



C★OUNTER INFORMATION

Be X-tra Alert!

WHO'S IN charge of the future? The ability to drastically alter the genetic makeup of plants, animals, microorganisms and humans lies in the hands of governments and multinationals.

Between 1945 and 1969 over 200 secret biological experiments were conducted by the US military e.g. 1950- US navy attacks San Francisco for 6 days with bacteria. Now big money backs genetic research.e.g.1987- Argentina, a US based business arranged for a genetically modified microorganism to be injected into cows without the Argentine government's knowledge. Later 17 cowhands, who unknowingly handled the cattle and drank the milk, were infected by the virus.

Scientists assess the risks of side effects and accidents caused by unnatural gene transfers from one species to another to be unlimited. Unpredictable effects occur when a new gene is inserted. The methods used sometimes destabilise the host's DNA and lead to unplanned gene transfers to other species, including mammals. This could create new diseases. Bacteria genetically engineered to produce large amounts of a food supplement, tryptophan, produced toxins that killed 37 people and permanently disabled 1,500 in the USA.

Processes such as cross-pollination, where newly introduced genes can cross to other species, has already led to the creation of "super" weeds and soil bacteria which displace existing species. Health damaging effects caused by genetic engineering will be passed onto all future generations of a species.

FREE THE FIELDS

Unless we can stop it! By September people had entered 38 fields of genetically modified crops to decontaminate the sites.
• May '98 A large X is sited into a genetically modified oil seed rape crop in Aberdeen. In Norwich a crop squat is established complete with campsite, organic gardens and info-centre.
• June '98 Crops have been pulled up in Norfolk, Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire, Worcestershire and Penicuik, Scotland.

There are currently about 300 test sites of genetically modified crops in the UK with about 70% of them controlled by just 4 multinationals. (Monsanto-110, Argevo/PGS-71, Novaris/Hillshog-26 and Sharps International Seeds Ltd.-24). You can find out where these sites are at F.O.E. website (www.foe.co.uk) or ring the Biotechnology Unit (0171 890 5275/5277).
Info on resistance - Genetic Engineering Network, PO Box 9656, London N44JY 0181 374 9516.

No 51 Autumn/Winter 1998 Free/donation

Global markets

Time to fall

AS MARKETS crash, the gap between poor and wealthy the world over grows more and more. One man, Bill Gates, owner of Microsoft, could buy a year's worth of groceries for every US household below the poverty line. But he wouldn't, would he?

The global meltdown in world economies started last year in Thailand and has spread throughout the Pacific Ring hitting countries such as South Korea, Indonesia and Japan, spreading to South America, namely Venezuela (lower demand for oil output) and Brazil (hyper inflation).

Bizarrely world economists haven't noticed the grinding poverty already in existence in these "developing" countries. They only seem interested in the company shares and profits going bust. Little is said about entire communities who may be devastated due to some corporation "cutting losses" in order to keep profits high.

Since the ending of East European "Communism" the wealthy West poured in billions of dollars to Russia. The intention: to exploit what was perceived as a low wage economy and hoping to hoist profit margins even higher. But it has all backfired. Western banks are now afraid Russia will never pay these loans back.

Throughout the Far East economies have been devastated by the devaluation of their currencies. Countries such as Indonesia have seen rioters attacking businesses and reclaiming luxury goods. The downside of this is that a proportion of the rioters mistakenly blamed local Chinese migrants for this global problem by attacking them.

But despite all this cut and run by global banks and corporate institutions trying to protect their "investment" and profits, it has been resisted by workers the world over.

