

LIBERATION!

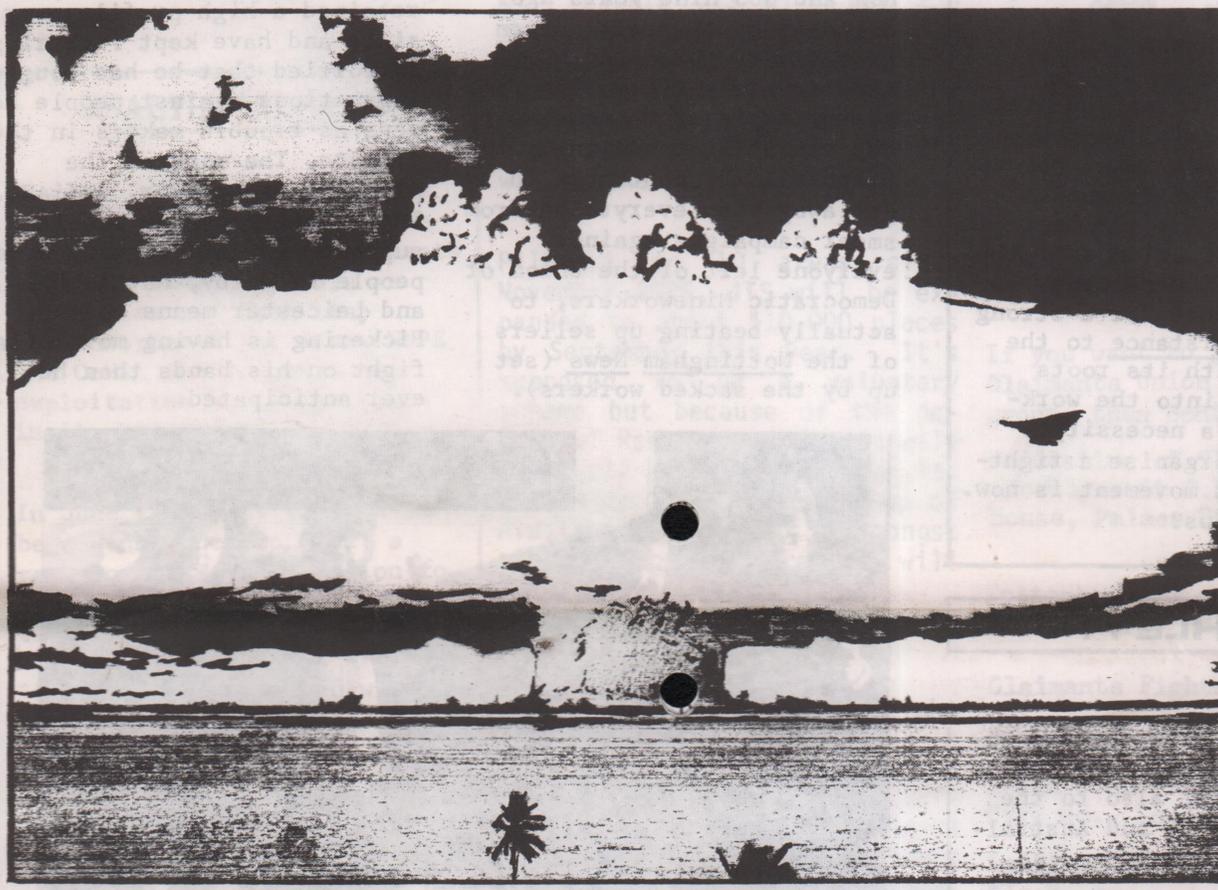
Paper of the ANARCHIST - COMMUNIST FEDERATION

Number 4

April/May 1987

20p

THE NUCLEAR TIME BOMB



BOMB

**ONLY THE
WORKING CLASS
CAN DEFUSE IT!**

The ruling class of this world is responsible for an immense threat hanging over our heads: the sudden destruction of all humanity in a nuclear war.

There is nothing new in the fact that the ruling class have the power of life or death over us. If they don't kill us outright and openly to keep us in check (like in the US con-

trolled dictatorships in Latin America) then, because they have robbed wealth of this world, we are left to starve (eg Africa) or die from lack of decent living conditions (eg by hypothermia in Britain). What is new is the scale of the threat our rulers now pose, that of total annihilation.

LIES

We are told that nuclear weapons have created a balance of power between East and West and have kept the peace for 40 years; told that a strong and nuclear NATO has prevented the Red hordes of the Soviet Union from sweeping across Europe; told that until the USA and USSR agree to limit, reduce and eliminate nuclear weapons at the same time, then the arms race must continue.

All these things are LIES. There's no balance of power between East and West. Western

economies are stronger than those of the East and the West maintains military superiority, especially in nuclear weapons.

Military and political specialists of the West have never considered it likely that the USSR would want to, or try to, invade Western Europe. The ruling class and its mouthpiece, the media, who say this threat is real are lying. Wars have been going on constantly since 1945. There has been no peace for nuclear weapons to keep! The arms race continues not because of stubbornness or distrust on the part of either superpower but because it is profitable and useful.

USES OF THE ARMS RACE:

FOR THE WEST

these profits help unsure their power. Owners of hi-tech industries set out to convince ordinary people of the necessity of spending more and more on weapons; in return the government ploughs millions into those industries. This technology which is developed for military purposes is adapted for commercial uses too, making it even more profitable for IBM and the like. Meanwhile, ordinary tax payers cop the bill.

The richest and most powerful sections of the Western ruling class will never give up their large government subsidies without a fight. Any government which tries to limit the wealth of the bosses, in any way, never lasts long.

On another level, all states, whatever their political complexion, need a "foreign menace" myth to keep ordinary

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Inside

Deportations

US Imperialism

And more...

ANARCHY THROUGH CLASS - STRUGGLE!

comment

Recent events have shown a series of defeats for more militant sections of the working class. The predictable sell-outs by the Unions at Wapping, Silentnight and others show only too clearly that if we want to fight the boss class effectively, then rank and file solidarity and direct action is the only way.

But there are initiatives. According to the Tyneside Syndicalist, NUTGW rag trade workers are making moves to form a rank and file garment workers' movement in the North East. It indicates a new mood developing in some sections of the working class which can only give us new hope for the future.

Away from the industrial front there has been much said in the capitalists' media about the Broadwater Farm Trials. They have been nothing more than farcical show trials with the media being judge and executioner long before the verdict was announced. Meanwhile the ruling class and their bootlickers rub their hands with glee as they push through the new

Public Order laws which will make the coppers' job that much easier.

There have been attacks on state stormtroopers nevertheless. In Wolverhampton, after the cold blooded murder of Clinton McCurbin by the racist police, locals rioted. Some elements have taken to luring out cop cars on 999 calls and hitting them with a petrol bomb ambush!

