

BLACK FLAG

ORGAN OF THE ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

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IRIS MILLS — RONAN BENNETT

FIENDISH ANARCHIST SHOCK HORROR

BLACK FLAG

Organ of the Anarchist Black Cross

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Not too bad an effort but wake up there at the back of the class please! Most of our income isn't in anyway at the time of writing but then neither are some of our bills. We need to push this deficit down not put out a saucer of milk for it each night. It's the cash for the Flags sold that would help us out of trouble.

Prisoners/Resistance/Mutual Aid Fund

In hand £26.02. Donations: Cosham (Hants) S.B. £4; Guam S.S. £7.48; Durham A. McQ £1.50; Hoy R. McG. £5; = £17.98, total £44. Disbursed: £10 prisoners; £28 'Apoyo Mutuo (Mutual Aid).

Always does quite well - especially our two regulars - bearing in mind the number of people sending direct to addresses given them (we can still do this, though there are fewer in Spanish prisons). Don't forget our Mutual Aid project for Spain as previously outlined.

(Our fund has now reached a total of £100 and we will report in our next issue on the first steps taken to implement our project).

fuck, aggro, Millwall, fuck, aggro, Millwall
fuck, aggro, Millwall, fuck, aggro, Millwall...



"Big deal, now he can say National Front"

GUY FAWKES POSTERS

We are selling them at 30p including post and packing, from Mushroom, Heathcote Street, Nottingham. (They'll be selling at about 25p over the counter). Cheques and P.O.s should be made out to "The Teapot Club" (!that's right).

All the money we derive from them, will be diverted to "worthy" projects. (Bulk orders are at other rates yet to be worked out.)



GUY FAWKES

The only person
to enter Parliament
with honest intentions

ANARCHO-QUIZ

1. Why, for over a century, was the Spanish right-wing called 'The Persians'?
2. What have Mozart, Bach, Schubert and - to a lesser extent - Beethoven in common, indicating the degree of appreciation in which their patrons presumably held them?
3. What innovation did William of Orange bring to England which proved so popular that its attempted curtailment later almost caused rebellion?
4. What major blow for freedom was struck, in the reign of Queen Anne, by the totally forgotten Mrs. Foxby of Maidstone, Kent?
5. Which contemporary Scotsman has influenced anarchism the most - though always puzzled by being called one?
6. Which American, though despised by many as a cowardly informer upon his friends, is linked affectionately by people who know him only from his work with his faithful tribute to the heroic revolutionary struggle in Mexico?

(answers on page 23)

The Problems We're Facing.

Black Flag's "splendidly erratic" rate of appearance has stepped up somewhat this year. This is only the fourth issue to appear since the New Year. (don't think we just missed out sending your copy). For a paper that aspires to be monthly, or at least bi-monthly, this is bad.

The reason is partly financial - from an economic point of view, we cut our own throat when we invite people to contribute to help for prisoners - when we think they're doing so, we never cut off sending the paper (in fact we seldom do stop sending until we're finally convinced there's no one at the address to receive it - which is a habit we ought to get out of). Result is we don't get enough subscriptions to keep us going; the fact is if we got paid for every copy that goes out or otherwise 'sold' we would be making the paper pay for itself.

As it is we use it to subsidise our Black Cross work which (especially by way of postage) costs, if you'll pardon the expression, a bomb!

The result of coming out erratically is that we're inhibited from writing about various struggles, especially industrial, as they get totally outdated by the time the paper appears. But we don't get enough feedback by way of information about such struggles and we look to our readers to remedy this. We have no paid staff or paid contributors (fortunately; on a NUJ basis it would need a dozen full-time editorial people to bring out the paper we assemble in our spare time - to say nothing of the production side).

Black Flag isn't directly affected by the problems of the Review which has a separate existence. Most of the work of the Flag, bar the typesetting, is done in London - most of the work of the Review is done in Orkney.

TEN YEARS ON

With the success of State communism in Russia and social-democracy elsewhere — a success which benefitted only the parties concerned and in no way extended to their achievements — anarchism got pushed out of the international working class movement. It battled on between the wars before its final suppression by Statism as an important factor in the class struggle but always regarded as anachronistic.

In Spain 1936 there was a brief interlude — an Indian summer of libertarian achievement in the form of workers' control — before the forces of repression closed in.

By the time the Second World War had ended, not only anarchism had been pushed out of the organised working class movement — so far as any question of participation or control over their own organisations was concerned, so had the working class. The term "democracy" finally lost its meaning: one was expected to equate democracy with tolerance and be grateful that its government abstained from repression. Democracy began to imply a dictatorship that did not hit you on the head: if the State did not act like a major criminal, if it moreover allowed its dictators to go through the farce of being "chosen" electorally — and even to have their personnel altered at the whim of the electorate — that was as much as it was felt, we were entitled to expect nowadays.

The Centre, which likes to pose as "moderate" can be quite as extreme as Left or Right in its own conceptions of how the State should be run, and police repression in country after country today — in Western Germany as in Britain — show how narrow the gap can be between police powers under a dictatorship and those of a constitutional democracy.

Yet when it seemed ten years ago that anarchism had finally gone to ground, and academic specialists — who after all could not be expected to know what place it was taking in resistance movements everywhere — were writing it off as dead, new vistas opened up in Paris in 1968. It appeared that Anarchism, even if it was a lost cause in the politics of the twentieth century, was still the only cause worth fighting for and incorporating everything libertarian. What staggered the world in the Paris barricades was not the thought that it could end in the downfall of capitalism — not even the most involved thought that. It was that given half a

chance all the carefully indoctrinated Statist ideas vanish. Even more typical was that brief night of roses when the Portuguese dictatorship fell, and a few old anarchists came out with banners carefully stored away in attics since the 1920s . . . and set off on a march to find them greeted and followed by hundreds and even thousands.

The old battles between Marxism or Marxist-Leninism on the one hand and Anarchism on the other left Marxism stronger than ever, sustained not only in the State communist countries with all the violence of criminal Statism, but by schools of philosophy churning out theses in all countries of the world — if only to show that the alternative to capitalism or even fascism was the domination of the Communist Party. At the same time the forces against freedom are stronger than ever. Criminal Statism dares to represent anarchism as anti-social; to defend its use of nuclear terror by counter-allegations about "criminal terrorism" — as if anyone could be as criminal or as terrorist as they.

The term "terrorist", like many other words, has changed its meaning. Once it meant anyone using individual terror as the only defence against mass terror by the rulers against the ruled and was an acceptable term. Now it is used to mean anyone fighting a war by means not officially or legally recognised and (since to the criminal Statist it is inconceivable that anyone could sanely advocate Statelessness) "anarchist" is used by the media to mean a sort of assassin for anyone's cause but their own. Yet, notwithstanding this anti-anarchist campaign, anarchism is accepted more than ever before. But with one major variation.

Most people, it would seem, have come to accept in the last ten years or so that the State is an evil, but to accept it as an inevitable evil. Even the gift wrappings of the State — nationalism, patriotism (though sometimes acceptable as currency) have lost much of their potency — all of it in the super-Powers. Once an objection to anarchism was that, as the totalitarian state had become so powerful, and industry so complex, we would have to resign ourselves to the fact of the State organising our working lives, and leave us as much freedom as possible in our leisure. That was not an objection — it was a prophecy. The State has become the Universal Parent of our working lives, our industries and even the

organisations formed to fight for independence in and from those industries have become incorporated in the State. On the other hand, as Universal Parent, the State hands out, liberally or otherwise as it chooses, such huge patronage, dispenses "welfare" (from university grants to unemployment pay) that it is not impossible to try to drop out of the rat race at the State's expense — or at least, to believe one has done so, and try to ignore it as much as possible; or to live as free lives as one can out of working hours. Such a form of liberalism — it is widely felt — could survive even the socialist-capitalist state, even the totalitarianism of today.

Increasingly social attitudes are anarchistic, or borrow heavily from classic anarchist views; so much so that it has been possible for a quasi-anarchism to develop which says that it is enough to decide how we spend our social time; that our private lives are what count, and so long as we have balanced and healthy attitudes towards sexual and personal relationships, towards children and education, and a libertarian way of spending our leisure, it does not really matter so much about changing the economic system or destroying the conception of the State, and maybe (with a hint of sour grapes) it would be a bit authoritarian to do this anyway . . . It may yet prove that these views of quasi-anarchism which have become extremely popularised since we wrote this book ten years ago, may prove to be the real silent majority, despite an exceptional anti-anarchist campaign . . . Perhaps it may prove as much a myth as the illusion that there was or is a revolutionary movement in the universities.

But this does not concern us. If people are imbued with freedom they will opt for anarchism despite all the odds. They will move towards libertarian personal attitudes and they will move beyond them and come to dismantle the State. Freedom begets freedom and that is why, for the authoritarian, 'anarchy' and 'anarchist' are the dread words.

(Prologue to the new edition of "Floodgates of Anarchy" now being prepared for a major reprint, the hard-back and paperback editions having sold out.)

A.B.C. plus 10

It is now ten years since the Anarchist Black Cross was revived as a live anarchist international.

There had previously been an Anarchist Red Cross operating in Tsarist Russia (which changed its name to the Black Cross when the official 'Red Cross' became active in the revolutionary period). It aimed at supporting political prisoners and victims of the Terror. By doing so it enabled class war victims to continue to play a part in the struggle. It gradually extended its operations internationally, first to include Italy, then suffering under fascism, and from Berlin built a class war victims' league that operated throughout Europe. It only suffered defeat because reaction was so extensive throughout Europe that it had to transfer its activities to America, which then suffered the economic depression. Even so, the old Black Cross/ARC maintained aid for Russian, German, Italian and other prisoners right up to almost the present time.

After 1937 it was no longer possible to contact Russian prisoners: they had officially 'vanished.'

The active aid on all fronts required for the Spanish libertarian fight meant that other organisations — such as SIA (International Anti-Fascist Solidarity) were formed with similar aims.

In 1968 we realised the time had come to re-organise the Anarchist Black Cross on a new basis. There was an essential need for support of the activist groups in many countries, especially the First of May Group and others. This renaissance of anarchist activity (outlined in the book 'The International Revolutionary Solidarity Movement') meant that a support arm was needed for the active groups resisting the onward march of the new reaction. (We had in fact in mind to call it 'Solidarity' but it transpired that this title was used by another grouping — hence the decision to use the old name The Anarchist Black Cross which had the merit of immediately suggesting support, of a permitted nature, for victims of the State — as the Red Cross did for victims of war caused by the State). Nevertheless our aims were expressed in the one word Solidarity.

What is solidarity? It does not imply charity. It does not imply the condescension implicit in such organisations as Amnesty who state they will support the innocent victims but allow the State to define which are 'innocent.' It is a recognition of a common struggle which could not be better expressed than by the old 'wobbly' put into the mouths of prisoners — 'Remember you're outside for us and we're in here for you.'

The intention of this solidarity is to build an international, not upon 'paper' nor on paper conferences, but on active reality. This intention has to some extent succeeded. It is quite impossible for us in the Black Flag tendency or the Black Cross to define ourselves as a 'national body.' To the despair of those with bourgeois ideas of neat and tidy classifications, we cannot be defined into a national category. Our international may be comparatively small and our organisation deficient at times (not coincidental: organisational ability is derived from numbers) but nobody should make the mistake of assuming our international is ineffective.

Despite the abuse hurled at us by the media and certain authors, not to mention occasionally some claiming to be within the anarchist milieu, the Black Cross has never condoned terrorism. On the contrary we have actively campaigned against the terrorism of the State, but it is only natural that activist groups faced with State terrorism and political gangsterism have had to use forceful action. There has been a sort of liberal pacifism especially in England born out of the dialogue between the State and pacifism which says that any violence is equally wrong — whether it is football hooliganism or dropping the atom bomb or shooting the finger about to drop the atom bomb . . . in totally rejecting this conception we also reject the reactionary notion passing off as pacifist 'anarchism' which states that if one is not absolutely non-violent in the Gandhian sense one is 'violent'. (We note in passing it is odd how this pacifist 'anarchism' can pass over in one bound to the total violence implicit in national war or Marxist-Leninism).

The total rejection of national — a parasite of the State — has been a feature of the Black Cross. In this we differ sharply from the groupings that have imitated our structure (Maoists in particular).

Black Flag has attempted to portray this struggle in terms of theory, practice, comment and interpretation. It gives an entirely different perspective to the revolutionary struggle because it views events and formulates the theory of anarchism through the point of view of the international groups acting in solidarity, and towards a movement for solidarity and mutual aid. This has necessitated a break with liberal groups claiming to be anarchistic (and rarely succeeding even in being libertarian). We simply represent different movements and they accepted that fact and took different names it would make our propaganda (and theirs) more comprehensible.

We said ten years ago that if the Anarchist Black Cross succeeded in getting one prisoner liberated sooner than he or she would have been, that alone would justify our existence; we have managed to do more than that and have been exceptionally lucky in that each prisoner who has come out has added another shoulder to the wheel which in some cases has been of prodigious strength; sad that so many have fallen to State terrorism.

At the same time we had launched a tremendous project of anarchist education which had almost, after over a century, been dying away just at the time when interest in it was growing. Our work with the Black Cross was always intended as a springboard from which groups could go on to further activity and provided both a means of mutual encouragement by those 'inside for us' and others 'outside for them' and a way of cementing affinity groups by solidarity activity, who would in turn activate other struggles. If the media were at times to be believed we have scored tremendous successes: in truth they have been considerably modest.

If in the next five years we can gather all those who understand and sympathise with our views into one fighting force, not necessarily one organisation but with one aim, we may yet achieve victory for our ideas.

Anarchist Black Cross, and Black Flag represent a tendency rather than an organisation: for this reason it is sometimes vague as to who are actually members and who are not. It is high time that we were crystallised into a more specific organisation, and this must be one of our immediate tasks for the future.

F·A·S·H

Behind the Terrorist Squad Farce.

As crowbars crash in doors all over the country, the "anti" terrorist squad announces a shock horror situation which oddly enough coincided with a proposed pruning of the "anti" terrorist squad from 200 to 30 in view of the virtual ceasing of terrorist activities in the mainland of the British Isles. It is significant that at the identical moment that Robin Cook MP raised the question of the "political delusions of the political police" and role of the Special Branch and its new rival — the glamour boy "anti" terror squad the "anti" terror squad found it necessary to smash in doors at 6.30 in the morning . . . sometimes only to steal [beg pardon, borrow without giving a receipt] a photo album. The photos are then used to identify people of a like political persuasion.

