

withdrawal of US imperialism tactically and strategically unavoidable - the so-called displacement of the strategic centre of gravity towards Western Europe."

"For the social-liberal government under Schmidt that means that the Social-Democratic project of covert warfare, which has already miscarried when applied against the RAF, has been bungled."

"It is internationally seen as a political party which conducts open warfare."

"Ever since we arrived on the scene NATO has been evolving its counter-measures against the armed resistance of the RAF. The cadres held in West German prisons are executed in accordance with its directives, just as there are now orders to shoot on sight those who struggle on the outside."

The struggle goes on regardless.

ANDREAS BAADER COMMANDO.

RED ARMY FRACTION.

Smash US imperialism and its bases throughout the world!

Organize armed resistance in Western Europe!

Build the anti-imperialist front in the metropolises!

Solidarity with the struggle of Palestinian resistance against the final solution of imperialism!

Solidarity with the anti-imperialist struggle in Turkey!

It is sad that with all the courage and daring of the "commandos" of the RAF they are still unable to make the necessary break with the boring ideology of third-worldism, glossing over all the crimes of Sovietism by omitting to mention them and harping constantly on those of America.

The acceptance of selected Soviet-favoured nationalism at face value and failure to question the bourgeois nature of Leninism also helps to weigh the balance against them, and enables the penetration of their ranks by police spies from the very governments they are innocently supporting. Must they always wait

until they are in prison before they accept the truths of anarchism - with which the Springer press tries to label them in the first place?

WE STILL HAVE HOPES OF TRANSFORMING TO A FORTNIGHTLY SHORTLY - THIS WILL ENTAIL ALTERING THE FORMAT THOUGH NOT THE CONTENT. THIS WILL BE A MAKE-OR-BREAK EFFORT SO WE'RE STILL GOING CAUTIOUSLY. BUT LOOK FORWARD TO IT IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND MEANWHILE WE'RE GLAD AT LEAST TO HAVE ACHIEVED REGULAR MONTHLY RATHER THAN EXCITINGLY IRREGULAR MORE-OR-LESS EVERY-OTHER-MONTHLY.

Due to the pressures caused by the 'Conspiracy' trial of the four anarchists at the Old Bailey (two of whom are members of the Black Flag collective) the typesetting and layout of this November issue has been delayed. The trial now looks like continuing into December!

"Criminals aren't anarchists. In fact, criminals are pillars of society."

Enoch Powell.



BLACK FLAG



Vol. V.

No. 12

DECEMBER 1979

20p

Organ of the Anarchist Black Cross

RAF COMMANDO

A statement received from the 'Andreas Baader Commando' of the Red Army Fraction (RAF), in which the commando claims responsibility for the abortive attempt on the life of the NATO commander-in-chief in Europe, US General Alexander Haig.

"On 25 June 1979 the ANDREAS BAADER COMMANDO carried out a bomb attack directed against the commander-in-chief of NATO, General Alexander Haig.

of a second. Our mistake lay in thinking that we would be able to explode the charge by hand and at the same time achieve sufficient accuracy despite the high speed.

"We undertook this action because Haig represents and executes with particular precision the 'new course' or 'modified style' of American strategy.

CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR ATTEMPT ON HAIG

"The explanation for our failure to accomplish the specific aim of this action, that of killing Haig himself, is as follows:

"Below the road-surface of a bridge on the route from Haig's residence to NATO Headquarters we had excavated a tunnel 1.80 metres in length and installed the charge (20kg of plastique) at a depth of ca. 40 cm. Detonation was effected by means of an electric cable 200 metres in length, at the moment when the front door of Haig's mercedes was directly above the charge. We had calculated previously that his car travelled at a speed of two metres per tenth

"What has changed since the political and military defeat of the United States in Vietnam is that their aggressiveness has increased, not decreased, and that the peoples of the world are confronted by a new American offensive which at the same time marks a qualitative leap in the unfolding of power relations between revolution and counter-revolution.

"Or as we have said before: in the world-revolutionary process of encirclement of the cities by the villages.

"The victories of liberation in Africa and South-East Asia have pushed the front closer to the centre, to the metropolises themselves, and have made the

PUBLISHED BY BLACK FLAG, OVER THE WATER, SANDAY, ORKNEY, KW17 2BL. U.K. PRINTED BY LITTLE @ LTD., METROPOLITAN WHARF, C.1., WAPPING WALL, WAPPING, LONDON, E.1.

Typesetting & Layout by Black Flag Collective.

Subscriptions: £4.00 per 12 issues (home).
Canada/Australia/U.S.A.
New Zealand: \$14.50 airmail
\$ 7.50 seairmail

State of Play as at Nov.14 1979 (Press fund)

Printing	138.00	
Postages	76.59	214.59
Sales&Subs.	35.37	
Donations*	96.77	132.14
Loss	82.45	
Deficit C/F	2308.88	
Deficit now	2391.33	

*Donations:
JG (Woolwich) £3; DC (Southampton) £5; LD (Redhill) £5; AL (Galloway) £12; Print workers at Guardian £10, Telegraph £10, Mirror £5; Picnic Santa Teresa (see last issue) \$100-£45.77. - Total £96.77.

