Burning Embers-A Review

In England, Scotland, N. Ireland & Eire from mid-August through to the end of November 1986, a theatre company performed, travelled and played to mixed audiences (not only of colour) in a variety of venues, from local (Black, Asian, etc) Community Centres to established University and Arts Centres. These events in themselves are not particularly unusual but, when the theatre group itself is accused of being racist, by members of a predominantly white audience, and when the troupe is black, and is based in Johannesburg, South Africa (sic!) then, eyebrows become raised. So what could all the fuss be about?

The troupe itself is called the Azanian National Theatre (ANT), and is the performing arts wing of the Afrika Cultural Centre (ACC) based in Johannesburg. The Centre's starting point is that: 'creativity itself is an act of life - we cannot divorce the struggle to create from the struggle for life.' Additionally, '... the centre states that cultural action is essential to the struggle for knowledge, development and self-determination. It is through the writers' pen, the poet, the painter, the musician and the performing artist that people can write, communicate and identify with each other and strive to create a meaningful world.' This might sound like the usual elitist, pretentious, avantgardism, but is certainly not in this instance, because the centre worked in store-rooms, along a railway line, a rundown part of town, tiny office spacesand a disused building for 18 months, and then only obtained premises. (No fat wages packets for this lot!)

The premises were an old building in Newtown, Johannesburg which they got in 1981. Office space, actors' studios, a research unit, a library and an open air theatre were created. From the latter came the Dhlomo Theatre Club, opening in March 1983, the first ever Black theatre in Johannesburg. It was named after Herbert Dhlomo, the first known modern Black playwright in SA, and it opened with D. Kamaku's 'Night of the Long Wake'. What had been created was a Black controlled theatre free from the constraints of white liberal institutions. It became a focal point in the local comm unity (a genuine and not artificial one), and provided the link between the ACC and its 'audience' (for 'consciousness raising').

In February 1984 the theatre was shut

Letter From Greenpeace

Dear Black Flag.

In No. 165 (15.12.'86) you ask the question: Does Liberation begin in your stomoch? You answer 'No' because thing begins in economics and so in the place of work'. We say it doesn't matter where it begins - school, stomach, doleoffice, in a squat – so long as the true nature of the State is understood. But that is just on an individual level - like the former butcher who is now in prison for fighting for animal liberation or the ex-dole snooper who now works for a Claimants Union - and maybe you agree that it doesn't matter where people come from. For social revolution though - you are right – people must have arrived. It is only an economic revolution.

Your statement 'Ecological problems are the result of commercial exploitation and the only way to achieve an ecological balance is by social revolution' is ly right, and it forms the basis of all our campaigning. We are only too well aware of the fact that 'Green Politics' has become the territory of middle class reformers. We take every opportunity to promote our challenging anarchist views at their expense. At the present time we are involved in detailed exposures of the capitalist empire in the shape of two of its biggest exploiters – Unilever, the

world's largest food company - and Mc Donalds - the world's largest hamburger chain. This has included many pickets and the support of animal rights prisoners who raided a Unilever laboratory.

We also like the way you have a poke at the self righteous healthy sensitive vegetarian Health shoppers who are content in their own vacuum of 'personal liberation Of course they are blind. The capitalist machine will provide their needs just the same as those 'unenlightened' people who don't shop at Holland & Barratt (Q:

'Fire Precautions' being given as the offic ial reason. In October 1985 these premises were finally vacated, but the project itself has continued, and premises in Fordsberg, Johannesburg are hoped for.

The ANT developed from the Alternate theatre Company, which created drama workshops in the townships about Johannesburg in 1976. The perspective of ANT is that theatre/drama '... should be accessible to everyone, and that the audience are part of the play and are not merely spectators. The ANT seeks to arouse the consciousness of people, identify with their daily situations and reveal possibilities for development and action' From this came the play 'Burning Embers' which was devised through workshop improvisations and collective writing, and was taken on tour in Britian in 1986. The play is about contemporary struggle in SA, which is becoming increasingly militaristic and Fascist, and the material for the

play was taken from such varied sources as the press, commentaries, commissions reports and from just being there.

As the play opens drumming and chanting begins until the Amasi bird appears in the background. The Amasi bird is part of popular African mythology and has the ability to defecate amasi, a curdled milk, which is a refreshing and sustaining drink. The scene changes, to witness a naked Black man being tortured by electic shocks, and an Afrikaaner voice shouting 'Give it to the bastard'. After the Black man has died he is eaten by something dressed in an animal-like costume; then a process of resurrection takes place, but what is created is a Black man forced to put on a white business suit, which literally responds to the sound (if not the feel) of the whip. A puppet has been made.

The situation changes to reveal inter-Black antagonisms: somebody is deliberately killed (burnt) because they have fire-bombed and killed some Black activists, and have finally paid the penalty for such (Black on Black) treachery). But, from these ashes comes another resurrect-

ed figure, another puppet of the whitepower based regime. What is interesting this time is the rationale, or the reasons why an overtly oppressed person would support (at least verbally) a regime that despises them. Apparently, it is because change has to be gradual (Rome wasn't built in a day argument); plus 'the whites' are really benign benfactors, who willing-

Who owns Holland & Barratt for ten points. . .). Only like we said - we don't mind where people come from: we are happy if through our subversive work a member of CND or Friends of the Earth or the other Greenpeace (!) becomes a committed anarchist. We want what you want: a social system based on mutual aid and voluntary cooperation.

So where do we disagree? It is only this and it's very simple: we are no speciesist, we do not believe humans have the right to exploit animals in any way. This is animal liberation and it has nothing to do with trendy healthy diets or the 'health shop zone of Southern England' It is universal and an intrinsic part of social revolution. We are not animal lovers. We want for animals what we want for humans, freedom from oppression. So we find ourselves in the middle. Telling 'Greenies' about anarchy. And tell ing 'Anarchists' about animals. It might be useful if other anarchist groups sometimes thought constructively instead of 'slagging off' their 'unsound' comrades.

And just finally, after a social revolution, a vegan diet would not be expensive or dependent on a 'luxury standard of living'. Pigs, cows, and sheep would no longer be subjected to unnatural, intense production and breeding. There would be more than enough land to house selfregulating herds and produce crops for the human population as well. And thats a fact.

George Price (on behalf of L.G.) PS Why not include anarchist animal rights prisoners in 'Black Flag'. Like the two anarchists who went to prison in '85 for trying to burn down McDonalds head

London Greenpeace, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1, Tel. 01-8377557.

FEEDBACK

ly wish to give up their priveleges (and injustices – Apartheid); but, they musn't be pushed ('Violence' - riots, boycotts, revolution) as that antagonises them, hence their violence and refusal to change ('reforms'). However, what also becomes obvious is this persons relative material prosperity and the fear over its loss if events become 'unstable'.

From a prison cell we witness a Black woman 'revolutionary' being tormented by her Afrikaans prison guard. She, apparently, is a 'communist', whom he could 'fuck' (torture in all kinds of ways), and, finally does by raping her. His paranoia and delusions, plus his weakness and fear become really obvious, otherwise he would not be forced (?) in to using threat coercion and naked physical violence. For her part, her justification for rebelling is the immorality of Apartheid. She does not have to resort to threats because she has done nothing wrong, and is not in the

in Britain who for their own reasons (guilt, racism) don't wish to know that. They might have to do something about

As for Anarchists, then this play, and the approach of the ACC and ANT is overwhelmingly Anarchist in a great variety of ways. Firstly, the relationship between freedom, creativity and social life is just so reminiscent of Bakunin. Secondly, the no wages, hard work and repression should be very familiar to all Anarchists. Thirdly, the rejection of liber al institutions, because they still control people, whereas everybody should have control over their own lives and not over any one elses, is the highest form of democracy: it is Anarchism. Fourthly, the emphasis upon theatre as a medium of communication, of articulating social issues so as to encourage action, of 'audience' participation and anti-elitism. Fifthly, the text of the play is distinctively Anarchist:



wrong. She, and all Black people have been wronged; she has her convictions and the courage to match. In consequence she doesn't believe in 'talking' (negotiations) as these are a complete waste of time.

As the coercive (heavy approach) has not worked (she won't repent), then perhaps she will 'respond' to the appeals of a Black person (the soft approach). The local councillor – the puppet who arose from the ashes earlier - appears, and attempts to persuade her. What emerges however is that his social position (as councillor) is based upon priveleges - not as many whites have, but a damn sight more than most blacks have. This manifests itself when, in effect, he attempts to bribe her with a luxurious life-style: brandy and a video-recorder. Her reply is adamant: 'You are a traitor to our fight' And '...all around me I see fatness and excess.' 'Blackness is not just an appearance, it is an inner state of resistance, of war...' He is told to go.

As all this has failed, she has not repented, a final interrogation takes place. In it she has been told that a guerrilla base has been attacked by SA white troops, and that her son was killed. Her will not broken, just sapped of strength, she declares that 'I hate you all.' In contrast, from the lips of a white SA General we hear: 'Do you want your daughter to be fucked by a communist? I'd shoot her first.' His obsession with death and destruction and his desire for allowing those who have been raped to be murdered, is borne out when fascists enter the Black woman's cell and burn her.

The play comes to an end when a police officer dresses the councillor in top hat, tails, white gloves (symbols for neowhiteness) and by cracking a whip, forces him to sit on a rostrum, which on stage is sitting on the shoulders of another Black person. This is unacceptable to those who are being shat upon and in one moment the whole situation is reversed, when the Black person (people) arise and thrown off their oppressors, black and white. The Amasi bird reappears - freedom has been won.

Perhaps something of an answer to our question about 'racism' lies in the message of the play, its uncompromising portrayal of the daily facts of life in SA, of state repression, and of white audiences

it's analysis of the techniques of repression, electric shocks, psychological intimid ation. It's understanding of the mentality of the oppressors: paranoid, obsessed with power (them holding on to it) death and destruction. That any opposition is going to be tempted by being bought off, but that this is wrong, because the aim of freedom could never be achieved this way Plus, the offer is only being made because the strategy is proving effective, and that the powers that be are frightened (of its effectiveness). Renegades (collaborators and puppets) are to be expected, but totally rejected. They undermine and sell out a truly liberatory (and effective) movement. Also, whether one has a black or a white priveleged elite (parasites), or state, then nobody has freedom. So the trick is to get rid of all parasites and forms of injustice: capitalism, the state (all hierarchies) racism and sexism. Only then will freedom, sanity and justice prevail.

Finally, especially as the SA state represses the media this kind of theatre will become increasingly important there, as it will act as a mouthpiece and a catalyst for analysis and action. In short a counter culture is being formed. This should not be rejected by Anarchists, as not helping the action because obviously it does, but indirectly. The history of Anarchist move ments in several countries (Spain, USA, etc) has shown the truth of this. If a theatre group like this didn't have grassroots support it couldn't have existed for ten years. The whole basis is different to the arty-farty trendies, and is reflected in the content and the intensity of their performances.

To conclude then, when in conversation with some members of the troupe they were aware of the support SA gets internationally, and that travelling abroad could help to shatter these existing white liberal myths. Also, the play itself conveys the complexity of the overall situation in SA, which is presented to an 'audience' abroad, hopefully to challenge racism there as well. However, they also run high risks on their return – they weren't sure what was going to happen to them. They are certainly aware that there are no soft options, only danger, but that Apartheid must go! Give them your support.



THE SUPER-NARKS

DAM MEMBERS BLACKLISTED

In a recent 'World In Action' TV programme, entitled 'Boys on the Blacklist', the Direct Action Movement - the British section of the anarcho-syndicalist international – was quoted as a typical organisation whose members are automatically entered on a special blacklist of 250,000 people to prevent any future employment. It was admitted that those put on the list would never get future work with any company subscribing to the list, nor would any associates or relatives of those on the list. Most major, and many smaller, British companies subscribe to this list. It is compiled manually by the Economic League, a private sector organisation and the subject of the World In Action investigation.

