FEEDBACK

Film Review

THE YEAR OF THE BEAVER (Faction Films)

The long hot summer of 1976 created an unprecedented demand for the development of snapshot photos. For the workers of Grunwick's, a London film processing laboratory, this meant working twice as hard for the same wages. The majority of the workforce were Asian immigrants who had to endure sweatshop conditions that were imposed by the Managing Director, George Ward. Some worked from 8am to 10pm. A visit to the toilet was frowned upon as 'interfering with production'.

The film traces the course of the workers' strike for union recognition which was to last over a year and which attracted world-wide attention. Trade unionists from all over the country came to picket Grunwick's in solidarity with the strikers.

The Grunwick dispute was a watershed in modern British history as the film clearly shows. The use of mass (violent) policing and selective media coverage in favour of scabs and the Company by the Callaghan Government can now be seen as paving the way for the hard-line monetarist regime of Thatcher. In fact, there was little to pick between Callaghan's and Thatcher's statements throughout the dispute.

What came across most strongly was the ambiguous role played by trade union Leaders, particularly that of Roy Grantham, the secretary of APEX which was the union at the centre of the controversy. In the beginning Grantham called conditions at Grunwick's 'Dickensian'. However, he appeared to be friendly with boss Ward after the strike was over. Similarly, Jack Jones, then President of the TGWU, had praised 'George' on TV for not once criticising his employees over their work rate! Workers at the nearby Cricklewood sorting office who voted to stop Grunwick's mail were later disciplined by their union for taking action without the permission of their National Executive Committee. Indeed, the TUC later gave its support to a new law which made this secondary action illegal.

The effective use of funereal music as the strikers were gradually prepared for betrayal conveys the impression that 1977 was the year the British labour movement died; crushed and humbled by a combination of force and management-union collaboration. From now on it was to be a case of 'tighten your belts' or else.

Jack Jones, in a newspaper interview, said that 1977 was 'the year of the beaver' of hard work with little reward. He should have called it the year of the sell-out.

A salutary tale for trade unionists everywhere and a forceful reminder that the trade unions are, ultimately, as a striker succinctly put it, ' the upholders of capitalism'. An educational film well worth seeing.

Letter from Liverpool

Dear Friends,

I'm writing to clear up a few questions I've got. All too often anarchists, when confronted with people asking 'what would you do' reply 'The workers (or the people) will decide'. That's fair enough, we all want a Free Society controlled from below, but it's still a cop-out. We; as Anarchists, are part of 'The Workers' and 'The People'. If we haven't a clear idea of what we want, and come up with practical suggestions, no-ones going to take us seriously.

Take Law and Order. We all know the laws are made by and for the rich and administered by class-biased judges. We know the police are the cornerstone of the state and are the enemy. We know police are useless at preventing anti-social acts such as mugging, rape, and murder. In a Free Society anti-social acts are likely to be much less common than today, etc. etc. etc... For all that, how to deal with rapists and murderers?

Come the Revolution, we will not live in Utopia. The sun will not shine out of everyones backside. There will be a lot of problems which will need sorting out.

A citizen's militia, the People Armed, is a needed defence to stop communities being taken over by armed thugs - Trots, fascists, mafia, police etc.

Most crimes do not need detective work as its usually obvious who'd done it (most murders and rapes are by people who know each other). But some do. What about where people die in unknown circumstances? There is a need for coroners to find out exactly why someone died. Likewise, unless people are happy with Yorkshire Rippers roaming about freely, there's a need to find out who did a murder. That means, I think, some kind of detective body working alongside, not above, the Citizens Militia. Detective skills, forensic science etc., aren't learnt overnight, and investigating a murder may take longer than an average stint in the community street patrols (assuming community defence is rotated among the community).

Once someone is suspected of murder, surely there is a need to prove it. Surely there is a need for a real system of justice accepted by everyone. If it's not accepted by most people, and if innocent people suffer, it will just lead to vendettas and blood feuds.

Muggers and drug-pushers deserve a good kicking(?), but what about murderers and rapists? If murders are not killed, what is the alternative? Banishment? Quarantine? What is the difference between quarantine and a comfortable prison? Prisons are a crime and should be

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abolished. . . so what's the solution. Obviously, any actions taken against such people should be done openly and be accountable to the community as a whole. We want a more humanitarian and just society, not one ruled by vigilantes. Anyway, I'd like to see what you

All the best,

R.J. Liverpool 17, Merseyside. PS. How were anti-social crimes dealt with in, say, the Spanish Revolution? Some considerable points are raised here and it is no good saying we have all the answers flip. It is true that it is premature to discuss details of a future society like whether we should have coroners - but what happened in Spain in 1936 was that this undiscussed question was shelved and they just carried on with the old police force, often with union militants taking over from rightist police, saying it was an anti-fascist necessity.

Offhand, is there a good reason for not liquidating psychopathic murders? Ourobjection to the death penalty is that it makes the State too powerful but in a truly free society it couldn't be - that doesn't mean we let childkillers or sex murderers loose, and in the early stages of such a society they might still exist.

Often when talking of an anarchist society we are asked hypothetically to deal with the problems of the present day, which exist and are nurtured in a Statist society. It is a trap to avoid; but it is true we ought to have some answers ready.

Police are a modern (and capitalistic) invention, to deal with the problems of a an urban society in which the poor are compressed. The detective police were not invented until later: chiefly as a result of the civil espionage and public blackmail in the Napoleonic period. These elements of police to suppress the poor, and detective police to engage in political repression and intrigue (nowadays Intelligence services do this) remain to this day and no way fit into an anarchist society.

However, there have been anarchist intelligence agencies — particularly during the period of defence action against the Spanish and Portuguese, as well as French and Italian, dictatorships, which might presaye how an investigation body which didn't intend to become a detective force as we know it, might proceed. It should not be a separate institutionalised body, nor have powers beyond and above local community.

But that the study of what we might call libertarian criminology is in its infancy is beyond dispute.

Bits and Pieces

ANARCHIST ENCYCLOPAEDIA The Anarchist Encyclopaedia, due to commence on November 11th, will consist of bi-monthly folios, each devoted to a particular theme, social issue or problem which will be explored in depth. The object will be to cast a hard light on other ideologies, seek fresh viewpoints, clarify issues and achieve a better understanding of the implications of anarchism and other aspects of society.

It is designed as an easily updateable and cross-referenced source on curent research and thinking and will explore new fields in the presentation of anarchist theory.

There will be check lists for every section, bibliographies and bigraphical notes. The first monograph will be a researched essay on Civil war and civil peace – Libertarian Aragon 1936-7. Most comments on Spanish Anarchism and its part in the Civil War deal with the Catalonia – a completely fresh look is obtained by dealing with Aragon.

Subscription rates will be - 1 year (institutional) £25 or (US\$50); 2 years, £45 (US\$90); (individual 1 year £16 (US\$32); 2 years £30 (US\$60). Contact the Anarchist Encyclopaedia, at Cambridge Free Press, Unit 6, 25 Gwydir Street, Cambridge. CB1 2LG

FOR SALE

An Xerox 3100 Mobile Copier for only £600. Also supplied are boxes of paper and dry toner very cheap. The copies will do up to 99 copies and you can use up to six sizes of paper. For enquiries ring 01-351 6357 ask for Mrs Garcia.

PRISONERS BENEFIT

On Friday November 8th there will be a benefit at 121 Bookshop for Greek anarchist prisoners and those who are on trial by the Greek State. 126 people face trial for the demonstration against fascist Le Pen, in Athens. Money raised will go to support them, Victor Armanious, who has been released form prison after his hunger strike, but still faces a long prison sentence, and D. Melitis who is charged with expropriation of a bank (more details next issue). The benefit begins at 11pm, at 121 Bookshop, 121 Railton Road, SE24. 2746655. Tube: Brixton. Late night buses run to & from the city all night. If you can't come but wish to support the fund send your greetings, donations c/o the ABC at: BM Hurricane, London WC1N3XX

BLACK CHIP READERS MEETING

On October 26th, the Anarchist computer magazine, Black Chip, held a readers meeting at 121 Bookshop, Brixton. Subjects covered included the usefullness of different systems, linking microcomputers for use as a communications network, and whether computers were 'neutral' or if, due to the State's control of how systems are developed, the potential use of computers is limited, at the moment. The health hazards of visual display units, was also touched on, as was the increasing number of people employed in this industry. A workshop to help people familiarise themselves with computer systems, and a publice meeting on the politics of computers, are planned for the New Year. Black Chip is available from:

55 Dupont Road, SW20 8EH London.





Rank and File Meeting

The miners at Cortonwood refused to take their pit's closure in 1984. From there solidarity strikes by NUM members brought the industry almost to a standstill. The strike cost the British State some £5 billion On the 25/10/85 the mine closed after it was threatened. Industrial resistance became rearguard action as the strike was lost and the 'streamlining' steamroller crashed on. 64 miners are still in jail. More miners have lost their jobs and face the winding road loking for a job on the wageslave market with 5 million others.

The support network which included workers in other industries and communities lies dormant with but a few fighting on. The National Rank & File Miners Movement is holding a conference of support groups and rank and file workers independent of the State, Church and domination of a political Party. It will be in Sheffield, in the Students Union Building all day Saturday, November 30th. This initiative could see the re-emergence of a syndicalist workers movement whose mutual aid, solidarity and direct action tactics means emancipation of the workers by the workers themselves. Don't mourn Cortonwood's closure, organise resistance.

MINERS BALLOTS As predicted in the Black Flag Supplement on the miners strike the TUC and Labour Party are in a quandry about what to do with the new scab union split from the NUM. So'far the TUC has avoided the UDM getting official affiliation, but still has met its organisers. The Labour Parliamentarians want votes and have not come to any conclusion over the UDM wanting to sponsor Labour MPs like the NUM. .

The 'Union (?) of Democratic Mineworkers' based in Nottinghamshire and South Derbyshire has been recognised by the Coal Board boss McGregor and the NCB has begun to harass Bolsover miners who did vote to stay with the NUM. The NCB has told them they do not recognise the NUM in the Notts area or South Derbyshire.

In Notts 6,000 voted to stay in the NUM and 1,090 in South Derbyshire. In the strike the UDM members ignored the 'democratic' majority who voted with their feet to support the fight against pit closure. What 'freedom' the NUM members in the Notts and South Derbyshire area will get from the UDM scabs & bosses will be like that they received in the 1984/5 strike... none.

SQUATTER MURDERED



COPS MURDER SQUATTER R iots and severe battles occured from Thursday, 24/10/'85 to Sunday 26/10/'85 in the Dutch capital Amsterdam after a squatter died in police cells.