South Korea

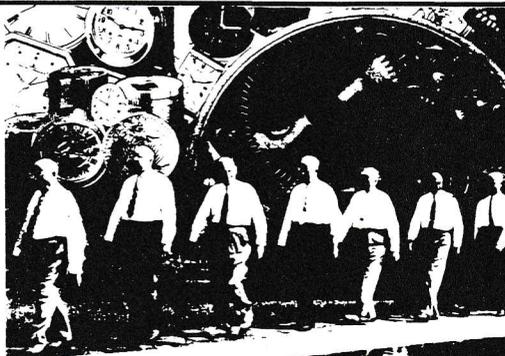
The S. Korean government - with the co-operation of the Trade Unions - is implementing austerity measures demanded by the International Monetary Fund. Since new laws permitted layoffs, numerous strikes have erupted against sackings.

May Day, Seoul - our correspondent writes: A demonstration of over 25,000 is stopped marching by thousands of police. 1,000 demonstrators use iron bars to resist. The demo, including steel workers, car and telecom workers, sacked workers, students and housing groups, was organised by the Korean Congress of Trades Unions with the slogan "No more job losses"

July 20: 26,000 workers from the Korean Metal Workers strike against Hyundai's attempt at mass lay offs. At Hyundai's main plant in Ulsan, 5000 workers and families occupy the car plant. The government sealed off the city and mobilised 15000 police to prevent supporters from reaching the plant. Riot police were also deployed in Incheon, where the Taewang, Hanyoung, and Kooryo companies all had striking workforces.

After the workers repulsed a 15,000-strong
CONT. BACK PAGE FOOT COL.1

Employment : a prison of stolen time



STUFF THE NEW DEAL

No wage slavery

No dole slavery

Let's work to run society without bosses, for people not profit
EDINBURGH CLAIMANTS 0131 557 6242

Contact us c/o Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh, 17 W.Montgomery Place, Edinburgh EH7
Open Tues 12-4pm, Wed & Sun 2-6pm. acc@punk.org.uk www.punk.org.uk/ec/

Above : Edinburgh Claimants poster against the New Deal. This workfare scheme compels 18-24 year olds unemployed over 6 months to work for under £55 per week.

On 9 July Anti Job Seekers Allowance groups, plus Earth First! people, demonstrated against the New Deal at Moss-side Job Centre, Manchester.

20 people occupied the Welsh Labour Party Head Office on 15 June during the Cardiff Euro Summit - international attacks on benefits need international resistance. Groundswell - Manchester, Dept 99, 1 Newton St., Manchester M1 1HW. Brighton vs Benefits Cuts, Po Box 2536, Rottingdean, Brighton BN2 6LX



A WORLD TO WIN

OPPOSING PATS

Anger erupted around Australia as 1,400 dockers were sacked in April by the main docks company, Patricks. In a military style operation 17 sites were secured by security guards to prevent occupations.

Within a week, mass pickets were organised in Sydney & Melbourne docks. With companies such as Toyota disrupted the Courts were forced to order that scab workers be replaced by reinstated dockers.

BANK WITHDRAWAL

Underground activists supporting the tubeworkers strike in London climbed aboard a roof of a scab train and halted the Central line at Bank station. three activists were arrested. Signs were changed to "laughing all the way to the Bank".

SHOWING THEIR METTLE

7 car plants in South Africa including BMW, Delta & Toyota were shut down by a metalworkers strike on 7th August.

POPLAR UPRISING

A housing development in Nantwich, Cheshire has been opposed by a newly formed freezone determined to save black poplar trees and hedgerows.

Meanwhile Toytown camp started up early August to defend a wood threatened by Waitrose Supermarket chain in downtown Cheltenham [01242-525280] toytown@stones.com

The planned supermarket at Tysak site in south Sheffield was occupied by local people fed up with a spate of supermarkets within their area. They held a festival of football, cricket and organised a makeshift cinema.

