From the very beginning the government has dictated the parameters of the present miners strike: nothing short of class war, the objectives of which are the defeat of the National Union of Mineworkers and the crushing of militant trade unionism and syndicalist direct action.

The government's final strategy is one of desperation: to restrict and contain the resistance within the mining communities and to prevent any wider resistance or uprising from materialising and detracting from the process of Coal Board intimidation that goes under the name of "talks".

But away from the glare of the NCB "call my bluff" game, the mood at pit level is one of anger, and the demand is for retribution and for the strike to move into a new phase, onto the offensive, in order that a speedy but victorious conclusion be imposed.

To date, measures have been defensive, given that many mining villages have virtually been under police occupation and that government and NCB propaganda in inducing scabbing has been unprecedented.

Now, in this, the possible final stage of the dispute, there are many who are insisting that the strike returns to the offensive and that such offensive measures be deployed outside and beyond the mining communities and be taken to the heartlands of the ruling class.

If any such offensive were to take place, it would presumably include a stepping up of the campaign to encourage secondary industrial action, backed up by massive sabotage aimed at weakening the power, fuel and communication lines. March 9th, the anniversary of the strike, could also function as the culmination point for any coordinated action: if the strike was still going by that date, it would not be at all unrealistic for miners and support groups to organise, say, a mass picket aimed at besieging parliament itself.

The potential for escalation is there. The folly of a militant government, resolutely seeking total surrender, may be all that is necessary to light the fuse.

Stop Business as Usual

"On 30th April we should all hit back at this evil rotting system whose reality is measured by the fact that it is willing to annihilate all in order to "defend" itself..." At 12 noon on that day - fight back against multi-national companies all over the world.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Strikers at a doll factory in Perpignan, southern France, have sent dolls to the children of striking miners in Britain, in an excellent example of working class solidarity.

The strikers (mainly women) have been on strike since September last year. In June '82 the 1000 workers struck against the closure of the factory, resulting in a new ownership, but with the loss of 685 jobs.

Five months ago the boss announced the closure of the factory - the only doll factory in France. In response the workers occupied the factory and continue to do so. There have been demonstrations in support of the strikers, which have been attacked by riot police.

One point the strikers are stressing is that the French ("Socialist") government gave the new owner Fr131 (about £1m) in 1982 and nobody seems to know what happened to it. The Government doesn't seem at all concerned about this state of affairs.

Messages of solidarity would be very welcome at the following address:

Berchet Industrie SA, 193 Avenue Languedoc, 6600 Perpignan, France.

SOURCE: Groupe Puig Antich (Perpignan anarcho-syndicalists, members of the Federation Anarchistes).

Cambridge Anarchists and DAM (Direct Action Movement) have helped to arrange a visit to France by striking miners from Shirebrook Colliery in Derbyshire. The invitation came from some Parisian anarcho-syndicalists (members of the Federation Anarchistes), who are arranging factory visits and a large public meeting in Paris, and another meeting in Lyon.

FRANCE

Radio Libertaire, the radio station of the Federation Anarchistes, intends to devote a complete day to the miners strike and it is hoped that the miners videos will be shown in places the visiting strikers will not be going to. The strikers will be accompanied on their visit by a comrade from Doncaster DAM.

AUSTRALIA

Over 6000 Australian miners, dockers and seamen have been laid off because they have refused to cooperate in the movement of coal to Britain.
CONSPIRACY

Seven Alcобыony peace campers are being done for 'conspiracy to cause criminal damage'. They face up to five years in prison. Alcobyony is a US spy plane and nuclear weapons base and will be the control centre for the 64 Cruise missiles being installed at nearby USAF Malmesbury.

The conspiracy charges are yet one more attempt to intimidate and silence dissent and direct action. Contact: Alcobyony 7 Defence Campaign, c/o 54 Allison Street, Digbeth, Birmingham.

EASTERN CONTACT

Would Black Flag readers in East Anglia, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, etc., interested in Black Cross work and/or anarchist-syndicalism, please contact Cambridge DAM-INA, c/o Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir Street, Cambridge.

BRADFORD ARREST

In mid-November an anarchist was arrested at a RAF (Royal Air Force) recruitment evening at Bradford University. A film of the Nagasaki bombing was being shown, accompanied by stirring music. He was set upon by a plain clothes police officer, after he allegedly pulled the plug on the projector.

He was held for 19 days, after previous charges were found against him. He is pleading not guilty to all charges and would be grateful of support/donations to: A. Hemingway, c/o 35a Pack View Road, Heston, Bradford 9, West Yorkshire. Also more information on the case is available from this address.

