29th March: Bomb attack on the US security office at Giessen causes extensive damage (£22,000)

13th April: A US train is sabotaged near Hanover by a cable placed across the line, and police battle with rioting looters in West Berlin. Both actions are in support of the hunger strikers: "Solidarity with the Starving".

3 fires are started in Luenberg (a flour mill, a snack bar & a carpet shop) in support of the hunger strikers.

17th April: Following the death of hunger striker Sigurd Debus, a 6 kilo bomb explodes in front of the Max Planck Research Institute in West Berlin. Hunger strike supporters smash windows and battle with the police in 3 cities in protest at Debus's death.

15th April: US security office at Giessen demands that the film be shown on TV.

11th May: Heinz Karry, Economics Minister for Energy and Transport, Heinz Nettel, is shot dead by someone using a Nakov pistol.

14th May: 350 squatters battle the Ministry of Interior in attack with Molotov Cocktails. A bomb explodes in front of the Ministry of Labour in Lubeck. 25 bomb threats are made to shops, police stations and court buildings against the "Imperialist pig state of West Germany".

Over the past year or so there have been occasional new items concerning violence, bloody clashes between the forces of "order" and groups of demonstrators and young people. Which just goes to show that all is not well in the beehives of old Europe. In Zurich, at Xmas time, hundreds of frustrated youths smashed windows and plundered department stores in spite of the plenty set about attacking and lootting stores overflowing with what they appear to have been the most alluring consumer goods... and lootting, not for the purpose of purloining them, but in order to destroy them. This was one in a series of confrontations dating back to the summer in Zurich and the closure by the city authorities of a youth centre, which, allegedly, had been a drug centre and a "hotbed" of misfits.

Simultaneously in Berlin the worsening housing scarcity affecting the less privileged, as a result of the brazen property speculation in the older working class districts of the city, spawned a new social movement... the instandbesetzung - or seizure of empty houses for the purpose of renovating them. The word is a play upon the supposed Instandsetzung, or renovation of old apartments, the pretext upon which landlords and large building firms exploit the tenants so that they can "modernise" the old districts with generous government subsidies. The instandbesetzung is the people's reply to this: it means taking the buildings and doing the renovations oneself.

It is estimated that some 80,000 people are presently looking for somewhere to live in Berlin; 70,000 of these are deemed specially urgent cases. Each year the landlords of some 60,000 apartments refuse to renew the tenant's leases. The apartments are left empty to deteriorate so that there will be profit of the need to renovate and thereby claim the grant. Once modernised the flats can claim up to 200% the amount they fetched earlier. The real beneficiaries of the rehabilitation programme are the landlords, estate agents and building firms. Estate agents do a great business selling apartments to builders who modernise them and sell the leases at exorbitant profits.

On the other hand the building of new apartments is practically at a standstill at a time when the government is pouring huge sums of money into the construction of commercial premises. Legislation to protect tenants is debated in parliament and the authorities whose responsibility it is to see that such legislation is observed stand back and watch the stampede to tear down the older quarters of the city.

One of the districts affected by this kiss of death "rehabilitation" scheme is Kreuzberg, beside the famous wall. As the inhabitants of this districts, typical Berlin humour, "what the war could not do, the rubbish collectors and i.e. devastate their district. It is not simply a question of cheap accommodation; what is at stake is something equally important... the quality and style of life in the old districts. Neighbours know one and other and there is a very lively community life.

It has been in Kreuzberg over the past year that the first instandbesetzung took place; empty houses were spontaneously occupied usually by young people determined to fix them up and live in communities. There have only so far have been 20 occupied houses in Kreuzberg but the movement spread like wildfire to other adjacent districts, like Neukölln, Moabit etc. It is presently estimated that in all there are about 50 occupied houses with around 500 residents.

Kreuzberg has also been the scene of the first confrontation with the powers that be. On 12th December the police, in defence of the landlords, the alternative, if any, is to move into some concrete chain town on the outskirts of the city. It is not only live in utter isolation but in areas where the rents are usually higher.

