

# BLACK FLAG

Vol. VI

No. 2

JUNE 1980

20p



## Organ of the Anarchist Black Cross

### DIRECT ACTION ARRESTS

#### ITALIAN ARRESTS

ON 27TH MARCH 16 PEOPLE (TWO OF THEM BRITISH) WERE ARRESTED DURING A MASSIVE ANTI TERRORIST OPERATION IN NORTH ITALY, AT BOLOGNA AND FORLI AND SIMULTANEOUSLY AT CATANIA, SICILY. THE CATANIA ARRESTS ARE OF PEOPLE SUSPECTED OF BELONGING TO "AZIONE RIVOLUZIONARIA". IN THE COURSE OF THE OPERATION, 50 HOMES WERE SEARCHED AND, ONE INFORMED SOURCE ALLEGES, EXPLOSIVES, MUNITIONS AND WHAT ARE DESCRIBED AS "VERY INTERESTING" DOCUMENTS WERE FOUND.

THE ANTI TERRORIST SWOOP GREW OUT OF THE ARREST IN CATANIA A FEW DAYS EARLIER, OF 2 SICILIANS AND A YOUNG BRITISH GIRL, JEAN WEIR (34 YEARS OLD). ACCORDING TO POLICE, "AZIONE RIVOLUZIONARIA" WAS SET UP BY A UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR, GIANFRANCO FIANA, WHO WAS ARRESTED LAST JULY CHARGED WITH THE ATTEMPTED MURDER OF A JOURNALIST IN TURIN IN 1977.

AN EXTRACT FROM AN ITALIAN NEWSPAPER REPORTS:

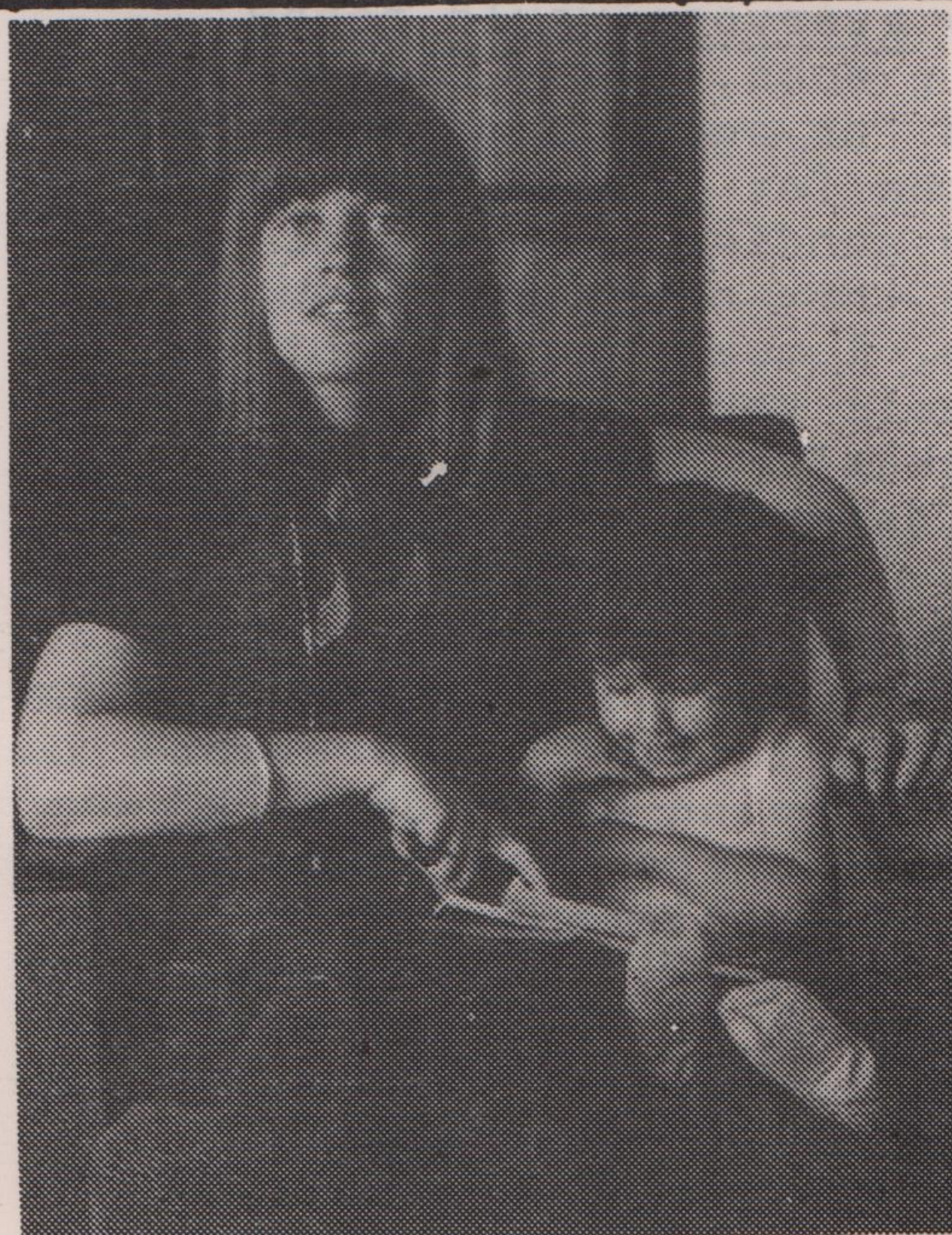
ALFREDO BONANNO (43), SALVATORE MARIETTA (29) AND JEAN WEIR (34) WERE ARRESTED ON A WARRANT ISSUED BY THE PROCURATORS OFFICE IN BOLOGNA. THE ARRESTS WERE MADE IN CATANIA. THEY ARE SUSPECTED OF HAVING PARTICIPATED IN ARMED HOLD-UPS IN BOLOGNA SINCE JANUARY 1979. THE 3 ARE BEING ADVISED BY LAWYER SANDRO GAMBERINI BUT ARE REFUSING TO ANSWER QUESTIONS; HAVE REFUSED TO CONFRONT ANY OF THE UP TO 20 WITNESSES TO THE HOLD-UPS IN QUESTION. THEY CONTEND THAT THEY ARE THE VICTIMS OF A POLITICAL FRAME-UP AND WILL ONLY REPLY TO QUESTIONS WHEN THEY ARE GIVEN FULL DETAILS OF THE CHARGES TO BE BROUGHT AGAINST THEM. POLICE HAVE COMPLAINED THAT PRESS LEAKAGE OF THE CATANIA ARRESTS MAY HAVE PREJUDICED ONE OF THEIR MOST IMPORTANT ANTI-TERRORIST OPERATIONS EVER.

#### "ACTION DIRECTE" ARRESTS IN FRANCE.

ON 15TH APRIL, THE 'Action Directe' group mounted attacks on 3 separate buildings belonging to the Transport Ministry. A phone caller to Agence France Presse stated: "We demand the immediate release of our imprisoned comrades."

ON 27TH & 28TH MARCH a massive police operation had netted 30-odd people suspected of carrying out attacks in France, especially those claimed by Action Directe. The arrests came in Toulon and Paris. Following a hold-up at Conde sur L'Escaut,

4 Italians were arrested at Toulon; they are: Franco Pinna, Errico Bianco, Luigi Amadori, and Bianco's wife Oriana Marchioni. The Italian government has applied for their extradition. Inevitably there was talk of a Red Brigades or Terror International connection. The usual hysteria. But this does not stand up to scrutiny. If anything these Italians seem to have had connections with Prima Linea or Azione Rivoluzionaria, both of them groups at odds with the Red Brigades. Pinna, Bianco and Marchioni are wanted in connection



JEAN WEIR.

with a raid on an armoury at Viterbo. Some of these weapons were later recovered from a Prima Linea cache. Marchioni was for a long time active among the autonomists in Padua.

The Italian connection crops up again with the Paris arrests. On 27th March 2 people who had been under police surveillance for some time were arrested while boarding a plane destined for Reunion; the plane was also carrying government minister Alain Peyrefitte. A follow up raid on a flat in Rue de la Grange-aux-belles, occupied by another Italian, Giga Girotto, a suspected member of Prima Linea, led to the discovery of 600 kilos of explosives and weapons and over 1,000 blank Italian identity cards. Other arrests followed. Many of those detained had been under observation for some time; some were only casual acquaintances of other 'suspects'. A few have been released. By now the talk was of Action Directe. Police announced that they were in pursuit of others in connection with investigations into the machine-gunning of the Ministry Corporation buildings on 18 March.

These then are the ingredients of a good terror-international scare: note the number of women "terrorists" and the surnames.. French..Italian..Spanish.. Basque..Algerian.

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ON 4 JUNE 1979 THE CHINESE "PEOPLES DAILY" ATTACKED A SERIES OF ERRONEOUS TRENDS IN THE CHINESE PEOPLE, SINGLE OUT ANARCHISM FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION. FULL PAGE REPORT ON ANARCHISM IN CHINA ...PAGE 4.

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"HIGHLY INFORMATIVE...INTERESTING...SUBVERSIVE" POLICE REVIEW.

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# BLACK FLAG



**Organ of the Anarchist Black Cross**

BLACK FLAG

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Sigh...that damned deficit won't go away. The sales and subs seem just about to pay for the printing but if only everyone would renew their subs, every copy was paid for and nobody told us months (or years) after we'd been sending them copies that they never get them ("oh, I must have forgotten to tell you I'd changed my address") there wouldn't be any deficit.

We've sent special letters out out on the subject. This deficit is now preventing us going ahead on work for prisoners (we reckon on the Flag covering postage for the ABC). So it would be a boon if readers would renew or cancel. We hate to cancel because subs have run out, and usually don't for two or three years after.

