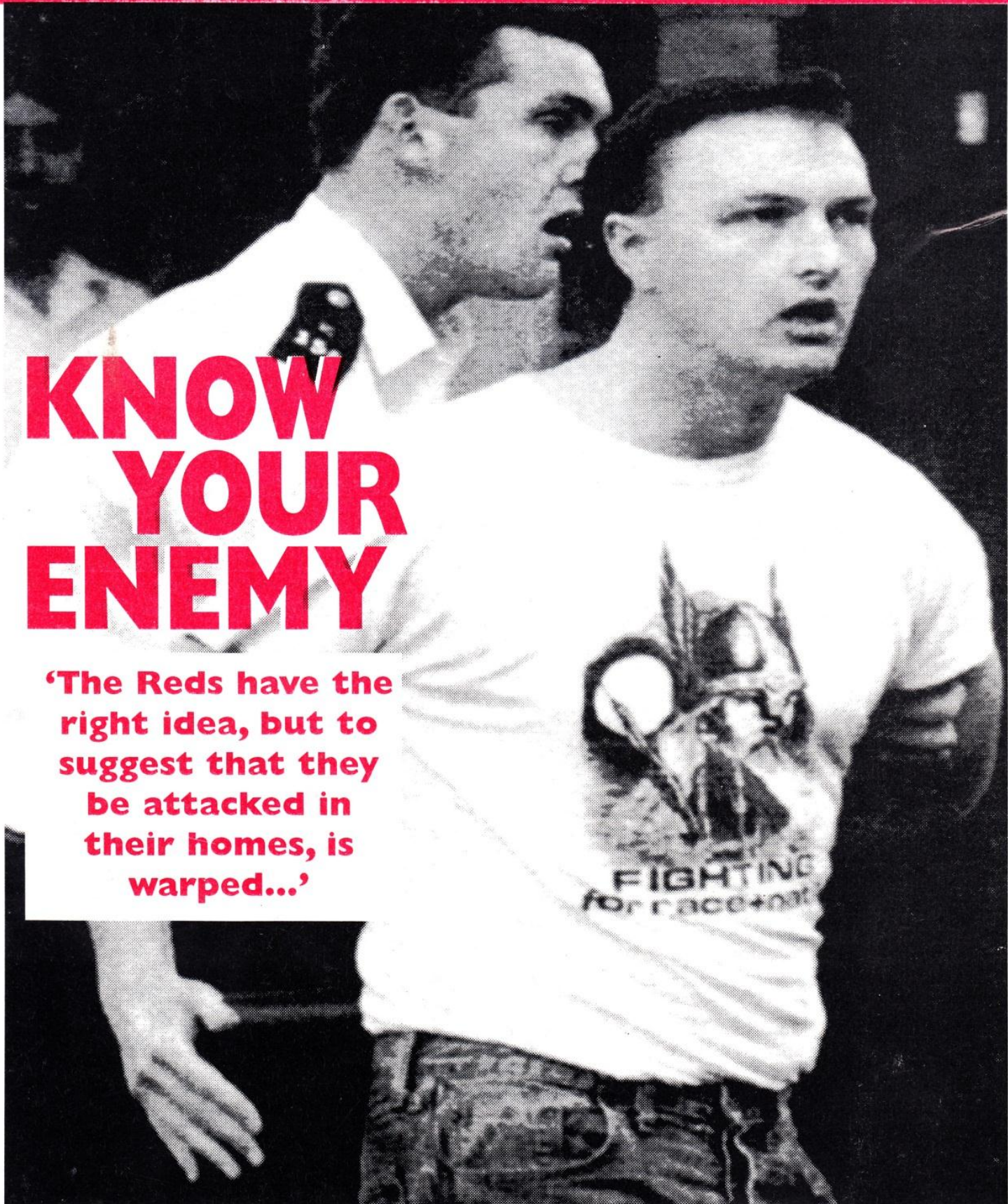


RED ACTION

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KNOW YOUR ENEMY

'The Reds have the right idea, but to suggest that they be attacked in their homes, is warped...'

FIGHTING
for race + nat

EDITORIAL

For some time now, convicted bomber Tony Lecomber has been the most prominent advocate of the strategy of 'Euro-Nationalism' within the BNP. It was Lecomber, who in April 1994, announced to the press that there, "would be no more marches, meetings, punch ups." Last year in Spearhead he explored the threat posed to BNP ambitions by AFA's sponsorship of the Independent Working Class Association. 'Know your enemy; know yourself' is a maxim of military and political strategy.

Which is why, in order to let militant anti-fascists see themselves as the far-right do, we have taken the unprecedented step of publishing the article in full. Our comment is restricted to this editorial.

In the article Lecomber advanced the notion that AFA have "no answer" to 'new nationalism'. In order to further reassure his readers, he rather betrays this self confident projection with a small but significant falsification. He claims that AFA have conceded what is tantamount to 'defeat' with the following quote from *Fighting Talk*: "We cannot actually prevent them attempting to enter the mainstream." Sufficiently succinct for his purposes perhaps, except that the sentence continues "...we can still deny them their just reward for doing so by entering the mainstream ourselves."

The minority who pour scorn in private on the need for a political strategy, who denounce it as an adulteration or diminution of the cause, instead of addressing the situation rationally, have instead embarked on a dual strategy of chasing shadows without and character assassination within.

The ill concealed apprehension that despite the new strategy the AFA nemesis might still spoil it resurfaces in the glossy and influential magazine, *Patriot*, of which Lecomber is editor. In a lengthy critique of the failure of the strategies of far-right since the 1930s, the lead article focuses in on the 'high rate of attrition resulting from red-blooded activism' particularly in recent years. And asks: "How many people around today have been active solidly for five years? Is this because they are unsteady under fire or because we are asking the impossible?" "We must avoid engaging in aggro - not through fear of the reds as some would emotionally have it, but because it is strategically for the best. Nor will we have been chased into doorstep politics by the police or red gangs. Rather we should adopt door step politics because it is the best way to campaign.

Directly addressing the fears of the dissident minority it states: "the British public naturally support our aims. We

have nothing to fear from reds knocking on doors, but the suggestion that we should attack those reds in their homes shows how warped thinking can become in our circles."

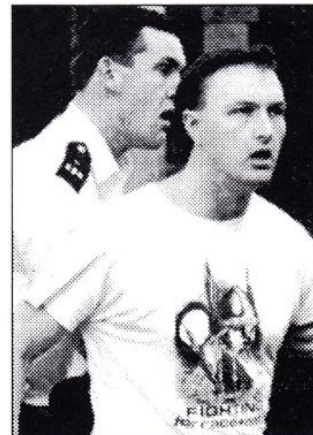
Decoded, the *Patriot* sermon is explicit. It is saying that though we all deny it in public, reality is we have been forced by the unrelenting 'war of attrition' into a new way. In the short term this retreat has given us respite and a chance to regroup, in the long term it might well prove politically advantageous, as it has done on the continent. In any case there is no other option. But having been terrorised off the streets, to seriously suggest that we should take advantage of the 'phony peace' to attack and provoke those very 'terrorists' in their homes is self-evidently bonkers. That such a strategy is proposed "by those who live furthest from the scene of the activism" is all the more galling.