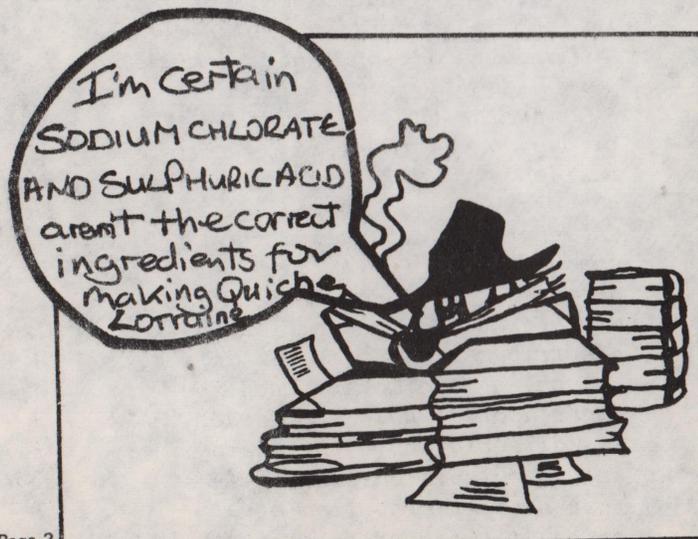
Deficit looks alarming but grew because of our purchase of electric typewriter (being paid by credit card); though we have a printing bill or so still out, most of our income from sales hasn't come in, but the moral is still: if we only got paid for every copy that goes out, and subs. were promptly renewed, we'd actually break even at the very least. Our postage bills are still high because we carry the Anarchist Black Cross postage as well as that of Black Flag (and this looks like growing with the new rates).

ALBERT MELTZER apologises to all who feel he may have neglected them - he's been on his back with sciatica - hopes to clear up his correspondence soon!

ANARCHO-QUIZ

1. In which Western country was prostitution not only legalised but compulsory, until just over a century ago, with daughters compelled to yield sexually, if required, even to their own fathers - who fought hard to preserve their privileges in the name of Christianity and democracy?
2. Why did Colonel Barker falsely claim, in the twenties, to have cancer of the penis; and how did this wreck the (original British) Imperial Fascisti?
3. Which Manchester cotton manufacturer of the last century was an avid foxhunter and considered himself a special authority on military matters; and is now revered throughout half the world for his supposed infallibility in economics?
4. What is the fallacy about J.M. Keynes's theory that State spending cures depression, because it creates jobs which in turn cause bigger spending and so gets the economy moving again?
5. Why was Sir Norman Angell's economic theory of the "Great Illusion" (War) warmly welcomed and later generally derided?
6. Chinese piracy in the early nineteenth century was suppressed by a lady referred to as Mistress Ching. How did she do it?

answers on page 27



the age of treason

Nobody need be surprised that a Russian intelligence agent has been discovered working in the Royal Household. allowed to continue after he had been exposed, with immunity, in exchange for information implicating others. The security forces thrive on secrecy, and secrecy is what constitutes the British State today. Sir Anthony Blunt went over to the KGB service during the war whilst working for British Intelligence. He was effectively discovered to be still acting for the KGB fifteen years ago only now, when his name has been dragged in the open, is he suddenly stripped of his knighthood and deprived of his royal post (no great punishments even so, when you think of the way political dissidents are treated - if it's only to hold them for a year or two before placing them on trial and then being acquitted).

Is this the last skeleton in the cupboard, is there a Fifth (and only a fifth, not a sixth?) man?

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE

The truth is that the whole of military intelligence and security is rotten to the core, it is a hot-bed of the most audacious treason and it gets away with it because of the impenetrable wall of secrecy - which even Prime Ministers cannot surmount.

The actions taken constantly not only by military intelligence but also by police agencies subservient to them go beyond the wildest dreams of the creators of James Bond and his ilk. Is it to be wondered that there are show trials and political frame-ups and that the word of judges is accepted when they say that, so far as they are aware, there are no such things as political prisoners in this country?

IT STARTED IN WARTIME.

During the

war the Polish Resistance was betrayed to the Germans by the Russians in order that potential opposition to them would be wiped out. The British collaborated with the Russians and after the war deported thousands into the hands of the KGB. From then until now Russian resistance fighters have been handed over to the Kremlin. These actions were not taken by a few "disaffected intellectuals", the Burgess, Maclean and Philby type. They were handed over as direct policy. But one decided by no Government. America during the Cold War period was screaming its head off against Russia - it still goes on - but their secret services still co-operate in the suppression of revolutionaries.

RUSSIAN REPRESSION

Can one wonder that a few Intelligence agents during the war, and subsequently, who had so-called "left wing" sympathies - that is to say, pro-Russian (they were totally divorced from the working class) may have gone now and again a bit beyond their directions? Who makes these directions anyway? - successive governments are left in ignorance. What wonder if British agents during the war, given the clear instruction to wipe out the Resistance against Hitler if it became so powerful that it could pose an alternative to the Allies, made an exception in favour of the Communist Party - even though it might be this, rather than libertarian forces, that Whitehall was aiming to destroy?

In cases as in Egypt, and perhaps Iran today, Russia has helped to suppress Communist Parties for the benefit of other countries. Generally they are useful for espionage purposes and occasionally "subversion". But it gladly takes the help of the secret services who betray Russian resistance movements. One is not talking of the show dissidents, whom America appreciates, but of working class resisters, whom it doesn't. The U.S. Government

does not want the overthrow of the USSR. It does not want it transformed into a gigantic capitalist state that would out-leap the USA. Far less does it want libertarian socialism to triumph and cause international repercussions. Better the devil known than the devil unknown; and so the anti-communist security forces of the world are effectively pro-communist. If an agent makes a bias one way - as Blunt did during the war when Russia was a "great and honoured" ally - is it to be wondered at? Is it a cause of surprise? Or is it in the nature of things?

The business of espionage is, of course, greatly over-rated. One might think cynically that if we are spending money on spies in Russia we might get from them the secret of how to make trains run when there is a bit of snow about. There are really no military secrets worth bothering about.

The Burgess-type probably did more for world peace at the time - by persuading the Russians that Britain was not going to war against them - than any of the Foreign Office gentry who collected their OBEs and inflation-proof pensions. Why should they not trust the people they were paying? Why not publish everything openly and invite spies over on cut-price package trips? Only because the real business of security is the betrayal, not of governments, not of military secrets, not of "plans" or know-how but of peoples. It is the people in resistance that were betrayed during the war by the British Foreign Office time and again. The Dutch have recently had a great inquest into the "Englandspiel" - the way Dutch resistance workers in touch with Whitehall were delivered into the hands of the Gestapo. The codes were broken again and again; the whole movement was betrayed to the Gestapo. Why? Perhaps because as military agents, spies and saboteurs they had become dispensable; and the Foreign Office was out to crush the Dutch resistance just as the Russians crushed the Warsaw resistance, by letting the Germans do the job for them, by betraying their identities.