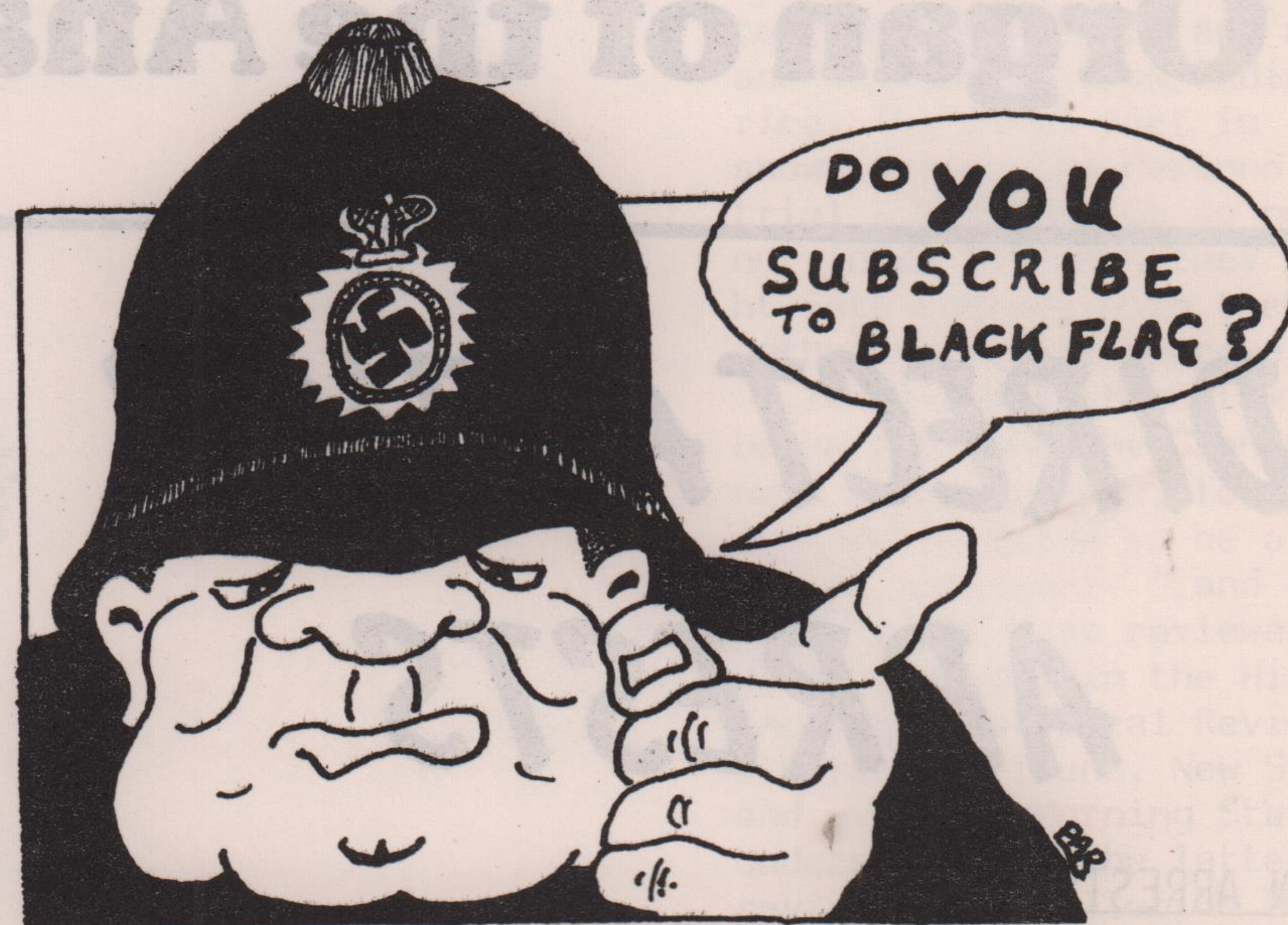
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## LETTER FROM CARL HARP

They returned me to San Quentin in January claiming I still need protection from guards in Washington. There was a big strike there in the segregation unit that I was involved in so they had to get rid of me. The international support to stop any transfer caused them to add a new reason for returning me to S.Q. By the time you receive this letter I will be back in Walla Walla as the Federal trial around brutality, treatment and conditions up there starts May 5th. As you may know 2 of my "comrades" made deals with the state and plead guilty leaving me facing the forces of evil all alone...I may not be returned to S.Q. once I am back in Walla Walla because people are working on it but we'll see. All the support has helped a lot to keep my spirits high and me alive. I thank all for that. If you can spread the word that I am alone and my defense fund needs support...I'd appreciate it. Susan Waymire, 6536 102 PL. N.E. Kirkland, Washington 98033 is my Nat. Defense fund organiser and lawyer etc. People send only what they can - even a dollar helps. I expect nothing but appreciate everything.....  
Love & Rage, Carl.

## ANARCHO - QUIZ

1. What humanitarian impulse by the Prophet Mohammed, inspired by the heroism of a convert, is held to justify a major criminal activity?
2. Why does Islam outlaw alcohol?
3. What was the first thing Josep Dencas, the Catalan national leader, head of Estat Catala, did when the fascist military rising of 1936 was suppressed and Catalonia declared itself free and autonomous?
4. What was "historic" about the Communist organ 'Morning Star' for 15th December 1979?
5. Why did Rodzaevsky, secretary of the Russian Fascist Party, return to the Soviet Union in 1945?
6. In which European city is there a statue of a former organiser of the I.W.W.?
7. At the same time as the CNT is accused of being penetrated by the CIA in order to prevent the growth of a socialist union (Hirsch & Fletcher, "CIA and the Labour Movement", now being circulated by the Trots) the FAI is accused of widespread financial corruption. How true are these allegations?



# ANARCHIST CENTRE

PLANS FOR THE ANARCHIST CENTRE ARE RAPIDLY COMING TO MATURITY. SO FAR MORE THAN £500 HAS BEEN RAISED THROUGH SUBSCRIPTIONS. MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE HAVE PAID FULL OR PART SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP. THE RECORD "BLOODY REVOLUTIONS & PERSONS UNKNOWN" BY CRASS & POISON GIRL WILL BE ON SALE BY THE TIME THIS ISSUE IS OUT. THE PROFITS FROM THIS RECORD ARE GOING TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ANARCHIST CENTRE IN LONDON. ONCE WE HAVE THAT MONEY WE CAN BEGIN IN ERNEST TO FIND SUITABLE PREMISES.

WITH A SUITABLE PERMANENT BASE, WHERE ANARCHISTS FROM ENGLAND AND COMRADES FROM OVERSEAS CAN MEET, WE HOPE THAT THE ANARCHIST MOVEMENT WILL GROW STRONGER AND MORE COHESIVE. PERHAPS IT WILL THE BEGINNING OF A NETWORK OF SIMILAR CLUBS.

MEETINGS: CONWAY HALL, 25 RED LION SQUARE, HOLBORN, WC1.

THURSDAY 22ND MAY; THURSDAY 19TH JUNE.

SINCE WE ADVERTISED THE IDEA OF AN ANARCHIST CENTRE IN THE LAST BLACK FLAG & FREEDOM A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST HAS BEEN SHOWN. IF YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED..YOU CAN... COME ALONG TO ONE OF THE MEETINGS..OR SUBSCRIBE NOW. WRITE TO: ANARCHIST CENTRE, c/o FREEDOM BOOKSHOP, 84B WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET, LONDON E1.

THE CRASS/POISON GIRLS SINGLE IS NOW ON SALE. BUY IT, PROFITS TO THE ANARCHIST CENTRE. BLOODY REVOLUTIONS/ PERSONS UNKNOWN ...70p.

## PRICE CHANGE.

THE PRICE OF BLACK FLAG WILL BE 25PENCE FROM THE NEXT ISSUE. WE REGRET HAVING TO INCREASE THE PRICE BUT THE INCREASES IN THE POSTAL RATES HAVE MADE IT NECESSARY.



# LIBERTARIAN HISTORIES

ON 13TH MARCH 1952 THE FOURTH LANDING OF BARCELONA'S MODEL PRISON HELD 21 PEOPLE UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH; THE BULK OF THEM WERE LIBERTARIAN MILITANTS, FORMER FIGHTERS FOR THE REPUBLIC WHO, WHEN THE CIVIL WAR ENDED, REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE FRANCOIST VICTORY ( WHICH WAS A VICTORY FOR INTERNATIONAL FASCISM )AND SO CONTINUED TO FIGHT IN THE MOUNTAINS AND ON THE PLAINS, AGAINST A VASTLY SUPERIOR FOE. OF THESE 21, NINE WERE DUE FOR IMMINENT EXECUTION. AT 10 AM THE ORDERLY, ESCORTED BY LOPEZ PEREIRA, THE WARDER IN CHARGE OF THE FIRST LANDING OPENED THE DOORS OF FOUR CELLS ONE AFTER THE OTHER. THE ORDER RANG OUT: "OUT. GO STRAIGHT TO THE OUTER GATE." SO ANTONIO, DOMINGO, JOSE AND MIGUEL DID JUST THAT. THEY WERE FOUR OF THE NINE DUE TO BE EXECUTED.

Awaiting them at the portcullis was the notorious chief warder Lafarga, known as "El Tuerto" (One Eye) who called out: "Come along! Step on it! The governor is waiting for you".

The governor, Don Fernando Arnau Garcia, was in the Centre. Seated at a desk, he flourished a telegram and informed the condemned men: "You have been reprieved. The Caudillo has seen fit to commute the death sentences in your cases to life imprisonment. That means that you must serve out your lives here... no remission, no parole, and no other privileges of any sort. You may go."

The reprieved men returned to the fourth landing, escorted by El Tuerto, and were locked in their cells. Later they were transferred to the first landing.

Now there could be no more do doubt - four of the nine were to be spared and the other five were to be shot at dawn the next day. That night no-one on the fourth landing slept. Everybody lay awake, straining to hear the creaking of the heavy wrought iron gates which would signal the arrival of the police.

At midnight they came. A key was heard turning in a lock - "It's El Yayo!" shouted someone. El Yayo occupied the last cell on the fourth landing.

"I've been expecting you", said El Yayo when they came for him, rising from his bunk. He alone was allowed to use a bunk

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The Donald Duck/Joseph Goebbels prize for reporting goes in triplicate to Jon Swain in Miami, Nicholas Asheshov in Lima and David Verley in London, who are credited in the Sunday Times (April 13) with the statement that a slogan in Havana says: "It is better to have Batista with blood than Castro with hunger", adding the note "General Fulgencio Castro, a corrupt tyrant, was overthrown by Castro in 1959."

Let's be charitable. Maybe they don't know. Maybe it was a sub-editor's interpolation. But what sort of lunatic is it that says that "Churchill won the war", "Lenin overthrew the Tsar", or even "Hitler exterminated the Jews."

Sadly, one supposes, a fairly average one. The fact is that a lot more people were involved. In the case of Batista, the stru-

because he was suffering from tuberculosis. The others slept on the floor on filthy mattresses.

Another key creaked in another lock. "It's Tragapanes!", thought some who heard it.

Then it was Pons's turn. Then "El Sherrif's".

When it was the turn of the fifth man, Gine Urrea Pina, he shouted "Viva la FAI!" as his cell door was opened. His shout echoed around the landing. Every cell responded with cries of "Viva!"

Those about to be executed were taken to the chaplaincy and were besieged by the two priests attached to the prison, Fr. Lahoz and Angel Millan, along with three other clerics who had come to assist them. The condemned men were repeatedly urged to make confessions, but not one of the five would yield.

The condemned men were taken to Campo de la Bota where they faced a firing squad of soldiers. The officer in charge asked the condemned if they had any last wishes. Only Jose Perez Pedrero asked that his silk neckerchief be given to his mother as a last remembrance.

And so the last five men shot in the Campo de la Bota went to their deaths. Their names closed a list of thousands - the vast majority of whom were libertarians - shot there ... the names of Gine Urrea Pina, Jorge Pons Argilles, Santiago Amir Cruanes, Jose Perez Pedrero and Pedro Adrover Font.

ggle against him was almost exclusively anarchist. The communist Party opposed the struggle because Batista - detested by the workers as a bloodthirsty tyrant - was a stooge of American capitalism. In those days that was considered good according to leftist reasoning, for America was Russia's ally. It was only later that it became bad. Castro weighed in with the revolution against official communist advice, to take over in the timewhen American capitalism became bad.

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1970s POLICE STATE STATISTICS U.K.  
" 4 Million arrests - 245 deaths in custody." BBC World Service  
Midnight 25/26 January 1980.

# WORKERS' POWER

## WORKERS CLUBS

We have referred before in these columns to the useless nature of the Trade Union Conference. It exists ostensibly to unify the unions. In practice it does nothing of the sort, though occasionally it acts as a forum of debate between unions that have clashed with each other. It is a form of management of the workers, and while a Labour government is in power it is an arm of the government. Now that there is a Conservative government, one finds it vilified in the press as having "real power" - which "has to be curbed" - and one hears the horror stories against its sinister influence.