The World In Action team secretly video-taped a meeting between two of their reporters, posing as employers, and Alan Harvey the North-East regional organiser of the Economic League (whose headquarters are 7 Wine Office Court, London EC4. Telephone 01-3537672). It was during the meeting that Harvey said that the League gets copies of all 'subversive' papers, 'including Direct Action/ Action Directe' (his error). The investigation then went on to focus on several individuals who had been targetted by the League and falsely accused of being 'militants' and 'Communists', resulting in their losing jobs.

The regional organiser, not realising that the conversation was being recorded,

admitted that the League (which has always previously denied this) liaises regularly with the police to get check-ups on vehicle registration numbers, criminal records, personal data, etc on targetted individuals; it also uses its own private detectives for information gathering and gets unofficial assistance from trade union officials, keen not to have activists in the rank and file. According to Duncan Campbell and Steve Connor, the Economic League works closely too with Special Branch. Investigative journalists Campbell and Connor, referring to the League's labour vetting service, assert that to use it 'an employer must supply the League with the name, date of birth – and the National Insurance number – of the person they wished checked,' Campbell and Connor also referred to the close relationship between the League and MI5 (F Branch) and quoted as proof an occasiion when a League officer gave a lecture on 'Subversion in Industry' to MI5 agents on a training course at their offices in Gower Street, and that 'During the early 1970's, League officials frequently lectured on the same topic at Ministry of Defence courses and civil defence meetings'. This last reference indicates, too, how League research is used to add to, and cross-refer against, lists compiled of 'subversives', to be rounded up in times leading to Nuclear War or Civil Unrest. Tom Inglewood (another name for the list)

NB See forthcoming article or INFORMATION CONTROL.

15276 BF

Omori Day Of Action Called

On March 29 1987, it will be four years since the death sentence was passed on K. Omori, framed for the bombing of the Hokkaido government offices in Japan. Imprisoned for over ten years now with the death sentence hanging over him, the pressure for his release needs to be continued. The London Anarchist Black Cross is calling a demonstration on Monday 30th March, from 12-2pm, outside the Japanese Embassy, 46 Grosvenor Street, London W1. Tel: 01-493 6030. On the night before the demonstration, there will be a showing of the new Omori video at 121 Bookshop, 121 Railton Road, London SE24. Tel: 01-274 6655 at 8pm. Comrades from outside London, who need a place to stay overnight should phone the Bookshop number for details, between 12-4pm Monday-Saturday. If you can't attend the demonstration, be sure to

MAGAZINE RECOMMENDS DANGEROUS MORNING-AFTER PILL

An article in Pro-Life News, the official publication of Alliance For Life, Canada, an anti-abortion group has recommended that rapevictims use a morning-after pill that has been found to produce unpleasant sideeffects and to cause potential health problems in user's later children. Diethylstilbesterol, better known as

DES, has not been prescribed to women

let the Japanese government know how you feel about Omori's imprisonment. Ring, write or telegram the Embassy please.

Where's the

didn't even do it la

R

NEN

seeking a morning-after-pill for at least ten years and is now used solely to treat certain kinds of cancer.

Anna Deslilets, a spokesperson for the magazine, acknowledged that 'We know DES is a dangerous drug and should not be used', and said that the article will be reprinted with corrections and revisions 'If you set out to make the point that rape is not an argument for abortion, you're going to muster whatever ion you can to make your point', she said explaining why the article had cited medically out-of-date information about the drug.

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For a social system based on mutual aid and voluntary co-operation - against State control and all forms of government and economic oppression. To establish a share in the general prosperity for all - the breaking down of racial, religious, national and sex barriers - and to fight for the life of one world.

EDITORIAL

Owing to various problems including the Arctic weather we've had to send out two issues together - Black Flag No 166 and the first of our supplements - meant to be on separate fortnights.

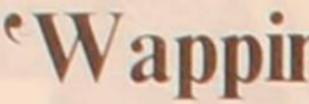
We had some generous donations which have managed to keep us afloat but need to get in enough to pay off our debts - printers bill is up to date at moment of writing but several thousands have been borrowed from the bank and we need to finance a lot more issues before we change it ...

An additional problem is that our subscription list is now totally out of date. We know we are sending to a lot of 'dead' addresses of which we have not had knowledge of change. Could we appeal to all our readers on subscription lists to

write in and either (a) renew subscription - most are overdue, due or nearly so; (b) let us know – especially prisoners and free sendings - that they're still at the old address (alas, in the case of prisoners) or (c) if they no longer want to receive the Flag (or are getting a copy sent to the tenant before last - it isn't done to annoy them!)

HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

The subis £12 inland, £17 overseas surface; £19 air (for six months, £6.50 inland, £8 surface, £10 air). Prisoners free on request; those without gainful employment can still send us stamped self-addressed large envelopes, to receive free copies. Overseas readers who buy their copy from bookshops can expect a small increase in price, as we are now asking bookshops to pay postage.



'Wapping has come to the Midlands'. That is how a major print dispute involving a dozen free papers is being described by rank and file trade unionists in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Print millionaire Lional Pickering an obvious admirer of Murdoch - sacked

ninety printworkers on December 4 1986 and took their work to non-unionised scab printers. The printworkers - mainly NGA and SOGAT members - had been negotiating a wage deal with Pickering for over nine months, when he dismissed them. The sackings were the final act of treachery by Pickering - who had lied, gone back on agreements, and refused to go to arbitration during the negotiations

Pickering's hatred of print unions is infamous locally. The sackings are a direct result of the refusal of the printworkers to bow down to his threats and bullying.

The workers learnt of their sackings when a Pickering courier arrived at each of their homes bearing a 'sack-o-gram'. The main plant where the printers work - at Heanor Gate in Derbyshire - was immediately occupied by defiant NGA and SOGAT members, who spoke angrily of fheir determination to fight Pickering and of stopping the printing of his news-

papers elsewhere in the region. In the event, the work-in lasted a few hours. But although the print-workers felt they could not sustain the occupation, they straight away began a round-

the-clock picket of the plant. The job began of finding out which plants Pickering was now using to print his papers - such titles as Nottingham Trader Leicester Trader, Derby Trader and Long Eaton Trader. When the printworkers learnt that the

presses of the Nottingham Evening Post were being used to print the Traders, they could scarcely believe it. The owners of the Post - T. Bailey Foreman - are still in dispute with the NGA over another issue, and the Post had only just settled a nine year long dispute with the NUJ. Yet profit is profit, and T Bailey Foreman were willing to risk being boycotted by the NGA for printing the Traders. A forty strong picket on February 2

of the T Bailey Foreman plant, waited in vain for the printers to arrive to start work on the next issue. Some pickets were sure they spotted known scabs driving past the plant. They think they were frightened off by the size of the picket. Other pickets believe that the printing

had been switched to another plant. A picket of a Pickering typesetting and layout offices - at Langley Mill - on February 8 succeeded in turning some of the workers back. But pickets narrowly avoided being seriously hurt when one driver smashed straight into a picket line

Home News In Brief

DEADLY ELECTRICITY BILLS

Every year we hear all about the numbers of mainly elderly people who perish from hypothermia. The really sad thing about it all is that many people have begun to ignore this annual wiping out of elderly people. It is really only in very al times (like the cold and bleak winter of 84/85 when the number of deaths grew directly related to the cold weather by 9.5% in comparison to the figures for

previous winter periods) people begin to show concern. Although the cold weather was a factor the major reason for the death of so many is the extremely high cost of heat-

ing bills, especially electrical heating. In the race to be the golden plum in the privatisation scheme of things the electrical energy generation industry has been pulling out all the stops. This has meant thousands and thousands of disconnections, the reduction of the work force, the installation of 'budget' meters, and massive increases in the price of electric to the public at large.

In the London area alone nearly 33% of the workforce has been given the push in the past 5 years and in the same period there were 82000 disconnections. While all this was going on with the connivance of the EEPTUnion the LEB was raking in the profits to the tune of £163.2 million,

which works out an average of 32.5 mill-10n per year.

That there is a need for far reaching changes in this society of greed and poverty is obvious. It is also obvious that no real changes can come about by putting a Labour Party into parliament nor by trade union structures which have within their ranks the likes of the EEPTU.

While waiting for the organised working class to throw off the shackles of social democracy and class collaboration the struggle has to go on against all those who seek massive profits without concern for those who have to bear the brunt of their exploitative methods.

36% BOYCOTT GREENWICH BY-ELECTION

The Trotskyist Revolutionary Communist Party's newly founded 'Red Front' (see last Black Flag) got off to an auspicious start at the recent Greenwich byelection attracting a paltry, 91 votes The equally unpopular National Front (Pearce/Anderson faction) polled a total of 103 votes while the smaller but more openly nazi British National Party got 116. (Both fascist groups tried to hold 'public' meetings to which about 200 anti-fascists turned up. There were 16 arrests as the fascists and police tried to

HOME NEWS

'Wapping Has Come To The Midlands'

pickets dodging out of the way. The driver – who was taking a receptionist into the plant - is a well known Union of Democratic Mineworkers member. A further early morning picket at the Huthwaite Printing Company on February 10 learnt that once more Pickering had moved plants and that Traders were no longer printed there. Printworkers are now seeking out the current Pickering plant. Not only are they confident of finding it – but they point

at around 30 mph. One print supporter

was taken up onto the bonnet, but she

the wheels. Pickets dented his car with

was thrown to one side rather than under

hefty bootmarks as he drove on through.

A chase around the carpark ensued with

out that having to switch plants so often is causing Pickering lots of hassle and is losing him lots of money. Support locally is beginning to take off: a support group has been formed in Derby, and another is on the cards in Nottingham. Derbyshire County Council is the first of Pickering's major advertisers to withdraw all future adverts from his titles. Free papers like Pickering's are paid through advertising, and can't afford to lose that sort of cash in the longterm.

THE NGA AND SOGAT

There's a healthy cynicism on the picket lines towards the union leadership - both locally and nationally. One of the printworkers explained what happened when the first national NGA rep arrived at the picket line. 'He told us straight - well, it looks like you've lost this one, then . . .' The NGA has supplied a dispute van, but seems to be doing little else.

The local NGA appears to be doing even less to mobilise support: the picket lines consist of sacked printworkers, local anarchists from Nottingham, local SWP members and others. The strikers themselves are organising speaking tours of trade union groups, Labour Party wards, and political groups. They're producing their own newsletter, their own badges, petition forms. . .

The task ahead for the strikers, with help from their supporters, is to build practical solidarity locally: to build the pickets with rank and file union members to spread the boycott and the 'send-the-Traders-back' campaign, to harass and undermine the distribution of the papers to raise money and educate the public locally as to what is going on. If Pickering can't rely on filling his distribution then his advertisers will start getting put off, and that is when Pickering will really start to feel the pinch.

MONEY MATTERS

Predictably sacked printworkers have had real difficulties in claiming dole. The NGA is paying strike pay, but this is suppos-

stop them getting in.) All of the above parties, however, couldn't match the incisive, serious and in-depth analysis of modern society put forward by the 'Rainbow Alliance Beer Looney Skittles Party' who won an impressive 124 votes. Turn out by voters was an encouraging low of 64%.

HOW OTHERS SEE US

After a confrontation at Wapping the police produced a number of weapons at a press conference saying they were found in the possession of anarchists. This was queried by a journalist who asked why, in that case, the anarchists had not been apprehended. The spokespig explained that they had been found abandoned by anarchists. How in that case could the identity of the possessors of these weapons be known? It was not known, retorted the police testily. When known, they would be charged. The young reporter asking the questions, who had sneaked in at the press conference from an alternative paper, then asked how the police could tell the political opinions of people whose identity they did not know? Why, grunted the press officer, my definition of an anarchist is a person who carries such weapons.