It is a genuine irony that the recidivist element in the far-right find a mirror image within militant anti-fascism. The minority who pour scorn in private on the need for a political strategy, who denounce it as an adulteration or diminution of the cause, instead of addressing the situation rationally, have instead embarked on a dual strategy of chasing shadows without, and character assassination within.

They flatly reject the notion that AFA have won 'the war.' And just as perversely, appear intent on ensuring that as few as possible pro-actively engage in winning the peace. Instead of focusing on where the mass of the far-right have regrouped they rent their hair and mutter darkly of betrayal at the failure to call national mobilisations to deal with a organisations representing no more than a few dozen.

Militant anti-fascism is effective anti-fascism. It is effective or it is nothing. With the collapse of the traditional Left both within and without the Labour party (the SLP has for instance recently lost 500 of its 620 membership in London alone, while in the same period the BNP have added two dozen new branches) the responsibility on militant anti-fascism to be aware of the bigger picture, and hold the line increases ten fold. With a few notable exceptions, AFA nationally has not lived up to its responsibility. Far too many are still sitting back in expectation of 'another Waterloo'. It is time for us all to stand up and be counted.

FEATURED on the front cover is Tony Lecomber, a leading BNP member who for over a decade stood firmly in the physical force tradition of fascism. A former member of the Royal Greenjackets and territorial army, he first came to prominence after a failed attempt to bomb the headquarters of the Workers' Revolutionary Party in 1985 for which he was jailed for three years. Lecomber became a familiar face to Red Action activists in London after leading a failed attack on those leaving the founding conference of Anti-Fascist Action. During the BNP's 'Rights for Whites' campaign in East London, Lecomber became involved in a whole series of incidents with AFA members. On one occasion he received a beating that was later screened on prime-time TV. He developed the uncanny knack of always ending up on the deck; so much so that he was christened 'Tarmac' within AFA ranks. In 1991 he was again imprisoned for three years, this time for an attack on a Jewish school teacher. Despite being one of the architects of the race riots in Bermondsey



and Dewsbury he was one of the first to realise that in the battle for the streets between militant anti-fascism and the BNP only the latter could end as losers.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS OFF THEIR KNEES

AFTER a couple of years absence I attended the West Belfast Festival this year and took the opportunity to show a couple of RA members, over for the first time, their way around. Despite the fact that Belfast could no longer be called an actual 'warzone,' it was still, by their own admission, quite an eye-opener for my two colleagues.

Chatting to one of them over a pint during the weekend, I told him he was a rare species indeed, a real trophy. After some strange looks, I explained that despite RA running regular trips for umpteen years that have included amongst their ranks, a grandson of a Black and Tan, an ex-serving member of the British Army, a Rangers FC-supporting Glasgow protestant and a member of West Ham FC's infamous ICF firm; he was one of the few ex-Trots who had been persuaded to make the journey.

And it's funny, thinking about it later, very few of the left have ever really understood the importance RA has always placed on our delegations to Belfast, with one outfit even accusing us of indulging in 'revolutionary tourism.' With their stereotypical images of RA members, I suspect that one half imagined that when we weren't drinking we were getting our photos taken with armed IRA patrols; while the other more jittery half, probably believed we were actually in the hills of Donegal undergoing arms training!

While the incredibly brave individual military acts of the IRA were undoubtedly an inspiration for RA members, they never really represented an aspiration. Our aspirations have always centred around the community itself, rather than the guerrilla army it spawned. The idea has always been to give our members and supporters the chance to observe, at close hand, what a revolutionary, politicised and organised working class community looks like. Where the word 'revolutionary' has a little more meaning than the wearing of PLO scarfs, Che Guevara berets or refusing to shave your legs or say the word 'cunt'.

The advantage of Belfast has always been what can only be described as the normality of the place, a place that can in many ways be easily related to. The conflict was not a thousand miles away in a far-off steamy jungle, but barely an hour from Heathrow; a part of the 'UK' in fact.

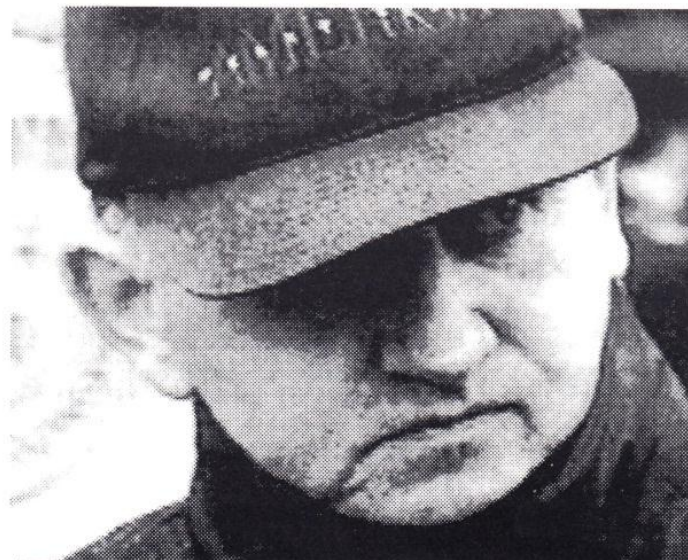
As at home, Belfast is a place where the young lads are all kitted out in the latest Arsenal and Man Utd tops and the girls the new Kappa or Adidas tracksuits. The differences with home are often a lot more subtle than simply the war between the British Army and the IRA, but nonetheless just as dramatic.

A chance meeting with an old lady on a street corner, struggling home with her shopping, has led to RA members being taken home for cups of tea and being told of how the women's home was always open to those fleeing the security forces, and about her own sons and daughters who had either been killed on active service or imprisoned. Getting a ride in one of the community's Black taxis can mean you get involved in a discussion with the driver (usually an ex-prisoner), not on the merits of 'anging & flogging and immigration, but of the peace process in South Africa.

While the war in Ireland may be over, the opportunity for RA members to benefit from immersing themselves, if only for a weekend, in a working class community that has climbed off of its knees, cannot be underestimated. Those who have not yet done so should avail themselves of the opportunity. You won't regret it.

Steve Potts

THE ARCHIVIST



THE BIG ISSUE

OMAGH proved to be a mistake in more ways than one.

But then as republican analyst Tim Pat Coogan pointed out the Real IRA, the " Hamas of republicanism," were always "susceptible" to blunders. Or indeed infiltration. Leading republican Gerry Kelly suspected a hidden hand and revealed that republicans had weeks prior to the bombing actually discussed the possibility of a "nationalist town being [targeted] next." And not only did Omagh fit this criteria but Sinn Fein are the dominant local party. And it was of course the Republican Movement rather than the British that were the political targets.

If Ballymoney almost destroyed Unionism then Omagh certainly revived it. Within hours the issue of decommissioning was resurrected; a moratorium on prisoner release, as well as internment north and south demanded. In addition to elected republicans being kept out of Stormont, right wing sections of the media wanted the Good Friday Agreement rewritten as well. All done in the knowledge that any substantial retreat from the fundamentals of the agreement would cause the peace process to collapse. But for all concerned, leader writers and bombers alike: 'Provisional IRA remained the enemy.'

Which is why Omagh was not an attack on 'the Brits', but was a last desperate throw to make Stormont, the symbol of sectarian apartheid safe and thereby PIRA strategy untenable. In recognition that the very moment revolutionary nationalism crossed its threshold: the talisman of colonial rule; the concept of a 'protestant state for a protestant people' and the reason for being of the 'Real IRA' were all rendered instantly obsolete.

