ITALIAN ARRESTS

On 27th March 16 people (two of them British) were arrested during a massive anti-terrorist operation in North Italy. At Bolzano and Forlì and simultaneously at Catania, Sicily, the Catania arrests are of people suspected of belonging to "azione rivoluzionaria". In the course of the operation, 50 homes were searched and, one informed source alleges, explosives, munitions and cash were described as "very interesting documents were found.

The anti-terrorist swoop grew out of the arrest in Catania a few days earlier of 2 Sicilians and a young British girl. Jean Weir (34 years old). According to police, "azione rivoluzionaria" was set up by a university professor, Gianfranco Fiana, who was arrested last July charged with the attempted murder of a journalist in Turin in 1977.

An extract from an Italian newspaper reports:

"Alfredo Ronanno (43), Salvatore Marietta (29) and Jean Weir (34) were arrested on a warrant issued by the procurators' office in Bolzano. The arrests were made in Catania. They are suspected of having participated in armed hold-ups in Bolzano since January 1979. The two being advised by lawyer Sandro Gamberini but are refusing to answer questions; have refused to confront any of the 20 witnesses to the hold-ups in question. They contend that they are the victims of a political frame-up and will only reply to questions when they are given full details of the charges to be brought against them. Police have complained that press leakage of the Catania arrests may have prejudiced one of their most important anti-terrorist operations ever.

"ACTION DIRECTE" ARRESTS IN FRANCE.

On 15th April, the 'Action Directe' group mounted attacks on three separate buildings belonging to the transport ministry. A phone caller to Agence France Presses stated: "We demand the immediate release of our imprisoned comrades." On 27th & 28th March a massive police operation had netted 30 odd people suspected of carrying out attacks in France, especially those claimed by Action Directe. The arrests came in Toulouse and Paris. Following a hold-up at Conde sur l'Escaut, 4 Italians were arrested at Toulouse. They are: Franco Pinna, Errico Bianco, Luigi Amadori and Bianco's wife Oriana Mancini. The Italian government has applied for their extradition. Inevitably there was talk of a Red Brigades or Terror International connection. The usual hysteria. But this does not stand up to scrutiny. If anything these Italians seem to have had connections with Prima Linea or Azione Rivoluzionaria, both of them groups at odds with the Red Brigades. Pinna, Bianco and Mancini are wanted in connection with a raid on an armoury at Vitória. Some of these weapons were later recovered from a Paris line cache. Mancini was, for a long time active among the anarchists in Padua. The Italian connection crops up again with the Paris arrests. On 27th March 2 people who had been under police surveillance for some time were arrested while boarding a plane destined for Rome; the plane was also carrying government minister Alain Peyrefitte. A follow up raid on a flat in Rue de la Grange-aux-Cerf, occupied by another Italian, Cico Girotto, a suspected member of Prima Linea, led to the discovery of 60 kilos of explosives and weapons and over 1,000 blank Italian identity cards. Other arrests followed. Many of those detained had been under observation for some time; some were only casual acquaintances of other suspects. A few have been released. By now the talk was of Action Directe. Police announced that they were in pursuit of others in connection with investigations into the machine-gunning of the Ministry Corporation buildings on 18 March.

That then are the ingredients of a good terror international scape; note the number of women "terrorists" and the surnames French, Italian, Spanish, Basque, Algerian.

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On 4 June 1979 the Chinese "people's daily" attacked a series of erroneous trends in the Chinese people. SINGL OUT ANARCHISM FOR SPECIAL ATTENTION. FULL PAGE REPORT ON ANARCHISM IN CHINA...PAGE 4.

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WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY ABOUT THE LAST ISSUE:

"HIGHLY INFORMATIVE", "INTERESTING", "SUBVERSIVE" POLICE REVIEW.

"REVOLTING" MARGARET THATCHER.

"CONCENTRATED Scurrility" CENSOR AT BRITISH PRISON.

STOP PRESS. DIRECT ACTION ARRESTS LATEST REPORT PAGE 5.
STATE OF PLAY
For Flag, up to 20.4.80
Printing paid
to date: 129.25
Stationery 14.00
Postage (passing
ereduality) 119.62
- 262.87
Sales & subs 132.12
Donations 75.00
- 207.12
Loss 55.75
Carried forward 2577.09
Deficit now... £2692.84

DONATIONS
London: JC 63,
JT £5, PS £6, GD £20, AM £2
Bolton PG £1, Swansea DW £6
Cambridge DW £2.

ANARCHO - QUIZ
1. What humanitarian im-
pulse by the Prophet Mohe-
mmed, inspired by the hero-
is of a convert, is held
justifying a major criminal
activity?
2. Why does Islam outlaw
alcohol?
3. What was the first
thing Josep Osendes, the
 Catalan national leader, head
of Estat Catala, did when
the fascist military rising of
1936 was suppressed and
Catalonia declared itself
free and autonomous?
4. What was "historico"
about the Communist organ
'Morning Star' for 15th
December 1979?
5. Why did Rodzianzky, sec-
retary of the Russian Fascis-
 tic Party, return to the
 Soviet Union in 1945?
6. In which European city
is there a statue of a for-
mer organiser of the I.W.W.?
7. At the same time as
the CNT is accused of being
penetrated by the CIA in order
to prevent the growth of a
socialist union (Hirsch & Flecter, "CIA and the Lab-
our Movement", now being
circulated by the Trotsky the
FAI is accused of widespread
financial corruption. How
true are these allegations?

Sigh...that damned deficit
won't go away. The sales
and subs seen just about to
pay for the printing but if
only everyone would renew
their subs, every copy was
paid for and nobody told us
months (or years) after we'd
been sending them copies
that they never got any..."(oh,
I must have forgotten
to tell you I'd changed my
address!) there wouldn't be
any deficit.

We've sent special letters
out on the subject.
This deficit is now prevent-
ing us going ahead on work
for prisoners (we reckon on
the Flag covering postage
for the ABC). So it could
be a boon if readers would
renew or cancel. We hate
to cancel because we'll
don't for two or three
years after.

---------------------

LETTER FROM CARL HARP

They returned me to San
Quentin in January claiming
I still need protection from
guards in Washington. There
was a big strike there in
the segregation unit that I
was involved in so they had
to get rid of me. The Inter-
national national support to stop
any transfer caused them to
and a new reason for return-
ing me to S.Q. By the time
you receive this letter I will
be back in Walla Walla
as the Federal trial around
brutality, treatment and
conditions up there starts
May 5th. As you may know 2
of my "comrades" made deals
with the state and pleaded
guilty leaving me facing
the forces of evil all
alone...I may not be return-
ted to S.Q. once I am back
in Walla Walla because
people are working on it
but we'll see. All the
support has helped a lot
to keep my spirits high and
me alive. I thank all for
that. If you can spread
the word that I am alone
and my defense fund needs
support...I'd appreciate it.

Susan Waynre, 6536 102 Pl.
N.E. Kirkland, Washington
98033 is my Nat. Defense
fund organizer and I need
people. People send only
what they can - even a dollar
helps. I expect nothing but
appreciate everything....
Love & Rage, Carl.

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ANARCHIST CENTRE

PLANS FOR THE ANARCHIST CENTRE ARE RAPIDLY COMING TO MATU-
URITY. SO FAR MORE THAN £500 HAS BEEN RAISED THROUGH
SUBSCRIPTIONS. MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE HAVE PAID FULL OR
PART SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP. THE RECORD "BLOODY
REVOLUTIONS & PERSONS UNKNOWN" BY CRASS & POISON GIRL
WILL BE ON SALE BY THE TIME THIS ISSUE IS OUT. THE PROF-
ITS FROM THIS RECORD ARE GOING TOWARDS THE ESTABLISH-
MENT OF AN ANARCHIST CENTRE IN LONDON. ONCE WE HAVE THAT
MONEY WE CAN BEGIN IN ERNEST TO FIND SUITABLE PREMISES,
WITH A SUITABLE PERMANENT BASE, WHERE ANARCHISTS FROM
ENGLAND AND COMRADES FROM OVERSEAS CAN MEET, WE HOPE
THAT THE ANARCHIST MOVEMENT WILL GROW STRONGER AND MORE
COHESIVE, PERHAPS IT WILL THE BEGINNING OF A NETWORK OF
SIMILAR CLUBS.