IN SPAIN

There is a clear cut case of this in which the Anarcho-Syndicalist movement in Spain was involved. During the Second World War the British Embassy was spending money like water subsidising anti-Nazi activities - the sabotage of German ships and information, and the help given to escaping Allied soldiers and other refugees over the border. In the fullness of time the Embassy announced to the backbone of the Resistance - the CNT regional committee in Catalonia - that it wanted to canalise and heat up support, and invited the CNT to send its delegates, without commitment, to a joint meeting with the Royalists under Embassy auspices. Cipriano Mera said he saw no point in it - there was no possibility of co-operation with the Royalists, it seemed a waste of time. But it wasn't. A few weeks after, all the CNT regional committee was arrested by Franco. They had been betrayed to the Franco police. By the Foreign Office or by a traitor in it? Shall we ever know? Was this done by a Communist or a Fascist in the Embassy? If such traitors were there - or if it was official policy - they put at prejudice the whole of the escape route into Spain and the sabotage of Nazi installations and ships. But perhaps Whitehall thought the destruction of the one labour movement that resisted totalitarianism was worth it. Was this a Foreign Office decision, or a traitor's?

Nobody ever dared put it to the English public. For long after the war the British government could not work with Franco or it would face electoral disaster. So the Atlee government handed over former Spanish Resistance fighters (against both Hitler and Franco) to Franco without making it public; and French and Spanish police later came to London to raid homes of Resistance workers. Has Special Branch, or a traitor within it, ever invited the KGB? Shall we know? Does the Prime Minister know?

The security forces are a hard taskmaster for governments. They are the equivalents of a dictator's trusted corps of bodyguards - indispensable to the holding of power, but always the source from

which danger may be feared. Their interest above all is not the interests of the people. They are unreliable in war, a source of major catastrophe in peace. It is not a "climate of treason" affecting a few lefties of the thirties, as the Conservative Press will have it; nor an old school tie network, as the Left will say. It is a whole geography of treason, and it is so firmly embedded into the system of government that it can be impervious to any form of democratic action. What a joke when it is said - as journalists will have it - that trade unions really rule the country! What action can trade unions take against the secret service? But what formidable action has the secret service not taken against the unions, especially when they got too tough for the bosses to handle! You think what happened in Barcelona couldn't happen here?

But they are owls which fear the daylight. Let it pour in upon them. There is nothing they fear so much as a camera.

Albert Meltzer

JOSE BILBAO KILLED BY COPS ABEL AND SWIFT

Over seven years ago, on June 20, 1972, Jose Bilbao a 45 year old Spanish migrant was arrested by cops Terry Swift and Peter Abel, taken to Central Police Station (Sydney) and charged with unseemly words. In court the next morning Bilbao complained to the magistrate that he was ill as a result of being assaulted by police. The magistrate had him sent for medical attention to Sydney Hospital, where he died the next day - the post mortem revealing he died of extensive abdominal bleeding.

An inquest was then held (1972) resulting in two cops being charged with murder - the charges however were then dismissed by the magistrate who ruled there was not enough evidence to go to trial.

For the last seven years Jose's sister has been fighting the court

system appealing for another inquest. Finally she got it in June this year. The coroner hearing this second inquest, Waller, found "there was a prima facie case of manslaughter against cops Abel and Swift. He then referred the matter on to the NSW attorney general Frank Walker for further action. That was June 20, 1979 - what are you doing about it Walker?"

Evidence produced at the second inquest included various prisoners who heard a skuffle or fight outside their cells, including "dull thuds" and "someone screaming" and saw a cop kicking a man on the floor - when queried, the cop responded; "oh, he had a bad fall." Even the police matron present at the station admitted she heard a "disturbance like a fight, a voice with a New Australian accent", and later saw a cop "mop the floor and wash out of the mop what she thought was blood". Several prisoners gave evidence that the next morning Jose was moaning, clutching his sides, vomiting and generally acting as if he was ill.

The double standards and class bias of our system of justice are once again made obvious for those who are not too scared to open their eyes. When a cop or a warder is killed, (e.g., Det. Bob Lane in Victoria and Officer Mewburn at Long Bay), all hell breaks loose. The media, cops and public opinion leaders, (politicians, priests, etc.), launch a witchhunt. But when cops kill someone, (such as Abel and Swift beating Bilbao to death in a cop shop), there is a cover up. As the U.S. Government Institute of Defense Analysis demonstrated back in 1969; "For every cop killed by a citizen, six citizens are murdered by cops."

Compare the cases of Bill O'Meally and Jose Bilbao. Back in 1952 a Constable Howell was killed - revenge required a victim. O'Meally was made to take the blame in a rigged trial and nearly executed. He then spent the next 27 years inside. Bilbao was killed back in 1972 as a result of a police beating. Seven years later no

GREGORY P. MAXIMOFF

THE GUILLOTINE AT WORK - TWENTY YEARS OF TERROR IN RUSSIA. VOLUME 1:

THE LENINIST COUNTER-REVOLUTION.

Cienfuegos Press, 1979 (reprint of 1940 ed.).

THE GUILLOTINE

In 1940, at the same time that the Communist Party, Party-line organizations, and fellow travellers were flip-flopping to accommodate the Hitler-Stalin Blood Pact, the Chicago Section of the Alexander Berkman Fund published the Russian Anarchist Gregory P. Maximoff's THE GUILLOTINE AT WORK: TWENTY YEARS OF TERROR IN RUSSIA, detailing and documenting the origins and development of State Repression in Soviet Russia. Long out of print, Cienfuegos Press has now made this classic study available. A very valuable addition to our understanding of what went wrong, it is well written and scholarly researched.