RUNWAY RESISTED

An anniversary action at Manchester 2nd runway led to a stoppage of work. A camp was set up to save Arthurs Wood threatened for reasons of 'visibility'. [Earth First 9/98]

SALAMAI

A celebration of resistance against the Multilateral Agreement on Investment [see CI 50] took place in Quebec on May 1st. Actions included shutting down the Conference de Montreal on Globalised Economics [see August issue of Industrial Worker] In Hyderabad, on May 2nd, 200,000 workers, peasants and tribespeople marched against the World Trade Organisation. To coordinate anti-MAI action, UK: chris.keene@which.net

AIRSPACE FOR PROTEST

Over 80 protestors were removed after effectively disrupting the British Aerospace AGM in London on April 24th. Kurdish demonstrators managed to stage a minute's silence - during the mayhem - for murdered relatives.

NEISSE ONE

300 activists have attempted to disrupt 'Fortress Europe' at Goerlitz in eastern Germany. 'Alternative' border crossings were temporarily established by "No one is Illegal".

VILLAGE OF STRUGGLE

Victory was achieved by 20,000 villagers in Madya Pradesh, central India in February '98 against State plans to submerge 61 villages and land by building a dam on the Narmada River.

Reclaim the Planet

May 16th 1998 saw the first Global Street Party, responding to Transnational Companies increased attempts to dismantle National limitations on trade and the free movement of capital.

The day the G8 Group of World leaders met in Birmingham discussing how to further lower our wages and environmental standards, and further increase their profits, a variety of acts of defiance took place in over thirty cities worldwide. These varied from traditional Reclaim The Streets tactics of blocking off major roads with tripods and sheer weight of numbers, to Critical Mass bicycle protests, marches, rallies, and

riots. The most radical actions took place in Prague where 3000 partied, smashed up a cop car, billboards, and McDonalds, with 40 people arrested, and in Geneva where banks, jewellers, were attacked before a standoff with riot cops near the headquarters of the World Trade Organisation.

In Birmingham the G8 summit was relocated, as 5000 people blocked off the busy Bull Ring road surrounded by a heavy police presence. Other cities including Ljubljana, Sydney, Toronto, Tel-Aviv, Stockholm, Lyon, Utrecht, and Brisbane showed their opposition to the Globalisation, which threatens to shift power even fur-

RELIGION REFUTED...



THEY CALL IT SUICIDE - WE CALL IT MURDER

ON 5TH March 1998 the Italian police arrested 3 anarchists. They were charged with sabotage actions against the construction of the unpopular high speed railway through the Val di Susa in Piedmont, part of a major European Union project. Now only one of the three remains alive.

Edoardo Massari died in the Vallette prison in Turin on 28 March. The authorities said he had hanged himself. Maria Soledad Rosas hanged herself on 11 July while under house arrest in a residential home.

The surviving prisoner, Silvano Pelissero, following a month long hunger-strike and a demo at the maximum security prison of Novara, near Turin, was transferred on 22 July to house arrest.

State repression has met resistance. During the 5 March arrests police attempted to evict 3 self-managed social centres in Turin. Occupiers defended one centre, and later re-occupied the other two.

7,000-10,000 from all Italy demonstrated in Turin on 4 April, following Edoardo's death. The

evening of Maria's death there were unauthorised demos and barricades in the streets of Turin and Rome. Plus many other actions.

Solidarity actions in Athens, Greece on 28 July saw 10 cars burnt out at the Italian embassy and at 2 Italian car agencies.

"The new world that every anarchist carries in their heart cannot ever be suffocated by the walls of a prison cell."

Quote from *Umanita Nova*, Corso Palermo 46, 10152 Torino, Italy. fat@inrete.it El Paso occupato, via Passo Buole 47, 10127 Torino elpaso@ecn.org A-Infos www.ainfos.ca/



Release Leonard !

400 activists rallied outside the White House on June 27th to highlight the plight of native

ther from the individual into the hands of unaccountable Big Business.

