Bold pickets have just been jailed at Bolton Court the previous Friday and urges that we keep it peaceful.

A red dawn over the refineries as we finally reach the power station. A small access road, 50 of them and 500 of us mean our prospects look good. Three coal wagons go through the restless jeers. Some of us move across the road nearer the gate.

The next scab wagon appears. Suddenly we move into the road. Many on the 'official' side stand staring at us. The cops move in, the lorry halts quickly, surrounded by the police. No chance to unload from the tailgate. Half an hour of pushing follows, the police up against the wagon's front crushed by our force. One or two smashed faces on our side, one cop down and out on the floor. The North West TUC hack, megaphone in hand, pleads angrily with us to get off the road. "Fuck the officials!" comes the reply.

Someone climbs on to the wagon's step announcing victory. Cheers greet its departure as we take the gates, now closed. Three-quarter of an hour and eight wagons later we leave the sullen cops to themselves just as the dog vans arrive.'

Boycott

A correspondent has sent us news about a ban by the Public Service Union on government revenue collection as a result of a pay claim dismissal by the industrial courts. The claim was rejected using the joint government/employers/unions Prices and Income Accord.

The campaign to sabotage revenue is taking place mainly in public service sectors in Taxation, Customs, Posts and Telecom, involving employees in every main town and city. The tactic is not to collect payments, only to give them out. This means that adverse tax demands are witheld, customs collections are held in abeyance and Postal and Telecom accounts are retained. The estimated cost of the campaign to the government (the employers) is around $1m a day.

Hospital Eviction

South London Womens Hospital, in Clapham, which has been occupied since July 1984, is due to be evicted on or around 15th March. On that day the Outpatients Dept. which has been running throughout the dispute, will be closed, and the District Health Authority will try to use this as an opportunity to take action against the women in occupation. On 21st February, a meeting was held, supported by the striking Barking Hospital cleaners, Thornton View Hospital Occupation (Bradford) Elizabeth Anderson Hospital, Brunsfield Womens Hospital (Edinburgh) Radical Midwives and NUPE. All groups and individuals are urged to visit the hospital, help picketing, put your name on the contact list. The Hospital is opposite Clapham South Tube, and has disabled access.

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

IN A RECENTLY SMUGGLED LETTER FROM HULL JAIL, ENGLAND, PRISONER JOHN BOWDEN WRITES:

Well, I'm able to confirm that the Control Unit concept is just about operational at this end. Much structural refurbishing and a massive tooling-up in security hard-ware has transformed the Segregation or Punishment Block here into a prison officer's paradise of absolute and total physical control and restriction. The Segregation Wing stands alone from the rest of the prison complex, and is massively over-staffed with what are popularly considered here the most authoritarian and officious screws in the entire jail. In the jargon of the prisoner's themselves, the screws have got the place under "heavy manners". Inside the Unit the daily routine is rigidly structured, and all physical movement closely regulated. Only one prisoner at any one time is allowed outside his cell. 'Slopping out' and collecting meals is organised individually in order to prevent any contact or communication between prisoners. A number of closed-circuit TV cameras placed strategically around the inside of the Wing monitor the movement of the individual prisoner whenever he is unlocked. Apart from the customary "strong-box", the Unit also contains a large number of sensory deprivation cells. These are the cells that contain no windows or furniture. Incidentally, the "furniture" in the ordinary cells is made from compressed cardboard. No long-handled brooms or mops are permitted in the Unit. Prisoners are allowed only a small-hand brush with which to clean their cells. No shoes are permitted to be worn by the prisoners inside the Unit - just slippers. Each morning, prisoners are compelled to box their bedding up into a military-style "bed-pack". This I have consistently refused to do, and as a consequence have been placed regularly on a "disciplinary report". The one-hour daily exercise time is taken individually in a small outside cage - overlooked by two TV cameras. Any act or gesture of protest or rebellion on the part of the individual prisoner is always met with an excessive use of physical force and outright violence.

