

ITALIAN ANARCHISTS LIVES AT RISK



On June 7 1984 the trial opened in Turin of over 60 people accused on various counts relating to Primea Linea, the COLP, and kindred organisations. Among those charged were a number of anarchists: Renato Cornacchia, Francesco Fiorina, Monica Oppezzo, Guiseppe Ruzza, Delfina Stefanuto and Daniele Turasco are in custody, while Gabriella Bengamaaschini is on the run. Another two, Paula Deffenu and Battista Saiu were arrested in 1982 and are free on bail.

Tarasco and Cornacchia were arrested in Biella on June 15 1981 and charged with membership of an armed group; later there were further charges of possession and transportation of guns and explosives. The armed group in question is allegedly Primea Linea.

Fiorina was arrested in Milan on September 17 1983 by carabinieri who shot dead one of his companions, Gaetano Sava. Fiorina is allegedly one of the leaders of the COLP*. He is also charged in connection with organising the escape of several prisoners from Rovigo jail in '82.

Oppezzo is charged with membership of both Primea Linea and COLP. She also faces charges of possession of weapons, and of involvement in another group, the PAC.

Ruzza and Stefanuto were arrested on September 17 1983, allegedly as auxiliaries of the COLP and go-betweens in dealings between Primea Linea and COLP members inside and outside prison. Some newspapers have made sensational and hysterically false allegations against the pair.

Bergamaschini, along with Ruzza and Stefanuto, belonged to the L Scribante Libertarian Circle and helped put out their bulletin, 'L' Agitatore' (Agitation). She is alleged to be 'the redhead' who escaped from the carabinieri when Sava was killed and Fiorina captured. She is charged with involvement in Primea Linea, the COLP and the PAC, as well as with murder, robbery, possession of arms and arson.

Stefanuto is jailed in Brindisi, Cornacchia in Ivrea, Oppezzo in Messina, Ruzza in the clinic of San Vittone prison Milan, Fiorina in Palmi, and Tarasco in Turin. Oppezzo in the space of two months was shifted from Latine to Perugia to Trani to Messina and finally to Turin for the trial.

The Turin trial featured the evidence of supergrasses Roberto Simino and Constant Cavaglia (arrested in Briella in April '82 and since released), as well as other 'penitents'.

Prior to the trial Ruzza collapsed in prison and was tended only by his cell mates; the San Vittore infirmary prison, where he was incarcerated, had a long history of 'suicides' and deaths of inmates. Ruzza's request to be released into house arrest for health reasons was turned down.

Ruzza regards the continued detention of himself and Stefanuto as kidnapping - the state's intention being to remove two troublesome activists and to silence their paper 'L' Agitatore'. Ruzza (aged 60) has a long history of activity as an anarchist, going back to his days as a resistance fighter with the 'Garibaldi Brigade'. Both Ruzza and Stefanuto (aged 53) are well known to the authorities, having being arrested frequently. Ruzza has denied membership of any armed struggle group. But he has always defended anyone who got involved in resistance work. 'L' Agitatore' regularly carried prisoners' letters and offered solidarity to those in need of it.

Like the Vancouver Five case in Canada, Ruzza and Stefanuto experienced a 'trial by media'. They were convicted before they even got to court. The curious (or not so curious) thing about the Ruzza/Stefanuto case is that no real evidence, other than innuendo, has been produced.

There is now grave alarm for the health of the two. Both have been 'ghosted' from prison to prison. Their mail is not getting through. Delfina suffers from chronic kidney trouble and hypertension of the arteries. Guiseppe suffers from a restricted blood supply to the brain which induces lengthy periods of loss of consciousness. This, plus a number of other complaints caused by his age. Their case has been brought to the attention of Amnesty International. Both have suffered periods of lengthy solitary confinement. The fear is that the state is trying to kill them both to get them out of the way.

For further information, write to: Circolo Culturale Anarchico, Via G Ulivi 8, 54033 Carrara, ITALY.

LATEST NEWS: Around 30 accused have been convicted of membership of Primea Linea and have received sentences ranging from one to twenty years.

N.B. COLP = Communists Organised for the Liberation of the Proletariat.