It is significant that this situation, alleged to be necessary, coincides with no anarchist activism whatsoever. On the contrary, at the present time there are not even any conceivable anarchist targets for militant activity, such as there were at the time of the Vietnam War or the Franco repression. Any attacks must inevitably be put down to various nationalist movements. However it is this precise lack of any action which is being attacked, for as the uniformed police shrink in numbers to a point where a public used to leaving its orderly protection in the hands of the police finds to its alarm that they can no longer provide it, so the political police grow and (as Robin Cook discovered) the Special Branch has been swollen out of recognition.

But the "anti" terrorist squad that is muscling in on Special Branch's nice little preserve — and acting less as the armed wing of the Conservative Party (SB), and more like that of an imminent fascist takeover. If we christen it flippantly in terms it has chosen itself (to judge from press comments as given out at Scotland Yard) The Fiendish Anarchist Shock Horror Squad (see the Bennet-Mills-Ladd case) rather than the Bomb Squad or the "anti" Terror Squad, it is not because the results are flippant. The "Draconian laws" granted under the Prevention of Terrorism Act means they can be totally irresponsible — clowns throwing not custard pies but high explosives, clowns with crowbars.

The anarchist movement has existed in this country for 150 years. It has never been made illegal. It is not illegal. If it is made illegal the consequences are on the head of those who make it so. Legislation to criminalise enemies of the State cannot force people to love the State . . . still less the party that imposes such law. But it is not necessarily the party in power that is seeking to impose such a law. It appears to be forces they cannot control and which Home Secretary Merlyn Rees has discovered regard him too with suspicion and distrust . . . just as in South Australia it was discovered that a large number of citizens came under surveillance because (reported Judge White) "they adopted politics or opinions which were . . . 'to the Left' of an arbitrary point fixed by somebody in the Special Branch."

In a speech at Goole, Mr. Merlyn Rees, the Home Secretary, poured scorn on the Tory proposals for mobile squads of police to deal with mass pickets. "This was a radical misconception of the proper role of the police," he said (Guardian, June 2nd). "In this country I cannot emphasise too strongly that the Home Secretary is not a Minister of the Interior: he has no powers to give the police orders on an operational matter. What marks our society out from many others is that we have the rule of law, and the police are agents of the law, not agents of the government."

It has been made clear by the F*A*S*H squad that the police are not agents of the government. But are they agents of the law, or are they — or a part of the police — agents for something sinister? They should be "enforcing the law impartially," says Mr. Rees. The Home Secretary compared "innuendos about Marxism etc which are designed to cast doubts on the patriotism of Labour Party members" with the Zinoviev letter of 1924 or Churchill's 'Gestapo' speech of 1945. (It should be pointed out Churchill was entirely correct in saying that "some sort of Gestapo" would come in Britain with the growth of State powers; only wrong in saying that it would be exclusively the Labour Party that would use it).

Mr. Rees, it was said, in regard to the Tory proposals — as well as the problems over National Front marches — "is known to be deeply concerned about any development which would increase the police being used as what he called 'a political instrument' ". The F*A*S*H

squad is clearly a political instrument.

The Home Secretary and the Attorney General whose fiat is required for any prosecution, need to consider the matter carefully. Maybe the libertarian movement can be ignored politically, as it is not to be reckoned in electoral swings. But it is always a portent when an anti-movement grows in armed strength and power disproportionate to the movement it is opposing — it is a sign someone needs to build that strength against something else. The anti-anarchist movement is powerful and demagogic and the building up of an armed wing needs to be reckoned with. Can a Labour Government be quite sure that it has not to reckon with a "Chile" situation?

November The Elventh

May the First fizzled out this year in a dreary way . . . it was the first legally granted May Day bank holiday — but it poured with rain and made for a very dreary day. Had it been a fine day, the holiday would have done the Government a world of good — as it is, the press is counting it against Callaghan as if he were responsible for the weather.

Be sure however that if it is a fine day in future years it will be the end of the old May Day as we knew it. It will be a Bank Holiday when people rush off to the countryside or pack the sports grounds, and can watch the military march-pasts in the lands of State Communism on TV in the evening.

The English labour rallies were never up to much but May Day as the Festival of Labour is over. Let us continue to try to achieve something on that day but it is not and it never was Anarchist Day. Its modern observance began in the struggles of the Chicago workers which culminated in the murder of the anarchists — the Chicago Martyrs. But the day on which they were hanged, November 11th, was for years celebrated by the international anarchist movement as its particular day.

November 11th was stolen from the Anarchists by the patriots. It was Armistice Day in 1918 and for years "our glorious dead" were remembered on that day. But they were ultimately forgotten. No young person now knows what a fuss was made about November 11th — the Two Minutes Silence, the march past at the Cenotaph etc. Time we took November 11th back. Anarchist Day.

May 1st celebrates (or ought to) the international solidarity of the workers. November 11th is now re-appropriated to celebrate the end of international tyranny. It's a Saturday this year so get it off to a good new start.
NOVEMBER 11th ANARCHIST DAY AGAIN.

BLACK FLAG
organ of the
ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

PERSONS UNKNOWN



Iris Mills and Ronan Bennett were re-arrested in London on May 24th. They had previously been detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act in Huddersfield, went before a tribunal, were thoroughly examined as to their views and activities, and totally cleared. They were again detained under the PTA, but as the procedure was the same, when a friend telephoned them and was answered by an assumed human voice saying they had "gone away for the weekend" he guessed what had happened (last time the voice invited him up — and he came and was detained). He telephoned around and we were able to notify a solicitor. The detention was cancelled and they were charged instead.

Next day headlines in the press announced:
BOMB MATERIAL SEIZED IN HUNT FOR ANARCHISTS.

The "hunted anarchists" had only a week before gathered in public demonstrations and meetings (over the May 1st weekend) and our group had later held a social, only a week before the "hunt". Anarchists were (one paper said) about to "attack London!" What could be "an important anarchist cell" on the "lines of the Angry Brigade" was announced by the Telegraph, and the shock-horror stories were on. "A hunt was on today for members of an anarchist group thought to be planning a new bomb wave in London" (News) "on lines of the Angry Brigade", a theme

stated over and over again and obviously coming from the police (oddly enough coinciding with the end of certain sentences given, one of whom was raided only days after being released).

The arrested were said to be "charming" though they had "annoyed their neighbours" by feeding the pigeons (we are not making this up) but they had started a bomb factory in the flat — "I had no idea they were doing anything so fiendish," their actress landlady is reported as saying. ("Bomb factory" can mean, of course, weedkiller in the garden shed and sugar in the pantry).

"Security forces were put on alert for a possible bomb emergency (Standard) though a word of truth slipped out in the Guardian — "Scotland Yard said last night that there was no suggestion that the couple had any connections with the IRA or any other terrorist organisation."

Later Dafydd Ladd, only recently released from prison, was also arrested, and they were all charged with "conspiracy to cause explosions." The mystery was what explosions? Nothing had happened, nothing was about to happen, and no targets were named or suggested. Explained Insp. Bradbury in court, "we nipped the bomb-making plan in the bud," and anyway there were armed robbery charges hovering around. So far no evidence has been, or needs to be, produced, as they have not yet been committed for trial and it needs the fiat of the Attorney General — who we feel on the showing may need some convincing. However the "emergency" was reflected in exceptional security measures.

Ronan and Dafydd appear in court in handcuffs each week, Iris is in solitary confinement throughout the week (in a men's prison, the one woman), all have up to the time of writing been denied visits, all are taken to court with a police escort that exceeds that given to the I.R.A., the Kray and Messina brothers and the Angry Brigade put together. Anyone knowing how gentle and kind Iris is will be staggered to see the special attention given to her at Lambeth Court.

Until some intelligible charges are made we are unable to satisfy curiosity as to "what's it all about". The raids on comrades' houses everywhere have been only for things like address books and photo albums. When police chase armed robbers they look for guns, ammunition and above all loot. There is the smell of something in the air. It would not be the first major repression, some of them involving mass slaughter, to begin as broad farce.

Tuesday 6th June. Scotland Yard PTA Squad, local CID, and explosive 'sniffer' dogs raid a house in Honley, search house and question a man and a woman for three hours. Questions about their politics, local anarchists, friends who live in the area, demos attended, when and where they lived in the past, how they met Ronan and Iris and the whereabouts of G. Rua were asked. Fingerprints were taken..

Wednesday 7th June. Police go round to anarchists house at 8.30 a.m. He is at work, local CID arrive at his work place at 10 a.m. (no-one told them where he worked). They asked him to go to the police station. He was told that if he refused other ways would be found. On the way to the station he was told that Ronan had murdered a policeman a few years ago and the fact that he had won the case in court was immaterial. He was questioned for three hours at Huddersfield police station about his personal politics, what he knew about Iris and Ronan, Phil Ruff, Albert Meltzer, Stuart Christie and Graham Rua. Fingerprints were taken.

Thursday 8th June. PTA Squad visit a couple who formerly lived in the house occupied by the couple above. Similar questions are asked. They also visit the people living next door to their present address who have no personal or political connections with Ronan and Iris. And they questioned and fingerprinted a couple who live in Huddersfield (no details known).

In the first raid photographs were shown that prove that a former mailing address for Black Flag was under surveillance for some time. There was also a list of descriptions of visitors to the address. It was also obvious that the local anarchist group was under surveillance. The stress in the first two interviews was on the personal politics of the people being interviewed. At the interview of the second comrade his 'true British spirit' was appealed to and he was told that certain key helpers of the ABC were 'in the pay of Moscow.'

* * * * *

To date 6 comrades have been arrested and charged with "conspiracy to cause explosions": Iris Mills, Ronan Bennett, Dafydd Ladd, Stuart Carr, Trevor Dalton and Vince Stevenson.

1678 — 1978
TERCENTARY of the TITUS OATES
PAPIST CONSPIRACY

ROON 'N' ABOUT

Consistently the Sunday Express runs a main feature article at least, plus several commentaries and some biased "news" stories, attacking the anarchist peril, with denunciations of anarchists and by such worthies as Angus Maude, Reginald Maudling, Enoch Powell, old uncle John Junor and all But this was lacking on June 4 (notwithstanding a current police scare that normally would have served as grist to the mill but was, perhaps, too fantastic to be credited). Instead there was an editorial on "Flame of Freedom" concerning the incident when Brezhnev was blacked out on TV.

"A few brave men had enabled the Czech people to express their true feelings." They were not "saboteurs" or even "terrorists" on this occasion! — "Is it not possible that by concentrating all our attention on the physical evidence of Russia's strength we sometimes forget the weakness at the very heart of their Empire?" in the captive countries of the Soviet Empire, indeed in Russia itself, there must be millions of oppressed people waiting, like those Czech technicians, for the chance and the hour to strike. From the times of the Romans and the Persians and the Mongols all empires based on tyranny have been destroyed from within. One day the biggest Fifth Column in history will surely destroy the Russian monster too."

The "millions" are not represented by a handful of writers, a few religious sectarians, some show business refugees and a gaggle of Nationalists. Moreover, the only way to destroy — that is the word — the "monster" could only be what in other circumstances the Express would term anarchism and terrorism.

Do the Russian Anarchists receive support from the West? *Alas, no*, (syas the Express apparently). What then do they receive? Rigid hunting down by an international police force which passes on information and hands over people to the Russian secret police. Interpol is rotten with intrigue and mixed up with double-crossing, espionage and counter-espionage. But on this it is firm. The Russian dictatorship must be preserved at all costs. Even if it is against the "national interest." Soldiers' lives are cheap, but Revolution is unpredictable.

There were at one time extensive plans to build a new British Library adjacent to the British Museum. This plan of the academic Establishment evoked howls of protest from the commercial Establishment. It would destroy irrevocably the character of Bloomsbury, they said. Well, "Bloomsbury," as it has passed into the folklore of the 20s (and barely survived into the 30s), has long since been destroyed. As working-class Bloomsbury faded the literary and artistic rebels moved in; but they having made the area "desirable" it was gradually taken over by the tycoons and built into massive office blocks.

"But there was still something of old Bloomsbury left," we heard. "Look at Cameo Corner, look at . . ." (all the rest have vanished but Cameo Corner, and that closed down the other week). It was a tribute to "craftsmanship and free enterprise," (but apparently ten years ago Hambros Bank bought it out and even they could not afford the increase in rents now made).

Just as the Labour Party MPs have their brand of hypocrisy in advocating comprehensive schooling for others and sending their own children to expensive or exclusive schools, the Conservatives have their special brand in regard to "private enterprise" and the myth of the heroic struggling small shopkeeper . . . Cameo Corner was much used when they were talking about a British Library altering the character of Bloomsbury and built office developments instead. But surely this hypocrisy comes to a hilarious head with the Thatchers tea shops. As a tribute to Conservative ideas of free enterprise, they are proposing setting them up in the provinces — backed by wealthy business contributions to the Tory Party. But how long can *real* unsubsidised old-lady-tea-shops survive? About as long as bookshops, alas.

To the originator of the Thatcher tea shops we award the Harold Wilson Prize in Sincerity.

The Berlin Wall

One of those lovely, slush television interviews (on the occasion of his 90th birthday) showed a flashback of Irving Berlin being given a medal by President Eisenhower for

his song "God Bless America." Emotionally — and oh, so American — the composer expressed his delight in the award but the song was written only to show his gratitude for this wunnerful country etc where — and this was the highspot Americanism — you had the freedom to write such songs as "God Bless America."

Offhand I can't think of any country however dictatorial its system, where you *can't* write sycophantic songs extolling the State's armed might and expressing the joys of that particular country in terms of the highest conceivable adulation.



WHERE IN THE WORLD
WILL YOU FIND
STANDARD CHARTERED?

It was good news that an old acquaintance Abdul Rahman Babu was released from seven years of prison in Dar es

Salaam. No matter how much he may have departed from the anti-imperialist idealism of his exile in London (we don't know) Babu's detention was solely an arbitrary act by President Nyerere — long since bogged down in international (imperialist) politics.