A Worldwide Day Of Action on Friday June 18th 1999 has been called, to coincide with next years G8 meeting in Koln, Germany. The actions should occur in the major financial districts of each city, or at the headquarters of a Multinational near you, organised autonomously by a diverse range of local groups. *Go for it!*

"The Struggle for car-free space must not be separated from the struggle against global capitalism. The streets are as full of capitalism as of cars and the pollution of capitalism is much more insidious." - *Reclaim The Streets*, PO Box 9656, London N44JY Tel 0171 281 4621 rts@gn.apc.org

• June saw 2 major simultaneous Reclaim the Streets actions in north and south London, with thousands successfully reclaiming space in Tottenham and Brixton.

Angry Youth

"UNPAID WORK experience is exploitative of you, why should you work hard to please a scrooge employer when he/she thinks so little of you that you do not even deserve to be paid?" say the newly-formed Angry Youth group. They urge fellow school students to resist work experience, by refusing to participate or by demanding the same wages as paid staff. **Angry Youth, c/o 17 West Montgomery Place, Edinburgh EH75HA angry@punk.org.uk**

american, Leonard Peltier. Imprisoned for 22 years, he was refused medical treatment for excruciating jawpain, while also denied parole. A clemency petition has been ignored for 5 years by the U.S. Federal Government.

Put the State in the Pen

U.S. Federal judges found against Pennsylvania Department of Corrections and the role of the Fraternal Order of Police in violating the 'rights' of Mumia Abu-Jamal on August 25th. Despite this Mumia faces a new execution date from Governor Ridge: *Committee to save Mumia Abu-Jamal* 163 Amsterdam Ave., No.115, New York, 10023-50001 tel. 001-212-580-1022. fthorstmann@msn.com

Anti-Fascist brutalised

Chris Plummer was jailed for 15 years for actions against nazi-skinheads. His sentence was for burglary. In prison he has been brutally attacked for setting up an anarchist library and anti-fascist prisoners group. Chris Plummer 677345, Hughes unit, Rt.2 Box 4400, Gattsville TX 76597 USA.

WHY THE SLEDGEHAMMER ?

The Omagh bombing was an outrage, whether calculated or part-accidental. It showed the depths that 'armed struggle' sects can reach when ordinary people are viewed as expendable pawns.

Almost as sickening was the audacity of Bill Clinton and his shoe-shine boys, Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern, to manipulate the grief for their own ends. The British and Irish Governments have given new powers to already discredited police chiefs to incriminate the accused - making further Guildford 4 and Birmingham 6 injustices possible.

The U.S. Government, the biggest State terrorist worldwide, acted in a cavalier and brutal fashion in it's pursuit of ex-Afghanistan CIA collaborator Osama Bin Laden by targeting a medicine factory in Khartoum, Sudan. The Nairobi and Dar-es-salaam bombings in east Africa were on a par with Omagh [and Oklahoma]. U.S. hegemonic power is expressed as the right to obliterate demons without observing the conventions of international legalities.

PICKETLINE REPORT

On 3rd August, Glasgow Social Work staff took unofficial action in response to the heavy handed actions of management who had suspended three workers.

Social Work staff had previously taken a decision to boycott the work associated with unfilled vacancies and to refuse to co-operate with the transfer of the Home Help service to a new department of Cleaning & Domestic Care Services, believed to be a step towards privatisation.

Management's response to the action was to pick on two Home Care workers in the Govan office and on an admin. worker in Dennistoun office and bully them into submission. They refused to carry out management orders. They were immediately suspended without pay and threatened with further disciplinary action.

Across the city angry workplaces walked out on unofficial action in their support.

Management's initial response was to announce that they could sustain a prolonged strike and refused to back down. Unison, nationally were totally silent on the action, failing even to criticise the tactics of management. Meanwhile



the press went into overdrive to condemn the strike and to demonise the strike committee in an attempt to divert from the real issues.

Defiantly, the workers resolved to fight on, demanding the unconditional reinstatement of their colleagues, with daily meetings of 2,000 strikers in assemblies. It was through participation at these mass meetings that confidence & strength grew, with residential and day care sections joining in solidarity.