MEETINGS: CONWAY HALL, 25 RED LION SQUARE, HOLBORN, WC1.
THURSDAY 22ND MAY: THURSDAY 19TH JUNE.

SINCE WE ADVERTISED THE IDEA OF AN ANARCHIST CENTRE IN
THE LAST BLACK FLAG & FREEDOM A GREAT DEAL OF INTEREST
HAS BEEN SHOWN. IF YOU WANT TO BE INVOLVED...YOU CAN...
COME ALONG TO ONE OF THE MEETINGS...OR SUBSCRIBE NOW.
WRITE TO: ANARCHIST CENTRE, C/O FREEDOM BOOKSHOP, 84B
WHITECHAPEL HIGH STREET, LONDON E1.

THE CRASS/Poison Girls
SINGLE IS NOW ON SALE.
BUY IT. PROFITS TO THE
Anarchist CENTRE.

Price Change.
The price of Black Flag
will be 25pence from the
next issue. We regret
having to increase the
price but the increases
in the postal rates have
made it necessary.

The Crass/POISON GIRLS
SINGLE IS NOW ON SALE.
BUY IT. PROFITS TO THE
ANARCHIST CENTRE.

Bloody Revolutions/
PERSONS UNKNOWN...70p.
LIBERTARIAN HISTORIES

On 13th March 1952 the fourth landing of Barcelona's Model -Prison held 21 people under sentence of death; the bulk of them were libertarian militants, former fighters for the Republican side, when the Civil War ended, refused to accept the Francoist victory (+ which has a victory for international fascism) and so continued to fight in the mountains and on the plains, against a vastly superior force. Of these 21, nine were due for imminent execution. At 10 the orderly, escorted by Lopez Pedreira, the warden in charge of the first landing opened the doors of four cells one after the other. The order rang out: "Out, go straight to the outer gate."..."

WAITING AT THE PORTICULLUS

The notorious chief warden Lafarga, known as "El Tuerto" (Ore Oye) who called out "Come along! Step on it! The governor is waiting for you."

The governor, Don Fernando Arana Garcia, was in the Centre. Seated at a table, he glanced at a telegram and informed the condemned men: "You have been released. You must now fit to compute the death sentences in your cases to life imprison cross, meaning that you must serve our lives here...no remission, no parole, and no other privileges of any sort. You may go."

The trepidated men returned to the fourth landing, escorted by El Tuerto, and were locked in their cells. Then they were transferred to the first landing.

WANT there be no more no doubt - four of the nine were to be spared and the other five - were to be shot at dawn the next day. That night no-one on the fourth landing slept. Everybody lay awake, straining to hear the clanking of the heavy wrought iron gates which would signal the arrival of the police.

At midnight they came. A key was heard turning in a lock. "It is El Yayo," said one of the prisoners. El Yayo occupied the last cell on the south side. "I've been expecting you," said El Yayo when they came for him. After taking his leave alone was allowed to use a bunk because he was suffering from tuberculosis. The others slept on the floor on filthy mattresses. Another key clanked in another lock. "It's Tragapapales," thought one, who heard it.

Then it was Pino's turn. Then "El Sherriff." When it was the turn of the fifth man, Gine Urraza Pino, he shouted "Viva la FAL!" as his coffin was closed. He shouted around the landing, every cell responded with cries of "Viva!"

Those about to be executed were taken to the Chapel and were hailed by the two priests attached to the prison, Fr. Lhaz and Angel Millan, along with three other clerics who had come to assist them. The condemned men were repeatedly urged to make a public confession of guilt and to request pardon of the King, but all rejected and were taken to the main prison. They were then taken to Campo de la Bota where they faced a firing squad of soldiers. The officer in charge asked the condemned if they had any last wishes. Only Jose Perez Pedrero asked that his silver neckless be given to his mother as a last remembrance.

Also the last five men shot in the Campo de la Bota went to their deaths. Their names closed as follows: 'El Tuerto' - a majority of whom were libertarian and shot there...the name of Gine Urraza Pino, Jon Aguirre, Santiago Air Crunnes, Jose Perez Pedrero and Pedro Andero Font.

WORKERS' POWER

WORKERS' CLUBS

We have referred before in connection with the unions, the trade union system. It exists ostensibly to unify the working class in practice it is doing nothing of the sort, though occasionally it acts as a forum of debate between unionists who have clashed with each other. It is a form of management of the workforce, and like a labour government in power it is an arm of the government. Now that there is a Conservative government, finds it vilified in the press as having "real power" - which has "lost control" - and one hears the horror stories against its sinister influence.

In reality it trails behind the workers demands, leading the trade union in a militant spate of demands, the TUC is seen pursuing before the trade union leaders, letting "talks", pushing forward its leadership to a position of being "necessary". But pseudo-militant or not militant at all, it remains dedicated to the principle of "management from above". Depth weight upon them below.

TRADE COUNCILS

Yet there has always existed a horizontal movement within the trade unions. Unable to break away (as in the other countries) to break away from conservatism, the trade union has seen its horizontal movement exist within the unions and above all, the group of one, the living body in the trades councils. As the Trade Union Congress gained in power, so the trade unions have lost it. They are today talking-shops, and not even important talking-shops. Nobody bothers to attend their dreary meetings in dreary halls except for a few perfectly-interested trade unionists who turn up to push Anglo-Bulgarian friendship or the "mother line on every accession to each other."

Yet these halls were sixty years ago the centre of a great and lively movement; they created halls and workers' clubs for social purposes - built their own libraries and schools where necessary - organised relief and found jobs for the unemployed - published their own literature and were the bulwark of the revolutionary movement. There was a workers' movement in those days; it does not exist today. The political parties have enabled another class to come in and take over the ideas, which do not make sense in a non-working class context.

Virtually the trade councils existed as part of a movement - when the labour halls meant something - they was no trade union chauvinism such as exists today. In Britain - in France or Spain, if less so here; one could walk into one's labour hall and find jobs worth going - if jobs were available only outside one's craft, one walked out of one union into another on a friendly informal basis. How different from now! The friendly hall has gone. The clubs - perhaps could pop in for a drink - if it still exists - has been transformed into a supper-club (and that in the North). Asking for a union card is sometimes like asking to be put down on a ship. It has started as a defence of craft has become yet another barrier to divide workers from one another; we don't want people without cards coming into our industry" (and we don't want to give them one either!)

The syndicalist movement that grew up in Britain in the 1910-20's was based firstly upon the workmen halls and workers clubs. Because none names persist, it is impossible to assess to what extent they have changed. The peak period was in the General Strike - when industrial defeat, Labour libertarianism and the influence of the Communist Party (with its sights set elsewhere) caused the syndicalist movement to recede. Here and more power went to the TUC...nothing was left of the liberal side. The trade councils, the workers clubs. It is only the re-creation of these that can make a workers movement.

The scopousteur movement is a vestige of the industrial syndicalist movement that grew up in the trades councils and labour clubs, it was based upon the workmen halls and factories whereas the trades halls were based on the locality, but both were manifestations of the same. We only find a glimpse in England today, but even so it is a ghost which scares the pants off the ruling class.

BACK TO THE STRUGGLE

How are we to get back to the traditional working-class movement? It can never be re-created exactly as it was; but then today there are many other things pushing for us that did not exist then. The grinding poverty, the lack of basic education that all pulled the worker into the (confused) defence of falling into the pit of unemployment from which no one can escape. Under social security; these have vanished to a large extent, and certainly from the organisation of an active worker. The fight was once against cuts in salaries; one benefit from inflation, rarely mentioned, is that the fight is now the reverse - for increases to keep up with the cost of living. Not to exaggerate this, but the struggle is easier than it was - what is missing is the will and the energy. Yet nobody can deny the fact that the struggle is underlined by events every day.