The fights started after the surprise eviction of a mother and child from her squatted flat in the Staatslieden area, a Squatters stronghold. Local squatters decided to do a mass re-squat. The police who were still occupying the flat panicked and fired their guns at the squatters, hitting one in the arm before escaping out the

The riot police were gathering outside, battles followed. All those arrested were badly beaten up. One squatter's death in

the police station cells flared up the riots until Sunday evening, leaving police cars in the parking lot of the main station burnt out, most Council offices smashed, other police stations attacked.

Other sources reported the occupation of the Townhall but no details are available as we go to press. At least 50 people have been arrested.

There was NO media coverage in the British press.

The Dutch authorities blame the squatters death on drug abuse - highly unlikely according to his friends and family.

Solidarity actions against the Dutch State were done in Frankfurt and Berlin at the time of this article.

3880

BF



Goodbyes at the last production shift at Cortonwood pit.

Black Flag Readers Meeting

The readers meeting will be held on Sunday November 10th, at 2.00pm in the North Room, Conway Hall, 25 Red Lion Square, WC1 Tube: Holborn.

All readers are welcome to come with helpful suggestions, comments and ideas for distribution. There will be a bookstall (back copies of Black Flag, Fortnightly,

Supplements, Quarterlys, pamphlets and some books and posters), refreshments and if you need child-care, please contact 121 Bookshop, 121 Railton Road, SE24 or phone 01-2746655 12-4pm, in advance. If you have any other queries, or need accomodation, contact 121. Black Flag Collective.

BLACK FLAG – BLACK CROSS **BM HURRICANE, LONDON** WC1N 3XX Published, typeset and layout BLACK FLAG COLLECTIVE Printed by Aldgate Press. SUBSCRIPTION RATES 12months: £12 inland £15 surface, £19 Air. 6months: £6.50 Inland £8 surface, £10 Air.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON ANARCHISM

Q: As presumably a Stateless society would have no Customs or immigration officers barring entry into the society, how would you envisage it not being overrun with immigrants from abroad, changing the entire way of life - not a mythical supposition, but something already happening and guite unwelcome by the workers in particular?And might your anarchist society just possibly be as racist as any other, like, for instance, the kibbutzim in Israel, once hailed as free communes by Anarchists, yet determinedly racist and militarist for all that?

A: It was not Anarchists who once hailed the kibbutzim as 'free communes' but Pacifists and left-socialists (including some so-called pacifistanarchists like the renegade Woodcock, Peace News etc. but we don't rate them). In fact the kibbutzim, at their best, were authoritarian communes, run on military lines, patriotic or religious, as distinct from free communes (but as authoritarian communism calls to mind Russia, they were thought of as free with that comparison).

nto power politics and asserting authority over people; they are unlikely to have libertarian attitudes, and therefore people who created an anarchist society would not be racist; or if they were, the society would soon vanish. One way it could vanish would be by re-creating a State to keep people out.

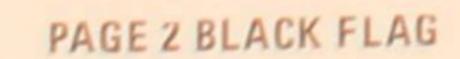
Ways of life frequently change, and not enough, often enough! Julike the Labour Party ultra-left which goes along with imposing ethnic cultures or religions - teachng Bengali in local schools for eg. we would hope in a society of federalist internationalism (based not on nation States but internation al small groupings) national and racial cultures, and divisions based on religion or State allegiance, would lose their compulsive base and finally vanish. Abolition of frontiers would be a natural consequence; it would obviously have some hiccups, but essentially when you want to build up a society (fr or otherwise) you need people, and more of them; it's when you want to run it down (as doctrinaire monetarism insists) people become an embarrassment.

HOME DEFENCE BASE DESTROYED!

The UK's main Home Defence (Air) intelligence and communications HQ, based at RAF Brampton was badly damaged by a mysterious fire early last week. Sabotage has not been ruled out.

The base forms part of a chain of communication centres linked together. The network as a whole includes Northwood (NATO East Atlantic Command), Bawtry (RAF Strike Command), GCHQ Cheltenham (main government listening post), etc. Officially Brampton is designated as the RAF's Support Command HQ, and acts as a last resort air defence against enemy strike bombers.

The fire itself caused millions of pounds of damage and destroyed masses of classified information stored at the main administration building. The whole building was a complete write-off.



Stop South African Business

Edinburgh

The successful overnight red paint bombing of Barclays and Standard Chartered banks, by 'persons unknown' got the day off to a good start in Edinburgh.

Most businesses in and around Princess Street which profit from apartheid had stickers/posters put on their windows. In food shops, trolleys were piled high with South African goods and dumped in the aisles after posters and leaflets explaining why were put on top. A thousand leaflets were given out to passersby, urging solidarity with the struggle in South Africa.

Women's actions were done at two of the largest Safeways stores and the 'Sava Centre' (Boots and Sainsburys). Dozens of trolleys were dumped, often clearing shelves completely of certain products. Several women talked to the managers in most cases futile, though one manager admitted he was a hypocrite, as he never bought South African goods at home, but handled them at work.

Crewe & Wrexham

At Co-op and Asda supermarkets, trolley loads of South African goods were collected and dumped in the aisles, with large

Recent Riots in Britain

Police Commissioner, Sir Kenneth Newman, claimed recently that rioting was 'foreign' to Britain. Not wishing to allow this gem to get by we have listed a short list of some of the more well known riots that have taken place in recent British history. In many cases the riots People are racist because they are *referred to were not one riot in one* place but a series of riots in different locations; some but not all, of the

major strikes are mentioned too. 1520 Enclosure riots in Norfolk, against the forced enclosure of commonland, which had traditionally been cultivated jointly. 1549 Enclosure riots in Cambridge. Uprising in Great Yarmouth. Riots in Devon and Cornwall. Exeter besieged. Rebellion in Norfolk. Riots in Essex, Hertfordshire, Rutland, Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Hampshire, Somerset, Kent and Susses. ('Copycat' riots?). 1596 Peasants revolt in South Oxfordshire.

1607 Midlands uprising against enclosures. Diggers Diggers and Levellers begin to organise. 1620-30 Many enclosure riots.

1649 Digger colony at St Georges Hill. Levellers uprising. 1661 Fifth Monarchists hold London for

several days. 1675 Weavers riot for 3 days in Spitalfields

1689 Troops mutiny at Ipswich.

1714-15 Countrywide rioting.

1726 Riots in Glasgow against the Malt Tax. 20 are killed.

1736 Edinburgh riots. Many killed. In a second riot the General responsible for the killings is lynched

1740 Riots in Northumberland. Machinery gets

1743 Riots spread against Turnpike roads. Many rioters are shot. 1753 Bread riots in Bristol. Ships carrying corn

are looted 1760 Portsmouth naval docks burned down

because of press ganging. 1766 Lace workers expropriate corn from farmers to sell themselves.

1768 Riots in Blackburn against new machinery. 1780 Riots lead to the liberation of prisons in

London ie. Newgate. 1788 Food riots in Nottinghamshire. Also

machine wrecking.

1794 Naval mutiny at Spithead. 1795 Food riots throughout the country. 1797 Another mutiny at Spithead.



HOME NEWS

signs saying 'Product of Murder in South Africa' etc. Similar actions took place in Tescos and ASDA stores in Wrexham.



Liverpool

IN the past 3 months, there has been some picketing, leafletting, postering and the work of getting in touch with shop workers and unions directly involved with industries connected with Apartheid.

On Sunday October 6th, 12 branches of Barclays Bank had cash points, night safes and door locks glued up by a new antiapartheid group calling itself 'LAB'.

1811-16 Luddite actions: sabotage and the wrecking of machinery. 1812 Prime Minister assassinated. Troops

despatched to riot areas. 1816 Spa Fields riot. Riots also in Ely and

Littleport 1819 Peterloo Fields demonstration. 11 killed

by troops. 1820 King attacked in London street. Troops battle against 60,000 strikers in Glasgow. 1824-31 Iron workers in South Wales engage in guerrilla warfare against troops.

1830's More machine breaking throughout Southern England. Threatening letters sent to landowners by 'Captain Swing'.

1831 Riots. Prisons opened and burned. 1834 Workhouses burned. Lancashire paralysed for 16 weeks by strike action. Tolpuddle martyrs deported to Australian prison colony. 1839 Riots in Glasgow, Sunderland, Newcastle and Lancashire. 1000 miners march on Newport

Riots in centre of Birmingham. Rebecca riots in Wales. 1840-45 Three attempts on the life of Queen

Victoria. 1840's Chartist riots. Strikes throughout the Midlands and the North. 1500 arrested by troops Riots in Wales. Arson attacks extensive. 1856 Police Act made mandatory for all counties

1867 Trade Unions declared illegal. Clerkenwell gaol bombed. 1888-93 Strikes flourish, particularly in the docks, buses and mines.

1905 Strikes bring country to standstill. 1910 Riots in Bermondsey. Siege of Sidney

Street, 3 killed. 1911 Troops open fire on rioters in Liverpool, 2 killed. Troops open fire in Llanelly, 2 killed. Dock, railway and weavers strikes. 1912-14 Strikes in docks, mines and seamen's

strike. Suffragette actions. 1915-16 Strikes in Clydeside and riots.

1917 Mutiny in trenches in Europe by troops. 1918-19 Mutinies abound. Police strike. Naval mutiny at Scarpa Flow.

1926 General Strike after miners demand not a 'penny off the pay or an hour on the day' The miners are the last to return to work after six months facing starvation.

1936 Riots against fascists. Battle of Cable Street routs fascists, police surrender. 1950 London dock strike.

1970-71 Angry Brigade bombings. 1972 Miners and dockers strike. Occupation

of Upper Clyde shipyards. 1974 Miners strike brings down government.

1975 Red Lion Square demonstration against fascists - Kevin Gately killed by police. 1976 Hull Prison riot. 1977 Notting Hill anti-police riot. Mass pickets

at Grunwicks. 1978 State conspiracy against anarchists -

'Persons Unknown' trial. Lorry drivers strike. 1979 'Winter of Discontent' strikes in most public sector industries against low pay. Blair Peach killed by police in anti-fascist demonstration at Southall, west London.

1980 Bristol anti-police riot. 1981 Riots against police in Brixton (April and - July), Southall, Notting Hill, Moss Side/ Manchester, Leicester, and other parts of the country. David Jones, a crippled youth, is run down by police and killed in Toxteth riots. 1983-4 'Stop the City' blockades in London and other cities. Acts of sabotage

1984-5 Miners strike against pit closures lasts 12 months. Police place pit villages under siege. Battle of Orgreave. 10,000 arrests. Many Charged (but later acquitted) with riot. Union funds sequestrated. Riots near Parliament. 1985 September/October riots in Handsworth, Brixton, Peckham, Toxteth and Tottenham. Against police murder.