Abdul Rahman Babu was Minister of Development in Tanzania when he was accused of "planning" the assassination of Sheikh Abeid Karume, then Head of State. He was also accused of "conspiracy"; part of the tensions existing between Tanganyika and Zanzibar in Tanzania reflecting a struggle for power and necessitating charges of this sort.

Years ago Babu was saying that he hoped the new Zanzibar would be a "holiday resort for the revolutionary workers of the West;" it didn't become so for him. But who knows what the future holds?

And speaking of African politicians, I well remember the days when an old acquaintance of pre-war London (he sometimes came to anarchist meetings) was being reviled as a terrorist in terms far worse than those applied to the Red Brigades, the Red Army Fraction or any of the current nationalist movements as you can see from the above, he has received the ultimate accolade — not just Head of State but featuring in an advertisement of Standard Chartered Bank persuading businessmen to invest

Motes in Eyes

Apropos of our remarks about how fixated the Marxist-Leninists are in one period of history and how Lenin's reactions to various ephemeral factors existing then and no longer are taken like the immutable Holy Writ.

But (a reader takes me to task) libertarians aren't entirely exempted from this "looking backwards" — she cites a fellow worker of the IWW proposing to "bring a rule up to date." In the old constitution "bootleggers" were banned from membership — he proposed as a modernisation "drug pushers" be barred. This also is seeing things in terms of the past: bootleggers presented a problem, to American unions of the period, not because of the beer (in which case, why not ban brewery workers when beer was legal?) but because of their links with the criminal underworld, the gangs which moved, among other business interests, into controlling unions.

Drug pushers, whatever one thinks about taking the stuff, supply a commodity on which no doubt there are different views, but they don't have the intention of controlling the unions. The very idea is laughable. They can't be equated with bootleggers.

This method of (as Longfellow said) reading the past "backwards like a Hebrew book" and seeing the future in its pages, isn't exclusive to Marxist-Leninism (which has just institutionalised it). Oh-how-often do we hear people talking about the National Front and citing it with Mosley's Blackshirts — "why not tell them what Cable Street was all about?" type of thing

The truth is Cable Street has been greatly distorted in the telling and become one of the great political myths . . . but, even so, it was an entirely different ball game from anything to do with the activities of the Anti-Nazi League. At the 80,000 demonstration against racialism in Victoria Park over the May Weekend the old legend was trotted out (they're not called trots for nothing), given a dusting and emerging more vivid than ever. "Tell us about how the East End workers stopped Mosley," someone shouted at a cart containing former C.P. members, veterans of the "battle." How the stories grow in the telling too! You would think Mosley was driven into the sea afterwards . . . only one march was "stopped" at Cable Street (and that because Fenner Brockway phoned the Home Secretary to warn him of the "danger of violence" and got the police to send the Blackshirts back) . . . and the role of the C.P. was as dubious as ever it was.

It is the highest impertinence and presumption in kings and ministers to pretend to watch over the economy of private people, and to restrain their expense by sumptuary laws. They are themselves the greatest spendthrifts in the society; let them look well after their own expense, and they may safely trust private people with theirs. If their own extravagance does not ruin the state, that of their subjects never will.

Adam Smith: The Wealth of Nations

The truth of the above is so ingrained in everyone's knowledge of modern economics that it is hardly necessary to rub home the application. Governments try hard to convince people that economic problems are *their* fault for having too much or working too little — and to some extent have convinced them at least that other people's wages ought to remain steady. Generally what sounds more convincing is that economic problems — like inflation — are beyond human control, that they are something like a good harvest or prolonged drought, when the plain fact is that they are the result of Government over-spending in a capitalist economy. Governments in a State communist society need not over-spend so they do not have inflation. They have instead other myths — "the building of socialism means sacrifices" — which substitute for "inflation" as an excuse for taking too much from society.

We never thought much of the old *International Times* — too much dour flower power that's now gone sour — but times change, and the new IT has transformed; it's into punk anarchism and we highly recommend it — to the astonishment perhaps of some of our friends who probably think we'd take another view. "Surely Black Flag and IT are opposite ends of the spectrum?" — yes, but different ends of an anarchist spectrum and well capable of coexisting. IT concentrates on issues that we aren't into or don't take up — but that makes it complementary, it doesn't make us hostile. On the punk scene IT stands out as a real libertarian paper. It's possible a lot of our readers won't be theirs, and vice-versa, but IT is about the best thing around the "underground press."

It's sold in more or less the same bookshops that stock us, or direct from 97a Talbot Road, London W.11. (20p + p&p).

"The police are being hopelessly naive"
Arthur Latham M.P. Yeah?

More than 150 skinheads raided Brick Lane on the night of June 11th. Bottles, bricks, sticks and knives were being wielded, most of the youths had come from all over London and were intent on smashing up Bengalis. Shops, cars and other property were wrecked as the boys shouted racist slogans of the type familiarised by the National Front agitation near the scene of the crime, and the urging of such action. The police said there was no conspiracy.

Police refuted claims that yesterday's invasion was inspired by the National Front. A spokesman said: "There is nothing to suggest that they were organised. It seemed to have been purely a rampage — a nasty case of vandalism with racial undertones." (Sun, June 12th).

Motes in Eyes

Dear Black Flag,

With reference to your review of Authority — 1) Rising Free as a group has not published anything for a number of years. Various individuals in the group have participated in several publications, i.e. Zero, Anarchy, Authority, Womens Struggle Notes and People News Service.

2) Rising Free is a non-sectarian left bookshop, not libertarian.

3) Rising Free has never had any paid bureaucrats, and although we're working on it, we have yet to produce a Minister for Justice.

The remainder of your comments are either irrelevant or should be answered by Authority.

Rising Free Collective.

Rising Free,
182 Upper Street,
London N.1.

When we saw an editor of 'Authority' he identified them all as the Rising Free Collective — which seems to be in precisely the same situation vis a vis 'Authority' as the CNT (which was in 1937 a union with two million members 'participating' and 'unsectarian' to boot) was vis a vis Garcia Oliver. And was there not a 'non-sectarian' left socialist feminist with (in 1937) views little different from many of 'various individuals participating' now in Rising Free, who became Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office (English for Minister of Justice)?

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES!

The visit of King Juan Carlos of Spain, legate of the Franco and Fascist conquest of the Spanish working class, historical beneficiary of the liquidation of that class for the crime of social expropriation in the form of workers' control, to the People's Republic of China as an honoured guest, must surely give cause for reflection even among the most dogmatic Marxist-Leninists.

The heirs of Mao naturally welcome such a guest for his importance in the Western capitalist world and as a potential ally against Russian imperialism. In unctuous phrases they welcome him as they did Nixon, as they did Edward Heath, a man of "vision" who sees the proper place of "New" China. He on the other hand smiles shrewdly as he envisages the utter rout of those who would, within his own territory, elevate Mao to Godhead and pretend to take over where the anarchist Resistance "left off" in the struggle against Franco, by a stepping up of action against the regime at the precise moment when it has ceased its genocide and when such actions have become superfluous.

It is a sad reflection on the revolutionary struggle today – that though Stalinism has died on its feet – the Resistance has passed out of the hands of libertarians and that Maoist forces dominate. Where there is a superfluity of Marxist-Leninism, Nationalism comes in by the backdoor, and the "people's struggle", unrelated to any specific working class needs, takes precedence, merging into a leftist melange of "Third World" and package deal causes. Closely following on Nationalism come the secret service of all nations, well able to penetrate nationalist movements and indeed, by virtue of their own ideology, to dominate them. One can never forget the triumph of the Israeli secret service, that managed to take over the leadership of an entire Arab nationalist movement and fling it into battle against Jordan.

What is referred to loosely by the press

as the "Baader Meinhoff gang" or group, the various sections of the German resistance, have all these tendencies ranging from libertarian to authoritarian, ranging from sincere revolutionaries to government agents of differing brands: in this respect it resembles Spanish anti-fascism 1936-9. Those who ask if we support it must assess it in these terms. Should our criticisms, sometimes amounting to a hostility that can only be expressed physically, mean that we should not be part of such a movement?

Some of its actions are incomprehensible except when we consider the background. Ideally, who would seek such an enforced Popular Front? But in any revolution, will we not be obliged to fight alongside precisely such authoritarians, precisely such people with whom we would have very little in common but that which we oppose?

And in practice, who can refrain from admiration for some of the young revolutionaries of Germany, and in particular the heroic young women rebels who have put the most callous, complacent and terroristic capitalist class in Europe in a state of abject fright?

Who can believe they will continue to look to Mao as the last generation of revolutionaries looked to Stalin? – and looked in vain, and were betrayed.

One would say that went too far for the Red Brigades of Italy, even though there is no discernible anarchistic tendency within them at all. Nobody viewing the way they dealt with Aldo Moro – who at the time of his death was no longer Prime Minister of Italy with all the powers of criminal Statism, but a poor frightened little wretch abandoned by his friends who sacrificed him to their principles – would think that they could be libertarian at all. One persecution after another, in Italy as in elsewhere, has reduced the anarchist movement to obscurity and unimportance: while huge subsidies and grants go to build up the

study and practice of Marxist-Leninism. But as the revolutionary movement turns entirely from the Moscow direction and has no visible restraints (for after all though deified, Mao is dead and his closest associates are themselves the victim of an even more formidable kidnap band than the Red Brigades), the imbalance in favour of Marxist-Leninism and against Anarchism – the one receiving the serious attention, the other receiving the denunciations and persecutions – will make itself manifest in such occasions as this time and again. The bourgeoisie are cutting the throat of the wrong cow and fattening up the wrong one too.

The most cynical deal between a State communist country and a capitalist one was made by Yugoslavia when it announced its readiness to discuss "terrorism" with the West German Government. Truly these governments have an expertise on terrorism against the people, but what they wanted to discuss was people having the temerity to try to terrorise them.

The Communist Party – that well known non-terrorist organisation announced "We are ready to carry out our international obligations, but others must be ready to do the same." In other words, they would hand over Left-Wing elements fleeing from the German police if the German police would hand over Right-Wing elements fleeing from the Yugoslav police. They had Brigitte Mohnhaupt, Rolf-Clemens Wagner, Sieglinde Hoffman and Peter Boock – suspected variously of the slaying of the former Nazi industrialist Schleyer and the banker Jurgen Ponto. But they would keep them in prison as live bait and only extradite them if they got from West Germany some of the Croat fascists who were fighting the Yugoslavs (and who believes for one moment that it would stop there and that they would not want Slav worker rebels as well?)

Said the secretary of the Party, Stane Dolance, " *We do not accept that a person who commits crimes in Yugoslavia should be treated as a political opponent who is allowed to do such things and can even get political asylum in some countries, while others are treated as terrorists for the same crimes.*"

These "crimes" are not just what is now called "terrorism" but the stuff of everything that was once called resistance, now only, it seems, by us. Yugoslavia is demanding something that under the counter she has long had from Interpol, as has Russia: police co-ope-

swedish fight

We, three comrades in the "International Revolutionary Solidarity Movement" arranged in September 1975 a car bomb outside the Spanish travel bureau "Spain Tours" in Stockholm as a protest against the planned execution of 11 ETA and FRAP revolutionaries.

The bomb was a fake. We arranged a professional looking time bomb in a car, but connected it in a series instead of parallel, by which procedure an explosion was impossible.

Our aim was not to destroy property but to put out a serious warning to the travel bureaux which continued to sell holidays to the oppressors' Spain. On the same morning as the non-detonation we put out a statement in which we made clear that all economic transactions between Sweden and Spain should be sabotaged in the future. This statement was published in a major evening paper.

On 1st April 1977 we were arrested in a big sweep by the secret police together with about 50 others (7 foreigners were expelled because of a secret police statement that they were in sympathy with terrorist ideas). Two of us were kept in total isolation for 7 months, Pia Laskar, aged 21 and Lenny aged 24, suspected of having prepared sabotage, kidnappings, robberies, explosions, etc. etc. The third comrade, Ted Bergstrom was in isolation for 66 days and was then set free and is now awaiting trial, having to register at a police station every day. He went underground for some months but rejoined Pia and Lenny at the trial in October 1977. Judgment came in February 1978 and sentenced Ted to 1½ years, Pia to 2½ years and Lenny to 4 years imprisonment. The judge decided to reiterate the line of the prosecution and stated that we are three incompetent terrorists who connected the bomb wrongly by mistake. We declared in court that we oppose terrorism, but of course the state prefers to fix the cards.

We demanded a trial on appeal, which took place in Stockholm on April 17th, 1978. The prosecutor demanded not less than 2½ years for Ted, 4 years for Pia and 6 years for Lenny.

This is the daily terrorism of the State — we will never stop fighting it. The judgment from the trial on appeal will probably come in midsummer and we are out till then, but having to register at a police station 3 days a week.

The action at Spain Tours was carried out as a protest against the death sentences dealt out to 5 Spanish anti-fascists from the ETA and FRAP organisations. It was also directed against the garrotting of the libertarian fighter Salvador Puig Antich the preceding year. A communique issued to the press explained the action. The action at Spain Tours travel bureau was one of many protest demonstrations and condemnations which occurred all over the world. When the Franco dictatorship was about to garrotte 5 resistance and liberation fighters who had dared to defy the terror of the dictatorship — in exactly the same way that Antich had been executed the year before — it became too much. All over Europe anti-fascists protested in different ways. Our action should be seen only as a small part of the international revolutionary solidarity. Even some governments reacted and recalled their ambassadors to Spain. But what Olof Palme (then Prime Minister and leader of the social democratic party in Sweden) "forgot" to mention when he expressed his distaste for these "bestial murders" was that the Swedish welfare system is built up on the exploitation of the working class in other countries, among others, the Spanish.

LM Ericsson, SKF, ASEA, Alfa Leval are just some of the Swedish companies with daughter companies in Spain. The profits exploited from the Spanish workers play a big part in the reforms for Swedish workers. The most effective and powerful action of solidarity would have been a Swedish general strike, but there was neither time nor basis for such an action. Therefore we decided to sabotage Spanish tourism, and we are all agreed that we succeeded. The prospective traveller to Spain must have thought long and hard before deciding to support the bloodthirsty military dictatorship there.