The syndicalist movement can be re-created and the movement can be acted. We repeat a simple formula voiced before in these columns: "UNIONS, PAYS, UNIONS". First a group of around five or so in each industry. Then organise from there and in a workplace, or in a branch of that industry. That is how the struggle starts, and how the struggle continues, that is how it can be revived. And side by side with it the creation of WORKING FIVES - to create the atmosphere of the labour halls.

The Donald Duck/ Joseph Goebbels prize for reporting goes in this week to Jon Swain in Miami, Nickolas Asherov in Line and David Vansy in London, who are credit- ed in the Sunday Times on April 13 with the statement that a slogan in New York's "It is better to have Batista with blood than Castro with hunger", adding the note "General Fulgencio Castro, a corrupt tyrant, was overthrown by Castro in 1959. It be be acceptable, maybe. They don't know. Maybe it was a sub-editor's interpolation, but what sort of a sample is that? They say that "Churchill won the war", "Lenin overthrow the Tsar", or even Hitler exterminated the Jews."

Said, one supposes, a fae by average one. I'm sure as that a lot more people were involved. In the case of Batista, the struggle against him was almost exclusively anarchistic. The communist Party opposed the struggle because they Batista - detected by the workers as a bloodthirsty tyrant - was a leader of American capitalism. In these days that was considered good according to leftist reasoning, for America was Russia's ally. It was only later that it became bad. Castro weighed in with the revolution against official communist advice, to take control of the time American capitalism became bad.
ANARCHISM IN CHINA?

Since 1976 the Peoples Republic of China has been engaged in a campaign of rapid industrialisation and modernisation, and the army and the armies. The armed aims being to elevate these objectives to the status of a superpower. In the turning of the century, in an attempt to reach this status, and in the meantime, there has been an unprecedented increase in contact between the Chinese technocracy and their counterparts in the Chinese Communist Party. This has led to an increase in the number of tourists from the Chinese Communist Party to the countries of the world. These tourists being allowed to visit areas of China previously closed to Westerners and indeed in many cases to the majority of the Chinese.

The driving force behind this drive into the 21st century appears to be the highly durable Deng Xiaoping. Deng, incidentally, must be the Chinese Communist Party's equivalent of the Indian Rubber Man. Disapproving for opposing the 'Great Leap Forward' (sic) of the late 1950's, allegedly placed in protective custody by Zhou Enlai during the Cultural Revolution, Deng began to claw his way back to power under Zhou's watchful eye in the early 1970's. He reappeared in public in 1973 only to be disgraced again after Zhou's death in 1976. He finally made it to the top after utilizing the revolutionary incident at Tianan on Square, Peking, in April 1976 to personal advantage and as a stick to beat the Gang of Four into political oblivion.

RETURN TO POWER

Since his return to power, Deng seems to have been personally responsible for the following developments:

1. Firstly he has been grooming Chairman Mao Zedong to be leader in his own image. Secondly, as a sop to the bourgeois democracies on when Deng depends for know-how and experience to the right-hand groups in those countries where in an attempt to appease a population which has to date been denied any semblance of freedom of speech and the press, the last fifteen years demonstrated remarkable powers of resistance to dictatorship, the policy of the late 1950's instituted by Mao which enabled him to identify his enemies. As such, as the enemies had been identified the policy ended. What then, does the policy mean today? The short answer is not very much. In 1977, the Glatt of Wall Posters in Peking, most of which were critical to varying degrees of the current leadership, Mao and the Gang of Four, was given as far as to praise the U.S.A. and Taiwan. At the time of writing, however, the experiment has been severely curtailed and appears to be limited to Peking only.

2. In return for the re-establishment of a code of law and judiciary, a relaxation of the residency laws, a marginal increase in consumer goods available and a new religious toleration the Government expects only the regulation of flowers to blow in the population culminating in the recent clampdown. In other words criticism is fine, as long as it is directed against Lin Biao, the Gang, big and small, and all the other well known leaders, and the new major officials still in posts and known to be loyalists.

DEMOCRACY

This reaction towards people taking the word "Democracy"SERIOUSLY and a crackdown on demonstrations has led to occasional street fights which in some cases have led to charges of espionage and counter-revolution (both of which carry the death penalty, the latter being a catch-all statute) against individuals. Who are these people who dare to challenge the authority of the Chinese state? In the main they seem to be small groups of intellectuals and dissident Marxists of various shades. Mao and the Gang have thus tended to divide their revolutionary energies. Other negative radical Marxism are represented as are libertarian elements.

ANCHEM

However, there is one group which the press constantly blames for criminal/political activity. Yes, the Anarchist threat plays a predominant role in the present form of the Chinese media. In July 1979 the existence of "Commin" and "Proudhonism" was recognised as was the existence of non-Marxist, non-communist Marxists thought. The唤醒 thought and the rejection of all forms of bureaucratic social organisation thought to be the two mentioned above. On 4 June 1979 the 'People's Daily' attacked a series of erroneous trends among the Chinese people, singling out Anarchism for special attention. Significantly no one was told to re-appraise the cultural, technocratic and political effects of non-socialist personalities in pre-1949 China.另一个 context in which anarchism is constantly criticised is that of taking a certain lack of discipline and respect for governmental institutions throughout the country e.g. "To neglect centralised leadership and practice decentralisation cannot be an exception. There is a clean sweep of anarchism once and for all." What are we to expect from a country which, in the case of there being a movement for greater autonomy among leftists in China? If not why catalyse a mythical enemy? Again, there are many references to the young having been badly treated by Anarchists, often Lin Biao and the Gang of Four are held the can. Lin Biao and the Gang have been saddled with the blame for the Cultural Revolution evolving into a genuine popular movement and for the subsequent breakdown in law and order and disrespect for the government, the Red Guards and cohorts exist. Apparently apart from being "non- orthodoxists", Lin Biao and the Gang also managed to suppress and practice Anarchism at the same time. Allegedly, the youth of China was encouraged to "overthrow all" irrespective of whether they were encouraged to do it, is becoming rapidly clear that in the late 1960's the Chinese Communist Party came perilously close to a civil war with ultra-leftist who had seen through the Lin Biao/Mao Zedong charade.

That may as it be, in the event, a full-scale confrontation was avoided. The attacks on Anarchism on chinese unabated. After street disturbances in Shanghai early in 1977, a number of posters (demanding to be allowed to return to their home towns or cities) disappeared from the streets fought with the police. In the official version the press stated "Due to previous influence of Anarchism the last ten years or more, some people mistake democracy for anarchism and freedom and opposition to all kinds of discipline and authority." Again in July 1979, reports were muted that "ultra- democratic practices and Anarchism were strictly forbidden and that "Democratic- centralism", was the correct line to be followed. Furthermore it has also been stated that "people embued with the ideas of ultra-democracy and Anarchism have no regard for the interests of the State and the collective and are thus dangerous to the people's revolution and legality." All in all a very revealing statement.

The so-called "Anarchist" posters, also, the usual open propagandist piece is couched in reasonably sensible terms. "People are driven by both Lin Biao and the Gang and the statements have no references to "criminal wrecking" and the like. In fact the statement could be a tactful admission that there is a definite anti-authoritarian trend in China, a trend all loyal Chinese (sic) must be on constant guard against.

CONCLUSION

How then is this to be fought? Officially by "Emaculating the mind". Towards the end of 1978 the 3rd National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party approved the above policy (and the four subsequent sessions). This meeting effectively buried the Gang of Four as a political force (but not any regard to discipline is Anarchism, not genuine People's Democracy. "I don't believe in a clean sweep of anarchism once and for all." What are we to expect from a country which, in the case of there being a movement for greater autonomy among leftists in China? If not why catalyse a mythical enemy? Again, there are many references to the young having been badly treated by Anarchists, often Lin Biao and the Gang of Four are held the can. Lin Biao and the Gang have been saddled with the blame for the Cultural Revolution evolving into a genuine popular movement and for the subsequent breakdown in law and order and disrespect for the government, the Red Guards and cohorts exist. Apparently apart from being "non- orthodoxists", Lin Biao and the Gang also managed to suppress and practice Anarchism at the same time. Allegedly, the youth of China was encouraged to "overthrow all" irrespective of whether they were encouraged to do it, is becoming rapidly clear that in the late 1960's the Chinese Communist Party came perilously close to a civil war with ultra-leftist who had seen through the Lin Biao/Mao Zedong charade.

