After seven years of Thatcherism, people have been frightened into believing the election of a Labour government is the solution to their troubles. But you only have to look at the French Socialist government (which was elected on a left-wing platform) to see that so-called Socialist parties like the Labour Party do not have the interests of the working class at heart.

France and Spain have shown that when Socialist Parties have to run the economy to the dictates of international capitalism, this means making thousands redundant, introducing austerity measures, and generally restructuring the economy away from heavy industry in favour of high-tech industries with their ever-shrinking workforce.

In the past the Labour Party in opposition has promised improvements in the living and working conditions of ordinary people. History shows that this has never been borne out in practice.

In 1939 the Labour Party stated that "no conscript should be required to take duty in aid of the civil power in connection with a trade dispute, or to perform, in consequence of a trade dispute, any civil or industrial duty customarily performed by a citizen".

Within six days of coming to power in 1945 they used conscript troops to break a 10 week old dock strike in London. Troops were used on at least six further occasions against workers in dispute. The reason behind many of these strikes was a wage freeze, a move backed by the TUC - surprise, surprise! - leaving unofficial action as the only way open for workers to defend their living standards.

The Wilson government in the '60's carried on where Attlee's left off. Despite having a unilateralist party policy they retained US bases and independent nuclear weapons - Wilson decided without even consulting the Cabinet to radically extend the Polaris programme. They did not hesitate to use the troops against the minority community in Northern Ireland and of course it wasn't long before they introduced a wage freeze.

Everyone can remember the last Labour government's TUC backed social contract (or "social con-trick" as the workers called it) which froze wages as prices rose steeply, and was aimed at helping the lower paid. Needless to say the lowest paid were the worst off under the "con-trick" and were forced into the massive wave of strikes known as the "Winter of Discontent". And who can forget the sight of the Green Goddesses as the so-called Socialists used troops to break the firefighters' strike? It was Dennis Healy who first introduced monetarism - a fact conveniently hidden by the Labour Party by renaming it as "Thatcherism". Of course there is a difference between this Labour Party and those that have gone before. In the past they have always promised the world whilst in opposition, only to renege on those promises on coming to power. The new "yuppie" style Labour Party is being more honest - along with the TUC they are already laying down the framework by which they mean to hammer the working class.

Far from repealing the Tory anti-union laws, which are already an attack on basic trade union rights, Labour is seeking to extend them. Included in the Joint Labour Party - TUC document being presented at this year's TUC and Labour Party conferences is a proposal to "lay down general principals for inclusion in union rule books based on a right for union members to have a secret ballot on decisions relating to strikes". The Labour Party is now trying to do what the Tories failed to do - influence dictating to unions what they include in their rule books. In the words of that friend of the working class, the Financial Times: "Never before has the Labour Party been so determined to extend general principals for inclusion in union rule books. In the words of that friend of the working class, the Financial Times: "Never before has the Labour Party been so determined to extend the Polaris programme. They did not hesitate to use the troops against the minority community in Northern Ireland and of course it wasn't long before they introduced a wage freeze.

The Anglo-Irish agreement was finalised last November amidst hypocritical claims that it was an important step to everlasting peace in Ireland. Loyalists saw it as an assault on their precious veto. They had failed to realise that the British state used the veto when it was convenient. However nothing has changed in Northern Ireland, especially the minority community who the agreement was made with. And the minority community have been subject to pogroms, shootings and many estates are regularly raided by the RUC and army on the pretense of looking for arms - in reality these are exercises to show "who's boss". Now in addition the minority community has to cope with the bigotry that the agreement has unleashed especially since the start of the marching season.

When Thatcher replied "no, no, no" to the 3 proposals of the New Ireland Forum it seemed that Loyalists could rest assured that their veto was still intact. Now a year later, should she sign an agreement giving the Irish government an advisory role in the affairs of the 6 counties without even consulting the Loyalists? To answer this we need to look closely at N.A.T.O's interests in relation to Ireland.

**BUILD THE RANK & FILES NOW!**

**HANDS OFF IRELAND!**

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**NATO AND IRELAND**

After the New Ireland Forum's proposals were rejected, Reagan stepped in, having separate meetings with Thatcher and with Fritselder. So it seems likely that U.S./N.A.T.O. policy featured heavily in the Anglo-Irish agreement. It is no surprise that this should happen, as Ireland has the unique position of being the only E.E.C. member that isn't in N.A.T.O. With behind-the-scenes talk of a West European super-state closely linked to N.A.T.O., the Irish government... (CONT'd, PAGE 6)
The Silentnight dispute is now well into its second year and the company is suffering from the effects. Sales are dropping; there is a large stock build-up, prices and productivity which is so low a problem.