Which brings me to an incident involving myself that took place on the 3rd of January at about 4pm in the afternoon. Earlier in the day I had engaged one of the screws in a heated argument about some aspect of the Unit's routine. Just before being unlocked to collect my tea, I could hear most of the screws gathering on the bottom landing where the food is served out. There was much whispering and hushed conversation going on between them, always an ominous sign. I walked down to collect my food, clearly sensing the violent atmosphere. Nothing was said, or done, until my hands were full with aplate and cup. Then I was provoked into an aggressive argument with a senior screw behind the serving table. As soon as I raised my voice, two screws suddenly rushed at me. I threw my tea aside, and raised my hands in order to defend myself, at which point I was clubbed on the back of the head with a baton. I lost consciousness briefly, and came round face down on the floor. When I attempted to rise, I was kicked repeatedly in the stomach and ribs. A gang of them then pinned me forcibly down, and a "BODY BELT" was strapped around my body. My wrists were cuffed in to each side of the belt, a broad hard leather band that is strapped tightly around the waist. I was then half carried, half dragged, into the "Strong Box". Throughout the incident. a number of prisoners had kept up a steady hammering upon their cell doors in protest. I was locked inside the strong-box. I lay on the concrete floor, my physical movements savagely restricted by the inhuman instrument of torture. A few hours passed, and I suddenly heard them gathering at the door of the strong-box. I struggled to my feet, anticipating another attack. The door opened, and an individual of Governor Grade walked in. He asked me why I had attempted to assault his staff. I denied the lie and protested that I had been attacked and viciously beaten up. He scoffed at my words and said:

> "inside this Unit my staff will not tolerate any show of mindless aggression from men like yourself. It's about time that you learned that further disobedience on your part will always be met with equal or superior force. You will conform, no matter what it takes to achieve that".

I then ran at him and attempted to head-butt him in the face. He turned and fled from the cell. I chased him as far as the cell door, before a gang of screws blocked my path. They punched and kicked me back into the cell. It was impossible to defend myself with my hands cuffed to my sides. I was again left alone inside the box. Before lying down, I used the floor as a toilet, and with my feet spread the excreta around the seam at the bottom of the door. A small plastic chamber-pot stood in one corner of the cell. I smashed it to bits with my feet.

Later that same night the door was again unlocked. This time, they edged it open slowly and furtively. A female member of the prison Board of Visitors stood in the doorway surrounded by screws. She asked me if I was prepared to talk to her. I nodded assent, and she stepped forward, covering the soles of her stylish high-heels with excreta. The smell left her in no doubt what the messy substance was. I explained to her how I had been attacked and beaten. She listened silently, and then turned to the screws asking them if they could release me from the "body belt". They shifted around uncomfortably, and muttered something about "Governor's orders". She then asked me if I had been examined by a doctor. I said I had not. She then left, stepping carefully around the remainder of the excreta. A few hours later, I was released from the body-belt and placed into a sensory-deprivation cell for the rest of the evening. The following morning I was examined by the prison doctor who discovered a large lump and cut on the back of my head. He promised to make a note of it. I was then placed on a "disciplinary report" for throwing my food around on the previous evening, and for "attempting to assault an officer". When led before the jail Governor, I immediately complained to him about being batoned by his staff. He simply said:

> " Well, you can of course make a formal complaint, after I have dealt with you regarding the matter of your own violent behaviour, but I tell you now that as far as I'm concerned, I already believe that you were restrained last night in a proper manner".

I drew his attention at that point to the cut on the back of my head. He responded by saying:

> "My staff tell me that no batons were drawn last night, and I believe them. You *probably cut your head when you were throwing yourself around inside the strong-box last night*".

He then found me guilty of the charges against me, and removed my "privileges", i.e. my personal radio and tobacco, for seven days. The particular screw who I later became convinced had struck me from behind with his baton, suddenly disappeared from the Unit and took up "duties" elsewhere in the prison. No further incidents have yet taken place, but an atmosphere and feeling of open hostility now exists between the screws and myself. Because of this, I keep myself physically fit in preparation for another organised attack upon myself - it's basically all I can do.