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CRIME

Young criminals are one section of Chinese society which the authorities claim to be the "basis" from the anarchism of Lin Biao and the Gang. The Chinese government has claimed already that murder, rape, muggings, bank robberies, riots, demonstrations etc have been reduced (especially in Canton). Crime is said to be a natural consequence of free elections. In the late 1960's youth's had been forced to carry criminal gangs which were engaged in running school, mugging etc for political bicycle stealing. Occasionally former self-confessed "Anarchists" and "Monists" had been seen to commit crimes like this. There are also industrial criminals, let us consider the case of Mrs. Zhang Ling who when interviewed about having been seduced by Li Xing and the Chinese Anarchist, Ji re-designed his job so that after three days work he was sent home with a full production quota and go home. This upset his workmates who urged him to reconsider more efficiently of working. During the interview Ji remarked on how lucky he had been not to have been imprisoned.

"Reduction matter was absolutely opposed" said the Chinese after the riot at the Shanghai textile works in July 1979. Fighting broke out at around 11 p.m. on 3 July after a Chinese worker and a foreign student to reduce the volume of a radio. By way of reply the foreign student increased the volume...Sometimes on 5 July the police managed to get ahold of a student who had the foreign students. The official cautions were obscure but had as its core one (with an eye injury) and twenty-four Chinese students, apparently to protect the police from being hit. As the quotation shows in official reports the foreign student was again the anarchist, although in this instance it wasn't directly attributed to Lin Biao and the Gang. The accusation that the phrase "foreign devil" was used is not mentioned in official reports. Perhaps because another "man" would have to be acknowledged.

Why then does the official Chinese media persist with these attacks? It is because they are at pains to point out is an insignificant trend. I think this quotation may be of some use. "If the Party departs from Marxist-Leninist Mao Zedong thought and indulges in ultra-individualistic liberalism, democracy, it would inevitably lead to Anarchism". Which isn't too frightening as it is just around the corner, but nevertheless indicates that the Chinese are very much more unsure of itself than it would like to have us all believe. The Anarchist movement, a fascist organisation is concerned about democracy the more inclined

Revolution and is at present waging a ideological war against the people who are the anarchists for that reason.
Black Flag's Court Circular

There can be no doubt now, even in the minds of the most ardent of the law-and-order lobbyists, that there is widespread corruption in the police. Almost every day the newspapers carry stories of officers suspended from their duties (on full pay) while allegations of corruption against them are being investigated. Those allegations have ranged from the simple taking of bribes to the manufacturing of evidence and the planning of armed robberies.

However, although many officers have been suspended and a few are likely to end up on trial. This is partly because some of those investigating the allegations have encountered from the police themselves. It is also, and perhaps more importantly, due to the attitude of the Public Prosecutor. The DPP, Tony Hetherington, has refused to bring prosecutions against nearly all of those named by informers. Hetherington has publicly justified this by saying that it would be wrong to prosecute a policeman on the basis of information supplied by a criminal.

BAYSWATER ROBBERY

A remarkable example of the DPP's reluctance to prosecute even when presented with hard evidence occurred after the arrests of John Twomey and Patrick Carpenter.

They were arrested in late 1977 and charged with the robbery of a bank in Bayswater. From the start the men claimed that they were the victims of police set-up. There were noisy protests in court as they were handed over to Brixton Prison.

GUNS AND CASH

Things looked bad for the men. The police claimed that they had found guns and money, which they said was part of the proceeds from the robbery, in their possession. Twomey and Carpenter both countered in 1971 when 'plane was flying to U.S.S.R. in was shot down after all but escaped coup. The coup failed, but everyone involved in it escaped.

Wong Ming - Former member of the Central Committee of the Politburo, took fear of arrest and acknowledged his existence and its appeal to all people and especially those, for the two groups just mentioned.

Gang of Four - Chiang Ching, Chang Chih-Chiao, Yao Wen-yan and Wu Hung-Hsi.

Tony Haughey - Defence Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Mao's heir apparent. Killed with the allegation that the guns and money had been planted by the police. They said that shortly before their arrest they had approached by two CID men who had demanded money from them. They refused to hand over any money and the police had then threatened to "fit them".

This was the kind of situation that had been made countless times before, but almost impossible to prove.

SECRET MEETING

Twomey and Carpenter got a lucky break. At a time when it seemed that they almost certainly faced massive prison sentences they were supplied with hard evidence of police corruption.

After the two arrests a friend of the prisoners, Jimmie Stevens, was approached by the same CID men and asked for a large sum of money. In return for the money Stevens, the cops said, would be left alone. They were offering him the same deal they had offered to Twomey and Carpenter earlier months earlier. Stevens, a solicitor, was easily cajoled. He didn't have the face they wanted, but he didn't want to make the facts of Twomey and Carpenter either.

To stall, Stevens agreed to pay but said that he needed time to get the money. The cops agreed and a time and place were arranged so that the money could be handed over.

Stevens immediately contacted a solicitor, James Sanders who was acting for the arrested men. Together they arranged to have the meeting between Stevens and the CID officers secretly tape-recorded.

TAPE RECORDING

The cops duly arrived to collect their cash. They chatted to Stevens while counting the money, praising his good sense in paying up. He obviously had more sense than the others.

Kung Kung - Politburo member and 52-year-old, was summoned to Mao in an attempt to curry favour. Purged in 1954, placed under house arrest: allegedly poisoned himself.

Unknown to the garrulous CID the conversation was being taped by several people in an adjoining room and a tape recording was being made.

It was not long before the existence of the tape was known to the police, and they made several attempts to get it - all unsuccessful.

NO RELEASE

The tape recorded meeting did not, however, have any dramatic effect on the position of the prisoners. They remained in custody. In fact they remained in Brixton for more than 18 months. Finally a date was set for their trial - early 1979.

MASSIVE FABRICATION OF EVIDENCE

There was to be no trial. Before the whole story could be made public in a court case, the DPP withdrew the charges. The counsel who formally announced that they charges were to be dropped told the press that there had been a "Massive Fabrication of Evidence". The prisoners were then freed.

Had it not been for the action of Jimmie Stevens it is unlikely that Twomey and Carpenter would have been sprung. The police came to the same conclusion. Stevens was arrested and charged with disclosure of official secrets. He claimed that the police had fitted him up in revenge for his liaison with 52-year-old. He was tried at the Old Bailey in December 1979 and was found guilty after 12 years. The evidence for this was her good sense in paying up. He obviously had more sense than the others.

Ironically, one of the witnesses called in Stevens' defence was John Twomey.

SUSPENSIONS

Despite the existence of the tape it was not until a year after it was made that the CID men were suspended. At the time of writing they have not appeared in court on charges of "perverting the course of justice" or anything similar. Twomey and Carpenter have brought private actions against them and David McNeer, claiming malicious prosecution. They began those proceedings more than a year ago and have had to use their own time to get to work - but then it's not news to either Twomey or Carpenter.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS
EAST AFRICA

One of the interesting new developments in both Tanzania and Zim-
bashv, and perhaps in neighboring countries as well, is growing interest in anarchism, writes a correspond-
ent. It should not be exaggerated, however, but anarchist books and newspapers are being passed around certain circles with excitement.

Socialism has been distorted in East Africa to mean the mil-
itary dictatorship, precisely as it once supported along with "third world" adulation of the imperialist blocs of China and the Soviet Union in America and Europe. The interest in anarchism has been stimulated by the feeling that "socialism" cannot surely be the last word - that there must be another alternative. Consequently it is the critical and negative side of anarchism that is causing the keenest interest and discussion. People are looking into the way in which Anarchism is connected with the African past.

The rapid way in which Zimbabwe has become a capitalist and repressive state, and within weeks absorbed the colonialist traditions, is being commented by many. Some are beginning to think that any "revolution government" would go the same way.