(A collection of articles analysing the Irish peace process that appeared in Red Action 1994-1998, are now available in a new pamphlet form - See page 11 for details)



West Midlands AFA

THERE has been an amalgamation of the

West Mids National Democrats and at least one key NF organiser, under the BNP banner. New recruits have been drawn straight into high-level internal activity, and early signs are that the West Midlands and the Black Country in particular, are set to be a focal point for national BNP development. Intelligence work suggests a sizeable new Black Country branch and it's here that there's likely to be a concentration of activity, the likely area spans from Cannock, through to Dudley, Walsall and Sandwell. Notts

AFA reported that a combination of

continued on page 4



NOT WAVING...

IN THE last two issues, there have been reports in 'Community Resistance' column of IWCA activities in Islington and the West Midlands. In both cases the activities focused on the battle to reclaim our communities. Though there is a way to go before the IWCA objective: "working class rule in working class areas" becomes evident, progress in the all important political mainstream is being made. One of the

original participants in the IWCA was the Revolutionary Communist Group and it's instructive to look at what they are up to now. Two years ago they wrote enthusiastically of the initiative: "The strength of the IWCA documents is that it consciously seeks to break with a past that has failed." In particular they supported the idea of focussing on working class communities. One point that was emphasised at every turn was that the IWCA was conceived as a long term strategy and results could only be expected through long patient work.

Dogmatic left slogans and conceptions have not been a means of approaching the working class, but a substitute for doing so." trumpeted the RCG publication *Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!* Less than a year later they quietly slipped away in the night.

On the face of it the sole basis for discord was when they were dissuaded from selling *FRFI* during an IWCA leafletting on the Isle of Dogs. For an organisation which aimed to break with all previous left tradition, it was curious that paper selling was still considered a priority.

In any case that was the last public activity they appeared on and the last time the IWCA ever appeared in their publication.

For some the timing and nature of their departure was simply proof that their involvement was opportunism. In any case in the June/July issue of *FRFI* under the heading 'Building a New Movement' all is explained. We are told that: "The entire capitalist system teeters on the edge of an abyss, because it cannot contain the mounting anger and resistance of the working class and oppressed. After a decade of reaction since the collapse of socialism in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, we can sense a new optimism." The justification for the 'new dawn' was the 60,000 strong demo outside the G8 summit in Birmingham. Primarily because of the involvement of people who were "... new to politics, greens, anarchists, christians, many open to anti-imperialist ideas." Hmmm, wonder what they mean by "open to anti-imperialist ideas?"

It wouldn't be that 'comrades' sold 240 copies of *FRFI*, and over £100 of other literature..." (Incidentally the SWP were equally euphoric) No need for a systematic approach, a strategy 'for the long haul,' if capitalism is on the point of immediate collapse anyway is of course the subliminal message. In the same paper they give a concrete example of a party preparing for social apocalypse. Under the banner headline "Fight Poverty Pay! Dancing in Defiance - Campaign targets Polygram." Apparently Polygram had the temerity to sack one of their members Nigel Cook.

On the first anniversary of the sacking a picket was held outside Polygram. Momentous events followed. "Eventually due to uncompromising demands by our stewards, we walked triumphantly back down the road, past Polygram adorned with our banners and the mounted police, to the rapturous welcome of demonstrators chanting for the immediate release of Nigel Cook who'd been wrestled to the ground by two coppers as we broke through police lines." Hard to believe that this was description of a picket of a few dozen people. Having ditched the IWCA the RCG have returned to the politics of the past with a vengeance. And no matter how many demonstrations, pickets etc take place none of this is going to effect imperialism, poverty pay or indeed the fortunes of the RCG. Their politics have no basis in reality. They talk of the "mounting anger of the oppressed" while their own contribution is spiritual rather than practical. Which is probably what Marx meant when he described "all sects as essentially religious."

More tea vicar?

Colin O'Brien

fallout from the Leeds affair and lack of group direction had culminated in a poorly attended meeting where the group had apparently been dissolved. However the call for a regional gathering, given the West Mids situation, brought together all the elements still wishing to remain a part of AFA. A relaunch was proposed, similar to the June relaunch in the West Mids, with those present at this regional comprising the core. Mistakes and problems of recent times were discussed in depth, as well as measures that could be taken to ensure they weren't repeated.



cont'd

Whilst the relaunches are essential now from a rearguard viewpoint, it's also imperative that any new initiatives take into account the fact that the physical strategy is by no means absolute, though it will always have validity when the opportunity arises. The goal posts have been shifted, which in many cases has made the old approach virtually redundant. West Mids BNP are as aware as London BNP of the effectiveness of the new "Euro-Nationalist" approach, the fact that it takes the wind out of AFA's sails is a bonus for them. This means that AFA must politically orientate to the working class when mapping out its strategies - to fail to do so will mean resigning ourselves to the fate of Germany, where anti-fascists are locked in a bloody street war, while in the meantime fascists are busy taking council seats and preparing for government. West Mids BNP have already outlined their intentions to gravitate towards residents associations and grassroots community issues. The "double edged sword" combination of both physical and ideological opposition must be more than just a sound-byte - we have to learn from what has happened in Europe.

Red Action relaunch in Scotland

RED ACTION in Scotland held an encouraging relaunch meeting in Glasgow recently. As well as integrating a number of new supporters and contacts, the successes and problems of the past were discussed at length. At the end of the meeting officers for the region were elected, some of them taking on posts for the first time.

BACK ISSUES

EIGHT ANTI-FASCISTS JAILED

ON 8 December 1981, eight members of Manchester Anti-Nazi League were jailed for periods of six months to fifteen months for allegedly being in possession of offensive weapons whilst seeking out political opponents in Rochdale.

The truth is that the comrades went to Rochdale at the request of a female member of the student section of the Socialist Workers Party who was being harassed and intimidated by Nazi thugs at her home in Rochdale and at the bar in which she worked.

In response to a telephone call for help from 'Michelle Mole,' a group of people went to Rochdale in order to protect their comrade from the attacks by fascists. The van in which they were travelling was intercepted by the police in Rochdale and the comrades were later charged with a very serious offence which was dropped in court but they were convicted of possession of offensive weapons.

One of the main planks of the prosecution case was that they were an organised left wing hit squad - instead of committed socialists who were prepared to stand up to fascist violence and intimidation. The attitude of some left political parties (SWP and RCP) was that these people were as bad if not worse than the state was alleging.

Since the comrades went to jail a defence fund has been set up to look after the families financially and also to help pay the rents of other comrades.

Red Action, issue 2, April 1982

Did You See Their Faces !?!

Joe Reilly reports from an anti-fascist workcamp in eastern Germany where as part of the 'International Network' two AFA representatives were confronted with the fatally flawed thinking in mainstream anti-fascist thinking

For an increasing number of German anti-fascists the enemy's resurgence is evidence that the existing anti-fascist strategy is seriously flawed. And if the far-right are to be driven back, any counter offensive must ensure that fascism's priorities; in particular its working class orientation is placed centre stage

Outright hostility and vehement disagreement to the need for any such review comes, as might be expected, from those anti-fascist organisations with whom the existing strategy is identified. For them a single question mark over the effectiveness of this or that approach is taken as a personal slight.