What makes THE GUILLOTINE AT WORK unique? After all, by now there are many treatments - excellent ones, it might be added - of political repression in the U.S.S.R. Most of them, however, deal with the Stalin era - material on the Lenin era is relatively sparse; in the popular (and conventional Left) mind, repression in Soviet Russia is seen as beginning with Stalin's accession to power after Lenin's death. The entire apparatus of oppression, is usually referred to as "Stalinism".

We are given to believe that somehow, overnight, Stalinism developed out of nothingness, the bizarre creation of an evil genius - in much the same way that Nazism is seen as the sole creation of one madman, Adolf Hitler. Both cases were the results, not of evil genius, but of what went on before (we are not, of course, absolving either dictator of guilt).

In the case of Germany, the manifold reasons included worldwide depression, a totally split-up Left, a reformist-minded working class, a severely desperate petit bourgeoisie and a panicky haute bourgeoisie. In Russia, the seeds were sown under Lenin. They were not only sown, but had reached full flower by the time Lenin died. Stalin

charges have been laid against Abel and Swift.

And now the Police Federation has called for the reintroduction of capital punishment - especially for "cop killers". Who is going to police the police and save us from our paid protectors?

merely increased the crop - and good "scientific" socialist that he was, rationalized the whole affair, increasing the size of the bouquets through careful pruning.

This is where THE GUILLOTINE AT WORK is so important. Maximoff demonstrates, year by year, from 1917 to 1923, the development of the Terror, paying special attention to what Lenin said, wrote, demanded and did; only the last few chapters discuss Stalin - but from what was written before, it is readily apparent that what is today called "Stalinism" is really Marxist-Leninism on the 60+ Year Plan. Maximoff is careful, however, not to fall into the "evil genius" syndrome. He notes:

...our aim is not to tell the full history of terror in the Russian Revolution, but merely to expose its sources and nature. For that purpose we chose the Leninist period, during which the theory of terror was established and its practice institutionalized. We cherish the hope that our aim has been accomplished in the present work, and that we have enabled the reader to realize that terror in the Russian revolution was not the result of the wicked will or personal cruelty of Lenin, Trotzky, Stalin, or those whom Stalin executed; not was it the result of the Asiatic character of Russian life, its coarseness and lack of culture. It was, rather, the logical outcome of the European social philosophy followed by Lenin and by the Bolshevik leaders executed by Stalin. It is the same philosophy now professed by Trotzky and Stalin alike; it is the social philosophy of consistent political Marxism whose practice necessarily results in terror and absolutism. It is precisely because of this that Stalin continues to act as Lenin had acted, and in Stalin's place Trotzky, Kamenev, Zinoviev and Bucharin would have done likewise. Wherever this social philosophy is put into practice, whatever the

personnel, it must necessarily create an absolutist regime and yield the same results. (p.293f)

Certainly the history of the past thirty-five years alone has borne Maximoff out. The Terror continues in the Soviet Union - for this no source need be cited. The same goes for the satellite countries of Eastern Europe. In Yugoslavia - on the outs with the USSR - free thinking is a crime (the treatment of Milovan Djilas is the most well-known example). As for Cuba, readers are referred to Sam Dolgoff's THE CUBAN REVOLUTION: A CRITICAL PERSPECTIVE (Montreal: Black Rose Books, 1976) for accounts of the Terror ala Fidel. The Khmer Rouge tyranny over Cambodia was one of the most brutal in the entire history of this planet. (2)

As for China, while the downfall of the "Gang of Five" has meant that many of those who were persecuted under Mao's reign have been "rehabilitated" (and note, please, that word "rehabilitation" - the word itself presupposes prior wrongdoing), persecution continues. To be sure, there has been liberalisation. How long it will last is another question. But by now there are several things that we can be positive of: (1) the liberalisation was an important part of Teng Hsiao Peng's climb to power, mobilising mass discontent and desires, repressed aspirations and rage, to discredit his opponents; (2) the liberalisation will not last. Already the official organs of the regime, echoing Lenin's comments about freedom being a bourgeois luxury, are writing that poster demands for human rights are "a slogan of the bourgeoisie and not of the proletariat." (3) Those putting up anti-repression posters have been arrested. (4) And one dissident - Li Cheng-tien, whose crime was denouncing the "Gang of Four" when they were still in power - was given life imprisonment. After Teng took power. (5) According to an Associated Press story, the editor of a radical magazine in Peking was arrested in March after printing an article exposing conditions in a Peking jail for political prisoners, where torture is Standard Operating Procedure. He has not been heard of since. (6) And all of this as the hopeful illusions of "socialist legality" and a Brand New Democratic Constitution (yet to be written, much less followed - look at Stalin's constitution!) - still float around.

The phenomenon we are dealing with, then, is clearly not one of specific evil geniuses, but one of an ideology in power.

Maximoff concentrates primarily on the repression of Anarchists, Left Social Revolutionaries and non-Party people. The book was written with the hope that similar studies could be published to trace the history of the Terror against all of the various factions. Maximoff's scholarship is above reproach; the book is well foot-noted. There are two major deficiencies: first, there is no index, and one is desperately needed. Secondly, the publishers decided not to reprint part 2 - the "Data and Documents" section. References to the second section are made throughout the book - and although the reader does not need the second part to comprehend the first, still there is the feeling of being left high and dry. It is to be hoped that the publishers will decide in the near future to put out "Data and Documents" - perhaps a special fund for this purpose should be set-up.