ARGENTINA

In Argentina, the C.P. support the military dictatorship, precisely as it once supported the dictatorship in Cuba that preceded Castro. The C.P., assisted by the CIA and monarchical groups, are trying to present a distorted image of the world, with all their talk about crime, torture, deten-
tion, and terrorism, as a "view to confronting a situa-
tion of anarchy in which they then impose their "loyal" government. So are we assur-
ded by Eduardo Gutierrez, vice president of the Com-
munist Youth Federation, a section of the Argentine CP, last week, while passing through Mexico. Gutierrez was interviewed by "Exclareor" on behalf of "Cambo 166". He zealously leapt to the de-
cence of the Military Junta governing his country. Such is the original and official line of the Argentine CP.

Gutierrez roundly denied any ideological affinity be-
tween the military regime in Argentina and Pinchicha's regime in Chile. "They are different in conception and ideology. The Argentine regime inclines towards de-
cracy whereas the Chilean imperialist regime does not. Apart from this difference is the fact that the Buenos Alga milit-
ary, although they use the name of political parties. There are 13 main ones, including the CP, and even when they do not engage in any political work they wait for the opportune moment (which is not far off) to carry out their activities," he explained.

When the military over-
threw the government, the locals of the CP were attack-
ed by the naval troopers, who disarmed them, killed and killed or arrested some of its militants. Tuning a bit on the side, he added that the CP decided to continue with its "critical" support for a military dictatorship, clearly righting in inspiration.

HINTS ON HOW TO LEARN VIOLCA

"It has falsely been arg-
ued that on the one side are the military and on the other the ultraleftists and ultra-
rightists, whilst the people are left out of the middle. This is quite false" rages Gutierrez, "there are 3 million more Latin Americans than the Monteneros, the ERP (People's Revolutionary Army), the dissident CTM (Catholic Trade Unionists for Workers Power). The government is working against all 3 of these. The government is also constantly on its guard against corruption and looks toward a return to democracy," smiled the leader of the Communist Youth Federa-
tion.

"The good intentions of the Military Junta were man-
rified in that it has forced people in just 2 months alone and in addition it has promis-
ed to disclose the names of those still detained. We contend that it is the exter-
mists of left and right who do not want peace. They want to see many die in Argentina so that they can proclaim fascism or anarchy," stressed Gutierrez. "Attacks on the right are at least as grave as the attacks on the people. De-
spite the differences in out-
look and means of the military government, its policy can be summed up in a single sentence: to the sense will be followed by a return to democracy," the Communist leader concluded.

MEXICO

DESPITE THE PUBLIC DENIALS, THERE IS PROOF THAT THE MILITARY IS STILL ACTING WELL AND OPERATING OUT OF NOT ARMY BASE.

By Carlos Marin

In the Mexico City telephone book's directory the Crime Prevention Investigation Division (Spanish initials: DIPID) is still listed as "Secret Service" of the General Inspectorate of Public Security (Spanish initials: DIPGy). Its brigades are referred to as "groups" and are numbered. However no 9 brigade (where the no9 brigade is not listed). However no 9 brigade is correctly listed in the DIPD's internal phone directory. Under the heading it states "White barracks" and its telephone numbers begin with the code 395. That code corresponds not to the city centre area of Tlaquilteco where the DIPGy has its headquarters, but to the area bordering the state of Mexico, near the Augustin Manzo kindergarten. The kindergarten's number also starts with the code 395 and it is located in the perimeter of the not Army base.

THE BRIGADE IS NO NEWCOMER TO THE SCENE.

The White Brigade exists and there is documentary evidence showing it to be a paramilitary body, known through reports of the deten-
tion of those who have suffered arrest and interrogat-
ton. It has been through Human rights organisations and also organisa-
tions of the relatives of people who "disappeared".

Despite repeated govern-
ment denials of its exist-
ence, the White Brigade re-
vends its existence through signed and sealed documents giving official subscription to its operations, which have been published in the press. (See Karla AMBROSE)

One particular case that is typical of the experi-
ence of the White Brigade is the one told by Bertha Alicia Lopez Garcia and carried in more detail by "Processo" on 17th September last year. At 4am on 9th April, a 75-year old man, members of the White Brigade arrived at her home in Torreon. Bertha Alicia, her husband Humberto and their 7-year old son were taken to the Transit department and..."they picked me up...and forced me to tied to a strip. They brought me to my husband - he too had been stripped and they were apply-
ing electrical charges to his testicles. They dragged me to the floor, beat me and pulled me up by the breasts, grasping my nipples, which they said they would electrocute. In fact they did not, but they did apply electrical charges to my vulva and my breasts."

As for her 14 month old daughter, Tanita "she was tortured in my presence; they midstreated her and appl-
ied electric shocks all over her body (little by little). All the detainees were then taken to the La Joya barracks in Irapuato where the men received further beatings. From there they were taken by plane to Mexico City, and to the not Army base; once there the physical torture ceased. Bertha Alicia also identified that she saw other deten-
teens in the not Army base. She stated that she was with 8 of them from photographs; it was supposed that they had been subjected to torture until they were released from deten-
tion."

Before being released, says, Bertha Alicia "I was threatened with death and told that my family would suffer the consequence if I so much as opened my mouth." Those, who, like her, swal-
lowed their fear and spoke out anyway, have been num-
berous.

Although the White Brig-
ade came to public notice in 1977, it began its operations 9 months earlier, in August 1976 when the DIPGy's sector-
or and right-hand man were arrested for the extortion of tax payments from leftists. With these two in prison it was necessary to replace them and a new group had thus been lost. It was then that a specialist corps was organized, led by the Federal Security Inspectorate, (DFS), the DIPG, the Judicial Police (PJE), the Post Office (PPO), and the Judicial Federal Military Police, (PJM) which from the pro-
vided agents for the White Brig-
ade.

LAWYERS UNCOVER THE EVIDENCE

Having received a flood of complaints, in 1977 seven lawyers wishing to bring that the White Brig-
ade was the paramilitary group responsible for a host of sins, from unlawful arrest to kidnapping, harrass-
ment, torture and murder, 3 organisations interested in civil rights secured permission to check out an inves-
tigation into the matter.

Their commission of inqui-
riy visited the area of Torone-
ong in 1977. By that time it had a list of 301 people who had "disappeared". They found it had risen to 400 and the figure currently stands at 500.

THE GOVERNMENT DENIALS

In meetings with the law-
yers, Mexican officials roundly denied that any "White Brigade" exists. Or that there are any unlawful pris-
ions, or that any civilians are being held at no9 Army base.

A few months ago, the director of the DIPID, in-
formed the delegates of the secondment to the "...no9 Brigade at Army Base no1 of agent nos 1080, 1076 and 1960". And recently in an order to Chief Inspector Marcos Cavazos at no1 Army base, the security director informed him that he was "not to allow any outsiders to agents to the no9 Brigade."

In February 1979, Amnesty Interna-
tional wrote to the President, (in his official, "official" places) listed "some regions of Mexico" as places where "kidnapings followed by..."
INTERNATIONAL NEWS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6...

murders remain a major cause for concern."

LADD—CHARGES DROPPED

Taff Ladd was one of the original Persons Unknown defendants. He was arrested in June 1978 during the Anti-Terrorist Squad searches of the Branch Round-ups of Branch members. He was charged with "conspiring to cause explosions", a charge which was later changed for one of "conspiring to rob". He was held without bail in December 1978 and released in March 1979. On the eve of the Persons Unknown trial in September of the same year Taff absconded and has been in hiding since.

In a surprise move, the Director of Public Prosecutions Office informed Taff's solicitor, Mr. Brian Rose-Smith, that the prosecution had decided to drop charges "under the present indictment". Normally the DPP refuses to give any indication of his intentions in such circumstances - preferring to wait until the trial is over. However, Taff still faces a charge under the Bail Act, for failing to surrender to bail. This was punishable by a maximum 12-month sentence. The police allowed him to give evidence at their trial. It is still not clear whether Taff will get up or not reasons to be seen, but it is thought that there are negotiations afoot aimed at preventing his return to prison.