The bosses crisis deepens the world over and the hour grows darker for the working class. But resistance continues and ordinary people are seeking new and better means to combat the oppressors.

Here in Britain, as the state tightens its grip, we too need to organise well. For us in the Anarchist Communist Federation we see the best kind of organisation as libertarian and independent. We believe the need for a strong anarchist resistance to the boss class, with its roots running deep into the working class, is a necessity. The time to organise a fighting anarchist movement is now. Are you with us?

BOYCOTT LAURA ASHLEY!

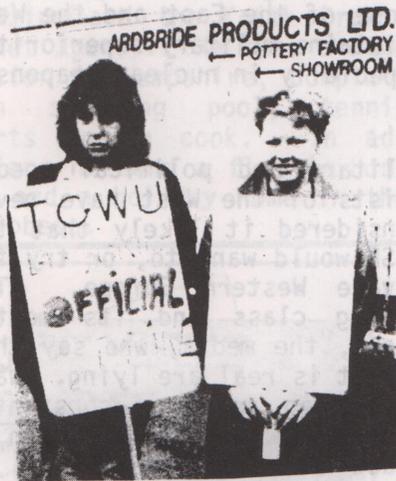
Since September, 21 women have been involved in a dispute about union recognition, wages and working conditions against their boss, Stuart Ross, owner of Ardrbridge Products of Ardrrossan, Scotland, suppliers of lampshades and pottery, mainly to Laura Ashley stores.

The working conditions in Ross's 2 factories (eg. inadequate ventilation to clear glue fumes and dust) were declared illegal by the Health and Safety Executive. The workers' attempts to increase their piss-poor wages and to unionise had been met with sackings and intimidation.

Their union, the T&GWU, first refused the women strike pay (because they'd only been union members for 26 instead of the required 32 weeks). And then recently, without telling the strikers, the T&G had a meeting with ACAS and recommended the acceptance of the pathetic deal they'd worked out there - the strikers rejected it.

Despite scab protection, harassment of pickets by the coppers, lack of union support and the DHSS's refusal to pay out money to the strikers, the womens' spirits have been kept high by the tremendous solidarity they have been shown -

picketing of Laura Ashley shops has spread not only throughout the UK but also to the Continent, the US and Australia.



Laura Ashley's contract with Ross is due for renewal, this offers a good chance of beating him. To bring the bastard to his knees it is essential that the pressure is stepped up.

Boycott L.A. products
Picket L.A. stores
Send donations and letters of support to: ANNA DRUGGEN, 28d MONTGOMERY ST., ARDROSSAN, KA22 8EQ, SCOTLAND.

WAPPING IN THE MIDLANDS!

RANK AND FILE ACTION
AS PRINTERS ARE SACKED

The trend of anti-Trade Unionism and victimisation of newspaper printworkers is not unique to London. The Midlands too has seen the sacking of unionised workforces in recent years.

HISTORY OF
ANTI-TRADE UNIONISM

Nottingham's notorious T. Bailey Forman company got rid of it's printers and journalists at the Evening Post who were active in the NGA and NUJ nine years ago. Boycotts by the 'left' often proved very token and NUJ members are again working on the paper (even though the NGA are still technically in dispute). TBF continued to get away with everything from smear campaigns against everyone left of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers, to actually beating up sellers of the Nottingham News (set up by the sacked workers).

a dispute (which he provoked) over a pay deal to sack the printers and close down the printworks at Heanor Gate, in Derbyshire. In the mistaken belief the 'Dust will settle' he hopes to reopen the plant shortly with a scab workforce

The printers reacted with an immediate occupation of the factory, the setting up of a permanent picket outside and subsequent pickets of all the other printshops Pickering uses to print the papers. (One of these being owned by the Evening Post!)

Actions against the firm have retained a high profile ever since and have kept Pickering so worried that he has sought injunctions against people he sees as trouble makers in the dispute. The mood of the printers is however, defiant. Their determination and the support they are getting from people in Derby, Nottingham and Leicester means that Pickering is having more of a fight on his hands than he ever anticipated.



Sacked Trader printers in defiant mood outside their caravan - on 24hr picket of the Heanor Gate factory from which they were sacked.
photo: Rich Cross

The areas other local paper the Nottingham Trader (a weekly free sheet) benefitted greatly from being contacted by Labour councillors, trade unionists, political activists and peace campaigners as their major source of publicity during the Evening Post boycott. The coverage it gave wasn't usually too unfavourable either. It's owner, millionaire Lionel Pickering, being viewed as a "friend of working people" by Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire councillors.

90 SACKED

Until, that is, he calmly and cynically sacked 90 of his printers last November. Presumably seeing how successful T. Bailey Forman and Rupert Murdoch had proved, he used

THE FAILINGS OF
UNION LEADERSHIP

In the light of the sell out by NGA and Sogat leadership at Wapping, it is important to note that, apart from basic financial assistance, minimal support is being given to the printers by their unions. Sogat officials have not even visited the picketline. Only by showing NGA officials the solid rank and file support that there is for the fight, were they prevented from withdrawing their backing.

The excuse for pulling out of Wapping was to protect the unions in the long term and leave them intact for other struggles. The Trader Print-

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IN FOCUS

US IMPERIALISM



According to Amnesty International, during the 1970s 35 countries used torture on their respective peoples on an administrative basis. Out of these 35, 26 were client states of the USA. Although the numbers have changed slightly now, with some countries becoming democratic (eg. Portugal, Spain, Greece) and some regimes changing (eg. Iran) the truth is the same: the US has under its thumb a neo-colonial system of client states ruled mainly by terror and serving the interests of a small local and foreign business and military elite.

The major portion of US imperialism is directed towards the countries of Central and South America - "Uncle Sam's backyard". Since 1960 over 18 Latin American regimes have suffered military takeovers, a process in which the economic and military dominance of the US in these countries has obviously been crucial.

Torture and State terrorism have never been used on such a scale as in this century, and since the death of Stalin it has become predominantly a feature of the "Free World". There has been a phenomenal growth of these practices in Latin America, where torture and State terrorism have become standard practice on a scale comparable to that experienced under European Fascism earlier this century. The US is so interested in maintaining a tight control on Latin American States (eg. US attempts to crush the Sandinistas) because these areas are extremely profitable for US business, particularly agricultural business. Unfortunately for the people of these countries

it usually takes a fascist regime to extract the profits desired by US business, therefore fascism is encouraged in these places by the US government.

Continued profits for US business means continued massacre and starvation in the region - more particularly, starvation if the people don't struggle to improve conditions and massacre if they do.