SOURCE: CARRARAN ANARCHISTS

BLACK FLAG

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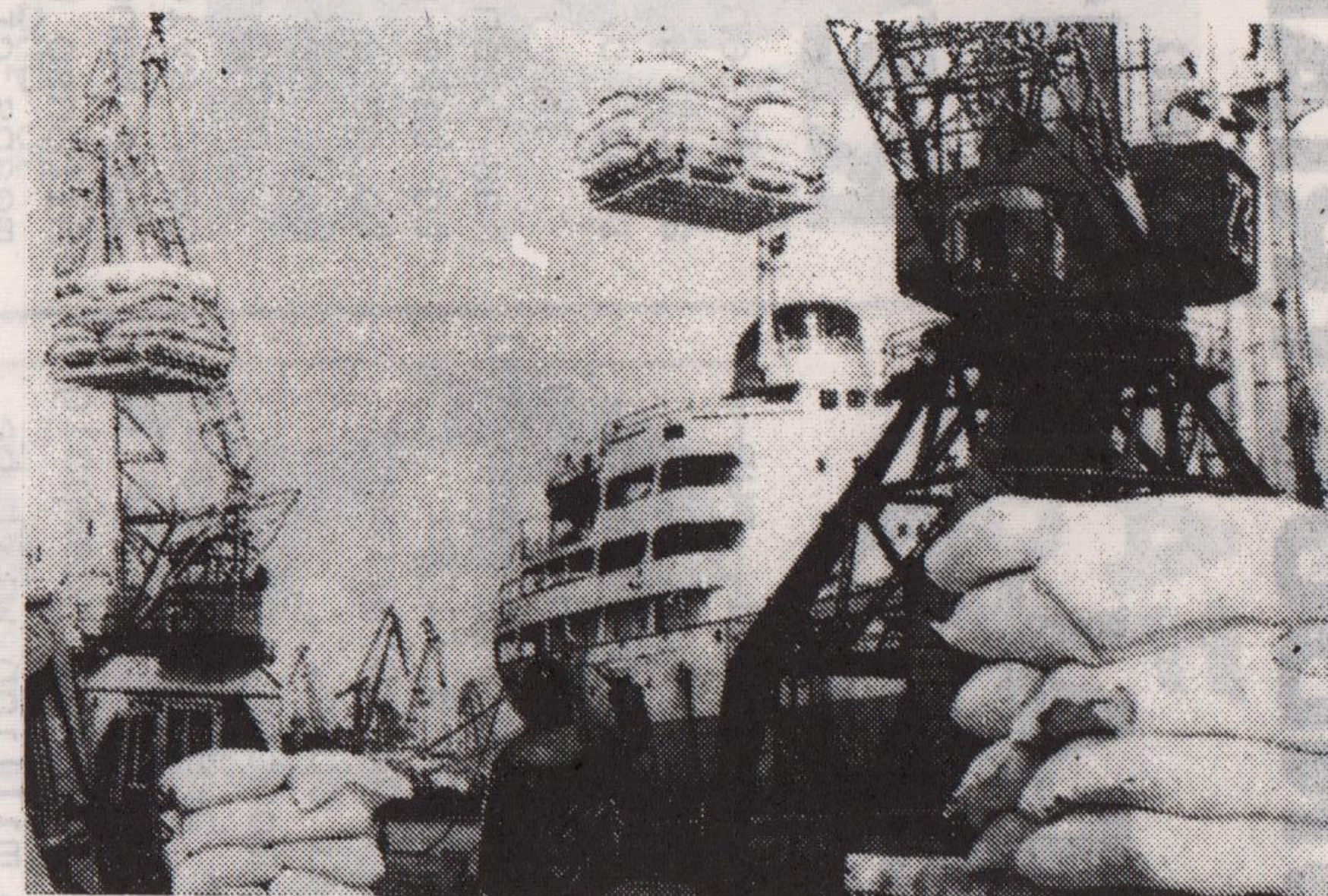
Dock Strike

EMERGENCY POWERS THREAT

The use of non-union dock labour to unload iron-ore at Immingham to be transported to Scunthorpe Steel Works (across miners pickets) provided an excuse for the transport union, the TGWU, to call out the dock workers. The 13,000 registered dock workers have, of course, a legitimate grievance of their own: the misuse of the Docks Labour Scheme, set up originally in 1947 as a compromise deal by the then Labour government to quickly end industrial action (something that bringing in the troops had clearly failed to do). The Docks Labour Scheme allows for union solidarity and ensures that certain main ports are only worked by union labour. However, since its inception, the scheme has been misused by management and contraventions have been rife. The strike, to all intents and purposes, should have taken place long ago. Still, for the miners sake (and for the trade union movement as a whole) the timing could not have been better.

As we go to press, the strike is solid in all the main scheme ports. The TGWU, however, want to bring more pressure to bear by bringing out oil terminal staff and TGWU tanker drivers. The NUS (National Union of Seafarers) has already implemented a ban on the movement of coal imports on British registered ships and they too will extend their secondary action by placing a ban on lorry freight on the Sealink ferries, as part of their own dispute on privatisation.

If the National Association of Port Employers want a quick end to the dockers action, without putting an end to scabbing in the non-scheme ports, then they can try to come to a quick agreement with the TGWU over those 76 ports that are covered. Such an agreement will not help the miners. Altogether there are an additional 21,000 TGWU members employed in ports not cover-



ed by the scheme. It is in the interest, therefore, for the TGWU to widen the dispute by demanding that the scheme be extended to include these workers. In the meantime it is up to everyone who wants to see a victory for the miners to concentrate support actions on to the non-unionised ports to prevent not only the scab imports of coal and iron ore, but also oil.

URGENT

Comrades lives at risk

Two comrades, Guiseppe Ruzza and Delfina Stefanuto, who have both been imprisoned for the past nine months or so, are very ill - Guiseppe is aged 60 and suffers from blackouts, Delfina is aged 53 and has problems with her kidneys. Both have been sent for trial on various charges connected with alleged involvement with Primea Linea. Guiseppe and Delfina deny the charges. They accuse the state of trying to get rid of them permanently. Guiseppe and Delfina are anarchists who have been active in prisoner support work for years; they are both editors of the counter-information bulletin, L' Agitatore.

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EDITORIAL

The facade of the liberal-democratic state is partly based upon the erroneous belief that troops, like the police, are never 'political' but are more of an 'essential service' in protection of 'democratic rights'. So far, in Britain, the gamble of troop deployment for strikebreaking has nearly always paid off in the state's favour.

The government's decision to use troops - the last bastion of a state under seige - to break the current dockers strike, should the dispute not end soon, can be seen as a definite sign of weakness. If emergency powers are resorted to the government will try, at first, to use the 'errands of mercy' ploy, so as to try and gear up public support on their side.

But the government will be walking a tightrope and will wish to avoid at all costs the sight of troops and strikers actually clashing on picket lines preferring, instead, the riot police to function as the main repressive arm. If the cops are, however, unable to successfully cocoon the troops from direct confrontation with pickets and if troops end up having to fight back and defend themselves, then the government's strikebreaking strategy will be seen to have failed and this in turn would act as an encouragement for wider union solidarity, culminating, we hope, in a general strike.