This was certainly the experience of two members of AFA who travelled to Germany in late July. They were invited specifically to discuss with representatives of a wide spectrum of the German anti-fascist Left the current situation in Germany from the perspective of the 'Militant Manifesto' that led to the setting up of the International Militant Anti-Fascist Network in London in Oct 1997.

Enroute the AFA delegates also addressed two meetings in Hamburg and Hanover. So by the time they addressed the main meeting they were well versed in the intricacies of German anti-fascism. Nevertheless, having begun the meeting with a brief summary of AFA history from 1985 to the present day and, having invited through an interpreter, questions from the floor, the first question would, without forewarning, be blunt enough to stun. "As there is no working class in Germany is it not advisable for anti fascism to orientate to the radical element in middle class instead?"

"Well who does the work then?" came the reflex AFA response to some laughter. As well as pointing out that working class was not a "honorific political term that somebody acquired like a degree," it was also stated that for the purposes of anti-fascism the working class are the "bottom 30-40% of society." Now it needs to be stressed that the mysterious disappearance of the German working class is not a theory exclusive to some obscure group but, has, unbelievably, currency throughout the entire German anti-fascist movement. Of the three dozen groups represented at the meeting, for 75% of them it appeared to be a simple statement of fact.



Saxony-Anhalt where the DVU have taken seats in Regional Government

But as the two hour meeting progressed it became apparent that the central point around which all else revolved, rather than emerging from an honest analysis of society, was in effect a self serving rationalisation: a 'get out clause' artificially created. If, after all, there was no working class then there was no need, indeed no possibility, of involvement with it? In further mitigation, it was even suggested that the lower orders are somehow 'predisposed to nationalist and reactionary ideas.' When this line of thinking was articulated, AFA delegates very forcefully pointed out that: 'The raison d'etre of fascism is that race and nation are the the motive force of society. If, theoretically, anti-fascism removes class from the political equation: if it denies the existence of the working class as an agent of change, it is, in effect, preparing the ground for the far-right.'

'It is the duty,' it was argued of an 'authentic anti-fascism' not only to challenge the far-right in working class communities but to politically replace them there. It is vital that there is 'an alternative'. (Quite unbelievably, when this point had been put earlier, the retort was: 'But look at Saxony Anhalt! When they were given a choice there they voted for the DVU over the Republikaner Party. Given a choice they voted for the most extreme: they vote in Brownshirts!' To which the AFA delegates responded: "But we are not talking about the need of an alternative between fascist parties but an alternative to fascist parties!")

As the cut and thrust continued, small ripples of applause greeted any of AFA's 'direct hits'. At one stage the questions posed were so easily demolished that, without bothering to translate the interpreter delivered the response herself. While the chair of the meeting, a 6ft 6in former East German border guard, seemed to take particular relish in picking the next victims, the overall impact on many in the audience was palpable: some seemed visibly stunned. As an AFA sympathiser remarked: "Did you see their faces!?" Individual egos apart, it was noticeable that, while their theoretical construct was being rubbished, not only were they unable to defend it, they appeared to have little emotional investment in it either. A case of the 'Kaiser's new clothes' perhaps? For the activists from eastern Germany it had an equally dramatic but contrary impact. In all probability, AFA were not telling them anything they didn't instinctively already know. The cathartic effect was that for the first time the middle class theorists were confronted publicly.

As a consequence a second meeting was hastily arranged back-to-back with the first to discuss with representatives from up to a dozen groups from eastern Germany representing towns like Dresden and Cottbus, some practical next steps. The consensus was clear: German anti-fascism needed a new strategy. To facilitate this it was agreed that an ad-hoc committee would be formed with a view to sponsoring and staging a national conference in the new year. Before departing, the AFA delegates issued a word of warning. Militants must be aware that they could expect to be politically attacked from the old Left but nevertheless, this had to be taken on board as 'a new strategy needed a new leadership.'

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

For reasons explained in our editorial section, we have taken the unprecedented step of reprinting, in full, an article by a leading British National Party member, Tony Lecomber, which appeared in the BNP's magazine *Spearhead*. The article was entitled 'Red Front - Spent Force of Reaction, a footnote in history.'

The central political struggle of our age is to decide whether nationalism can break through into the big time to challenge the treacherous alliance between the establishment parties that are colluding to: (a) sell our country to the EU; (b) promote yet more immigration; (c) stand aside as yet more of our industry is relocated to the Far East; and (d) as a result of the foregoing, stand aside and watch Britain fall into increasing decline and poverty necessitating the dismantling of our welfare state which can no longer be afforded.

On all these issues, Labour, Lib-Dems and Tories are but one side of the coin, the side of internationalism and sell-out. The other side of the coin, that of nationalism and the staunch defence of our interests is represented by the BNP. It is literally the BNP against the rest.

In this struggle, the BNP will almost certainly make its next breakthrough, as it did in Millwall, in a run-down working class area. The people who have been abandoned by Labour and have never been represented by the Tories will, in their desperation, turn to us. This is unlikely to happen next May, since people will still be giving Tony Blair's Labour Party the chance to show what they can do. After that though, disappointment will set in.

The next seat

More specifically, the BNP will probably win its next council by-election in London's East End, South East London or in one of the North's former cotton towns. The excuse of out-of-London BNP members that the party can only make good progress in London has, I hope, been finally put paid to in the recent General Election. *The progress does, however, have to be worked for.*

But while the BNP sets the radical agenda for the working class, and in time the middle class as well as they realise that they too have been abandoned, what of the Left?

The Left of course like to pretend that they are the real rebels, the real revolutionaries - the ones who are most against the establishment. Yet who is it that faces media condemnation and establishment vilification when they stand up for their political principles? Is it the member of the Spartacist League, the Socialist Party (ex-Militant) or even the Socialist Workers Party (SWP)? It is not. They are tolerated. Disliked maybe, but tolerated. The people to draw real media fire are members of the BNP. One man leafletting in Hartlepool is enough to generate front-page condemnation in the local newspaper for two issues!

Red fools - bosses' tools

Despite the Left's traditional abuse of the BNP as the 'lackeys of the bosses,' the fact is that in the last general election it was only the British National Party which opposed international capitalism, the EU, the New World Order and globalisation, with their threats to jobs and living standards. The truth is that their opposition to us suits the establishment, which finds it very convenient if the BNP and the far-left expend energy in skirmishing with each other, instead of promoting alternative policies to the existing system. This leaves the field clear for the establishment to continue business as usual.

In fact, the Left are often to be found supporting that same establishment in the guise of Labour. During the election, members of the far-left Jewish Socialist group, Socialist Workers Party and even fringier outfits in my home town of Ilford were sporting big

'Vote Labour' posters and placards in their windows and gardens. And I thought they said that Labour is the class enemy!

The truth of the assertion that the Left are there to try to negate our efforts, and are basically a tool for the establishment, can be found by looking at the SWP. Before the election, their papers and posters proclaimed: "Vote Labour without illusions." After the election, a new set of posters appeared: "We didn't vote for this." Ha! They did, and they encouraged others to do the same.