As we have earlier pointed out, the conditions in Spain were, as in most other countries, unworthy and unbearable to live in. But there is always someone who profits by oppression. The Spanish fascist junta's daily terror against the Spanish people is completely in accordance with the social system that is the basis for fascism — the capitalist society, a grim and demeaning society based on private ownership and profit seeking. As long as people are divided

into a ruling class that have the power over the fruits of life, and a class without power or property, the struggle for the elimination of these conditions will continue. The International Revolutionary Solidarity Movement's action against the Spain Tours office in 1975 was a lead in the struggle, an action in solidarity

with a people and their aim: a classless anarcho-communist society.

We are not terrorists! But it is convenient for a society that is built on terror to make us seem dangerous. The fact is we are dangerous, but not for your sister or brother, but for those who feel their positions threatened by our demonstrating that solidarity lives. Our ideas are dangerous for those who, with beak and claw, cling to power, and for those who try to prevent your understanding that revolutionary solidarity is beautiful, tender and human. We shall never cease fighting for a new and better society.

As we see it capitalism is international. **Against international capitalism we set international revolutionary solidarity!** With that, and a social revolution we will, once and for all, cast the fascist bubonic plague into the Mediterranean, or for that matter, the Baltic.

Long Live Anarchy!!!

Long Live Solidarity between the enslaved in all countries of the world!

The International Revolutionary Solidarity Movement, Commando Sabate, 16th April 1978.

LETTERS FROM OVER THE WALL

... what's happened raises a lot of very important problems for us to face. It needs the kind of debate that can only, that must, be taken up by the socialist press, as distinct from the speculative journalism that the bourgeois press goes in for. It's vital that this "affair" shouldn't be used by the reactionaries as a pretext for making things worse for the political refugees already in the country, or for tightening up the restrictions on the entry of political refugees. Everything that points in that direction must be resisted as strongly as possible ... after nearly 5 months in solitary, three of them with only the hum of the ventilator for company, it's hard to concentrate in a big room with so many people around. For the first few days of the trial I got blinding headaches from all the new sights and sounds pressing in on me.

23 year-old man

Kronober, 23 August 1977.

Monday 15 August.

I've been in solitary for 133 days now and want to say something about what's been happening since April 1st. At about 7 that morning I was woken by one hell of a racket at the front door. Wrapped in a blanket round myself and wide awake by now went to open up. In rushed 3 pigs from SAPO with guns at the ready. Asked to see a search warrant and for an answer got pushed about and told to sit down. The pigs took a quick trample through every room, looking for Germans they said. Somewhat upset I let my friend Anna know that SAPO had dropped in for a visit. (Anna has since been deported and now hasn't a chance of getting into university in Greece or of finding a job, having been branded as a terrorist). After a while they calmed down a bit, we gave them a cup of coffee and about 9 the pigs dragged me off to headquarters. Where I was told that I was to be questioned about my friends. I refused to play along and 6 hours later was accused of being involved in sabotage. Got hold of a lawyer but stuck to my refusal to say anything. Was released at 7 in the evening. Remember, don't let yourselves get involved in their attempts to intimidate you. They just grabbed an accusation out of thin air to make me nervous and get me to talk about my friends. Anyway I was arrested again on April 4th, still under suspicion of conspiracy to commit sabotage. At the beginning of July they charged me with conspiracy to rob. By then I'd already been in prison/solitary for three months and when they asked how I was going to answer to this "new" charge — guilty or not guilty — I was so taken aback that I just replied "I really don't know." That was/is an honest answer.

In spite of the near absence of visits and the SAPO surveillance, in spite of the fact that I'm not allowed to mix with other prisoners — they always take me out for exercise on my own — my cell is searched continually. Always in my absence. They search my body too. But they'll never get their hands on my thoughts.

18 August

On the evening of the 15th Nass said on the radio that he and SAPO had been tipped off about weapons and that that was the reason for the raid. (I wonder how many machine-guns they thought they'd find in my cunt!) On the 16th Nass withdrew this statement before the day's proceedings were due to begin. A familiar story? It makes no difference, they're just showing up their own idiocy.

20 August

I'll finish off what I've already written about the "body search" (or sexual

assault): Nass and the governor here at the prison denied that we suspected terrorists were the only ones to be raided and searched. That's a barefaced bloody lie! After our protests were taken up by the media there were raids on the other prisoners *the day after*, on the Tuesday that was. Only a few of them were subjected to gynaecological examinations. So to save face they put other prisoners through this atrocious and humiliating treatment.

25 September

The contrast between the charges brought against us in court and the reality which underlies them is a good illustration of the way in which repressive tolerance in Sweden hides its true face — a prettified public relations front masking economic insanity and the echo of the iron heel of reaction. The path from the expansionist policies of the Roman Empire to those of European neo-capitalism may be a long one, but it runs in a straight line. Caesar "offered" bread and circuses, Bohman & Co., offer ice-cream and terrorist hysteria. The "objective" opinion-moulders of the bourgeois press take the opportunity to improve their sales figures since as we all know the newspaper industry is in a period of crisis and violence is always good for business. A real spy story at last, and in Sweden too! I should add here that amongst the other charges against me there is one of conspiracy to commit damage with danger to human life, punishable by up to 8 years!, simply because the theory of how time-bombs work was explained to me, by a West German on the wanted list. In the papers I am described as an explosives expert. If Kroscher had been French things wouldn't have turned out like this. The paranoia of the German

Federal Republic has shifted northwards, the people who work for the security services are of course cast in the same Cold War mould and getting along wonderfully together. Should it surprise us that SAPO made contact with the Israeli intelligence service to find out whether this gang of killers wanted to dispose of a couple of unruly Palestinians in the wave of deportations after Kroscher — the West German mythomaniac! No, of course not.

A possible explanation for the fact that the newspapers, Expressen for example, got information about the police investigation before the defence lawyers is that Expressen's "contributors" have good friends on the inside. In fact the police have had every opportunity to bury us in shit — in support of their demand for more money to pay for their acts of intimidation — with their porno-

graphic fabrications and their mouthpieces in the press. If there are no terrorists to be found then some have to be manufactured. We'll see if they can get away with it in court. As for the press grubbing about in letters I wrote to my family, unfortunately I still haven't managed to get hold of a copy of the paper the story was printed in. Briefly, what I'm angry about is the way they've used the fact that I looked after a 2 year-old child for a few days a week to help out a comrade who happens to also be a relative. After my arrest I wrote to my mother asking her to send some toys, nappies and clothes to the child's mother, plus hugs and kisses. The investigator of course got interested in this young rebel, went to see the mother and so found out about my career as a child-minder.

None of this has been mentioned at any point in the investigation. Yet according to Aftonbladet "one of the young woman terrorists borrowed a child from one of her relations to get some experience of childcare — in preparation for taking charge of Leijon's children during the kidnap" or something along those lines.

From the theatrical hallucinations of the bourgeois press to Brand's revolutionary solidarity. I and the comrades I am in touch with by letter genuinely appreciate your writing to us — that you won't allow yourselves to be intimidated by this hysterical repression by reactionaries who are attempting to criminalise and blacken our anarchist ideas. We have nothing to hide, but we do have a lot to be proud of. When I say "we" I mean all the comrades struggling against corruption and elitism, not just those mixed up in this kidnapping business, in the first instance (nor in the second either). Brand is effectively the only paper to get in touch with us and it's great to know that comrades on the outside are not allowing themselves to be disheartened by state terror against the organised and unorganised left. What would be dangerous in this situation would be to take refuge in silence, to close one's eyes and so connive at the miserable attempts of this bourgeois government to cover up the present crisis of capitalism in Sweden and abroad. Anarchists and communists, you must expose the attempts by capitalism and the state to tighten up laws and punishments in the wake of "terrorism," to discredit the left in the eyes of the working class, to blacken foreign activists and organisations and to silence all our protests against the transformation of the German Federal Republic into a totalitarian state.

Clench Your Fists! Destroy All Institutions!

Pia Laskar.

computer rip-offs

Reviewing two books on computer crime, *Scientific American* (a decidedly unrevolutionary journal) was moved to quote Brecht: "Which is the biggest crime, to rob a bank or to found one?" The question now has a new meaning: Computers can be used for either purpose.

Corporations are able to use computers to set up tax-evasion schemes; civil servants, to manipulate statistics to their own ends; police forces, to keep secret files on large numbers of innocent citizens. In general the computer has become a symbol of repression — the inhuman machine fronting for the inhuman organisation — and this may explain overt attacks on computers in several places. Computers have been shot in Melbourne and Johannesburg, stabbed in New York, blown up in Wisconsin and California, and burned in Rome. This overt sabotage may at times be easier to perform than to justify (especially at the University of Wisconsin, where a student died in the blast). And whatever the motives, political or personal, for such attacks, their effect in the long run has been negligible.

The same cannot be said for crimes using computers. If the computer seems a powerful weapon in the hands of an oppressive organisation, it is just as powerful when turned against them. What's more, no computer-owner can ever be absolutely certain that his machine will not be turned against him, subverted to steal his money or spoil his plans.

The motive for such a computer crime is usually profit, and the crime is usually embezzlement, fraud or theft. In 1970, "Stephen Hattner," chief teller at a New York bank, decided he was overworked and underpaid and began using the bank's computer to even the score. Though he understood little of the operations of computers, he had access to the keyboard terminal used to deposit or withdraw money from customers' accounts. By pushing a few buttons, he was able to inform the computer that the customer was withdrawing, say \$50,000. Then he'd simply walk into the vault and put that amount into his pocket. Whenever the customer wanted his money, Hattner could cover the loss by withdrawing money from other accounts again using the terminal. For three years he moved money around in this way, fooling the bank, the customers and even the auditors. When finally he was caught (the police happened to raid the book-

maker with whom he was betting the money), Hattner had ripped off one and a half million dollars. The customers, whose deposits were insured by the U.S. government, lost nothing. The bank lost enough in interest to teach them, perhaps, to pay their employees. Hattner was finally sentenced to 20 months in prison.

One customer of a Washington bank robbed the place of a quarter of a million without going near its computer. He depended on the bank's use of magnetic coding — the strange block-like numbers printed on cheques and deposit slips. These numbers, in magnetic ink, can be read by the computer. The man grabbed a handful of the blank deposit slips from the customers' desk in the lobby, took them to a (magnetic code) printer and has his own account number printed on them. Then he returned them to the desk and waited. While other customers wrote out these deposit slips and handed them in as usual, the computer credited their deposits to his account. He then withdrew the money and disappeared.

A New York customer took even less trouble to obtain a free gift from his bank. When he took out a loan, the bank supplied him with a book of 12 payment slips, one to be enclosed with each monthly payment. He simply tore off the last slip and sent it in with a payment; back came a computer-printed letter from the bank thanking him for paying off his loan so promptly. Again, the coding on the slip had mis-informed the machine.

Slipping false information into the machine need not be done for money. New York uses a computerised voting system, involving one punched card for each registered voter. Not long ago, someone fed 100 fake votes into the system, apparently trying to throw an election. According to the journalist Jack Anderson, something of the kind has been going on in the U.S. House of Representatives, where each member votes using a personal magnetic card. He sticks the card into a Yes or No slot of the House computer, which then records his name and vote. Apparently some members (and even office boys) have been observed sticking more than one card in the slot — in other words, casting votes for absent members too busy to do their job.

One of the biggest frauds in recent history involved misuse of a firm's

computer by the firm itself. Equity Funding Corporation of America, based in Los Angeles, was supposed to be selling insurance and handling investments for some 97,000 clients, according to its records. These records, kept on computer tape, listed for each policyholder his name, credit rating, medical history and so forth. On this basis, Equity seemed such a profitable concern that it had no trouble borrowing enormous sums from other companies and playing all the usual investment games. The only trouble was, 64,000 of those policy-holders were complete fictions, invented by the board of directors. They made themselves a fraudulent \$185 million, about the same as the proceeds from ninety thousand bank robberies. Only in this case the losers were not banks but other companies — and 33,000 genuine policy-holders, who lost everything when Equity crashed.

At the other end of the scale is the woman who cashed a tax-refund cheque at her local bank in California. The teller became suspicious, remembering that the woman was also cashing welfare cheques, so probably not paying excessive taxes. The Internal Revenue Service was informed, and could find no record of the refund. After more checking, they learned that the woman had a niece working for them as a data-terminal operator. The niece had created within the system a fake tax record, indicating that her aunt was owed money. The cast computer system went to work on it and wrote the cheque; then the niece instructed the IRS computer to delete the fictitious tax record and just forget it had ever written the cheque. One of the investigators in this case wrote:

"the guilty operator was identified in the investigation. But the question remained as to whether this was the only such case of altering IRS records . . . The IRS had no practical way of finding out how many operators might have been doing the same sort of thing. The cost of auditing and investigating so many people — so many relatives and friends of terminal operators — was so monumental that the IRS people just gave up."

They also found that there was no way of fixing the system so that this couldn't happen in the future. There is apparently nothing stopping any of these thousands of employees from ripping off the IRS system for as much as he or she likes.

Using a somewhat similar technique, a programmer working for a computer service firm managed to penetrate the security of a rival firm and steal a valuable programme, in 1971. In this case, one computer actually stole from another computer, over the phone.

Radical politics seldom show up in the annals of computer crime, and it's hard to see why. It may be that radical groups are ignorant of the computer's possibilities, or believe such crimes to be impossibly difficult, or that they disdain the idea of playing what seems like a capitalist's game.

There is also the possibility that radical groups are already committing computer crimes and getting away with them. In fact, computer crimes receive little publicity for a number of reasons. A well-executed crime may never be discovered at all, or may remain invisible for years. Even when it is found, it may be difficult to identify a culprit. When he is known, there may be no prosecution: Many companies fear advertising their own incompetence, corruption or vulnerability, preferring to write off the damage or loss instead. In court, judges, juries and lawyers have difficulty with technical evidence of this complexity, much of it turning out to be invalid. Finally, there is a reluctance on the part of most courts to hand out harsh sentences for crimes which often amount to changing a few electronic blips on a piece of tape or something equally trivial.

One radical group is mentioned (not by name) in an article by Thomas Whiteside. They approached a "Mr. Harlowe", known computer criminal, for advice on bugging up computers.

"These people consider themselves to be urban guerrillas, but they are intelligent enough to realise that violence will only bring repression," Harlowe said. "They feel that the best way to further their cause is to screw up major computer systems, such as the big credit-card outfits and the billing systems of major oil companies."