NEO-NAZIS

There has been an increase in 'White Supremacist' (ie Nazi) activity in North-West America recently. The latest incident involved 29 year old Nazi, Garry Lee Yarbrough, who was arrested in November last year after he escaped out with the FBI at a hotel in Portland, Oregon. Fellow Nazi, Robert Jay Mathews managed to escape only to be killed a month later in another shoot-out with over 100 FBI agents on Whidley Island (near Seattle). Yarbrough was charged with shooting at an FBI agent near his home in Sandpoint (Idaho) in October and is also suspected of murdering a Jewish radio chat show host, Alan Berry, in June '84 after the murder weapon was discovered at his home.

GET WITH IT!

Crimes linked to neo-Nazis in West

Matthews killed in Rochester, New York, 28th March 1980

Armed car held up, 400 FBI agents involved, 300 agents had to be sent to search the area. Oct 23

FBI agent wounded near Fort Dix, New Jersey. Matthews: Yarbrough implicated. Nov

Brick's armoured car robbed near 13 million in cash. July 19

Radio talk show host Alan Berg slain with gun found in house at Sandpoint, Idaho. July 24

A WHO'S WHO OF NAZI MURDERERS

Aryans, nation, run, headed by self-appointed fuhrer Richard Butler. Many of their members are recruited from ex-convicts and their activities include counter-feiting, armoured car hold-ups, bank robberies, synagogues, stabbings, death threats and murder. Butler is known to have hosted at least two sessions of the annual 'National Aryan Congress', attended by members of the KKK, the American Nazi Party and Posse Comitatus. Butler also runs a 'Church' which holds regular Sunday Services and a 'Christian Academy' where a handful of local children get their 'education' near Butler's headquarters near Hayden Lake, Idaho.
Police Thugs

Police officers were alleged to have hurled bricks and concrete from a bridge at a car being chased along the M57 motorway recently. Two police cars were finally stopped after a two hour high speed chase through Cheshire and Merseyside during which time at least nine police cars were damaged. The two men were then placed in a police dog's cage in a police van and savaged by the dog, according to their defence solicitor. Both men have been charged with stealing the car and making off without paying for petrol worth £23.75. One wonders how the media would react if these men had been killed.

Snowman

Pickets near Rotherham angered local police by building a snowman and decorating it with a toy policeman's helmet. One wonders how the media would react if these men had been... 

Brother Scab

A Notts miner's daughter was threatened with suspension from her school for wearing anti-scab and pro-strikers badges, for writing on her satchel 'my bothers a scab' and for trying to organise debate in the school on the strike. But she refused to accept any punishment and accused her teachers of being hypocritical - after all they wear their CND and NUM badges. She told them that if they can be political, then she couldn't see any reason why she should have to stop supporting striking trade unionists.

Her father told Hatfield miners that if she can stand firm against a whole school of scab children and teachers and refuse to give in, then the rest of the striking miners movement can follow her example.

Arsonists Jailed

Four miners were each sentenced to two years for an arson attack - causing £75,000 worth of damage - on a scab coach firm, Thomson Tours of Trentham. A fifth miner was sentenced to two years Youth Custody. The five all come from the Potteries. In the same case, another miner had charges dismissed and a second got acquitted.

Scab Spotting

On the M25 from the Dartford tunnel to the M1 - many scab coal deliveries are being undertaken by Three Rivers Haulage, in navy blue artic tippers, mainly Doodle units.

Defence Solicitor

Both men have been police by building a snowman and decorating it with a toy policeman's helmet. One wonders how the media would react if these men had been... 

Wages Sabotaged

The NCB's central wages office at Fryston Colliery was broken into and smashed up. The raid took place on New Year's Eve when security was lax. Nine offices were rammed and records destroyed. The offices stored wage records for the whole of the North Yorkshire area, thus payment details for scabs in that area were sabotaged. A Board spokesman said that it would take months to sort out the mess.

Hatfield Arrests

News on the four pickets arrested outside Hatfield Main Colliery (see last issue). They were all charged with various public order offences, and were held for 24 hours. Dave Douglass, NUM organiser for Hatfield Main, was beaten by the police, getting a gash from his hip to his knee, and bruising to the liver and legs. He has been charged on four counts. A woman had her coat and shoes taken away, and was kept in a freezing cell. One man, who had been involved in a car crash a few days earlier, was released with internal bleeding.

MacGregor's Heavies

Wackenhut, the US security firm employed by NCB Chief Ian MacGregor (then head of AMAX) to intimidate striking miners, has now opened up an office in Britain: Unit 3, Britannia Estate, Luton (tel - 0582 30556).