OTHERS ON INDICTMENT

This latest development raises the question of the other people named on the indictment in the case as well as those named in court by the prosecutor. So far there has been no news of any action by the police as to whether or not these people will face prosecution.

Shaham Hua and Michele Force, the two others named on the indictment, have been on the run since June 1978. The police say they are believed to be in France. They have never been charged and Taff did not face prosecution under the Bail Act.
BLACK AID "RINGER" A REPLY

We would like to strongly object to the statement in the "Background to the Trial" (S.F. Vol VI no. 1) that the Persons Unknown case has been difficult. Your article is based on the sour grapes syndrome of those who have not been able to draw together the pictures in the persons unknown case in a way that will satisfy them. The one-sided presentation of the facts in your article is also a contributory factor to the sour grapes syndrome. We would like to draw your attention to the fact that there were people in the Persons Unknown case who were not able to draw the pictures that you have drawn. These people were not able to draw the pictures because they were not able to see the whole picture. This is a common occurrence in politics. The sour grapes syndrome is a manifestation of this common occurrence.

Sincerely yours,

[Signature]

[Name]

[Date]
A Crisis of Identity

We reported in Black Flag on the December congress of the CNT in Madrid the tremendous labour movement of Spain. Our description was enthusiastic, that it was the greatest achievable achievement in organisation and in representation. There was a hungry atmosphere, good humour and a sense of embitterment with the world.

Yet only weeks afterwards it was announced that there would be another congress in Saragossa - of people who did not accept the December congress and its decisions, which could be summarised as the adoption of the policy of the CNT as laid down in Saragossa in 1936. This has formed another CNT, claiming to be the authentic CNT and the result was a bitter clash between the two factions. Yet this breakdown of understanding appears to accept the same policy.

The "civil war" within the CNT is something not entirely unknown in revolutionary movements. The tactics of the ruling class are to divide and conquer.

The hoping placed in the reconstruction of the CNT of Franco in Spain, at the time high and high: to counter this there were huge sums of money poured in from outside interests - noticeably the CIA and the Communist elements. There was an agreement - to build up rival groups to the CNT in order to make the CNT incapable of reconstruction. The Spanish government (following the lead of the UGT) did its best in turn by legalising both the Comisar and the CNT to persecution. In a few small sectors, another political police, was legalised; its property remains confiscated; its militants were still harassed by the police and Franco.

Inevitably this seemed not to make the slightest difference. The workers of the shop floor rejected the pretensions of the UGT and the CNT, and numerous other unions were created to participate in the government. The "workers councils" (which are nothing of the sort) to which these new unions are affiliated were asked to elect their factional representatives. The CNT's opposition to these elections proved to be a farce, with few votes cast and the decision of the government ignored.

Persecution, of course, but also infiltration into the CNT, has increased. Infiltration has been attempted by fascist type "ringleaders" organised and by Trotsky by certain Catholic bodies. This has failed because the CNT's militants were informed - they were invited to take part in the voluntary underground work, to form delegations, etc, and the demands to form a party were ignored.

Now however a split has occurred, on major lines. What is the cause?

We shall publish various reports from Spain on the subject, knowing them to be of major interest to our readers, and the subject being so deliberately ignored by the press (unless there is political capital to be made out of it). Meanwhile, however, I hazard an opinion based on the separate congress in December. There has been a number of divisions based on personality clashes and on particular groups which have been encouraged by the CNT against the political left. There are some who think that the CNT should be reconstructed in its entirety as it was at the beginning of the civil war, in the absence of those who wanted to ratify the constitution of Saragossa.

There are those who want it reconstituted as it was at the end of the civil war (when discipline and tight organisation had been introduced, governmental responsibility and so on - not that there is any chance of the latter now). There are those who, thinking in terms of anxiety of other leftists to use the word, qualified victories by pacifism, though not always, to demand a militant left. These want an organisation of the "emargined" groups (the inevitable "gays, gypsies, women and other minorities" syndromes) and not a union type movement; and do not seem to see that women, not to mention other minorities, are inevitably part of a union type movement.

Others are interested in the intellectuals who want a "pool to win in" and have been suggested renaming the CNT, preserving the name "CNT" and using "marginal" as "revolution" and "anti-fascist" movement. It is out-dated. People of this type do not want a confederation of isolated groups, which they feel out of place; yet they want the benefits of the traditions evolved by the initial CNT.

Surprisingly, they expected, indeed look forward to, a split between the "Toulouse" organisation and the new movement in Spain, which would have immensely strengthened the anarchist forces of the CNT. It does not seem to have come out that way because many who were in the Resistance have chosen one side or the other, purely according (it would seem from the outside) to personal predilection. The situation is fluid, there is extreme intolerance being shown (to the point of physical attacks) to so-called bitter rivalry within the organisational CNT at the moment. But whether this has had any effect on the CNT unions within the places of work is a matter of which we, as yet, have no knowledge.

There is no doubt that this represents a new crisis in the history of the CNT. It may be that it will follow the example of the Falangist FORA which was also divided and ended in interclass struggle. There are great many political and business interests who would rejoice if there were to happen. But there are also a great many conscious anarchists in Spain who know what the consequences would be. A.M.

Greek

The Greek authorities have not only failed to protect Philippas and Sophia Kyriatsis who were sentenced to 9 and 5 years respectively as terrorists but they continue to throw other anarchists into their prisons.

The prisoners currently imprisoned are: Nikos Ntalos (20), Alex Triadafiliou (20). C. Philippas (18), and Paulou All are charged with having forced an anarchist group in Istiassia (on the island of Eubora), possessing anarchist books, having taken part in public debates in which they defended the cause of libertarianism and with having attempted to burgle the town bank.

Other anarchists are in prison charged with setting up anarchist groups in their towns and being in possession of books like Kropotkina's "Anarchism" and with having defiled the Greek flag by drawing on it. Time magazine (Paris 25th, 1942) reported, publisher of the magazine "Ikeitarroniko!" (The path of the anarchist) (a 24 year old worker) is charged with vinilique closed, the Fox records in Nicas, (a working class area in Athens) He has been given charges and it appears

Answers to Quiz

1. The negro slave Abu Bekr held fast to his faith against the orders of his master, then doing torture for denying to obey others; onwards the negro slave Abu Bekr maintained and the new movement in Spain, which would have immensely strengthened the anarchistic forces of the CNT. It does not seem to have come out that way because many who were in the Resistance have chosen one side or the other, purely according (it would seem from the outside) to personal predilection. The situation is fluid, there is extreme intolerance being shown (to the point of physical attacks) to the organization of the "Toulouse" organisation and the new movement in Spain, which would have immensely strengthened the anarchistic forces of the CNT. It does not seem to have come out that way because many who were in the Resistance have chosen one side or the other, purely according (it would seem from the outside) to personal predilection. The situation is fluid, there is extreme intolerance being shown (to the point of physical attacks) to so-called bitter rivalry within the organisational CNT at the moment. But whether this has had any effect on the CNT unions within the places of work is a matter of which we, as yet, have no knowledge.

2. To make sure he didn't become an alcoholic himself, nor his followers, Mohammed declared that the pleasure of drinking was so great it had to be reserved for the world to come; when the faithful can get it, they'll be told where the sea is.

3. Seeing his dream of an independent Catalonia fulfilled, the nationalistic Catalan, side by side with the victory of the Spanish Republic, sacrificed his life to the Catalan, and spent the rest of his life in prison for his dream of Catalan, to the Catalans, and spent the rest of his life in prison for his dream of Catalan.

4. For the first time an offical C.P. journal included a paid display ad, unmistakably and propagandistically anarchist (from Cienfuegos Press). It must mean something.

5. He was assured, quite correctly, that there was no difference between his position and that of Stalin. However, when he went back, it didn't save him - he was shot.

6. In Dublin there is a statue to James Larkin, who worked for the I.W.W. in New York in the early 20's, and the Irish and the British both idolize him.

7. Well, maybe true, for all we know. It does not now refer to the better known newspaper of the CNT of Spain, but the CNT of Chile (The nearest equivalent). The CNT of Spain was, at different times, the CI and the IWW. The financial investigations were not into the more libertarian Federation but the Football Association of Ireland.