On Friday 7th August the Labour controlled Glasgow City Council used the Tory anti-strike legislation to obtain a court order declaring the action illegal and threatening to sue the Glasgow Unison union branch and strike committee members for the costs of the strike. At this stage the national union repudiated the action of the strikers and wrote to all strikers asking them to return to work.

Faced with no support from their national leaders, legal action from their employer, and damning media coverage, a mass meeting on 10th

Paris the Belgian tourist Board was occupied by 30 activists on 24th September. On 25th Sept. a picket led to a street occupation and a confrontation with the CRS riot cops. www.ainfos.ca/

Sans Papiers

Despite the 'regularisation' policy conceded by the French 'Socialist' Government [see CI 49] the fairer hearings have not materialised. 29 members of the 3eme collectif des sans papiers went on hunger strike on June 16th to highlight the situation.

August resolved a return to work. The meeting then marched *en masse* to the City Chambers and then several miles across the river to Govan Due to their solidarity, the three suspended workers were reinstated and threats of disciplinary action withdrawn.

The Union held a ballot which defused the mood leading to a slender majority against further action against the transfer of the home helps. Despite this outcome, the dispute illustrated that solidarity and determination can breach legal constraints on workers. Further battles on privatisation lie ahead.



SHE'S OUT!

EDINBURGH CLAIMANTS have forced Employment Service management to move notorious bullying Restart interviewer Marianne MacDonald into a job where she cannot harass claimants.

A "3rd Strike" demo was carried out against MacDonald on 11 February by 20 protestors wearing her photo as a mask. Her photo has featured on leaflets and posters. She has since been moved from High Riggs benefit office to the Marketing Section at St Andrews Sq. Job Centre, an office where no-one signs on. A victory for claimants' direct action! 0131 557 6242.

WESTER HAILES Against Racism Project are defying Edinburgh Councils attempts to shut them down by withdrawing all funding. "We refuse to be intimidated by the council." WHARP 16/1 Murrayburn Place, Edinburgh EH14 2RR Tel 0131 458 4135

World to Win

TURNING THE TABLES

Despite attempts by Labour-run Tameside Council near Manchester to distance themselves, the Tameside Care Group have been exposed by sacked careworkers and campaigners determined to oppose the deterioration in conditions. Council meetings have been disrupted and the offices of Trustee Director Jack Thornley occupied on 19 Aug. Info Rose 0411 845507, & see Freedom, which also reports a similar struggle in Ealing, W.London, where 70 OAP's face eviction from Cecil Court Home.

CAPITALISM CONTAMINATES

118 demonstrators were arrested delaying the Jabiluka uranium mine in Australia's Northern Territory reports Freedom 19/9. The site listed as a world heritage site is aborigine land, yet the offshoot of Energy Resources Australia had the arrested charged with 'trespassing'.

ROOTS OF RESISTANCE I

Earth First [9/98] report: Mutant veg invaded Safeways in Taunton. The veg labelled trolleys with "contaminated" and shouted: "resist us if you can" The police were flat-footed!

DISPOSSESSED LIBRETTO

Startled toffs at the home of Sir James Christie in Glyndebourne, West Sussex were gobsmacked when 500 activists from The Land is Ours and ramblers anonymous 'dropped in' on 2nd August. The action is part of a series against the South Downs rich. [SchNEWS]

POLEXED

Activists in Wysoka, Poland to defend local woods from bulldozers on June 4th were unsuccessful in the face of 85 anti-terrorist police and harassment by reactionary skinheads.

PIEARAMA

A spate of anarchistic pieing of celebrities including Jean Luc Goddard and Daniel Cohn-Bendit has erupted since tycoon Bill Gates faced a mass pieing in Belgium.

GRIME AGAINST FASLANE

A dutch, finnish and american protestor swam for 90 minutes across Gareloch, Argyll, to breach security barriers around nuclear submarines on 25th august. In another incident two women liberated a boat from the 'high security area' at Coulport, the site of weapons storage on the River Clyde. The actions were described as "open criminal activity" from closed minds at the Ministry of Defence! 130 'Ploughshare' protestors are defending the Faslane Peace Camp in Argyll from eviction - 01436-820901.