Ways anticipating official reprisals, the occupiers had set up a telephone alarm network by means of which they were able to mobilise friends and sympathisers at short notice. Fleets of taxis crammed with people raced to the scene. Barricades were thrown up... the police made below-churb. Squat & friends retreated, the stonethrowing began and the first casualties were the plate glass windows of the new Kreuzberg shopping centre and the banks and the police (of course). The destruction went on remorseless. They were attacking the symbols of the "rehabilitation alliance" between speculators, the banks and the police.
Meanwhile more cars were arriving bringing whole families, young people, workers. Although many of the residents steered clear of the battle there can be no doubt of the groundswell of sympathy and solidarity by the squatters, since the others too, might at any time come up for the eviction treatment from their landlords.

After 6 hours fighting the tally was 200 injured (some of the injuries among the squatters were serious) several arrests and the aborting of the attempted eviction. The extent of police violence and the manipulation of the media, which sought to explain away the confrontations as the result of the presence in Kreuzberg of Braakers (as the Amsterdam squatters are called)did not succeed in convincing the movement or dividing it.

The movement is a spontaneous reaction, like its counterparts in Zurich and Amsterdam and elsewhere in Germany, against the rampant deterioration of housing conditions in the larger cities. The numbers effectively occupying houses and actively participating in confrontations are small but solid and is much more widespread. A week after the confrontation at Kreuzberg there was a peaceful demonstration of 10,000 people demanding legal recognition of squats and release for those arrested.

The demonstration wound its way around the city centre and finished at Moabit prison. Only recently (early February) the police evicted 15 squatters in Goettingen. Later some of the demonstrators set fire to the police housing offices and smashed the windows of the Christian Democrat headquarters. That same week, in Berlin, there was a further demonstration in support of the squatters. In Berlin, in January, the Social Democrat government forced a resignation and a political crisis sparked by a financial scandal aggravated by the Instantaneous Savings.

The movement continues to spread and the new manifestations are overwhelmed by spontaneous direct actions. Verena Stolcke.

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**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**AZIONE REVOLUZIONARIA**

From 11th February to 19th March Florence Assize Court heard charges against 27iconting of members of the "armed gang" (the state's way of describing a guerrilla group) called Azione Rivoluzionaria. The indictments also referred to "subversive association", possession of weapons, participation in hold-ups etc. Of the 27 accused, 13 were in prison (only one, Giampiero Verdecchia was just set free) whilst the others are still at large. One, Rita Cinto, surrendered herself to the Court whilst the trial was in progress, having been on the run before. The comrades claimed their Guerilla was at different times and their arrests were unconnected.

Rocco Martino, Carmela Pano, Milly Piroch and Gaby Hartwig were arrested on 20th February 1979 after police uncovered guns and explosives in their car. Whilst facing a trial for possession, they admitted their membership of the clandestine guerrilla organisation Azione Rivoluzionaria. As the trial progressed, they refused to answer questions and dismissed their lawyers.

Juan Soto Paillacar, a Chilean anarchist (Pinochet's government called)did not succeed in obtaining 1979 after police uncovered guns and explosives through to his way around the city as Paillacar. So did Davide Fastelli, a Pisa prison doctor who allowed Franco Serrantini to die, untended, of a brain haemorrhage on 5th May 72. Serrantini had been savagely beaten by the police in a demonstraton. Brought to trial Dr Mamoli had naturally been found not guilty.

A.R. has other things to its credit, for example, the distribution of a phoney tract purporting to come from the 3 biggest union groupings (the CGIL, CISL and UIL) calling for a general strike "against torture, special prisons and the reactionary course which some would foist upon the labour movement."

The comrades of A.R. have not left it to the mass media to handle their propaganda. They have issued several theoretical documents and appeals to the movement at large, some of these have been published, by the Anarchist Press - Anarchism, A Rivista Anarchica, ODA - and the Marxist ControInformazione. These are important documents and up to date analyses.