ONCE A TROT. . . ALWAYS A TORY?

Lord Gowrie resigned as Arts Minister because he could not afford to live in London and take the responsibilities of a Cabinet Minister on a mere £33,000 per year. He has got a job as Chairman of Sotheby's at £100,000 – but says the salary business is inflated. He isn't deserting, he says, it's just that 'for somebody in business there is only so much time one can devote to public service'.

Lord Gowrie was the first Trotskyist to enter a Conservative Government. Ther There was only so much time he could devote to the revolution before he passed from student days to business.

Recently, a TV journalist coined the phrase 'Maggie's Militant Tendency' to describe the fascist wing of the Young Conservatives/Federation of Conservative Students. It was unfair to the Tapeworm Tendency, miscalled Militant, who are Trots, not fascists. The two are not synonymous despite the fact that the Communist Party made them so for years until united in the Broad Left (at least in Britain, Trotsky is still an unrehabilitated villain in the USSR). Maggie's Trotskyist Tendency was headed by Lord Gowrie. Will we not see another Trotskyist Minister until we get a Labour Government? erhaps we will – there are one or two in the running

Trotskyists still denounce the entry of the POUM, and of the Spanish Anarchists' 'representatives' into a 'bourgeois government'. Quite rightly. But it's a bit like Reagan denouncing terrorism.

INTERNAL FRICTION BRIGADE The unveiling of a memorial to the British battalion of the International Brigade as a parting Swansong gift of Ken Livingstone's GLC bounty dispenser – was the subject of comment in the Morning Star which regretted that: No mention had been made in the official speeches of the role of the Soviet Union or of the role of the Communist Party of Great Britain in organising the British Battalion. . . They sent food, clothes, medical supplies, arms planes and volunteers to fight fascism in

Peter Simple in the Daily Telegraph, referring to this (the Devil can cite Scripture for his purposes) said: They also sent apparatchiks to ensure the Reds were made to serve the interests of the Soviet Union rather than those of Spain. Without their help in efficiently organising purges and executions, there was no way the native Spanish anarchists and other awk-

ward people could have been suppressed. With which we can hardly guarrel. But who would guess that Peter Simple writes his column not a few yards from one of these 'apparatchiks', Alf Sherman, - Sir Alfred since he became Mrs Thatcher's speechwriter – now a Leader writer for the Daily Telegraph? Is it okay to 'organise purges and executions' providing you take your experience to the Tories after-

POLICE PRIVILEGES

In the wake of the 'disturbed' senior cop who 'accidentally' shot Mrs Dorothy 'Cherry' Groce (now paralysed) last month in Brixton, it appears even the Home Secretary Douglas 'brick me' Hurd cannot cope with Alf Parrish the Derbyshire Chief Constable.

Alf 'giz ya money' Parrish is above the Law by being the Law. He was caught (the only 'crime' in corruption) spending some £28,000 on his personal office, misuse of police vehicles etc. He was suspended on full pay in June 1984 and now 'psychiatrically ill' Parrish is beyond Derbyshire Council prosecution tribunal. If Hurd and Parrish are not Freemasons then it must be an even better 'benevolent society'?

James Anderton Chief Constable of Greater Manchester and Mr Leslie Curtis the Police Federation Chairman on the BBC2 Open to Question programme were hostile to the questions put to them by schoolchildren and said they were only obeying orders 'if the orders were right' (how far right?). They had to police the miners strike or there would be 'anarchy'.

ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

For the first time in this rotten country, a movement of practical support in favour of prisoners in revolt has shown itself. There is a blow unexpected by all the reformers, all those who allow the suffering of prisoners to justify their own cowardlyness, their interest in helping keep the status quo. Above all, it is a blow to the State.

On the outside, there are a multitude of cretins who indulge themselves in long speeches over what they call the 'problem of detention', even though they have no personal experience of being arrested and would be better shutting up. Their pretentious hot air contrasts with the silence that is imposed upon the prisoners in revolt, and the total censure that their communiques have received.

Inside a prison, information gets around by underground rumours. This differs from one prison to another. This gives a certain importance in prisons to the written press, in addition to helping to kill time through reading. Worry and isolation are the only two things which accord a certain interest to the newspapers; and makes each of their lies that much more damaging.

The press has been unanimously hostile to the prisoners revolts, through slander or silence. All commentators shout out the same stupid questions that only intellectuals can pose, with the all too abvious aim of creating confusion. They only differ in the manner by which they ask the State to crush the revolt. At one scheme, Le Figaro calls for a tighter clamping down upon prisoners, and harps ceaselessly about supposed government inaction. At the other extremity, Liberation joyfully supports a government which talks

of reforms, and waxes eloquent over the cultural gadgets by which the government hopes to cool the jailbirds anger.

The prisoners struggle totally concerns us We distributed a folder in June 1985 which echoed and amplified the prison mutineers demands, in the spirit of the revolt itself. To our knowledge, this is the only document which clearly took the side of the revolt, without the embarassed excuses put forth by the militants of all types. The 4 demands stated were those of the mutineers, expressed in the rare tracts to filter out, and expressed in their actions. A certain number of people then created a scandal, particularly by disturbing rail traffic throughout the country. They thus gained publicity for the demands which had been denied up to that point, and give justice to the reality of the revolt.

The hostility of the media has been systematic from the beginning. All have spoken of 'outrages'. Calling a barricade on a railway track, or breaking a signal light an 'outrage' is not only a monstrous exaggeration, but also a means of encouraging repression by assimilating all expressions of solidarity with 'terrorism', a fortiori, to speak of 'rail terrorists' as some journals have done is very low. One paper even spoke of travellers taken hostage after an action involving the Trans Europe Express. Speaking of hostages, how about the 25,000 in preventative detention? Organised 'vandalism' would be more

precise. We use the means of action of any proletarian: sabotage and vandalism. We don't carry out symbolic actions, we create disorder like workers in struggle are currently doing, blocking roads and railway lines, stopping TV transmitters etc.

The principal characteristic of the actions from mid May to mid June was simplicity. The Paris-Brussels TEE was stopped by a very simple procedure which changed a signal light to red, 15 people were enough to stop this important train, spray-paint the demands of the May rioters, break the windows to distrib ute tracts. The customs officials and plain clothes policemen in the front car did nothing to oppose this. The system of signals of the high speed TGU was sabotaged by a mere hammer; on various rail lines, electrical boxes were burnt with a bit of petrol.

We have recently received a list of deaths in British jails from April 1985 to August 1985. They say there were probably more: Thomas Peter Baines, 35, remand prisoner found hanged, Armley Prison, Leeds, 7th May.

John Andrew Bayford, 28, remand prisoner, found hanged, Armley Prison,

16th May. Stanley Buchanan, 25, in the first week

of a six year sentence, found hanged, HMP Barlinnie, 2 June.

Colin Davis (or Davies), 31, found hanged HMP Maidstone, 16th June. Douglas James Dean, HMP Wandsworth,

15th April. Verdict: Killed himself due to lack of care.

Albert Flint, 79, life sentence prisoner, found drowned in bath, HMP Preston,

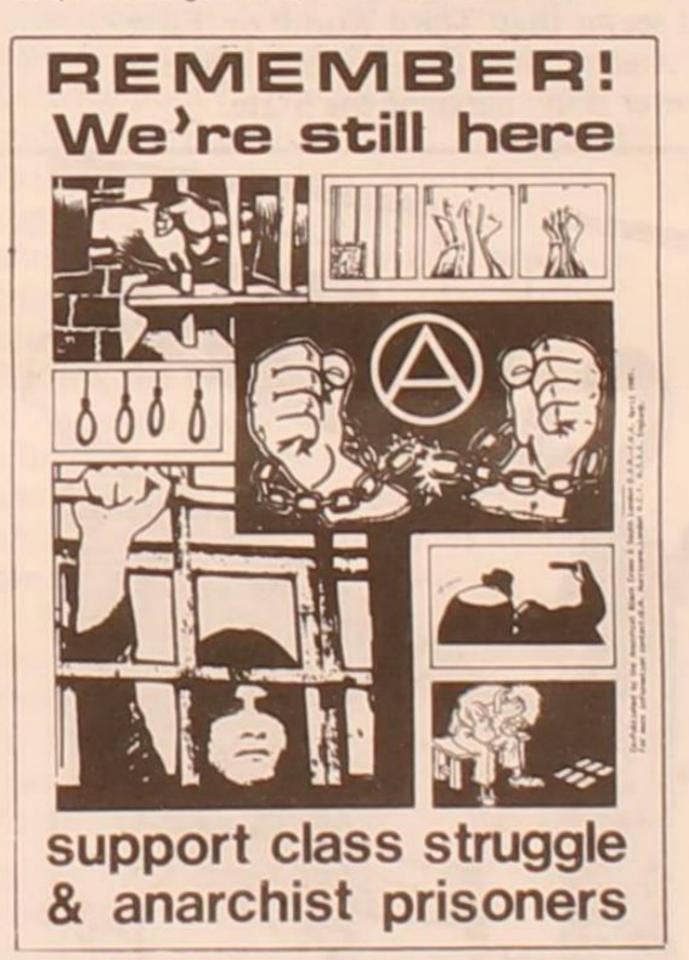
France - The Truth About Prison Revolts

Straw burns well in summer as a Toulouse chair maker who used to make his profits from the sweat of prisoners found out. At Nantes, the printing press which handles the national press for the western regions was sabotaged when sand, gravel and nails were introduced into the compressors that feed the printing cylinders. In Paris, two Metro lines were shut down by the simplest of techniques; throwing worksite material on the tracks.

Each time every precaution was taken to see that the safety of travellers was not menaced. This is why we did not stop the high speed train (TGU) in the same manner that we stopped the TEE train. We thought it too dangerous to brutally stop a train as fast as this one, so we sabotaged material to to disrupt traffic instead.

Emboldened by the arrest of 4 people at Rouen at the beginning of July, the specialised liars went one step further in their hypocrisy: they insinuated that these 4 could have been responsible for the derailment which took place 3 days after the action of the 'hoboes of the val du Seine' on the Paris-Havre line. The press announced that they had burned some signal boxes which resulted in the accident. But as the railway company itself has stated on numerous occasions, this could not have had dangerous consequences for the safety of passengers because the destruction of any signal boxes automatically causes all railway signals to go red so that all trains coming into the sector stop, and then proceed at greatly reduced speed (about 20 m.p.h.)