I've no idea yet when they intend to officially admit the existence of a Control Unit here, but I am aware that the jail itself is being taken out of the long-term, dispersal system later this year - confirming the suspicion that the Control Units will be situated in local, short-term prisons. They feel the need to lock their dirty work away inside establishments with an otherwise passive and acquiescent prison population - further isolating the men inside the Units themselves. *ONE THING IS CERTAIN. UNLESS THOSE OF US CONTAINED INSIDE THESE PSYCHOLOGICAL TORTURE-CHAMBERS ORGANISE A CONSTANT, AND FULLY COLLECTIVE PROTEST, THE LEVEL OF SCREW VIOLENCE WILL RESULT EVENTUALLY IN SOME OF US BEING KILLED.* Hidden away in these prisons within prisons, the tendency to "throw oneself around a cell" shall inevitably increase.

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THE ITALIAN REFUGEES: The case of Giovanni Di Guiseppe

Will the case of Di Giuseppe, who has been under threat of extradition back to Italy for 'common crimes', and who is being defended in France as a political activist, serve as a pre-text for the French authorities to change their policy towards the Italian refugees?

Will the French Government, after the recent decision to extradite Basques back to Spain, take the question of the Italian refugees in Paris up for a new review? The judicial co-operation between France and Italy doesn't yet look like it will increase the demands of extradition, but it is possible that they want to check out the situation through seemingly insignificant cases, that have in haste been renamed 'ordinary courtcases'.

Giovanni Di Guiseppe has a first hand experience of this: he has been due to be extradited after a Court Order from Paris. He has written an open letter to Laurent Fabius to remind him of the 'peculiarities' in this case, the behaviour of the police. . .and of some judicial matters in connection with the extradition.

Guiseppe is, in principle, a 'common criminal' who has taken advantage of a leave from prison and has sought refuge in Paris. As involved in a hold-up in a pizzeria in Torino in 1979, he was sentenced to 8 years imprisonment. But this revolutionary communist activist (who doesn't belong to any specific faction) is said to have become seriously politically active inside, and he was considered 'political' by the Italian refugees in Paris.

According to these refugees, the police tried very hard, too hard, to make the whole thing look totally straight-forward, that is, to keep up the 'criminal' and not 'political' side. Half a dozen plain clothes cops, plus two Italian 'colleagues' arrived to arrest Guiseppe on the 14th of July 1984. While he was being held in custody, and later when he was being held at Fresnes, he was made propositions about 'co-operation' — he was to infiltrate the Italian circles in Paris. This can't be proven, especially because the official Italian request for him to be extradited naturally only concerns Guiseppe's escape, and his lawyer, Jaques Verges, has tried in vain, to plead the political side of the case.

' The Committee against repression', which supports him, points to 'the criminalisation of the political act and fears that Giovanni will be extradited unnoticed', since he hasn't appealed his case.

Guiseppe's case isn't an isolated one. Enrico Fedele, has also received an extradition court order on September 20th in the Court in Dijon. This court order only deals with some of the charges, since the court has only kept the charges of robbery and illegal possession of guns, and left out the Itlaian accusations of 'participation in armed groups'. Fedele is also considered political by the Italians in Paris. To distinguish between 'common' and 'political' crime in the extradition cases is up to the foreign judges whims, since French judges only control the naming of those crimes that are passed on to them, but they don't investigate the facts or the reasons for these crimes being named. It is difficult however to go further than that without generally throwing suspicion on the dossiers that the foreign colleagues have made.

One last problem, which is stressed by those Italians, still concerning the Basque situation, is the prison conditions in the transalpine prisons. In his letter to the prime minister Giuseppe reminds him that the famous 'paragraph 90', which permits the prison administration to organise the prison conditions according to the individual prisoners attitude, and the threat of 'white torture' which is imposed on 'political activists', especially very strict isolation precautions.

If the French Government allows extradition of Guiseppe and doesn't recognise his demands, it would be very surprising if it took precautions with regard to the prison conditions for a common pizzeria robber.