"While Central America was expanding beef production rapidly under (Pres. Kennedy's) Alliance For Progress, beef consumption dropped 41% in Costa Rica, 38% in El Salvador, and 13% in Guatemala and Nicaragua from 1960 to the mid-seventies." (N. Chomsky) In Honduras:

"Beef production more than doubled since 1960 while per capita consumption of beef declined and exports increased over 500% for hamburgers, hot dogs and pet foods in the US." (Chomsky)

This kind of exploitation is not restricted to Central America of course but exists throughout the "3rd World", where it is more important to feed cattle for beef exports than it is to feed people.

The people of Central America are being kept poor and terrorised until every last vestige of independent spirit is wiped out, even if it means genocide. In May 1982, the conservative Guatemalan Conference of Bishops stated that "never in our history have such extremes been reached, with the assassinations now falling into the category of genocide".

The Roman Catholic Church administrator in the town of Quiche (Guatemala) "estimates that in recent years about 20,000 Indians have been killed in Quiche province alone". Another churchman said: "The roads began to stink, there were so many dead bodies". The estimated population of El Quiche province in mid-1983 was 440,157.

This kind of repression is used to create a climate of fear in which any kind of independent organisation, or opposition to the plans of big business and landowners, is totally discouraged. Often it is the people involved in self-help groups organised around the churches who are the first victims of the US-trained army death squads in these countries.

JUSTIFICATIONS

How does the US ruling class get away with promoting fascism throughout Latin America and elsewhere? Firstly because the US has been getting away with it since the end of WWII and secondly because people in the US and the West in general believe the propaganda constantly issued out by the rulers of the US and their media cronies.

The US portrays itself, and is portrayed, as the great defender of freedom and democracy in the world (ridiculously untrue) and all its foreign policy actions are explained within the context of the Four Freedoms. These were announced by Pres. Roosevelt in 1941 as the object of US intentions everywhere. They are: freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want and freedom from fear.

However these are just meaningless slogans used to protect the unstated "Fifth Freedom": the freedom for the US ruling class to rob and exploit. Much of US foreign policy remains incomprehensible without knowledge of this principle, for example, the war against Nicaragua which continues despite the fact that the Sandinistas want to trade with the US and that the Sandinista government is obviously not a puppet of the USSR. The reasons the US wants to destroy the government and the reforms in Nicaragua are because economic reform in Nicaragua has denied US business its absolute control of the economy, and because the people in other Latin American States might be encouraged by Nicaragua's example to try a similar thing in their own countries. For the same reasons Cuba is still isolated by the US and has long been the victim of a terrorist war from the US. More recently Grenada was invaded and a coup was engineered in Chile for the same reasons. The US ruling class doesn't want thoughts of freedom to spread all over the place, it doesn't want to lose its Fifth Freedom in Nicaragua or anywhere.

The justification for putting down internal unrest or overthrowing economic reform by installing a military dictatorship is the "Threat of Communism" - but for Communism we should read "anything that threatens the USA's Fifth Freedom". Arch conservatives who promote a more independent line from that desired by the US suffer the same fate as the rest of the "Communists".

THE RECUPERATION OF EUROPEAN FASCISM

US military and economic planners saw their immediate task in post-war Europe as dispersing or destroying the anti-fascist resistance in favour of elements who would maintain capitalism in the way most suitable for the US ruling class. These elements were often fascists or fascist collaborators.

In "liberated" North Africa in 1942 the US installed Admiral Jean Darlan, a leading Nazi collaborator and the author of the anti-semitic laws in Vichy France.

As the US army marched up the Italian peninsula it dispersed the anti-fascist resistance. From 1948 the CIA went on to spend over \$65 million in large-scale clandestine intervention in Italian politics, labour and social life, which continued until at least 1975.

In Greece the British army "displaced" the Greek guerillas and installed a corrupt and brutal regime. The US stepped in in 1947 to undertake a full-scale counter-insurgency war which put open Nazi collaborators in power. In the late 1960s the US supported the first fascist restoration in Europe. Colonel Papadopoulos, who led the dictatorship was also a CIA agent.

In Germany, Nazis like Reinhard Gehlen were put into prominent security positions to deal with "Communist" elements in the new State, under close CIA supervision. ETC.

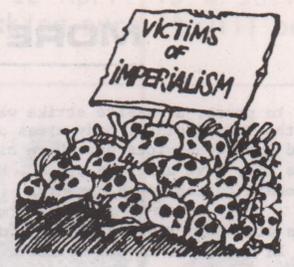
The same pattern is apparent in Asia and Latin America. In Asia, Japanese fascists, or collaborators, were often used to restore "order". Central and South America have seen a steady influx of Nazis and European fascists since the war - used by the US and the dictatorships it props up, they have had a dramatic effect on life there. People like the Nazi Klaus Barbie (Butcher of Lyons) and the Italian fascist Stefano Delle Chiaie have brought the State-terror methods of the Third Reich to the people of Latin America, under direct CIA supervision.

The death camps of Europe have become the death squads of Latin America.

Fascism is the claw that always lies behind capitalism, often, as in Latin America, this claw is clearly visible - yet we learn little about the origins of fascism in this area of the world because our leaders and our media tow the US propaganda line. Western Europe also has a financial stake in 3rd World fascism - and the US has a heavy financial stake in western Europe. What is going on in the poorer regions of the US sphere of influence can only be compared to what went on under Hitler in Europe. Very few voices in the West are raised against it.

Despite this workers and peasants in Latin America continue to organise and fight back - obviously at great personal cost - their struggle is a lesson and inspiration to us all.

Sources and suggested further reading: The Washington Connection & 3rd World Fascism by N. Chomsky & E.S. Herman, 1979. Turning the Tide, N. Chomsky, 1985.



TRADER DISPUTE cont.

workers' dispute needs national backing, but the NGA and Sogat have shown little stomach for the battle.

RANK AND FILE MILITANCY

The printers are under no illusions about the nature of their union leadership. They have seen, first from Wapping and now in their own dispute, that battles are not won by Union bosses and bureaucrats, but by rank and file action and solidarity.

Roumour has it that Murdoch is set to move printing of the News of the World to the Notts./Derbyshire area. Local NGA officials have been heard to say that they are worried by the prospect of subsequent mass picketing in the area. Just whose jobs are they paid to protect? Clearly their own!

The Trader printers have learned to organise themselves and not rely on union leadership that isn't interested in

them. With the support of other working class people, they are taking on the bosses themselves and action and solidarity is on the increase as the weeks go by.

If you live in the area, the message is "DON'T TRADE WITH THE TRADER" and more information about the dispute can be got from:-

"Trader Sacked Workers Dispute"
c/o 144 Stonehill Road,
Derby.
Donations also welcome.



Agree? Disagree? Then write to Liberation, c/o 84b Whitechapel High St, London E1.

MAJOR GOVERNMENT OFFENSIVE AGAINST CLAIMANTS

We've had Restart which has meant "long term" unemployed being pushed into interviews with the aim of bullying us into crappy, low-paid jobs or useless courses. Then there's the Availability for Work test which started in January this year, where new claimants have to answer a questionnaire about what hours they can work, how far they can travel, whether they will work for any wage etc. Answer these "wrongly" and you get your benefit suspended. People have and are being cut off for giving the wrong answers but what goodies have the government got in store for us now?