There is no way that the 'hoboes of Val du Seine' could have been responsible for the accident yet they have been accused of the destruction of materials which could endanger lives, a criminal offence.



Channel 2 and France-Soir have gone out of their way and push these slanders to the limit, with the aim of frightening off those who might be tempted to carry out such actions in the future.

In Paris, the underground was interrupted at two different places simultaneously on the morning of Friday the 12th. That night Le Monde and France Soir announced that the saboteurs had left tracts signed by 'Black Order'! this is not true. This can only be police provocation, as they were the first on the scene.

'Black Order' is the name used by the Italian Secret Services when they set off murderous bombs in the station at Bologna a couple of years ago. One can see the sort of analogy that they were trying to set up. Despite the formal denial that evening

Mario Armando Gambone, 54, life sentence prisoner, found dead in bed, HMP Long Lartin. 6th August. Matthew Gilmour, 24, remand prisoner, found hanged, HMP Winson Green, 15th

Mark Anthony Hall, 21, serving 9 months, found dead in cell, Guernsey Prison. Aug. Keith William Hicks, 38, remand prisoner, died due to status epilepticus, HMP Brixton, 12th March.

Kenneth Isherwood, 47. Found 'not lucid' at court and remanded for his own safety. Found hanged, HMP Perth 26th

John Jackson, 18. Collapsed during training at Wellingborough Youth Custody Centre, 26th May. Verdict: Natural causes. Chittananjan Joshi, 31, awaiting extradition to USA, found hanged. Pentonville,

France-Soir took up this blatant fabrication in its edition of the following day. After they first asked if we were terrorists or jokers with poor taste, the specialists of lies went from insinuation to accusation. This is not surprising in a social system whose survival depends upon the police and the lie. They speak of 'mysterious groups' behind all of this. A pretentious ignoramus in France-Soir that 'these groups recruit members of left-wing anarchism, the fringe between delinquency and terrorism.'

One can hope that because of the revolt there will be a b reath of fresh air. We know to what point the socialists are contemptuous of everyone. But what can one hope from the State, beyond blows or lies? And what

can we hope from a shit like Mitterand, who, as Minister of the Interior, gave the orders to fire on striking workers in 1955 at Nantes. 'Everything that crawls the earth is

ruled by blows'. Our solidarity to the 'hoboes of the Val du Seine,' and to the mutineers of Chaumont, Lyon, Douai, Eureux, and any others. Early August 1985. Os canganceiros

Letter From a US Prison

Dear friends,

Many thanks for your letter and the publications sent. I am very impressed with Black Flag; it is as much as I had expected and more. What puzzles me is why there isn't a comparable publication on this side of the Atlantic?

Open Road approaches it in international coverage, but is only published sporadically. Bulldozer rivals it in quality, but is primarily concerned with prisons and prisoners, it is also irregular. Of the North American publications I have seen which admit to an anarchistic viewpoint, they are either primarily fan magazines with band interviews and reprints from European magazines, e.g., Black Flag; or they are all wrapped up in theoretical dialecticism and are seemingly oblivious to what is presently happening in the world.

Perhaps my problem is that I chose to adopt a world view, believing that none of us should be sidetracked by patriotism, nationalism, or sectarianism. Anarchists throughout the world should be continually aware of their counterparts activities to be better able and prepared to work jointly toward a common goal. For myself, I am less interested in defining the theoretical reasonings underlying the basic tenets of anarchism than I am in achieving viable progress towards a stateless, classless world community.

As for my present location, the jail is about 50 miles east of Los Angeles and so is guite a distance from San Francisco and even further from Eureka. However, I welcome letters from anywhere and appreciate the opportunity that such contact presents in broadening my knowledge and understanding of the movement. For my part, I make it a point to circulate publications that I receive amongst as many prisoners as possible, hoping in this way to justify the expense of their being sent to me.

If you could send me the following two DAM publications, which I read prisoners can get free, IWA Today and IWA: Principles, Aims & Statutes, I would certainly appreciate it.

It may interest you to know that the September 23rd edition of Black Flag was temporarily withheld by prison



authorities. This is nothing new and has occurred in the past with other publications sent to me. It is my determination that shock value plays a large part in such actions. In this case, the headline Why Not Riot? was no doubt initially viewed as a call for prisoners to riot. Such simplistic, albeit warped reasoning and its ramifications is a prime example of the evilness that permeates the prison system and just exhibits the mentality which seeks to deprive others of their freedom.

Hope to hear from you again, Leonard F. Tate C-36957, Dorm 31 P.O. Box 3535, Norco, CA 91760 USA

Deaths In Custody

2nd January. Verdict: suicide. Roy McInnes, 31, remand prisoner, found hanged, HMP Strangeways, 10th April. Graham Neale, 31, remand prisoner, found hanged, HMP Lincoln, 6th June. Patrick Joseph O'Neill, (aka Joseph Naylor) found hanged, HMP Brixton, 12th May. Verdict: suicide. Philip Rapier, 19, found hanged HMP Swansea (third hanging at the prison in a year). Open verdict, but coroner considering new inquest after reports that death linked to solvent abuse. Harold Roberts found hanged, secure unit, Prestwich Hospital, where he was transferred from HMP Strangeways after

8 months on remand. Family blame delay for his death. Eusif Ryan, died 28th May, HMP Wandsworth.

Thomas Sharp, serving two years, died from perforated ulcer, HMP Bedford, 9th

John Joseph Sinclair, 32, serving 8 years, 'found dead in cell', HMP Barlinnie, 20th May.

David Brian Sollars, 21, remand prisoner, found hanged, HMP Durham, 31st July. In addition there has been at least one death in military detention: a soldier (name unknown), found hanged in the guardroom of his Berkshire garrison. And at least two Special Hospital inmates have died: Christina Hagland hanged herself in Broadmoor on 8th March (see Women in Prison, 1985 No.1); and Veronica Greaves, 28, 'chroked on her own vomit' in Moss Side. The inquest on 4th April returned an open verdict.

INTERNATIONAL

USA

NUCLEAR PRIDE

Richland, Washington State, is a strange town and so are many of its people. The town is dominated by the Hanford Nuclear Reservation plant, which produces plutonium for nuclear warheads.

13,500 work at the plant and they all parade a pride in their work. This pride is reflected in the local community where one of the local high school sports teams calls itself 'the Bombers', a local Holiday Inn hotel serves a speciality sandwich known as a 'meltdown'. A local municipal symbol is that of a mushroom cloud.

Yet apart from all this pride and paraphenalia, the people of Richland seem just like any other folk in any other provincial city in the States.

On the whole the people of Hanford either support their nuclear plant or are indifferent to it. One person commented that 'we don't make bombs here, but we do make plutonium which is going to be used in bombs'. The commentator is a local Public Relations expert.

The Hanford Reservation includes a 100 person security force, armed with sub-machine-guns, helicopters and the usual hi-tech surveillance. Also a dump for a massive 60% of the USA's nuclear weapon's wastes. In the future Hanford is likely to become the prime nuclear dump for all US nuclear waste - that

is commercial, up to 77,000 tons a year. In addition Hanford includes a plutonium production and experimental plant three nuclear power plants (servicing the Washington State area), an animal laboratory for experimentation purposes, and a 120 mile wildlife reserve to test for the effects of radiation.

The largest Hanford contractor is Rockwell, with another seven contractors handling the rest of the work. The reserve is so large, spread out over such a wide distance that it takes some of the workers two hours to commute each day to their place of work from where they live, even though the plant is their 'neighbourhood' factory.

GREECE STRIKES A LA CP

HUndreds of thousands of Greek workers went on strike to protest against 'socialist' government austerity measures, attending rallies and marches throughout Greece lead by the Communist Party. Like in France the CP wants to share State power and, frozen out, is playing its union cards. GERMANY

STRIKES A LA SOCIALIST

West German trade union ended a week of protest against unemployment - now standing at 2.2 million – with rallies in 17 major cities attended by more than 600,000 workers. In this case the strikes are manipulated by Socialists who have under Kohl gone into opposition.

ARGENTINA STATE OF SIEGE

President Alfonsin has declared a State of Siege in response to numerous bombs set off by right-wingers whose military Leaders are currently on trial for crimes committed during the 'dirty war' when 10,000 people (largely union organisers, student agitators, witnesses to kidnappings and in some cases people who tried to claim they were apolitical and it was a mistake - they still got tortured!).

The former Argentine President, Jorge Videla, one of those on trial for human rights violations, was taken to hospital for stomach pains, a day after hearing the proesecution demand he be gaoled for life.



PAGE 4 BLACK FLAG

Pay is top rate, ranging from around \$25,000 to \$70,000 a year. Hanford demands loyalty from its employees, not only to the firm, but also to the nuclear ethos – and usually gets it. The fear is that without Hanford there will be mass unemployment and lower standards of living.

The firm never lets standards get low, disloyalty to the plant is equated with disloyalty to Richland, a sort of localised treachery seen as treason. Many plant workers have succeeeded in rationalising away the terrible work they do by persuading themselves that they are the peacekeepers and real pacifists of the world, helping to keep the balance of power.

Nevertheless there are some dissidents in the area. One such person is Larry Caldwell, who formerly worked at the plant. Caldwell now specialises in taking visitors on tours of the area, pointing out the pro-nuclear symbols everywhere. He claims that bringing in another waste dump wouldn't raise one complaint from the locals, but try fooling with the local TV stations. . . One of the Caldwell stopping points is the local United Protestant Church which fronts a modernistic sculpture depicting graceful humans floating amongst giant atoms; the Church once sported the slogan, 'Where the atom is split, the Church unites'. (Similar it seems to a sort of 'devil worship' - if you give it your loyalty then you get protection in return). Sunday attendance at the Church is good and boasts one of the best attendances in rank order for the country as a whole.

Despite the high wages and secure employment, the local area is suffering from rising unemployment -15%, while the national average is around 7.3% (based on government figures). The Hanford Plant uses the fear of unemployment to its advantage. As the main financier for the area, the firm demand for loyalty seems to have paid off, but to talk of the high price would be an understatement of horrendous proportions.

Richland, a real nice place to raise your kids up cancerous.

FRANCE

ACTION DIRECTE BOMBINGS Details have not yet been confirmed about a bombing, allegedly claimed by Action Directe, the France-based left guerrilla group, of a Paris office of an airline with connections to South Africa. The bombing took place in the early hours of October 19th. No people were injured.

A week earlier Action Directe claimed responsibility for bombs that damaged the headquarters of the French Broadcasting Office and the offices of Antennae 2, a State-owned TV channel. Again no people were hurt. The attacks were carried out because air-time was to be given to the Franch fascist leader, Le Pen. Action Directe put out a statement accusing the Government of trying to use Le Pen to divide the working class by racism.