PRINTWORKERS GIVE SUPPORT

The day of protest in London on June 29th in support of the miners drew such a big crowd to Tower Hill to march through the Fleet Street area, that any count would be wrong. So far as the eye could see and stretch the City was jammed pack tight with marchers. (The City was stopped this time; this is when the "Stop The City" tactics would have been effective - preventing the philistine sneer of "Day of Inaction" for how they would have screamed at a day of positive action!)

Railway workers, NALGO, miners, printers packed the march. Needless to say every variety of "vanguard party" was there putting in their five cents worth of support for a bucket full of notes to "aid the miners" (it never goes there, it goes to publish their own dreary newspapers in 'support' of the miners); and cagefuls of students were let loose on nagging the workers to support the "vanguard" parties so far behind the workers they profess to want to lead.

Printworkers took a positive step in countering press lies. The philistines who have never taken action themselves and sneer at the high rates of pay that printers have achieved by always being prepared to "have a go" have often asked why they don't stop the lie factory and make it print the truth.

On this occasion the printworkers, and a few journalists as individuals, insisted that the press DID print a fair statement for the miners. The *Mirror*, *Sun* *Financial Times* declined, and were not printed. The others printed it, the *Telegraph* as news, the *Guardian* as a letter, others as a statement. A notable step forward in printers asserting their rights over the proprietors.

INDUSTRIAL

London

HOSPITAL OCCUPIED

South London Womens Hospital, run by and for women, is due to close on the 27th July. It was occupied on the 29th June by the SLWH Action Group, with support from the hospital staff, who want to make a final attempt to persuade the government to keep the hospital open.

For the last 18 months, staff and the SLWHAG have been campaigning against the closure, part of the Tory government's 'cost-cutting' campaign. It is said that £5 million will be saved by closing SLWH and sending patients to St Georges and St Leonards hospitals.

The 'cost' to the community will be reflected in the lower standards of health care. Pregnant women can't hold on. Waiting lists that already exist at these other hospitals will worsen, women with gynaecological problems (eg breast cancer, urine infections) will face major surgery rather than quick, less complicated operations.

Independent cost analysis shows that a lot less than £5million will be saved. Jobs will be lost. The local community is entitled to the service provided by the hospital.

The occupation took place when the first steps were being taken to wind down, and the staff decided to support the action by the community group. Standard squatters occupancy notices were put up, along with NUPE banners and placards. the occupiers have organised picket rosters and there are photos of people not allowed entrance (District Health Authority bureaucrats and others). Volunteers have come to help.

Other steps being taken are continuing discussion with the hospital Board/Health Dept. ; getting GPs to refer women to the hospital; legal advice regarding the position of doctors who might be interested in using SLWH as a cottage hospital (bypassing consultants). The main obstacle is that consultants are not admitting new patients. These same people are disregarding the best interests of their present patients during the dispute. Picketers faced with the removal of women cannot intercede effectively because it would cause more distress to the patient concerned.

Whatever happens SLWHAG and staff strongly felt that it was not possible to let this attack on the health of their community go by without objection. People are angry about what they see happening, as the actions of these people show.

If in London, you can help by 1. Getting on the picket roster (Ph. Rachel 874-5841) or 2. Making sure you and your families continue to use the hospital. 3. Send messages of support to : SLWH, Clapham Common South, London SW9. Fight Back !

HINDLES

Part of the Union (originally known as *Union Maid* reworked by the Strawbs) and *Year and a Bit* are the two sides of this benefit single in aid of the striking workers from Hindle Gears in Bradford. Since March 1983 (over 15months) the 22 strikers have been picketing. They have joined forces with local musicians to publicise the situation and continuing battle. The record and further info. on the strike from: *Hindle Gears Strike Committee*, c/o Stuart Firth, 21 Throxenby Way, Bradford. BD14 6EU Tel: 0274-816157.

Spain

ENTRYISM REVERSED

Recently there have been media lies about a so-called 'Reunification Congress' of the CNT-AIT and the CNT-R.

The PSOE (Spain's Labour Party) has been keen for the unification to take place. It is also interesting to note that those attending the Congress have been protected by riot police.

PSOE involvement with the CNT-R has been evident for some time. In 1982 Jose Bondia of the CNT-R met with Alfonso Guerra, a PSOE MP to discuss means of annulling an abstention campaign and providing the CNT-R with enough power in order that the CNT-AIT opposition is weakened. The secret negotiations between PSOE representatives and those from the CNT-R were aimed at completing a deal whereby the CNT-R would agree to the social pact and involvement in the official government approved works committees in exchange for a guarantee that they would be given the historic CNT patrimony worth £12.5 million. The CNT-AIT explain that the Congress could never have been a congress of unification because no one from the CNT-AIT was present as an official (or unofficial) delegate of the CNT-AIT. The 'Reunification Congress' was but wishful thinking and another ploy on the part of the CNT-R and their PSOE friends to create confusion, which serves no one except those who wish to see the demise of the CNT-AIT and revolutionary anarchist-syndicalism.

N.B. A CNT-AIT delegation from Valencia is currently on visit to Britain and have been invited to give talks at rallies by the NUM. An NUM delegation is soon to go to Spain where they will be guests of the CNT-AIT and the AIT Secretariat. The visit was arranged with the help of the Doncaster Anarchists, the DAM-AIT and Black Flag. It is hoped that the visit will result in extra financial assistance being provided to the miners, as well as other forms of support.

SOURCE: CNT-AIT

NB. The Govt. has been less generously disposed towards the CNT-AIT. On April 26th and again on June 26th this year, cops were sent to try and evict those at CNT-AIT premises in Magdalena St Madrid. The reason behind this is for non-payment of rent. The CNT-AIT has been sending all rent bills to the Govt. for several months, asking them to pay and to deduct this from the £12.5 million the State owes the CNT-AIT).