Maternity Benefits

April 6th saw the launch of a new offensive against claimants. One major attack is on maternity benefits, especially for women in employment. The universal Maternity Grant of £25 is scrapped. Women on

Supplementary Benefit or Family Income Supplement can get £80 (though in practice this means £100 cut for women on Sup Ben as they won't be allowed to claim single payments for things for the baby). Maternity Allowance schemes have been replaced by Statutory Maternity Pay (SMP) and State Maternity Allowance (SMA). SMP will be paid according to how long a woman has been in her job. You get SMA if your work records don't qualify you for SMA. What it means in practice is 94,000 mothers losing their right to Maternity Allowance, while only 20,000 are expected to gain from the change. It's yet another vicious attack on women who are least well off.

The universal death grant has been abolished. This means millions of pensioners, who have made national insurance contributions for nearly 40

international

SOLIDARITY FOR BRAZILIAN ANARCHO SYNDICALISTS

The so-called 'New Republic' in Brazil came to power proclaiming workers' rights. However, last November the LEAGUE OF RAILWAY WORKERS (LTO) organised a series of strikes and quickly received the same type of state repression used freely by the old military dictatorship. So much for the promises of political leaders.

The LTO was created by railway workers in the COB (Brazilian Workers Federation and Brazilian section of the IWA, the anarcho syndicalist international) in opposition to the reformist unions. On 4 November, the LTO paralysed all urban transport as well as the country's railways. The workers held mass assemblies at stations throughout the country, demanding pay and conditions improvements, promised 10 years ago but still not granted.

Rank and file involvement was tremendous, despite boycotting of the actions by the reformist unions and their being declared illegal by the Brazilian Labour Court. Leonardo Morelli and other members of the COB have been accused of

illegal strike organising and sabotage. They now stand to get between 6 and 12 months in prison as a result.

On 12 December, more arrests took place, when a second strike wave was called, this time with the involvement of the reformist transport unions. Regular units of the Brazilian army were used against the railway workers with extreme severity.

The COB has appealed for protest and solidarity actions, letters of protest should be sent to:

Presidente Jose Sarney
Palacio do Planalto
Esplanado dos Ministerios
70.160-Brasilia-DF
Brasil

Engenheiro Jose Reinado Tavares
Ministro dos Transportes
(same address as President)

Engenheiro Stenghel Guimares
Presidente da Rede Ferroriaria
Federal
Praca Procopio Ferreira
89 20221-Rio de Janeiro-RJ
Brasil

Send donations to: Direct Action,
Box DA, Raven, 75 Piccadilly,
Manchester M1 2BU.

MORE FROM BRAZIL

As we go to press, a massive strike wave is shaking the ruling class. Many areas of industry and public services have been hit and the banks too, have all been closed. We eagerly await further developments.

There has also been rioting in parts of the country. In Castanhal in the northern state of Para, upon hearing of the murder of a 17 year old youth by the cops, the local population got together and burnt down the cop shop, the courthouse and the local nick. Not content here, they followed this up by burning down all the coppers' homes!

In Sao Paulo, sick of being homeless, about 100,000 people did a mass squat on municipal land. There was also a demonstration in the working class district of Guaianazes. However, police belonging to the hated municipal guard burned down squatters' homes and shot dead one squatter. This shows the true meaning of capitalist 'democracy' where poverty exists on an enormous scale and resistance is met with harsh repression. Yet the working class in Brazil know the score only too well and fight back consistently with mass direct action.

CLASS WAR IN SPAIN

The ruling class in Spain, and the Socialist government, are having to face a serious tide of unrest at present. Much of this discontent has been simmering over the past few years as workers have realised that things are not improving as fast as they should have done since the death of Franco. It is true that Franco and his friends in the US were responsible for holding back economic development in Spain and this legacy lives on, but in the effort to build more profits for the bosses (which is called efficiency!) there has been an onslaught involving cut-backs in workers incomes (wage freezes), public spending, and big redundancies.

In the last two weeks:-

Demonstrations have occurred in 40 Spanish towns and cities protesting against the governments economic policies. In one town a local boss who threatened to make 1000 workers redundant was kidnapped, the police came in with rubber bullets to disperse the crowd, ran out of bullets, were duffed up and marched out of town!

Over 21,000 miners in Asturias still continue their 3 week strike over redundancies and one of the main pits is still occupied.

Hundreds of thousands of building, railway and manufacturing workers were on strike for up to 3 days demanding an end to the governments 5% pay freeze.

Farm labourers are continuing a three year battle for better conditions, and recently

more intense protests have resulted from the arrests of hundreds of militants.

Hospital workers and teachers have taken strike action.



Workers give cops a taste of their own medicine in Reinos, Spain.

School and university students have continued strikes and occupations throughout the country demanding the recent cut-backs to be reversed and free entry to further education.

Spanish workers are fighting back with a vengeance!

OMORI

Over 10 years ago Katsuhisa Omori was falsely accused of bombing a government office on Hokkaido Island, Japan. Since then he has been in Prison, most of it in solitary, and 4 years ago he was sentenced to death. Omori's anti-state ideas and support for the state-persecuted Ainu people in Japan has made him an ideal target for a frame-up. There was no real evidence against him.

Omori is currently appealing against his death sentence and one of his monthly court appearances occurs on Wednesday 29 April. It is very important that international pressure is escalated to embarrass the Japanese government and force them to release Omori. This comrade must not be murdered.

Protest by letter or telephone to:

The Japanese Embassy,
46 Grosvenor St.,
London W1.
Tel. (01) 493 6030

Demonstrate outside the Embassy

on 29 April at 12:00 noon,
organised by London Anarchist
Black Cross. (For more info.,
Anarchist Black Cross, c/o 121
Railton Rd., London SE 24.
Tel. (01) 274 6655)



SOLIDARITY WITH POLITICALS & UNION MEMBERS IN THE USSR

Vladimir Borissov was one of the founders of the 'free trade union' SMOT which attempted to build union organisation independent of the State in the Soviet Union. Severe repression led to Borissov being imprisoned and then being exiled to France. He is calling for the maximum number of teleggrams to be sent to Mikhail Gorbachov, Kremlin, Moscow containing the following model messages:

1. immediate exit visa for Fiodor Finkel and his family (and write to Finkel telling him about this at Bakuninskaya 10 12 KZ 39 Moscow 107 005 USSR)
2. We demand the immediate liberation of Skobov, Sitymski, Gerchuni, Klebanov.

All these people are SMOT members. In all the indignation in the Western press about imprisoned dissidents, working class militants imprisoned for fighting for union organisation and genuine socialism are conveniently forgotten.