Neasden Pickets

Brent Miners Support Group is picketing every Monday from 6.30am. On Wednesday there are pickets by Richmond and Twickenham Miners Support Group. There is a need for other support groups to fill in other mornings, to build up support and as a lead-up to the mass pickets of February 11 and 13. Neasden Power Station is in north-west London and is on the Jubilee Line.

Collections

Money is being collected for single striking miners who are living over a wide area of South Yorkshire. Single workers on strike do not get any Social Security payments at all. Donations can be sent to Dave Douglass, PO Box 96, Doncaster, 5 Yorkshire.

Mass Pickets

With the failure of the NCB-NUM talks - no doubt encouraged by the government in the first instance in order to build up false hopes - NCB-NUM alienation - miners at pit level have turned to action to demonstrate how they feel the direction of the strike ought to be heading. In South Yorkshire two mass picketings has resumed and the indications are that it is here to stay.

Kiveton Park and Hatfield led the way, followed by Cortonwood, where more than 3000 gathered at the gates. But also to drive it home to the NUM leadership that there's to be no sellout. At Cortonwood they came from all over Yorkshire - and Nottinghamshire too - and the police were clearly unprepared for the mass turn-out. Riot cops were seconded, as an emergency measure, from other areas. Some fighting broke out, but arrests were few.

But it was at Houghton Main where picnic line anger at the games the NCB are playing was very clear. Again the police unprepared as over 2000 pickets converged. When police reinforcements arrived, the usual riot gear was quickly put on, which in turn led to a justifiable response from the picnic line as stones, concrete posts and other missiles were hurled at the cops. Nine cops were reportedly injured and later the police cut off the village in a mop-up operation.

The question is will the mass picketing remain a defensive measure, ensuring that the police release their siege conditions in the pit villages, or will pickets decide to adopt offensive measures and go for the power stations, the fuel depots, the centres of government, etc?

Back Miners Defence

A Miners Defence Committee congress is due to take place in Sheffield on February 9, with delegates from trade union organisations and speakers from the NUM. The MDC bulletin is Black Dragon, edited by GLC Labour leader Ken Livingstone. On the whole it contains useful information as to picketing arrangements, etc. According to the paper (sub details on application from 31 Cranwich Rd, London N16), NUM delegates have now taken a central role in organising the MDC.

Europe Supports

It is highly encouraging that so much interest is being taken on the Continent in the miners' strike, which is recognised as a key issue in resistance to the encroaching totalitarian State. The Direct Action Movement has received sums of money, from European comrades to pass on to miners support groups, and other sums have been sent direct.

From comrades in the CNT in Spain has come several thousands of pounds for the miners' families; this is especially heartening in mind that the traffic isn't one way - not only have thoughtless collectors of Spanish prisoners and veterans, not least by the Anarchist Black Cross, but with the rebuilding of the Spanish movement anarchists-syndicalists here sent off lists of duplicates, duplicating, photocopying and other machines, as well as training people to use them; and we organised a regular shuttle during the period when, in the last days of Franco, large numbers of young men were sent off from Madrid unable to obtain contraceptives and had to seek abortions, or contraceptive devices, outside Spain. It is nice to know that from the people we support we get the impetus to help miners in their hour of need. That's what solidarity is all about: mutual aid!
about enrico fedele

Enrico was born 29 January 1957 in Mazara del Vallo, Sicily. He lived there until the age of 16 when, through political disagreements, he moved to Aarhus, Denmark in 1980. He obtained a 9-year residence permit, and got married. He supported himself by doing odd jobs and was involved in the Anarchist Federation there, from 1970 until about 1976, when he broke away from the federation because of political disagreements.

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On the 16th of June 1984 while hitch-hiking he was arrested in connection with his identity, and was taken to prison in Dijon, where he is still confined.

The address is: "Enrico Fedele, Enrico Extradiational, Maiso d'Arret de Dijon, 72 Rue d'Auxonne, 21033 Dijon Cedex France."

He is charged with the following:

2 armed robberies; illegal possession of coins; participation in an armed group.

All this is supposed to have happened in Italy in 1978.

The Court in Dijon has dealt with Enrico's case, and has concluded that he should be extradited. The final decision lies in Paris. Enrico has a lawyer: Thierry Fagart, 49 Rue de Rivel, 75004 Paris Tel: 272-27-99.