On May 11th this year another trial opened in Florence. Before the court are ex-A.R. people (now Prima Linea) and anarchists like the lawyer Gabrielle Fuga and Monica Giorgi.

**Cirie, known as the “cancer factory” on account of its work hazards; the premises of the Milan daily Corriere della Sera; the Bank of Roma & Ferrari in Rome; the Christian Democrat HQ in Aosta; IBM in Turin...**

The attacks which made the greatest impact in the media have been those directed at individuals. The wounding of Dr Mamoli (1st March 1977) a Pisa prison doctor who allowed Franco Serrantini to die, untended, of a brain haemorrhage on 5th May 72. Serrantini had been savagely beaten by the police in a demonstraton. Brought to trial Dr Mamoli had naturally been found not guilty.

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**ITALY:** Maurice Bignami (29), "most wanted" member of the Prima Linea (Front Line) guerrilla group, was captured in Turin on 5th February in a gun battle, after a robbery of a jewellery store. Bignami, who is wanted in connection with at least 8 assassinations carried out by Prima Linea, declared himself to be a political prisoner when he was arrested. 2 of his comrades managed to hijack a car and escape.
On 13th May, Mario Moretti, reputed Red Brigades leader, suspected of organising the kidnapping of Alco Merco in 1978, was sentenced to 8 years by a Milan court for possession of arms.

**2 JUNE MOVEMENT**

Wanted 2nd June Movement member Hans Peter Knoll (31) was arrested in Australia on 28th February on information from the German police. The statements of those few people brave enough to speak out all agree. They all say that they read an infernally short note by the Argentine police, and that inside the flat surrendered to Ricardo Navarro came the hands in the air. A burst of gunfire cut him down where he stood. They also say, despite the army’s statements there was no policeman killed and that in his place they buried a peasant from Carancho, a MIR and a parliamentary candidate.

24 May

**BOLIVIA**

**LETTER FROM BOLIVIA.**

La Paz 20th January 81.

I write today with news of the massacre which took place on Thursday last. All the information available to date indicates that the government has made up its mind to physically rid itself of the fascists. Regrettably the heat of an exasperated anger and feeling of impotence. The press may try to equate anarchism with murder and mayhem but experience the fascists are the ones to take on. Not very likely, though. So far as I can understand and even come to accept the fascists are the ones to take on. Not very likely, though. So far as I can understand and even come to accept the fascists are the ones to take on. Not very likely, though. So far as I can understand and even come to accept the fascists are the ones to take on. Not very likely, though. So far as I can understand and even come to accept the fascists are the ones to take on. Not very likely, though.

The judge was prepared to grant bail on these charges of murder but the police objected "because of his influence with the youth." The case is clearly political directed against the union once the biggest trade union almost the only one in Catalunya - and a thorn in the flesh of the rival socialist and communist unions.

It is almost certain that this is part of the drive to "purify" the trade union atmosphere and to reduce all unions to a tamed state. It is almost certain that this is part of the drive to "purify" the trade union atmosphere and to reduce all unions to a tamed state. It is almost certain that this is part of the drive to "purify" the trade union atmosphere and to reduce all unions to a tamed state. It is almost certain that this is part of the drive to "purify" the trade union atmosphere and to reduce all unions to a tamed state.

Sand protests to: the General Attorney (citing Juzgado de Instruccion num 7 of Barcelona, summary no. 165/90).

**SPAIN**

**LUIS ANDRES EDO, secretary of the Regional Catalan Committee of the CNT and organiser of the Construction Union in Barcelona, has been in prison since October 1980.**

Of the several people arrested with him only one remains in prison: Jose Ros Fonce. It is clear that Ros is in jail to justify a charge of conspiracy against Edo, who could hardly conspire on his own.

Edo is accused of "common agreement to possess arms, falsify documents, manufacture explosives and propaganda of an anarchist character and maintain subversive contacts."

This is a very ambiguous and cloudy accusation. That Edo maintains "propaganda of an anarchist character" is patent but the police objected that the police (as else where) use the phrase in its fascist connotation - anarchism is criminal of itself.