STEVEN SHAW

The following is the text of a Justice for Steven Shaw campaign leaflet:

Steven Shaw was part of a demonstration against the visit of Leon Brittan to Manchester University on 1 March 1985, which was attacked and broken up by Manchester police. Following his involvement in the Defence Campaign and the Independent Inquiry into the events of that night, he was: mysteriously burgled, pulled-up for alleged speeding four times though never charged and then held in Bootle Street police station for five hours of questioning during which he was strip-searched and had something pushed into his anus, resulting in internal injury.



Complaints about police violence and harassment were investigated by Avon and Somerset police but few students had any confidence in them, especially after their inquiry team handed over supposedly confidential statements to Manchester police prosecution solicitors.

A Manchester-City-Council-sponsored Independent Inquiry concluded in November 1985 that there was "unacceptable use of force and abusive language by police officers ... against innocent civilians participating in a peaceful demonstration". In reference to complaints of police harassment made by Steven Shaw and others, they believed that there was "a deliberate attempt by unknown police officers to frighten and harass key witnesses to the inquiry ... In the course of this criminal offences have been committed by police officers."

This harassment is still going on. On 2 February 1986, Steve was attacked in a Manchester street by the same two men who had interrogated and assaulted him at Bootle Street. This time they broke his nose, stamped on his hands, hit him with a bottle and stubbed out cigarettes in his face. He has also received death threats.

Despite accurate descriptions and long statements by Steve, Avon and Somerset police did not make any arrests or even organise identity parades. It was Steve's own solicitor who released artist's impressions of the two men to the press. In March 1986, the Guardian reported extensively on the whole case and the issue was debated in the House of Commons.

On 26 February 1987, we heard that our friend, Steven Shaw, is to be charged with attempting "to pervert the course of justice", because he made an official complaint about the beatings he had received from the police. What are they saying to us? It's obvious. The message is that, if you complain about what the police do, the harassment gets worse, and, if you don't get the message the first time, then they'll beat you into silence. Most disgusting of all is the fact that Steve, like Jackie Berkeley before him, now faces prison for complaining about what the police did

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NO TO DEPORTATIONS!

Part of the racist state's attack on the black community is the threat and the use of deportations. After the Second World War, an expanding economy meant black peoples from the heavily oppressed 'Empire' nations were "invited" here to fill the gaps in the workforce. Living in extreme poverty (caused by imperialist exploitation) many people had no choice but to come. Once here they were forced into shitty jobs and driven into some of the worst housing ever seen in this country.

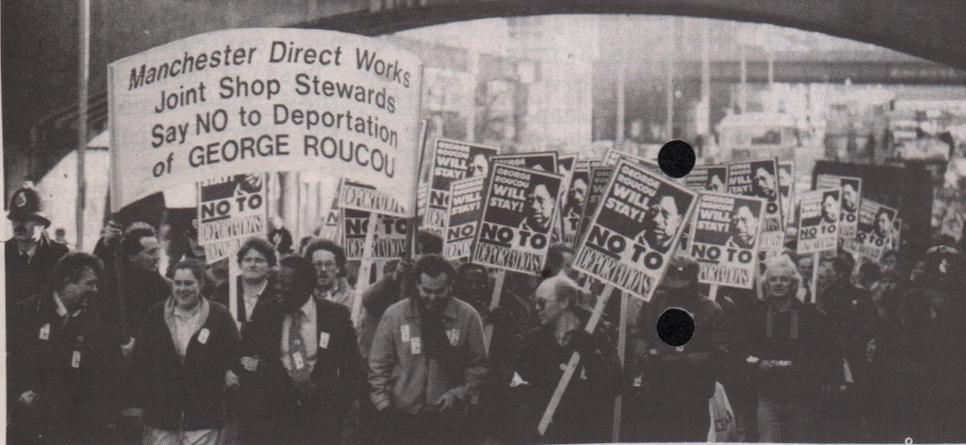
SCAPEGOATS FOR THE BOSSES' CRISIS

Now the British economy is in crisis, racist immigration laws are used to stop black people entering the country and to kick out those who are already living here. Deportations and removals increased by 11 times between 1973 and

divide the working class. How long will we tolerate these attacks on our brothers and sisters? Smash the racist immigration laws!

GEORGE ROUCOU

George first entered this country when he came to work here in 1975. He entered on a British Commonwealth Citizens Passport which entitled him to live and work here - his permit had to be renewed annually. For three years everything went without a hitch until 1979, when his passport was lost either by the Post Office or the Home Office. The Home Office then told him he must apply for a new passport from the Seychelles (his "country of origin") now independent. By this time George had married and it was on this basis that



Fifteen hundred Manchester trade unionists march to protest at the planned deportation of George Roucou a black UCATT shop steward.

1980 and by 41% since 1979. Fifty black people are deported a week. The number of immigrants has dropped by 42%. Immigration controls also give the police yet another excuse to raid people's homes and workplaces. Under the pretext of looking for "illegal" immigrants the police have often rounded up hundreds of people at a time and subjected them to humiliating checks and searches. A sinister state organisation the 'immigration intelligence unit' exists to monitor (spy on) the black community. Detention centres and police cells are full of people whose only crime is to be black and poor.

Against the general background of racist violence that black people face, immigration controls and deportations are yet another instrument of fear and oppression. Along with constant attacks and harassment from police and other racists and a backdrop of xenophobic hatred provided by the Tory media, the state is trying to crush black militancy and

he was allowed to stay. When this marriage broke down the Home Office decided he had no legal grounds to stay.

George is an active and popular shop steward and has much rank-and-file support, not only from his own workmates (Manchester Direct Works) but from many other union branches all over the area. He has a common-law wife, Kim, and has three children with one on the way. His only crime is that he is black in a racist Britain.

On 13 March, his final hearing took place at Aldine House Manchester. Outside hundreds of trade unionists gathered to lobby in support. Inside the building a degrading examination took place, worse than anything ever seen in a court room. In a few weeks the adjudicator's decision will be known. If it is bad, George Roucou and his family will need all the support we can give. We must fight these attacks on members of our class. We must show the

racist state that we will not be divided along lines of black and white.

Contact the George Roucou Defence Campaign, Room 3005, Town Hall extension, Manchester - to affiliate your union branch or just to join individually.

VIRAJ MENDIS

RACISTS ATTACK SANCTUARY

The Viraj Mendis Defence Campaign has been receiving much publicity recently, since Viraj went into sanctuary at the Church of Ascension in Hulme on 20 Decmeber 1986. With this increase in publicity, the campaign has been victim of several attacks. These started with bricks thrown at windows which has occurred at least twice but after Viraj got a job with the council the attacks became worse.