In reality it trails behind the workers' demands, leading from the rear. When there is a militant spate of demands, the TUC is seen posturing before the television cameras, entering "talks", pushing forward its leadership to a position of bargaining. But pseudo-militant or not militant at all, it remains dedicated to the principle of leadership from above, a dead weight upon those below.

## TRADES COUNCILS

Yet there has always existed a horizontal movement within the trade unions. Unable or unwilling (as in some countries) to break away from orthodox trade unionism, the horizontal movement has existed within the unions and above all it was at one time seen as a living body in the trades councils. As the Trade Union Congress has gained in power, so the trades councils have lost it. They are today talking-shops, and not even very important talking-shops. Nobody bothers to attend their dreary meetings in drearier halls except for a few politically-interested trade unionists who turn up to push Anglo-Bulgarian friendship or the party line on social expenditure to each other.

Yet these halls were sixty years ago the centre of a great and lively movement; they created halls and workers' clubs for social purposes - built their own libraries and schools where necessary - organised relief and found jobs for the unemployed - published their own literature and were the bulwark of a revolutionary movement. There was a workers' movement in those days: it does not exist today. The political parties have enabled another class to come in and take over the ideas, which do not make sense in a non-working class context.

When the trades councils existed as part of a movement - when the labour halls meant something - there was no trade union chauvinism such as exists today. In Britain - as in France or Spain (if less so here) - one could walk into one's labour hall and ask what jobs were going...if jobs were available only outside one's craft, one walked out of one union into

another on a friendly informal basis. How different from now! The friendly hall has gone. The club where one could pop in for a drink - if it still exists - has been transformed into a superpub-club (and then only in the North). Asking for a union card is sometimes like asking to be put down for Eton. What started as a defence of craft has become yet another barrier to divide worker from worker - "we don't want people without cards coming into our industry" (and we don't want to give them one either!)

The syndicalist movement that grew up in Britain in the period 1910-20 was based firmly upon the labour halls and workers clubs. Because some names persist, it is impossible to appreciate to what extent they have changed. The peak period was in the General Strike - when industrial defeat, Labour charlatanism and the influence of the Communist Party (with its sights set elsewhere) caused the whole workers' movement to recede. More and more power went to the TUC...nothing was left of the labour halls, the trades councils, the workers clubs. It is only the re-creation of these that can revive a workers movement.

The shop stewards movement is a vestige of the industrial syndicalist movement that grew up in the trades councils and labour clubs, it was based upon the workshops and factories whereas the trades halls were based on the locality, but both were manifestations of the same thing. We only find its ghost in England today. But even so it is a ghost which scares the pants off the ruling class.

## BACK TO THE STRUGGLE

How are we to get back to the traditional working-class movement? It can never be re-created exactly as it was; but then today there are many other things pushing for us that did not exist then. The grinding poverty, the lack of basic education that all pulled the movement down; the menace of falling into the pit of unemployment from which at one time it was impossible to scramble out; these have vanished to a large extent, and certainly from the organised industries. The fight was once against cuts in salaries: one benefit from inflation, rarely mentioned, is that the fight is now the reverse - for increases to keep up with the cost of living. Not to exaggerate this, but the struggle is easier than it was - what is missing is the will and the energy. Yet nobody can deny the need which is underlined by events every day.

The syndicalist movement can be re-born with its bases in action. We repeat a simple formula voiced before in these columns: the formula of FORMING FIVES. First a group of around five or so in each industry. Then as it grows, hive off into five in a workplace, or in a branch of that industry. That is how the shop stewards movement grew: that is how it can be revived. And side by side with it the creation of WORKERS CLUBS that will re-create the atmosphere of the labour halls.



# ANARCHISM IN CHINA

## ANARCHISM IN CHINA??

Since 1976 the Peoples Republic of China has been engaged in a programme of rapid industrialisation and modernisation of agriculture and the armed forces. The avowed aim being to elevate China to superpower status by the turn of the century. In an attempt to reach the goals set, in the last three years there has been an unprecedented increase in contact between the Chinese technocracy and their counterparts in NATO and other non-Soviet bloc countries. There has also been a marked increase in the numbers of tourists from NATO countries to the Peoples Republic. These tourists being allowed to visit areas of China previously closed to Westerners and indeed in many cases to the majority of Chinese.

The driving force behind this drive into the 21st century appears to be the highly durable Deng Xiao ping. Deng, incidentally, must be the Chinese Communist Party's equivalent of the India Rubber Man. Disgraced for opposing the 'Great Leap Forward' (sic) of the late 1950's, allegedly placed in protective custody by Zhou En Lai during the Cultural Revolution, Deng began to claw his way back to power under Zhou's watchful eye in the early 1970's. He re-appeared in public in 1973 only to be disgraced again after Zhou's death in 1976. He finally made it back to the top after utilising the revolutionary incident at Tien an Min Square, Peking, in April 1976 to personal advantage and as a stick to beat the Gang of Four\*into political oblivion.

## RETURN TO POWER

Since his return to power he seems to have been personally responsible for two things: Firstly he has been grooming Chairman Hua Guo-feng to be leader in his own image. Secondly, as a sop to the bourgeois democracies on whom Deng depends for know-how and hardware and to 'human rights' groups in those countries and in an attempt to appease a population who have over the past fifteen years demonstrated remarkable powers of resistance to dictatorship, the policy of "Let one hundred flowers bloom, let one hundred schools of thought contend". A policy of the late 1950's instituted by Mao which enabled him to identify his enemies more easily. As soon as the enemies had been identified the policy ended.

So what does the policy mean today? The short answer is not very much. In 1977/78 there was a glut of Wall Posters in Peking, most of which were critical to varying degrees of the current leadership, Mao and the Gang of Four. Some went as far as to praise the U.S.A. and Taiwan. At the time of writing, however, the experiment has been severely curtailed and appears to be limited to Peking only.

In return for the re-establishment of a code of law and judiciary, a relaxation of the residency laws, a marginal increase in consumer goods available and a new religious toleration the Government expects only the regulation flowers to bloom in the regulation colours. In other words criticism is fine, as long as it is directed against Lin Biao\*, the Gang, big and small hegemonists and those few major officials still in posts and known to be leftists.

## DEMOCRACY

This reaction towards people taking the word "democracy" seriously and a crackdown on demonstrations has led to occasional street fights which in

some cases have led to charges of espionage and counter-revolution (both of which carry the death penalty, the latter being a catch-all statute) against individuals. Who are these people who dare to challenge the authority of the Chinese state? In the main they seem to be small groups of intellectuals and dissident Marxists of various strands who believe that at various points of history of the C.P.C. since 1949 has become revisionist. Other more radical forms of Marxism are represented as are libertarian elements.

## ANARCHY

However, there is one group which the press constantly blames for criminal/political activity. Yes, the Anarchist threat plays a large role in the propaganda of the Chinese media. In July 1979 the existence of "Bakunin" and Proudhonism" was recognised as was the existence of non-Marxist-Leninist-Mao-Zelong Marxist thought. The Chinese people were then urged to reject all forms of "non-scientific socialism", such as the two mentioned above. On 4 June 1979 the 'People's Daily' attacked a series of erroneous trends among the Chinese people, singling out Anarchism for special attention. Significantly, people were told to re-appraise the cultural, technological and political efforts of non-socialist personalities in pre-1949 China.

Another context in which Anarchism is constantly criticised is that of a certain lack of discipline and respect for governmental institutions throughout the country e.g. "To negotiate centralised leadership and practice democracy without any regard to discipline is Anarchism, not genuine Peoples' Democracy ...it is time for us to make a clean sweep of Anarchism once and for all." What are we to make of this? Has there been or is there a movement for greater autonomy among leftists in China? If not why castigate a mythical

enemy? Again, there are many references to the young having been infected by Anarchism, often Lin Biao and the Gang of Four are handed the can.

Lin Biao and the Gang have been saddled with the blame for the Cultural Revolution evolving into a genuine popular revolution and for the subsequent breakdown in law and order and disrespect for the government, that Deng and cohorts admit exists. Apparently apart from being "neo-obscurantists" who set up a "fascist" dictatorship, Lin Biao and the Gang also managed to preach and practice Anarchism at the same time. Allegedly, the youth of China was encouraged "to overthrow all" and irrespective of whether they were encouraged to do so, it is becoming rapidly clear that in the late 1960's the Chinese Communist Party came perilously close to a civil war with ultra-leftist youths who had seen through the Lin Biao/Mao Zedong charade.

That may as be, but in the event, a full-scale confrontation was avoided. The attacks on Anarchism continue unabated. After street disturbances in Shanghai early in 1979 when youths put up numerous posters (demanding to be allowed to return to their home towns or cities), stopped traffic and fought with the police. In the official version the press stated "Due to pernicious influence of Anarchism of the last ten years or more, some people mistake democracy for absolute individual freedom and opposition to all kinds of discipline and authority". Again in July 1979, cadres were reminded that "ultra-democratic practices and Anarchism were strictly forbidden" and that "Democratic-centralism" was the correct line to be followed. Furthermore it has also been stated that "those people imbued with the ideas of ultra-democracy and Anarchism have no regard for the interests of the State and the collective and have a contempt for socialist discipline and legality." All in all a very revealing statement. The above quote, although as usual an obvious propaganda piece is couched in reasonably sensible terms. No drivel concerning Lin Biao and the Gang and no references to "criminal wrecking" and the suchlike. In fact the statement could be a tacit admission that there is a definite anti-authoritarian trend in China, a trend all loyal Chinese (sic) must be on constant guard against.

## POLICIES

How then is this trend to be fought? Officially by "Emancipating the mind". Towards the end of 1978 the 3rd plenary session of the 11th Party Central Committee approved the above policy (and the four modernisations). This meeting effectively buried the Gang of Four as a political force (for the time being at least), thus helping to make China more attractive for foreign capitalists, who were informed in September 1979 they would be allowed to make higher profits than is usual in Third World countries. The Party wishes to avoid large-scale purges and a second Cultural

Revolution and is at present waging a preventive ideological war against alleged Anarchists for that reason.

## CRIME

Young criminals are one section of Chinese society which the Party claims to have saved from the anarchism of Lin Biao and the Gang. The Chinese government freely admits that murder, rape, muggings, bank robberies, riots, demonstrations etc. etc. all happen in China (especially in Canton). Crime is said to be a natural consequence of Anarchism. In the late 1960's youths are said to have formed criminal gangs which were engaged in running card schools, muggings and bicycle stealing. Occasionally former self-confessed "Anarchists" and "criminals", and I am sure comrade Yang Bin would be astonished to find his name mentioned in a publication such as this. There are also industrial criminals, let us consider the case of Ji Xianglin who when interviewed admitted to having been seduced by Lin Biao and the Gang and thus Anarchistic. Ji re-designed his job so that after three days work he was able to fulfill his production quota and go home. This upset his workmates who urged him to return to the older more efficient style of working. During the interview Ji remarked on how lucky he had been not to have been imprisoned.

"Anarchism must be resolutely opposed", said the Chinese press after the riot at the Shanghai textile engineering Institute in July 1979. Fighting broke out at around 11 p.m. on 3 July after a Chinese student had asked a foreign student to reduce the volume of a radio. By way of reply the foreign student increased the volume...Sometime on 5 July the police managed to restore order and evacuated the foreign students. The official casualty figures were nineteen foreign students injured (one with an eye injury) and twenty-four Chinese students, academic and non-academic staff and policemen hurt. As the quotation shows in official reports the tendency blamed again was the Anarchist, although in this instance it wasn't directly attributed to Lin Biao and the Gang. The accusation that the phrase "foreign devil" was used is not mentioned in official reports. Perhaps because another "ism" would have to be acknowledged; Racism.