FOOD NOT BOMBS

On Bastille Day, July 14th, direct action to reclaim the United Nations plaza in San Francisco led to 28 being arrested. Info webcom.com/peace

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE P

A partner in a gay relationship has been served with a deportation order. Sorin Mihai, from Romania has been living with his partner from Leeds for 4 years. If he was 'heterosexual' and had been married to a British citizen for over a year he could stay. The Defence campaign contact is POB 417, Leeds LS2 7RX

CLUB SODA

A fascist M.P. in Italy, strolled out of a restaurant in Rome into the path of 200 anarchists fresh from rioting. The nazi bodyguards legged it leaving their Leader to a 'doing'. Police fired weapons into the air scattering tourists.

Deportation Death

Samira Adamu was killed on 22nd September at Brussels airport. The 20 year old Nigerian refugee was suffocated while being 'restrained' before flight take-off to Togo in West Africa. Two police officers are under investigation. She had sought asylum from a forced marriage. This was the second occasion when a pillow was used to prevent her protests to fellow passengers and the flight crew.

In Belgium, mass demonstrations have been held, while in

Full enjoyment not full employment

DIRECT ACTIONS by unemployed people rocked France in early 1998. Unlike the reformist official unemployed associations, some participants want revolutionary change.

In Paris jobless and others took over an amphitheatre at Jussieu University. 100-200 met daily to carry out actions and to discuss.

Some participants write: "We set out to discuss EVERYTHING. Beginning with what ruins our lives: work and its pointlessness (...90% of this society's jobs are useless bullshit), its miserable wages, its hierarchies, its daily horror; and the wretchedness and boredom of un-

employment, ...the flip side of work, a threat held over the heads of workers, forcing them to submit to the economic blackmail."

"Everything is linked to money and profit.....As long as money exists there will never be enough for everyone."

"We need to create another form of society, one in which people will decide on their own activity and production rather than being slaves to the present production system."

These ideas were spread by entering works canteens to talk to workers, during the occupations of unemployment offices etc., and during solidarity meetings with il-

legal immigrants, with wildcat-striking subway cleaners, and with farmers opposing bioengineered corn.

The movement's activities continue, though on a smaller scale, eg • On 31 May 45 people occupied 15 empty houses in Metz.

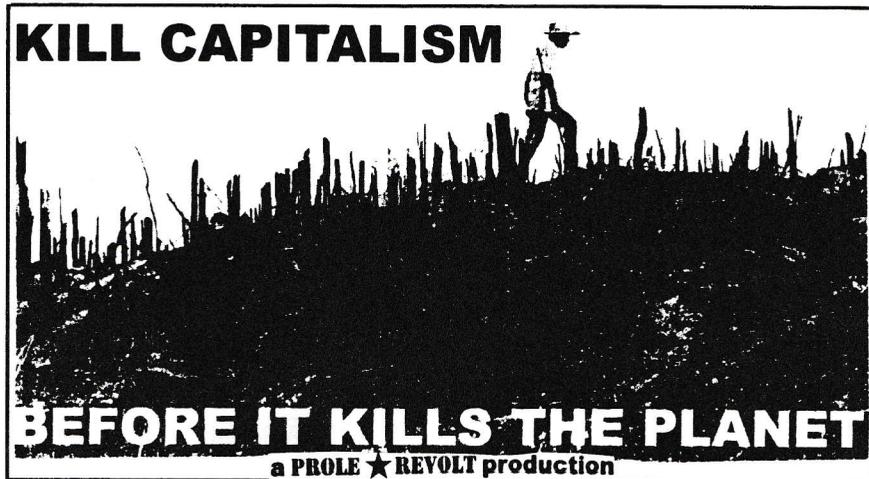
• On 2 and 28 July people invaded the Electricity Board office in Ales (near the Pyrenees), and won concessions for claimants with electricity debts.