It is important that THE GUILLOTINE AT WORK be read. As people search for solutions to the social problems of our time, revolutions of the past will be that do: this book was first published in 1940 to lay bare the roots of repression and end the conspiracy of silence surrounding criticism of a so-called "socialist country" - where violations of human rights had occurred and were occurring. Every time there has been a revolution, there have been those who say we mustn't criticise; they keep their well-fed mouths shut while the "people" in the "peoples' republics" waste away in jails, concentration camps, labor camps. The facts must be made known - and the international hallelujah chorus exposed for what they are - public opinion partners in tyranny.

Shelby Shapiro.

NOTES

(1) As reported in TIME (Asia ed.), 11 June 1979, p.27 and NEWSWEEK (Asia ed.), 11 June 1979, p.13.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

- (2) See, for example, "Horror in Cambodia" NEWSWEEK (Asia ed.) cover story, 23 Jan. 1978, pp. 6-11.
- (3) "Wilting Flowers", TIME (Asia ed.), 2 April 1979, p.11.
- (4) "Turning Back the Clock", TIME (Asia ed.), 23 April 1979, p.9.
- (5) Simon Leys, "China: How Far, How Fast?" NEWSWEEK (Asia ed.), 27 March 1978, p.40.
- (6) AP Report, "Political Prisoners Tortured in China?", in PACIFIC DAILY NEWS, Agana, Guam, 10 May 1979, p.21.

The Lev is awarded to those whose actions and statements shall - or should! - ultimately come home to haunt them. Remeber Totsky's threat to shoot the Kronstadt rebels down like partridges? Kunstler - we have seen your kind before! Seeing the Future that Works, marvelling that the trains run on time, and piously whining about how to those under tyranny, filling their bellies is the number one priority - freedom being only for the well-fed.

Does Czechoslovakia 1968 mean nothing to you? Hungary 1956? Hitler-Stalin 1939? Kronstadt 1921? Do the words Gulag Archipelago mean nothing to you? How about Vorkuta? Lubianka? Butyrki? Kolyma? How about the murderer Stalin? Vishinsky? Beria? Yagoda? Trotsky? Lenin? Even Nikita Krushchev - whose hands were far from clean-acknowledged that "violations of human rights" occurred.

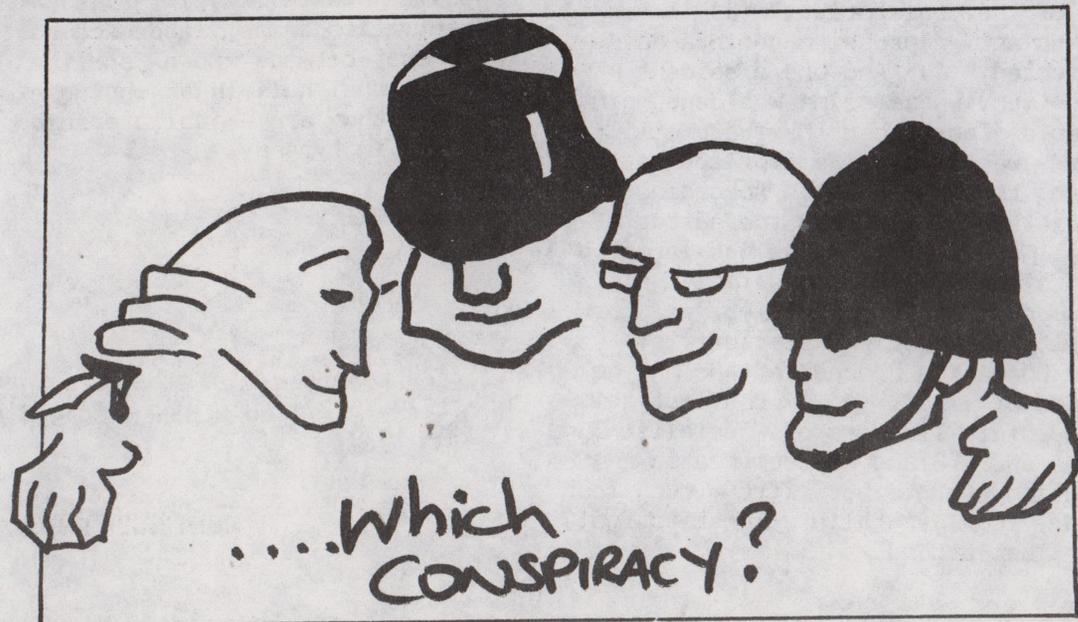
"Even where violations of human rights may occur..." A nice turn of phrase. "Even where..." - in other words, a rose by any other name is not a rose: persecutions, oppressions, murders, tortures, etc. when done by so-called "socialist countries" in the name of the so-called "people" are NOT persuectuions, oppressions, murders, tortures, etc. Pray tell, advocate, what are they? Rehabilitation? Socialist Reconstruction? "Petit Bourgeois lies"? (That means that the accusations really are true, but the Discriminating Radical won't mention them... 'taint cheka, I mean, chic..)

For services rendered the cause of humanity, for condonation of repression, the Lev is awarded to you, William Kunstler.

Our nominee for the Leon Trotsky Ice Axe Award of 1979 ("the noted Lev") is none other than the American "radical" attorney, William Kunstler, gallant defender of the Chicago 7. Mister Kunstler deserves the Axe for the statement he made when refusing to sign a NEW YORK TIMES ad protesting against treatment of political prisoners by the Hanoi regime. Placed by Joan Baez, it was signed by many other prominent figures from the antiwar movement of the 1960's, including Dan Berrigan, I.F. Stone and James Michener. Kunstler's prize-winning statement is a classic of its genre, apologia pluperfecta ("Lev and let Lev!"):

"I do not believe in public attacks on socialist countries, even where violations of human rights may occur."

(1) Among those that refused to sign were Phil Berrigan, Daniel Ellsberg, actress Jane Fonda, and her hubby, that former "student for a democratic society" (apparently he never graduated) Ton Havden.



komboia

PRISONER FILES \$ 5 MILLION DOLLAR CLAIM AGAINST GOVERNMENT, CHARGES HE WAS POISONED BY TB.