YTS CENTRE BURNS

A YTS centre at Crewe was set on fire recently, as reported in a local paper.

ed to be supplemented by the DHSS the rate varying according to the number of kids. After paying dole, then withholding it, then paying it again, the DHSS has suspended payment for a second time.

The DHSS are trying to find - they say – if any of the printworkers were sacked for 'gross misconduct'. If they could prove this, strikers would lose 12 weeks benefit. This attempts to harass strikers and will delay payment rather than lose the strikers money – as none of them were so dismissed – but the uncertainty is very worrying for those strikers with families to support. And money worries don't help build a solid strike . . .



SUPPORT THE SACKED PRINT WORKERS

It is very much 'early days' in this dispute, and with both management and workers looking at the lessons they can draw from the Wapping dispute, the strikers look set for a long and hard fight. But after seeing their unions sell out their Wapping colleagues, few strikers can have illusions about the 'support' they can expect from their union leadership. The future lies in rank and file militancy, in direct action and solidarity.

For more information, or to send donations or messages of support, contact Trader Sacked Workers Dispute,

c/o 114 Stonehill Road, Derby. This is also the address to contact to invite a speaker to your group. People in the Midlands were invited to a public meeting in Nottingham where sacked printworkers explained the dispute and asked for support and solidarity on Feb. 26th.

Rich Cross 15/2/'87.

The fire gutted some offices completely and £2,000 worth of computer equipment was destroyed. A speaker for the centre said it looked as if the fire was started deliberately, by an incendiary device being thrown through a smashed window. The centre has had problems with vandalism.

SHORT REVIEW

The Days of the Good Soldiers: Communists in World War II by Richard Kisch (Journeyman Press) is not worth reading. It contains a totally untrue and libellous statement about a member of our collective, pretending to be an interview; the rest is guesswork, humbug and lies.

EAT THE DIRECTOR

Latest project from the 'Comic Strip' team of 'alternative comedians' (who put together the commercially successful Supergrass film last year), is reported to be a new film entitled Eat the Rich, about 'a bunch of middle-aged Anarchists who hold a march across England in the hope that this will lead to some sort of revolution'. Sounds about as alternative and anarchic as Benny Hill,



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pirate Radio Closed Down In Barcelona

Barcelona's flourishing network of independent local and pirate radio stations has been closed down by the Generalitat, the autonomous Catlan government. This includes Radio Pica, the famous anarchist pirate which has become something of a local institution. A year and a half ago the Generalitat told them all they would need licences but that this was merely a formality – so they all asked for one. Then the Generalitat seemingly forgot about the whole business until mid-January of this year, when it sent squads of uniformed Mossos D'Esquadra (local Catalan coppers) to all the stations, making inventories of all their gear, and sealing off their premises.

Apart from Pica, this move has affected dozens of small local stations providing a variety of music and excellent local coverage of news, including North West Barcelona's Radio 10, which used to read out reports translated from Crowbar and Black Flag on one of its programmes! All these stations - including Pica - were voluntarily run by people who never got a cent for their work. The only unlicensed station still on the air is the longstanding Radio Tele-Taxi, which makes quite a lot of money from advertising, and which was mysteriously allowed to reopen after two days of closure, (only music and ads on their wavelengths).



The city is now covered in graffiti protesting at the closures (especially of Pica), but the Generalitat refuses to say any more than that after the municipal elections (in March) it will consider granting licenses to some stations. This follows neatly into the pattern of recent Generalitat behaviour: this institution has been gradually tightening up on any extra-legal naughtiness in the area, shutting down a circle of old folk's small- time gambling dens (which had been tolerated for years) in late December, for example. It is also trying to give a better image to Catalan Health Services (by spending money on posters rather than hospitals) and is actively engaged in a lively prison building programme for the area. It now has considerable legal powers and uses its

Bolivian Unionists Jailed

Fellow Workers,

On February 10th, the Bolivian government arrested 20 union leaders, and threatened 'tough action' to break the latest wave of strikes sweeping the country. In recent months, government troops have broken up strikes and protest demonstrations, and hundreds of unionists from Bolivia's One Big Union – the Bolivian Workers Centre (COB) – have been jailed for fighting governmentimposed austerity schemes that have slashed real wages and cost thousands of workers their jobs.

Oil workers struck February 6th, demanding wage hikes to compensate for some of the effects of Bolivia's raging inflation, and were jailed four days later by health service workers. Teachers have also joined the strike, refusing to prepare for the school year which begins in March.

Interior Minister Fernando Berthelemy then ordered the arrest of eighteen leaders of the oil workers' union and two teachers'

softly-softly you-know-we-just-want-thebest-for-Catalonia image to get away with small scale restrictive measures that would cause a lot more fuss if they were undertaken by the Spanish central govern-ment. The Generalitat – unlike the Madrid government - carries no Francoist stigma, and so manages to lull some of the population into a false sense of security about its aims and methods. Its general intention seems to be to make Catalonia as wrapped up and regulated as Britain in time for the 1992 Olympics. Enclosed is a sticker from the last remaining anarchist pirate on the South coast of Spain, Valencia's Radio Libertaria - they are still going, at least until their local righton autonomous government gets its little act together.

RADIO PICA CONFISCATED

In mid-January Barcelona's anarchist pirate, Radio Pica, was closed down by the local authorities, along with other pirates and non-frofit-making municipal stations. Recently (first week of February) the Pica crew started broadcasting again illegally. The Catalan police drove round to the premises the same night, confiscated all their broadcasting gear and record collection – about 500 LPs carefully put together over the years. Previous experience of this kind of police action means that all this gear has gone for good. This radio station was one of the best-known and most popular operating in Barcelona. combining anarchist news and discussion programmes with music of the kind that couldn't get onto more commercial stations, (including Barcelona's answer to CRASS: L'Odi Social). Protests should be sent to:

El Molt Honorable Jordi Pujol, President de la Generalitat

Palau de la Generalitat Placa Sant Jaume, Barcelona, Catalonia, SPAIN

This is the address of the Catalan autonomous government, the man directly responsible for the recent closures. He is sensitive to foreign opinion, and reads English.

MT Barcelona

USA

DEPO PROVERA

A.H. Robins, the US health care company filed for Chapter II bankruptcy in August 1985, 327,000 claims against the corporation for its Dalkon Shield contraceptive coil – an inter-uterine device – totalling £4 billion have been lodged as the coil was responsible for reproductive injuries, infertility and deaths.

American Home Products is currently undertaking to take over Robins as the other pharmaceutical operations remain profitable. How this will leave all those claiming damages remains to be seen but like the Bhopal 'accident' which Union Carbide caused, these corporations seem almost untouchable.

union leaders, on charges of inciting workers to strike and insulting the authorities.

International solidarity is urgently needed to free these class war prisoners. Please inform your readers of the situation and ask them to write, urging an end to the repression of Bolivia's labour

movement and the immediate release of these fellow workers. Letters should be sent to: President Victor Paz Estensoro, Palacio de Gobierno, Plaza Murillo, La Paz, Bolivia; and to Minister Fernando Berthelemy, Ministry of the Interior, Avda Arce, La Paz, Bolivia.

Other forms of solidarity action pickets of Bolivian government offices, relevant industrial action, etc. – are also needed. An Injury To One Is An Injury To All!

For International Labour Solidarity Libertarian Labour Collective,

PO Box 2824, Station A, Champaign, IL-61820 USA

on. JS main journal Jazz was also suppressed; the printers wouldn't touch it. Increasingly, concerts had to be held in private, because of the difficulty in obtaining permission from the authorities.

In 1983 the Communist Party launched a massive attack on the country's growing punk movement, alleging that punk was inspired by the CIA and MI5. In the wake of such attacks, groups were disbanded, people who organised concerts were reprimanded and sacked, and young musicians were left to lick their wounds defended almost exclusively by the Jazz Section which did all in its power to defend the rights of punks. This was too much for the Party. In 1984 the Ministry of Culture was ordered to liquidate the Section, using every dirty trick in the book, including closing down the entire Musician's Union. In 1986 the government changed tactics attempting to recuperate the movement by liberalising its attitude to rock. A huge rock festival (Rockfest



Rebel Music Rocks The Red Establishment

Since its formation in 1971, the Jazz Section of the Czechoslovak Musician's Union has organised festivals, published a variety of magazines, and supported musicians attacked by the Husak regime. Originally a non-profit making, selfsupporting organisation of jazz musicians and and jazz fans, with about 200 members, JS has broadened its orientation over the years to encompass blues, rock, folk, punk, electronic music and avantgarde art, literature and theatre. JS popularity grew when in 1974 it became the organiser of the annual Prague music festival, Jazz Days. In 1982 the authorities cancelled Jazz Days, 'for security reasons' a day before they were due to begin in Prague, leaving the Section with a huge bill and thousands of young people milling around the capital not knowing what was going

'86) was organised with official blessing in Prague's Palace of Culture. On 2nd September, police arrested Karel Srp, the Sections vice-president and editor, and seven others, including Milos Drda 72, and Josef Skalnik 38. Charges include embezzling member's funds, and publishing and distributing 'without permission'. Hundreds of books, newspapers and magazines were taken away from the sections offices. Other members and sympathisers were grilled and interrogated by the police. Some were threatened with arrest.

. . the whole situation is very serious ... eight people in remand prison. The whole Jazz Section board. . . others in trouble. A lot of work is before us and nobody knows how hings are going to turn out ... We can't hope for anything much. . . I can tell you I'm pretty disgusted with all that and our main task is to help the people in jail and their families ...

JS member, September '86. Milos Drda and Josef Skalnik have been released for health reasons. The former had three heart attacks and a stroke in prison, the latter almost lost the sight of his one good eye. The rest are still in Prague's Ruzyne prison suffering what one witness has called 'a process of slow psychological torture'. Since the release of Sakharov and Gorbachev's policy of 'glasnot', the communist party central committee in Prague are unsure how to proceed, and have instructed the Public Prosecutors Office to come up with more convincing charges. The prisoners are still under threat and face five years in jail.

JAZZ SECTION has some 8,000 members and at least 80,000 supporters. who cannot be admitted for 'technical reasons'.

LETTERS OF PROTEST TO THE CZECH EMBASSY.

Latest News From Greece

February 4:

The 'November 17' armed organisation single out 'big doctor' Kapsalakis, shooting him in his legs, thus protesting against doctors who demand extra-high fees from their patients. On the same day. 80 prisoners of the Corfu medieval prison known as the 'Greek Dachau', rose up and burnt down the administration offices and the prison church.

February 5:

Anarchists in Athens demonstrated their solidarity with the 'common laws' demanding human conditions for prisoners.

February 9:

A policeman is caught and 'interrogated' by alleged Anarchists on Salonica University Campus.

February 10:

Anarchists in Salonica demonstrate further solidarity with the prisoners. An anarchist radio station transmits anti-state and anti-prison propaganda. The radio site (an electronics shop) is attacked by the

police who arrest only one young comrade. The owner of the shop, Dimitris Voglis, is on the run and wanted by police. February 11:

Police announce that in the electronics shop they also found a police two-way radio, a list of police codes, a list of police numbers and photographs of policemen. February 12:

At 3am ELA (Revolutionary Peoples Struggle) blew up a whole floor of the Ministry of Finance building on Sima Street in Athens thus protesting against the imposition of the VAT system in Greece. On the same day a Panhellenic General 24-hour strike took place to protest against low salaries, bad working conditions and so on. 150-200 workers participate, (for the first time since 1976) under the black and red colours, at a workers meeting in the centre of Athens.

Love and Anarchy

Source: Basil

March in solidarity with Christos Roussos (see last Black Flag). Photo: Ilias Sotiropoulos

BLACK FLAG PAGE 3

DAY TO It's All Anarchy!