**THE MASSACRE TOOK PLACE ON 15TH JANUARY. 2 MIR PEOPLE WERE KILLED ON THE SPOT, THEIR BODIES WERE PLACED ON A TRUCK AND TAKEN, ALONG WITH 6 LIVE COMRADES TO THE MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR. 8 HORRIBLY MUTILATED, DISFIGURED CORPSES EMERGED.**
THE ROLE OF LAW OR:

HOW THE RICH EXPLOIT THE POOR
HOW CAPITAL STEALS FROM LABOUR
HOW PROPERTY REMAINS INTACT
HOW THE HUNGRY AND THE THIRSTY GET TRAMPLED ON.

Professor Lombroso expressed a very straightforward view of crime in society, in his book "Thecriminal (1897). An acknowledged expert on the topic, he maintained that the French had no connection with "environmental" factors but was due to the evil doings of the "born criminal". Having established this principle, Lombroso went on to further isolate and identify the physical characteristics of the criminal type. Some of the characteristics he discovered were: thick, black hair; a receding chin; "vacant eyes"; and a meniscus in the face; a disproportionately large skull and so forth. The incredibly-dressed prominently in his various works as being particularly prone to criminal behaviour.

Few criminologists would dare to repeat Lombroso's view today, but fewer still would argue that crime and law enforcement is not so much concerned with morality, ethics or the establishment of a code of social behaviour based on moral considerations but with the self-interest of the ruling class, with a device by which one class establishes and legitimizes its rule over another. And this has always been so.

The development of the law in Europe was always crucially linked with the ruling class. Judges often worked in the courts of feudal kings in return for money, was sought by nobles, who wished to reinforce or claim particular rights over territory. Similarly, the papacy courts in the early middle ages did business on a strictly cash basis. The litigants came to the court (at Rome) paid money for their case to be heard, and went away after the adjudication. Needless to add, the peasantry, tied to the feudal manors were not given the opportunity to resort to the law, even if they had the money. For them justice was still the prerogative of the local lord who presided in his own court.

Another element of the development of law always closely linked with the intimate connection between the secular authorities and the church. Mortal sins, for example, capital crimes. Missing mass on Sundays was a criminal offence, as was swearing, heresy and so on.

In modern society the police force has the role not simply of crime prevention or detection but also of surveillance. The metropolitan police force, the creation of Sir Robert Peel in 1829, was briefed to report on any sign of political unrest within working class communities. The gentry, suspicious of central-government's attempts to displace the parish constables, only agreed to Peel's proposals for reorganising the police, because their political certainty was threatened by working class unrest at the time. They watched nervously as industrialization and urbanization broke down existing social bonds and concentrated large numbers of working people together. They expected that the new police force would be instrumental in retaining the status quo and securing their interests.

Things were simpler in the past. That the law and the law enforcement agencies were employed to ensure that there were no threats to the stability of the state was never in doubt. Everyone knew it; the ruling class openly admitted it. Now of course this element of law enforcement is played down in public. The police and the law are more political. The role of the policeman is to ensure that citizens can go about their business, without interruption from robbers, rapists or thieving and so forth. But it remains that in the final analysis the police role has gone unchanged in all important respects, and the law still aims at safeguarding the rule of property rights of the rich. Poaching, taking fish ponds and deer shooting were all made offences punishable by the severest penalties. The poor, also hit by years of bad harvest and trade depression, were to be warned that they must not let economic desperation drive them to expropriate their better property.

In May, this year, 64 workers at TIME OUT (a London weekly magazine) went on strike over the management's attempt to end an equal pay agreement which had existed since the magazine was founded. In June the owner of TIME OUT, Social Democratic Party member, Tony Elliott, sacked the strikers and had them evicted from the offices in Covent Garden, by some hired thugs.

Since the strike TIME OUT has not been printed and Tony Elliott is said to be losing a great deal of money but that has not deterred him from refusing to come to a settlement. Duncan Campbell, former news editor, says that a new publication is in the offing which will continue Time Out's tradition of combining politics and entertainment guide and equal pay for all workers.