Greek, continued

The police have no real evidence against him. Jean Robert, who was being held in the police station by Piraeus police, was charged with having been a notorious writer even under the Colonels. The injuries Jean received have been noted by the courts as life threatening. He is still in prison.

There is proof of widespread torture in Greece. Jean Robert, a recently an autonomous militant, was charged with murder and in the prison on Corfu.

Continued on back page
A curious letter appeared in both London evening newspapers from a Dr. Robert John, of New York complaining about "foreigners", in a manner similar to that used by "American people." He said - for whom he was the self-appointed spokesman - didn't mind them as individuals, but "their patience is being overtaken by demands to pay for "foreigners". This was not so, he said, even to ten million illegal immigrants in the United States - and for the first time, this year, Mexican children in Los Angeles outnumber white children. "Illegal immigrants" in the U.S.A. are white; most Blacks come from a lineal descent in America. For longer than those of Whites - but they do not count at all for him. Mexicans are more "illegal" than Blacks - those of Spanish descent don't worry him so much. It is the rest, who are of wholly or partly American Indian blood. They may be in the United States "illegal" - but how can Americans be "illegal" in any part of America?

The best way of describing the "apartheid" that is in the Left is to compare it with the apartheid that represents the Church. Curiously, some divisions and barriers within the Church have been reproduced almost exactly, and certainly unconsciously, within the Left. Perhaps because the same kind of people tend to set the same sort of way wherever they may be. If one compares the Labour Party with the Church of England and the Communist Party with the Church of Rome, one can see how all the other sects arise. It is not just the analogy, because the Labour Party has the same aura of establishment. Nowadays at least: the same sort of attributed membership - "all the working class" equaling "everybody who hasn't actively discussed" without requiring further allegiances, which generates the same laziness and complacency among the hierarchy. The CP is well matched by the Church of Rome not only as an international, with a leadership set firmly in one place in one country and a rigid hierarchy, but a totallitarism one which on the one hand sees all and claims it wants to unite with all, yet on the other seeks to impose its rule. The dictum of Pym's that the Anglican church was "falsely in adversary, a fox in equality, a wolf in supremacy" applies to the Marxist-Leninist Church as well or better. If one considers the Trotskyists, how well they fit into the analogy - if one considers then as Anglo-Catholics (which oddly enough first trots were). The Anglo-Catholic bishops work hard in the poor districts - "trotskyists" may not slip their sherry like the bishops but is their lifestyle all that far off? (Consider Vanessa Redgrave et al. and the A-Cs are a Roman Church column of Rome in the C of E...but the last thing they want is union with Rome. One is reminded of the tactics of the Militant in the Labour Party. What they are after is not union but bringing the practices of the party to the clients. For the first time they are in; they denounced its errors - but they would allow those errors if they could run the show. The breakthrough Marxist sects could be regarded as identical with many on the opposite side in the Protestant church. The SPGB has a faith in Socialism and its inevitability through peaceful means, which is only matched by the Presbyterian Calvinists.

Popular fallacy - bring back national service to cure hooliganism. How many punks have offered that tired old story - as if hooliganism was peculiar to the British Isles with its lack of conscription and did not exist elsewhere in Europe nor in the USA. How does taking "hoiligan" who want to put the boot into some unfortunate and training them to kill instead improve the situation?

But the repeated assertion of time and again reveals the real fact. Exchange with many countries, for what it is. It has nothing to do with nationalism" but with an external power: it is a form of internal control - like the international law - the retention of which from war time was also resum in the ENGLAND thought to be essential elsewhere in Europe.

A tired old issue is raised continually by the libertarian left distribution co-operative, now known as Instant Analysis. We will no longer handle International Times. They are accused of banning it and censoring it.

We do not accept the criticism of PDC - even if it banned ourselves. As a co-operative they must draw certain lines. Everyone accepts that they would not distribute "hooligan" newspapers: as a practical fact they are handling ninety left or libertarian magazines and can't handle any more, so the ones they want to continue handling, fairly naturally, the ones with which they are in most agreement. What is wrong with that? And what is the alternative anyway? That PDC should be four times as big.

Many people in commercial publishing make a criticism of K.W. Smith & Son that it won't handle some books and some magazines. We don't see why. In a commercial world, they should have to if they don't want to take the risk, can't see any material advantage, or just take a dislike to the publication. To insist that K.W. Smith in a capitalist set-up, should handle everything is to say all other booksellers and newsagents should be put out of business and Smith's made a monopoly against it's will.

It suggests a new collective should be set up to distribute newspapers, including anarchist ones. That's fine too. It's a wide field, let 'em all bloom.

Dennis, you don't have any of your usual weekender about the place, do you?

REPRODUCED WITHOUT THE KIND PERMISSION
OF "TROG" AND THE OBSERVER

MARCH

The London Worker's Group recently sent out a leaflet advertising a public meeting "Are Demonstrations Any Use?" (in the true flag tradition, they advertised a meeting already held but without the excuse of a late publication). So I never came to attend it, but the leaflet is worth reproducing.

It concludes with the jocular remark, "next time, why not use?" (followed by "what's on TV tonight?")

Demonstrations can so easily become a part of folklore like the great processions through the streets beloved of the French Communist Party which do not have the slightest effect on anything. Demonstrations are the flesh and blood of minority parties, giving the impression of doing something at small expense.

True "what else do you do - stay at home and watch TV?" But what use are organized demonstrations with protest march and route agreed with the police beforehand?

Result: the working class as a whole have totally deserted the old-style demos in this country (as opposed to the folk demos in France). You can always get a demo of drop-outs, or students, because they feel frustrated at having no other power. Yet look at the tremendous effect of demonstrations involving working wall such as the steel-workers and the flying pickets in support of the miners, which have terrified the government and
I enjoyed Andy Lawton's article on Education (Black Flag 13). As an ex-teacher, some of it I agree with and some I don't. I would like to add a few comments.

TEACHERS

Teachers are often as much trappled and demonised by the system as children, and for much longer. Many of them go into it with romantic ideals of enriching children's lives, giving them a wider understanding, encouraging personal development, fostering a sense of responsibility - the best discipline is self-discipline and all the rest. They teach, but being authoritarians in sheer self-defence - if the heart attack and mental breakdown don't get them first.

RULERS

Teachers have more rules to keep than kids do. They have marking registers, but they have to do it. They don't give homework for the love of marking it, but because they have to write down in a book what they've taught in each lesson on what they've set for homework and what marks they've given for it.

My book regularly said: "Homework: finishing off exercise begun in class." My pupils knew that if they finished it in the lesson they had nothing to take home, but I still had to mark it, and as there wasn't enough free time for marking it all, I used to take a lot of it home to do.

Teachers can get told off about the way they dress or do their hair; about what language or accent they use, or how they behave out of school hours; and most of all about what the kids in their charge do, even when they're not with them. Another teacher will come up and say "Your class behaved very badly while I was teaching there," as if it was your fault and you were supposed to be able to do something about it.

Teachers aren't judged on their discipline, whether their discipline is strict or not. If the kids are kept quiet and working hard, their teacher is called a good teacher; even if they're learning nothing, just doing the same old meaningless exercises over and over again.

So what happens is, if they're free of the strict disciplinarian, they come charging into the classroom and take out their resentment on some poor soul who believes in teaching kids as human beings - and gets a reputation for being a pain in the neck because of it. I could often tell who'd been teaching a class before me by the behaviour when they came into my room. I've even had a class make a deliberate effort of themselves when I had to teach them in a different room. I said, "Look, you're not usually like this. Remember it's me teaching you, not Miss X," and the atmosphere settled down to the usual level of friendly back-chat. It gave me quite an insight into the methods of my colleague Miss X, who was universally acknowledged to be a very good teacher indeed (which I wasn't, of course).

artificial

The whole system in artificial. It is not natural for people to be segregated by age-groups, arranged in herds larger than the largest natural family, with only one person who is supposed to cater for learning needs which are varied and individual. Teachers are shit-scared. I agree - not of the revolution coming "one day", but of the revolution that might happen now, any minute, in the class room, if it could.