In Part I we looked at a *fact* which it is easy but unwise to ignore: the fact that the vast mass of ordinary people in Europe today are not interested in any type of politics beyond the kind that involves a vote-every-four-years and a grumble in the meantime about various issues over which they have no influence (inflation/unemployment/what a daft cow Thatcher is etc). The article went on to ask why this should be the case; it went on to say that while it might be all well and true to blame 'conditioning' for peoples' inertia and lack of interest, it would be a lot more realistic to blame the dozens of groups and organisations which swarm around in the sidelines with their mini-hierarchies and dogmas and musts and mustn'ts and robotic slogans, and which present themselves as the only options available for change.

The article showed that these groups (take your pick, there are dozen in every European country, be they single-issue monoliths like CND or marxist headbanging collectives like the RCP), were manipulative, cliquish, abusive of peoples' time, and generally offputting for most people. If they are the only visible 'alternative' to the current tendency of most people to passively accept their lot, then no wonder we live in a Europe notable for its sheepishness. The question remains whether anarchism-and its sympathisers-should also be lumped in with those tedious manipulative constricting groups. The answer to the question is no. By its very nature anarchism does not belong to the 'alternative' package. 'Later we'll see why that should be so, but for now let's assume it. Assuming that to be true, the next question is: why haven't people-the vast mass of ordinary people-turned to anarchism, in that case? Is everything so perfect in Europe that no change is desired whatsoever? Obviously not. To look properly at this, it is necessary first to look at what we are up against. To begin with, just who are these 'ordinary people'; how do they think; and what do they believe?

'Ordinary people'

By 'ordinary people', I mean all those people (employed, unwaged, whatever...) who do not have a large share of power handed to them-so coppers, law-mongers, employers, politicians, civil servants and executives (top ranking), soldiers, media whizzkids (whose power is in the cultural/ propaganda line), certain kinds of highpowered salespersons; none of them are ordinary people, in our sense. They may of course be 'ordinary' as apple pie in the social sense, but they all have an edge of power (and of course, the money that usually goes with it) over other people which marks them out from most of us. But also, when talking about 'ordinary people', we have to exclude all those people who, whilst not having any kind of power, have nonetheless tried to take control over their own lives, to participate directly in the world, to avoid the lines and norms laid down for them by 'society'. They are very different of course from the first group of people excluded, but they too cannot be called ordinary people in the sense the word is being given here. So-sorry about this-all anarchists are excluded, as are some kinds of marginalised artists, and any worker or group of workers who have tried to take economic and social matters into their own hands. What are we left with? We are left with most of the European population.

That's who they are, these famous 'ordinary people'-but what do they believe? Taken from listening to I don't know how many conversations, discussions, and watching people in I don't know how many different situations it is possible to construct a sort of identikit of the 'average opinion' of the ordinary European. If you disagree with the accuracy of this 'identikit', then you disagree with it, but I think most people reading will recognise something very very familiar. Here then, is the 'ordinary opinion':

'I know the world's in a mess, that people are dying in Africa and even in the local tube station; I also know that everything's fucked up locally, that there are a lot of deadenders around with drug problems and all that. I didn't vote for the Tories/Labour/etc, op if I did they weren't able to do anything about these problems, were they? You'll never get rid of these problems, and that's all there is to it. You've got to be realistic, try and get a job,

try to get some money, stay out of trouble. look after number one and number one's family, if there is one. And don't try and tell me that throwing marbles under a police horse or selling papers outside the South African embassy is going to change anything either? I wasn't born yesterday, you know'.

Part 2

DAY

That is what passes in late-twentieth century Europe for hard-nosed realism, the 'sensible, sane person's attitude'. That is what keeps the wheels turning in the age of 'information technology', in Europe, while the Americans go loony-nationalist, and the Third World reaches boiling point, and the Russianstate - communist system begins to split at the seams. The politicians-ignorant folk that they are-believe that most people, the Silent majority, are fervent believers in their policies, in their version of parliamentary democracy-they aren't: what people really believe in is the above-described attitude; a 'reasonable selfishness' which gets along quite-nicely-thank-you under an elected oligarchy in a consumer set-up. For that reason the 'ordinary person' isn't-can't be-seriously interested in change. The only kind of 'change' they're interested in, is that which spices up their 'hard-nosed realism'-changes in style, sounds, gadgets, salaries, status...

If that is what we are up against, it is worth asking, just to round the problem off, if this is always the case with ordinary people, or if



there are already signs that people en masse are changing their ideas? What does seem to be true is that when circumstances change, and the old 'look after number one' business becomes inapplicable; it goes out of the window almost immediately and the people who used to believe in it are thrown back hard on their own resources. This was the case in the mining communities during the strike; in the 'inner cities' during the riots, and so on. A person threatened with the destruction of his/her community and job loss, a person discriminated against day in day out by the authorities and others, simply cannot adopt the 'reasonably selfish' attitude they were used to before. And so, for brief spaces of time, they create something different, in which different attitudes emerge for a time, many of them remarkably close to a kind of 'unconscious' anarchism, as it happens.

However, once the circumstances are back more or less to what they were, back comes the old selfishness, and it is seen that the 'new attitudes' were nothing of the kind, but simply stop gap reactions to a changed situation. (Of course, there are are always quite a few individuals who remain permanently influenced by what has happened). This expains why one group of workers will find itself-backs to the wall and in a crucial situation-demanding mutual aid, support etc. from other groups;

once out of the crucial situation, however, and it is the turn of one of the other groups to demand help, that first group often denies it, (on 'realistic' selfish grounds), forgetting when it needed it so badly in the past.

It is very important, therefore not to read things into situations when there is no real evidence to suggest they are there, (the Marxist sects are the worst for this). For example there is no reason to believe that large numbers of people attacking large numbers of police means anything other than those those people hate those coppers-it doesn't mean that those people want to 'overthrow the system', it means they want to be left alone by the police, or at least by the mentally-retarded thug type police they've been getting up until now. If the rioters in St. Pauls-or wherever-had wanted to set up a Marxist state, or begin a frontal assault on the ruling class/rich bastards, or pave the way for a decentralised insurrection, they'd have let everyone know about it in language clear as clear could be. All the violence points to them wanting simply to release some justified anger, give the local thugs a lesson, and, as a side effect, show the world how they felt (protest). Apart from that, they seem to be as European as everyone else ('Number one...be realistic').

'Rebels'

All right. Now, let's suppose that you are one of these 'ordinary people' and, for whatever reason, you realise that you are unable to 'accept your lot'-the 'look after

number one and keep out of trouble' talk repulses you, or you simply feel it's not for you, or given your circumstances it's inapplicable to you. You've had a sniff around and found there's nothing in the whole crock of shit that appeals to you. At this point you realise that if you don't do something about this situation you will find yourself suffering what the sociologists call 'alienation': a depressing state of non-belonging which can lead to madness and suicide (and often does). If you are of an artisitic turn-of-mind (or if you simply happen to have a friend or two who is), you will find yourself drawn like a magnet to 'the arts'-you will release your frustration on an instrument, or paint, or write, or act etc. Most serious artists begin from a personal rejection of what they are supposed to accept, and you too, doubtless, will believe that your painting, or writing, or whatever, is abolutely genuine, and this will be confirmed by your artist friends, who believe the same is true of what they're doing. Perhaps what you're doing is genuine. After years of doing it, however, (often under very difficult conditions) the time will come when you find yourself part of what is called the 'art world': a small circle of people who know each other through doing the same sort of thing, complemented by a larger circle of people who are interested in selling it, promoting it, knowing about it, or just jabbe-

ring about it. After your years of hard work, your dozens of rejections, your desperate attempts to finance your creative activity, you will find it fucking hard to resist when that very activity is on the point of becoming sellable, when the gallery owner/publishers/ agent turns up and says yes. Before you can say Jack Robinson you will be television fodder and an active-often absurdly rich-member of the consumer society. 'Look after number one and stay out of trouble', after all those years of being rejected by you, will have got you in the end, more than many people because you will be unaware that that is the case, still believing, as you sit reflecting by your Californian pool/house, in the Auvergne/Paris hotel lobby, that you have not 'sold out'. And of course, you aren't that good an artist to make it that big, don't worry! There are plenty of tempting jobs available in the art line providing smaller but more regular incomes for the lesser-gifted creative rebels of our time. Whatever happens, you will be back to square one: the ordinary person's view.

ANARCHIST

There are exceptions to the above, of course, in most cases that is the mechanism for defusing any destabilising influence that creative individuals might have on society. Suppose, then that you are of a political turn of mind. No problem here: tailor-made for rebellious types are dozens of self-styled 'revolutionary' groups, just itching to get their hands on you. If they don't succeed, the more radical sections of avowedly 'non-revoutionary' groups-the LPYS or Youth CND-probably will. Once involved, one or two things will happen. Either you will find such activity repulsive (for the dozens of reasons outlined in Part I) and you will leave, disillusioned, proclaiming that 'politics is crap', and become a cynical, rather unhappy 'ordinary person'. Or you will start taking your activity deadly seriously, climbing the hierarchy of your chosen group, angling for a better position, more publicity etc., until you turn into one of those professional leaders we hear so much about. Either way, it's back to 'look after number one'...and so society disposes of its political rebels. In Western Europe, anyhow.

Near the beginning of this (already-a-bittoo-long) article, it was stated as an assumed fact that anarchism does not belong in any shape or form to the 'alternative package'. The alternative package is a phrase used to describe the political/artistic catchment area for rebellious types we've just looked at. Anarchism, in fact, is a world apart, and that for many reasons which would take too many pages to describe, and which can be found in any good summary (The Floodgates of Anarchy, by Christie and Meltzer, for example). But the most obvious reason is that underlying anarchism-and essential to its existence-is an attitude which is wholly different to the attitude, conscious or unconscious, which permits the present late-twentieth-century mess to continue. This, of course, makes anarchism absolutely incompatible with 'look after number one'-it also makes anarchism self-sufficient: it doesn't lead back to the 'ordinary person's way' as does just about every other recourse available to the person who can't accept'normality'. It is impossible to believe in the freedom and extension of the individual, in mutual aid, (e.g. responsibility for other people), and in the absence of government and arbitrary authority (e.g. not telling other people what to do or being told by them, in simple terms), and also to play at the 'reasonably selfish' game.

Now, its probable that any 'ordinary person' reading the above will think 'OK, he's criticised the current set-up, he's criticised the supposed alternative, but now all he's doing is picking on one narrow ideology and saying this is the answer, this is the way out, rather like any religious or political sect—what makes anarchism different? Why should I believe that that rather than any other way is the 'real alternative'?-and answering that objection will bring us to the end of the article, to the wind-up, the finish.

'The Anarchists'

At the beginning of Part I, it was stated that this writer did not become a 'convert' to anarchism, that is, I did not accept the opinion of anarchist 'experts' as better than mine and conform to it accordingly-on the contrary, I found that anarchism was a confirmation of a great deal that I'd personally been thinking and feeling for years—if anything it was like a confidence boost, which opened up further possibilities for a side of myself—always there-which was wondering if it would have to remain clammed up for good, not finding much chance for survival in the world-as-it-is, and even less in the options presented by the 'far left'.