Whatever qualms radicals may have about computer crime, the other side has none. The F.B.I. launched criminal attacks on radical individuals between 1968 and 1972, planting in the computer files of private credit-reporting companies false reports. The reports showed these individuals to be poor credit risks, making it hard for them thereafter to get bank loans, H.P. or mortgages, or any kind of credit.

Whatever the motive — profit, personal revenge or political advantage — computer crimes will almost certainly increase in incidence in the future. The computer virtually invites such crimes, making them easier to commit, more effective,

less detectable and less punishable than many other forms of crime. Moreover it raises Brechtian questions about the nature of crime, since a machine is indifferent to the politics or intentions of the person putting data into it, and indifferent to the data themselves. An amount of money is just a number; a police file is just a series of words.

A California company marketing fruit and vegetables found a way of exploiting its migrant workers: The government sold them to shops wanting information on prospective employees. He was acquitted.

A California firm was taken to court for using computerised voting lists for "commercial purposes;" in Sweden, people have been charged with lifting census data from government computers; in Norway the charge was selling health service data to private drug firms. In 1973 a computer operator broke into the West German firm who formerly employed him, stole 22 reels of tape containing marketing plans, and held them for ransom (£100,000). That tapenapping was successful, but others have failed, including one in London in 1977.

The third category of computer crime is plain sabotage, aside from overt destruction of the machine. When the tape librarian at an insurance company was given her notice, she erased or mis-labelled a great many reels of tape. Clearing up the mess cost the company ten million dollars, but they declined to prosecute. Another dissatisfied employee, this time of the Girl Scouts of America, erased their computer tapes by simply running a bar magnet over the reels. A French programmer accomplished more by a subtle piece of programming. Learning he was about to lose his job, he instructed the computer to wait two years, and then to erase all company records.

This last is an example of trap-setting, by no means an uncommon practice in the short history of programming. A programme is a list of instructions for the computer, telling it in simple logical language what to do. What makes it complex is that, first of all, many instructions are needed to accomplish even a fairly short task (in human terms); second, instructions can refer the computer to other instructions, which can in turn refer it to other instructions, and so on, heaping up complexity in ways which almost defy human comprehension. Thus in a list of several thousand (even a million) instructions, it's easy enough to slip in a few which comprise a trap, causing the computer to do something unforeseen (by others) at some future time.

The computer can be instructed to do anything it is capable of doing, from

printing our some slogan 100 times, to declaring a company bankrupt, to ordering a supermarket to be supplied with nothing but marmalade for the next six months. It can be instructed to hand over absolute control of itself to a data terminal located almost anywhere in the world, to ring up other computers on the telephone and give them instructions — and to "forget" why it did any of this.

Most computer crime naturally involves some access to the computer, and this is where security systems come into effect — or don't. Like the unpickable lock or the unbreakable code, the absolutely secure computer system does not exist. One of the methods used in a "time-sharing" system (a computer used by several people at different remote terminals) is the password. The user is supposed to begin his work by "signing on" and giving a long sequence of numbers or letters that tells the computer (a) that he is a legitimate user, and (b) which user he is. The computer then opens to him that part of its memory bank which has been assigned to him, and prevents his access to all other parts. That's how it's supposed to work. But about two years ago one British schoolboy, fooling about with his school's terminal, managed to get the passwords of all the 100 other users, merely by persistent questioning. Others have stolen passwords from the users themselves, by setting a trap: When the user signs on, his password is forwarded by a special instruction to the trapper. In 1970 two American schoolboys worked that one.

The military have tried more sophisticated security systems, with no more success. In 1972 the U.S. Air Force tried testing their own security, by allowing two outsiders, competent programmers but with no knowledge of the security system, to try penetrating it. The security system included encoded passwords (supposed useless even if stolen) and an "audit trail" or monitoring system which would record any attempts at penetration. Using only a telephone terminal in the basement of one man's house, the two men penetrated the system in two hours and took control of it.

In 1973 the U.S. Navy tried a similar test; the system was penetrated in 13 seconds. From then on the computer kept vomiting out information (classified and unclassified) at such a rate that the outsiders couldn't keep track of it. Once they had broken in, the system obliged them by decoding passwords and even erasing all traces of their illegal entry from its "audit trail."

So far, these cases have a common factor: in each, the computer has been fed with false information. What makes this crime a nightmare for computer-

owners such as the IRS is that a computer is not just a block of machinery sitting in one spot, easily guarded. It is instead an electronic network that can reach across a continent (as the IRS one does); a false "input" can come from anywhere. Anything the computer can read — magnetic numbers, punched cards, tape, instructions delivered from a remote terminal over a telephone line — is a valid way into the machine. With intelligence and perseverance, almost anyone can dig into the "mind" of almost any computer, whether he happens to work with the computer or not.

The best example of this is the case of Jerry Schneider, a high school student in Los Angeles. He walked to school past the supply storeroom of the Pacific Telephone Company. Just for fun, he started rumaging through the rubbish bins outside, taking home pieces of junk and also telephone-company operation manuals. Though at first he couldn't read these, he kept collecting, and gradually came to understand something about the way the company ordered equipment. Using a special push-button phone they would ring a certain number at the Western Electric company. This connected them directly to a computer. Further button-pushing placed the order: what, how much, delivered when and where.

Jerry Schneider bought such a phone and tried it. He found it easy, for example, to persuade Western Electric to deliver a complete switchboard to some remote location of his choosing, at 2 a.m. He would then haul it away and sell it.

The rest is an American success story: Schneider soon owned a company, ran a warehouse and employed ten

people. By the time he was caught, in 1972 (aged 21), he ripped off a million dollars. Sentenced to 60 days, he served 40.

Besides putting false information into computers, people have taken genuine information out, usually to sell it. In 1971 a Chicago policeman was indicted for stealing information from the F.B.I. National Crime Information Centre computer for "private use." Another cop went to trial in 1974 for allegedly selling police computer records to private detective agencies, who in turn had demanded that it cease paying them piecework and start paying a minimum wage. By changing their computerised work schedules, the company managed to continue paying piecework while making it look as though it were complying with the law. Thus the company "saved" \$78,000, that is, ripped off the workers for that amount. At the same time, the company accountant, "Mr. Harlowe," was using the same computer to rip off the company for a million. And he in turn discovered that "one of my employees was stealing from me . . . He had been padding expense accounts on our computer, and . . ." And so on.

H.A.L.

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Dear Friends and Comrades,

Well finally back at the penitentiary here in Walla Walla, the jail in king county was a beating, but we won a lot in the struggles there, watch Open Road on that and the GJB bust. I met John Sherman there and we gave them the blues about the conditions and treatment. Since February I have been in security dead lock and isolation. They split us all up, put the boots to me and then claimed I swung on them! But isolation is rather comfortable now, smile. Seems I start shit everywhere I go, I just can't play sub-human or conform to fascist bull-shit . . .

Lost a lot of weight and am pale from the lack of sunshine, but other than that am well. Back into it here and working slow, I will be sending articles, poems and etc., as soon as time and postage allow me to. I received the February Black Flag. Getting better.

About the Prepared article I read it and agreed with it on many points, self-defence is merely one tactic of the whole and debating its rightness or wrongness is really a waste of time, it comes down to an individual matter. If you think it is right then prepare, if you think it is wrong then do your thing and give critical support to those who use violence or prepare themselves for it from the State. Violence is a reality and the only way to deal with it is to confront it to the best of your ability.

Violence that is wrong say it's wrong, violence that is "good" rally behind so that it doesn't occur again. There is a reason for it, whoever strikes out look for that reason and work hard to make all the changes necessary so that that violence turns out to the good no matter who gets hurt or killed. Emma Goldman points this out — there is a reason, get the reason to know the right or wrong of it, and then do something about it. We talk a lot and desert people to the State when they struggle the best way they know how and that is wrong. Violent people just don't pop out of the sky they are made . . . Everyone has a place. Find yours and do your best wherever you are for the cause, trying always to be right, to be constructive and positive. This is all we can do as human beings. Don't desert people to the vengeance of the State. Get in touch with yourselves about violence and confront that self, know exactly why you feel as you do, is it political rightness or personal fear etc. then look out at the situation and go from there. Don't condemn, criticise constructively with unity in mind.

I send lots of love to all. Be good to yourselves and be good to the people.

Love and Rage,

Carl Harp.



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

NOTES FROM THE GULAG PLANET

GREECE

On 28 March the anarchists Philippos Kirissis, Sophia Kiritsi and Nikos Papadopoulos were arrested in Salonika and charged with possessing petrol, empty bottles, and anarchist literature. They are said to represent a danger to the maintenance of order. On 29 March five other anarchists, supposed terrorists, were arrested during a student demonstration. New laws against terrorism have been introduced in Greece. They prescribe sentences of death or life imprisonment for "terrorism" and at least two years in prison for "sympathisers" (otherwise known as "moral instigators"). Terrorism means any subversive activity, which may be no more than the possession of a book.

PORTUGAL

Jose Antonio Machado, an old militant with a personal history of more than 40 years of active involvement with the anarchist movement — much of it clandestine — has died.

FRANCE

May Day was celebrated in style by a group calling itself "The group for the extension of May 1st to all following days." They bombed three employment agencies in the centre of Paris. The bombs were precisely placed and nobody was injured, but important files were damaged.

Jose Trenelle has "committed suicide" in the La Sante prison in Paris. He was arrested along with Ignacio Congosto, Jean Paul Nunez and Jose Cerrada. Official statements say he "cut his throat with a knife." His death came only hours before a trial which would have sentenced him to a maximum of three months. Charged with possession of arms, Jose was closely linked with the French Prisoners' Aid Committee, had contacts with Spain's COPEL and had issued a statement opposing arbitrary discrimination between "political" and "common" criminals.

Members of the Bordeaux libertarian group have been repeatedly harassed and attacked by local fascists, apparently because of their part in organising a boycott of Argentinian produce.

At the end of April, one member, Duchesne, had his flat set on fire by "visitors" who gained entry by means of a skeleton key. The next day three group members were detained by police who raided their homes at 6.30 a.m. Another group member was "visited" by police while at work, and a fifth was interrogated while ill in hospital. The police claim to have received anonymous phone calls linking anarchists with recent bomb attacks against nuclear installations at Golfeich.

On the third day after the fire, one of the group members received a threatening letter, accompanied by a photo of Duchesne entering his flat. Death-threats in the letter were linked to a demonstration about Argentina, and were signed A.A.A. (Argentine Anti-communist Alliance) — i.e. death squads operating within the Argentine police.

Duchesne was attacked the next day, when returning to his flat. His face was slashed by a razor and burnt with cigarettes. Two men ran off, and passers-by took him to hospital, with serious abdominal injuries.

Autonomous Revolutionary Groups. Henri Perez was arrested after the demonstration organised by autonomous groups in Paris following the Prison death of Jose Tronelle (see last) and was sentenced to three years for possession of a gun, which he used to smash a shop window. After his sentence was upheld by the Court of Appeal, several "young unemployed youths" fire-bombed a cafe belonging to the person who denounced Perez to the police.

Over 400 members of autonomous groups, many armed with iron bars and molotov cocktails clashed with Paris police at the end of May, during a demonstration against repression in Argentina, and the world cup.

French autonomous groups, which have developed recently, have shown a willingness to resort to direct action but

unlike their German and Italian counterparts, they are not implicitly libertarian, and often set themselves up in opposition to other far left groups. There have been several occasions recently when they have clashed with other left demonstrators, although the blame is difficult to apportion.

In one unsavoury incident recently, a "commando" of 12 masked women, armed with iron bars, made a midnight raid on a feminist bookshop in the rue des St. Peres, Paris. A second, identical attack took place six nights later.

Both of the attacks were claimed by the "bombeuses a chapeaux", a marxist autonomous group, which attempted to justify its actions by saying that the feminist movement is "bourgeois", and divides men from women, hindering the struggle against the state.

The confused state of the autonomous groups reflects their origins in the failure of French maoism, and while some are gravitating towards a gut-level anarchism, others have not abandoned their authoritarian attitudes, but seek to compensate for their failure by attacking others on the left.



Members of Parisian autonomous groups demonstrating against Argentinian repression and the World Cup. Over 400 people armed with metal bars and molotov cocktails clashed with police at the end of May. (Liberation).



2nd June Movement

Mid-April saw the start of the trial of six members of the 2nd June Movement, accused of the kidnapping of the leader of Berlin's Christian Democrats, Peter Lorenz, and the murder of Judge Von Drenkmann. On the first day of the trial several of the court-appointed lawyers asked to be released from defending the accused, as they had been attacked by their "clients." Three of the accused, Rolf Reinders, Fritz Teufel and Ronald Fritsch, interrupted the proceedings, denouncing the nature of the tribunal and insulting the judge. Several people in the public gallery applauded, and the judge ordered the expulsion of more than 20 people from the court before refusing to release the lawyers from their mandate.

Within a few days the judge had excluded the defendants from the courtroom, after they protested at the presence of police inspectors. Further disruptions took place in the public gallery during which two policemen were injured.

At the end of May, the trial was stopped again, when two women presented forged lawyers' certificates at the Moabit prison entrance and bluffed their way past three security checks. They both drew guns and escaped from the prison with Till Meyer, one of the accused 2nd June members. Andreas Vogel, another member, was prevented from escaping by a prison guard. The prosecution immediately attempted to implicate defence lawyers in the escape, but the allegations were so ludicrous that they were laughed out of court.

After the escape police named four people who they claim took part in the escape. They were: Julianne Palmbeck,

Gabriele Rollnick, Ingrid Siepmann and Inge Vielt. As we go to press we learn that Till Meyer, Gabriele Rollnick and three other women have been kidnapped in Bulgaria by German police and extradited illegally to West Berlin. One of the three has been tentatively identified as Gudrun Stuermer, whose husband Harry was recently sentenced for "supporting a criminal organisation."

Julianne Palmbeck, Ingrid Siepmann and Gabriele Rollnick all escaped from Moabit in July 1976, with Monika Berberich (35), a member of the Red Army Fraction (RAF) who at the end of April was sentenced to an additional year and a half on charges arising out of the escape.