I don't think that the teacher says, no matter how trivial the issue, that teacher is a failure, according to the system. The teachers must be in control, or they'd be overwhelmed by sheer weight of numbers. So they have to use the system, and uphold the system, and perpetuate the system by passing it on to the next generation. I think the good thing for them, and their children.

scared of system

Teachers are scared of the system itself, too, and the way they are judged by it. If they want to get on, to get away from teaching dull work to "difficult" classes, they have to conform, but also somehow contrive to shine, to give themselves publicity, to do extra work (unpaid) or have "original" ideas (but not too way-out). They're scared of their colleagues, of the staff room gossip, of the fierce competition for promotion and of their bosses, both inside the school and outside in the Education Authority. This means that when they may hate teaching, they're scared to get out, because they're not trained for anything else and they don't want to lose their superannuation prospects.

I don't think home education is the complete answer, even though parents have the leisure and willingness to teach their children. Here we may run younger children whose physical needs have priority; and the parents may not have the information, or the ability. In infant schools nowadays there can be a really wide range of educational material through which children can already form themselves. And in any case, most of them don't think this could be put into every home, unless houses were a lot bigger. Also, I don't think children should be coopered up with their parents all the time, under pressure to conform to one set of standards (no matter how light that pressure might be). They should mix, not only with other children, but with other adults, and meet the whole range of society.

It would be nice to see, not schools, but education centres, with teaching equipment, library, laboratories, flexible rooms, for students of all ages and levels. Given a libertarian society in which all essential work was shared and everyone had plenty of leisure, all the teachers would be volunteers, who taught for the love of it, not for money, it was the only way they could earn a living. All learning would be voluntary, and it is not subjects but a matter of choice. I have worked with the "activity" methods in an infant school, and I believe they work, and would work even better in a society in which an being educated person was a matter of enjoyment rather than compulsion. Parents could use the equipment to teach their own children and others. If they could learn, alongside their children, a subject or skill that they didn't know before. "Classes" would organise themselves naturally, when a group of students wanted to learn a particular subject asked someone suitable to give them the "lessons". Learning those who went to learn is, now, not a chore, and most people have some sort of knowledge or skill they could impart to others. He could all go on learning, and teaching, all our lives.

So, the revolution, don't destroy all the schools and shut all the teachers. They are victims of the system too; and you might be surprised at how well some of them could teach if they weren't compelled to do it.

Shelagh Blanchard

Dear Black Flag,

I was rather amused by the debate, having done a practice in a comprehensive I began to hate these kids too, but I was usually the kids or the teachers as such, it's the set-up.

I was truth in, of course, quite wrong when he says teachers get the boot if they don't conform to other civic duties they are very secure. Look at the job they had getting rid of the fyve icy staff!

Apropos the bit about the history project on anarchism, I sat in on a teacher training lect used to think of Blair Peach who got into trouble with the police because he was seen and indicting small children." The lecturer corrected her, "No, Blair Peach was the one who shot by the police." (?)

Panel 5.

roon but aboot?

Dear Black Flag,

Your columnist may be "roon" but he doesn't get "aboot" enough (Black Flag, March 1980). I am a conventional pseudonym based on the French word for "about" twenty years but nothing to do with Frendon himself. My letter in the Guardian on 3 January about dictionary definitions of "Jew" wasn't qaurantial but irrealical. It asked whether dictionary definitions not just of "Jew" but of "Dutch", "French", "Irish", "Scott"", "Welsh", "Black", "Red" "offeminate", "womanish", "juv enile", "eunuch", "faggy", then, and so on, and commented on the way that this would be very English, "editorial cute spin" the argument but didn't obscure the irony.

One fact is that good dictionaries, unlike encyclopedias, are intended to reflect common usage rather than impose correct information; and another fact is that "Jew" (like "anarchist") is often used in an unpleasant way which should be mentioned in any reference book. The obvious solution is to not exclude such material from dictionaries but to include proper explanations about their inaccurate or offensive nature; otherwise innocent readers cannot understand such usage when they come across it. You surely don't suggest that language dictionaries should be purged of meanings which their readers don't like.

Arthur Freeman,
28 Whitechapel High Street, London E1.

Examplesfrom dictionaries - homo sexual equals pedesist; Jew equally unaer; anarchist equals subversive; Jew equally unmanly, queer, be "rechristened" but whether they are accurate. And Freeman's second sentence is more mysterious than ever!

We don't like having to edit letters but due to the lack of space we are forced to. We would be helpful if in future letters could be kept as brief as possibly so that all letters are not too long. We cannot do the editing then.

page 37.
What did you do during the repression, daddy?

Towards a citizen's militia: anarchist alternatives to NATO & the Warsaw Pact
Part of May Group, £1.25 (+ 25p pp)
The thought of war and oppression is unpleasant to decent people all over the world. On the other hand, if you want to survive the worst with dignity then you must first imagine the very worst, and then try to think how you would act. The government knows this only too well. This year they will spend £130,000,000 of our money to prevent the country falling into the enemy, without and within, but what happens if they've got it all wrong?

Terror: Sony or - heaven forbid! - a cabal of army and police officers took power in Moscow at 4.00 a.m. Shaving lives for centenarians in society reveals to authority we can assume that, by killing, there would be people clapping in the streets... By these we have chosen leading other citizens to their deaths... or the nine-a-clock news... we have been well informed that there would have been a well known personality cult that was not the case with the new order... and by 11.30 the following morning we had expected nothing of the sort. As far as the army has been concerned, in general resulting from the two orders for the figure of an enemy, by the power of the authority of the new regime and tackling the opposition off to the minimum means of Ecklel, or to Wimbledon Stadium to avoid... whatever information, delight or to state for them.

However, if you are one of those people who feel it is your civil duty to defend whatever freedom you feel you have, and haven't let your all on IBM, the ACU, or any other power obsessed minority, then it is your responsibility to be aware of the many ways that police can be harmful when angry, acquiescent, or generally out of aura. Yes, of course, are one of the Great Pumkins' biggest creations, so we are safe in posting this book in your hands.

We hope you’ll never need the information contained herein. It is your tangible right to share with your enemies the knowledge of this useful publication.

CIENFUEGOS PRESS

ACTION DIRECTE ARRESTS.....

Some of those arrested are known to have connections with armed groups like NAPAP of GARI. In 1978 Pascal Trillat was sentenced to 16 months in prison for harbouing a fugitive, a NAPAP member. Christian Herbon, sought in connection with the vengeance killing of Renoeu fortress guard Tranoni; the killer of Insidier Pierre Overney. It is known that Rouillon had connections with GARI and the new defunct anti-Franco MIL. GARI was always at pains to avoid bloodshed and if Action Directe is its successor it seems unlikely that it fits the bloodthirsty image that the police have been trying to conjure up.

As a former member of GARI said to Liberation, "I don't go much for the business about Rouillon having connections with the Red Brigade members. Of course it is possible that French militants may be in touch with them, but the ideological differences are too great. Excepting the execution of Tranoni, the armed struggle groups in France have never taken life.

Here is a list of Action

Directe claimed actions:

1 May 79
15 September 79
attack on Somocota HQ.
16 September 79
armed men attack Ministry of Labour
25 September 79
attack on Ile de France employment office
1/5 February 80
attack on the Work Inspectors premises in Paris
10 February 80
attack on Paris Building Society buildings
10 March 80
attack on SEMIREP premises in Paris
18 March 80
attack on Ministry Corporation buildings in Paris
6 April 80
fire break on premises of Phillips Data System in Toulouse.
8 April 80
attack on Honeywell building in Toulouse.

13 April 80
a bomb attack on the palace of justice in Toulouse - failed when gelignite charges didn't explode.

15 April 80
3 attacks on Ministry of Transport buildings in Paris.

GREECE... CONT. FROM P.9

Our correspondent cannot expect release without an intensive campaign on their behalf at home and abroad, and the lobbying of Human Rights organizations around the Athens-Anarchist-syndicalist group recommends the creation of a diplomatic incident by the occupation of a diplomatic or consular office.

(report from Athens-Anarchist-syndicalist group)