I say this not because I think my experience was special, but, on the contrary because I'm convinced that it was similar in essentials to that of most people who have become involved

PROBLEMS

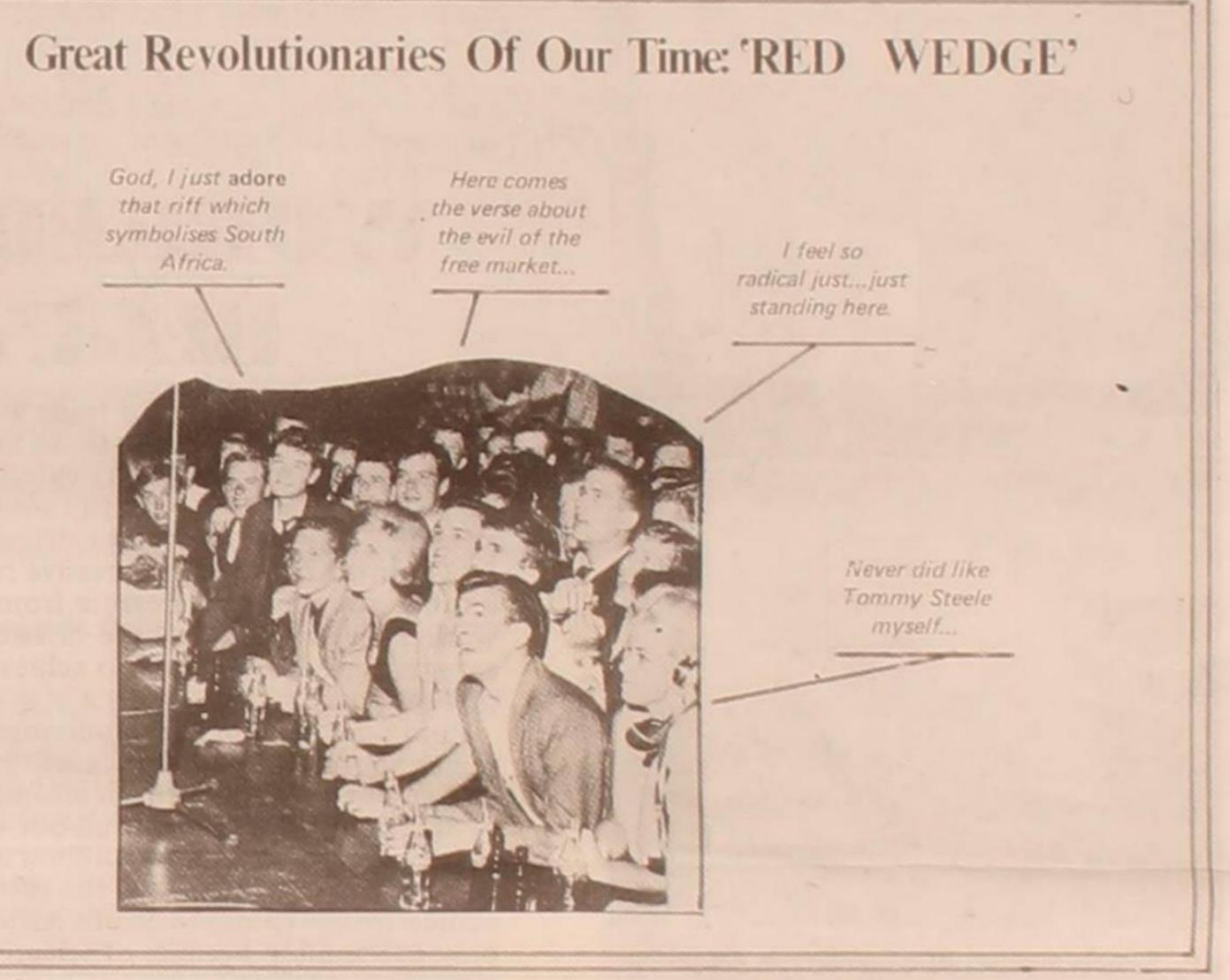
in anarchism and its various activities. In fact the more I looked, the more I found evidence of the 'anarchist attitude' everywhere, in almost everyone, with the difference that it was often unconscious (as with me before) and usually unexplored. I noticed that people, once out of an authoritarian set-up (home, workplace), and relaxed, would, in the smallest ways, allow the 'anarchist' side of their characters to function-only in the smallest ways, of course, deciding what to do with their friends of an evening, or whatever, without ever thinking to extend this behaviour into other, more time-consuming areas of their lives-like work, where most of them were being pushed around by imbeciles and accepting it as inevitable. Now it is easy for a lot of people to scoff at what I've written and say that watching a few folk in a pub (say) has got nothing to do with workers' control and the free commune: on the contrary, if you are going to talk about freedom of the individual, you must look hard at individuals (not 'masses', if they exist anymore in Europe) and for this writer it was something of a revelation to discover that nearly everyone had something of the anarchist (of the anti-authoritarian, of the socially responsible, of the free individual) in them, no matter how suppressed it might be. In this way, I discovered too that anarchism could never be the 'property' of a sect, that it was to do not with indoctrinating but with bringing out what was already there, and that in this way it allowed for all the individual diversity in the world while combining that with the common sense of absence of power, of responsibility. It offered not a promise or a threat, not a hiding-place or an ego-trip, but a simle challenge to everybody to release what was already inside them, and resist the sad array of political, economic and cultural controllers who were everywhere trying to button down, to wheel and deal on their own terms, to fill their pockets and inflate their egos. This release I didn't see as simply a sort of spiritual wank, but a release of all potentials, including above all those for work, for living together, for education, for *survival*. The challenge spoke for itself: you can't divide people into sections, and talk about sexual/political/ economic/cultural freedoms as if they were were separate -- the individual and the collective need them all, and the potential for all of them together was—is—already visible in everybody. Pity most people keep it under wraps.

Most of those who don't-I think it can be said without exaggeration—are either working in or sporadically with the anarchist movement, or, their activity-in whatever field—is 'anarchistic' by nature. The anarchist movement (involved in 'political' activity) is sectarian for practical organisational reasons-without being a sect. It covers a wide range of activities, each with their various supporters, including publishing, prisoners' aid, squatting and the related setting-up of cooperative activities, (clubs, gigs, cafes, and other services) organisation in the workplace (DAM, CNT-AIT, CNT-France, etc.), and it includes various manifestations of direct action: pickets and attacks on criminal embassies, low-level attacks on criminal organisations (Shell, Barclays etc)., boycotts, one-off strikes, destabilising publicity, take-overs of city centres (Stop the City, the Greek anarchists, etc). There is no card-carrying: the proof of the pudding, as it were, is in the eating—an 'anarchist' who joins the government or beats his/her partner or starts employing people ceases to be one in everyone's eyes excet his or her own. Similarly actions by groups or individuals who don't specifically label themselves anarchist but which are anarchist in all but name (certain sectors of the Greenham women) are supported and aided by the anarchist movement, (or should be!) If the anarchist movement is sectarian it is usually to distinguish it from real sects (where the emphasis is on the card you carry: Labour Party, SDP, etc) which might, nonetheless, on occasion, adopt partially anarchist ideas (viz. the 'libertarian' capitalists, in the Tory party, or Tony Benn's 'total accountability' schemes for government). Altogether there, we have the 'political' anarchist movement (you could say the avowedly anarchist movement, which uses the word anarchist, which openly defends the principles of anarchism). It is difficult to get statistics for the quantity of people involved-the only thing that can be said for certain is that it has grown considerably in the last few years, in Europe anyway. The Daily Telegraph—of all papers!—reckoned that British anarchist papers enjoy a combined readership of 150,000, the CNT-AIT claims membership in Spain of over 50,000, in Greece, where anarchist activity is enormous. some tens of thousands of people are involved, without a doubt...but it is still an undisputable fact that active anarchists (as opposed to potential 'philosophical anarchists' are in a small minority.

If this might be called the 'political'

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anarchist movement, there are also other groups and individuals involved in what might in turn be called 'cultural' anarchism. The problem here is that the word 'culture' conjures up all sorts of repulsive associations for many people (in Britland anyway). A bigger problem is that in this area the anarchist label is much less in evidence. However, it would be difficult to know how to describe otherwise the activities of bands like CRASS and Poison Girls, or of works like Bukowski and Marge Piercy. While they might not personally be a part of-or in contact with-the anarchist movement, all their creative activity contributes in no small way to the bringing out of the 'anarchist attitude'. For example the Scottish writer Alasdair Gray (who has in fact called himself an anarchist) is not exactly in touch with the anarchist movement-yet in books like Lanark and 1982 Janine he has ripped the current political setup to shreds, emphasised the supremacy of the individual, denied the necessity of power, spoken up for the 'little person', in a way that, as far as total influence is concerned, may well



be worth a thousand mollies. Nor do such people necessarily have to produce something specifically political to be anarchistic-a painting, a love story, a book on education, a song about alcoholism, a film about loneliness, dealing as they do with reality, with people, may be as liberating, as constructive, as destructive (or whatever!) as anything which refers more specifically to political issues. It should be added that such creative groups and individuals are as few and far between in their respective fields as are the 'active anarchists' in theirs. This 'cultural anarchism' is sometimes bypassed by anarchists as not being relevant to what they're doing-it shouldn't be, it isn't. And it has the advantage of usually avoiding one of the main pitfalls of political-propagandistic literature/ films/music etc.: kitschness, 'right-on-ness' and phony uniformity of ideas.

'Ordinary People' again

Well, well-all this activity going on, and yet we live in a Europe where-to judge by recent experience-you'll still get more people out on the streets to buy themselves and others useless gifts with the excuse of a pseudoreligious festival, than you will to protest against (say) their children's metabolism being ruined through nuclear fallout 'reasonable selfishness' still rules. It may be true that people are conditioned, bamboozled, intimidated and hypnotised by media/tradition/ economic necessity into their present motionlessness, but in the end that is little more than an excuse: if anarchy is the only genuine alternative, is, in fact, the other side of the coin, then the fact that it is still wholly misunderstood, and still shared and acted upon by a tiny minority of people, indicates that it's time to start looking seriously at the nature of current anarchist activity, to see if it's really going the right way about creating, and explaining, anarchism. Because for anarchy to function-even to half-function-it must have a social base. If it worked in Spain it was because whole villages, whole districts of Barcelona were 'with' the anarchists. Talking to people whose parents and grandparents lived in these areas it becomes clear that not everyone—by any means—in these areas was a fully-fledged anarchist, but that anarchism has merged with the natural common-sense dayto-day activity of the area and had struck most people in it as a natural extension of that

PERSPECTIVE

common sense. The anarchists in those areas had brought out the anarchistic side in people, and that is why when Franco rebelled, the response in Barcelona was so massive, so popular, and so well organised-it was the kind of organisation that already existed in embryo form in hundreds upon hundreds of local communities, and which simply extended and perfected itself when the time came. The tradition still continues: the only serious and effective protests I've seen in Barcelona (and Spain in general) have come from neighbourhood associations or from whole villages (Nou Barris, Pomar, Sant Adria) who have responded automatically and firmly over specific local issues, (a bus service being cut, a school not being built, a motorway destroying their community). And it remains a fact that in this area the word 'anarchism' is not a scare word for most people, but a word which carries implications of common-sense, of seriousness (albeit also of idealism). The point is that before, in the thirties, this local reaction was not a flash in the pan, a reaction brought on only by temporary circumstances,

it was a reflection of a permanent attitude which had finally come out into the open, and which it took defeat in war, massive emigration, and forty years of systematic repression to put 'out of sight' again.