Lorenzo Edward Ervin, Jr. (a/k/a KOMBOA) is a 32-year old Black prisoner confined at the Leavenworth (Kansas) Federal Penitentiary. In a claim for compensation for \$ 5 million dollars, he charges that the Federal Bureau of Prisons intentionally infected him or allowed him to be infected with Tuberculosis, through the gross negligence and madical malpractice of prison medical personnel at the Medical Centre for Federal Prisoners, Springfield, Missouri.

He states that in early 1971, shortly after he was committed to federal custody, he was transferred from the U.S. Penitentiary at Terre Haute, Indiana to the Respiratory Disease section of the MCFP-Springfield, Missouri, after he had contracted Pneumonia while in solitary confinement there.

There he was housed with patients who had active TB (some of whom were even in the advanced or terminal stages of the disease), and, who, since they were not isolated from non-TB patients or even forced to wear a face-mask to cover the spread of germs, caused him to be exposed to and infected with the disease.

However, he was not informed that he had the disease until 1975, when he transferred from the federal prison at Marion, Illinois to the Atlanta (Georgia) Federal Penitentiary, where a routine physical examination disclosed the disease. Yet even then he was falsely informed that it was not serious, "about like a cold" and "nothing to worry about". The dangerousness of the disease was covered-up and he was intentionally given erroneous information about his medical condition. He was told that if he just took the prescribed pills for a year then he would be "cured". This, however, has proven not to have been the case. A medical examination in January 1979 disclosed that he still had the disease. He had been placed back on Chemotherapy treatment program in retaliation for his filing the tort claim. The medical doctors of the Bureau of Prisons were grossly negligent for allowing him to be infected with TB in the first place, as well as for not properly treating him for

the disease and for depriving him of vital medical information about his condition. In fact, the evaluation and treatment of him by Bureau of Prisons' medical personnel at the Medical Centre for Federal Prisoners at Springfield, Missouri; Atlanta, Leavenworth and Marion federal penitentiaries was (and is) grossly inadequate, and the standards of care at such facilities are on a level beneath that condoned by society and the medical profession. The mistreatment amounted to medical malpractice. The prison officials, at Marion, for instance, said nothing about the disease during the two occasions he was confined there (1974-75 and 1977-78) and they did not give him any medication and/or treatment. In fact, the prison officials at Marion did not even give him a routine medical examination upon his committment to the facility. The other prisons misrepresented the seriousness of the disease in order to cover-up the legal liability of the government.

For a number of years after his 1971 stay in Springfield, he constantly complained of chest pain, obstruction of the throat and lungs, bloodied sputum, diarrhea, dizzy spells and nausea, night sweats, swelling of the extremities, and other such TB symptoms; and had been told by prison medical personnel that he was merely "nervous", "had a cold", or "was imagining things". This was grossly negligent and callous of the prison medical officials when they knew the facts.

Ervin was charged that the medical personnel of the Bureau of Prisons intentionally infected him, negligently allowed him to be infected with TB, by forcing him to live in filthy and inhuman living conditions while in penal confinement, and by needlessly and recklessly exposing him to prisoner-patients already in the acute or advanced stages of the disease, and who acted as human plague carriers to expose and infect him with TB. He further charges that this is criminal negligence and a violation of the 8th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which prohibits "cruel and unusual punishment".

The fact is that the Bureau of Prisons routinely and callously allows prisoners with infectious diseases such as TB and Hepatitis to roam among the prison population at will, until such a person becomes critically ill and obviously must be then isolated. This is contrary to standard medical practice and ethics, and is a deliberate threat to the lives of all federal prisoners.

Ervin further charges that the filthy conditions in federal prisons like Leavenworth and Atlanta - especially in the solitary confinement units - is a direct contributing factor to the spread of disease, and more specifically the TB that he is now infected with. As an example, he cited the fact that all the prisoners on the Springfield Respiratory Disease section - tubercular and non-tubercular - were given the same linen and bedclothes, and were forced to use the same shower and toilet facilities, food trays and other eating utensils, and other materials, instead of disposing of or sterilizing such materials, which is standard medical practice in even the worst hospital in society. Also all types of diseases rage in the cramped cells of the "holes" of Atlanta and Leavenworth, where as many as 6-8 prisoners are thrown in together. Finally, he says that since he has been a federal prisoner for over 10 years and did not have the disease before he was committed to prison, it is then undeniable that he received it while serving his current prison sentence. The Bureau of Prisons is totally responsible for his receiving the disease; no other conclusion is possible! TB is a life-threatening disease which can only be transmitted by a human carrier and/or unsanitary living conditions.

Tuberculosis is one of the most deadly and infectious diseases known to medical science. Thousands of persons die in America and the rest of the world each year. There is no cure, and the disease is permanent and progressive, meaning that it can and will be a cause of disability and death - sooner or later. Ervin says that he has been robbed of his future life - even though he is now confined - by the gross negligence and callousness of the federal prison officials in infecting him with TB. It will doubtless be another few years before this TB infection starts to sicken and kill him; just as those soldiers forced to observe nuclear explosions during the 1950's did not become sick with cancer and start to die until the 1960's and 70's; or soldiers in Vietnam poisoned with the herbicide 'Agent Orange' becoming sick ten years later; and we still don't know the effects on people subjected to low-level radiation, such as those at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant, though we do know that asbestos dust causes cancer and many shipyard workers have been dying from it for over thirty (30) years.

The Bureau of Prisons is legally libale for its damage and negligence in causing him to contract the disease. But the mere fact of just contaminating his system without even a showing of life-long harm should deserve both a financial award and to set him at liberty where he can receive proper treatment. That is why he has filed this claim. He says that he has been the victim of medical assault and a form of poisoning which might well be considered murder.