The local M.P is asking for these new rules and to have adopt-a-family scheme and are asking for organisations to consider this. This means clothing to a striker's family. For further rules mean that donations to individual strikers' families should be in the form of cash and not food and clothes will get around the pickets' caravan and have police since 1984 - but of course the Sutton was ordered not to appear within 5 miles of the factory. It has come to over the sacking of two men for union activity. The management have brought in a wall down, and get us out at all cost. The strikers are now running an "emergency fund". This dispute, like most others, can go on for a long time. We are going to win.

Many of the strikers are Pakistani and it is encouraging to see that links to the local community have changed. Women and men are working for the first time together in their homes and it is proving that women can work as well as men. This means that we are able to get the work done and to be more productive.

We have not lost any tribunal and we are still waiting for our compensation. We are not being paid for our work and there is no way of checking that no further re-stocking of Silentnight products is taking place. With this in mind, picketing is continuing on Saturday mornings to impress on the companies that the strikers need the solidarity and action and to demand the removal of the stock of Silentnight products from the stores. The CO-OP in Wakefield, Red Row, South London has removed Silentnight products but replaced them when the pickets had left. The CO-OP in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire has cancelled its order for Silentnight products and CO-OP headquarters in Manchester have been leafletted by members of Manchester Strike Support Group in order to encourage CO-OP workers to take supportive action. The strikers who have been picking up goods are in fact ordering Silentnight products throughout the Manchester area.

If the CO-OP is pushed enough, especially if we appeal directly to the rank and file CO-OP workers, then there is a good chance of getting them to black the scab products - which is a major victory for the strikers. Pressure on the CO-OP must be intensified. All retail outlets must be picketed and leafleted - it only needs two or three people per shop. This must be done in a regular and often, not just as a token gesture. Street collections must be organised. Also collections can be made in CO-OP branches. If enough individuals we can order Silentnight products from the local CO-OP and then cancel the order just before it reaches them. If we can get the simple act of ringing up will give us a major advantage in getting the mail order firms to drop their products.

The management of the Silentnight factories have notified by employers has declined from 233 per 100,000 workers in the same industry are being exposed to dangerous practices. It is proved that the bosses are aware of the dangers and they have a moral responsibility to the workers. It is also proved that the bosses are trying to keep the workers from being informed about the dangers.

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As the News International strike draws towards the end of its eighth month, it becomes clear that this is not a dispute involving only the 5,500 strikers. The dispute has generated a huge amount of public interest, and this with serious implications for the rest of the Fleet St area. The SOGAT executive has told the strikers that the issue is one which they must resolve as a class as a whole. If Murdoch is allowed to sack his whole workforce and then rehire them, the rest of Fleet St risk also suffering the same fate. Eddie Shah is already using non-political involvement by the leadership to try to motivate the strikers to go from there. As for the mood following the writs the only people who are fully aware of what the writs indicate and having any effect with regard to the lowest level has been at this stage, is it one which is tied to the continuation of the dispute and will be escalated further the strike?

Q: Since the National Executive Council has been handed back ultimate control of the strike, how has the dispute been run? Brenda Dean to look to herself as to where the leadership would support Dean at the bi-annual delegate conference in the future? I must admit we’ve had very few positive contributions by the left esp-

"DIRECT ACTION" interviewed Larry Hytyn, a sacked printworker in the 1980s. Q: What do you think of the strike and how you think the majority have dropped the strike? A: Well, I’ve seen what might be described as “revolutionary left” and I’ve been in some cases very pleased and surprised. I don’t know if it’s true to say that the majority have dropped the strike, I would certainly say a number have changed their attitude towards whether or not we can win, I think there have been some positive contributions by the left especially in the early days of the heavy picketing around 3rd May. I think these were positive moves and if we could have maintained these types of tactics we would have had a positive conclusion to the strike by now.

Q: What is your attitude towards the re- - 

Wapping: Sacked Printworker Speaks Out Against SOGAT Leaders!