Why then does the official Chinese media persist with these attacks on Anarchism, which they are at pains to point out is an insignificant trend. I think this quotation may be of some use. "If the Party departs from Marxist-Leninist Mao Zedong thought and indulges in empty talk about abstract democracy, it would inevitably lead to Anarchism". Which isn't to say Anarchism in China is just around the corner, but nevertheless indicates that the current leadership is more unsure of itself than it would like to have us all believe. The theory that the more a Marxist organisation is concerned about democracy the more inclined

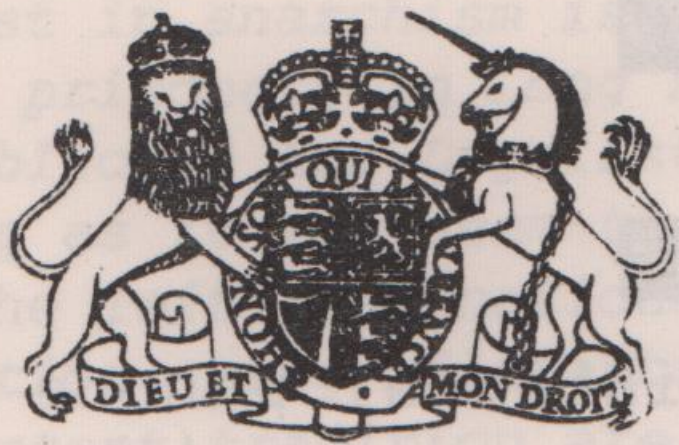


toward Anarchism it becomes is both interesting and (to the author's mind) logical. For without a rigid centralised structure how can an authoritarian organisation function as such? As for the Gang, the official line is "they queried that mass movement is naturally reasonable and whipped up ultra-democratization and Anarchism". The Gang's target was an alleged bourgeoisie which had sprung up within the Party. This bourgeoisie, the Capitalist-Roaders, who now hold power, now claim that the Gang were Anarchists. This lie, as will their rule, will be condemned by history.

That this official anti-Anarchist campaign is at times both ludicrous and histrionic is self evident. The effect of genuine Anarchists within China is in all probability miniscule, although during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution (GPCR) ultra-leftists put forward theories and manifestos which were essentially Anarchist. The fate of these ultra-leftists was varied in as much that they were silenced in different ways e.g. banishment to remote rural areas, death, imprisonment or flight to Xianxing. So we have established evidence of an Anarchist trend among some politically active Chinese; could, however, the Chinese government turned its propaganda machine onto any other group? Well, Wang Ming\* and Kao Kang\* were two top Chinese figures who were disgraced years ago, even Trotsky had a little influence at one time. However, these political dinosaurs are rarely mentioned and no reference is made to their heirs attempting to subvert New China. Anarchism is always singled out for attack, the only reasonable conclusion I can draw is that the ruling clique fears the possibility of a largely spontaneous revolution occurring which would be Anarchistic in nature. Indeed in a recent interview, Hua admitted that when the Gang was overthrown, the government expected (but didn't meet) armed resistance in Shanghai. Who are the people then that the Hua clique is afraid of? Urban unemployment is admitted to be seven million out of a population of 970 million (or .72% of the population). Interestingly, this compares with an estimated 1949 figure of four million from 600 million (or .67%). Also there are as mentioned, literally hundreds of thousands of former ultra-leftists sent to rural communes after the crashing of GPCR, some of whom are still only in their early twenties who want to go home. Anarchism is not at present a serious threat to the Hua clique, but their fear of Anarchism acknowledges its existence and its appeal to all people and especially in China, for the two groups just mentioned.

\* Gang of Four - Chiang Ching, Chang Chun-Chiao, Yao Wen-yuan and Wang Hung-Wen.

\* Lin Biao - Former Defence Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Mao's heir apparent. Killed



# Black Flag's Court Circular



THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT NOW, EVEN IN THE MINDS OF THE MOST ARDENT OF THE LAW-AND-ORDER LOBBYISTS THAT THERE IS WIDESPREAD CORRUPTION IN THE POLICE. ALMOST EVERY DAY THE NEWSPAPERS CARRY STORIES OF OFFICERS SUSPENDED FROM THEIR DUTIES (ON FULL PAY) WHILE ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION AGAINST THEM ARE BEING INVESTIGATED. THOSE ALLEGATIONS HAVE RANGED FROM THE SIMPLE TAKING OF BRIBES TO THE MANUFACTURING OF EVIDENCE AND THE PLANNING OF ARMED ROBBERIES.

However, although many officers have been suspended few are likely to end up on trial. This is partly because of "the wall of silence" those investigating the allegations have encountered from the police themselves. It is also, and perhaps more importantly, due to the attitude of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The DPP, Tony Hetherington, has refused to bring prosecutions against nearly all of those named by informers. Hetherington has publicly justified this by saying that it would be wrong to prosecute a policeman on the basis of information supplied by a criminal.

## BAYSWATER ROBBERY

A remarkable example of the DPP's reluctance to prosecute even when presented with hard evidence occurred after the arrests of John Twommey and Patrick Carpenter.

They were arrested in late 1977 and charged with the robbery of a bank in Bayswater. From the start the men claimed that they were the victims of a police fit-up. There were noisy protests in court as they were remanded to Brixton Prison.

## GUNS AND CASH

Things looked bad for the men. The police claimed that they had found guns and money, which they said was part of the proceeds from the robbery, in their possession. Twommey and Carpenter both countered

in 1971 when 'plane he was fleeing to U.S.S.R. in was shot down after his attempted coup failed completely.

Wang Ming - Former member of the Central Committee of the Politburo. Fall from favour commenced in 1956 (for errors stretching back twenty years). Ended in exile in Moscow, where he has made pro-Soviet broadcasts.

Kao Kang - Politburo member and Soviet spy. Betrayed by Stalin to Mao in an attempt to curry favour. Purged in 1954, placed under house arrest; allegedly poisoned himself.

with the allegation that the guns and money had been planted by the police. They said that shortly before their arrests they had been approached by two CID men who had demanded money from them. They refused to hand over any money and the police had then threatened to "fit them".

It was the kind of claim that had been made countless times before, but almost impossible to prove.

## SECRET MEETING

Twommey and Carpenter got a lucky break. At a time when it seemed that they almost certainly faced massive prison sentences they were supplied with hard evidence of police corruption.

After the two arrests a friend of the prisoners, Jimmy Stevens, was approached by the same CID men and asked for a large sum of money. In return for the money Stevens, the cops said, would be left alone. They were offering him the same deal they had offered to Twommey and Carpenter months earlier. Stevens, an ex-con, hesitated. He didn't have the money they wanted, but he didn't want to share the fate of Twommey and Carpenter either. To stall, Stevens agreed to pay but said that he needed time to get the money. The cops agreed and a time and place were arranged so that the money could be handed over.

Stevens immediately contacted a solicitor, James Saunders who was acting for the arrested men. Together they arranged to have the meeting between Stevens and the CID officers secretly tape-recorded.

## TAPE RECORDING

The cops duly arrived to collect their cash. They chatted to Stevens while counting the money, praising his good sense in paying up. He obviously had more sense than the others. Others? Twommey and Carpenter, of course. They wouldn't pay so they had to be fitted with the guns and stolen money.

Unknown to the garrulous CID the conversation was being witnessed by several people in an adjoining room and a tape recording was being made.

It was not long before the existence of the tape was known to the police, and they made several attempts to get it - all unsuccessful.

## NO RELEASE

The tape recorded meeting did not, however, have any dramatic effect on the position of the prisoners.

They remained in custody. In fact they remained in Brixton for more than 18 months. Finally a date was set for their trial - early in 1979.

## MASSIVE FABRICATION OF EVIDENCE

There was to be no trial. Before the whole story could be made public in a court case, the DPP withdrew the charges. The counsel who formally announced that they charges were to be dropped told the judge that there had been a "massive fabrication of evidence". The prisoners were then freed.

Had it not been for the action of Jimmy Stevens it is unlikely that Twommey and Carpenter would have been sprung. The police came to the same conclusion. Stevens was arrested and charged with armed robbery. He claimed that the police had fitted him up in revenge for exposing the two CID men. He was tried at the Old Bailey in December 1979 and was sentenced to 12 years after being found guilty. Ironically, one of the witnesses called in Stevens' defence was John Twomey.

## SUSPENSIONS

Despite the existence of the tape it was not until a year after it was made that the CID men were suspended. At the time of writing they have not appeared in court on charges of "perverting the course of justice" or anything similar. Twommey and Carpenter have brought private actions against them and David McNee, claiming malicious prosecution. They began those proceedings more than a year ago. The law takes time to get to work - but then that isn't news to either Twommey or Carpenter.



# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## EAST AFRICA

One of the interesting new developments in both Tanzania and Zimbabwe, and perhaps in neighbouring countries too, is a growing interest in anarchism, writes a correspondent. It should not be exaggerated at the moment, but anarchist books and newspapers are being passed around certain circles with excitement.

Socialism has been distorted in East Africa to mean the military-socialism which has been imported along with "third world" adulation of the imperialist blocs of China and Russia as against America and Europe. The interest in anarchism has been stimulated by the feeling that military-socialism cannot surely be the last word - that there must be another alternative. Consequently it is the critical and negative side of anarchism that is causing the sensation. However many people are looking into the way in which Anarchism is connected with the African tradition.

The rapid way in which Zimbabwe has become a capitalist and repressive state, and within weeks absorbed the colonialist traditions, is being commented by many. Some are beginning to realize that any "revolution government" would go the same way.

### ARGENTINA

*In Argentina, the C.P. support the Military Regime, precisely as they once supported the dictatorship in Cuba that preceded Castro.*

"Fascists, assisted by the CIA and monopoly groups, are trying to present a distorted image of Argentina to the world, with all their talk about crime, torture, detentions and other outrages, with a view to contriving a situation of anarchy in which they can set up a solid fascist government". So we are assured by Eduardo Gutierrez, vice president of the Communist Youth Federation, a section of the Argentine CP. Last week, while passing through Mexico, Gutierrez was interviewed by "Excelsior" on behalf of "Cambio 16". He zealously leapt to the defence of the Military Junta governing his country. Such is the original and official line of the Argentine CP.

Gutierrez roundly denied any ideological affinity between the military regime in Argentina and Pinochet's regime in Chile. "They are different in conception and ideas. The Argentine regime inclines towards democracy whereas the Chilean imposes fascism. Proof of this difference is the fact that the Buenos Aires military junta has not banned political parties. There are 13 main ones, including the CP, and even when they do not

engage in any political work they wait for the opportune moment (which is not far off) to begin their activities," he explained.

When the military overthrew the government, the locals of the CP were attacked by the naval troops, who dispersed the CP committees and killed or arrested some of its militants. Turning a blind eye to these attacks, the CP decided to continue with its "critical" support for a military dictatorship, clearly rightwing in inspiration.

### HOW TO LEARN TO LOVE VIDELA

"It has falsely been argued that on the one side are the military and on the other the ultraleftists and ultrarightists, whilst the people stand open mouthed in the middle. This is quite false" rages Gutierrez, "there are 3 subversive groups in Argentina...the Monteneros, the ERP (People's Revolutionary Army) and the BRPO (Red Brigade for Workers Power). The government is working against all 3 of these. The government is also constantly on its guard against corruption and looks forward to a return to democracy", smiled the leader of the Communist Youth Federation.