However, Ervin is serving a life prison term, and has been denied all possibility of early parole because he was a Vietnam anti-war and Black revolutionary activist during the 1960's (confined for hijacking a plane in protest of the Vietnam war), and for having engaged in prisoners' rights activities since he has been in prison. The prison officials plan to keep him in prison until the disease consumes him entirely, with apparent hopes that he will then quietly die behind bars. They have poisoned him, now they want to slowly watch him die! Please don't let this happen, write to:

Norman A. Carlson
Director
Federal Bureau of Prisons
320 First St., NW.
Washington, D.C. 20534

For more information, contact:

Mrs. Audrey A. Myers, National
Committee to Support the Marion
Brothers, 4556A Oakland,
St. Louis, Missouri

Ron Brokmeyer, Dir., FREE LORENZO
ERVIN COMMITTEE. 343 S. Dearborn, Rm.
1001, Chicago, IL. 60604.

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THERE WILL BE A MEETING AT CONWAY  
HALL, RED LION SQUARE, WCL, ON  
SATURDAY 8th DECEMBER AT 7 p.m.,  
on 'SEX IN THE ANARCHIST MOVEMENT'.  
THIS IS BEING ORGANISED AS PART OF  
AN ANARCHIST FEMINIST WEEKEND TO BE  
HELD AT THE CENTRO IBERICO, HARROW  
ROAD, W9 on 7th, 8th & 9th DECEMBER.  
DETAILS FROM BOX 33, RISING FREE,  
182 UPPER STREET, LONDON, N1.

# leningrad left opposition

THE DISCOVERY OF A LEFT OPPOSITION IN LENINGRAD MAY SURPRISE THOSE WHO IMAGINE THAT OPPOSITION IN THE SOVIET UNION IS CONFINED TO RELIGIOUS GROUPS WHO WANT FREEDOM OR WORSHIP WITHIN THE SOVIET SYSTEM, OR NATIONALIST SEPARATISTS WHO DENY CONSPIRING AGAINST THE SOVIET STATE, OR SHOW BUSINESS AND SCIENCE PERSONALITIES WHO JUST WANT OUT. IT IS LESS SURPRISING TO THOSE WHO KNOW OF WORKING CLASS ACTIVITIES OVER THE YEARS, THOUGH THIS IS SOMEWHAT ON THE PERIPHERY OF THAT MOVEMENT; IT MAY NEVERTHELESS BE LIKENED TO A SIMILAR MOVEMENT IN THIS COUNTRY AND THE UNITED STATES. VADIM NECHAEV ('LABOUR FOCUS ON EASTERN EUROPE') WAS A MEMBER OF THE WRITERS' UNION UNTIL HIS EXPULSION AND ASSEMBLED THE FACTS ON THE 'LENINGRAD LEFT'.  
(TRANSLATED FOR 'LABOUR FOCUS' BY HELEN JAMIESON).

In October 1978, the leaders of the 'Left Opposition' group, Aleksandr Skobov, aged 20, and Arkady Tsurkov, aged 19, were arrested in Leningrad. These arrests were followed by numerous searches and investigations and heralded the start of the crack-down on the 'New Left' anarcho-syndicalist youth movement.

The previous history of the group goes back to the opening day of the 25th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in February 1976. On that day, Leningrad was seething with half-cautious discussions of strange events: the distribution of anti-government and anti-Party leaflets in Nevsky Prospekt, in the Underground stations and in various institutions. The leaflets declared that the CPSU had completely compromised itself in the eyes of the people, that its policies were bankrupt, its methods Stalinist and its current 25th Congress a complete bluff. The leaflets called for pluralism and humane socialism.

Despite the terror and periodic purges, Leningrad, a city of 3 revolutions, has to this day retained

its oppositional traditions. For this reason it is heavily guarded by the KGB and the militia. Very few people know that the workers' demonstrations in Dvortsovy Square on the revolutionary holidays of 7 November and 1 May are observed from two vantage points: by the Party leadership from the platform and by machine gunners from the garrets of the Hermitage. But everyone knows that on November 7th, May 1st, on election days and during Party conferences, the army is called into the city, the strengthened ranks of the militia are on patrol around the clock, and the voluntary 'vigilantes' are also mobilised.

In such conditions, the leafleting action was especially dangerous. It was staggering that, although the leaflets were scattered in the most public places, not one of the youths involved was caught and handed over to the KGB. Indeed, the security organs needed more than a fortnight of strenuous activity in order to track down the participants. COMMUNE

Reznikov was 17 years of age when he was placed in the strict regime camp. Because of his age, he was drafted into the army for two years after he had served two months in the camp and he stayed in the army until June 1978.

By this time, Aleksandr Skobov had organised a commune on 37 Primorski Prospekt, a small wooden house on the outskirts of the city. The second floor of the house was inhabited by the Vinogradovs. Felix Vinogradov's father worked in the ranks of the KGB and was therefore well off.

After Skobov had organised the commune, his parents - intellectuals and also prosperous people with a luxurious flat and a wonderful library - kicked him out of the house. Thus did social fears force 'decent' people to repudiate their own son even before the storm broke.

The commune on Primorski Prospekt was open to anyone. The location of the key was known, the address was easily available at the 'Sphinx' cafe.

In the small, smoke-filled flat, where independent youths gathered, the atmosphere was comfortable. Long-haired, in army overcoats - the most chic was considered the overcoat with respirator bags from 1914 - these people spoke a language incomprehensible to the average person: "I've just come out of the Kashchenko (a psychiatric hospital). There were dissidents and pacifists in there." A youth, on whose back was the slogan "don't go into the army, the army is evil", in a melancholic manner added: "Yes, I know. They have doctors-fascists, who inject sulphur. One woman even wrote her thesis on this."