The mania the Left have against nationalism stems primarily from their concern that their appeal should be greatest to those who get the worst deal from society - ordinary workers. They regard the working class as their personal preserve - despite the fact that, in reality, recruits to the Left come mainly from middle-class students who go on to become teachers and local civil servants. To quote *Fighting Talk*, the theoretical journal of Anti-Fascist Action:-

"So if Labour is basically an anti-working class organisation - what about the rest of the left, particularly the Leninists and Trotskyists? They harp on about class and in their own minds represent the cutting edge of class struggle. The trouble is - they can't deliver... *They alienate working class support*" [emphasis added]

The self-proclaimed radical Left gave up real politics years ago, after consistently coming a poor second to the National Front in the seventies. With the acceptance that they had no popular support, and with the defeat of Communism in the East, leftists everywhere knew that the 'inevitable' march of Marxism had been halted. All they have left now is violence, such as the violence visited upon John Tyndall and his wife in a Stratford street in September. The BNP recognised this historical theme several years ago when it turned its back decisively on the confrontational strategy of its past. The reason for abandoning confrontational street politics was because it hindered our political progress, and was the only thing holding our extreme opponents together.

Going on the doorstep, canvassing and presenting a better image to people, empathising with our people, talking to them about their problems and advancing popular solutions is real politics and it is better politics. This was how we won Millwall and came within an ace of winning a seat in neighbouring Newham. That, at the same time, our more sophisticated tactics have helped destroy our leftist opponents, by depriving them of a focus is just a happy coincidence.

Youth against Racism in Europe (YRE) has disappeared. The so-called Anti-Nazi League (ANAL) have closed their London office. The bulk of Class War have retired in despair. Anti-Fascist Action (AFA) are also in decline and have closed their Manchester office.

To illustrate all of this, it is useful to look at the journals of the left to see what they themselves have to say. Again, *Fighting Talk*, is particularly good since AFA's chief strategist, 'Gary O'Shea' lets it all hang out as he tells his dwindling readership that "the left has gone into apparent terminal decline":-

"...the BNP would appear to be making a decisive change of direction. No longer a battle for control of the streets but a battle for hearts and minds. [This development] left AFA hamstrung. [Our] strategy of confrontation against the old [BNP] way of doing things proved impotent against the new."

So, there you are: the BNP's enemies are in decline and impotent. Not

a bad side-effect for a strategy that is also more effective politically!

The same mag says of the BNP's new modus operandi:-

"No more marches, meetings, punchups... This change of tactics by the BNP has presented AFA with a new challenge... a year on, [This passage was written in 1995 - Ed] this declaration must now be regarded as a serious change of strategy, something other than a temporary electoral ploy or an effort to court respectability."

Clearly, this man left school with 'O' levels!

"For them [the BNP] simply to continue with the strategy of 'marches, meetings, punchups' only provides an enemy that has lost the fundamental arguments with a legitimate political focus, i.e. anti-BNP... Furthermore, if the BNP operation is made entirely legal and if AFA physically opposes them, then our operation is de facto illegal... circumstances are changing and AFA needs to adapt... What is needed is a new organisation [to challenge the BNP politically]."

Leaving aside the point that AFA's operation always was illegal, what AFA have realised is that their operation will no longer have even the barest shred of moral

feeling of betrayal and a vicious backlash against Labour. Equally certain, particularly in working class areas, the political beneficiaries will not be the previous party of government. So the Far Right will expect, as they have already done successfully elsewhere in Europe, to don, as if by right, the cloak of the genuinely radical grassroots opposition.

"We can still stop them if we take on board a couple of simple facts. One, the old policy of containment is already obsolete. Two, while the election of Labour represents a real opportunity for progressive elements to get their feet under the working class table for the first time in a quarter of a century that is to say the chance to step forward politically - for militant anti-fascism it means the reverse. Our ability to consistently and physically impose ourselves on events will be significantly retarded because the BNP have abandoned the old strategy of "march and grow" in favour of a "hearts and minds" approach. We must accept that the police have improved their intelligence on AFA and how we work, which coupled with the new powers that they have under the

Criminal Justice Act means it is much harder for AFA to physically confront the fascists. Adding to that the mounting social pressure triggered by a Labour government means we will no longer be able to hold the political vacuum."

Leaving aside the fact that the party won in Millwall despite the presence of these jokers, a serious point is being made: If you thought things were bad before, just wait until Labour's demolition of the welfare state starts to bite.

Compounding the Left's dismay as to the emerging political situation is the meagre propaganda challenge that they can mount against us. Just before the election FT wrote:-

"AFA is determined to match the commitment of the BNP before, during and after the election... So far 20,000 leaflets have been distributed door to door... We must shadow them all the way"

In one constituency, or even one borough, 20,000 leaflets is quite a lot. But AFA was, of course referring to 20,000 leaflets across the whole country! Many individual BNP branches put out many times that amount leading up to the election, and an additional 2,250,000 leaflets went out courtesy of the Post Office. In addition, the party obtained a TV broadcast. AFA didn't even match one per cent of the party's total literature output. They signally failed to match or mimic the party in any way at all. Their efforts were minuscule and insignificant, as were those of all the left groups. They admit their failure and have no answer:-

"We cannot actually prevent them attempting to enter the mainstream."

The game has moved on apace from the 1980s and early 1990s; the whole power equation has changed. The propaganda output advantages of engaging in regular political activity are obvious. In addition, the party has resolved its considerable structural problems inherent from its earlier confrontational strategy phase. All that is needed now is to grow and ensure that all the party's activists and organisers become competent in the new tactics and disciplines.

As for the forces of reaction, they will find that to adapt, as the BNP adapted, will involve a heavy shake-out of those who are only there for the beer and the excitement. Not to adapt leaves them impotent and in decline, but to adapt will take time and leave them considerably weaker. Either way, they must pay a price and either way it is a matter of complete indifference to us.

We are the radical opposition; we speak for the put-upon working class and increasingly for the middle class as well; we set the agenda, and they react - as they have always reacted.

We are the future; they are the past!



Bermondsey 1991: One of only two occasions in London when the BNP could be said to have 'controlled the streets'

validity. Standing openly for the beating up of one's political opponents is repugnant to all right-thinking people. While, however, AFA and their like could make a claim, however spurious, that the BNP, by behaving aggressively on the street was, in some way, asking for it, it allowed them the thinnest veneer to cover their activities. That veneer has now gone. The BNP hasn't been involved in a widely reported street brawl for literally years. Not that such brawls were of the party's making, but the party invariably got the blame courtesy of the liberal/left-dominated media. And it harmed us politically. Which is why the party has left that sorry excuse for politics behind for good.

As for the Left developing a new political organisation, typically they couldn't agree among themselves and join in one party such as Socialist Labour (Scargill's crowd) or the Socialist Party, so AFA formed the embryo of a new one called (take a deep breath), The Independent Working Class Association. Catchy, Eh?

On the strength of it, they have the right idea in standing for elections in order to offer disillusioned voters a radical alternative other than the BNP. In practice, of course, the likely result would be to split the socialist vote and let us in - which is, of course, why the rest of the red rabble remain cheer leaders for Labour. The embryonic IWCA justify this development since Labour doesn't do the working class any favours anyway. Even so, nothing is likely to come of it because AFA, and therefore the IWCA, is too small to have any impact on any election anywhere.

Scared to death

Reading their chief strategist's writings gives much satisfaction. Unlike the head-in-the-cloud ANAL types, AFA acknowledge that the BNP's message has resonance. In addition, they are scared to death of the party's potential now that Labour are in power:-

"With the Tories in government Labour at a local level could blame them for everything. The electorate took their revenge with Tory representation being almost wiped out completely in whole swathes of the country.