Several other RAF members have been arrested recently, including Stefan Wiesniewski (25), who was arrested at Orly Airport on May 13th, as he was about to board a plane for Zagreb. He was immediately extradited to West Germany and charged with membership of an illegal organisation. Showing commendable spirit Stefan, a courier for the RAF, attacked the interrogating judge. Following Wiesniewski's arrest, four RAF members were arrested in Yugoslavia: Brigitte Mohnhaupt (29), Rolf Clemens Wagner (33), Peter Juergen Boock (26) and Sieglinde Hoffman (33). All are being used as pawns by the Yugoslav government, who want to exchange them for Croatian political refugees living in West Germany.

CUBA

After 27 years in Cuba's prisons, 39 year old Cesar Paez has died for lack of medical attention. He had fought Batista as a guerrilla in the Sierra de Escambray, but opposed the new totalitarianism too.

As recorded in *El Gastronomico*, Victorino Hernando has committed suicide, unable to face the after effects of his term in San Severino castle (Matanzas) where he lost most of his eyesight and was pushed to the brink of madness.

There are an estimated 40,000 people in the camps undergoing rehabilitation or political re-education. Castro admits to 3,000 of the latter category of prisoners.

ARGENTINA

Not 800 yards from the World Cup venue — the River Plate Stadium — is the Naval Mechanical School, the base for the notorious Task Force 33, composed of 314 officers and men, who have been known to "interrogate" with electric

saws and to burn suspects alive. Argentina has a minimum of 8000 political prisoners, 13 concentration camps and between 8-10,000 "suspects" have died at the hands of over enthusiastic interrogators. Suspects like the man who was the incarnation of Argentine soccer in the 40s, Waldimo 'Torito' Aguirre, was, because he died in custody of a ruptured liver, broken ribs and a crushed thorax. According to Amnesty International upwards of 15,000 people have disappeared — people like the 130 workers on strike at the Renault Factory in Cordoba; another 50 were wounded when the army occupied the plant. Bodies of prominent strikers turn up on the pavement,

mutilated, like those outside the Lozadur ceramic plant in Buenos Aires province. There is no right to strike in Argentina, and the right to live seems under threat, if we are to go by this statement from Iberico Saint-Jean, the military governor of Buenos Aires province: "We shall start by killing off the subversives, then their collaborators, then the sympathisers, then the indifferent and finally the faint hearts."

MEXICO

All the southern border states are practically under martial law: Oaxaca, Guerrero and Chiapas. Over a thousand people have "vanished" in Guerrero alone; others are held in military camps or have been gunned down by the White Brigade of paramilitary police or the right-wing Falcons militia. 37 people were mown down at a public meeting in Oaxaca a year ago; since then the focus of repression has shifted to schools, colleges and universities. On 14 December 1977 the army occupied the Autonomous University of Oaxaca; 65 students were wounded with unconfirmed reports of several killed. Professors Arturo, Cartes, Gutierrez have been kidnapped and tortured. All this because the PRI has been losing ground and folk in Oaxaca are getting a bit uppity and thinking for themselves. The PRI recently lost 80% of the municipalities. The military governor is the infamous Eliseo Jimenez Ruiz, the head of the anti-guerrilla campaign responsible for the death of Lucio Cabanas in Guerrero, the head of the Party of the Poor. Landless peasants invading big estates are, needless to say, guerrillas who are gunned down: 27 at San Juan Lalana, 19 at Playa San Vicente, about 60 in the Sierra Mixteca (napalmed). About 500 so far. Meanwhile the underground 'People's Union' planted 20 bombs in Oaxaca, costing the capitalists over 200 million pesos.

Uncowed the peasants continue to back the dwindling guerrilla bands of the Peoples' Union, Party of the Poor.

People's Armed Revolutionary Front, the 23 September Communist League and National Revolutionary Civil Rights Association. In Mexico today, civil rights are revolutionary. The mood of the (largely Indian) peasants can be assessed from this quote from a peasant leader: "Either we change the laws in force or this country goes up in flames and takes us all with it."

NICARAGUA

The Sandinist National Liberation Front, continuing the campaign it began in the 60s against Somoza's dictatorship, has announced that it has successfully embarked on the final phase of its war of liberation. This follows an offensive against the National Guard, which between 12 October and 2 November caused them over 115 losses, with the loss to the FSLN of only 15. The murder on Somoza's orders of the liberal publisher P. Joaquin Chamorro has set the middle class against the dictator. Aided by the US Embassy the conservatives are attempting to capture the popular discontent and preserve their privileges intact. The workers held a massive general protest strike, 80% effective. In spite of popular sympathy with their spectacular actions the FSLN is somewhat dubious politically. Its avowed aim is Socialism: it has suggested a panel of twelve men, intellectuals and industrialists to oversee the transitional stage to socialism in the apparently imminent post-Somoza era. Already there are signs of separate political attitudes emerging inside the FSLN (Sandinists) some sticking to military activity, some trying to involve themselves in class struggle and others described as rightwing adventurists. If the US project is to be thwarted the second "Proletarian Tendency" will have to fortify its position.

URUGUAY

Once a model democracy, the Switzerland of Latin America, Uruguay, under military rule, has become the Prison of America. Paranoid and semi-literate "gorillas" arrest people for reading dangerous literature like Stendhal's "The Red and the Black." Books on Cubism are mistaken for Cuban propaganda. As usual it is the workers who suffer, but the blind blows of the regime are beginning to strike even the military. With 7000* political prisoners out of a population of only 2½ million, 62 out of the 64 attending graduates of the Military College at a recent class reunion after 30 years, had someone belonging to them in jail. A file is opened on every citizen at the age of 5 containing details of medical history, relations and friend-

ships. There are 100,000 informers. A research centre to devise more scientific(!) forms of torture/interrogation has been opened in Montevideo in the Boulevard Artigas y Palmar. Curiously enough, Uruguay incorporated the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into her nation's laws in 1948.

* over one third of these 7000 are women.

Anarchist Prisoner In U.S. Government Death Camp.

Lorenzo Komboa Ervin, the Black Anarchist and prison organiser has been placed into the notorious Control Unit Behaviour Modification Program at Marion, Illinois Federal Penitentiary, after a protest by prisoners in the Isolation Unit and an earlier food boycott in mid-March. The Control Unit at Marion is infamous for having caused the deaths of ten (10) men in the last five years that it has been open, and the self-mutilation and mental imbalance of hundreds of others. The Control Unit is a Behaviour Modification programme used to punish prison organisers, jailhouse lawyers, political prisoners, Muslims and other "trouble makers." It is apparent that Komboa is being punished for his Anarchist beliefs and his prison activism.

Komboa and three other Black prisoners were placed into the Control Unit on April 3, 1978 after a protest in the Isolation Unit when several prisoners were brutally beaten by guards. On his second day in the Control Unit, prison officials tried to set him up by letting two white prisoners out of their cells while he was taking his recreation period, in apparent hopes that they would attack him, and kill or seriously injure him. But the two prisoners refused to swallow the bait and do the prison officials' bidding. As a result they were called "Nigger-lovers" and threatened with beatings if they "kept running their mouths."

Komboa says the Control Unit is a torture chamber and a death camp, and that it is apparent that prison officials are trying to kill him or drive him to suicide. He is asking for his friends, supporters, and comrades in the Anarchist and prison support movements to write to the Warden to protest at this conspiracy against his life and demand that he be removed from the Control Unit immediately.

George C. Wilkinson, Warden, United States Penitentiary, Post Office Box 1000, Marion, Illinois 62959, USA.

Write to Komboa and express your solidarity. Let him know that he is not alone and that his friends are fighting for him against the Government murderers.

Lorenzo Komboa Ervin, 18759-175, P.O. Box 1000, Marion, Illinois, 62959

A CALL FOR A NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION.

There will be a national demonstration on September 15, 1978 to support the 'Marion Brothers' and to demand the closing of the Control Unit Behaviour Modification Programme, at the United States Penitentiary, Marion, Illinois.

Among the Marion Brothers who are in the Control Unit is Lorenzo Komboa Ervin, a Black Anarchist and prison organiser. Komboa has been confined to the Control Unit since April 3, 1978. Since that time prison officials have tried to incite other prisoners to attack him on several occasions; on one such occasion they even gave a prisoner a "zip gun" to kill him with, but the prisoner got "cold feet."

Komboa says that the Control Unit is a torture chamber and a death camp, that 10 men have already died in the unit - 3 deaths in 1977 alone - and hundreds of others have been driven insane or to self-mutilation.

Komboa is asking for all his friends and comrades in the Anarchist Libertarian, and prisoner support movements, to attend the demonstration at the Marion Federal Prison, and demand that the Control Unit be closed, that Komboa be immediately released from the Control and from prison, where he has been railroaded for over 9 years.

Carl Harp is due to appear in court for hearings in preparation for a new trial in August. He has been "in the hole" for 30 days and has been subjected to the seemingly inevitable abuse and brutality by the prison warders while in there.

But together with his comrades John Sherman and Rita Brown, he has fought a determined battle of resistance against the constant beatings and violations. The stand these three have taken in defence of human dignity and solidarity has been carried on against the full power and viciousness of the American prison system and the psychopaths who man it. The outcome has been a feeling of renewed solidarity and self-confidence for John and Rita and Carl, and they are now recovering their health and strength.

These comrades welcome messages from supporters and comrades. Send greetings and encouragement to, Carl Harp, John Sherman, Rita Brown, Box 520, Walla Walla, Washington 99362, USA.

For information and to help this comrade, write to: Audrey A. Myers, Director, Nat'l Committee to Support the Marion Brothers, 4556A Oakland, St. Louis, Mo. 63110. (314) 533-2234. or Albert Meltzer, c/o Anarchist Black Cross.



Alain Frillet

The radical French paper *Liberation* is rivaling Black Flag in the extent of official harassment against it. On April 27th, for example, over 300 police and soldiers raided the Belfast office of Sinn Fein (Republican party), arresting several party members, and Alain Frillet (22) a french lecturer at Belfast Polytechnic, photographer and correspondent for *Liberation*.

He has been accused by British authorities of membership of the banned Provisional IRA, possession of "documents" that could be useful to terrorists, and refusal to co-operate with the police. The documents are in fact photographs taken in the course of his work, and include pictures of the American M.60 machine gun that featured prominently in British papers a month or two ago. Alain has been released on bail until his trial.

A second journalist for *Liberation*, 35-year old Christian Hennion, was badly beaten by police, in Paris's 10th arrondissement, after refusing to show his identity papers at an illegal police check-point. Christian, a court reporter, was also accused of assaulting a policeman, a charge which was later dropped, when the authorities attempted to play down the affair. Police have been seizing every opportunity to establish the practice of operating the check-points, even though they are clearly illegal. Their first real opportunity came with the kidnapping of nuclear Baron Empain, and this has been continued under the pretext of searching for Messrine, an escaped member of the extreme right-wing OAS.

Liberation has also been on trial, accused with *Front Libertaire* (paper of the Organisation of Libertarian Communists) and Frederick Oriach, a sympathiser of the Noyaux Armes Pour l'Autonomie Populaire (NAPAP). All face charges of apologising for the crime of murder. *Front Libertaire* published a lengthy article last October, which outlined NAPAP's position on armed struggle, and was intended to initiate a debate in

future issues. *Liberation* published a letter from Oriach, which forms the basis of the charges against it.

Oriach was sentenced to seven years, two with hard labour, last March, after being found guilty of possession of a number of weapons that had been used in political attacks (including murder, and attempted murder) claimed by NAPAP. Also sentenced with him were Michel Lapeyre and Jean-Paul Gerard.



Christian Hennion

Pirates In Paris.

The history of "free" radio in France is only short — the period during the lead-in to the last general election saw a mushrooming of small pirate radios. Many were run by only a handful of people, but most had a commitment to social justice, and as such threatened the government's monopoly of the airwaves.

The state could not allow this sort of thing to continue, but the prosecution of a pirate radio station run by the Gaullists failed on a technicality. The failure of this prosecution could have opened the door and created a situation similar to that in Italy where anybody can operate, so the government responded quickly, catching *Radio Rocket* in the middle of a broadcast, on May 2nd. *Radio 93*, which is noted for the spontaneity of its broadcasts, and uncensored phone-in programmes, and *Radio Generation* were both forced off the air by police who raided the studios in mid-broadcast.

The *Radio Rocket* trial is taking place as we go to press, but *Radio 93* has been found guilty. John Ducarroir was fined 5,000 F, and equipment confiscated, Yvonne Huriez and Gilbert Delarke were each fined 3,000F for allowing their bookshop to be used as studios.

French pirates are fighting back, and a national day of action has been called. 15 Parisian pirates have also taken the initiative in the formation of a federation of non comm

ITALY

Prison Notes

Pietro Valpreda (the Italian anarchist who spent 3 years in prison facing accusations of involvement in the 1969 Milan bombings that were later proved to be the work of neo-fascists) has been imprisoned again, for "offending a magistrate." A "crime" for which he has received a 9 month sentence.

Francesco Berardi (also known as 'Bifo') an announcer for the radical *Radio Alice* was granted provisional liberty after spending 9 days in prison.

He had re-entered Italy (clandestinely) during the aftermath of the "Moro Affair" and had been arrested, accused of "the instigation of violence and subversive association" in connection with

the serious riots that occurred in Bologna in March 1977, following the murder of Lotta Continua member Francesco Lorusso (shot in the back by a uniformed policeman).

During the riots armed policemen broke down the door to the *Radio Alice** studio, closing the station down in mid-broadcast. All the staff were arrested, as they had been reporting police movements over the air. "Bifo" sought political asylum in France but it was refused and he decided to return.

In court his lawyers demanded a complete and unconditional discharge, but the notorious judge Catalanotti, would not allow this, so Bifo still faces the prospect of imprisonment.

*The Canadian libertarian socialist paper, *The Red Menace*, carries a dramatic transcript of Radio Alice's last broadcast in its current issue.

Giovanni Marini is now in a regime of "semi-liberty."

FINLAND

A New Frame-up.

54 year old Kosti Lakus faces a new police frame-up. He expected to be released on May 23rd, after finishing his sentence, but he remains in prison as the authorities claim that he manufactured amphetamines while on parole for a short period during the winter.

In a letter smuggled out of prison and sent to a Black Cross member, Kosti writes "It is true that I myself hired a little farm in East Finland last May (i.e. 1977), but other people have been living there over the winter. Police found a small lot of chemicals in the possession of the people who lived on the farm."