"The good intentions of the Military Junta were manifest in its release of 400 people in just 2 months alone and in addition it has promised to disclose the names of those still detained. We contend that it is the extremists of left and right who do not want peace. They want to see many die in Argentina so that they can proclaim fascism or anarchy", stressed Gutierrez. "Attacks on the government are attacks by the extremists on the people. Despite the differences in outlook to be found among the military government, its policy can be summed up in a single sentence: a return to sense will be followed by a return to democracy," the Communist leader concluded.

## MEXICO

DESPITE THE PUBLIC DENIALS, THERE IS PROOF THAT THE WHITE BRIGADE IS ALIVE AND WELL AND OPERATING OUT OF NO1 ARMY BASE.

by Carlos Marin.

In the Mexico City telephone directory the Crime Prevention Investigation Division (Spanish Initials: D.I.P.D.) is still listed as "Secret Service" of the General Inspectorate of Police (Sp initials: D.G.P.yT). Its brigades are referred to as groups and are numbered from 1 to 10 (except that no9 brigade is not listed).

However no9 brigade is correctly listed in the

DIPD's internal phone directory. Under the heading it states "White brigade" and its telephone numbers begin with the code 395. That code corresponds not to the city centre area of Tlaxcoaque where the DGPYT has its headquarters but to the area bordering the state of Mexico, near the Augustin Melgar kindergarten. The kindergarten's number also starts with the code 359 and it is located inside the perimeter of the no1 Army base.

### THE BRIGADE IS NO NEWCOMER TO THE SCENE.

The White Brigade exists and there is documentary evidence showing it to be a paramilitary body, known only through the denunciations of those who have suffered arrest and interrogation and through human rights organisations and also organisations of the relatives of political "disappear-ees".

Despite repeated government denials of its existence, the White Brigade reveals its existence through signed and sealed documents giving official sanction to its operations, which have been published in the press. GO ASK ALICIA ABOUT IT.

One particular case that is typical of the experiences of survivors of arrest and interrogation by the White Brigade is the tale told by Bertha Alicia Lopez Garcia and carried in more detail by 'Proceso' on 17th September last year.

At 4am on 9th April 79, members of the White Brigade arrived at her home in Torreon. Bertha Alicia, her husband Humberto, and other members of the family were roused by shots fired by the police and ordered to come out with their hands up.

They were taken to the Transit department and... "they picked me up...and forced me to strip. They brought me to my husband - he too had been stripped and they were applying electrical charges to his testicles. They dragged me to the floor, beat me and pulled me up by the breasts, grasping my nipples. Then they rammed a rod into my vagina, which they said they would electrify. In fact they did not, but they did apply electrical charges to my vulva and my breasts."

As for her 14 month old daughter Tania "...she was tortured in my presence; they mistreated her and applied electric shocks all over her little body."

All the detainees were then taken to the La Joya Army base in Torreon where the men received further beatings. From there they were taken by plane to

Mexico City, and to the no1 Army base; once there the physical torture ceased.

Bertha Alicia has testified that she saw other detainees in the no1 Army base. She subsequently identified 8 of them from photographs; it was supposed that they had been "disappeared" until they were released from detention.

Before being released, says, Bertha Alicia "I was threatened with death and told that my family would suffer the consequences if I so much as opened my mouth." Those who, like her, swallowed their fear and spoke out anyway, have been numerous.

Although the White Brigade came to public notice in the first quarter of 1977 it began its operations 9 months earlier, in August 1976 when the DIPD's director and right-hand man were arraigned for the extortion of tax-evading industrialists. With these two in prison it was necessary to replace the expertise that had thus been lost. It was then that a specialist corps was set up, comprising the Federal Security Inspectorate, (DFS), the DIPD, the Judicial Federal Police, (PJF), and the Judicial Federal Military Police, (PJFM). Each of these provided agents for the White Brigade.

### LAWYERS UNCOVER THE EVIDENCE

Having received a flood of complaints after May 1977 alleging that the White Brigade was the paramilitary group responsible for a host of sins, from unlawful arrest to kidnapping, harassment, torture and murder, 3 organisations interested in civil rights secured permission to carry out an investigation into the matter.

Their commission of inquiry arrived at the end of 1977. By that time it had a list of 301 people who had "vanished" (a year later this had risen to 400 and the figure currently stands at 500).

### THE GOVERNMENTS DENIALS

In meetings with the lawyers, Mexican officials roundly denied that any "White Brigade" exists. Or that there are any unlawful prisons, or that any civilians are being held at no1 Army base.

A few months ago, the director of the DIPD, informed interested parties of the secondment to the "...no9 Brigade at Army Base no1 of agents nos 1080, 1076 and 1960". And recently in an order to Chief Inspector Marcos Cavazos at no1 Army Base, the security director informed him that he was despatching two DFS agents to the no9 Brigade.

In February 1979, Amnesty International (among other places) listed "some regions of Mexico" as places where "Kidnappings followed by



murders remain a major cause for concern."

### HARASSMENT UNTO DEATH

In the estimation of leading figures in the PMT - the Mexican Workers Party - the lineage of the White Brigade can be traced to the Olympia Battalion. The specific mission of the White Brigade is the extermination of the governments opponents. In this it is the same as Guatemala's White Hand or Argentina's Triple A organisation.

Rosario Ibarra de Piedra, the mother of an alleged guerilla who has disappeared since he was picked up by the police, is active in the National Prisoners Defence Committee. She has this to say: "We are moving away from yearly statistics concerning the repression, to the issuance of a monthly 'list of missing persons'; for there are up to 12 cases reported each month".

According to information available to "Proceso" the 200-odd agents assigned to the White Brigade since last December have 3 sources of income: they receive a salary from the police corps to which they belong, a second salary as members of the White Brigade, plus what they themselves refer to as "spoils of war" - meaning valuables found in the homes of alleged guerillas - and on occasion, a share of the ransom extracted in kidnapping cases.

Several of those released from prison under amnesties awarded by the present government have been subsequently killed by the Brigade and on memorable occasions the general director of the DGPYT, General Moreno, has admitted that he has ordered his agents to shoot activists "like dogs".

### \*\*\*\*\* ANARCHISM IN LONG KESH

*Interest in anarchism is growing among prisoners in Long Kesh, both Republicans and Loyalists. Surprising as it may seem to many in the left wing nationalist tradition, many militants of the Protestant tradition are querying the dreary logic of traditional politics and turning from "loyalism" to an increasing scepticism of Statism, and incidentally finding in the process that it was not always that those born into the Orange culture were automatically Loyalists to the United Kingdom.*

*The latest to be interested in anarchist ideas and wanting to subscribe to 'Black Flag', had his request to receive it indignantly rejected by the Governor. "We had enough of what happened to Bennett," he was told. \*\**

*\*\*Obviously referring to Ronan Bennett a previous inmate in Long Kesh and who defended himself in the "anarchist" trial at the Old Bailey and was acquitted along with his 3 co-defendants. \*\*\*\*\**

### 6,000 IN CNT MARCH

DESPITE THE SPLIT THAT HAS RECENTLY ROCKED THE CNT (SEE PAGE 9) MORE THAN 6,000 PEOPLE TOOK PART IN A MAY 1ST MARCH THROUGH BARCELONA AND A MASS MEETING IN SANTS.

SPEAKERS ECHOED THE DETERMINATION NOT TO SIGN THE LABOUR AGREEMENT (SOCIAL CONTRACT) AND STATED THAT THE LABOUR LAW WOULD NOT SOLVE UNEMPLOYMENT.

THEY ALSO DEMANDED THE RETURN OF THE PROPERTY OF THE CNT (MOST OF THE PROPERTY OF THE UGT HAS BEEN RETURNED).

### PARIS 20.3.80

Teacher's demo from 'Nation' to 'Richeleu Drouot' metros, protesting at education cuts and increasing class sizes, etc 20,000 attended and there was a one-day strike. Appears to be the same sort of Tories-out-fight-the-cuts stuff as has been happening in the UK.

PLOGOFF - A FIGHT FOR LIFE  
Extracted from Le Monde Libertaire 27.3.80

Plogoff, in Brittany, France, is today the centre of a public energy enquiry because of the controversy over the proposed installation of a nuclear power station in a unique beauty spot just 3km from the Pointe du Raz - one of the most spectacular places in France.

Faced with the opposition of the general public and the town councils concerned, the authorities are pursuing a parody of an inquiry from a collection of vans called 'town hall annexes' which have been placed under the protection of the 'forces of order'. At the moment, Plogoff's van is situated at the entrance to the town, stuck between the khaki trucks of the Mobile Guard and surrounded by paratroopers. The road is barred and people are allowed through one by one. There are policemen everywhere.

On Saturday 8th March the Coordinated Defence Committee of the Loire Basin came to the support of its cousins of Plogoff - about 2 or 3 thousand came from all over the region against the 'occupation army', as the locals call the gendarmes, massed near the 'town hall annexe', which was due to depart at midday. Stones and bolts were thrown by the demonstrators. The police replied with tear gas and grenades. The crowd

surged back, and then the whole population had a go - old people collecting stone stones in fields and handing them to the younger ones. The police retreated and the Bretons picked up the empty tear gas canisters on which the gendarmes had written "For you big-mouthed Bretons, with pleasure". They chased the police in cars for 15 miles to Point Croix, but that town was practically under military occupation.

The shop windows, houses and cars of Plogoff are plastered with anti-nuclear stickers. Everyone supports the Defence Committee, and it is the wives of Plogoff (sic) who run it, as their husbands are out at sea fishing all day. One of them said the women were used to responsibility "We don't hide behind our husbands like a lot of women do."

The CP, with its pro-nuclear line, is losing a lot of support in Brittany. The mayor, however, though against the installation of the power station, still supports the party.

The Bretons demonstrate against the power station every day, and at night build barricades to hamper the invasion of the police. The police reply with violence, truncheon-whipping or kicking men and women, young and old alike.

Like the Windscale inquiry, but rather more graphically, the plogoff inquiry is a farce. If it sits for longer than 6 weeks, the authorities are legally empowered to go ahead with building the power station. Giscard d'Estaing's promise that no town would have a nuclear power station imposed on it are ridiculous, and the people of Plogoff are relying now on their bodies rather than other people's words.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Taff Ladd "will not be prosecuted on the present indictment" says the Director of Public Prosecutions Office.

## LADD-CHARGES DROPPED

Taff Ladd was one of the original Persons Unknown defendants. He was arrested in June 1978 during the Anti-terrorist Squad and Special Branch round-ups of anarchists and libertarians. He was charged with "conspiracy to cause explosions", a charge which was later changed for one of "conspiracy to rob". He was granted bail in December 1978 and was released in March 1979. On the eve of the Persons Unknown trial in September of the same year Taff absconded and has been in hiding since.

In a surprise move, the Director of Public Prosecutions Office informed Taff's solicitor, Mr. Brian Rose-Smith that it was not proposed to proceed with the charges "under the present indictment". Normally the DPP refuses to give any indication of his intentions in such circumstances - preferring to leave the defendant "on ice".

However, Taff still faces a charge under the Bail Act, for failing to surrender to bail. This is punishable by a maximum 12-month sentence. The police have told Mr.