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Q: Could you describe what the Fleet St Support Unit is? A: It is a unit made up of militants in the Fleet St area who were concerned about the lack of escalation in the strike. The unit is two-fold; firstly to escalate the strike and make more strikes, secondly to try to motivate the members of the branches and the L.D.C within Fleet St. The only way we felt we could do this was to build our own platform. We wanted to carry out an exposure programme as well as to escalate the strike. Secondly, in the future we want to build a national rank & file movement in the printing industry. We want to be able to respond to attacks both inside and outside London with regards to the printing industry and any other industry which finds itself in struggle.

Q: What do you see as the importance of the strike and what do you think the majority have dropped the strike? A: I think we were very effective around the printers, we also had a lot of support from the print unions who are fully supportive of the strikers and I would ask Brenda Dean to look to herself as to where the leadership is going to be prepared to fight for its members’ rights wherever the legal implications.

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EXPOSURE

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too late, I think we're only seen as a thorn in the side rather than as an alternative.

Q: Could you explain why it is so important that Fleet St. comes out on strike?

A: I think the first reason is that other trade unionists see the strike as an isolated dispute, concerning Murdoch and the 4 titles. This is a gross understatement of the scale of the strike because the importance of this strike is for the right to organise and for the right to strike, against the organisation being recruited whilst you're on strike and the total lack of any labour movement, we have to take the road towards the courthouses. It must be seen that the rank & file are showing the rest of the trade union movement that we are prepared to escalate the strike beyond its limitations at Fleet St. and that we would have enough strikers and pickets to stop trade on a non-legal basis from the Wapping plant. Also the strike is a first step in the struggle, at the moment. I think the first step coming out would give Rupert Murdoch a clear slate. What I would say is that we would have enough strikers and pickets to stop trade on a non-legal basis.

A: I believe we will win with flying pickets in Fleet St., but then you must ask yourself what sort of support we have already. When and if this strike comes to an end, we would win another office with between half a dozen and a dozen people standing outside handing out leaflets. We determined we must have hundreds upon hundreds of people prepared to picket that office and restrict the movement of workers going in or out. We must also put a direct appeal prior to winning that office; we must win the workers' minds and we must convince them that their solidarity would be the key. I think this strike has been protracted for far too long, but I may still be proved wrong.

Q: Finally, can we still win?

A: I don't think any question like this is an easy answer. First of all we need to analyse what we need to do to win and whether we can actually achieve these things. We've got to convince the strikers to return to the picket line and then there has to be a real drift away. One way of doing this is simply (the miners' strike) and the way that the London folk and workers in the stone island are treating the strike is because of the strike was treated as being a challenge to the whole Union structure and the viability of the union itself.

After being out for more than 2½ months the numbers picketing at Wapping, Hospital, Cambridge, have decided to call it a day.

Most of the women are from Spain, Portugal, Morocco and the Philippines. Most of them have very little English and were admitted on the condition that they work 4-year residence. Women workers are paid $3 to $5 for 8 hours of work, which means that most of the women had no way of getting around the city, or to other places or get higher paying jobs. Many women simply want to go home and support their families. They formed a committee with the help of the health authorities with dissolution due to privatization, despite the fact that half of them are sick and some of them are mobile, for the private contractors, Medilab.

Twenty-two of the women have refused to go to court in the present. O.C.S. has occupied the building in support. John Edwards (GMU General Sec. of the NUPE) has written to the authorities demanding that all ancillary workers with NHS accommodation will not lose their homes if they are privatized. A strike at Addenbrookes has already been called for Wednesday and Saturday.

The numbers picketing at Wapping, which were in decline up to the ballot on Monday, are now rising. While the daily paper numbers are down, the picketing numbers are rising. Women cleaners and stone island workers in the stone island and Saturday night demo's still produce a strong report. Some strike action has taken place, but the workers have been able to control it. The strike action has not come to an end.

In an attempt to evade the set-piece confrontations encouraged by the police, the picketers spontaneously march around the hospital on Wednesday and Saturday nights. These mostly entail reaching Commercial Road through which lorries and cars pass at shift change times. The picketers are unable to get in touch with the women to see if any support action can be set up, so they are struggling on, supported by donations and collections, and have now decided to call it a day.

In a bitter piece of irony O.C.S. were commissioned to do a $250,000 profit on its cleaning contract at Wapping, while the hospital is still filthy - yet another case of profit before people. The government, through its privatisation and anti-union laws, are the worst possible service, and the patients are being moved out of the hostel. Their union secretary has written to Norman Fowler with NHS accommodation will not lose their homes.