**ANARCHO-MARXIST \***

Skobov's appearance was colourful. Anyone on the street could have seized him and said: "You are an anarchist! You have a bomb in your bag." He wore a long, curly beard that served to conceal his youth and the simple lines of his face, and he went about in an old torn overcoat and a VOKHR peaked cap with a star. He was a mild-mannered and kind-hearted individualist who would not hurt a fly. In his political convictions he was an avowed anarcho-Marxist.\* In economics an adherent of the early Marx. His programme included a pluralist economy, full democracy in politics and ideology and pacifism. He opposed all forms of violence and represented the most peaceful wing of the youth organisation, in which he was recognised as the movement's theoretician. Skobov sympathised with hippies, although he was not one himself. He was enrolled as an external student at the Department of History and he also worked as a night-

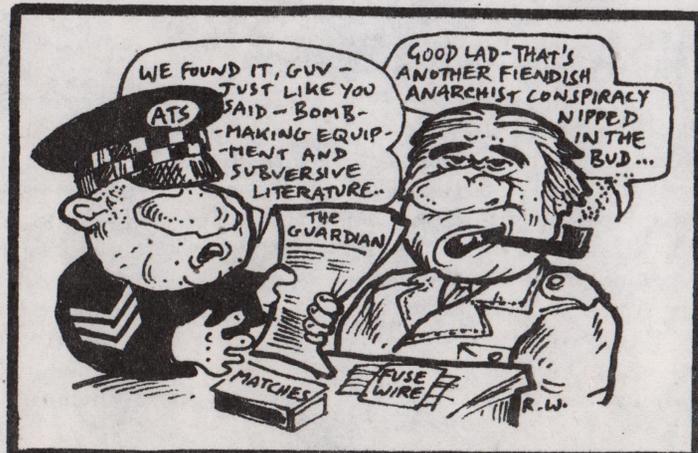
watchman. He used his meagre earnings to support the commune, paying the rent and buying tea and sugar, because the inhabitants of the commune - young artists and hippies from the Baltic Republics, Moscow and Belorussia - didn't usually have any money.

**ARRESTS AND SEARCHES, DEMONSTRATION AT KAZAN.**

The conference of oppositional youth was being prepared for September 1978. But events moved much faster. In August, the commune was smashed: the militia broke in and turned everything upside down, carried out a thorough search and confiscated the typewriter. In response to a demand for a search warrant or a least some grounds for the raid, they stated: "We are the masters here and we do what we like!"

The interrogations began. People were summoned to the KGB headquarters or 'interviewed' at schools, institutes or work-places. The KGB used these interrogations to try to find out about the personality and politics of those being questioned, particularly Skobov and Reznikov. They wanted information about the conference - where, when and how it was being held - and about the journal 'Perspektivy', which had been confiscated in one of the searches. They wanted to know whether the articles 'Theses on the Present Situation' and 'A Critique of the Theses' were considered to be the programme. And they were interested to discover any links that Skobov might have abroad.

\* Whatever that is!



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# INTERNATIONAL NEWS

## Spain

### VALENCIA

The city of Valencia was closed down by a General Strike June 27, 1979, in protest against the murder of a 19-year-old CNT striker, Valentin Gonzalez, who had stepped in front of his father, also on strike, to protect him from the charging National Police. The strike, called by the CNT, was the greatest demonstration of labor strength and solidarity in Valencia since before the Civil War.

The murder occurred at 10 o'clock at night on June 25th to break up the peaceful concentration of workers who were there to prevent the delivery of supplies to the Municipal Market by strike breakers. The legal strike was called by the CNT union which represents the majority of the workers in the Market.

Half a million people attended the funeral, according to the local papers, including the Mayor of Valencia, the President of the City Council and other political notables. Enrique Marcos, National Secretary of the CNT, came from Barcelona to attend the funeral. He spoke at the cemetery.

### ANTI-NUCLEAR

From a manifesto of the Tudela Federation of the CNT (printed in CNT - national organ of the CNT - July, 1979) we learn of the brutal, unprovoked murder in Tudela of the young militant, Gladys del Estal Ferrero. She was killed during a massive International Anti-Nuclear Day Demonstration. The killing aroused wide protest. In Tudela 7,000 people gathered at the spot where she was shot down, with many more attending her funeral. To emphasize their determination to stop such atrocities and dramatize their continued opposition to nuclear installations and war preparation, the workers in Tudela staged a two day general strike.

### MALAGA: HOSPITAL WORKERS WIN STRIKE

Dissatisfied Malaga workers are increasingly turning to the CNT because the Communist Party's "Worker's Commissions" (CC OO) and the Socialist Party's labor union, UGT, are not responsive to the needs of their members.

When the Municipal Hospital workers went on strike for a better contract, their officials urged them to discontinue the strike and wait for the election of a pro-labor municipal administration to grant their demands.

The union officials also urged the strikers to scale down their demands in conformity with the wage ceiling worked out by the "Social Pact" between the government, the employers and the government-collaborationist unions.

Although the majority of the unionized workers, 500, belonged to the CC OO and only 100 to the CNT and UGT, the workers repudiated their leaders by electing a majority of CNT members to the strike negotiating commission.

After the victorious three month strike (the strikers occupied the city hall) the new agreement smashed the wage ceiling, raising wages by 26%, with 34.8% for the lowest paid workers; reduced the work week from 38 to 30 hours; provided for 33 days annual vacation and pension of 5000 pesetas for each year of service; 5000 pesetas a month for very young children; control of overtime schedules by the workers; permanent employment after 15 days trial period; control over hiring and employee lay-offs etc.

### MALAGA: UGT MORTUARY WORKERS SWITCH TO THE CNT

UGT workers deeply disappointed with their bureaucratic officials trying to manipulate the members, and with the very poor, unsatisfactory agreement made without their consent in 1978, affiliated en masse to the CNT. The great majority of Malaga mortuary workers are now organized into the Hospital and Sanitation Syndicate of the CNT.

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