On 1st May 1984, after the Govt. had systematically refused to talk to the CNT-AIT about returning their "historic patrimony", 31 militants were arrested and several were beaten up for occupying ex-CNT-AIT premises in Huertes Street Madrid.

It seems as if the Govt. won't pay anything to the CNT-AIT until it has converted it into a "responsible" union, which will be never!!

MINERS UPDATE

At Orgreave a local haulage firm was attacked by pickets. Apart from being involved in strikebreaking activities the firm also allowed a police film unit to use its premises as a base. Pickets dragged out vehicles from the premises and then used them for barricades.

In Doncaster around 1000 strikers and supporters lay siege to the NCB Area HQ and forced management staff to seek shelter in the police station.

At Rossington, near Doncaster, police were held at bay and outnumbered by around 300 pickets, while another 50 attacked the main NCB buildings, setting barricades on fire and forcing management to hide inside.

At Selby 10 cops and 3 pickets were hurt and 2 vans overturned in an attempt to stop scab construction workers, who are putting the final touches to the new complex, from crossing the picket line. Later pickets also succeeded in blocking off the main toll bridge into the town, stopping all traffic. A van carrying construction workers was attacked and overturned with the occupants still inside.

Harassment

In the village of Fitzwilliam riot police terrorized the local community in search of a striking miner who was wanted on 'suspicion' (a non-existent charge). Locals came out in support and around 200 surrounded the nearby Hemsworth police station demanding to know why the miner, Brendan Conway, was being harassed. They later dispersed when an Inspector assured them that Brendan would not be arrested if he agreed to voluntarily come to the police station the next day. However, later that night, around 80-90 cops in riot gear raided the local Fitzwilliam pub to grab Conway. The cops rioted, went crazy and beat up locals at random. Members of Brendan's family were also raided that night as the victimisation continued.

In the wake of the raid by 250 cops on the homes where striking miners were lodging in the village of Blidworth, roadblocks were set up by the cops throughout the village for the next three days. Many guest strikers were subsequently set upon and beaten up. The village hall was raided by 10 cops, who battered down the door to get inside.

Lorries

Offices of the road transport company, Hazell Haulage, organising the convoys of 50 plus lorries taking coal to Llanwern steel plant, were badly damaged by fire. The firms bosses suspect arson. Altogether 14 Hazell Haulage lorry drivers have been expelled from the transport union, the TGWU, for crossing picket lines. Many lorry drivers have also been fined up to £30 a go (averaging £180 per day) by their union for each contravention. But it is suspected that the British Steel Corporation is compensating the drivers for the fines by adding extras on to their wages. Miners at picket lines have meanwhile been taking photos of scab drivers for use in banning the drivers from future union employment. Pickets have also tried tactics of forming their own convoys to block or delay the lorries on their journey.

BURNLEY

Julie Pinder, a 19 year old pregnant woman and the wife of an Agecroft miner on strike, was told by a social worker in Burnley that a diet of potatoe peelings contained as much vitamins and proteins as fruit. She was told this by a member of staff at Burnley's Edith Watson Maternity Unit after asking if she could claim extra benefit for a special diet. She had read that pregnant women had to have a diet including fruit, meat, fresh vegetables etc. in a leaflet at the hospital. She and her husband receive a total of £8 a week from the DHSS, as the State claims that the husband gets £15 strike pay from the NUM. In fact, they receive nothing!

There can be little doubt that instructions have been given to DHSS offices throughout Britain telling members of staff to rigidly apply the regulations in the case of miners on strike and their families. All this in the hope that they will be forced to return to work.

Now the couple are facing a further cut in their benefit if they decide to

accept offers of gifts by people who read their story in the local newspaper.

As an answer to this type of cruel treatment, a Claimants Union has been formed in the area involving members of DAM-IWA. The Union is open to both the employed and unemployed people and recently held a picket outside the DHSS Offices in Burnley. Something that went down well with everybody except the DHSS!

SOURCE: Burnley DAM



FEEDBACK

SOUTH WEST ANARCHIST FEDERATION

Bristol @s are co-ordinating plans to set up a SW Fed. to bring @ groups and individuals together for co-ordinated actions help share information, resources and ideas. Plymouth have already come out, will you? Write to: Bristol @s, Box 010, 110 Cheltenham Rd. Bristol.

LUIS PALAU DISRUPTION

On Tuesday 24 July twelve people arrested for the disruption of the Luis Palau evangelical festival at QPR Stadium, London, will appear at Marylebone magistrates court. All support is welcome. An article reflecting on the strategy that led to the arrests is due to appear in the next Bulletin. Watch this space.

STOP THE CITY LONDON GATHERING

21st July, 11am onwards at 32 Alexander Rd. N8. Nearest tube: Turnpike Lane. Everyone welcome including non-Londoners. For info tel: (01) 808 8442

STOP THE CITY LEEDS

On August 9 Leeds STC will take place, so far details seem vague with poor publicity. We heard about it vaguely, like...If not to be a repeat of STC 3 on May 31st in London where the Police blitz overcame the small turnout rapidly then the organisers should open up their 'scheme' more.