There has been a tendency in recent years for anarchism to concern itself (on the outside, at least) almost exclusively with rejection of authority, with criticism of what is there, with attacks, and attacks and more attacks on the current infrastructure. All well and good, and there are good reasons for doing so-it must be done-but if that is not equally matched by a

positive equivalent, where can it possibly go? The Spanish communities rose up not only because of what they wanted to destroy but also (perhaps more so) because of what they wanted to create. In the factories, the CNT had spent years educating the workers (e.g. the workers had educated themselves, the CNT affiliates being of and among them), in the basics of distribution, collective management etc. so that they knew what to do when the bosses fled into France, and wanted to do it. There will always be a role for individuals and groups who are suited (for whatever reasons) to particular forms of direct action and who have the courage to go through with them-at least until we have an anarchist world, when such activity would become redundant. And there will also be moments when whole communities en masse will have to reach for their weapons and their barricade materials whether they like it or not, simply because it'll be necessary. But this will always-can always-only be a prelude or a stimulant to creative activity, to positive activity, to the only kind of activity in short, which can occupy individuals and groups permanently, allowing the fusion of free individual and free community which is the achievement of anarchy. The lone rebel with his/her machinegun and home-made mortar, and the anonymous mass tying kitchen knives to broomsticks and rushing onto the streets are romantic images—and an inspiring reality from close quarters-but they only exist because the negation of anarchy (the State, the upperclass, the rulers) exist as well. When the State goes, they go too. And then what? Do people know? Have we offereds any live examples? Have we suggested any experiments? Must we continully refer back to parts of Spain fifty years ago to give an indication to people (the vast mass of 'ordinary people'. you know, the ones who are going to be involved) of the possibilities and

potentials of life without government, without exploitation, without elites, with individual freedom, individual responsibility, economic emancipation? Anarchists, of course, can't offer cockeyed blueprints of the future, the way authoritarian groups do. Anarchists can only offer examples, make suggestions, become the examples themselves. Are we doing it?

It is not enough to attack the State relentlessly without a word more and expect people to know what to do when and if it is destroyed. Most people aren't that intuitive. Most people have enough trouble just getting on with their lives ('Number one .. play safe') in the current circumstances-and that, to some extent, is true of everyone. And no one has the right to blame or criticise them for doing that: to do so is tantamount to believing yourself someway superior or 'of deeper insight' than they. No, no, it's not as if we have some kind of secret key to the future which other people can't twig yet. In this age when the possibilities for anarchist organisation are if anything greater than before, given the technological resources which could and should be available to people at large, it is worth remembering that what people want, they go for. It is more desireable to help your neighbour (say) rather than go into status competitions with him or her, or sit and wait for the 'authorities' to help out. It is more desireable to have control of your own life rather than be pushed around by family/ boss/state functionary. It is more desirable to collectivise your workplace rather than be another cog in its machinery. It is more desirable to have your individual self recogised in a visible community rather than lost and alienated in a supposedly 'mass' world in which you have no more say than a goldfish over its feeding times. It is more desirable to be allowed to mind your own business like a free individual rather than be cajoled and bamboozed by crafty advertisers, mad ideologists, authoritarian relatives, or persistent priests. (And here, given above, are only a few potential situations 'under' anarchy). What people want, they go for. If they're not going for anarchy, it's because they don't know what it is. If they don't know what it is, then whose fault is that? Theirs?

I realise that anarchists have got their work cut out for them here, that they have had a 'nutty' image foisted on them by the media, and that many people switch off simply when anarchism is mentioned (for example, after the DAM and CNT-AIT together had organised a speaking tour round northern Spain for thee miners during the Strike, in which radio and TV interviews were organised, free lodgings found in every town, interpreter provided, meetings publicised at short notice but with considerable success, all this done on anarchist lines by anarchist organisations, the miners concerned-who had enjoyed the trip tremendously and found it well worthwhile-were asked what they thought of anarchism-the reply, with the best will in the world, was instant: 'It'll never work'). Nonetheless, people do notice facts -- this is particularly in evident (to me, anyway) here in Barcelona, where many people are extremely cynical about 'politics' and have a kind of natural version to political literature or propaganda of any type (maybe because there was so much of it-and so little of it making any difference-in the years following Franco's death). When they see something practical being done, however, like the CNT picket outside a supermarket chain that was cheating its employees (BF163), they wake up, participate (if they're nearby)-and for a moment there you have a taste of real anarchy, anarchy with a social base, anarchism as a natural extension of ordinary peoples' common sense, a bringing out of potential which is already there. It helps, of course, that the CNT-AIT is, in fact an anarchist organisation which puts more emphasis on positive ('creative') action than on pure attack and rejection-in this, it seems, it is something of a rarity among European anarchist movements. Correct me if I'm wrong!

If you think this article is a piece of shit and that everything is getting along just fine (as regards anarchist activity) than there's nothing I-or anyone else-will be able to do to change that. I can't make any great claims myself for having 'done' that much— the article is simply a result of living with people which the article itself defines as 'ordinary', people who are not what the pundits call 'politicised' but who ao hate the politicians and controllers, local and 'national', people, in fact, who would be the first to take any opportunity to get control of their lives, who are, like all'ordinary' people, not as 'ordinary' as you might think, and, in fact, I don't know why I'm writing about these people as 'them' when I'm one of them now I think about it and all I can say after that is that is that I've no doubt that all over Europe, like us, millions.

MT, Barcelona, January, 1987

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The Irangate story changes almost daily with each new expose. It'll still be some time before a clearer picture emerges. In the meantime Black Flag can reveal that a group known as the 'Policy Development Group', working as part of the National Security Council, played a key role in the conspiracy from the outset.

The long term objective of the PDG was to direct *covert* operations from the NSC, but more importantly to ensure those operations ran parallel to CIA operations. The PDG included Vincent Canastraro (former CIA), Captain James Stark (US Navy) the (now late) Donald Fortier (Deputy NSC Director) and Oliver North. The PDG reported direct to President Reagan, avoiding all intermediaries. It hoped to use its successes to achieve a permanent counter-terrorism role for itself, rival to CIA operations, and restoring more of a balance in intelligence

bombing in which eighty people died. Carlucci is suspected of being behind the Moro kidnapping. Both were operating on behalf of the CIA to destabilise the Social Democrats, and ultimately the Communist Party. Much has been made through documentation on Ledeen's role in the 'plot to kill the Pope' affair. He was one of the first to point the finger at the Bulgarians who, it is now established, were framed and have since been released. Nor is Carlucci a stranger to covert operations. In 1978 he was deputy director of the CIA and before that did periods of service on behalf of the CIA in Chile (at the time of Allende's downfall) and the Congo (at the time of the assassination of President Patrice Lumumba).

The name of Richard Secord (Major-General) has also been bandied about in the press reports. Second is ex-CIA (deputy assistant Director of Defence -



Top left clockwise: North, Poindexter, Shultz and McFarlane testify

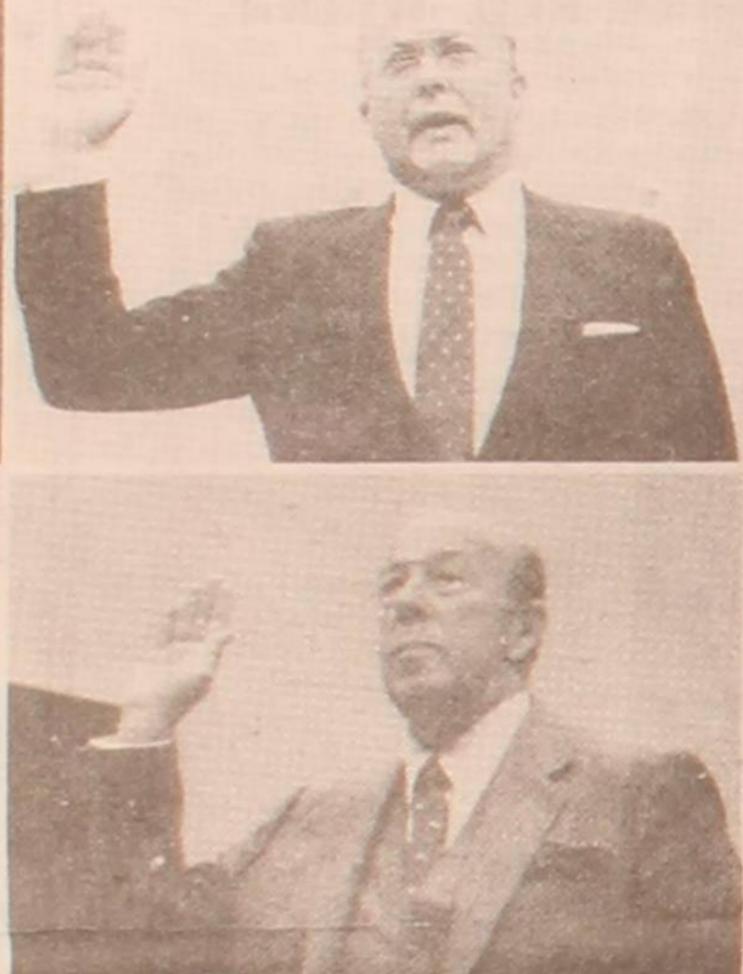
gathering and counter-intelligence to the White House, while at the same time providing an impetus to the status of the NSC in the intelligence lobby.

For some years the NSC has been involved in the coordination of covert acts but in recent months its objective was clearly to establish an operational role for itself. To achieve this and with the approval of the White House, was the brief of the PDG. North himself had carte blanche to do what he liked; he was no renegade, as the White House would have everyone believe, but a pioneer whose activities had approval at the highest level. Two Presidential directives, Executive Order 12333 and NSDD-138 provided the paper-work for this brief.

LEDEEN/CARLUCCI/SECORD One key figure in Irangate, and who has had little press exposure, is Michael Ledeen. He was the brainchild behind the conspiracy. He is thought (together with North) to have been the brains behind the Grenada invasion as well as the privatising of funds to the Contras. Also he's known to have been involved (with North) in the planning for the interception of the plane carrying the terrorists in the Achille Lauro hijack. Ledeen formerly worked as NSC chief in Italy and before that was CIA desk chief for Turkey. His intimate knowledge of Intelligence operations in the Middle East helped eventually to earn him the position of 'special advisor on terrorism' to President Reagan. Ledeen is also a prominent member of the Jonathan Institute, a 'forum' that includes 'think tank' specialists, mainly from the United States, Israel and certain NATO countries. British members include Richard Clutterbuck and Brian Crozier (MI6 and Instit-

ute for the Study of Conflict). The Jonathan Institute advises various national intelligence and security agencies as well as as providing a vehicle for disinformation through contacts in news and media agencies.

While North and his boss, Admiral Poindexter have been dismissed. Ledeen stays. Poindexter's replacement, Frank Carlucci is an old friend of Ledeen and worked with him during his Italy assignmentWhile Ledeen is suspected of involvement in thinking up the Bologna railway station



Middle East) too. What is not mentioned is his 'business' interests. For example he is president of a company known as the Stanford Technology Trading Group. This was originally set up by Albert Hakim, the Iranian arms dealer who is currently under investigation. The headquarters of the Stanford Technology Trading Group is in Geneva, bearing the same address as the agency (Lakeside Resources) to launder the arms money to the Contras. Clearly the STTG is a CIA front.

CIA INVOLVEMENT

As far back as March 1985, the CIA were involved in the Irangate conspiracy The main go-between in the initial negot iations was Theodore Shackley, a prominent CIA official, whose pedigree extended to the Kennedy regime's Bay of Pigs invasion and to covert operations in South East asia during and prior to the war in Vietnam. Shackley had brought together the main actors to discuss the arms dealing in a hotel in Hamburg. These included Ledeen (acting on behalf of the NSC and representing the White House), Manuchehr Chorbanifar (the head of Iran's arms buying operations in Europe and a former official in the SAVAK, the Shah's secret police), three Israelis (including David Kimche, the former deputy head of the Israeli intelligence service MOSSAD), and two Iranian government officials. Eventually a deal was agreed with part of the money upfront being supplied by millionaire Iranian Khassoggi and part by UK industrialist and head of the Lonhro empire, Tiny Rowland (who claims he was duped). When, later, things began to go wrong, North and Secord were brought in – but they messed things up even further.