The women's already low wages are being cut. They certainly will not be able to keep up with B&B rates. The government is selling, hire or distributing of a programme on to a disc or tape. Many operators have several copies of the same programme without the copyright owner's consent, then both the employee and the distributors must be picketed. Something which will only be realized by the women and the pickets.

As such events become routine manovuvers of the Wapping picket it is increasingly apparent that if effective disruption of the picketing line is the goal of the women activist line, it is not only insufficient and a tax on the workers, but a divergence from the need to gain and extend political control of the strike. Despondency is turning up for a Saturday night Women's march and picket and bandwagon moves. Women who come in for another engagement that evening. Ultimately the strike is still on and is another case of profit before people. The government, through its privatisation and anti-union laws, are the worst possible service, and the patients are being moved out of the hostel. Their union secretary has written to Norman Fowler with NHS accommodation will not lose their homes.

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Anarchists and Anarcho-syndicalists throughout the world took to the streets to commemorate the 130th Mayday, and remembering the Haymarket martyrs for what they were: unrelenting class struggle anarchists. Below, we reproduce three of the reports we have received.

**BRAZIL: SAO PAULO**

The week leading up to the first of May saw an exhibition of worldwide anarchist papers at the Social Culture Centre, which was a great success and stayed open for thirteen days. On Mayday, two hundred demonstrators went with anarchist flags, banners, placards and leaflets through the city centre, it was the city's biggest anarcho-syndicalist demonstration in over twenty years. This was followed by a theatre performance and another meeting is set for May 21st.

The following day, a meeting about the state of the labour movement and the idea of forming LKA melon in Brazil was held with a view to re-organizing the C.O.B (Brazilian Workers' Confederation) with a specific anarcho-syndicalist tendency. Delegates from Bahia, Rio de Janeiro, Minas Gerais, Rio Grande do Sul, Pará and São Paulo attended and decided to form a new movement, locally associated with the C.O.B (Brazilian Workers' Confederation) the use of the initials C.N.T (who left the C.N.T-A.I.T in 1979) as the only organisation legally registered. The C.N.T. in 1979, and that most of the C.N.T during the Spanish revolution support were sent to Spain from abroad, the Spanish government as well as from the hierarchy of the Catholic church to the Spanish government still has possession of the historical syndicalist patrimony. This means that every-thing was caused and damaged was done at the Spanish consulate in Manchester.

**USA: CHICAGO**

Over 400 anarchists from the USA and Canada attended the Haymarket Centennial Gala in Chicago during the 3rd of May. They joined the traditional Marxist Pislen march through a predominantly working class area of Chicago, narrowly missing a major confrontation with the police when they tried to head towards the city centre. The following day there was a meeting of the anarcho-syndicalists and members of other libertarian groups within the region.

**MAYDAY IN SOUTH AFRICA**

Over 1 million black workers celebrated the 100th anniversary of Mayday in South Africa, by staying away from work and demonstrating outside the workplaces. Thousands of workers flocked to rallies in every major centre to demonstrate their solidarity with the revolutionary labour movement throughout the world over. Schools throughout South Africa were empty as the students joined the workers. The self-activity of the Chilean labour movement has been paralysed for a long time. But the reason for this has been the way in which each union has attempted to achieve a partial victory. The two commissions were over-rulled by the CEDAL group who ignored the lists of the Socialists and substituted their own on the grounds of comrade incorporation and the corporatism of Church and State. and the corporatism of Church and State. and the corporatism of Church and State.

The MSU was formed in 1984 in an attempt to wrest political control of the unions from the Social and Christian Democratic Parties. In its hands the unions were reformed against the State. A nucleus of union members was formed consisting of a group of officers and the National Committee of the Socialist Party was formed in Chile, the CNT (no relation).

In their statement the MSU emphasized that the CNT must adopt a revolutionary strategy and that the CNT form a National Committee of Union Federations with autonomous powers of decision making and action, free from party ties. This appeal won widespread support from within the ranks of the CNT which, because of the protest sparked off by the MSU, quickly agreed to form a National Commis-sion, without however, the powers asked for. As a result, the MSU decided to go it alone.

The conference was also developing well for the Socialists in other ways, particularly for MAPU who were able to dominate their allies. Nevertheless, a powerful challenge came from a large independent socialist group in the Fishery section, who not only openly criticized the Socialists but also ad-vised to defend the Matsi and develop the left's infrastructure at the conference.