"With Labour in government the Tory alibi that served them so well will automatically vanish. In addition there will be expectation among voters that many of the cuts will be reversed. When the precise opposite happens there will be a real

Community Resistance

N. London Islington a diary of resistance

IN THIS issue, 'Community Resistance' gives over its entire space to excerpts from a report by Mark Cassidy, an IWCA activist in Islington...

17.7.98

A POSTERING campaign by local activists is highlighted in The *Highbury & Islington Express*' 'Diary' column:

"Wanted: Dead or Alive - the men who would sell off Islington's council homes to the highest bidder. Posters have gone up outside Islington's Town Hall warning of the plans of two shifty-looking "conmen" known by the names of Derek Sawyer and Chris Hitchens. Both are said to be leaders of a "criminal Islington gang" - one known as the Labour Party, the other known as the Lib Dems.

"These men are trying to con council tenants into giving up their homes," the poster warns. "If approached do not answer the door to them. Warn your neighbours immediately."

18.7.98

A LARGE contingent from the Socialist Workers Party at the second National Gathering of those opposed to the privatisation of Council housing held in Poplar, East London; ensured that they were able to impose their agenda on the meeting. This was largely because of their domination of whole

sections of the UNISON union, rather than any real substantial support amongst tenants themselves. Any potential for a genuine campaign will continue to be explored.

24.7.98

ISLINGTON Council's decision to overrule tenants and residents on the Isledon Village estate and give the go-ahead for the further development of the already overcrowded site, was greeted with frustration and anger by local tenants representatives.

A local housing association (h.a.) had announced their intention to build a further 37 homes on the only piece of space left on the estate. Some tenants have been forced to take the h.a.'s to court because of the poor condition of the existing housing and the fact that there are still no community or youth facilities, amongst other problems. And yet the Council had been pushing Isledon as a model example to Council tenants of why they should transfer to h.a.'s!

The Green Party's Chris Ashby has attempted to jump on the bandwagon by highlighting the fact that part of the proposed development area is also a nature reserve. In the *Islington Gazette* an IWCA spokesperson was quick to point out that:

"Chris Ashby must be aware, the "environmental factor" in the Isledon dispute is not the primary problem, but is a symptom of an almost total lack of democratic accountability generally. At issue is not how long Islington must wait for a councillor to speak up for the environment but how long Islington must wait for a councillor to speak up for the working class."

By the time you have read this the IWCA will have completed distributing a leaflet drawn-up especially for the area.

27.7.98

MEMBERS of the FACTS (Fight Against Council Tenancy Sell-offs) campaign addressed a 60-strong meeting of the newly-formed Unity tenants association in Clerkenwell, South Islington. This is a traditionally working

class area that has been particularly squeezed by the ongoing gentrification of the borough. Both speakers received a very positive response from those present.

7.8.98

The *Highbury & Islington Express* exposes the Council's decision to deny the FACTS campaign access to their community information boards outside the Town Hall and Archway tube because FACTS was "too political." Responding, a FACTS spokesperson said "By not allowing us to use these boards, the council itself is making a political decision. I really don't know what the problem is. We are part of the community, all we wanted to do was put our PO box number up. This is tantamount to censorship."

Defending the Council's decision, chairman of housing, Councillor Richard Greening, argued that "It's about balancing free speech with the council's desire to maximise investment and encourage people to consider transfer!!"

As a letter printed in reply pointed out: "As an example of Orwellian double-speak, the chairman of housing's response takes some beating. Mr Greening infers that free speech is fine in principle as long as it does nothing to jeopardise either council policy or "investment."

14.9.98

THE COPENHAGEN area, Kings Cross, which is being targeted for the privatisation of its Council housing, hosted the first in a series of public meetings to be held across Islington by the FACTS campaign. Over 90 local tenants crowded into the hall to take part in a lively meeting hearing, for the first time, the case against privatisation. A small but vocal group, primed by paid consultants from the h.a.'s failed to make an impact.

15.9.98

AFTER a meeting with a tenants association from a North London estate, FACTS campaigners have been given office space in a local community centre where a phone line should be in place soon.

Now & Then

The failure of the IRSP/INLA to establish a left wing identity often left them indistinguishable from the Provos/SF in their targets, methods and objectives. Consequently any lull in INLA military activity left them exposed to the arguments of their political adversaries that they were an unnecessary and irritating appendage to the Republican Movement and/or they would eventually abandon the armed struggle like those other 'socialists' of the Official IRA.

By the late 70's there was little room for manoeuvre except to fulfil the prophecy of their rivals and so in an attempt to kill two birds with one stone they opted to concentrate their efforts in attempting to 'outgun' the Provos, which of course led to an inevitable relegation in political work, leading to the almost total collapse of the political wing. It was a vicious circle. The adoption of this strategy must now be regarded as a mistake and one of the fundamental reasons for the demise of the IRSP/INLA.

Red Action - Issue 38 - January 1988

We have accepted the advice and analysis of the Irish Republican Socialist Party that the conditions for armed struggle do not exist. The Irish National Liberation Army has now shifted from the position of defence and retaliation to the position of complete ceasefire. In calling this cessation we recognise that the political situation has changed since the formation of the INLA. We recognise that armed struggle can never be the only option for revolutionaries...

...For our part the Irish Republican Socialist Party pledge ourselves to continue to agitate and represent Irish working class interests-that is our task. We are acutely aware that it will be a difficult and long term task. It is a task we will not shirk. "We owe our allegiance to the working class" - Seamus Costello

INLA and IRSP statements - August 22 1998

The End Of Ideology

It's fair to say that the friction between Red Action and the British Left is no secret. Over the years, in an effort to explain away contradictions in their own politics, RA has been frogmarched by its opponents toward a succession of pigeon holes. "Squadist; stalinist; terrorist; anarchist; Leninist boot-boys; fascists; squeamish liberals; paramilitaries; agent provocateurs; nationalists (Irish)" are only a few of the contradictory labels.

But not until now has the real basis for the antagonism been fully explored. With meaningful socialism dead throughout Europe, the prerequisite for a working class renaissance is that the principle flaw, the most serious deviation in the ideological make up of the entire Left be pin-pointed. Curiously it is a peripheral spat between two obscure grouplets, Open Polemic and the Marxist Group who have inadvertently provided us with the cue. Ironically, given that ideological disputes have dominated the Left's strategical thinking for the best part of the century, a quite straightforward examination reveals the kink to be ideology itself.

Our story begins in January 1998 with the distribution of a leaflet throughout the entire Left entitled *Cutting Edge*. It extended an "open invitation to all working class militants to become involved in launching a new magazine that a) would provide progressive working class thinking with 'a strategical cutting edge. and b) prepare the ground tactically for the return of the independent working class to the political mainstream and real politics."

In an effort to accommodate everybody and threaten no one, it was proposed that editorial board policy would be non-ideological. That is to say contemporary working class problems would be addressed from an objective, non-party, non-dogmatic and evidenced-based approach. A breath of fresh air then? Well not everyone thought so.

First into bat were Open Polemic's own mad mullahs who declared a fatwa against it. Of what remains of the British Left, OP represents ideology in its purest form. In that, unlike orthodox groups, it is absolutely rigid; unsullied by experience and untouched by sordid reality. It is not troubled by the success of this or that campaign, its paper sales or recruitment - for there is no organisation. So it is free to say what it wants without fear of contradiction. Because its ideas are never applied in practice, OP feel they can never be proved wrong. It has so effectively immunised itself from disappointment it has ceased to be political.