But the case seems to serve as a trial case for the 200 Italian refugees in Paris, who are determined to stay there with the risk of being confronted with certain approaches from police accompanied by Italian colleagues trying to check out the possibilities, as is supposed to have been the case with the Italian draft-resister, Horacio Valstro, who was arrested in Lyon. He was also encouraged to infiltrate the transalpino refugees' circles. Vallastro was, according to his friends, complaining about this somewhat peculiar interpretation of the European police co-operation.

SOURCE: Liberation
(translated from the French)

These articles were translated into Danish and then translated from Danish to English. The source of the articles was a short pamphlet by the group 'Friends of Enrico Fedele'
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SUPPORT THE BLACK CROSS

BLOOD TAX

The West German Dissident Group, recently formed in Ghent (Belgium) advises that it wants to form an organisation concerned with the interests of Western European political refugees, in particular draft resisters, which it describes as the most widespread form of political dissidence in Western Europe, though it likes to pretend it has no political prisoners or refugees.

The Group also wants to help on issues like the cases of Negri, Radikal, Kroissant, etc, in the struggle against repression, censorship and state terrorism as well as for draft resisters. A founding convention will be organised soon. Details from the West European Dissident Group, Postbus 546, 9000 Ghent, Belgium.

JANUARY OFFENSIVE

HEIDELBERG: A laboratory specialising in genetic engineering is firebombed. Over 100,000DM worth of damage is caused.
STUTTGART: Two RAF members carry out a bombing attempt on a aero-space computer centre, but the bomb exploded too early and RAF activist Johannes Thimme was killed while his comrade, Claudia Wanessdorf, was badly injured. Next day offices adjacent to an IBM office are damaged. There were no injuries.
HOLLAND: The Amsterdam-Munich express stopped by Resistance supporters. It is grafitted, leaflets are given out and the entire action gets prime time media coverage. Later a Defence Ministry building is damaged in Gronigen after a firebomb attack.
PORTUGAL: FP25 claim responsibility for the attack on a W German-Portuguese Luftwaffe base at Beja. There are no injuries caused by the eight home-made bombs, but damage is extensive on homes and cars of W German airmen. FP25 also claim responsibility for a mortar attack on NATO warships in Lisbon harbour. Three mortar bombs are used but all fell short of their intended target. (A second failure by FP25 - last November they missed the US Embassy building, even though 4 shells were fired).
GAUTING: Ernst Zimmerman (arms magnate) executed by a RAF commando. The hunger strike is effectively over, leaving only five to continue for two more days.
BRUSSELS: A CCC car bomb causes $500,000 worth of damage at a US military site at Saint-Stevens-Woluwe.
PARIS: Arms chief, General Rene Audran, assassinated by an Action Directe commando.
HAMBURG: A High voltage mast at a nuclear power plant in Krummel is blasted.
KARLSRUHE: A homemade bomb explodes in a shaft adjacent to a NATO fuel pipeline.
BONN: A RAF bomb blasts an annexe of the French Embassy.

DENMARK

On December 14 there was a demonstration outside the US Embassy in protest against US policy on Nicaragua. To date solidarity has mostly be channeled via the traditional left (buy solidarity coffee, buy a badge, etc). At the demonstration the melee broke into two: the traditionalists making speeches about solidarity and socialism, the activists trying to break the police blockade. The march stewards tried to control things by saying that 'the Embassy wasn't the main enemy'! As no one listened to them the stewards (demonstration guards) were forced to choose sides and began to actively help the police to prevent the activists from getting anywhere near the Embassy. So much for 'socialism'. A week later around 60 people made a raid against the Embassy, stoning the building and smashing the windows. The officials inside were so shocked they began to pull the curtains to, as if that would have stopped the stones. Only a few were arrested.

In Northern Seeland (a conservation area) the politicians have given their blessing to rape of the land. IBM are now building a facility in typical 'good old American style'. However the work of the building has been sabotaged by people who have destroyed building materials, cut off the electricity, burned the work-wagons, etc.

Denmark is a small country and police surveillance is very effective (few bank robbers, for example, get away without being caught). Direct Action in Denmark is more generalised and less specialised - one of our strengths, perhaps. We are hard to spot because we go on living a 'normal' life. The police may well be in large number and they are indeed mobile, but they can't be everywhere! April 30 (Stop Business As Usual Day) is the big one for us. What if everyone agreed to do someting at the same time, but in different parts of the country? They couldn't stop us!