LE PEN OFF THE AIR!

Two French commercial radio stations have banned the fascist Le Pen until he apologises to Jewish journalists whom he accused of being 'anti-French agents'.

ZIMBABWE

SQUATTERS HARASSED

In Harare cops raided squatters camps on 20/10/'85, setting fire to the shanty town and arresting 1,000 people. Young and old men, women and children, beggars and in some cases commuters to work were all locked up in Chikurubi maximum security jail where they were screened for resettlement to rural areas where poverty has in fact driven many on the road already.

Previous attempts to stop squatter camps using armed police, soldiers and bulldozers have failed. Huge housing waitng lists and 1 in 8 unemployment have ushed many to desperation for survival.

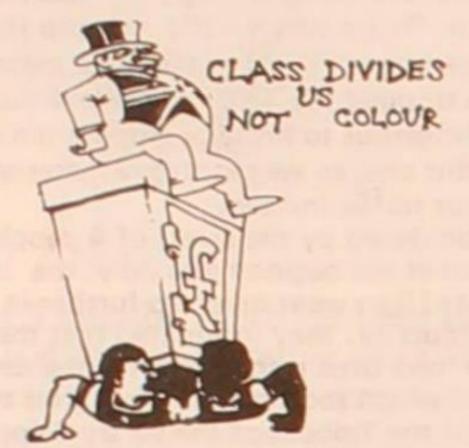
CHILE

Birdshot, tear-gas and water cannons were used to break up protestors at the funeral of a trade union organiser. Twenty people were arrested.

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO SCABS FIREBOMBED

At Port of Spain, South Trinidad on the 15th of October, two company executives had their homes firebombed. The two are amongst thirty who have returned to work at the Caribbean Tyre Company that has been closed for 4 weeks after resistance to redundancies.

Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU) organiser George Weekes claimed that the arson attack was an attempt to get police involved in the industrial dispute. The OWTU is also in dispute with Metal Box Trinidad Ltd. and Caribbean Packaging Industries.



ZIMBABWE

WORKERS OCCUPATION

Springmaster Zimbabwe furniture factory workers face mass redundancy after the Courts ruled against the workers who are in occupation of company buildings.

Bruce Grant, Senior Manager was beaten up by the factory workers, company cars were taken and the premises ran without 'managers' in response to the bosses plans. The bosses, fronted by Robin Beazley want to sack 700 workers once they have been evicted from their occupation.

It seems that 'Third World' or 'First' the 'streamlining' of workforces goes on whoever is in charge of the State.



STATE SALAMI TACTICS It is five years since the Gdansk Agreement between Poland's communist Govt.

and the workers' Interfactory Strike Committee. At the governments' insistence the final text of the 'agreement avoided the workers' original '21 Demands'.

Five years later, virtually the only undertaking the Government made at Gdansk which it is still honouring is the committment to broadcast Mass on Sunday through the State controlled.

On the night of December 13th, 1981, 15 months after Solidarnosc's formal inauguration, the regime carried through a well-prepared swoop on the entire national and regional organisers, 'interning' some 10,000, seizing all Solidarity's offices and assets, violently suppressing the strikes that ensued, imposing unprecedented restrictions on every detail of daily life.

The Military cultivated good realtions with the Church, reaffirmed the peasant's right to private farming, and made efforts to woo the disaffected intelligentsia, and gave the workers a State run 'union'. It even implied that Solidarity itself might be restored with Walesa at the helm. Thus 'salami tactics' – slicing the enemy off by stages – was its programme.

Since 1984, the regime has pursued an increasingly repressive policy towards not just Solidarity but also the Church. The murder of Father Popieluszko in October 1984 led initially to hopes of liberalisation when the trial of his security police assassins was announced. But, the conduct of the Trial, subsequent similar attacks on

FRANCE

CGT – CP FLEXES ITS MUSCLES Frances largest union group the CGT, which was originally syndicalist until it was hijacked by the Communist Party, held a series of strikes recently.

On 24/10/'85 power and transport workers went on strike against 'Socialist' Government policies causing power cuts. The one day of action was not joined by CFDT Socialists and the autonomous Force Ouvriere workers.

The CGT strike at 4 Reanault Stateowned car factories collapsed earlier that week; and riot police broke up sit-ins at 3 motor accessory factories belonging to the Ducellier group, near Issoire which had been occupied for a month, in protest at 700 redundancies.

The CGT claims 2 million members but admits membership is falling (to one million in the last 10 years) it dropped a general strike call, opting for short demos or for delegates (printers, seamen, social security workers, ship builders) to a Paris demo. Civil servants, postal workers, ports railways and the energy industries were affected. Private industry was business as

The CGT Leader Henri Krasucki is in the hot seat to rally Communist Party members to its November Congress and the March General Elections.

Like the recent CP strikes in Spain it is in response to not having State power shared with the Socialists, manipulating worker's frustration into voting. Instead of direct action which, organised from below is syndicalism, bureaucrats go for such 'days of action' to political power ends. In Britain the TUC Labour Party 'Day of Action' is a caricature of the term usually ending with Politicians speeches.

clergy and oppositionists by 'unknown assailants' dissolved these hopes.

On July 25th the Government brought down a new Law on Higher Education via the pliant Sejm (parliament) which made it possible for 'inconvenient' staff and students to be dismissed at will.

Fear of 'undisciplined' popular response to the October 13th Elections led to the date being pushed further and further ahead. Solidarity called for a boycott and the turnout was lower than the State had hoped, despite its arrests of remaining Solidarity organisers and hostage-style use of prisoners (many of whom were beaten up). The pro-totalitarian norm of 99.9% ritually claimed elsewhere in the Soviet bloc was not achieved in Poland in June 17th, 1984 either when local elections had a 75% official, 55% Solidarity turnout.

Opposition remains strong and widespread. There are some 3,000 regular underground publications in circulation, in addition to 'illegal' books, audio and video cassettes.

An extensive boycott of the official trade unions and official cultural life continues. Independent cultural activity now flourishes in private homes where selfeducation groups meet and underground art exhibitions, poetry readings, plays and cabarets are staged.

Opposition activities which were the preserve of a few hundred, perhaps a few thousand, in the late 1970's, now involve at least a million 'conspirators'.

Despite all the jailings, sackings and repressive violence, covert and overt, the regime is only just keeping its head above the rising tide of working class anger. The past few years have seen good

harvests and a certain limited stabilisation after the four successive years of decline in national product from 1979 to 1982.

But, the economic stability is as shaky as the political. Living standards are now officially down by some 20-25 per cent over the 1970s (and by more than that according to local people). Industrial pollution is severe and causes widespread alarm. Poland's international debt burden and other economic problems have evolved into a 12 year cycle of crisis, indeed the whole Soviet bloc (1956, 1968, 1980 next...)

The 'state of war' has merely been replaced by a state of siege, a temporary stalemate which could be disturbed by almost anything – an ill-judged policy, a surge of hope, a bad harvest, a football match, police-state brutality incident...

CHILE

JAIL BREAK - 8 PRISONERS MURDERED

8 prisoners died and 30 were injured in an escape attempt from the Santiago prison. A guard was taken hostage and he died in a 90 minute shoot out between guards, police and prisoners. Many of the 1800 inmates were involved in the attempt.

Among those killed was Victor Manuel Zuniga an alleged member of the underground Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) who was being tried for the 1980 execution of Colonel Roger Vergara the Head of the Army's intelligence Unit school.

Seriously wounded was Jorge Palma Donoso, one of 3 MIR militants held in jail accused of murdering Major General Carol Urzua, the Military Governor of Santiago, in 1983.

Meanwhile the evidence at trials into deaths squad murders/disappearances kidnappings - currently under way is naming more and more victims and their torturers; raising fears of an Argentine style chain of revelations implicating the Military and Police.

IAPAN

NARITA STRUGGLE CONTINUES

Protesters armed with steel pipes, petrol bombs and stones fought riot police near Tokyo's Narita airport where a planned second runway -threatening farm land is to be built. The anti-airport Farme 's Union said 4,000 marchers demonstrated and 200 were injured, 240 arrested.

A parked lorry disguised as a fireengine burst into flames in front of the airport control tower.

The number of arrests was the highest in any anti-airport protest since Narita opened in 1978, a decade late because of effective disruption by protesters. EUROPE

BOYCOTT GROWING

Swedish, Danish, Norwegian and Finnish trade unions have closed their region to distribution of South African goods. The boycott begun by dockers and now with Postal workers taking action later this month is spreading. Sweden trades some \$245 million with South Africa.

The British and West German sections of the International Transport Workers Federation are obstructing a call for a Europe wide blockade of South African goods. Protests to: ITWF 133 Great Suffolk Street SE1 01-4032733 180 Borough High Street SE1 378 7348.

INTERNATIONAL - EXTRA FRENCH CONNECTION THE

All the allegations of State terrorism have now been proved with the forced admission by the French authorities that the 'Warrior' was bombed by the DGSE on the order of Hernu & La coste and that a massive cover up had followed.

With Defence Minister, Hernu, now forced to resign, the sacking of DGSE Chief, Lacoste, and the general purge of the DGSE (although no justice levied against the actual perpretators of the bombing), the affair is likely to escalate not diminish, with the pressure on the French Government to relinquish their claims on their colonies in the Pacific. Behind the conspiracy to sabotage the Rainbow Warrior lay also the wider strategy of destroying the anti-colonial rebellion, not just in New Caledonia, where the pre-planning for the bombing took place, but also in Polynesia.

Hernu, a son of a policeman and a free-mason, was the Defence supremo of the Socialist Party. It was he who was responsible for the setting up of a European Rapid Action Force, which could be used as a reserve force to be flown to Third World 'hot-spots'. Hernu was also the most committed member of the government to maintaining the nuclear supremacy.

The defence of colonial and nuclear interests were all part of Hernu's Defence strategy. The conspiracy against Greenpeace involved Ministers at the highest level and the sanctioning of Defence policy in relation to the maintainance of French interests in the South Pacific and the nuclear deterrant, was approved all the way to the top. The bombing of the Rainbow Warrior by the DGSE was an example of 'pre-emptive action'. The murder of Fernando Pereira, the Portuguese born photographer on board the Rainbow Warrior, was a liability which the French authorities were prepared for; indeed the original objective was to 'neutralise' as many of the vessels' crew as possible.