Clearly, the conspiracy was both CIA and NSC directed, although the NSC has come off the worse for allowing matters to reach public attention. North and Dexter were the fall guys. The White House aim of creating a covert operations role for the NSC has also been temporarily blocked. Still surviving, however, is Ledeen, whose prestige has not been dent ed by the adverse publicity. Indeed, as he deliberately took a distant position in the whole affair his standing has remained intact. Ledeen now hopes to salvage what

IRANGATE AND THE ROLE OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL he can and reorganise a new Policy Dev-

elopment Group. As for Reagan he is still weathering the scandals: he gave the NSC unlimited power and in the end he became a victim of their failures and his own indiscretions.

North, Shackley, Hakim, Secord, Singlaub and others are currently on trial relating to charges of arms smuggling, drugs running, murder and currency violations as a result of a law suit brought by two journalists hurt in the 1984 bombing by a CIA backed group on the Costa Rican headquarters of Contra leader Eden Pastora.

The Canadian end of the Iran arms deal has turned out to be a WACL connection.

The financiers concerned are business associates of the Canadian chapter of WACL (the Canadian Freedom Foundation) and President of the North American WACL region - in other words Singlaub's successor John Gamble. (And who says there is no such thing as a conspiracy?) Hasenfus, when captured by Nicarag-

uan troops, was carrying a card showing he reported to Rob Owen, an aide of Col.

BEGIN Ford UK are to pull out of trade with

South Africa. The decision to do this was arrived at not because of any sympathy by Ford management with the antiapartheid movement and the struggle to free South Africa from repressive rule, but because of direct pressure from Ford workers in Britain who have sustained a campaign of direct action to achieve a pull-out.

Ford management have announced that their exports to South Africa will be phased out and would finish altogether by the end of the year. A pull-out would cost Ford UK around £47 million in revenue per year. Last year the revenue earned from exports to South Africa was only £10 million because of selective stoppages. All Ford's exports to South Africa consist of spare parts, for reassembly, to Samcor, once a subsidiary of Ford Canada, now owned by Anglo American.

Trade unionists at Ford UK have campaigned for years for direct sanctions against South Africa. More recently there have been several one-off stoppages at the Dagenham plant when workers were asked to handle parts from SA. Matters came to a head two months ago when workers presented an ultimatum to the Dagenham management, insisting that all South African parts be withdrawn or industrial action would be escalated.

Action indeed escalated when in January the Dagenham plant workers decided at mass meetings to ban the handling of all future exports to South Africa and that all trade with SA by Ford had to cease. The management backed down. Realising that the management could well move its South African export operation to

North's. Owen was a go-between for North and John Hull (see Black Flag for May 1986), the covert operations organiser for North in Costa Rica. Hull received arms supplies, funded partly by the NSC, partly by Singlaub, and partly as a result of cocaine trafficking operations that he supervised.

COMMENT

The NSC cover company, Lake Resources, and the Secord company, Stanford Research also shared an address with Udall Research (organises Contra military supply operations in Costa Rica) and Compagnie Services Fiduciane (another Geneva firm that received Irangate money) in Panama City. They were all National Security Council fronts.

There are indications (with the evidence of parallel deals being undertaken with the Iranians by the NSC and the CIA that the CIA could well have been the real source of the Contragate leaks to the Washington Post journalists in order to discredit the NSC which was becoming a rival to CIA covert operations and which had also succeeded in sabotaging a CIA-Iran deal that was negotiated on better terms.

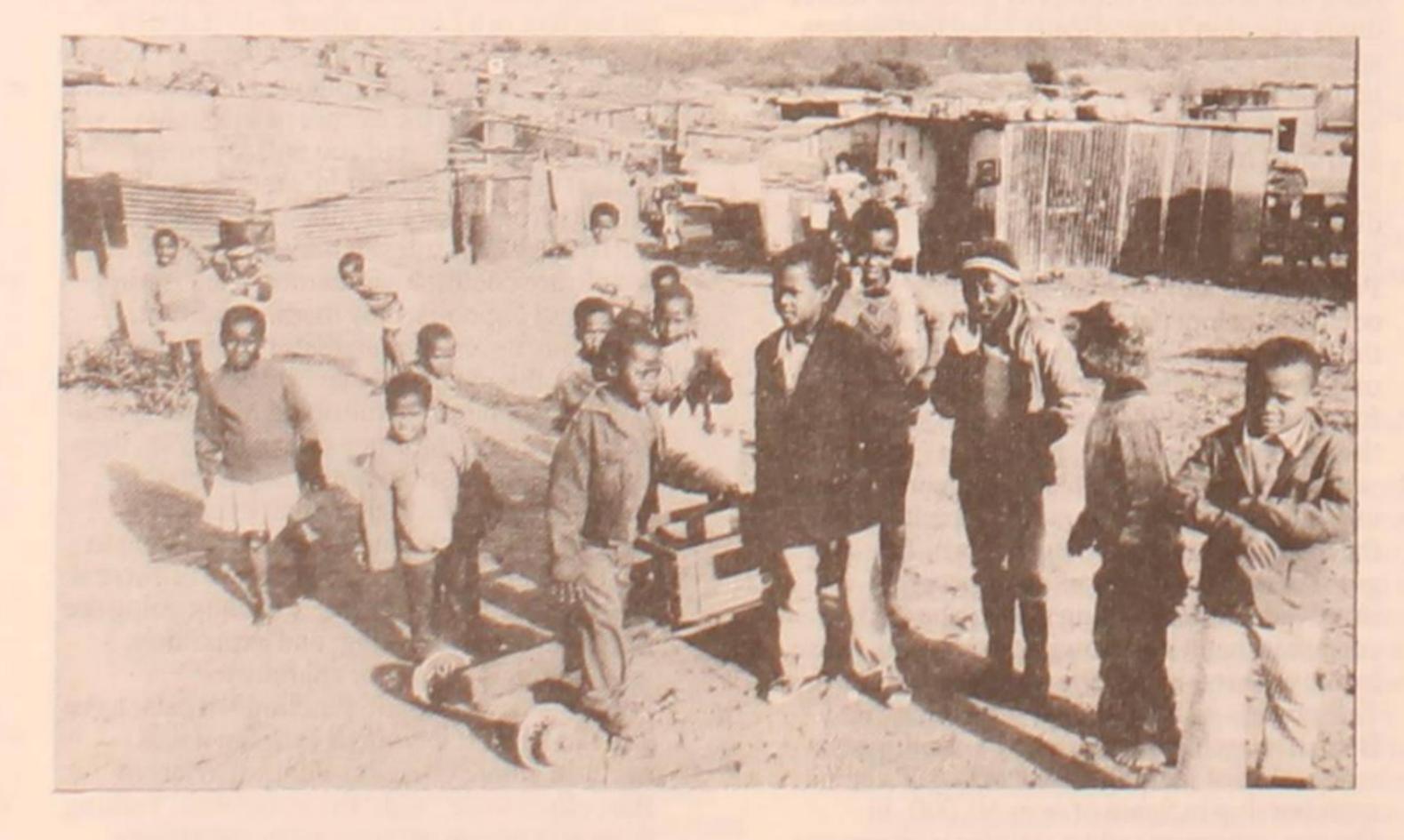


another plant in mainland Europe, negotiating union officials were told to add the rider that if this happened Ford UK trade unionists would request solidarity from fellow workers in that plant and elsewhere.

In these times when companies have got their international deals well and truly sorted out (eg. the closure of the Catepillar tractor plant in Scotland by the US parent company; or Murdoch's News International – whose anti-union actions in Britan have resulted in little or no solidarity action by workers in say, Australia or the USA where Murdoch controls a major proportion of the national media), the possibility of industrial action by workers taking on an international perspective, too, bodes well.

The message from Ford UK workers is clear: sanctions can be effective. they are possible to implement, and they can only be implemented properly by workers not by bosses. If they can do it, then there's nothing to stop workers in other companies and in other inndustries from taking similar action. The Ford workers have shown, too, that direct action - whether undertaken in opposition to apartheid or whatever-is the only effective and permanent way to achieve a victory. After all, it's remarkable how little press space this victory has claimed: but then again, it is victories like this one that the capitalist press wish to hush up in case word gets around. And word is getting around. Direct industrial action, despite the anti-union laws, can break any employer and ultimately, with widespread cooperation, any

government too.



A one day conference has been called by the North London Anti-Nuclear Group to bring together activists from around the country. The aim of the conference is to share experiences and ideas, plan future actions and discuss setting up an anti-nuclear federation. For more details write to: NLANG at the following address or telephone 01-801 2525.

Saturday 14th march 10am at the Jackson Lane Community Centre, Archway Road, London N6 (opposite Archway Tube Station).

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EXTRA NOTES FROM

Note: Although some of this news is dated, it is worth reading to give an overall idea of anti-state action in Denmark.

TO HELL WITH SHELL

On the 23rd November 1986, 80 -100 people attacked about 28 Shell petrol stations, causing damage in the region of a million Danish kroner (approx £100,000) the purpose of the action was to show Shell a little bit of violence such as the company daily uses against Black people in South Africa, and to connect Shell with South Africa in the public's mind. The South Africa Committee, the left-wing Parties and the ANC officials in Denmark were busy afterwards, disassociating themselves from the action, which was claimed by a group called Steve Biko Solidarity. Three people have been arrested and sentenced to imprisonment and heavy fines.

SQUATTERS ARSON ATTACK

On December 13 hundreds of squatters occupied a closed down factory in Ryesgade 211, Copenhagen. Barricades were raised from material from a near-by roadworks. In connection with this, a 'squatters vanguard' attacked a 'community' police station at Rysegade 201, setting it on fire with molotov cocktails. Unfortunately, the police station was part of a block of flats, and the spontaneous but stupid action endangered the lives of inhabitants of the flats who had to be evacuated. The barricades at Rysegade 211 delayed the fire-fighting services, and then fights broke out between the police and squatters. The factory was eventually evicted, and twenty five squatters were arrested.

The action of the militant vanguard hit the front pages of the press and diverted attention from the main action, which was to set up an activity centre for youth underground and grassroots movements. Last but not least, the police tried to use the situation to get more sophisticated weapons, like plastic bullets and riot vehicles (do they need an excuse ?). The police use every confrontation to claim they need more manpower and guns. This leaderless action, and the Shell attacks, point towards the establishing of an autonomist militant milieu, similar to Germany.