A set of organizing principles of syndicalist unity was drawn up based on the autonomy, participation and struggle of all sections; a plenary meeting was held for the Socialists in other ways, particularly for MAPU who were able to dominate their allies. Nevertheless, a powerful challenge came from a large independent socialist group in the Fishery section, who not only openly criticized the Socialists but also ad-vised to defend the Matsi and develop the left's infrastructure at the conference.

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Director Action & Anarchist-Syndicalism

There seems to be a popular misunderstanding among anarchists and non-anarchists about the ideas of direct action and anarchism-syndicalism.

When the phrase "direct action" was first used during the 1880s it meant more than the mere opposition of parliamentary action. In the context of the labour movement it meant industrial action - strikes, boycotts, sabotage - which were regarded as the rehearsals for revolution. The point was that the action was applied not indirectly through representatives but directly by those most directly employed. It was an experiment that had to succeed, not just to gain publicity.

But then, as now, direct action has been confused with propaganda by deed and with civil disobedience. The technique of direct action was actually developed in the French syndicalist movement as a reaction to the more extreme techniques of propaganda by deed - assassinations, bombings, and murder - which had splintered into dramatic but ineffectual gestures, the ends of which preferred to get on with the work of spreading libertarian revolution - dollar more effective - amongst the working class.

Today many still see direct action solely in terms of "bash the rich" marches and demonstrations, a kind of war against state structures. Some - however, such as D.A.M, the Anarchist Black Cross, A.C.F and London Greenpeace - have not been content with this narrow approach. In 1981 D.A.M joined the three group demonstrations against the G.P.O., which picketed the Japanese embassy in Grosvenor Street, London for 3 hours, giving out leaflets and chanting "No State frame-up - free Omori". Following this a flying visit was paid to the showroom of the state-owned Japanese Airlines, where workers were leafleted and provocateurs redecorating in the theme of a few thousand pounds was undertaken. Unfortunately, 4 commandos were later arrested, and held at Savile Row pig shop for several hours for suspicion of criminal damage. They refused to make statements, and were eventually released without charge.

Omori still needs all the support he can get - TIME IS RUNNING OUT. Send letters and money to the support committee, Embassy, 4 Grosvenor St., London W1; and to the Ministers of Justice, Hiroshi Shimasaki, Homo Sho, l-I Kasumigaseki, and to the Support Committee, No. 35 Chitose P.O. 1-Chome, Chiyoda-Ku, Tokyo 100, Japan.

Support and donation to Omori Support Committee, No. 38, Ootoke P.O. Box, Setagaya-Ku, Tokyo, Japan.

Free Omori Now!

Have you got a bag of sugar in your years and is awaiting the death sentence against Japanese anarchist Katsuhisa Omori? He is innocent.

On the 11th of August there was an international day of action to mark the anniversary of Omori's imprisonment. Here in Britain, some 60 protestors (including people from D.A.M, the Anarchist Black Cross, A.C.F and London Greenpeace) peacefully picketed the Japanese embassy in Grosvenor Street, London for 3 hours, giving out leaflets and chanting "No State frame-up - free Omori". Following this a flying visit was paid to the showroom of the state-owned Japanese Airlines, where workers were leafleted and provocateurs redecorating in the theme of a few thousand pounds was undertaken. Unfortunately, 4 commandos were later arrested, and held at Savile Row pig shop for several hours for suspicion of criminal damage. They refused to make statements, and were eventually released without charge.

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Ireland (contd.)

Irland is under pressure to give up its neutrality and to form an Anarchist-Syndicalist union at the workplace.

Will Brandt once stated that Ireland should make a "full defence and military commitment" to the West German government. The West German government has urged Ireland to give up its neutrality. This pressure was backed up by a crude attempt to accrue Irish people to the side of N.A.T.O. forces in Irish territory when the West German submarines visited Cork Harbour last year. There is much opposition in Ireland to the ending of neutrality but a whole propaganda campaign has already started and a number of shady, N.A.T.O.-backed organisations have recently been forming their attention towards Ireland.

1. The Council of Europe: Founded after World War 2 to reduce the possibility of war - its statute states that "masters relating to national defence do not fall within the scope of the council of Europe." Although there are 21 member countries, it is now dominated by those which are also in the E.E.C and N.A.T.O. so ideals of peace and commonly forgotten. When N.A.T.O policy is not the same as Ireland's. The Irish section of this organisation has recently been set up again to promote the abandonment of neutrality.