VERBAL ASSAULT 10

Free anniversary issue (for a S.A.E.) 12 pages, A 4 format. Local, national and international news; STC3 obituary; current State of enslavement; How to bake a politician and special anti-Religious supplement: Five Steps to Heaven and lots more. VERBAL ASSAULT, Box A, 4 Onslow Road, SOUTHAMPTON

STUFF IT

30p theoretical journal of the Bristol @ Group for July. 8 page A3 format (like the Flag). Contents include Demolition Diner (a squatters cafe in Bristol) see last issue of Black Flag for story POLICE INVADE BEETLE CENTRE; Billy Graham; Land for the landless/communes; Comiso and a whole lot more from: Box 010, Full Marks Bookshop, Cheltenham Road, BRISTOL. also available: HYSTERIA (Anarcho-Feminist mag) 30p.

Dear Black Flag,

I've just received the Quarterly and on the same day I got the new Open Road from Canada. They have a good idea about subs. You send two hours wages per year. It sounds too cheap to me. Why don't you try something like it?

If most "wage workers" who read Black Flag sent one hours pay a month your deficit would shrink. All wage-workers get payed through banks and all they have to do is a standing order. I'll begin it starting on July 2nd. Anybody else?

Yours,

R.S. (Holland)

Dear Friends,

While the present (miners) strike is on surely it would be better to publish a one sheet Black Flag weekly, similar to Practical Anarchy, thus keeping information contained within current and up-to-date news? As much space as possible should be devoted to the miners even at the expense of international news, letters and arty-farty articles about workers control...

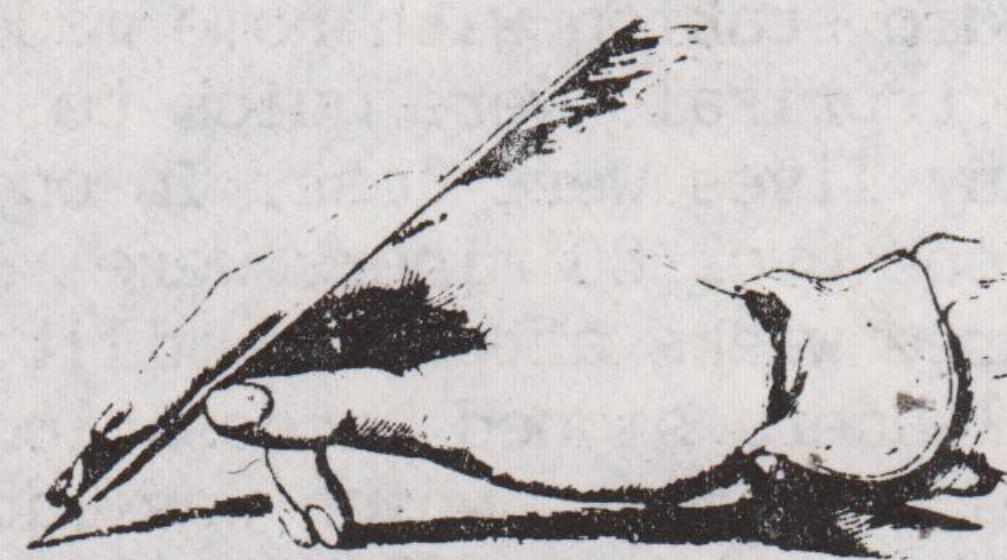
Yours in hope, D.S.

Dear Black Flag,

Thought the letter from NP of Cambridge (Vol VII, 6A, no. 112) was a load of balls. To compare Stop the City with the heroic struggle of revolutionaries in Uruguay in the 60's and 70's is totally loony. The paper is going from strength to strength as far as I'm concerned.

Anarcho-syndicalist greetings.

T.B. (Leeds DAM).



POLICE BOOT

A police officer kicked a man in the face so hard that the sole of his boot came off. Believe it or not the man, aged 57, was then charged with criminal damage to a police boot. The charge, with others, was dismissed after the cops offered no evidence. The police authority for Leeds, was ordered to pay the costs of the case. This means the taxpayers pay for a man to be charged with criminal damage to a police boot when he's been kicked in the face... What a bloody system!

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

WAITING FOR THE NEXT TIME

Bolivia

Unless you've been in hibernation for the last month, you won't need reminding that there was an attempted military coup, it failed, and that the COB (Bolivian Workers Centre) organised a general strike to help mobilise against the threat.

The coup was staged by a combination of military police and civilian paramilitary groups. It began with the kidnap of 72 year old President Zuazo and it ended with his release. Whilst no love is lost between the Bolivian workers and the president, the kidnapping of Zuazo (a social democrat) provoked a mobilisation of the COB as a challenge to the military threat. Prior to Zuazo taking the presidency in '82, there had been 18 years of military rule.

The question everyone in Bolivia is asking is when will there be a repeat occurrence? Only 10 days prior to the coup attempt army officers in a base south of the capital mutinied and threatened more drastic action unless the civil authorities asserted themselves over the unions.

Over the past few months the COB - a fighting union organised on libertarian lines and having fraternal relations with the IWA-AIT - has staged a series of strikes in protest against austerity measures imposed because of conditions set by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The policy of the COB is to demand that the authorities renege on the international debt payments, and to begin a programme of collectivisation. The coup itself in fact coincided with a planned general strike, organised by the COB, to force through certain economic changes.

Immediately on hearing of the coup attempt, the COB put out a general call for full mobilisation of all workers and peasants. The order was sent out to march on the capital, La Paz. The response was amazing: within hours over 25,000 workers had taken to the streets and laid siege to all main buildings. The mobilisation was carried out with precision and skill and in a style reminiscent of the broad front organisation - CONADE - set up by the COB (and never fully disbanded) in 1980 specifically to counter any coup threat. The strategy then, as it is now, was to fight back by use of the general strike and armed struggle. In the lead up to the 1980 coup the COB, through CONADE, helped to organise widespread resistance throughout the country: roadblocks were set up, lines of communications were sabotaged, and villages and workplaces defended with arms. In one village women and children took and defended a radio station with home made guns. But the reprisals were quick to follow and many lives were lost. In one settlement alone over 80 miners were massacred. Three weeks after the military takeover COB leaders signed a cessation of hostilities agreement, which was later rescinded by the rank and file until the authorities agreed to release all political prisoners.