G. O'Halloran argues that the most serious deviation in left-wing ideology is, in fact, ideology itself

Consequently, what matters more than anything to OP is establishing lines of 'demarcation.' So from the outset all OP opponents are classified by pre-determined criteria. It is essentially a genetic approach to political discourse. Regardless of circumstance, they see only that which is consistent with their beliefs. Contrary evidence is distorted when not entirely dismissed. So when addressing the idea of *Cutting Edge*: a theoretical non-party magazine to discuss contemporary class issues from a non-ideological vantage point, OP points a quivering finger and screeches that "the proposition is based on the outlook of anarcho-communism." In other words unclear. "When Red Action asserts that, 'Socialism is dead' it is clearly attacking the socialism of scientific communism." Of course. When Red Action puts forward its "non ideological" proposition, in reality it is putting forward the ideology of anarchism against the ideology of scientific communism. Absolutely. "In its open rebuttal of *Cutting Edge* (OP Prospect no5) Open Polemic pointed out that until we the revolutionary section of the class are united in the nucleus of the party, we can offer little but pious rhetoric to the class as a whole."

Having already established the obligatory anarchist smear it selects a quote from the Communist Manifesto (unwisely as it turns out) to further bludgeon the Marxist Group for, "its inept and token criticism of Red Action." Of course the quote is not in any recognisable context. No, no. Just a sentence or two picked at random apparently. It's use value? A rare and direct quote from Marx that includes the word 'party!' (OP are big on the word 'party') Armed with Marx's personal endorsement the burden of proof is deemed established and OP passes sentence. "In its continuing attacks on Marxist understanding of the leading role of the party, the Marxist Group is revealed as standing shoulder to shoulder with Red Action." The message to MG is unmistakable: unless you too want to be denounced as a heretic your attacks on 'the Great Satan' will need to be demonstrably more vigorous.

Familiar with OP's eclectic approach to evidence we sought out their quote, which led to another one by Engels in 1894 which begins with the same quote from the Communist Manifesto flourished by OP, but continues to a strikingly different conclusion. "Ever since 1848 the tactics that have brought the Socialists the greatest success were those set forth in the Communist Manifesto: The communists fight for the attainment of the immediate aims of the working class... their place is in the ranks of those fighting to achieve immediate results in the interests of the working class. They accept these achievements but merely as payments on account."

continued on page 10

As any golf professional will tell you, once the stance is wrong, greater practice, instead of correcting it, makes the swing progressively worse. So it is with revolutionary politics.

"The place of communists is in the ranks of the those fighting to achieve immediate results in the interests of the working class," would be hard to square with OP's recipe of 'pious rhetoric' you would have thought?'

But simply making a mockery of OP's ignorance is not the point of the exercise. Our intention is not just to counter one quote from Marx with another, but to demonstrate the thought process and sectarianism innate and common to all ideologies. And Marxist-Leninism, like anarchism, is an ideology. And like anarchism it has failed. So they cling to and cherish that which separates and distinguishes them from both the class and reality: Marxist-Leninist shibboleths on the one hand and dogs on string on the other. Where Stalinists and Trotskyists inhabit a political ghetto many anarchists opt for actual ones.

Though the Marxist Group quite satisfactorily ridicule the OP position, RA is also castigated being "all action - no ideology". Or putting it another way 'ideology is a guide to action; a system of ideas'. "How can anyone fight a battle of ideas if they have no ideas themselves? ...The struggle to physically reconstruct society must be accompanied by a struggle to remould people....In the present era, a non-ideological stance represents a surrender to capitalist ideology."

In the opinion of MG "a correct ideology" is by definition "one appropriate to the circumstances". But this a definition which is a negation of itself. An ideology is not set according to circumstance, it is a fixed thing; a set of principles set in stone. It is its very inflexibility that makes it an ideology. That is the whole point. Applying an ideology to a set of circumstances: a strategy, is of course something entirely different. But no matter how brilliant the strategy, if the underlying premise; the ideological foundation is in anyway adulterated, the outcome will inevitably disappoint. The greater the corruption: the more strident the application, the greater the ultimate disaster. As any golf professional will tell you, once the stance is wrong, greater practice, instead of correcting it, makes the swing progressively worse. So it is with revolutionary politics. Which is why for Marx the concept of ideology had from the beginning essentially negative connotations.

For Marx the real problems of humanity are not mistaken ideas, but real social contradictions and that mistaken ideas are a consequence of the latter. By concealing contradictions the ideological distortion contributes to their reproduction and invariably serve ruling class interests. Ideological distortions cannot be overcome by criticism, they can disappear only when the contradictions which give rise to them are practically resolved. For instance in attacking the philosophical critique of the Young Hegelians on the issue of religion Marx realises that they believed that the task is to liberate men from mistaken ideas. "They forget however," Marx says, "that to these phrases they themselves are only opposing other phrases, and that they are in no way combating the real and existing world." Marx and Engels never regarded their writings as an orthodoxy; as an 'ism'. So while outlining 'the line of the march' or promoting this or that policy, their major analytical, strategical and tactical recommendations were equally concerned with how the policy was arrived at; repeatedly stressing the importance of the revolutionary approach, the method of operation. This emphasis was not always appreciated even by their closest followers, which led an exasperated Marx on one famous occasion to declare, "All I know is that I am not a Marxist!" It was only after Marx's death that the concept of ideology began to acquire first a neutral, and then a positive identity.

It is now acknowledged in some progressive circles that this evolution towards a positive concept was not only a mistake, but was based on one. It transpires that the first two generations of Marxist thinkers after Marx did not have access to *German Ideology* which remained unpublished until the mid-20's. Hence Plekhanov, and most significantly Lenin, Gramsci and Lukacs were not acquainted with Marx and Engel's most forceful argumentation on the matter. In other words they did not understand the essence of 'Marxism' to defend a negative concept of ideology. Which means that the entire ideological superstructure of the last century; the 'Marxism' invented by non-Marxists is essentially bogus.

"It is true that the sentiment 'back to the class all ideology has failed' does not overcome the weakness of trying to fight capitalism without an alternative ideology, but to say that "the struggle to clarify ideological matters is the real class struggle" is just as one sided and undialectical as Red Action's apparent preference for struggle without a guiding ideology," according to MG

Lenin, Gramsci and Lukacs did not understand it the essence of 'Marxism' to defend a negative concept of ideology. It was all a mistake.

In an article otherwise littered with errors, this summary, including their central allegation that Red Action is not opposed to this or that ideology, but all ideologies per se, is ironically, one hundred per cent accurate. But of course, vigorously resisting the vestiges of bigotry does not in turn make one a bigot. And as dogma is the enemy of reason it is only in the absence of cant that a situation to be objectively judged, and so the RA stance which is routinely misrepresented as sectarianism, is in fact its antithesis.

Today all over Europe the Left is collapsing politically and organisationally. And it is the attachment to ideologies; and the fond attachment 'to opposing phrases with other phrases rather than fighting in the real world to change material conditions' which is the principle reason for it. Socialism is dead and if communism is to re-invent itself then an analysis rooted in 'objective reality' must be the corner stone.