Rose-Smith that Taff is still wanted in connection with that offence and "they would be grateful if he would advise his client to give himself up".

It is known that Taff is unhappy with much of the left press because, he says, they have published articles which he considers unsympathetic to his case. He has written to several papers complaining about articles dealing with the Persons Unknown trial and with events surrounding the case. He also gave a press conference, attended by, among others, a Morning Star journalist, during the course of the trial in which he attacked the practice of "jury vetting".

Whether Taff will give himself up or not remains to be seen, but it is thought that there are negotiations afoot aimed at preventing his return to prison.

### OTHERS ON INDICTMENT

This latest development raises the question of the other people named on the indictment in the case as well as those named in court by the prosecution. So far there has been no indictment from either the DPP or the police as to whether or not these people will face prosecution.

Graham Rua and Michele Poree, the two others named on the indictment, have been on the run since June 1978. The police say that they are believed to be in France. They have never been charged and so, unlike Taff, do not face prosecution under the Bail Act.



# BLACK AID 'RINGER' -A REPLY

We would like to strongly object to the article "The Background to the Trial" (B.F. Vol V1 no1). We recognise that coverage of the Persons Unknown case has been difficult. Your article, far from clarifying these difficulties only obscured them. The one-sided account you gave, combined with the facts you offered regarding the "real" origins of the case, makes, largely by innuendo, a series of entirely false allegations.

It begins with the cavalier way in which you treat the politics of the group 'Black Aid' and its embers. You describe Black Aid as "maoist" and pseudo-anarchist and this definition is presumably extended to its members, particularly Taff Ladd who you describe as having "introduced" Black Aid to England. Stewart Carr a member of it is described as "not anarchist" and Gerhard S. is described as a member of Black Aid in what seems again to be an attempt to separate him and Black Aid off from the 'real anarchists.'

Taking these matters in sequence. Our understanding is that the organisation Black Aid in Germany certainly wasn't Maoist unlike some of the defence committees for the RAF. Maoism in Germany and Maoism in Britain imply rather different things, and to use the term without explanation is at best unhelpful. To go on to transfer the term directly to the English group Black Aid stretches the definition beyond mere absurdity and begins to resemble the "trotskyist-fascist-wreckers" level of political discussion. Black Aid was not Maoist and neither was Taff Ladd (nor did he introduce it to England, it developed from discussions between a number of people in this country).

You describe Stewart Carr as a "long time prisoner, though not anarchist" - the assertion as to his politics in this case compounded by what can only be regarded as a smear - an astonishing one for a prisoners solidarity organisation to make. Whatever one thinks of Stewart Carr. Worse still are the references to Gerhard S. To refer to him as "a member of Black Aid, an Austrian" is in itself offensively reductive. Taken as a whole however the article clearly implies he was an agent provocateur.

Accepting the account of Gerhard's role given in Court its worth noting that it wasn't suggested there that he was a provocateur. Its true that after the trial a Leveller journalist

exercised his overheated imagination in this direction knowing only what was said in court. By contrast you know perfectly well that Gerhard was not a provocateur. If the implication (obvious to everyone) is accidental then it is an extraordinary piece of editorial shoddiness which demands a specific retraction.

This brings us to the suggestion that "German police agents" were responsible for the case. That German police were involved in the case is fact. But to suggest that they or their agents initiated the case to "implicate the whole anarchist movement" is to reduce matters to the terms of the most absurd conspiracy theory. Acquaintance with the facts of the arrests, of the leading role of the English Special Branch and anti-terrorist squad and of the development of the police case, would be sufficient to dispel such an account. But of course these are the very facts you fail to give.

But not content with supplying one set of villains you mix in a second - the "police-penetrated maoists" of Black Aid who, it is clearly implied, are responsible for the state harassment of the real anarchist movement. This is the crux of our objections. If some of the things we've referred to above could be attributed to carelessness in writing or editing this allegation is the very heart of your account. The fact remains that the first people arrested were members of Black Aid not Black Aid. Further it was only as a result of those arrests and what linkages the police were able to "find" that attention turned to former members of Black Aid. Former members, because the group had dissolved some weeks before the arrests.

Factually its false - as criticism it seems dubious in the extreme. It would only be necessary for an attack on Black Aid as "terrorists" to be added to your account for it to be exactly analogous to the standard denunciation of revolutionaries by leftists and state capitalists - that they bring down repression on the movement. This would only be another relatively pointless dispute about anarchist history if it were not that at least four people, including two of those you make allegations about, are still wanted by the police. The state's publicity exercise at the end of the trial must prevent any possibility of their getting a fair

trial. In particular, Taff Ladd if arrested would almost certainly be convicted and given an exemplary sentence on evidence no greater than that against any of the other Persons Unknown defendants. In this context your allegations can only be regarded as politically indefensible.

We feel that given the influence of Black Flag in the anarchist movement internationally and the authority the article must carry by virtue of that at the least some revision and clarification are called for.

Dave Couch, Babs Segal,  
Dave Morris, Annette Webb.

Our friends have misread the article putting into it statements that are not there. But it is as well to clear the air publicly.

It was never suggested that the comrade they refer to as Gerhard S was a provocateur. Allegations regarding him existed in the mind of "Leveller" journalist Dave Clarke only. He was not the Austrian referred to who left the suitcase: evidence in this regard must be left for any subsequent trial resulting from the crop of allegations in this one. He himself stated that the existence of a Black Aid group attracted the interest of the German police (notwithstanding that it collapsed immediately after being set up).

The case was triggered off by the anti-terrorist squad over-reacting - and their actions had to be justified. The Special branch exaggerations were exposed in court. The trimmings - came from the German police, which has attacked Black Cross (in Germany) as anarchist, but regarded Black Aid as susceptible to infiltration.

It is necessary to make a sectarian criticism, it seems, to show why this is. It has otherwise no connection with the case or reflects on those who at one time might have thought Black Aid's ideology was applicable here (where its Third worldism follows paths well-trod and muddled over by the trots). Black Aid, by identifying with "third world" revolutionaries and nationalists, leaves itself open to infiltration. (the "friendly" third world has police too; Gaddafi's are as much police as any "imperialists" and collaborates with them). "Maoism" as used here in the continental sense of neo-Marxist nationalism (not in the sense of Peking line followers). We do support both types in prison; we dissociate ourselves politically.

In making this political analysis, and saying someone who takes the opposite view is not an anarchist, we do not refrain from support where possible. (Not being anarchist is hardly a criminal allegation!)

The "ringer" for anarchism type of Maoism playing havoc at the moment in Spain (and which has utterly confused the situation in Germany) was part of Black Aid in Germany, and that Taff Ladd introduced it into England has really nothing to do with the case itself. Had he gone forward to

stand trial it would have been seen that the charges against him were chimeras. It has nothing to do with the criminal case of the state, whose fanciful evidence faded away as the trial proceeded.

THE DEFENDANTS ADD:

"We wish to make it clear that we never made any suggestions that Gerhard S. was a provocateur. In fact we can go further and state that he is definitely NOT."

It is now clear that the writers of the letter were much mistaken when they singled out Taff Ladd as one of the 4 still wanted by the police, who would suffer the worst. The Public Prosecutors office has recently taken the unusual step of publicly announcing, through his solicitor, that Taff Ladd will not face prosecution on the original charges. The only charge for which he is now being sought is "absconding from bail".

## "DIRECT ACTION" ARRESTS. A REPORT FROM BOLOGNA

The anarchists recently arrested in Italy (23rd-25th March) include two Scots: Jean Weir and Ken Burgone, along with Alfredo Bonano and Salvatore Marietta. All are associated with the bi-monthly magazine "Anarchismo". At present about 14 comrades are being held, all charged with membership of Action Revolucionare, an alleged armed gang and subversive association. In addition, Jean, Alfredo and Salvatore are charged with six armed robberies.

The nature of the charges means that they can be held for up to three years without trial. At the moment all the evidence indicates that this is another attempt by the state to crush the magazine "Anarchismo".

"Anarchismo" has long been the subject of police harassment. Two years ago the police charged Alfredo and another comrade, Franco Leggio with blasphemy.

The descriptions of the robberies vary widely - some accounts say that there were two youths, some say two men and a woman.

Throughout it has been maintained that the robbers had central Italian accents. Jean and Ken are both Scottish and speak Italian with foreign accents. Alfredo and Salvatore have strong Sicilian accents.

The comrades are in good spirits in Bologna prison, but there is strong concern about Jean in Moderna prison - a prison adjudged bad even by Italian standards.

HELP IN THE FORM OF MONEY  
TO PAY LAWYERS AND FOR MINIMUM COMFORTS SHOULD BE SENT  
TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

COMITATO DI DEFESA BOLOGNESE.  
CO L'ONAGRO,  
VIA DE PRETI, 4-9,  
BOLOGNA, 40100,  
ITALY.



# CNT: a crisis of identity

We reported in Black Flag on the December congress of the CNT in Madrid - the anarcho-syndicalist labour movement of Spain. Our description was enthusiastic: it was a considerable achievement in organisation and in representation. There was a friendly atmosphere, good humour and a sense of embattlement with the outside.

Yet only weeks afterwards it was announced that there would be another congress in Saragossa - of people who did not accept the December congress and its decisions, which could be summarised as the adoption of the policy of the CNT as laid down in Saragossa in 1936. This has formed another CNT, claiming to be the authentic CNT, and there has been a bitter clash between the two factions. Yet this breakaway group also appears to accept the same policy.

This "civil war" within the CNT is something not entirely unknown in the revolutionary movement. The tactics of the ruling class are to divide and rule. The hopes placed in the reconstruction of the CNT after Franco were intense and high: to counter this there were huge sums of money poured in from outside interests - noticeably the CIA and the Communist elements for once in agreement - to build up rivals to the CNT. The instant formation and legislation of the Comisiones Obreras failed in delivering the goods. Hastily the British trade union movement poured in cash to reconstruct the UGT. The Spanish government (following historic precedents) did its best in turn by legalising both the Comisiones Obreras and the UGT, while still subjecting the CNT to persecution: only a small section, necessary to placate public opinion, was legalised; its property remained confiscated; its militants were still harassed by the police and framed.

Nevertheless this seemed not to make the slightest difference. The workers on the shop floor rejected the pretensions of the C.O and the UGT. Numerous other unions were created - to participate in the phoney fascist-type "workers councils" (which are nothing of the sort) to which factory floors are asked to elect their factional representatives. The CNT boycotted it; the elections proved to be a farce, with few votes cast and the decisions of the councils ignored.

Persecution of, but also infiltration into, the CNT

increased. Infiltration has been attempted by maoist type "ringer" organisations and by trots, also by certain catholic bodies. This has failed because the infiltrators were not banned - they were invited to take part in the voluntary union work, to become delegates etc, and the demands to "form a party" were ignored.

Now however a split has occurred, on major lines. What is the cause?

We shall publish various reports from Spain on the subject, knowing them to be of major interest to our readers, and the subject being so deliberately ignored by the press (unless there is political capital to be made out of it). Meanwhile, however, I hazard an opinion based upon the congress in December.