SOURCE: Direkte Aktion (and others)

GREECE

Dear Comrades,

We send you one more letter to inform you about the luck of the people arrested after the riots of December 4th.

We have not had the opportunity to read anything about them but we were informed by other comrades that none of them are in prison. We suppose that they are awaiting the day of their trial. On the other hand Photis Danatos is still in prison but no support committte has been formed...

Another event worth mentioning is the conviction of three activists that the police accused of running an unlicensed radio station, called 'Mole'. They have been sentenced to five months each and are awaiting the Apeeal Court.

One more activist was sentenced to seven months imprisonment for running a radio station (unlicensed), called 'Free Radio'. Four others were acquitted but he now waits a trial with the Appeal Court.

On 26 January one more trial against 12 demonstrators took place. They had been arrested on November 16 1980 after widespread rioting that resulted in the murder by the police of two demonstrators. After spending around four years on bail, their trial has now been postponed until April 4. On the day before the trial anarchists and leftists made a demo of support for the defendants. This demo resulted in riots too.

Fraternal Greetings.

Philip and Sophia Kiritsis.
(The above letter has been edited)

PETE MASTIN'S 'FACTION' SERIES HAS NOT BEEN FORGOTTEN. NEXT IN THE SERIES WILL APPEAR IN OUR NEXT ISSUE.

BARCELONA 2

Even just by keeping your eyes open you can see that everything is getting worse. If you read the papers and get into conversations the overall picture is near breaking point. Some of the facts. In the north (Asturias, Galicia and Euskadi), where the government is throwing people out of work in order to modernise the workplaces over a 'three year period', there has been a general strike - in which the CNT took an active part. That was Wednesday 12 December.

80% of modern industry in Euskadi, the second most important industrial centre in the Peninsular, was paralysed. Three workers in a Bilbao shipyard are now on their fifteenth day of a hunger strike in protest against the forced sackings. The socialist trade union UGT, which of course can't support the above actions, has lost almost all its credibility in the north, and the communist union, the CCOO, is not being sufficiently supportive. Interestingly enough, no reports seem able to pin down the vast number of organised protest actions over the whole of the north to any one party. The protest is generalised and widespread and has its roots in the affected communities, as this reconversion issue is one which would cripple whole towns, entire city districts.

Here in Catalonia the government has announced its reconversion plan in just one more town on the outskirts of Barcelona. Immediately all the workers in the affected factory went on strike and the local shopkeepers closed their shops in support. They are still closed. Meanwhile a recent report shows that one in every five Spanish workers are out of work (already, as it were, never mind the extra ones the socialist state has in mind) and in a meeting of the unemployed collectives from all over the peninsular (in which the CNT-AIT also plays a large part) a conclusion was reached and published in a press communique: "The truth is that we find ourselves with a socialist government which has turned into an agent of capital without any serious wish to solve this problem. We are opposed to so many 'social pacts', and also to so much 'restructuring'". In all of Spain, with a population of 36 million, there are 2,700,000 out of work. In Catalonia the overall situation is slightly worse: 432,000 out of work in a country of 5 million! Which could explain why in Barcelona alone there are 800 ne heroin addicts every month.

The CNT have (fairly!) recently held two demonstrations. One in Barcelona on 29th November. About 3000 turned up and walked up the Ronda Sant Pau (something equivalent to the Old Kent Road). Later in the Placa de Catalunya there was the traditional slashing of bus tyres. On December 18 there was another demonstration in Madrid, involving around 1500 people. The slogans were 'A 35 hour week instead of unemployment', 'Turn military expenses inro more jobs' and 'The social pact is working for capital'. The event (which went smoothly, apart from a small group of fanatics lurking in a church doorway who tried to snatch the demonstrators' banners in the name of Christ) ended with an appeal for solidarity and direct action. Latest news is that a new wave of general strikes have started in Cadiz, again against the reconversions, and initiated by the CNT.

M.T.