At the moment the sacked workers are looking for financial backing to get the new magazine on the road. We wish them well.
Jose Ros Ponce & Luis Edo -
from BARCELONA PRISON

Just received your letter; you should know already that I am never in poor spirits, no matter what the difficulties may be and I am not about to let things get me down on this occasion. Fortunately there are still many friends such as yourself to take an interest in the case, and although you and I are aware that some have seized upon our difficulty to launch the usual attacks upon us. The attacks are nothing but given our circumstances they have taken a more serious turn.

When first placed under arrest (on 8th October 80) the general impression we had (after police questioning) was that we should be freed in no more than 5 or 6 weeks. Of the 12 originally arrested, five walked free after a preliminary hearing, after spending nine or ten months in custardy. That accounts for why we are terrorists. The attacks are nothing new but a result of our circumstances they have taken a more serious turn. The usual attacks upon us. The police questioning) was that we were expected that, in no time at all, it would be the turn of we two, who remained in prison, to walk free. However there has been no action over being kept in prison:

During all this time we took the view that there was no need to mount a campaign on our behalf, for that would only waste the energies of our colleagues who have other concerns and campaigns to contend with; and frankly we took this view because we confidently expected that the wheels of the judicial process would move faster than 5 or 6 weeks. 'Of the original hearing, after spending six months. 'Of the Ley Antiterrorista" we all expected that, in no time at all, it would be the turn of the two remaining prisoners.

In 1969, under Franco, when just 18 years old, Jose Ros Ponce was arrested, tried, and sentenced for illegal association and propaganda; subsequently he has been prominent in the general activities of the C.N.T. For all of these reasons the forces of repression have stopped us in our tracks. Despite the fact that we were thought to be making demands and bringing moral pressure to bear upon our colleagues, we have not served as a warning to our colleagues.

In this respect we feel that the time has come when we must suggest that we mobilise all of our resources to mount a campaign of propaganda agitation in order to expose the nature of our detention in custody. The charges against us are, to be honest, laughable. The accusations are charges with possession of an unloaded, turn of the century revolver; and I am charged with the possession of one blank pass port and possession of a text (several duplicated pages long) on the manufacture of explosives, received through the post. By contrast much more serious charges were levelled against two of those already released.

And that is precisely what is so puzzling...that we, the only two detained in custody, are precisely the two facing charges which usually result in the release of everyone charged with similar activities several weeks. The fact is perfectly understandable once one considers the nature of the political activities we two - the two who remain prisoners.

Since 1976 Jose has shown himself as one of the foremost reorganisers of the C.N.T.'s construction syndicate in Barcelona. It must be born in mind that the Barcelona Construction Union is the first union to have begun to advocate a break with Convenio Colectivo, a model of labour relations set down by the cartel system's hypocrisy. So many lies. One was only allowed to interpret history or literature according to the official line. We issued pamphlets - we customarily portrayed the USSR as non-communist and non-nationalist, the CP not being a communist party, in so far as all power was in State hands. Communism was to have been a free society.

Q. How did the commune come to be the focus of a political movement? A. There was a lot of discussion in the commune. We talked about the situation in the country, the situation abroad etc. We sensed the extent of the system's hypocrisies. So many lies. One was only allowed to interpret history or literature according to the official line. We issued pamphlets - we customarily portrayed the USSR as non-communist and non-nationalist, the CP not being a communist party, in so far as all power was in State hands. Communism was to have been a free society.

Q. Certain of the main figures in the Left Opposition group have been active since February 76. What was going on at that time? A. Well, on the occasion of the CPSU's 25th Congress some young people brought out the CPSU's 25th Congress and the CPSU's 25th Congress were pro-communist and took a stand in favour of communism with a human face. Then the RPP arrested Andrei, Baznikov and Alexandr Skobov among others. Their attacks had closed the words: "Long live the new revolution". The group was pro-communist and pro-nationalist, but it also contained anarchists and others.