2. The West European Union: A military alliance of West European states and a N.A.T.O.-offshoot with similar political links. It "will rely on the appropriate military authorities of N.A.T.O. for information and advice on military matters." A report of a special meeting, headed (as it happens) by a former minister of foreign affairs in the present Irish government, Senator Dooge, proposed that there should be "a commitment by member states (including Ireland) to a common policy of planning and procurement policy." It also suggested close links with N.A.T.O. and the West European Union. Thus the E.E.C and "neutral" Ireland are to be subervi- ent to N.A.T.O. in military matters.

3. The American Trilateral Commission: Founded by David Rockefeller and Henry Kissinger - one of its aims is to involve more closely countries "such as Ireland and Japan" with N.A.T.O. Its membership includes several prominent publicans, including Ireland - amongst them are members of both the Gaol and the Gael and the people who together form the current Irish government.

4. The National Democratic Institute: Founded by the Reagan administration in 1983 to help further American foreign policy in West Europe. It aids to certain groups and organisations. Through its subsidiary, the National Endowment for Democracy (with people like Walter Mondale and Henry Kissinger on its board) $30,000 was channelled to the S.D.L.P in Northern Ireland a few months ago. Now N.A.T.O has obvious strategic interest in Ireland - among them are members of both the Gaol and the Gael and the people who together form the current Irish government.

5. The Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies: Another organisation backed up by N.A.T.O and the American authorities. It is a group of militants whose only aim is to involve more closely countries "such as Ireland and Japan" with N.A.T.O. Its membership includes several prominent publicans, including Ireland - amongst them are members of both the Gaol and the Gael and the people who together form the current Irish government.

The August 7-8th issue of City Limits magazine ran a feature story on London's East End's militant action group "Enders". An interview with Tom Watt (Lobby) produced the astonishing term of "anarchist-syndicalist". We were curious about the implications of this term for people who are vaguely liberal to call themselves either - but the "anarchist-syndicalist" is pretty specific and not generally a label that I'd have contact with. But what is it? Why would there be an anarchist-syndicalist at the Old Vic? Is that really a bad and red flag behind Tom? We're still puzzled.
APOLGY

We would like to apologise to readers of "Direct Action" for the gap in production and especially to those who read the broken copies of D.A. It was not our intention that the last copy should be cut out in July and which DAM groups refused to sell. This was produced by the previous editorial group, now known as "Direct Action Movement" and the decision to leave the Direct Action Movement before producing it as a final issue. It was not our deliberate act of sabotage to try to cause trouble between the DAM and our new editorial section. As well as this they showed a lack of solidarity with comrades abroad and stole an electric typewriter that belonged to the DAM. It is not our normal policy to break off with an anarchistic and syndicalist group and organisations in public. The new editorial section (DAM) have questionable beliefs and beliefs are questionable) but on this occasion there is a need to warn others of the actions of Hull Syndicats.

This is the first copy of D.A. to be produced by Manchester DAM - note our new address:-

Box D.A. c/o Raven Press, 75, Piccadilly, Manchester.

Send letters, articles, donations, etc, to this address.

Plastic Bullets Video Tour

As we go to press a DAM organised Plastic Bullets video tour is underway. The video is very informative and well worth seeing and will be accompanied by a short talk to lead off a discussion. The remaining dates are:

8th September - Bristol St Werburgh Community Centre, Horely Rd, Bristol 2 - 8.00pm

10th September - Liverpool 8 Law Centre, Princess Avenue Toxteth, Liverpool 7.30pm.

11th September - Bolton Socialist Club, 16 Wood St, Bolton - 7.30pm.

12th September - Burnley AUE Rooms, Hargreave St, Burnley - 7.30pm.

13th September - Manchester - Millstone pub, Thomas St, off Tib St, Central M/C - 7.30pm.

15th September - Leeds Trades Centre, Saville Mount, off Chapeltown Rd, Leeds 7 - 7.30pm.

19th September - Nottingham - International Community Centre, Mansfield Rd, Nottingham - 7.30pm.

20th September - York Priory St, Community Centre, Priory Street, York - 7.30pm.

21st September - Newcastle - contact Newcastle DAM, c/o Days of Hope Bookshop, 82, Thornton St, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

22nd September - Doncaster contact Doncaster DAM, P.O Box 58, Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

Review:

"The Free" by M. Gilliland, £1.48 post free, from BM Hurricane, 223, Bishopsgate, London, WCIN 3XN.