Quotes from excellent leaflet by Bureau of Public Secrets, PO Box 1044, Berkeley, CA 94701 USA. TCP, 21ter, rue Voltaire, 75011 Paris. CNT www.altern.com/cnt/

¡Ya Basta! Enough is Enough

Never Forget

CHILDREN OF those 'disappeared' during the Argentine military dictatorship are determined that their parents will not be forgotten. With 26 networked groups across the country, HIJOS - Children for Identity and Justice and Against Forgetting and Silence - are dedicated to exposing detention centres and homes of those responsible for the murder of 30,000 people. With 'democratic' governments having pardoned the armed forces, the Hijos, supported by Mothers of the Disappeared carry-out 'scratches' - actions to indicate the places and people involved in the torture and abductions of their parents. They use paint, posters, leaflets, road signs and jail bars to 'make of every torturer's home a prison cell.'



Chiapas

THE MEXICAN state's 'medium-intensity' war in Chiapas continues against the Zapatista communities. 1000 'communities in resistance' organised into 32 regional autonomous municipalities are surrounded by an estimated 73,000 federal troops and an unknown number of paramilitaries. On June 10, 100s of police, soldiers and paramilitaries entered the community of San Juan de Libertad (formerly El Bosque) bombing the settlement and burning houses. 8 Zapatistas and 2 policemen were killed. Security forces then went to 2 hamlets, Chavajeval and Union Progreso detaining those suspected of being involved. In all, 52 were arrested and many tortured. San Juan de Libertad was the 3rd autonomous municipality to be destroyed in 2 months.

Robbin' Food

THE PERNAMBUCO region of Brazil has seen numerous food-laden trucks held-up by people from the huge Movimento Sem Terra (Landless Peasant Movement). In July, 5 lorries carrying 120 tonnes of food were hijacked by 300 peasants who distributed the bounty amongst the needy in Agroisa, Caxanga, Lagoa Grande and Jacate in Juazeiro. Around 1000 families are occupying 4 estates in Mato Grosso - land that had been stolen from them according to Egidio Brunetto, a member of the Landless People's coordination team. <e-mail: semterra@mail.sanet.com.br>

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

police attack on 18 August, the Hyundai occupation ended on 25 August when unions agreed to massive sackings, "unpaid holidays" for 18 months(!), and "voluntary" redundancies. This was met by a huge wave of anger and fighting between police and workers. The workers voted by 17,123 to 9,360 to reject the deal.

On 3 September 10,000 riot police used helicopters and armoured personnel carriers to violently end the 17 day occupation of 6 Mando Machinery factories.

Indonesia

US-backed President Suharto had to resign in May. 1st July: Workers attack police with rocks and concrete bricks in retaliation to being fired upon with rubber bul-

lets. The 2100 workers of the Gunung Guruda steelworks in Bekasi were demanding better pay and working conditions. They were also supported by 2000 textile workers in the town of Sukoharjo demanding similar aims.

Russia

Public service workers, teachers, fire fighters, have not been paid wages for over 8 months and are threatening strike action. Some workers set up a protest camp in Moscow in August demanding their wages and will continue protest until wages are paid. Elsewhere the new luxury homes of managers have been burnt down. Miners have been blockading road and rail links, protesting 8 months back pay. Russian authorities have said the miners are violating labour laws!

Korean info from A-Infos

Puerto Pobre

AN ESTIMATED half million Puerto Rican public sector workers held a 48-hour strike on 7/8 July in solidarity with telecom workers who'd been on strike for a month in protest at the proposed sale of the public telephone company. The biggest industrial action in the country's history stopped all public transportation, led to disruption of the utility services, closed the docks and shopping centres of the capital San Juan, and saw the main route to the international airport blockaded.