In April of this year the COB organised the first general strike under the present government. The strike lasted 72 hours, but there were many who wanted it to continue indefinitely. At the forefront of the strike were workers in the petroleum industry and employees in the banks. In May five COB leaders went on hunger strike and by the end of the month the COB made a formal demand to the government to agree to a cessation of all future payments to the 'international banking

community'. Zuazo agreed to meet this demand in part by placing a ceiling on the payments and by blocking all payments to private banks (such as Citicorp). Also to negotiate better repayment terms and higher taxes for the multinationals. Zuazo in addition was forced to accept an across the board wage increase of 130% for all workers as well as statutory control on price increases.

These apparent capitulations inevitably stirred up dissatisfaction within the military and Congress at the way the President and the ruling UDP party were handling things. And the COB was well organised and getting more powerful.

There are signs that those who took part in the coup attempt received assistance, as with the 1980 coup, from the military in Argentina. According to one government source the commander of the anti-drug squad, Colonel Linares, was the main organiser behind the kidnapping. Others allegedly involved include a military chief in the Bolivian Ministry of Defence, a top aid to the Vice President (who, at the time, was attending a conference of the Socialist International (sic) in Lisbon), and a former Interior Minister.

In the wake of the coup attempt there have been many arrests. The Ministry of Defence official, Rolando Saravia, has since been formally accused of recruiting most of the ringleaders. Saravia in fact took a leading role himself in the kidnapping of another Bolivian president in 1974. As for the COB, they called off their threatened general strike on condition that two top ministry chiefs, Alvarez, the Interior Minister, and Cardenas, the Minister of Defence, are ousted from office because of their failure to take positive counter action after the kidnapping. The Deputy Defence Minister Mario Oxa, has already 'got the chop'. The same also for the base commander of the base where the mutiny took place. Others who face possible dismissal in the purge include officers from the elite anti-drug squad, the Leopards, and several politicians employed within the administration.

N.B. As we go to press we hear that the COB have called a general strike because President Zuazo has so far done nothing about the May agreement to stabilise prices, to bring down inflation (currently at 1041%) and ease food shortages. The COB has made the strike indefinite. Also, it is now known that the actual kidnapping was carried out by members of the Leopards, with the assistance of the President's own chief of security at the Presidential Palace.



Japan

TOKYO FIVE

We have been asked to publicise details of five anarchists who are trying for early release; four have spent the last nine years inside, one other two years after being seven years on the run.

The five are: Daidoji Masashi, Kataoka Toshiaki, Arai Mariko, Kurokawa Yoshimasa and Ugajin Hisaichi. According to their support group the five were engaged in the early 70's in a campaign of armed struggle against the Japanese state authorities and the ruling class. The five were all members of the Eastern-Asian Anti-Japanese Armed Front. Members of the Front were responsible for a succession of attacks on war monuments. A Front unit also attempted (but failed) to blow up the Imperial Train. Inspired by the assassination of South Korean President Park, the Front went on to bomb an industrial target: a Mitsubishi heavy industry plant. Front members afterwards regretted this action as it resulted

in eight deaths and many injured. Other industrial targets followed. Each time the company selected for attack was done so on the grounds of its involvement in worker exploitation both in Japan and in other Asian countries.

In 1979 Masashi and Toshiaki were both given the death sentence, Yoshimasa got life imprisonment and Mariko got eight years. An appeal on sentence for the four is currently with the Supreme Court. Hisaichi was arrested in '82 and of him we have no further details.

Letters of support, etc, to: Release Committee, PO Box 36, Arakawa Post Office, Tokyo, Japan.



JAPAN RETRIAL

After spending 27 years on death row, Yukio Saito was released from prison. Arrested in 1955, sentenced to death in 1957 he got a retrial in 1979.

APPEAL



Alaska

The Juneau/Douglas (Alaska) Group of the IWW (Industrial Workers of the World) have launched a campaign 'dedicated to industrial solidarity and mutual aid... which begins with health, which begins with children.' The Group are raising a fund for a birth clinic in Nicaragua. A local health clinic in Alaska has already offered to provide maternity equipment and medical supplies at a greatly reduced rate to the group for the project.

In Nicaragua itself a system of clinics similar to Alaska's Village Health Aid Program have been established.

The Juneau/Douglas Group are also providing assistance in the form of general medical supplies. Contributions to this local IWW fund should be sent to: Juneau/Douglas Group, IWW, Box 748, Douglas, Alaska, USA 99824.

Germany

RAF ARRESTS



35 Hour Week

The IGM (metal workers union) agreed to a return to work with a 1½ hour reduction for its membership with no loss of pay.

Last to return was the printers who were out for 13 weeks, their IG Druck union also accepted 38½ hour week.

For the benefit of our readers who do not have access to the European press we have to report the arrest of six people by the W German authorities on charges relating to alleged membership of the Red Army Fraction.

Four of the six have been named by the authorities as Stefan Frey, Christa Eckes, Ingrid Jacobsmeier and Helmut Pohl. The other two are, as yet, unnamed. The arrests took place in Frankfurt in a raid on a flat. The police allege that they found arms and hand grenades in the flat, which are supposed to have been stolen from a Frankfurt arms dealer in July '77.

So far the authorities have only charged the four named prisoners with involvement with the RAF. One of the other two, who the authorities believe to be a Barbara Ernst, is thought to have been involved in an arson attack six years ago. Pohl has been on the W German wanted list since the early '70's. Jacobsmeier is accused of taking part in a bank robbery in 1982.