There have been a number of divisions based on personality clashes and differences of outlook, which have been encouraged by the would-be infiltrators from the Marxist and political catholic left. There are some who think that the CNT should be reconstructed in its entirety as it was at the beginning of the civil war, (hence the insistence of those who wanted to ratify the congress of Saragossa). There are those who want it reconstructed as it was at the end of the civil war (when discipline and tight organisation had been introduced, governmental responsibility and so on - not that there is any chance of the latter now). There are those who, thinking themselves anarchists in the way of the English-speaking libertarian movement (which in the main is not anarchist at all but uss the word, qualified sometimes by pacifism, though not always, to denote a militant liberalism) - these want an organisation of the "emarginated" groups (the inevitable "gays, gipsies, women and other minorities" syndrome) and not a union type movement; and do not seem to see that women, not to mention other minorities, are inevitably part of a union type movement; and where a separate movement is called for, this can exist as well. But this does not suit the intellectuals who want "a pool to swim in" and one has even suggested renaming the CNT, preserving the old initials, as a blanket for "marginal" aims, as "revolution" and "struggle in industry" is out-dated. People of this type do not want a confederation of workers in which they feel out of place; yet

they want the benefits of the traditions evoked by the very initials of the CNT.

We expected, indeed looked forward to, a split between the "Toulouse" organisation and the new movement in Spain, which would have immeasurably strengthened the anarchists and the CNT. It does not seem to have come out that way because many who were in the Resistance have chosen one side or the other, purely, according (it would seem from the outside) to personal predilection. The situation is fluid, there is extreme intolerance being shown (to the point of physical attacks) and bitter rivalry within the organisational CNT at the moment. But whether this has had any effect on the CNT unions within the places of work is a matter of which we, as yet, have no knowledge.

There is no doubt that this represents a new crisis in the history of the CNT. It may be that it will follow the example of the Argentine FORA which also divided and ended in internecine struggle. There are a great many political and business interests who would rejoice if this were to happen. But there are also a great many conscious anarchists in Spain who know what the consequences would be.

A.M.

## GREECE

The Greek authorities have not only failed to release Philippos and Sophia Kyritsis who were sentenced to 9 and 5 years respectively as terrorists but they continue to throw other anarchists into their prisons.

Those currently imprisoned are: Nikos Ntalos (20), Alex Iriadafillou (20), E.Seferis (18), and A.Paulou. All are charged with having formed an anarchist group in Istiaia (on the island of Eubora), possessing anarchist books, having taken part in public debates in which they defended the cause of libertarianism and with having attempted to burgle the town bank.

Other anarchists are in prison charged with setting up anarchist groups in their towns and being in possession of books like Malatesta's "Anarchy", and with having defiled the Greek flag by drawing on it.

Leonidas Christakis (52), publisher of the magazine "Ideodramio" (The path of Ideas) is charged with being behind the formation of a terrorist group.

Jean Mpauketsides (a 24 year old worker) is charged with arson against the tax records in Nicea (a working class area in Piraeus). He has denied the charges and it appears

## ANSWERS TO QUIZ

1. The negro slave Abu Bekr held fast to his faith shouting "one God" while being tortured for denying the others; Mohammed raised the money from his rich wife and "bought" him from his "owner" and decreed that whoever freed a slave was guaranteed a place in Paradise. To this day orthodox Moslems - in Saudi Arabia for instance - want to retain slavery to make sure of their place in heaven by releasing a slave.

2. To make sure he didn't become an alcoholic himself, nor his followers, Mohammed declared that the pleasure of drink was so great it had to be reserved for the world to come; when the faithful can get as boozed as they like.

3. Seeing his dream of an independent Catalonia fulfilled, but with the workers victorious and the flags of the CNT-FAI everywhere, life long Catalan nationalist Dencas fled for his life from the Catalans, and spent the rest of the civil war as a guest of Mussolini.

4. For the first time an official C.P. journal included a paid display ad, unmistakably and provocatively anarchist (from Cienfuegos Press). It must mean something!

5. He was assured, quite correctly, that there was no difference between his position and that of Stalin. However, when he went back, it didn't save him - he was shot.

6. In Dublin there is a statue to James Larkin, who worked for the IWW in New York in the early 20's, and founded the Irish T & GWU.

7. Well - maybe true for all we know. It does not however refer to the better known anarcho-syndicalist CNT of Spain, but the CNT of Chile (The nearest equivalent in Chile to the Spanish CNT was, at different times, the CGT and the IWW). The financial investigations are not into the Iberian Anarchist Federation but the Football Association of Ireland.

## GREECE, CONTINUED

that the police have no real evidence against him. Jean was tortured while being held in the police station by Piraeus police chief, Jean Gienoulis who was a notorious torturer even under the Colonels. The injuries Jean received have been noted by the court doctor. Jean is still in prison.

There is proof of widespread torture in Greek prisons - recently an autonomist militant, Scondalis, was crucified in the prison on Corfu.

CONTINUED ON BACK PAGE  
page 9.



# ROON 'N' ABOUT

## TOO MANY INDIANS

A curious letter appeared in both London evening newspapers from a Dr. Robert John, of New York complaining about "foreigners" in the U.S.A. "The American people" he said - for whom he was the self-appointed spokesman - didn't mind them as tourists, but "their patience has been overtaken by demands to pay for "foreigners". There are, he said, "now seven to ten million illegal immigrants in the United States - and for the first time, this year, Mexican children in Los Angeles schools outnumber white children".

Most "illegal immigrants" in the U.S.A. are white; most Blacks come from a lineal descent in America far longer than those of Whites - but they do not count at all for him. Mexicans are more or less "white" - those of Spanish descent don't worry him so much, it is the rest, who are of wholly or partly Amerindian blood. They may be in the United States "illegally" - but how can Amerindians be "immigrants" in any part of America?

## COMPARISONS

The best way of describing the archipelago that is the Left is to compare it with the archipelago that represents the Church. Curiously, some divisions and schisms within the Church have been reproduced almost exactly, and certainly unconsciously, within the Left, perhaps because the same sort of people tend to act the same sort of way whatever their beliefs.

If one compares the Labour Party with the Church of England and the Communist Party with the Church of Rome, one can see how all the other sects arise. It is not a bad analogy, because the Labour Party has the same aura of establishment, nowadays at least; the same sort of attributed membership - "all the working class" equalling "everybody who hasn't actively dissented" - without requiring further allegiance, which generates the same laziness and complacency among the hierarchy. The CP is well matched by the Church of Rome not only as an international, with a leadership set firmly in one place in one country and a rigid hierarchy, but a totalitarian one which on the one hand seeks allies and claims it wants to unite with all, yet on the other seeks to impose its rule. The dictum of Pym's that the Roman Church was "a lamb in adversity, a fox in equality, a wolf in supremacy" applies to the Marxist-Leninist Church as well or better.

If one considers the Trotskyists, how well they fit into the analogy - if one considers them as Anglo-Catholics (which oddly enough first trots

were). The Anglo-Catholic bishops work hard in the poorest districts - "fun-trotskyists" may not sip their sherry like the bishops but is their life-style all that far off? (Consider Vanessa Redgrave et al). The A-Cs are a 5th column of Rome in the C of E...but the last thing they want is union with Rome. One is reminded of the tactics of the Militant in the Labour Party. What they are after is not union but bringing the practices of the opposite firm into the one they are in; they denounce its errors -but they would allow those errors if they could run the show.

The breakaway Marxist sects could be regarded as identical with many on the opposite side in the Protestant archipelago. The SPGB has a faith in Socialism and its inevitability through peaceful means which is only matched by the Presbyterian Calvinists

Popular fallacy - bring back national service to cure hooliganism. How many pundits have offered that tired old story - as if hooliganism was peculiar to the British isles with its lack of conscription and did not exist elsewhere in Europe nor in the USA! How does taking "hooligans" who want to put the boot into some unfortunate and training them to kill instead improve the situation?

But the repeated assertion time and again reveals the ale blood tax, as persists in many countries, for what it is. It has nothing to do with "national" defence against an external power: it is a form of internal control, like the identity card - the retention of which from war time was also resisted in England though taken as normal elsewhere in Europe.

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A tired old issue is raised in Time Out. PDC - the libertarian left distribution co-operative, now known as Full Time Distribution - will no longer handle International Times. They are accused of banning it and censoring it.

We do not accept the criticisms of IT. But neither do we accept the criticism of PDC - even if it banned ourselves. As a co-operative they must draw certain lines. Everyone accepts that they would not distribute right wing newspapers: as a pragmatic fact they are handling ninety left or libertarian magazines and can't handle any more, so the ones they want to continue handling re, fairly naturally, the ones with which they are in most agreement. What is

wrong with that?. And what is the alternative anyway? That PDC should be four times as big?

Many people in commercial publishing, make a criticism of W.H. Smith & Son that it won't handle some books and some magazines. We don't see why, in a commercial world, they should have to if they don't want to take the risk, can't see any material advantage, or just take a dislike to the publication.

To insist that W.H. Smith in a capitalist set-up, should handle everything is to say all other booksellers and newsagents should be put out of business and Smith's made a monopoly against it's will.

IT suggests a new collective should be set up to distribute newspapers, including anarchist ones. That's fine too. It's a wide field, let 'em all bloom.

great processions through the streets beloved of the French Communist Party which do not have the slightest effect on anything. Demonstrations are the flesh and blood of minority parties, giving the impression of "doing something" at small expense.

True "what else do you do - stay at home and watch TV?" But what use are organised demonstrations with protest march and route agreed with the police beforehand?

Result: the working class as a whole have totally deserted the old-style demo in this country (as opposed to the folklore demo in France) You can always get a demo of drop-outs, or students, because they feel frustrated at having no otherpower. Yet look at the tremendous effect of demonstrations involving work situations such as the steelworkers and the flying pickets in support of the steel strike, which have terrified the government and

Dennis, you don't have any of your weedkiller about the place, do you?



REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE KIND PERMISSION

OF "TROG" AND THE OBSERVER

## MARCH

The London Worker's Group recently sent out a leaflet advertising a public meeting "Are Demonstrations Any Use?" (In the true Flag tradition, they advertised a meeting already held but without the excuse of a late publication). So I never came to attend it, but the leaflet is worth reproducing.

It concludes with the jocular remark, "Are public meetings any use?" (followed by "what's on TV tonight?")

Demonstrations can so easily become a part of folklore like the

brought in emergency legislation, not to mention an hysterical press campaign against it.

The answer lies in the leaflet. The hell with the "safety valve" demonstration on the lines of the old Aldermaston CND marches - a nice day's walk meeting old friends, without the least political effect - and no support for anyone else's demonstration (stewards, police notified). Instead, something that bites much deeper. If one can think of nothing, so be it; but don't turn out parading illusions.



# LETTERS

## EDUCATION

I enjoyed Andy Lawson's article on Education (in *Black Flag* 13). As an ex-teacher, some of it I agree with and some I don't; so I would like to add a few comments.

### TEACHERS

Teachers are often as much trapped and dehumanised by the system as children, and for much longer. Many of them go into it with romantic ideals of enriching children's lives, giving them a wider understanding, encouraging personal development, fostering a sense of responsibility - the best discipline is self-discipline and all that jazz - and end up becoming authoritarian in sheer self-defence - if the heart attacks and nervous breakdowns don't get them first.

## RULES

Teachers have more rules to keep than kids do. They hate marking registers, but they have to do it. They don't give homework for the love of marking it, but because they have to write down in a book each week what they've 'taught' in each lesson and what they've set for homework and what marks they've given for it. My book regularly said: "Home-work: finishing off exercise begun in class." My pupils knew that if they finished it in the lesson they had nothing to take home; but I still had to mark it, and as there wasn't enough free time for marking it all in school, I had to take a lot of it home to do.