This interesting and exciting novel is about revolution and counter-revolution in a united "independent" Ireland in the near future. Usually for modern fiction the revolution is anarchist - the foremost organisations being the syndicalist Industrial Union of Ireland and federated community groups (the "Co-op" groups). Events are described mainly from the viewpoint of Co-op workers (which is a pity), but the revolution is precipitated by the Free Union after a period of growth from rank and file groupings in the old, decaying bureaucratic trade unions.

Ordinary people, workers, poor and unemployed will be able to identify with the story, and their developed in their groups hints at how monstrous the anarchist-syndicalist organisation can be. Not in the distant future, or by developing trendy-left middle class "socialism" as we are, but well, soon.

Unfortunately the author gets very confused in describing the fighting during and after the revolution at the expense of developing the characterisation, and explaining the structure and relations of the revolutionary society. If this can be forgiven the book makes very good, almost compulsive reading. It's not great literature, but why would you need to wait until it's so effective?

The qualifying age for a full widow's pension will be up from 50 to 55, and for a partial pension from 40 to 45. Therefore any married woman whose husband dies when she is 40-55 years old will lose out. The loss will affect existing widows whose youngest child is expected to leave school after 1988. Childless widows under 45 are worst hit.

WIDOWS

House benefit

All householders at 15 level (whether or not they receive it) will get housing benefit, many low income families will be worse off.

The new social security reforms hold very little for the working class - more hardship and more sacrifices. From Autumn '86 disablement benefit will no longer be paid for injuries sustained at 14% - e.g the loss of a finger. The value of family credit will count as additional income and therefore families will have to pay 20% of the rates themselves. The governments answer - Take more then away.

The state is prepared to give us even less to make each end meet. By reducing to a bare minimum amount we receive at present, and what is the consequence of lower benefit? The answer is that the bosses can cut wages, knowing that people will take jobs that pay a pitance as an alternative to being on less-than-a-pittance they will receive from the state. Coupled with the free trade agreements with the other rich countries, it looks like they'll be able to get away with it. We must provide a NAFTA between the community and the workplace, between the employed and the unemployed, to resist the growing attacks on our basic human rights by the bosses and their state.

PUBLIC MEETING

Rank & Files, the Unions, and the Police

18th September - Streatham Library - 7.30pm.

Speakers from: S.O.GAT London Machine Branch (sacked News International worker); Campaign Against Police Repression; Rank & File Miner; Rank & File Building Worker; East London DAM.

TAMESIDE DAM

Future Meetings on Unemployed Month

6th September - Butchers Arms, Stockport, 8.30pm - 10.30pm

20th September - AUEW Rooms, Margaret Street, Ashton-under-Lyne - 6pm.

27th September - Tame Valley Club, Road, Dukinfield - 8pm.

4th October - Church Inn, Huddersfield Road, Millbrook, Stalybridge - 1pm.

DAM PAMPHLET SALE

13th September - Highladdie, Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne - 9.30pm.

LAUNCH OF THE NORTHERN ANARCHIST NETWORK (NAN)

VEND A 20TH SEPTEMBER

Assemble at the art gallery in Leeds city centre at 12pm with flags, banners, etc, for a march through the town. Call in at the Dam, 223, Leeds Trades Club at Saville Mount off Wellington Rd, where the launch will take place.

DONATIONS

South London DAM £100

Manchester DAM £65

P. Manchester £10

I.S. (Selby) £10

Claimants... (contd.)

If she has worked there for less than 2 years she will only get £31.60 p.w, although after 2 years this will rise to 90% of her earnings. The pay lasts for 18 weeks.

INDUSTRIAL INJURIES

Those who leave work "without good reasons" will get no unemployment benefit for 6-12 weeks, and if they then claim supplementary benefit it will be cut by 40% of a single persons rate for the same period.

ALLS AND PRINCIPLES

1. The Direct Action Movement is a working class organisation.

2. Our aim is the creation of a free and classless society.

3. We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery in all their forms and replace them by self-managed production for all and not profit.

4. In order to bring about the new social order, the workers must take over the means of production and distribution, we are the true element of those who would take over on behalf of the working class.

5. We believe that the only way for the working class to achieve this is by independent organisation and action. The state is not the expression of the workers but of the ruling class.

6. We are opposed to all States and State institutions. The working class has no country. The class struggle is worldwide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all States do not exist to protect the workers but to protect the ruling class as the repressive arm of the ruling class.

7. We oppose racism, sexism, militarism and all systems and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the right of all people to control their own lives and environment.