Several weeks before the bombing, the DGSE reported to the Ministry that there was a possible invasion planned by Polynesians on Mururoa Attoll, the nuclear test site. The French feared that the Polynesian islanders would gain the positive propaganda value from any protest they launched. Also their action might well encourage solidarity from

INDUSTRIAL

As we go to press, five members of the SNIPT, the national union of employees of Air-inter (French international airline) are to appear before the courts at Creteil for interference with the free circulation of aircraft on 19th Sept. Following an interview heard over Radio Libertaire, we thought it important to sketch the development of this conflict opposing a certain type of syndicalism to both bureaucratic unionism and to the bosses.

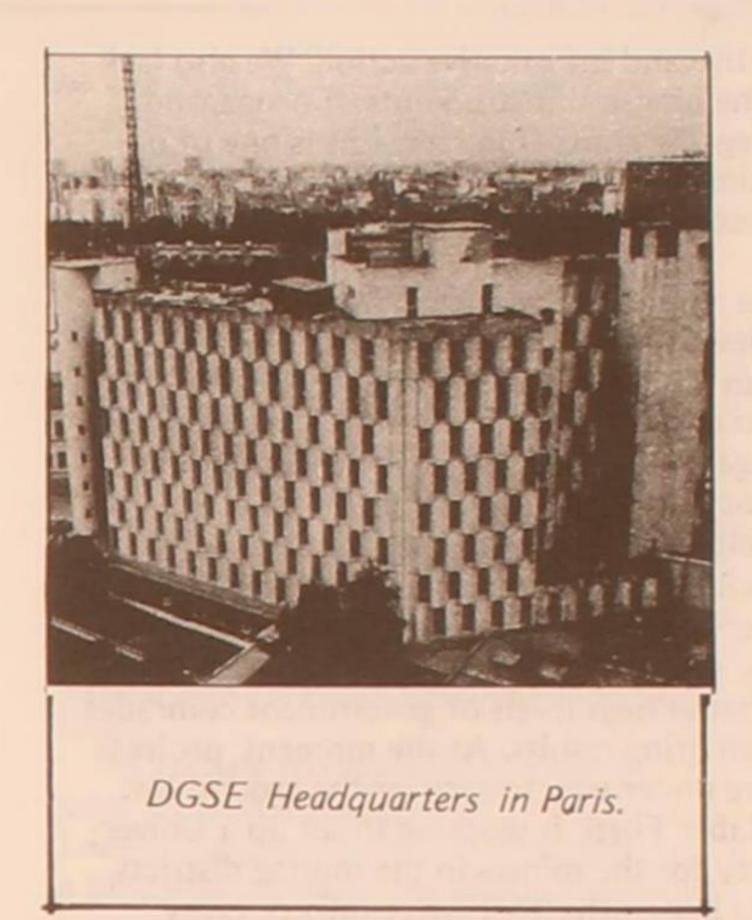
Why the SNIPT?

Since its foundation in 1968/69, and up until 1981, the CFDT section at Air-inter never had any real problems, since it was very close to the workers especially the ones who were worst off, regularly leading struggles over salaries, purchasing power, working conditions, etc. With the arrival of the Left in power in 1981, the militants of the section, reassured by the support of the rank & file, who saw no need to have their salaries and purchasing power cut (among other things), found themselves in opposition to the CFDT representatives who put forward the 'new solidarities' philosophy which meant wage restrictions etc. (A phenomenon which was, unfortunately not restricted to Air-inter and which

certain CFDT militants opposed at the

In this context the SNPTAP (National Parisian union of Private Air Transporters) let it be known that it intended to play a role in the running of Air-inter. We should point out that up until now the union had not participated in the running of the company, its role was to negotiate agreements concerning the whole profession, leaving internal affairs of each company to the concerned sections.

At the same time, the Air-inter section continued to agitate around basic demands and, as a result of the support it was then receiving, became a danger to the SNPTAP From then on, there was but one solution for the union and its federation (the FGTE the General Federation of Team and Transport, through which the SNPTAP participated in the CFDT confederation): to exclude these militants who were becoming an embarassment and interfering with the politics of collaboration. The union and the federation tried twice to have the secretary and treasurer of the section expelled but these moves were overwhelmingly rejected by the membership. However they were expelled at a congress some six months later, after having 3 minutes each to 'defend' themselves.



other islanders in the area. The main fear, though was that islanders from the different Polynesian islands, together with islanders from Espirito Sancto, would join forces with the rebel movement in New Caledonia to organise against the French colonials. That fear still remains.

The indigenous islanders on New Caledonia, the Kanaks, have over the years been supplanted by French settlers (called Caldoches), who now form 51% of the islands' population. These settlers consist mainly of diehard colonialists, fascist exiles, members of the French underworld fraternity and mercenaries. New Caledonia is also a safe Gaullist seat. DGSE interests are, and have always been, to retain New Caledonia as a base for organising mercenary activity. It has also acted as a haven for rightists who, for various reasons, find it politically unsafe to remain in France. In May, earlier this year, several hundred riot police and troops were sent to New Caledonia to quell a rebellion. The main resistance organisation is the FLK (Kanak Liberation Front), a socialist, but not Marxist, organisation. Its socialism, is more libertarian than European variants.

Recently support for the Kanak movement has been organised in France by several anarchist organisations, including some sections of the French Anarchist Federation, with propaganda support from anarchist publications

like IRL and Agora. The anarchists joined forces with other libertarian groups to form an alliance to promote the Kanak cause and about a month before the bombing of the Rainbow Warrior, and in protest at the airlift of the troops and riot police, the alliance organised a mass demonstration in Paris.

The Kanaks, of course, have their own anarchist tradition, of which Louise Michel (who was exiled on New Caledonia after the Paris Commune in 1871, for several years, and assisted in a Kanak rebellion against the Colonialists) played a part. Currently the French are debating the pros and cons of granting independence to New Caledonia. The DGSE and the right generally are, of course, opposed to granting independence, while the Left fear that granting them independence may cost votes.

That attack on Greenpeace took place because of the threat to nuclear testing primarily, but also because the DGSE allegedly believed that the sortie of the Rainbow Warrior would be used by Polynesians as an excuse to stage their 'invasion'. The man the DGSE eventually assigned to organise the actual bombing was Lieutenant-Colonel Louise-Pierre Dillais (also known as Philippe Dubast and who went under the name of Dormond while staying in New Zealand , the head of the Aspretto sabotage base. Dillais is known to have been in contact with the Ouvea crew (the team that brought over the explosives from Noumea) while staying in his hotel in Aukland. He left New Zealand with the Ouvea crew (three frogmen from Aspretto and a Dr Mauiguet, a French Army reservist who had hired the boat) once the explosives had been handed over. Later Dillais flew to Tahiti under the name of Francois Verlon. He has not been seen since. The three frogmen returned to Paris.

The two-man crew who placed the actual explosives on the Rainbow Warrior are believed to have been paid off a sum of £20,000 each and are now living in Guinea, the site of the French rocket pad, visited by Mitterand only one day before his recent visit to the Muuroa Attoll. The two - a staff seargeant and a captain from Aspretto made their escape via Sydney. Altogether the New Zealand authorities believe there were around 20 French agents assigned to the bombing.

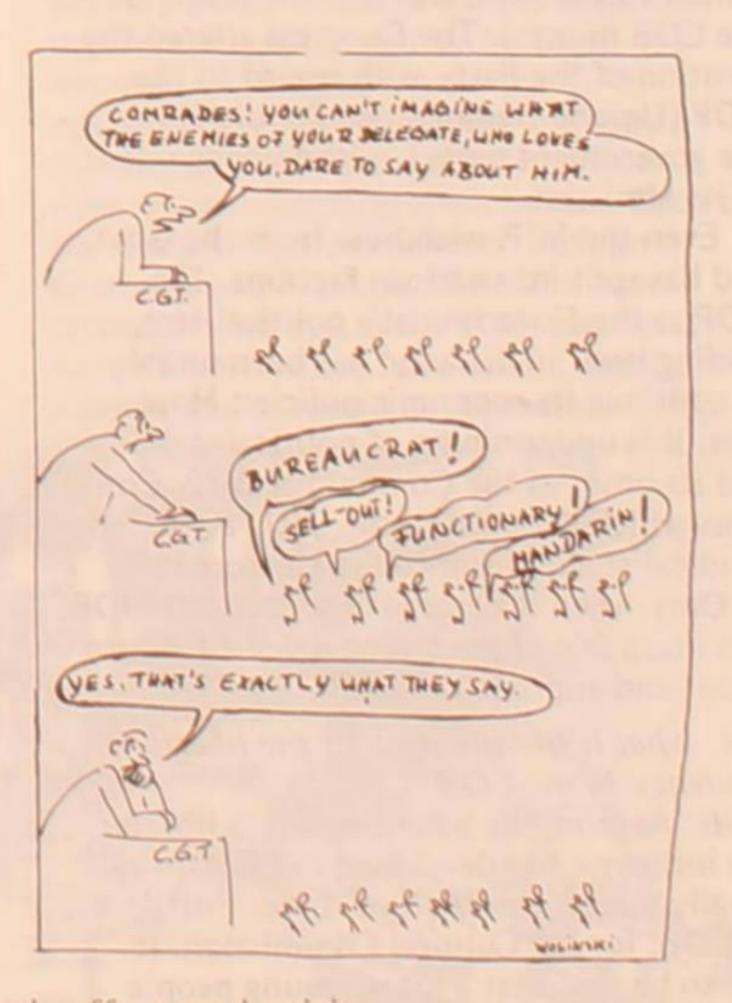
FRANCE - AIR WORKERS STRIKE

The exclusion of these militants presented the section with several options: join the CGT (communist) or FO ('independ ent'), give up on unionism or create a new independent union. In June 1984, this last option was adopted at a general meeting: the SNIPT was created.

The Trial

The accusations against the five SNIPT members go back to February 1983 (when they were still in the CFDT structure) during the very militant strikes on the runways at Orly-west airport, where the CFDT section blocked the planes in the parking area to preven management from breaking the strike using 'yellows'. The five strikers were arrested for this several days later. Two years later they were charged with breaking article L.281-1 of the Civil Aviation Code, an Act intended to stop the actions of armed gangs and air pirates!!!

The trial, which began September 19th was of double importance to the management of Air-inter, since sanctions will not only be taken against the 'accused' (and an independent union a bit too combative will be broken), the judgement will also set a precedent, forbidding workers to go onto the runways during strikes and direct-



ly affect productivity. At the same time, one union proposes to negotiate over the ground where workers can take strike action notably what they can and cannot occupy (the CFDT). This affair is to be followed... Lilliane.