The chemicals apparently form the basis of the evidence for the prosecution, but as the police refuse to go into details, it is difficult to know. It is, says Kosti, a

regular trick of the police in Finland to pin charges on people already in prison, as it makes the crime figures look better.

Letters of protest should be sent to the court: Kiteen Kihlakunnoikens, Kitee, Finland.

Kosti would be grateful for letters of support, and for books and magazines (in German, French or English), which should be sent to: Kosti Lakus, P.O. Box 40, 00551 Helsinki 55, Finland.

FRANCE-ITALY

Eliane Giraud and Christian Sagnard, French people living in Liege seem about to be extradited to France from their prison in Trieste where they have been held since October 1976. They have already been sentenced to be guillotined in France for attempted robbery. It is not unlikely that their prominence in the events of May '68 and their work for anarchist prisoners' aid committees influenced the final sentence.

After a well-organised campaign of opposition, the French authorities have backed down, and will not extradite Italian journalist Antonio Bellavita to face charges of "subversive association" and public incitement against the state in Italy.

Bellavita fled to France in 1974 after armed police found files and tapes which he was researching for a book on armed struggle in Europe. He was accused of being in collusion — ideologically and journalistically — with the Red Brigades, and faced a possible sentence of 15 years for his activities as an editor and director of *Controinformazione*.

Controinformazione specialises in information and analysis of the Italian social struggle. It has made bitter enemies within the Italian government and on the far right, with its exposures of the activities of the fascist MSI, and the Fiat company police. Several bulletins on the Red Brigades and the German Red Army Fraction have been published, though often critical of their tactics.

Antonio has been living openly in Paris, employed by the daily paper *Liberation*. Last year two of his brothers were arrested and the police seized material being prepared for *Controinformazione*. The brothers went on hunger strike for 23 days, and thousands of workers demonstrated against their arrest, before they were released.

TUNISIA

Following the General Strike and clashes with the army and police, the General Union of Tunisian Workers (UGT), which has one third of the working population has been dismantled. Fatalities are between 47 (official figures) and 227. This was Tunisia's first general strike and the bureaucratic UGT was overwhelmed by the strength of the student and popular protest movement.

Anti-nuclear occupation.

Over 280 demonstrators were arrested following the occupation of the Barnwell nuclear site, South Carolina. Most were quickly released on bail, but 25 of those arrested, mostly anarchists, went on a hunger strike which lasted 5 days. (Two of the 25 stuck it out for seven days).

The Palmetto Alliance which was co-ordinating the anti-nuclear demo, withdrew support from the 25 in the face of newspaper criticism of the occupation. Most of the arrested demonstrators jumped bail, which the court had deliberately set low — in the hope that people would forfeit their bail money, rather than fight it out in the courtroom. Although all 25 hunger strikers appeared in court, 15 people did not respond when their names were called out, preferring to lose their bail money rather than risk a jail sentence.

10 others decided to argue their cases with the judge, putting up a spirited defence, but each of them got 15 days in jail. A support group has been formed, as the prisoners want to continue with the anti-nuke fight.

Barnwell Prisoners Support Committee, 321 Whaley St., Columbia, South Carolina 29201, USA.

(source: *Industrial Defence Bulletin*)

A parcel of books to Emily Harris from CP Bookservice was recently returned by the California Institution for Women, Frontera, California 91720 (where Emily is being held captive) on the grounds that *the contents in the books and magazines were not allowed*. The magazine concerned was the CPAR and the books were a selection of all our titles published to date*. This is blatant censorship which would never be allowed in a man's prison and is one small example of the extra frustration and indignities which women captives have to put up with from their

tormentors. We urge all comrades to write to Emily Harris at the above address and to inundate the prison authorities with letters protesting against this political and sexist censorship.

*Which were all received safely by the male comrades of the SLA (and others) being held in Californian prisons.

USA

Joan Little

In 1975 Joan Little was tried on charges of killing a white prison officer while he was attempting to rape her, in North Carolina State Prison. The jury acquitted her.

Since that trial Joan was convicted of breaking and entering and was sent to a prison in Raleigh, North Carolina, but she escaped last October. In December she was recaptured in New York and a legal battle to prevent her from being sent back to face almost certain death in North Carolina began. Now, however, the Supreme Court has ruled that she must go back to serve out her sentence and face new charges arising out of the escape.

Illinois guard poisons 12 Stateville prisoners.

Joliet, Ill. May 20 — While a state commission is trying to decide whether guards (but not prisoners) at Illinois' Stateville prison suffer under terrible and hazardous conditions — one of these same prison guards faces possible suspension or firing for poisoning 12 prisoners by putting disinfectant in a container of orange juice.

For years prisoners at this rat-and-roach infested dungeon have complained to both the courts and the press. (Telling the administration or the state is useless, since they run the dungeons.) Complaints have run the gamut from toilets backing up sewage into cells to overcrowding to incompetent medical personnel and openly racist guards. Of course little was ever done.

Now a Chicago paper has published a brief article about how on March 31, officer Daniel Stalker poisoned 12 prisoners with disinfectant. They were all treated at Stateville's Detention Hospital for nausea, dizziness, vomiting and diarrhea and all recovered.

Stalker's action is another of the many harassments that prisoners in Illinois must endure, as well as fatal beatings that have been dealt out by the state's hired thugs.

EL SALVADOR

In the face of peasant seizure of lands, the armed activities of underground groups and massive demos in cities and a loud clamour against electoral frauds, the bourgeoisie has been pressuring the military to restore "order," — which would mean a repeat of 1932 when, on the same pretext and with US aid, some 30,000 El Salvadorans were massacred.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

PARAGUAY

Upwards of 400 Guaraní peasants with their families in Paraguay's concentration camps, one of them only 80kms outside the capital. Perhaps because of this Stroessner was re-elected (by the usual 85%) for another 5 year term in February. A government statement claimed there were 1,600 suspect peasants. Especially pursued are those associated with the church-backed Agrarian Leagues. The country's Jesuits are among Stroessner's most vocal opponents.

BRAZIL

Signs of a willingness among the labour movement to ignore and defy the corporalist unions tolerated by the Ministry of Labour. There is a Workers Opposition Movement, pressing for democratic structures, restoration of living conditions and the right to organise itself. It puts up its own candidates in union elections (like the Workers Commissions in Spain) and aims at a new, horizontal union based on factory committees and the grassroots. Some of the opposition groups are not altogether happy with its demands for "trade union autonomy" and "separation of State and unions," and an unconditional, across the board amnesty for political prisoners and exiles.

GUATEMALA

The US State Department has joined Amnesty in describing Guatemala as one of the most violent places in the world. Violence has caused more deaths than the earthquake in 1976. The army rules, governing through four "loyal" parties who compete for power. The opposition is crushed by death squads from the army, leaving the population terrorised and with no interest in politics, which is a luxury left to the ruling class who make up the four parties. Much of the violence since 1968 has been orchestrated by General Arana Osorio, who became president in 1970. When the slightly "leftish" Christian Democrat candidate beat his candidate in 1974, Arana replaced him with the present Kjell Laugerud.

VENEZUELA

Venezuela likes to pose as a champion of human rights. This is far from true. Peasants are shot, leftwing publications banned and strikes broken. On 10 October 1977 Doris Francia, the editor of the revolutionary paper *Ruptura* was

arrested for carrying a report on the escape by political prisoners from a Venezuelan jail. She is still being held on a charge of incitement to armed rebellion, in an effort to have her case heard by a military court. On 22 February 1978, a student strike broke out. The government sent in the tanks to break it up after a week. An issue of *Ruptura* at the end of 1977 gave a truer picture of Venezuelan humanitarianism: Virtual state of siege in Oriente province/ Enrique Rodriguez killed/2 young people killed during a protest at shortage of water in their district/labour leaders before a court martial/Doris Francia and Irma Barreto court martialled/fascist attack on union premises in Arague state/public employees denied the right to strike/widespread searches of homes, evictions of student strikes, huge lay-offs in industry/hospitals crippled for lack of supplies.

CHILE

Luis Winter Igualt, charged by the Human Rights Commission with being a torturer, recently appeared in the UN General Assembly as his nation's speaker on Human Rights! Growing signs of defiant solidarity among Chilean workers when, in November the workers of the El Teniente mine forced Pinochet to give a 2000 peso rise, 70 were dismissed on the grounds of "persistent absenteeism". Their case has been taken up by the whole copper-mining workforce of the country, in defiance of a decree No. 198 of the regime. Labour minister, Sergio Fernandez, claims, "the strike is a thing of the past, from the old days of the class struggle." Meanwhile, 87 hunger strikers in St. Francis's Church in downtown Santiago protested against "disappearing" suspects.

ECUADOR

In October 1977, the AZTRA sugar workers struck for higher pay after the sugar price had risen. On 16 October, the workers occupying, and their wives and children bringing them food, were attacked by an army detachment with automatic fire and teargas. Those killed, said the government, had panicked and jumped into a canal, where they drowned. The 25 bodies vanished — buried in a common grave, to avoid forensic examination. Only one body was retained by the workers: Luis Gerardo Terreguaznay, riddled with bullets. 18 strikers are still in custody. The president of the students union at the Catholic University, J.C. Gomez, has vanished. Chilean and Argentinian refugees are subject to police harassment on the grounds that they are in collusion with certain 'subversive' activities inside Ecuador itself.

COLOMBIA

The recent elections have created a wave of political violence in Bogota. At the beginning of May, an Agricultural bank was bombed, and a police station was fire-bombed (provoking the arrest of 6 people). Bogota is in what amounts to a state of siege by the police and army who have been attempting to contain riots protesting at savage increases in the price of urban transport.

A spectacular hi-jack made world-wide headlines, but the squatters of La Igiana de Medellin were much more interested when a lorry belonging to the National Chocolate Company was held up on the day of the carnival. Three armed members of the "M.19" urban guerrilla group stopped the lorry in the town centre and gave away all the chocolate! Before they disappeared the men draped the lorry with a red and black flag and wrote "Socializamos" (socialised) on the side.

Anarchists in Colombia have started publishing a new journal entitled *Libertario*.

The government has just passed decree No. 70, absolving members of the armed forces of responsibility for murders committed in the course of their duties. It seems the C. police are, along with the armed forces very active in the drug traffic. The training ship of the Colombian navy, the "Gloria" was lately unable to make port in Canada, having a cargo of marijuana aboard. For this reason the US has found certain "problems" with planes for the Colombian air force. Now anyone shooting a "terrorist or drug trafficker" will be absolved. The CP has accused the general, Luis Carlos Camacho Leyva of fomenting a fascist coup d'etat. After claiming they were political prisoners and publicising the torture of detainees, Omaira Montoya Henao and Mauricio Trijillo have "vanished." Montoya was, in any case, in poor health when arrested.

BOLIVIA

Trying the democrat card to stay in power in elections scheduled for July 1978, Banzer announced a partial amnesty in December 1977. The response was not quite as expected. The underground unions, especially the still-banned miners' union was not satisfied, as those held after the long strike in 1976 were not covered. The miners launched a 24 hour strike on 21 December, demanding a total amnesty. On 29 December, 25 wives and 13 children began a hunger strike in the archbishopric of La Paz. They demanded (1) general amnesty for exiles and prisoners (2) freedom for the unions (3) the withdrawal of the army

from mining areas. By 5 January they numbered 100, a week later 1500 and soon numbered over 2000. Supporters held silent marches in solidarity. On 18 January, Banzer gave in, but on condition that sacked miners be approved by a government/employers commission before being taken on again. Involvement in the campaign against the dictatorship has changed thinking about the status of women. In April 1976, Domitila Chungara was elected to the Directory of the Miners' Federation in Corocoro — a far cry from the heckling miners of a few years/months before who cried "get back home to your cooking and washing."

PERU

About 3000 workers lost their jobs after taking part in a general strike last July. Now union leaders and workers have begun a hunger strike to force their rehiring. They are in various churches in Lima. Judge Wilfredo González has ordered their expulsion and is trying to bring charges against them.

HAITI

Haitians are beginning to lose their fear of a regime which has killed 30,000 of the population, kept literacy at 80% and life expectancy at only 30. Over the last three years, the opposition has become more vocal. On 21 September 1977, public pressure forced Baby Doc to free 104 political detainees, even though many were rearrested and/or killed inside or outside prison. In spite of the absence of the right to strike Haitian workers have ceased work and been vocal in their opposition to the government. On 7-8 January 1978 in Montreal, 11 organisations of the Haitian opposition joined to form RFDM — the Allied Haitian Democratic Forces.

WEST GERMANY

More political trials.

Danny Cohn-Bendit has been fined 1,800 DM (about £600) for insulting the head of Frankfurt's police force, by describing him as a "gangster," during a demonstration protesting against the "suicide" of Ulrike Meinhof.

Hajo Karbach and Klaus Lodewick, both editors of *Gottinger Nachrichten* (paper of the students at Gottingen University) were found guilty of "defamation of the state" and fined 1,800DM each for the publication of the "Buback Obituary" by Mescalero.

After 8 months, the Berlin trial of four members of the AGIT-druck printing collective has begun. It was in October 1977 that the police arrested the four under the infamous "rubber" laws, that control the printing, publishing and distribution of seditious, or other printed

material, regarded as dangerous to the security of the West German state, and with people who form, propagandise, or support a group which has "criminal" objectives.

AGIT is a printing collective that provides a cheap and quick printing service to all kinds of community groups. Several unions, tenants groups, youth clubs, women's groups, anti-nuclear and immigrant groups all use AGIT. The people who work at AGIT are neither the authors of the material they print, nor do they look upon themselves as censors.

AGIT also prints *Info-BUG*, the paper of the local "undogmatic" left. This has no 'line' and no fixed editorial staff, and is used as a forum for discussion and information. In the past press communiques from several urban guerrilla groups have been printed in *Info-BUG* (in this *Info-BUG* is no different from prominent German papers such as *Der Spiegel*, *Welt*, *Bild*, and *Frankfurter Allgemeine*, all having printed communiques from the RAF and 2nd June Movement).

Because there are no editors or publishers for *Info-BUG*, the police arrested the printers. Only one was released on bail, and the others have spent the past eight months in prison waiting trial, because the police refuse to release them in case they go "underground."