On Thursday, 8 February, six men got admission through a back door but campaign members reacted quickly, they moved to the centre of the building. One member was stabbed in the head, as the attackers drew knives and screwdrivers, while the campaign members beat a retreat but he is not seriously injured. The campagin members locked themselves in a room and the police arrived and arrested the six men, who were later released on bail. The attackers had hurled abuse relating to editorials carried within the Express and Sun newspapers, which in turn reflected a speech made by Home Office minister, David Waddington. The next evening a campaign meeting was held, which discussed the implications of this attack. One member of the campaign was followed back to her flat, where she was attacked physically and had a swastika carved in the back of her hand with a razor blade. Though the injuries were not too bad, she was in quite a bad state of shock as a result. Security has now been tightened and worries of a successful attack are not now as strong amongst the more experienced campaign members.



VIRAJ MENDIS

Viraj Mendis has been living in this country for over 13 years and, though Waddington has publicly stated that any person who's lived in this country over 10 years can stay, he still insists that Viraj shuld be deported. He also ignores the fact that Amnesty International has now adopted Viraj, confirming to a wider audience that Viraj faces persecution and possible death, if he returns to Sri Lanka. However, when the VMDC visited Waddington at his surgery at Clitheroe, this pompous fool showed the hieght of his argument as he tore at posters and banners in a fit of rage. Perhaps he knows that the prejudice his kind generates in white people against black people keeps them in their comfortable positions at the top of the shit heap. They have no argument other than bigotry to justify their actions and that bigotry is racism.

When Viraj went into sanctuary, there was a march in Manchester, which 400 eople attended, and since the march to London from Manchester last summer a lot of support has been generated in towns on the route and in other towns where campaign meetings have been held. Since the two attacks support has increased considerably and only the police now poses a serious physical threat. However, the political battle has still to be won and the conference organised for 11 - 12 April is a solid step in making sure it will be won.



**GIVEN
HALF A CHANCE
ALL
POLITICIANS
ARE EXACTLY
THE SAME!!**

NUCLEAR cont.

people in check - working normally and saying nothing. Who can forget the Falklands which temporarily invented a feeling of "national unity"? Those living below the poverty line supposedly had the same interests as millionaires!

FOR THE EASTERN BLOC

The Soviet leaders in the East are busy conning working people into believing that the West is always about to invade and therefore a strong defence is needed. After WW2 this threat was real but largely vanished as World Capitalism stabilised. Supported by the "western" countries and Japan, the US dominates World Capitalism and for this reason the US would have little to win and everything to lose by embarking on a war with the USSR.

The "state capitalism" of the East has failed to compete in a capitalist world and now we can see economic "liberalisation" in China, Russia and Eastern Europe. The ruling class of the USA has clearly been winning the real war against the Eastern bloc ruling class - the war for markets and profits.

The USSR does need a strong army, mainly for the quelling of internal unrest, especially rebellion in Eastern Europe. But this fact doesn't look too good in a "workers' state", better to keep plugging the arms race game instead. Meanwhile the expense of militarisation in the Warsaw Pact does little for their already weak economies and ensures that the Eastern bloc remains a dependent market for Western goods.

NUCLEAR WAR?

For these reasons, superpower conflict with nuclear weapons

is not a serious prospect - unless it happens by accident. Computer cock-ups happen all the time and, if Star Wars is completed and put into effect, it may well be a certainty. One top US military adviser has said it would take about 16 generalised global nuclear conflicts to iron out all the bugs in the Star Wars system! Nuclear war will occur not because of the race for a secure defence but because of the race for profits. Security has nothing to do with it and all military and state planners know this.

NUCLEAR POWER

But nuclear war is not the only threat. Nuclear power stations are cancers, slowly poisoning the areas around them. Children die of leukaemia; the sea and the land are increasingly being soaked in radioactivity. We all know about accidents at these places, look at Chernobyl. Don't tell us it's safe!

Alternative energy sources are not given a second thought by most governments because nuclear power supplies the material for nuclear weapons and it's the same parasites who make money out of both. One reason why the mining industry has been severely cut back in Britain is so that eventually all that is left to make energy is nuclear power. If it was left up to ordinary people, with all the facts at their disposal, it would be nuclear power that wouldn't be given a second thought. We don't want to see the slow, or sudden, death of working-class people just so a few fat capitalists can get fatter.



REFORMIST SOLUTIONS

The biggest movement against the nuclear threat in this country has been CND. However, apart from alerting people that nuclear weapons are potentially disastrous they have only succeeded in mystifying people further.

CND is not against capitalist war. During the Falklands war it argued that, if the British government had spent more on conventional forces and weapons instead of on nuclear arsenals, then the war could have never occurred! This sort of argument is full of holes. Surely, if we agree with capitalist wars and agree that working-class people should kill each other, while the boss class reaps the rewards, then why not have the best weapons for the job! The working class can never support CND because its arguments are crap: it doesn't go to the root of the problem, never mind it being the boot-licker of the ruling class, which supports their wars!

CND is a creature of the Labour Party which constantly proves it is no friend of the working class, particularly when all but two labour MPs cheered working-class men on to kill and be killed by their Argentinian counterparts. War isn't a game of football.

THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM

We face the threat of world destruction because we have no control over our own lives. It is the boss class and the system they have created to hide behind which dictates what should be.

As long as we have states, as long as we have capitalism (or "state capitalism") and rulers and the ruled, we shall not be safe. There is only one way to get rid of the nuclear threat, just as there is only one way to eliminate poverty, pollution, starvation and war. We have to disarm the bosses and their governments and smash the institutions of ruling-class power.



ELECTION FEVER?

By the time the next issue of Liberation is out, we could all be in the throes of General Election Fever. For most people the symptoms range from excessive yawning to mild interest. It is only the politicians involved and the media who get excited - mainly because they get more air-time and more money, and perhaps, a good job in parliament.

The rest of us have to sit it out, some of us putting a cross in a box on polling day. This feeble exercise is our sacred right to vote, our stake in Democracy. What a joke!

How does the ruling class get away with it? Why do we let

these slimy no-goods get into power? Nobody even likes them!

Instead of being gullible wallies at election time, we could be organising to kick out the boss class and their parliamentary con trick.

The next issue of Liberation will blow the lid off the great parliamentary democracy swindle. And you can be sure that well known friend of the working class, the Labour party, will get a good slagging off too!

So take Bakunin's advice, and **SUBSCRIBE!**

CLAIMANTS cont.

years towards this, will now lose out.

The Right of Appeal against the DHSS' decisions is now restricted. In the past many appeals have been successful but now this avenue has been closed to many cases.

It's also easier for the state to reclaim overpaid benefits. So after you've spent up the extra giro sent mistakenly, you may now find you have to find the money to pay it back.

And all these are only the thin end of the wedge! The main changes, planned for April 1988, will make life for us much harder.