This interview was given by a member of COB (Central Obrera Boliviana) during a visit to Milan, Italy, last Summer. The motives for the COB executive sending their emissaries to Europe was twofold: firstly, to inform people as much as possible of the internal situation in Bolivia, primarily with regard to the 'colonialist' role played by the American and European multinational corporations which control the production of tin in Bolivia. Secondly, their aim was to solicit support for 'COB', to provide them with the means necessary to organise themselves better and thus be able to combat the continual reactionary moves aimed at keeping the country in its characteristically underdeveloped state.

The confirmation of much of what the comrade said to us came this Summer with the nomination of Paz Estenssoro as President of the Republic. Presented as the very defender of democracy against the ex-Dictator Hugo Banzer, it took the new President only a few weeks to put into operation a programme of 'rationalisation' whose only scope was the dismantling of what little the workers and the most dep-rived of the society had obtained through years of struggle.

Naturally the 'COB' is fighting back, and the present situation is very terco. UN: What is the present situation of COB? COB: As from the 6th Congress of COB, it consists of a unified revolutionary executive ('DRU') - something almost unique (in Latin America) in that it groups together almost all the groups of the left (although the pro-Soviet Communist Party is not involved however). This unification is

WITH THE C.O.B. INTERVIEW

LATIN AMERICA

ative and informative action. We also lack the practical instruments of propaganda (eg. libraries) – in fact, this is one of our aims in visiting Europe: to collect the funds necessary for those initiatives.

There are also those communities such as among the peasant farmers who have developed unawares situations of a libertaran kind. With this reality it's thus necessary to empower the present theory and propaganda in order to root our ideas in the social reality of the country. Its effects are felt at various levels: the Minister of Works (killed in an airplane accident in Spain) was very aware of these initiatives, also because he started as a union organiser. This means that at high levels of government comrades can bring results. At the moment, projects are under way to recover the ground lost. 'Liber Forti' is working to set up a University for the miners in the mining districts. Its imperative that we re-inforce every effort and win the maximum solidarity.

UN: Could you tell us something about the present situation of COB and the creation of the 'Majoritarian Commission' (the COMIBOL)?

COB: It needs to be clarified first the economic situation in Bolivia; tin extraction in Bolivia (Bolivia is one of the world's major producers of tin - ed.) costs 25 cents of the dollar for every pound. On the London Market one pound of tin fetches 5 or 6 dollars. Its evident then that the Bolivian workers see only 1/20th of the price, and this creates the gravest problems for the country's development - unemployment, poverty etc. ... With the disasterous economic situation and the daunting foreign debt (when taken with average incomes in Bolivia), it was felt that a new approach to

CENTRAL OBRERA BOLIVIANA "LA EMANCIPACION DE LOS TRABAJADORES SERA OBRA DE ELLOS MISMOS" -----

based on a political and economic plan for the construction of socialism. Internally it's constituted by the Socialist Party, the new MIR (originally Chilean based Marxists who have taken up arms), the philo-Chinese Communist Party (Marxist Leninist), the PRIN, founded by one of the founding members of COB, Lechin, and other groups of varying extraction (among which are libertarians). The philo-Soviet CP was defeated by the formation of the DRU executive and excluded from it. In finding itself thus isolated, it's trying to re-enter DRU and propose a united front against the Right in the next elections (those which in fact saw the triumph of Estenssoro over Banzer – Ed.).

The 'COB' Congress was followed by that of the philo-Soviet CP which elected Simon Reyes (who was also the leader of the COB miners). The Congress altered the position of the Party with regard to the UDP (Unione Democratica Popolare the government party), withdrawing one of its Ministers.

Even the MIR withdrew from the Govt. and has split into various factions. The UDP as the Government's political arm, finding itself in dissaray, has been unable to continue its economic policies. However, this undermining of political stability had its onset at the Communist Party Congress which denounced the DRU as anarchosyndicalist and distanced itself from it.

Only when it became clear that the UDP was incapable of governing did the CP turn about and approach the DRU.

UN: What is the situation of the libertarian tendency in the COB?

COB: As from the 6th Congress, a libertarian influence has developed in COB, principally due to the work of 'Liber Forti', in COB, for its' Cultural Commission. It has to be said that a lot of young people are drawn to the libertarian tendency, and to COB's struggle against the powers-thatbe. There are similar currents in PRIN, and in MIR who accentuate the same tendency in the union. The problems which comrades face are, above all, to do with lack of human resources able to initiate and sustain formthe problems was needed: and so COMIBOL was born.

With the 1952 revolution the problem arose of how to sell and distribute the tin of Bolivia. COMIBOL was encharged with the task of directing the nationalised mines. Responding directly to the Ministry of Mines, COMIBOL was manipulated, from its birth, by a system of 'clientalism' that guaranteed the government freedom of interference from the workers. Only after the fall of the Siles Suazo government in 1980, and thanks above all to the influence of the libertarians in the union, did a situation of parity come about, with the union holding 50%, the government the other 50% of interests. This afterwards was altered to 51% for COB, although nominations for director-general has become a Government prerogative.

COMIBOL then undertakes fundamentally economic programmes, whilst the problems facing Bolivian society are manifold: health; education; labour relations; cultural aspects etc. - one enters thus into a more political dimension in which COM-IBOL has little to say.

UN: What can you tell us of the problems that the Right creates in Bolivia? COB: The Govt, has always been able to control the situation with the armed forces - so much so that when a General (Olvis Arias) was preparing a coup d'etat with the support of the COB (who foresaw the eventual counter-coup), the Government transferred officials and generals in such a way as to break the insurgents network and prevent the coup. The Govt. is well aware that in order to check eventual coups they should give free reign to the cocaine déalers. The various Bolivian coups have, in fact, all had to do with the international trade in narcotics. It must be remembered that this trade represents a substantial source of revenue in Bolivia. It is estimated that with the export of minerals, Bolivia earns \$6 - 700 million per annum; with cocaine some \$5,000 million p.a. From this one arrives at the definition of a criminal government propped up by various

forces, especially the Govt. of Garcia Meza that with a coup seized power (a similar situation subsists covertly in Peru). For the American Govt. the Suazo Govt. was the lesser of two evils; (a card up their sleeves); and then there's always the sanguinary ex-dictator Hugo Banzer, who enjoys some support from Reagan, Paz Estenssoro represents the moderate bourgeoisie who know well that a coup could lead to civil war which, in view of the present balance of powers, would be uncontrollable. As for that matter, Estenssoro took part in Banzer's coup of 1977, and enjoyed positions under that regime. Then followed his violent expulsion and the Banzer-Estenssoro antagonism continues.

UN: On what social institutions can the Right depend?

COB: The 'Right' rests substantially on the bureaucracy (400,000 people), on private enterprises, and the military; taking into account the fact that the total population is about six million and that around 3 million can vote (Campeninos and indios usually don't vote).

UN: Is there an 'Indian guestion' in Bolovia COB: It's entangled with that of the peasant-farmer question, because practically all the Indians are peasant-farmers. Organiz ed on a village communal basis, they have created various movements and parties which have always taken part in the elections, and always in different ways. In the absence of any internal coherence of their own, these these groups have come together in the COB. There is also the tendency represented

by TUPAC Katan, which is racist in so far as it's political premise is the strict separation of the indigenous Indian population, and the preservation of their ethnic integrity, om the whites and mixed races, with the idea of union with the Indians of Ecuador, Peru and so on.

These movements don't, however, possess any real political programme, but act according to circumstances and partial goals. All the same the majority of peasants take part in the COB, but don't vote, or vote only when they are moved to by specific and vested interests in their districts: in effect they constitute a manipulated mass with little political awareness.

UN: In the Garcia Meza coup a group of Italian fascists were implicated. Do these Italians (eg. Delle Chiaie) still have any influence or connections?

COB: The 1980 Meza Coup was backed by the the narcotics dealers, and, through his right-hand man, the paranoical Garcia Gomez, relations with the Argentina military were set up whereby they supplied the technical support for the coup. The objective of the Argentines was to wipe out the leaders of COB and the organizers of the Left in general. On this count though, the Bolivian military weren't in agreement (in fact, the Bolivian military has never been the instrument of such repression as in Chile or Argentina). Repression there was, all the same (two COB leaders died and a political leader in Santa Cruz, mainly against the two weeks of resistance that followed the coup and which ended in failure. The consence was the passing of a security law with the scope of striking at the left union leaders, as in the case of the leaders of MIR who were discovered and killed during a meeting. From then on, repression took very selective forms so as to avoid the possibility of any solid alignment between the Leftist militants and the people, whose reaction to the coup was very muted. In this context Italian and German fascists came into highlight (the most notable German was Barbie, a guest of the Meza regime, who later escaped to France and was then arrested with the advent of Siles Suarzo). The main aim of the Italian fascists was to maintain links between the governments and the narcoticsdealers, managing to sustain relations not only with Garcia Gomez (who was the figure most closely realtes with drugtrafficking) but also with Meza. This tells us a lot about the role played by the Italian fascists. With the collapse of the Meza regime, the Italian police and the American DEA mounted a joint operation

to strike at the apex of the drug operation. This saw the first entry of Suaza who found full support amongst the population for the anti-narcotics campaign, even if, later, it was to take a different turn. UN: What can you tell us about the dispute with Chile over Bolovia's landlocked position?

COB: This situation, from when it arose out of the 'guano' was of 1879, (and which represented at the time a boost to the international market), has always been a flag for the governments to wave when the internal situation gets so bad (all too frequently), that they try to turn the peoples' minds away from it.

The last offer goes back to the Banzer regime and proposed a 'free zone' in what was Peruvian territory (occupied by Chile in 1879) in return for territorial concessions. With this offer (which brought about the fall of Banzer) two unhoped-for advantages were handed to Pinochet, on a silver plate, as it were: a reduction of tensions between Chile and Peru, and the chance to occupy a zone of strategic importance. The deal wasn't finalised, since Banzer offered only compensation for the terrotory to be conceded by Chile, whereas Pinochet wanted something more tangible; and then, Banzer fell from power.

UN: Can we ask you then about the strike that brought about the fall of Siles Suazo? COB: This strike came about through economic and wage claims that could no longer be deferred. Amongst these, the most important was the creation of (one of) a kind of cost-of-living-indexed supplement; linked to the consumer's price index. The minimum salary was about \$25 and provided the the basis for calcualting the devaluation of the Peso, from 25 pesos to the dollar to 150,000 (50,000 according to the official exchange). Other points concerned the nationalisation of foreign trade; oil mining; the distribution of resources controlled by COB etc.

The government as negotiator, offered 3 million pesos as a supplement to salaries to be integrated into wages at a rate of 50%. This proposal was rejected and, with the consequence that the distribution of combustibles was suspended (petrol etc.)