8. The Direct Action Movement is a federation of groups and individuals who believe in the principles of anarchism and syndicalism - a system where the workers alone control industry and the community without the dictates of politicians, bureaucrats, bosses and so-called experts.

I would like more information about the Direct Action Movement - International Workers Association. Please send me information.

I enclose a S.A.E.

Name ____________________________

Address ____________________________

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Send to Dam/IWA, c/o 223, Greenwood Rd, Benchill, Manchester, M22 7HS.

Produced and Published by Manchester D.A.M

Deadline for issue No 33

25th of September
Africa: Fighting for a Real Change

Only two years ago Thacker received South African premier P.W. Botha at 10 Downing Street. Now even she claims to want to see apartheid dismantled, surely a sign that western capitalism and the multinational companies that profit from the racism of the "white" crime no longer have any confidence in the regime. This lack of confidence is not primarily because of the increased levels of the street violence or the guerrilla bombings of the Spear of the Nation (the ANC's military wing). After all South Africa isn't a Rhodesia to be won by military force, it is a powerful nuclear-armed state.

A major reason why capitalists have lost confidence in apartheid is that they no longer feel the guarantee stability in the industries and communities which to their profits. This "lack of stability" has come about by South African workers rising up and organizing in the workplaces and communities, so much so that before the state of emergency many Black communities became no-go areas where the state and armed forces could not control and so presence. This is not to say these areas were in chaos, the residents through street committees and organizations have on the whole organized a level of social and commercial services which provide for the community better than any repressive government was ever willing to.

CRISIS

In the workplace the South African working class have pushed the ruling class towards the crisis it is now in by the uncompromising resistance of an industrial muscle. Before its banning in the early '70's the most influential union organisation amongst the majority community was SACTU/South African Congress of Trade Unions. This was the industrial wing of the ANC and was inordinately linked to that organisation's political ambitions. The banning led to the collapse of the union movement in South Africa but much blame was laid at the feet of the best union activists away from the industrial struggle and placing them in the Spear of the Nation as "professional revolutionaries". SACTU has virtually no influence in South Africa, although many members are in exile. Due to the banning and probably of SACTU also, the South African corporatist organizations have grown up independent of all control and influence of political parties, and have been the stronger for it.

Throughout the 70's and 80's unions like SAAWU (South African Allied Workers Unions) and the South African NUM have pushed the multinationals and capitalists winning important concessions. Much of this is due to their uncompromising attitudes and their insistence on making links between day to day fights, like pay and conditions, and the overriding problems of racism, capitalism and state control.

In November 1985 COSATU/Congress of South African Trade Unions was launched as a broad federation of many of the independent trade unions. It stresses the militancy of its constituent parts, COSATU also increases federalism, the forming of one union per industry and the forging of links between workplace and community. To quote Jay Naidoo, General Secretary of COSATU:

"COSATU is forging close ties with democratic, community-based organizations. In particular we have high regard for those communities which are building strong grassroots structures in the form of street committees. We see this as a major step forward and an important principle that is integral to working class organisation on the factory floor.

COSATU also recognizes the nature of capitalism and the apartheid state. It therefore rejects all reformist and "realist" solutions offered by the regimes, especially the homelands which the ANC calls "development and racist.

It is obvious that capitalism does not find the formation of this massive militant union very comforting. They have been attempting to quash COSATU by sponsoring other unions in order to split the anti-apartheid forces together. Many of these attempts have centred around Chief Buthelezi, head of the "independent" homeland of KwaZulu. This struggle, supported by local "bureaucrats" and even international anti-apartheid forces, has set up the rival union, the United Communist Front of KwaZulu. Funding of this union is reinforced by the visit of Simon-Carca, a major power behind the throne of UDFUSA, to Washington where he met not two but two not two CIA frontmen. It would suit the interests of these people if the too blatant capitalism of white minority rule could be replaced by moderate black rule.

SANCTIONS

The major question in this country, however, is how can the working class here aid the working class of South Africa? Much discussion centres on the "off the books" sanctions, that is economic sanctions that are not imposed by the governments. Governments always act in the interests of their national capitalism, so any such sanctions could be almost useless and full of holes. The working class of South Africa however recognize this also but they still call for them. They know that at the very least the call will produce massive amounts of publicity for their cause and that can prevent it becoming "yesterday's news".

We do not want superficial changes because replacing white - where the repressive machinery of the state and capitalism are reinforced by the service of different masters"

At the time of writing, Jay Naidoo is in state detention in South Africa.