RIGHT WING SURVEY

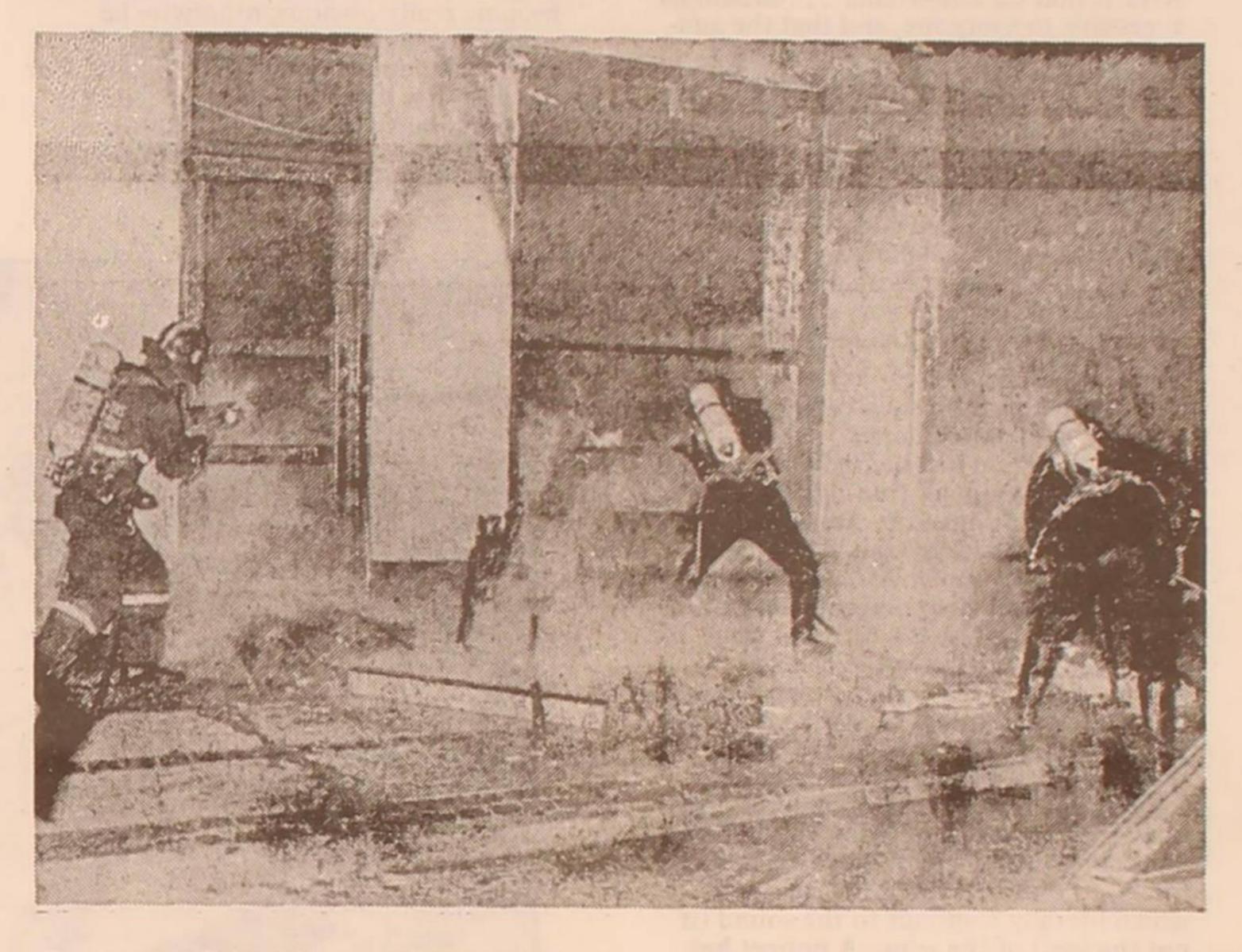
In the autumn of 1986 some of the structures and methods of the extreme right were exposed.

In Denmark the government consists of various non-Socialist Parties. To many within the socialist tendencies, the only alternative to this is a government of the Social Democratic Party and the Socialist People's Party (SF).

To many bourgeois people this combination would be a major threat to their society. During 1986, a growing amount of letters in the press accused the leader of the S.F. of 'nazi-style leadership' and of being a member of the Nazi youth from 1941-1944. But what seemed to be a spontaneous flow of letters to the newspaper editors from 'indignant citizens' turned out to be a secret campaign started by right-wing loonies in the provincial press. The semi-secret organisation which was behind the campaign was the 'Society' in Defence of Danish Democracy', which has about 150 members and an unknown number of sympathisers, including many former high-ranking military and police officers, home guards and Members of Parliament. The Society pushes a mixture of anti-communism, religious fanaticism and militarism.

It is based on small cells working more or less independently. Besides this there a number of sub-organisations that deal with more specialised subjects. Their main purpose is to fight communism and subversion. Behind every peace-organisation and 3rd world solidarity group they see the KGB. Therefore they like to call themselves 'the mental Home Guard'. Inside the real Home Guard they have built a secret intelligence service made up an unknown number of active Home Guards, who have gathered information on left-wing activists. 'The Society' has close connection with the people behind the paper Aktion who also have files on 'subversives'. The paper has already published a list with the names and addresses of leading members of the Trotskyist SAP (Socialist Workers Party-very little in common with the English SWP). But the Society also has its own mouthpiece, the paper 'Facet' to carry its propaganda against

'the communist threat'. This threat is from the leader of SF, to students working one day to gather money for schools in Nicaragua (56,000 students attended, approximately £500,000 was collected), and the World Peace Congress held in Copenhagen in the autumn of 1986 with backing by the World Peace Council (which also in our opinion was/is dominated by Moscow).



Fire-brigade fights blaze at police station.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

PH Bering, President of 'the Society' is also a member of the Danish section of the Unification Church (UC) founded by the Messiah of anti-communism: Sun Myung Moon. PH Bering participates in Moonie meetings arranged by the so-called 'Professors World Peace Academy'. The Danish UC-section, also called the 'Tongill Family', are active on several church fronts fighting socialism within the Danish church. In 1980 the first and only issue of their paper 'Realia' was published. Amongst other things it recommended reading the books of American Richard Wurmbrand, who is one of his books tried to prove that Karl Marx was a satanist! The last germ of the Danish Moon-move ment is the group 'Causa' who lecture on, among other things,

security politics. Back to the 'Society': in 1984 they published the book 'The False Gospel'-an attack on the 'World Council of Churches' because of its work against apartheid. The book was originally in English and supported by South Africa. Many members of the 'Society' have sleepless nights thinking about what would happen if the Blacks in SA came to power. Members are therefore to be found in 'friends of' South Africa, Israel etc, different soldiers organisations and in right wing 'peace' organisations often with conservative youth followers.

The 'Far-East correspondent' of the paper Facet, Erik Dissing, is also the head of the Danish division of the World Anti-Communist League (WACL). In Denmark these extremeright wingers have organised a committee which seeks to get influential persons as members. The committee numbers lawyers, politicians (Erik Dissing himself is a representative of the Conservative Party in a local council), employers etc-about 180 in all.

While WACL internationally and historically is known for its connections with nazis, latin-American death squads and different terrorist organisations, the Scandinavian-and with it the Danish-section tries to keep the legal and respectable facade still providing full anonymity for its 'venerable' members. This doesn't take its share of building international fascism. At a conference in Dallas (USA) in 1985 they were told to help in the fundraising for uniforms for Nicaraguan contras. They only managed to get about £500 earmarked for the purchase of boots! The story doesn't tell if this little amount pleased the president of WACL-International, the ex-major general John Singlaub, who is one of the key persons in the grip of Americans agitating for financial and military help to the contras.

BUREAUCRAT SELL OUT

The present negotiations between trade unions and employers organisations have so far been a disappointing sellout of trade union demands (on higher wages and a 35 hour week). Some union bureaucratic negotiations haven't even

DENMARK

presented the original demands adopted by trade union congresses to employers. Instead they have made 'compromises' even before they reached the negotiating table. The only positive effect is that the minimum wage has been raised to the benefit of some low-income groups. The results of the negotiations have to be vot ed on by the members of trade unions in a general ballot.

WORKER AGAINST APARTHEID

A semi-skilled worker at a curtain factory was fired after making his own practical joke against the South African apartheid regime Instead of curtain components he packed a box bound for South Africa with useless wooden blocks. This was before the Danish government imposed a trade embargo against SA in December 1986. The fantastic truth is that the factory and the local branch of the trade union agreed to cover up the sacking to avoid a sympathy strike from his colleagues and a bad reputation which could damage inland trade. The worker also agreed to the cover-up after his dismissal notice was 'fixed' so that he avoided quarantine and because he wanted to stay anonymous in fear of being blacklisted by employers as the 'blockhead'

CONSERVATIVES FOR TERROR

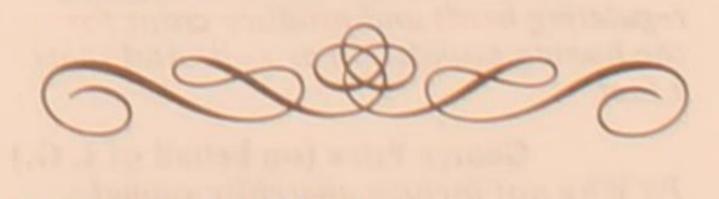
Two youngsters, 16 and 18 years old, who were arrested, have taken responsibility for several bombings including a bomb against the apartment of an ANC member and one against the Soviet Embassy on the 13 December 1986. No-one was killed. The 18 year old was a member of the Conservative Youth Organisa tion and the Conservative Students Federation.

CELEBRATION

The Anarcho-Syndicalist Organisation, Danish section of IWA/AIT, celebrated ten years of existence on Friday January 16 with a reception for former and present members and sympathisers.

JANKOWKSKI FREE

We have received a letter from the American comrades in WSA-IWA calling for solidarity actions for the benefit of Wojcech Jankowki, a Pole sentenced to 3-1/2 years in prison in December 1985 for demanding an alternative to military service. We are happy to report that according to War Resisters International, Jankowski has been released in October 1986. Source: Anarchist Federation of Denmark



FINLAND

JOUKO SAKSIO

Jouko Saksio, the 23-year old Finnish anarchist who refused military/civil service was arrested and then went on hunger strike has been refused release from jail. He has ended his hunger strike.

UUUUUUUUUUUU

EVICTION RIOT – TO HELL WITH SHELL

On the 'National Squatting Day' last September, radical squatters occupied an office block belonging to Shell in the Dutch city of Nijmeyen. The purpose was to protest against homelssness, property speculation and Shell's involvement in South Africa. With eviction imminent they decided to take the offensive. So on Monday 19 January at 4am four hundred squatters gathered in the freezing night. Smaller groups piled up tyres and rubbish in front of the main police station and City Hall's doors and set them alight, causing a lot of panic and damage.

On top of the Shell block oil drums were set alight at each corner, to prevent a helicopter attack. Then the main force stormed into the big NMB Bank opposite, throwing everything, including computers, tills etc. into a big barricade of stuff thrown from the Shell building. This was then set alight and burned quite merrily. Keeping one step ahead, the squatters split into smaller groups and vanished when the riot police with bulldozers attacked. Plain clothes police gangs began beating or arresting anyone they could find on the streets. But it took until 11am that morning for the special police squads to break through all the barricades in the Shell building, and arrest the nine people and journalists

By this time the city was full of police, and the media were going bananas, but hit and run actions continued all day. At 1.00pm another burning barricade appeared on a main road. There was a mass shoplifting action at the V & D Stores, and sticker actions' against South African goods. Two huge banks suddenly got every wondow smashed. A motorbike cop 'fell' off his bike and got beaten up by squatters. By the afternoon reaction had begun, with Rightists and 'discos' (rightwing youth) smashing windows in central squats, and trying to set one alight. It was decided to cancel a planned peaceful demo at 5.00pm as it would have been suicidal. Police raids on squats followed, no arrests but addressbooks were taken. Over the whole day of acts only 23 people were arrested.

Source: Bluf and eye witness.

SABOTAGE SUCCEEDS!

You may have read, even in the British press, about the sabotage arsons on the MAKRO supermarket and cash and carry chain in Holland, but these attacks are only the tip of the iceberg. MAKRO was the victim of four arson attacks over a sixteen month period, all claimed by Revolutionary Anti Racist Action (RARA) to oppose MAKRO's involvement in South Africa. Added together the arsons caused over 100 million guild ers (£30m) damage, though the parent multinational, SHV, put the damage at 150m guilders, probably for insurance purposes. When the insurance companies refused further cover MAKRO then appealed to the State to provide it, the government refused, while promising all possible action against terrorism, and MAKRO then pulled out of South Africa! One of RARA's communique's stated - 'The western imperialist system has a great interest in continuing the apartheid regime in South Africa. That is why we attacked this part of the Dutch business empire in South Africa.'

In fact RARA is just one of many such sabotage and action groups in Holland. At least as much damage has been done by attacks on Shell and hundreds of other firms, along with all the travel agents and big supermarkets which have pulled out. Sales of South African fruit have collapsed.

The damage is not just due to direct sabotage attacks, rather the attacks may be caused by spreading revulsion at the Apartheid system. There have also been many benefits, pickets, leafletting acts, phone blockades, paint bombings etc.

In Britain which is South Africa's biggest trade partner and investor, the possibilities of developing a similar campaign are obvious, Barclay has shown the way.