Already the Prosecution has dredged up the by now predictable conspiracy type evidence pointing to a 'future campaign'. The press has picked up on the details with their usual zeal. According to the Prosecutor the six were all conspiring to attack US bases and assassinate high ranking officers. Allegedly found in the flat were papers giving details of US bases, Officers quarters, and NATO fuel pipelines.

We will try and get more information on what is happening for our next issue. Watch this space.

Turkey

GREY WOLVES MOVE UP 'RADIKAL' 2

Tunca Toskay of the National Action Party (fascist) has been appointed as head of the State Broadcast Company by a special commission made up of party leaders of NAP and the ruling Motherland Party (ANAP). Other fascists have been appointed as ministers without portfolio. Recently rigged local government elections have resulted in over 600 local positions going to NAP members. NAP is also prominent in the Ministry of Employment and Social Security, which is the government body that gives official recognition to trade union organisations.

It is now known that members of the Grey Wolves have been allocated 'ghost' positions in nearly all of the government ministries.

Before the 1980 military takeover, street terror was commonplace. People were attacked and beaten up, trade union halls were bombed, leftists and centrists were assassinated. The campaign was undertaken in the main by the Grey Wolves activists of the NAP party; they provided the right kind of climate for the military to move in and 'restore order'.

After the takeover the terror increased: it was institutionalised. Mass arrests, the banning of marches, demonstrations, strikes; harsh prison sentencing; widespread use of the death penalty; clamp-down on the press; restrictions on trade union activity; criminalisation of any form of political dissent - parliamentary or otherwise. The terror of the streets became the terror of the state, affecting every aspect of Turkish life.

Over the past four years around 1000 people have died at the hands of the security forces, another 4000 are currently on death row awaiting execution. There are estimated to be around 60,000 people in jail on political offences alone. More recently 10 prisoners fasted to death in protest at the conditions and torture. It is known that about another 100 are currently on hunger strike and

they are expected to follow a similar fate. The authorities have made it clear that no demands will be met and they are prepared to let the prisoners die. Most of those fasting are in the notorious Metris and Sagmalcilar prisons. Latest news is that another 4 prisoners have died, at least another twelve are critical. In Turkey prison deaths are not reported until after a considerable delay. In the last 3 weeks alone forty-seven death sentences have been handed out.

Turkey is Europe's (and NATO's) Chile. NATO and Britain supply defence equipment, aid and approval. Turkey functions as NATO's very own client fascist state that has become a major base for international terrorists and a training ground for agents of the far right. Under martial law terrorism has been legalised and generalised. Security forces act with total impunity, while parallel to this state terror the 'unofficial' terror continues.

Venice '84

1984: Authority & Liberty in Contemporary Society, 26-29 Sept. at the Faculty of Architecture, Venice University. Cheap accommodation available. A piazza will be made available for open air meetings. Contact address: Venezia 1984, Centro St Studi Libertari, viale Monza 2SS, 20126 Milano Italy. Preliminary meeting in London for those attending at Centro Iberico, Harrow Road, London Sunday Sept 8. Anyone interested in organising collective transport contact Mary Gow at 121 Bookshop, 121 Railton Rd, London SE24 tel: 2746655.

Back in mid-March we reported on the conviction of two editors of the anarchist magazine Radikal. The two, Benny Haerlin and Micky Kloekner, received sentences of 2½ years. The state authorities convicted them of publishing articles about the Revolutionary Cells, the anarchist underground network that grew out of the Red Army Fraction and June 2 Movement. Since the sentencing other people associated with the paper have been followed by cops and harassed and print shops have been raided. Also some members were forced to quit further production and start work on a new paper. We then hear that the Green Party took up Benny and Michael's case and placed their names on their list of Euro-MP candidates. W Germany operates a proportional representation system and as a result, Benny and Michael suddenly found themselves elected as Members of the European Parliament!

As a result of this the two ex-editors of Radikal are now, for the time being protected by parliamentary immunity.

The state authorities gave Benny and Michael a hard time. At their trial they were not even allowed to choose their own lawyers but had to accept ones appointed and approved of by the judicial authorities. In the end the severity of the sentence brought condemnation from all quarters throughout the country. Many saw it as test case to erode journalistic rights. Others saw the trial as a direct attack on the growing anarchist and squatting movement.

Currently Benny and Michael have lodged an appeal against the law that nailed them in the first place. If the conviction is not overturned and papers like Radikal are forced to go underground in order that they can continue to write the truth about what is happening, then the authorities will have to accept that inevitably the criminalisation of political comment can only lead to a greater polarisation, all round.

France

BOMBS HIT INDUSTRIAL TARGETS

There has been little in the world press (or the anarchist press for that matter) on the two bombings that took place in France over the Easter Weekend. One exception was the International Herald Tribune, which straight away connected the bombings to the international campaign for the release of the Japanese anarchist prisoner Katushia Omori.

According to reports the bombings were claimed by a group who allegedly undertook the actions in demand for the release of Omori. One of the bombings occurred at a Sony factory. The factory - which specialised in after-sales service - was virtually destroyed. The other bombing was at a car showroom of an importer specialising in Japanese and German models.

A French news agency received a phone call from an 'anarchist group', who apparently made it clear that unless the Japanese anarchist who is sentenced to death was freed then there would be more bombings.

There were no injuries as a result of the explosions. Being Easter Weekend there were no workers at either of the two locations.

The Omori case - he was convicted on dodgy evidence of sabotage action against a regional government building in Hokkaido in protest against Japanese state economic and racial policies towards the Ainu (Hokkaido native inhabitants) - continues with apparently no let up on the decision to carry out the death sentence.