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BARCELONA

A group of young anarchists in Barcelona are attempting to begin a squatters movement in the city. On 7 December, in Celona are attempting to begin a squatters set fire to the offices of the newspaper, RAF fighter, murdered by the State in the centre. The action was supported by a smell ex—hospital in Gracia, intending their biggest action yet, they squatted it for accommodation and a youth community clubs) as well as the Gracia Residents Association and the local CNT—AIT. The property was occupied at 9am, while other groups leafletted out-going all over the city, as well as a march against two nuclear industry firms, NUKEM (sic) and ALEKEM, and for the end of nuclear weaponry and power. After the demonstration 100 attack the police and fighting ensues for many hours. 17.12.84. In Augsburg unknown people set fire to the offices of Khoheuppeger, Augsburger Allgemeine. Graffiti referred to those on hunger strike. The day before there was a riot in Frankfurt: for three hours small commando groups attack the police at the entrance to the airport. Other RAF members decide to join the hunger strike.

RED HOT STORY

Action by women employees of Cancom Media Consultants Inc, a British Columbia Firm, has caused them to drop production of a catalogue of video pornography. There have been complaints before as the firm has done similar catalogues for Red Hot video over the past two years, but this time the women brought their protests to the management, only to be told that the catalogue would be printed anonymously as the firm feared reprisals and firebombings from the women's movement. The firm also wanted to avoid higher insurance rates which might result from the dangers.

Denmark

On November 8 around 100 people occupied a Copenhagen bank to protest against South African involvement. During that night 38 sub-branches of the bank had their windows smashed.

RAPE GAME

The latest video game from Japan has the aim first to catch women, while evading policemen, and then to rape them without them escaping. The "game" has been found in West German video halls, but according to the Health Ministry, has now been taken out of circulation.

Source: Webspinner

SOURCE: Ekomedia

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RED HOT STORY

ACTION BY WOMEN EMPLOYEES OF CANCOM MEDIA CONSULTANTS INC, A BRITISH COLUMBIA FIRM, HAS CAUSED THEM TO DROP PRODUCTION OF A CATALOGUE OF VIDEO PORNOGRAPHY. THERE HAVE BEEN COMPLAINTS BEFORE AS THE FIRM HAS DONE SIMILAR CATALOGUES FOR RED HOT VIDEO OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS, BUT THIS TIME THE WOMEN BROUGHT THEIR PROTESTS TO THE MANAGEMENT, ONLY TO BE TOLD THAT THE CATALOGUE WOULD BE PRINTED ANONYMOUSLY AS THE FIRM FEARED REPRISALS AND FIREBOMBINGS FROM THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT. THE FIRM ALSO WANTED TO AVOID HIGHER INSURANCE RATES WHICH MIGHT RESULT FROM THE DANGERS.

DENMARK

ON NOVEMBER 8 AROUND 100 PEOPLE OCCUPIED A COPENHAGEN BANK TO PROTEST AGAINST SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT. DURING THAT NIGHT 38 SUB-BRANCHES OF THE BANK HAD THEIR WINDOWS SMASHED.

SOURCE: EKOMEDIA
ANARCHIST FILMS

The Anarchist Film Society's Winter Catalogue, 1985 is now available from C/O 121 Railton Road, London SE24. Membership fee is £5, which entitles you to all available video tapes (VHS only). Tapes can be borrowed for £5 deposit or a three hour video tape (blank) which you get back when you return the borrowed tape. The AFS is interested in exchanging tapes and receiving any information about past and present anarchist films.

QUESTION AND ANSWER ON ANARCHISM

Q: Isn't your attitude to the whole question of violence totally inconsistent? Sometimes you denounce pacifists as quietists, sometimes you laud the petty bourgeois Greenham Common women. Sometimes you call for a three hour video tape (blank) which you get back when you return it. Surely you could make your position clear once and for all?

A: We can't make it clear to people who don't read the Black Flag. We despise quietists, i.e. people who believe that any form of action including violence is not carried out for personal gain, has (like 'petty bourgeois' & 'gay') been spread wide apart and tied to a cult of never doing anything. Some of the Greenham Common women may be pacifists but none are quietists and we doubt if any are doing the dirty work for them — every form of action from Millwall winning the FA cup to social revolution to an anarchist prisoner in France, that Shane Green has been tortured — his arms and legs have been spread wide apart and tied to bars - he's been left for six days without water, and beaten savagely by screws. Threatened with death by the screws, he has been supported by his contacts outside, around the world.

Shane has also been threatened with execution by an American fascist group, the "Aryan Brotherhood," Shane belongs to the Anarchist Black Dragon group, who produce a paper and have taken direct action in solidarity with other prisoners. He's 29 years old, and condemned to prison until the year 2,000.

For further information, contact: Claire Gabrielle, 54, Ave de la Marine, 06100, Nice, France.