The 6,400 telecom workers received huge support from other public sector workers threatened with privatisation and job losses - 10,000s gathered outside the telephone company's main offices. With real unemployment estimated to be 30%, the public sector is one of the few areas with job stability.

Since WW2, US capital has profited from various initiatives, including the imposition of Section 936 tax codes which offered corporations virtual tax-free status. The conditions of working class people have, of course, remained unchanged, with over 60% of the population below the official poverty line. The NAFTA agreement between the US and Mexico has further undermined the island's appeal to foreign capital as a source of cheap labour.

Back on the streets

After the success of the 'huelga general', the 2 main unions involved - UIET and HEITEL - immediately declared their willingness to negotiate a return to work, shifting the emphasis from fighting privatisation to obtaining a no reprisals deal. The strike petered out with the government still set on the sell-off.

Despite the disappointing end, Puerto Rican workers can take heart from the solidarity and militancy shown throughout the strike in the face of considerable police brutality. The telecom workers' new-found confidence was soon demonstrated - 5 minutes into the first shift after returning to work, 100s were back on the streets in protest at repressive management measures, despite lack of support from their union officials.

GET INVOLVED !

• Scottish anarchist network contacts: Glasgow contacts SAN c/o Box A, Fahrenheit 451 bookshop, Virginia Galleries, Virginia St., Glasgow G1. The Autonomous Centre of Edinburgh/Edinburgh Claimants, 17 West Montgomery Place, Edinburgh EH7 5HA 0131-557-6242 ace@punk.org.uk http://www.punk.org.uk/ace/ [Dundee/Dunfermline/Aberdeen @s via ACE] • 5th May group POB 1681 London N8 7LE (Turkish/Kurdish @'s in exile) • Anarchist Black Cross, c/o 121 Railton Rd., London SE24 (prisoner solidarity) • Anarchist Communist Federation, 84b Whitechapel High St, London E1 7QX • Angry People, PO Box 108, St. Peters, NSW 2044 Australia • Collective Action Notes, PO Box 22962, Balto., MD 21203, USA • Contraflow, 56a Infoshop, 56 Crampton St., London SE17 • Earth First! Action Update, c/o Leeds EFi, Cornerstone Resource Centre, 16 Sholebroke Ave, Leeds LS7 3HB 0113 262 9365 cornerstone@gn.apc.org • Education Worker Network, PO Box 1681, London, N8 7LE • E. Anglia Anarchist Network, PO Box 87, Ipswich IP4 4JQ • Federation Anarchiste, 145 Rue Amelot, 75011 Paris, France • Organise-IWA PO Box 505, Belfast BT11 9EE, Ireland • Haringey Solidarity Group, Box 2474, London N8. 0181 374 5027 • Industrial Workers of the World, 75 Humberstone Gate, Leicester LE1 1WB • Kate Sharpley Library, BM Hurricane, London WC1 3XX • Kommunist Krant!, Majdour Library, Autopin Jhuggi, Faridabad-121001, India • London Anarchist Forum meet every Friday 8pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq, Holborn; London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N1 • Norwich Solidarity Centre/Solidarity Fed.: Solidarity Centre, Room 13, Muspole Workshops, Norwich NR3 1QD • SchNEWS, PO Box 2600, Brighton BN2 2DX; tel/fax: 01273-685913 schnews@brighton.co.uk http://www.cbuzz.co.uk/SchNEWS (weekly news-sheet) • Sheffield Anarchist Group, PO Box 446, Sheffield S1 1NY • Solidarity Fed - IWA, PO Box 493, St. Albans, AL1 5TW • S.Bristol Anarchists, PO Box 1076, Bristol BS99 1WF Books/Pamphlets: Active Distro, BM Active, London WCIN 3XX • AK Distro, PO Box 12766, Edinburgh, EH8 9YE Write to be listed - including anyone we've missed out-sorry! Send see for new pamphlet The Agitator, with group addresses Britain & Ireland-wide.

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