Q. What was the subsequent evolution of the group? A. After the 76 episode, Skobov set up a commune in Leningrad. Among the young people, there were trade unionists, hitchhiking and we had a certain system to help us with that. If you wanted to go, say, from Leningrad to Odessa, we could jet you have some money and some food and a place to sleep. That way you did not discover that there is a commune here and one there, with a network was built up.

Q. What were the main political persuasions of the group? A. I would say there was three: socialists; anarchists; people who were detached from the democratic movement. We had tactical and strategic differences; there was; a whole range of opinions.
I first met Patsy O'Hara in '68, he had been arrested, while crossing the border near Derry, by soldiers. In his car was a stick of explosives which Patsy, a former internee and well-known as a republican in Derry, always maintained the army planted. He was remanded to Long Kesh which was then run on the cage system. Like myself, Patsy was a member of the recently formed Irish Republican Socialist Party and we were together in Cage 14.

Patsy came from a republican family in Derry. In 1971, when he was fourteen years old he was shot by British soldiers and spent several weeks hobbling about on crutches. His elder brother, Sean Seamus, was interned in the same year and, according to his family, from that time on life was never the same, there was always either one of them in prison or on the run.

I was struck by the fact that Patsy and I had been greatly influenced by the same two events. The first was the Civil Rights demonstration in Derry, in October 5th 1968 when Civil Rights marchers were beaten up by the police and then dispersed by water cannon. The same age as myself, Patsy was barely a teenager in 1968 but he saw at first hand the assault by the RUC on the marchers and it left a lasting impression.

The second event was the fire in Long Kesh in 1974. In October the prisoners set fire to the wooden huts of the camp and the next day we battled with the army who saturated the camp with CS gas and fired rubber bullets indiscriminately. Alsatian dogs were set on us even after we had surrendered. We were then beaten by soldiers and screws, forced to hold half-squats for hours on end and spreadeagled against the wire. For the next ten weeks or so we lived without proper shelter and with only a very inadequate diet - for the first fortnight it consisted of dry white bread and milk. Imprisoned in separate cages at the time, I didn't know Patsy but it left an indelible mark on him, as it did on me. He described it thus: "We were given two blankets and mattresses and put into one of the cages. For the next two months we were on a starvation diet, no facilities of any kind and most of the men lying out in the open elements."

I remember Patsy as a militant socialist, someone who was deeply committed to establishing a free society in Ireland. He cared nothing for the theocracy of the Irish Republic, but was dedicated to a classless and secular Ireland.

Patsy was not untypical, by no means unique in Northern Ireland. His short life was characterised by poverty, harassment and deprivation but throughout he remained determined and strong. This was his strength and it is the strength of those fighting in the north.

Ronan Bennett.

What would be your reaction if the RUC closed down an anarchist press?

What is your reaction now that lack of MONEY is about to close down an anarchist press?

Your reaction SHOULD be to try to stop this happening by supporting the campaign to save Little & C. In the long term the press needs a constant flow of (paying) work if it is to continue. If you have something to print take it to Little & C or to a commercial printer.

In the meantime, send money, ideas for raising money, or offers of help to the Little & C Defence Group NOW, before it is too late.

Little & C Defence Group,
C/o Little & C,
Cl Metropolitan Wharf,
Wapping Wall,

Perhaps nothing more vividly describes the role of the Royal Ulster Constabulary as a paramilitary shock force than a photograph like this. The RUC was always armed, even before the current "troubles", always armed. The arms available were the most modern, the most lethal, around, not content with steeling sub-machine guns and Walther automatic pistols, the RUC demanded weapons of a more heavy caliber. They were then issued with magnesium pistols, a gun that most US police forces consider too powerful to use.

Some of those weapons have been used by RUC men to murder unarmed Catholics in sectarian assassinations, several are serving life sentences for their parts in such attacks. More recently one RUC man who shot and killed a teenager Catholic in the republican stronghold area of Belfast was acquitted of the boy's murder, even though he was shot in the back. The boy's crime was to have daubed a slogan on a wall.