A defence group has been formed, the address is: Komitee zur Freilassung der Agit-drucker, Mehringdamm 99, 1,000 Berlin 61. Agit-druck's address is: Ahornstr. 26, 1 Berlin 41.

The three accused printers still in prison are Jutta Werth, JVA Lehrterstr. 61-62, 1 Berlin 21, and Henning Weyer & Gerd Foss, UHA Alt Moabit 12a, 1 Berlin 21.

SPAIN

In Spanish Jails

During the May Day demonstrations, 19 people, members of the CNT and a libertarian school were arrested in Valladolid. Seven have since been released but 12 remain inside, charged with "terrorism" and attacks on several banks.

Victor Simal and Bernard Pensoit, the two French comrades arrested in Barcelona, after the bombing of "La Scala" night club have been on hunger strike since April 12th. The only evidence against them is that they are friendly with some Spanish anarchists. None of the people arrested (some face the death penalty, and all have been tortured and beaten) have been informed of the accusations made against them, or been allowed to confront their accusers. Others, all members of the CNT, arrested and facing charges include:

Jose Cuera Casado (26), Francisco

Javier Canadas Gascon (19), Arturo Palma Segura (18), Luis Munoz Garcia (17), Maria Teresa Fabres Oliveras (17), Maria Pilar Alvarez Alvarez (17), Maria Rosa Lopez Jimenez (20).

Over 500 prisoners have been on hunger strike in Spanish jails, in a carefully co-ordinated campaign protesting at the nature of prison reform. They included 200 detainees in "El Dueso" prison, at Santander, and 200 in Madrid's Carabanchel jail. Prisons in Saint Sebastian, Basauri and Bilbao were also affected. Some prisoners in Carabanchel swallowed metal objects, and cut their arms in protest, and several people from the prisons at Ocana and Segovia were hospitalised after protests involving self-mutilation.

Awaiting trial on charges of "terrorism" are 40 marxist-leninists from GRAPO, PORE, PCE-R and PCE-i, 20 Basque nationalists and 20 libertarians. An article in the leftist paper *Saida* earned its editors a term in Carabanchel for an article entitled "Long live the Republic." This was "insulting the king."

The following CNT (Catalonia) members are in prison in Yeserias and Carabanchel — Pilar Alvarez, Francisco Canadas, Maria Corona, Jose Cuevas, Teresa Farres, Miguel Gallego, Arturo Palma, Jose Perez, Miguel Angel Rodriguez, Agustin Rueda (recently murdered), Fernando Simon is in Figueras jail.

Charged with being "libertarian commandos" and belonging to the autonomous anarchist groups are the following: Maria Victoria Jimenez and Virginia Cativiela (in Yeserias). Antonio Cativiela, Maximo Casa, Guillermo Gonzalez, Jose Luis Guillardino, Jose Luis Martin and Ignacio Sebastian (Carabanchel); Vicente Dominguez, Andres Mirnas, Maria Fernanda Fernandez and Concha Martinez (in Barcelona), and out of them Simon Blanco, one of the founder members of the anarchist inspired prisoners rights movement, COPEL, was among 45 men who escaped from Barcelona's Modelo prison at the beginning of June.

EIRE

Bobby Cullen has been moved from Curragh Military Detention Barracks and is now resident in Mountjoy Prison, Dublin. He can be written to there and still welcomes letters from comrades as he now nears his release date — he should be out next year — and they should be sent to Robert Cullen, 683, Mountjoy Prison, North Circular Road, Dublin 7, Eire.

Cienfuegos Press Anarchist Review No.3,
140pp, £2.00 + 30p p+p. Now available.

Greek "Democracy" Adopts the "Anti-Terrorist" Law.

In the last week of April 1978 the Greek parliament adopted the famous "anti-terrorist" law. This law is a faithful imitation of the "anti-terrorist" legislation passed by the German parliament a while back and which all European states are adopting.

The passing of a text like this, a law of this sort, could have frightened the Greek populace and sowed real panic among the workers. To forestall this happening, those who govern us (or deceive us) have taken appropriate steps. Something over a month ago they launched a systematic propaganda campaign through all the media at their disposal (television, radio, newspapers etc), to induce the workers to believe that, contrary to what goes on elsewhere (Germany, Turkey, Italy, Spain, France etc), where they must face grave problems on account of "terrorism," Greece was the only country to stand aloof as an "island of social and political peace" thanks to their governors: and that if this oasis of calm is to be preserved, they had to pass an "anti-terrorist" law.

To Rigma, the magazine for Greek anarchists in Britain. No. 3 is now available from To Rigma, c/o Black & Red, The Students Union, The University, Leeds LS2 9JT.

STOP PRESS:

CIENFUEGOS PRESS ANARCHIST REVIEW No. 4

Issue No. 4 is now at the printers and should be available to subscribers only by early August. We hope copies for non subscribers and bookshops will be ready by early September. We also hope to have out latest title **A New World In Our Hearts: The Faces of Spanish Anarchism** out to the subscribers by early September as well. A new information sheet is being sent out to all CP supporters this month to keep everyone up to date with current and future plans.

Important Important Important!

Owing to astronomical print costs we have had to cut the current issue of the Review down from 284 to 184 pages and fix the new price at £2.90 (plus 60p p&p). Contents of this issue now include: Letters, Orkney Ramblings: Anarchist Gardening Hints; A Gay Manifesto; Expropriation; The Spirituality Ripoff; Santiago Carrillo, or History Falsified; Starship Stormtroopers by Micheal Moorcock; Class War: The Writings of Camillo Berneri; Monetarism, the "New Liberalism" and Anarchism; The Anarchists in Mexico (2); Praxedis Guerrero; Contributions to the History of Anarchism: *Ruta and Anarchismo*; Flavio Costantini: Artist of Anarchy; Pampas Life: The Tragic Week of

1919, Argentina; Two Workers Experiences in Russia, Gabriel Miasnikov and Mollie Steimer; Origins of the Anarchist Movement in China (with a new introduction); Anarchism in Chinese Political Thought; Asian Anarchism in Western Languages; An interview with Pa Chin; A Stranger to Nothing: The Poetry of Philip Levine; The Stammheim Deaths; Nikola Tesla - A Name on a Light Bulb; Inside the Belly of the American Dream, A Statement by Emily Harris; Pimpernel Howard & the Anarchists; The Donald Duck/Joseph Goebbels Prize for Liberal Objectivity, 1978, to "Professor Raymond Carr"; over 80 major book and pamphlet reviews plus an index of all books reviewed, Vol. 1 Nos 1,2,3, plus the usual droll and sidesplitting anarchist humour.

DON'T FORGET We are desperate for loans of substantial sums (£50.00 to £5000) to help out with our publications programme!!

Now Available: **COSMIC TRIGGER! Final Secret of the Illuminati**, Robert A. Wilson, £4.00 (inc. p&p).



A Touch Of History - Dublin's first Anarchist May Day parade was outside the Dublin Post Office - where the Republic was proclaimed in 1916 during the Rebellion.



Answers to Anarcho-Quiz.

1. After the restoration of the Bourbons in 1814 - the result of liberal national struggle which, ousted by Napoleon, brought back the monarchy but more reactionary than ever - a cabal of conservative members of the Cortes, aided by the monks of Atocha, drew up an address humbly asking the king to treat the Constitution as void and beginning 'Sire, it was the custom of ancient Persians to allow five days of anarchy on the death of a king, in order that the experience of murder, robbery and other excesses might render them more faithful to his successor.'
2. All lived in poverty, all were bankrupt, and all (except Beethoven) finished up in a pauper's grave.
3. William III (as he became over here) introduced gin to Englishmen to encourage trade with his native Holland and to make the fortunes of his male 'favourites' Keppel and Bentinck. When the people had got accustomed to gin, George II introduced a tax, which caused the Gin Riots.
4. Mrs. Foxby was indicted as a common scold and sentenced to the ducking stool in the Medway - a punishment destined against (female) 'abuse of language and power of the tongue' and used to silence 'scolds' (female rebels) into submissiveness. Defying public opinion, she refused the penalty and secured a legal victory which ended in the abolition of the punishment.
5. A.S. Neill made a major impact upon anarchist ideas by his libertarian theories of education though he said, "I have often been called an anarchist running an anarchist school. This puzzles me because a school with self-government making its own laws does not fit into the definition of anarchism."
6. Elia Kazan, who was thought by many to have reneged upon his friends in the McCarthyite period of the Un-American Trials, is, and will (charitably) be better known for the film 'Viva Zapata.'



INSIDE-OUT: an exciting irregular column from one of Her Majesty's Prison camps.

Heap Bad Medicine.

We read in the last issue of *Anarchy* that a meeting to discuss the issue of prisons received poor support and felt that in part this may be due to a lack of information reaching people outside about what is happening in these places.

To our mind, the greatest cause for immediate concern in long-term prisons is the use of tranquillising drugs — Valium, Librium, Paraldehyde, etc., — not as treatment but as a means of control.

“Back of the rod, mightier than it, stands our — obduracy, our obdurate courage. By degrees we get at which is back of everything that was mysterious and uncanny to us, the mysteriously dreaded might of the rod (or truncheon), the fathers (or screws) stern look, etc., and back of all we find our ataraxia — our imperturbability, intrepidity, our counter-forces, our odds of strength, our invincibility. Before that which formerly inspired in us fear and deference we no longer retreat shyly, but take courage.” (Max Stirner)

As Stirner goes on to point out, courage is mind; upon the mind depends the will to resist. But what resistance can be mustered by a mind numbed by drugs? The prison authorities know the answer to that question. The rod is out, ‘medicine’ is in.

There is cause for even greater concern at this jail because of the construction of a special unit linked by a tunnel to the prison hospital and completely enclosed by a 15ft. wall which is due to be opened shortly. The fear is that in this unit drugs will be used on men isolated from the main prison population and thus deprived of the degree of protection this gives.

The protection we can afford one another from indiscriminate drugging administered for control purposes is limited. Prisoner solidarity is frowned upon and inevitably results in ‘ghosting’ (transfer to another prison) as happened recently to one man, located in the hospital, who objected when another was placed in a padded cell and drugged against his wishes.

In these circumstances it is vital that people OUTSIDE act to bring it home to those who administer prisons, at whatever level, that they will be held responsible for their actions. Without this outside aid these practices will continue, and worse, will be further developed.

In concrete terms this means breaking

down the isolation that surrounds prisoners. Write to individual prisoners. It does people inside good to get a friendly word from outside . . . even if the prisoner is not allowed to receive it, at least the incoming mail demonstrates to the prison authorities that this prisoner is *not* without people outside who care about what happens to him. Those singled out for the worst shit are the ones who have no one to protest. When a prisoner is beaten-up, abused or drugged, show your anger by hitting back . . . demonstrate, complain, or best of all attack the jail, attack the jailers — **Hit the Hitters!** Pay the Governor or Screw a personal visit . . . It makes the sadist with a licence think twice. Make it clear that if a screw or prison governor makes life tough for us we will make life tough for them. Prison is ruled by fear and force. Drugs are just the latest, the easiest stick to beat us with. The only defence is counter-force. Make the screw aware of the consequences of his actions to us, make him stop and think. Make him stop.

WE'RE IN HERE FOR YOU



YOU'RE OUT THERE FOR US

Our Own Worst Enemy

The prison system is a microcosm of the ‘big-prison’ outside, and is geared to isolate and destroy the individual: be he political or not. Our aim as prisoners — inside or out — should be to break through the isolation. Our means — Solidarity and Resistance. Now the IRA prisoners are fighting for the right to have ‘political status.’ To them it seems a realistic demand. “We are prisoners of war, not criminals” they say. But this attitude is self-defeating. We disagree with the demands of our Irish comrades for “political status.” When the leftist press mention Control Units they talk as though they were exclusively to control “politicals” . . . but in every case it is the “ordinary” cons who are the first to be slung into them. It is the prisoner with no outside organisation to support him — the **majority** of prisoners — who are most at risk. All the “ordinary” (criminal) prisoners are “political prisoners,” all the “political prisoners” are “criminal.” The position adopted by the IRA in prison only serves to isolate them further by erecting false barriers between us. It takes for granted the State’s definition

of “criminality.” We should challenge the whole concept of bourgeois “legality/criminality” and not worry about winning legitimacy in the eyes of our oppressors. Anyone who challenges the State is a “terrorist” and a “criminal” at the same time. The more abusive the terms which our oppressors label us with, the stronger we should feel . . . It means *they* feel threatened and are afraid.

All prisoners have the same enemy; just as every worker, every member of the dispossessed, has the same enemy. For those of us who came into prison with a consciousness of the class struggle, the battle does not stop. We should feel it our duty to help and encourage every prisoner to fight back, in solidarity with every other . . . to raise the question marks . . . to help other cons begin to look at their own situation critically, to challenge their position. In fairness to our Irish comrades, they *do* show solidarity at every opportunity and they have helped bring about a change of attitude amongst the “ordinaries.” But to demand “political status” is a backward step which can only undo the progress they have already made. Privately many Provos will admit to feeling abandoned by their organisation. Why do only the “Generals” get the helicopter? Why does the IRA allow fascist screws to beat-up Provos and escape retaliation? Many English prisoners have given help and support to the Irish “P.O.W.s” — a fact which no Irish prisoner here would deny. We are not making propaganda by helping each other, but expressing a fact of struggle. We don’t ask that a Provo, or Marxist-Leninist, or “criminal” embrace anarchism. And we don’t have to agree with their theoretical positions. All we say is that we all have a duty and an interest in mutual-aid, and solidarity. We are all in the same hole; we can only climb out together.

“Political Status” only reinforces the barriers put up by the State to keep us divided. We need to work (inside or out) to gain respect and friendship from “ordinary” people . . . to break down the myth that resistance (in whatever form) is the privilege of a specialised fraction. Down with all barriers! “Them and us” should not mean “politicos” and “criminals”, not “revolutionaries” and “people”, but jailors and jailed, rulers and ruled. The struggle doesn’t end when you go inside, it grows more intense. As under any dictatorship, “Rebel” is not a label that can be worn as a new fashion. To resist singles the individual out for repression. And in prison the repression is total. We can only win together — you, me, “political”, “criminal”, inside or out. Come together, and fight back!

An ‘Old Lag’ and ‘Insider.’