In the 60's an American comedian Jack Benny, renowned for his stinginess, used to do a sketch where he was confronted by a gunman: "Your money or your life!" It was his silence that got the laughs. Today with the far-right already mentally uncoiling the concertina wire, when the same question is posed to the various sects: "Your principles or your class?" or increasingly "Your shibboleths or your existence?" the deafening silence is still laughable. But no longer funny.

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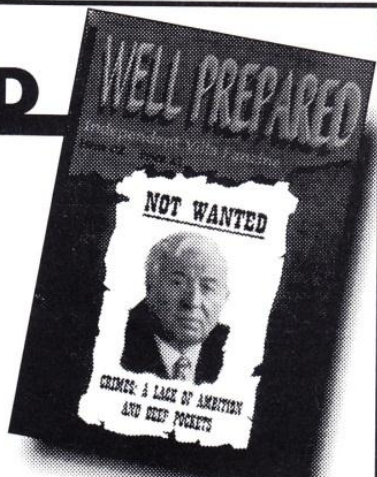
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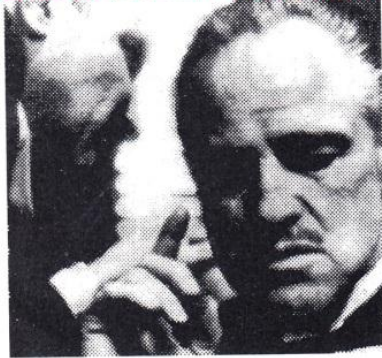
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A Word In Your Ear...



BREAKING THE GOLDEN RULE

DURING the weekend of the West Belfast Festival, RA members took the opportunity to visit an Irish POW in Long Kesh. The night before, the RA 'guide' had subjected those with him to what can only be described as the 'Ardoyne experience.' During the festival the clubs in this fiercely Republican North Belfast enclave never actually seem to get round to closing. And so it was the following morning as our companero's, along with their hosts, staggered blinking into the morning sunshine and into a taxi.

After a few hours sleep they were on their way to the Kesh considerably worse for wear. Now while two of them were new to the game the other one had visited POW's countless

times and should have been well versed in the rules; i.e. if you have a head full of cotton wool engage only in political or personal trivia. Most Irish POW's are notoriously highly-politicised, so if you're going to engage in anything more serious than a few tall tales you had better have your act together. The POW, picking up on RA's high profile, anti-fascist work, begins telling them about a debate they had held on the wing about the subject of racism and the role of equal opportunities policies, etc. For a split second our man forgets himself and breaks the golden rule, "Ah, now we've been questioning a lot of the conventional thinking on that, we would argue that some of the approaches have been counter-productive," he pronounces absently.

Just as he says it, he realises his mistake, but it's too late... the POW leans forward onto his forearms, staring intently through his glasses with inquisitive eyes, "Really? Why do you think that?" Our man stutters a bit, "Well, it's, errr... the thing is, errr... if you look at, errr" and wipes the alcohol-induced sweat from his brow, takes a sip of Fanta and looks at his two colleagues who stare blankly back.

I've been assured that a more convincing and logical explanation than the one offered at the time has since been committed to paper and sent into the jail!

ON THE ROCKY ROAD TO DUBLIN

THE article entitled 'Changed Utterly' that appeared in the August/September issue of *Red Action* set out a strong case as to why the Republican Movement's 'peace' strategy should be seen in a positive light. Pretty convincing stuff I thought. Obviously not so in the minds of the security forces, who it would appear, really believe it to be a cunning RA ploy to throw them off the trail.

This would probably explain why a RA member along with two friends from Belfast were followed across the Irish border by a number of unmarked cars recently.

One of the vehicles driven by a woman operative who spent most of the journey from Dublin talking into her collar, seemed to lose concentration and strayed too close, following our friends into a cul-de-sac just outside Newry.

I haven't been able to establish whether our friends were deploying elaborate counter-surveillance techniques or whether they had just got lost. No matter, the effect was the same, with the driver panicking, spinning the car around in the middle of the road and heading off at high speed. By all accounts though, it was still a toss-up between the look on the face of the aforementioned and that on the face of the rear passenger in our friends' car, when later that night they were overtaken on both sides, on an unlit road, by what turned out to be two boy-racers.

Supposedly this person threw themselves to the floor of the car with a cry of "Oh Fuuuck!!!" as what turned out to be loose gravel ricocheted off the windscreen!!

A BRIDGE TOO FAR

WATCHING two members of the British Army's finest who had murdered unarmed nationalist, Peter McBride in Belfast, stride smugly from jail recently (with all the panache of a couple of football hooligans who'd been nicked in an Ostend Brothel on an away day); made me think of an article I had seen in the April edition of *Searchlight* magazine.

"Searchlight would like to know why a bunch of supposed anti-fascist activists set about two members of the Parachute Regiment, for no other reason than that they had short haircuts. This piece of stupidity put everybody at risk from their regimental comrades," cooed the state-sponsored mag. They were referring, we believe, to an incident between Para's and anti-fascists in Dover, close to a NF march. To put things into context straight away, *Word In Your Ear* really couldn't give a fuck about what happens to members of the Parachute Regiment. These are not the generation of troops who parachuted into Normandy and Arnhem to confront the Nazi war machine and later went on to join the likes of the anti-fascist '43 Group.' This is the generation who shot 14 unarmed, civil rights demonstrators in the back during Bloody Sunday. These are the men who murdered 14-year-old Karen Reilly in Belfast and then celebrated the incident by making a mock-up of the car she was murdered in and mounting it on the wall of their mess hall.

But just for the record, an eyewitness has told me that the four Paras (who upon receiving a couple of slaps lay huddled under the dart board screaming for the police) were 'mistaken' for fascists because two of them had extreme loyalist regalia pinned to their black flight jackets. Not the usual stuff you'd put on before nipping-out for a quiet pint on a Saturday lunchtime.

Something We Said!?!?

Fag Action

It has always been assumed that Red Action's "hard men" were second generation Irish, with a chip on their shoulder. So they are.

But BN's special informant has revealed an extra titbit. Nearly all of their North London contingent are macho queers.

Other revolutionary Marxists dismiss them (not very comradely) as bum boys.

BN briefing, *British Nationalist*, July 1998

Compared with the rest of Europe, where fascist parties are making great strides, many are keen to point out that Britain is still a more tolerant country than many. But tolerance is a noun reserved for things people do not like.

Black journalist Gary Younge in the *Guardian*

Capitalism has outlived - and outmanoeuvred - much of the socialist critique waged against it. Rummaging through the work of socialists from a long-gone era in search of a panacea for the ills of the modern world makes Marxism appear as the opium of the Marxists. New modes of thought and methods of application are required to prevent Marxism becoming a sentimental collection of shibboleths.

From a review of *The Lost Writings*: James Connolly. *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, 14.5.98.

Red Action's target is obviously not reformism, which does not challenge capitalism, it is scientific communism, which always has been and continues to be the guiding ideology for the revolutionary 'replacing' of capitalism with the 'alternative' of socialism. For the Marxist Group to argue that Red Action is "stating a self-evident truth" that all guiding ideologies have failed reveals its *actual* support for RA's continuing attack upon Marxism-Leninism, that is, upon scientific communism in its continuing development.

***Communist Open Polemic*, June/July 1998**