The conviction rate in Japan is astonishing a staggering 99.7%. Even more astonishing is the number of convictions resulting from so-called confessions: 86%. Interrogation techniques in Japanese police stations are notorious, torture rife. With the Omori case a 'confession' was extracted (later withdrawn), while the 'evidence' was circumstantial to the extreme.

The Japanese authorities seem oblivious to pressure from whatever quarter. Three

months of international protest created some embarrassment, but nothing else. It is no wonder therefore that some comrades appeared to have made the decision to escalate the pressure and to try and force through a speedy review of the case.

The Osaka Omori Support Group, on hearing of the bombings, said 'We were filled with special courage, for the bombing campaign was (obviously) intended not to kill or injure any persons'. According to the group the bombings were widely reported on the front pages of the Japanese dailies and on the TV news.



Lest We Forget

The Labour Party's pit closures in Wales - part of the oil and nuclear power dominated energy policy carried out by Tony Benn no less! - between 1964 and 1970 amounted to 48 mines ceasing production. During the 1974-79 Labour Government too another 7 pits were closed. Subsequently 55,000 miners lost their jobs in Wales. From that the local communities finally shrivelled and died. Today 25 pits are open, employing 25,000 workers and their communities. When Kinnock finally gets around to backing the miners (18 weeks late) and not the cops will it be any real blessing or merely a kiss of death? In South Yorkshire meanwhile a Labour Councillor has been disciplined by the Party for stating that the only response to Government abuse of power was violence. Instead of grinding themselves down trying to radicalise the corpse of the Political Parties, those who want to support the miners should engage in real solidarity, with their friends shaking off the bureaucrats who would use the working class for political power.

A-Syndicalist.

Canada: Brent Taylor

Brent Taylor received a total of 22 years on several convictions including breaking and entering, possession of dynamite, weapons & stolen property, and conspiracy to rob a Brink's truck.

During the trial the Senior Prosecutor claimed that according to RCMP 'bugging' Brent had been planning a number of future actions, including a direct attack on a Defence Department building in Ottawa and bombing of the Cold Lake Armed Forces Base in Alberta.

At the end of the B.C. trial Brent gave a speech and said that the reasons he broke the law were more important than the fact that he did so. Like Ann Hansen (who got a devastating 22 years + life) and Doug Stewart (6 years for the Hydro Electric sub-station bombing), Brent has not made any public renunciation of the actions he took part in. After his speech many supporters who crowded the courtroom rose to their feet and applauded him.

Brent is yet to face the Toronto trial for the bombing of the Litton Cruise Missile Computer parts plant; he thinks that he will be *lived off*.

Portugal

CIA RESTORED

A proposal to re-establish a state intelligence network has coincided with raids on leftists, the unveiling of another austerity package, and the commencement of a campaign of repression not seen since the days of Salazar.

Portugal has always been of strategic importance to the US and the 1974 revolution and the setting up of a 'progressive' left military regime put a temporary end to the safety of Lisbon as an intelligence base for CIA sponsored fascist activity. Its taken 10 years of hard work for the US authorities to regain a foothold and this has mainly been done by oblique funding of the Social Democrats, headed by Soares, to achieve an industrial unity with the unions. Recently Soares managed to get the unions to accept in principle the idea of a social pact, so as to avoid strike action. The Portuguese economy is going from bad to worse. Many firms have not been paying out wages but expect the workers to carry on working for nothing, or they just get sacked and face no prospect of future employment. Soares is hoping to introduce even harsher measures in order that the country will still be able to gain entry into the EEC, which is planned for 1986. The plan is to provide more state help for industry, at the cost of the general standard of living. It is typical Labour-type corporate policy and puts human needs behind the needs of the nation as a whole.

Meanwhile FP25, the guerrilla organisation, is continuing to present a plausible challenge to the economic programme,

via its anti-capitalist campaign of direct action. In the last week or so the organisation has claimed attacks on a police station and on the home of a leading industrialist. FP25 (Popular Front 25 April) has in the past targeted on employers who have not been paying wages. At the end of May of this year FP25 claimed responsibility for the execution of a frozen food company owner and the attempted execution of the proprietor of a glassworks. Other FP25 assassinations have included police and mafia leaders. FP25 has grown out of the revolutionary movement of '74 and has found a great deal of support amongst the young and unemployed. FP25 has also received support from the Popular United Force (FUP) party, of which one of the leaders, Lieutenant-Col. Saraiva de Carvalho, was recently arrested and charged with membership of the guerrilla organisation. De Carvalho took part in the '74 coup and the overthrow of the dictatorship. The sudden campaign to crush FP25 and FUP has provided the government with just the excuse they were looking for to extend the security and intelligence services to a position of strength comparable to the days when Aginter Press - clearing house for joint fascist/intelligence service operations (see Delle Chiaie book by Stuart Christie) - was headquartered in Lisbon. Already Portugals police and internal security chiefs have been given carte blanche to make full use of FBI and CIA training facilities. From the US point of view closer contacts with Portugal will mean greater access for bases (eg the Azores), and the re-establishment of the country as a jumping off point for the rest of the Peninsular. For those involved in the resistance in both Portugal and Spain (and elsewhere) this is all bad news. A stronger Soares will mean a stronger Social Democratic movement and already the state socialists in Spain have led the way by reneging on the no-NATO agreement and by strengthening the security forces. Will Soares follow his Spanish counterpart by turning a blind eye to the existing of groups like the GAL (mafia financed fascist/security force paramilitary) as a way of ensuring that power remains firmly in the hands of an increasingly US sponsored, corporatist/capitalist economy?