Faced with this renewal of opposition, the government then raised the 'quota of inclusion' to 70%; but even this was rejected, the opposition intensified and communications, internal and international were suspended. The Church intervened at this point, counting on its weight in Bolivian society, and the Government finally offered a 100% on the wage supplement scheme. and co-directorship for COB (at 50%) in all public concerns. After another of the interminable breakdowns in cooperation there was a military operation aimed at preventing 6,000 miners entering La Paz and blockading the streets in protest at the Government. At this impasse the Govt. promised to study a proposed inflationindexed salaries increment with COB who accepted the offer. COB also demanded of the Government a 51% interest in public concerns, but this was a dead letter in as much as the Government lasted only four months and the demand wasn't heard.

COB at that moment found itself at the head of 17,000 miners who wanted to continue the struggle to the end, (in La Paz) but the peasants and industrial workers of 'Coordinadora' accepted the Govt.'s offer and went back to work. COB demanded that La Paz be de-militarised, and the situation returned to normal, in preparation for the elections.

As regards the control of food distribution, COB (even if not officially ratified) has obtained its goal – and that is, that the goods are collected from the factories, sold in the various guarters and the income is deposited in the 'Central Bank' without any Government interference. According to an affirmation made by a Minister in the Suazo Government, if COB were to succeed in this, then 'the government would have no more basis in power. ...'

From UMANITA NOVA No.26 Trans by M.C.

Next issue: Anarchism in Uruguay.

The Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh was not quite right in saying that for the first time a religion has closed down; but the rarity of the gesture makes it the more welcome.

His holy guru-run 'commune' in the state of Oregon has been split by various violent clashes between the Bhagwan and his former disciple Ma Sheela, who has been running an admittedly fascist-style inner force within the holy shrine and has made off with millions of dollars.

The enlightenment and divine spirit always goes for a Burton when too many crooks want to share the broth, and after Ma Sheela and her 'gang of fifteen' made off with the loot amid talk of

murder bids and crooked deals, the Bhagwan said it was over. He was no Saviour: no saviour existed – the only God was a heavy wallet, and he ordered all the holy missals and books to be burned and the religion to end.

It was not quite a sudden degree of intellectual, but financial, enlightenment that caused the burning of the books; for into the flames went the account books with the prayer books, and the money taken from the punters and the money demanded by the tax authorities could no longer be accounted for. Ma Sheela says she was disgusted with the guru's greed and hypocrisy, he says

Introduction to Modern Politics No. 2 Parliamentarianism

Nowadays Speakers Corner at Marble Arch in London is pointed out to tourists as a 'monument to free speech'. It is a monument ; all right; almost the last of the open air meetings once held everywhere and now killed by traffic and television. When it was a bastion of free speech it was harried by the police and under constant threat. Now it is officially recognised it is a farce and tourists wonder what the fuss is about.

Free speech barely exists in public; where people are gathered in pubs it is frowned upon by publicans, the number of halls has diminished almost to vanishing point outside election times; there are no



offical restrictions on free discussion but nowhere to practice it. Radio keeps it on tight control.

Demonstrations are subject to police control and 'protests' are expected to comply with police demands, and though this is often ignored, prosecutions follow.

True, politicians can criticise each other on television. In the normal meaning of free speech, however, we have no more than a relic of it left. Freedom of the press is subject to financial pressure and while one can still say what one wishes in print, the overwhelming impact of the media means that public opinion is fashioned by the few people who control the media, who grant their paid performers the right to put their opinions across, the present an image of public opinion freely debated and concord arrived at without pressure.

We are persuaded we have freedom of speech and press, which is part of the democratic image. If democracy is given its true meaning - rule by the poor (who happen to be usually the majority) - it does not begin to exist in modern society. The 'poor' may no longer be the majority, but they have no voice at all. Their frustration at being unable to change anything at all is sharpened by the need to change things drastically.

If democracy is given the meaning nowadays usually ascribed to it - rule by the majority - they too are totally frustrated since what we have in Britain is an elected dictatorship, in which individual candidates present themselves for Parliament every five years, and people vote for parties (more usually, today, they vote against parties rather than for them. The cult of the Leader, with supreme power over the parliamentary flock, has meant that we have dictatorships curbed only by the ambitions of rivals.

IS PARLIAMENTARISM DEMOCRACY?

The national myth is that Parliamentarism is synonymous with democracy and that it is somehow an opposite to dictatorship. Members of Parliament complacently quote Edmund Burke that MPs are 'not delegates, but representatives' (two other bright ideas Burke had were that lessening marriage ties, and divorce, would means one half of the human race was removed from the protection of the other half; and that it was essential that one should declare war on nations whose governments had contrary ideologies to one's own). Even if one were to admit that this 18th century reactionary politician had somehow the power to bind us for ever to his view that MPs had no responsibility to their constituents but could do as they wished once they got in, this is in contradiction to the view that – 'democracy' – or the rule of the majority - prevails.

The obsession of politics today is the race of become 'representatives'. Once those who had amassed or inherited wealth could spend their leisure acquiring power and prestige by sitting in Parliament, the supply was barely equal to the demand.

It was comparatively easy for lawyers to combine their practice with being advocates in Parliament, and gradually the rule of the lawyers has grown till it encompasses nearly all Parliament. But with the spread of education, and in particular the enormous concentration on the political and social sciences, hundreds and thousands, and it may be tens of thousands, of people are now perfectly well qualified to sit in Parliament if they could get elected. A professional interest in politics pervade those who manage it, and we have the intriguing development of the SDP which is in effect a party of ex-MPs determined to get back to seats they could not retain in the Labour Party, and through which only a handful can get back into Parliament.

Demand has grown in the Labour Party for Black MPs, for women MPs, for younger (and older) MPs; for Asian MPs (it has become customary for them to call themselves 'black' for parliamentary purposes to maximise their appeal). The polytechnics can turn out people by the score who can become MPs. But Parliament can only absorb a few. The competition grows more bitter. The 'democracy' grows much less. For this is 'one-at-a-time emancipation', and does not begin to affect those left out.

Despite all the propaganda we have been subjected to for two centuries, Parliament is now a contest in which people understandably take interest but in which no one seriously expects they can influence except by pressures from outside. It is perception of this fact that makes the Conservatives so bitter when trade unions attempt to do just that and is the reason for anti-union legislation.

COMMENT

Bogwash - Taken to the Cleaners

he was disgusted with her ravages and attempted poisoning of the sect's opponents. When thieves fall out one hears something of the truth. But what is sad is all these young people – the young women chosen for their earthly charms as well as their spiritual assets, their money being an added attraction; the young men lured into giving up all their assets and prospects for the 'Spirit', now thrown out literally into the desert and urgently putting in reverse calls to their parents to come and get them out and into the respectable world from which they will never more seek escape perhaps... Those without ever-loving parents are just not

In Europe the Bagwash sect had a large following. There were a few in London (a stray follower turned up for a Bhagwan concert once but got the wrong night – and expressed amazement when she was told it was a benefit for the Anarchist Black Cross – are these people crazies or what? Isuppose it takes all sorts. Wonder who's missing you now?

In Amsterdam and West Berlin there were huge numbers of the Brainwashed Bagwashed about. In joyful scenes the now liberated Bagwashed danced round the flames as they burned their momentoes of the sect, their photos of the guru, their distinctive orange 'sunrise' (sunset?) dresses. . .

THE END OF A RELIGION Some will drift into other cults. Someone somewhere is sure to be reckoning up the

profits attached to prophets and working out a claim to be the real saviour, and in the tradition set by the Moonies, get in enough punters to ensure that the Messiah is going to travel by Rolls Royce and not on a humble ass.

Some will drift off and become good little citizens, possibly into respectable cults or the established Churches, who are not one whit less crooked, not one whit less divisive, not one whit less hypocritical and calculating, but in the main tradition on which the modern State stands foursquare and protective.

I asked the Indian Anarchist M.P.T. Archarya if he knew of any reason why the Indian gurus held such attraction for those dissatisfied with the established Churches. His words were: The degree of gurus and sublime leaders in proportion to the Indian people is probably the same degree as that of share speculators, fraudsters and journalists in the West. The degree to which the West adopts the standards of India is also matched by the degree in which India adopts the standards of the West. The followers both of Sun, and those of Moon, and the Raajneesh and the Buddhists and Taoists and Divine Way gurus have great attraction to the children of affluence; equally so the stockbrokers, the sharepushers, the Stock Market speculators, have their fascination for the upwardly mobile in the East note how it fascinates the Communist Chinese bureaucracy poised for the takeover of Hongkong!

Psychological Operations

CASE STUDY 6 – SONICS

An international arms dealer, a man named Werbell, who was the owner of the Parabellum Armaments Company, supplied arms to various fascist organisations and security agencies (including the DGS the Spanish intelligence service – who in turn supplied fascist death squads in Spain) in many parts of the world, including Latin America. Werbell had an office in Washington in a building which was also used as a base for a White House hit squad, headed by Lucien Conein (Nixon aide and CIA dirty tricks expert). At one end of the Werbell operations was Robert Vesco (another Nixon business associate and an operative in the Meyer Lansky syndicate). Vesco ran an arms supply business in Costa Rica. During a period in the early 1970's Vesco regularly supplied arms to leftist guerillas on CIA instructions.

The purpose of this was to create destabilisation in the region in order that US military could be called upon to restore the status quo through direct military intervention or stepped up aid.

While all this was going on Werbell was also training the fascist death squad operatives at his school in Georgia, called SONICS (Studies in the Operational Negation of Insurgents and Counter-Insurgents). Those he taught would invariably end up murdering the very guerillas he had been supplying arms to

- C . C . M

via Robert Vesco!

CASE STUDY 6 – GCR

The Guerillas of Christ the King (GCR), headed by Mario Sanchez Corisa, operated in 1977 and specialised in the assassination of the Basque nationalist militarists ETA and bombings of leftist targets. The GCR had close connections with the OAS (the international, mainly French, far-right mercenary network which arose out of the anti-colonial struggle in Algeria), Ordine Nuevo (Italian fascist terrorist organisation), the delle Chiaie network (fascist/intelligence network operatives), etc. The GCR, like the Paladin organisation (see Stuart Christie's Stefano delle Chiaie) acted with impunity and with complete approval and collusion of the State intelligence and security forces.

More recently the GCR role has been taken over by another, similar, organisation, the GAL (see Black Flag No. 140), who are partly financed by mafia operating from Marseilles and by business interests in the Basque country, GAL operatives are armed, trained and supplemented by police and military on both sides of the French/Spanish border. Both the the 'socialist' governments of Felippe Gonzalez and Francois Mitterand have turned a blind eye to the GAL assassinations, of which there have been a significant number and as recent as September, 1985.