JOB TRAINING SCHEME

JTS stands not only for Job Training Scheme but also "Juggling the STATISTICS"! It's another pre-election stunt to lower the unemployment figures. Its implications are pretty serious for under 25s. The scheme is basically "work for dole". Under 25s get drafted through Restart interviews and work for various private enterprises. In return they continue to get their fortnightly Giro from the unemployment benefit office - the same amount as when they were officially unemployed. Meanwhile Managing Agencies who will handle JTS will get £35 per placement plus £58 per month expenses. Taxpayers subsidise private companies, the unemployed provide the labour and the bosses laugh all the way to the bank.

Pilotest in 10 areas since November 1986, JTS will be expanded to about 110,000 places by September this year. It's supposed to be a voluntary scheme but because of the nature of Restart, claimants will obviously be bullied onto it. Also with the tightening up of Availability Tests amongst other things, the pressure will be pretty heavy.

RESISTANCE

We have to organise and fight back against these attacks. In some areas claimants are organising themselves in Claimants Unions and unwaged groups. In some places links are being made with unemployment benefit office workers

sympathetic to claimants struggles. In January when Availability was introduced workers at a number of offices walked out in protest, their strike backed by Claimants Unions and unwaged groups. Stronger links of solidarity between unemployed and workers need to be forged and all claimants need to build and strengthen their own fighting organisations. We're not going to take things lying down. It's our turn to go on the attack.



If you want to join or form a Claimants Union or Unwaged group, then contact:

Federation of Claimants Unions, c/o Plymouth C.U., Virginia House, Palace St. Plymouth.

Tottenham C.U. c/o 628 High Rd. London N 17.

Claimants Fightbox, 448 Stratford Rd, Birmingham 11.

Leeds C.U. Flat 1. 158 Hyde Park Rd., Leeds LS6 1AG.

Lothian C.U. c/o 12a Picardy Place, Edinburgh.

Where We Stand

We believe that:

1. Capitalism and other social systems, in which wealth and power are the property of a ruling class/elite, must be destroyed.
2. Reformist and statist solutions will necessarily fail and therefore revolution is the only possible means of achieving anarchist-communism. How far such a revolution will be peaceful depends upon the degree to which the ruling class clings on to power through violence and state repression.
3. Genuine liberation can only come about through the self activity of the great mass of the population. We regard parliament, representative democracy and political vanguardism as being obstacles to a self-managed society. Institutions and organisations which attempt to mediate in the fight against domination cannot succeed. Trade unionism, as it is presently constituted, plays an important part in maintaining class exploitation, insofar as it regulates and justifies it through collective bargaining and bureaucratic structures. Nevertheless, it is important to work within the trade union movement, in order to build up a rank-and-file workers' movement which encourages workers' control of struggle and cuts across sectional boundaries.
4. Workers and other oppressed sections of society will, in times of revolutionary upheaval, create their own democratic institutions, whether they be based on the workplace or the community. To this end we encourage the creation of organs of struggle based on the rank and file, independent of political parties.
5. Pure spontaneity is unlikely to be sufficient to overthrow entrenched class domination. Anarchists must indicate the libertarian alternative to class societies, participate as anarchists in struggle and organise on a federative basis to assist in the revolutionary process.
6. Capitalism is international and needs to be fought internationally. We therefore try to maintain contact with as many anarchist-communists as possible in overseas countries as the preliminary stage to the creation of an anarchist international.
7. We do not simply seek the abolition of class differences, for inequality and exploitation are also expressed in terms of race, age, sexuality and gender. Personal relationships are now often based on domination and submission. We seek not only an economic revolution but a social and cultural revolution as well, involving a thorough-going change in attitudes and organisation of everyday lives to free us in our social and personal interactions.
8. We reject sectarianism and work for a united revolutionary anarchist movement.

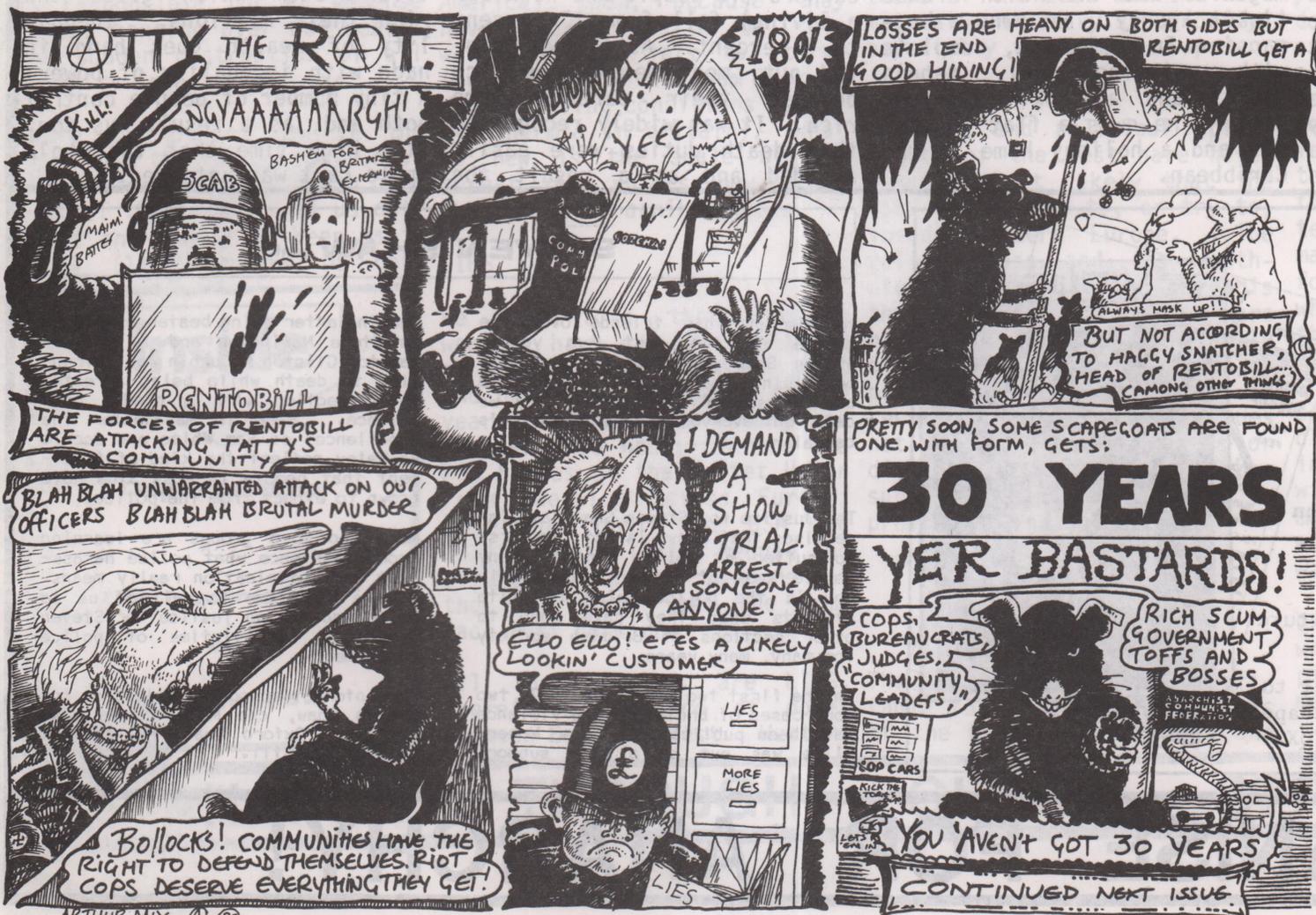
HEALTHWORKERS!