Teachers can get told off about the way they dress, or do their hair; about what language or accent they use, or how they behave out of school hours; and most of all about what the kids in their charge do, even when they're not with them. Another teacher will come up and say "Your class behaved very badly while I was teaching them," as if it was your fault and you were supposed to be able to do something about it.

Teachers aren't judged on what they teach, but on whether their discipline is strict or not. If the kids are kept quiet and working hard, their teacher is called a good teacher; even if they're learning nothing, just doing the same old meaningless exercises over and over again. So what happens? As soon as they're free of the strict disciplinarian, they come charging into the next class and take out their resentment on some poor sod who believes in teaching kids as human

beings - and gets a reputation for being a "weak" teacher because of it. I could often tell who'd been teaching a class before me by their behaviour when they came into my room. I've even had a class make a deliberate nuisance of themselves when I had to teach them in a different room. I said, "Look, you're not usually like this. Remember it's me teaching you, not Miss X"; and the atmosphere settled down to the usual level of friendly back-chat. It gave me quite an insight into the methods of my colleague Miss X, who was universally acknowledged to be a very good teacher indeed (which I wasn't, of course).

## artificial

The whole system is artificial. It is not natural for people to be segregated by age-groups, arranged in herds larger than the largest natural family, with only one person who is supposed to cater for learning needs which are varied and individual. Teachers are shit-scared, I agree - not of the revolution coming "one day", but of the revolution that might happen now, any minute, in the class room. If one child doesn't do what the teacher says, no matter how trivial the issue, that teacher is a failure, according to the system. The teachers must be in control, or they'd be overwhelmed by sheer weight of numbers. So they have to use the system, and uphold the system, and perpetuate the system by passing it on to the next generation as a good thing for them, and their children.

## scared of system

Teachers are scared of the system itself, too, and the way they are judged by it. If they want to get on, to get away from teaching dull work to "difficult" classes, they have to conform, but also somehow contrive to shine, to give themselves publicity, to do extra work (unpaid) or have "original" ideas (but not too way-out). They're scared of their colleagues, of the staff room gossip, of the fierce competition for promotion; and of their bosses, both inside the school and outside in the Education Authority. And however much they may hate teaching, they're scared to get out, because they're not trained for anything else and they don't want to lose their superannuation prospects.

I don't think home education is the complete answer, even if parents have the leisure and willingness to teach their children. There may be younger children whose physical needs have priority; and the parents may not have the information, or the ability. In infant schools nowadays, there can be a marvellous range of educational material through which children can almost teach themselves. I don't think this could be put into every home, unless houses were a lot bigger. Also, I don't think children should be cooped up with their parents all the time, under pressure to conform to one set of standards (no matter how light that pressure might be). They should mix, not only with other children, but with other adults, and meet the whole range of society.

I would like to see, not schools, but education centres, with teaching equipment, libraries, laboratories, work-rooms, for students of all ages and levels. Given a libertarian society in which all essential work was shared and everyone had plenty of leisure, all the teachers would be volunteers, who taught for the love of it, not because it was the only way they could earn a living. All learning would be voluntary, all subjects a matter of choice, I have worked with "free activity" methods in an infant school, and I believe they work, and would work even better in a society, in which being an educated person was a matter of enjoyment rather than compulsion. Parents could use the equipment to teach their own children and others; or they could learn, alongside their children, a subject or skill that they didn't know before. "Classes" would organise themselves naturally, when a group of students who wanted to learn a particular subject asked someone suitable to give them formal "lessons". Teaching those who want to learn is a job, not a chore; and most people have some sort of knowledge or skill they could impart to others. We could all go on learning, and teaching, all our lives.

So, come the revolution, don't destroy all the schools and shoot all the teachers. They are victims of the system too; and you might be surprised at how well some of them could teach if they weren't compelled to do it.

Sheila Blanchard

Dear Black Flag,

I was rather amused by the education debate. Having done a practice in a comprehensive I began to hate those kids too, but it's not really the kids or the teachers as such, it's the set-up.

Peter Wraith is, of course, quite wrong when he says teachers get the boot if they don't conform. Like other civil servants they are very secure. Look at the job they had getting rid of the Tyndale staff!

Apropos the bit about the history project on the anarchist movement, I sat in on a teacher training lecture today about accountability. A colleague asked, "Wasn't it the case that teachers can get the sack for politically indoctrinating pupils?" Then she went on to cite the case of Blair Peach who "got into trouble with the police because he was indoctrinating small children." The lecturer corrected her, "No, Blair Peach was the man shot by the police." (!)

Pamela S.

## roon but about?

Dear Black Flag,

Your columnist may be "roon" but he doesn't get "about" enough (*Black Flag*, March 1980). I am a convenient pseudonym based on the Freedom Press for more than twenty years but nothing to do with Freedom itself. My letter in the Guardian on 8 January about dictionary definitions of "Jew" wasn't querulous but ironical. It asked whether dictionary definitions not just of "Jew" but of "Dutch", "French", "Irish", "Scotch", "Welsh", "Black", "Red", "effeminate", "womanish", "juvenile", "senile", "moron", "cretin", and so on, and commented on the way that this would be very "English". Editorial cuts spoil the argument but didn't obscure the irony.

One fact is that good dictionaries, unlike encyclopedias, are intended to reflect common usage rather than impose correct information; and another fact is that "Jew" (like "anarchist") is often used in an unpleasant way which should be mentioned in such a reference book. The obvious solution is not to exclude such material from dictionaries but to include proper explanations about their inaccurate or offensive nature; otherwise innocent and ignorant readers cannot understand such usage when they come across it. You surely aren't suggesting that dictionaries should be purged of meanings which their readers don't like.

Arthur Freeman,  
84b Whitechapel High Street,  
London E1.

Examples from dictionaries - homo sexual equals pederast; Jew equals usurer; anarchist equals agent of disorder. These are not "unpleasant", they are untrue. It's not a question for us as to whether dictionaries should be "censored" but whether they are accurate. And "Freeman's" second sentence is more mysterious than ever!

We don't like having to edit letters but due to the lack of space we are forced to do so. It would be helpful if in future letters could be kept as brief as possible. If you do not wish your letter to be edited please say so. However long letters stand less chance of being printed.

page 11.



## What did you do during the repression, daddy?



Towards a citizen's militia: anarchist alternatives to NATO & the Warsaw Pact,

First of May Group, £1.25 (+ 20p pp)

The thought of war and oppression is unpleasant to decent people the world over, both East and West. Yet, if you want to survive the worst with dignity then you must at least imagine the very worst, and try to think how you would act. The government knows this only too well. This year they will spend £10,500,000,000 of our money to prevent the country falling to the enemy, without and within. But what happens if they've got it all wrong!

Suppose the Russians or — heaven forbid! — a cabal of army and police officers took power tomorrow at 4.00 a.m.? Having lived for centuries in a society rooted in obedience to authority we can assume that by midday there would be people clapping them in the streets ....by three we'd have citizens loading other citizens on to three ton lorries ... on the nine o'clock news there'd be a well-known personality oozing assurances that it is all for the best and it is our constitutional duty to accept the new order ... and by 10.30 the following morning we'd have respected members of the bench setting the seal of legality on the authority of the new regime and packing the opposition

off to the uranium mines in Orkney, or to Wembley Stadium to await whatever authoritarian delights lay in store for them.

However, if you are one of those people who feel it your civil duty to defend whatever freedom you feel you have, and haven't bet your all on IBM, the KGB, or any other power obsessed minority, then it is your responsibility to be aware of the many ways bad people can be harmful when angry, acquisitive, or generally out of sorts. You, of course, are one of the Great Pumpkin's loftiest creations, so we are safe in putting this book in your hands. We hope you'll never need the information contained here, but it is your inalienable right to share with your enemies the knowledge of this useful publication.

CIENTFUEGOS PRESS



Over the Water, Sanday, Orkney, KW17 2BL, U.K.

Cienfuegos Press

Some of our readers may have noticed a series of witty advertisements placed by the Cienfuegos Press in a number of magazines, including the New Statesman, New Society, The Leveller, New Scientist, Morning Star and other papers. These have been a considerable expense — the "Bookseller" advertisement alone came to £100. But it has been well worthwhile in terms of response from entirely new ground, outside the "libertarian ghetto" here and abroad, and especially from India and Africa. The plain fact is — as was shown during the Persons Unknown trial — most people do not know of our ideas but when they are brought into contact with them, they enthusiastically approve.

It is a pity that few of the books published by Cienfuegos have been reviewed, for which one apparently needs to be a commercial publisher. "Land and Liberty" was the best reviewed, including a review in the Hispanic American Historical Review and others in Tribune, New Statesman, and even the Morning Star. Understandably the latter didn't review "The Guillotine at Work" but then neither did Freedom.

The books now published by Cienfuegos and Simian now form a considerable bulk of the anarchist literature in English. They consist of new works, reprints and classics. With the books that are expected this year (and with the need to reprint some of the earlier works that have sold out) there will be a formidable case for anarchism available in the English language. No subsidies, no hidden capital, no secret sources lie behind this achievement; nor any unusual talents — any other energetic group or groups could do the same in this or any other field.

NEW PUBLICATION:

UNIONS & RACISM by Shelby Shapiro. Published 1980 by I.W.W. P.O. Box 48 Oldham, Lancs. England. 50p + P&P.

BLACK FLAG BADGES 20p & CONSTANTINI 'SOCIAL PYRAMID' POSTER £1.00 available through Black Flag.

### ACTION DIRECTE ARRESTS.....

Some of those arrested are known to have connections with armed groups like NAPAP or GARI. In 1978 Pascal Trillat was sentenced to 16 months in prison for harbouring a fugitive, NAPAP member Christian Harbulot, sought in connection with the vengeance killing of Renault factory guard Tramoni; the killer of Maoist Pierre Overney. It is known that Rouillan had connections with GARI and the now defunct anti-Franco MIL. GARI was always at pains to avoid bloodshed and if Action Directe is its successor it seems unlikely that it fits the bloodthirsty image that the police have been trying to

conjure up.

As a former member of GARI said to Liberation: .."I don't go much for the business about Rouillan having connections with the Red Brigade members. Of course it is possible that French militants may be in touch with them, but the ideological differences are too great. Excepting the execution of Tramoni, the armed struggle groups in France have never taken life."

Here is a list of Action Directe claimed actions:

1 May 79  
attack on Paris HQ of the French National Employers Council.  
15 September 79  
attack on Sonocotra HQ

16 September 79  
armed men attack Ministry of Labour  
25 September 79  
attack on Ile de France employment office  
3/5 February 80  
attack on the Work Inspectors premises in Paris  
10 February 80  
attack on Paris Building Society buildings  
10 March 80  
attack on SEMIREP premises in Paris  
18 March 80  
attack on Ministry Corporation buildings in Paris  
6 April 80  
fire attack on premises of Philips Data System in Toulouse.  
8 April 80  
attack on Honeywell building in Toulouse

13 April 80  
a bomb attack on the palace of justice in Toulouse — failed when gelignite charges didn't explode.  
15 April 80  
3 attacks on Ministry of Transport buildings in Paris

### GREECE... CONT. FROM P.9

Our comrades cannot expect release without an intensive campaign on their behalf at home and abroad, and the lobbying of Human Rights organizations etc. The Athens Anarcho-syndicalist group recommends the creation of a diplomatic incident by the occupation of a diplomatic or consular office.

(report from Athens Anarcho-syndicalist group)