The NHS is collapsing around us. Wages are bad and so are conditions. Labour governments close as many hospitals as the Tories and both keep healthworkers' pay down. NUPE and CoHSE don't oppose the exploitation but participate in it.

In June this year there will be a conference to start a rank-and-file organisation to fight for healthworkers' interests.

If you are interested write to:-

Rank and File Healthworkers, Box 222, c/o 53 West Ham Lane, London E15.



For details of the ACF send this form to the National Secretary, ACF, c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1 7QX

Name.....
Address.....
.....

Local groups & contacts

EXIST IN:
Brighton, Cambridge, Canterbury, Coventry, Durham, Huddersfield, Liverpool, London, Loughborough, Luton, Manchester, Medway, Newcastle, Nottingham, Southend, Stafford, Tameside, Thanet, Welwyn Gdn. City, York.

LIBERATION!

THE RICH

It is a well known fact that the scum always rises to the top. Perhaps, given the fabulous wealth of the "top" people in Britain, the same thing applies. Britain belongs to the rich and the super-rich, whilst the vast majority of the population struggles to make ends meet.

The individual holdings of the super-rich in Britain are truly staggering. The Queen is estimated to be worth more than 4 billion pounds, whilst some of the less well-off members of the super-rich group still do quite well. The Duke of Westminster (who owns Oxford Street) is worth over 2 billion pounds and Lord Vesty and David Sainsbury have to manage on only 1 billion pounds each. Robert Maxwell and Sir James Goldsmith are, in contrast, at the bottom of the super-rich league, with only 5 hundred million pounds each.

There are about 20,000 millionaires in Britain, who own more than half of the wealth of the population as a whole. The top 0.1 percent - just 43,000 people - owns two-fifths of the wealth and own almost twice as much as the bottom 50 percent. So, whilst the vast majority of the population has a constant struggle to make ends meet, a tiny section of the rich lives a life of fabulous luxury.

It's not as if they mostly achieved their wealth through the working of a meritocracy in which the most able rise to the top (and even if they did it wouldn't be any more acceptable). In fact most millionaires inherited large sums of money. Forty-two percent of millionaires had fathers who were wealthy businessmen or landowners. Forty-three percent of them were left over £100,000 and a further 32% of them inherited between £10,000 and £100,000. Of course, at the time of their inheritance many years ago, these sums were worth far more than they are now.

How do the rich spend their wealth? If you take Peter Cadbury, one of the heirs of the confectionary-producing family, as an example, he seems to be obsessed with posh cars. He has been buying Bentleys for over 40 years and has, to date, bought 31 of them. With the proceeds of this inherited loot (and millions of decayed children's teeth later) he bought several money-making businesses. These include Westward Television, Working Woman magazine and the Keith Prowse ticket agency. He owns a huge mansion in Hampshire, complete with swimming pool, tennis courts and a cook. In addition, he owns a flat in London and a holiday home in the Caribbean.



Some people in Britain have become rich through hard work and luck. The great majority of the wealthy, however, get their money from shares and the like. Two-thirds of the population have unearned income - even if you own a house it doesn't necessarily generate income - yet the top six percent share 44 percent of unearned income.

The Thatcher government, as might be expected, has done its best to increase the wealth of the ruling class. Between 1976 and 1983, the share of the bottom 40 percent of income earners (ie people who work for a living) fell from 10 percent to 7 percent. As I have pointed out, most people are rich because their parents were rich. It was widely recognised that death duties were easily avoided and as a result the

capital transfer tax was introduced to make sure that the scheming rich bastards paid up. Now, friend of the wealthy, Nigel Lawson, intends to scrap it, so that once again the rich can easily pass on their millions.

If anyone thinks that Labour or the Alliance will do anything to redistribute wealth in favour of the poor, it should be recognised that both camps have their share of millionaires (eg 'socialist' millionaire Maxwell) and successive Labour governments have supported capitalism, the exploitative system which gives the rich their millions. Inequality of wealth goes hand in hand with inequality of power. A tiny number of people control both and, as a result, us too. It's high time that the whole apple cart was overturned.

STEVEN SHAW cont.

to him and his friends over the course of the last two years. Steven Shaw is being punished for organising against police violence and harassment and that is why we call on everyone to support this campaign.

The Justice for Steven Shaw Campaign realises that Steve is not the first to suffer at police hands. Many people know of worse cases. Only now is the police doing to white students what they have done to other sections of British society for many, many years.

In the first two months of 1987, two more cases of brutal police violence have been publicised: Trevor Monerville was put on a life support

machine after being beaten by police in Stoke Newington and in Wolverhampton Clinton McCurbin was strangled to death while being arrested in connection with a credit card offence. Here in Manchester the experiences of Sam White and Jackie Berkeley reflect the kind of treatment that people in Moss Side have grown to expect from the police.

More and more groups are learning from experience what police harassment and intimidation really means. Now is the time for all of us to unite and demand justice for Steven Shaw and all victims of police harassment.

For information contact: Justice for Steven Shaw, c/o MUSU, Steve Biko building, Oxford Road, Manchester. Tel:061 273 5111.

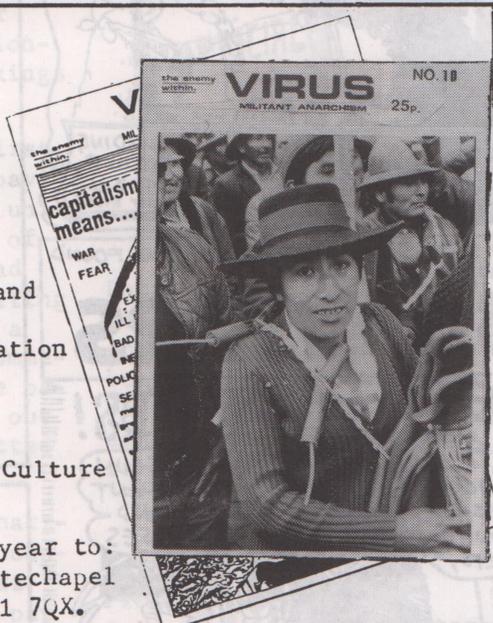
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