Feedback

Contact for the Greek Hunger Striker:
Potis Danastos, Agios Paulos Hospital, Korydalos, Piraeus.
Lawyer: Basil Karaplis, Aristi School St. 8 Athens.

Hull Anarchist prisoner wants correspondence:
We have been asked to print the following by DM:
A comrade from Hull is at present incarcerated in a 'Youth Treatment Centre'. He is hoping to get out soon, and in the meantime would welcome correspondence. To contact him please write to his support group (Birmingham DAM, c/o The Peace Centre, Moor Street, Birmingham 4). His name is Debashis.

Sheffield Anarchist Centre:
A new anarchist centre has been squatted in Sheffield. As we go to press, we hear that they have been served with an eviction order, but intend to fight to stay on.

Anarchism & the Prezz

Anarchism and anarchists have had a run of luck in the Independents; just lately: Stuart Christie wrote an article for 'New Musical Express' and also for 'City Limits'. The latter publication also printed an article by Stuart Christie now researching on Londons freemasons. Altogether it is about time that anarchist ideas got a wider airing and it is hoped that other libertarians with a talent for journalism and investigative reporting would do the same and extend the message of non-statist socialism outside our often self-imposed ghetto. Generally only the time we ever seem to get the chance to do this is when one of us is accused of a crime or when the authorities look for a scapegoat on which to hang the cause of all discontentment. That is why, perhaps, it is imperative that anarchists whether through their respective federations or through the smaller specialist groupings - delegate someone to take on the task of trying to use the media to our advantage. Each federation, for example, could have their own press secretary, issuing regular reports on the kind of news that would normally go unreported. It would go without saying that such press releases would never resort to the use of misinformation, as do the bourgeois press; the more reliable and newsworthy our reports, the greater the chance that they will be used. Of course it would be naïve to think that such reports would not be distorted and rewritten to suit the whims of the publications editor. But that is always a risk. What is perhaps more important, though, is if and when the resistance reaches a stage where, for a whole variety of reasons, open communication is near impossible, then those individuals still operating within the 'legal' sphere can perform a useful role extending and elaborating upon the propaganda put out by comrades who, because of restricted circumstances, would find this impossible.

New Publications

Anti-abortion Amendment; A disillusioned Republican; exporting pollution/nuclear rubbish dumping; unemployed; K.C. Bakery Strike. News and views from the Dublin Anarchist Collective, F.O. Box 1305, Dublin 1.

'Seditious Whispers', No. 11. Free. Produced by the Doncaster Anarchist Group. Issue 11 includes local news, election analysis, the Falklands vote factor, etc. All well argued stuff.

Triumph of Labour:
A history of trade unions, an exhibition at the Livesey Museum 682 Old Kent Road, London SE1 1JF. Open Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm. Ends 23rd July 1983, ADMISSION FREE.
Trains: Elephant & Castle (2 miles), New Cross Gate (1 mile) Buses: 52, 65, 68, 141, 177. Look out for Enoch's Hammer and the CNT mention.

Police Chief Nervous

Newman's recent PR offensive against 'the left' clearly showed that he was feeling vulnerable. The police felt the need to defend themselves and so went on the attack. Newman was embarrassed by the Mets inefficiency; the time to publish the latest crime statistics was coming up and their performance was poor. Only 10% of all reported crimes were cleared; random burglary and car thefts scored high, while street robberies, especially against women, rose by 23%

But what really triggered the press release was the statement issued by the Colin Roach inquest jury criticising the local police in their handling of the case. Newman couldn't get back at the jury, so instead he attacked the campaign supporters. He blamed the trotskyists 'who deliberately trawl for issues which they can elevate to the status of a cause celebre.' He also hoped to use the opportunity to place the anti-police protests at the doorsteps of the local and GLC police accountability committees, where he thought lay the origins of much of the agitation.

But on the whole Newman failed to make his impact. His press statement would have had more force behind it had he arranged for it to be released coincidental to a spectacular crime spree. Instead, out of nervousness, he sent out the statement prematurely.

He also succeeded in demonstrating just how out of touch he is with what is happening at street level. His criticisms of the trots as opportunists are undoubtedly correct, but his assessment of the degree of their involvement in some of the more recent campaigns is way out. Certainly trotskyist groups made their usual bid to party build at the expense of a cause, in the case of the Colin Roach campaign, but they were quietly relegated to the sidelines; the Roach family and friends needed no lessons in trot spotting. And as for the recent 'Kill the Bill' march, the trots were nowhere to be seen: as the GLC had withdrawn their backing because of the pending general election, they did not want to be seen on any march that was less than gigantic.

Newman should, on the contrary, be praising the trots and the Labour Party activists, rather than criticising them. They only wish to reform the police; whereas we wish to eliminate them entirely! It is the trots belief that policing can one day be acceptable that makes them the real lunacy fringe.

Newman's enemy is not these parasites, although it is an interesting indication that he believes they are. Rather it is those who instinctively steer clear of political agitators (weekend 'activists!'), the issue related fringe, the lunacy fringe. A

But look out for Enoch's Hammer and the CNT mention.
Recently 'Black Flag' got a mention in the 'New Statesman' when it printed an article on 121 Hakeworth in Brixton. The report was based on a series of meetings with the Brixton police and the independent media. The reason why the NS did not report the 121 incident was because of the police's secret tactics aimed at discrediting the activities. The NS did not have the integrity to report on the facts, and they were afraid of being sued for libel.

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MILLION REFUGEES HAVE FLED THE WAR ZONE. THEIR LIVES 500,000 INURED OR MAIMED IN TWO WEEKS IN A GENERAL STRIKE PROTEST AT KHOMEINI. IT SEEMS AFTER FORCED MARCHES ACROSS THE COUNTRY, KURDISTAN SHOPS AND SCHOOLS CLOSED FOR FOUR DAYS. ATTACKED NUMEROUS GUARDS BASES; KILLED A TOP GUARDS TERRORISM. RESISTANCE FORCES HAVE ORGANISED: THE FIRST 200 WINNERS WERE SENT TO THE WAR FRONT. CONSOLATION PRIZES INCLUDED A TRIP TO THE HOLY CITY OF Mashad.

CHILDLABOUR

In the small town of Kamyaran the Islamic Republic's so-called Construction Crusade (Jahad-e-Sazandegi) has set up a cloth-waving workshop. The majority of workers there are children and youngsters. The working day is 10 hours long. Each child receives only 35 tons of rice per day (less than £2) and the wages of adults are 70 tons... In order to make a small part of their living expenses, which along with soaring inflation, has drained the workers of their vitality, they have to do a number of hours overtime. In this workshop the workers have to work on Friday (the customary day off) or else they are finished.

GILAN-RASHT STRIKE

Over 30,000 textile workers struck against the theft and anti-working class activity of the factory's Islamic Society. 'Watchdog's' slogans was 'Death to the Islamic Society must be dissolved!' and 'Death to Sharfii' (the Society's head). Sympathy strikes continued their struggle and formulated demands. The workers immediately received the wages of the 4 days of the strike and the strike ended.

RED-HUNT

In anticipation of Khomeini's death the Moscow-line Tudeh (Najat) Party, Democratic Union and the Majority Fedayeen have been accused in the Iranian media of planning to seize power from the Mullahs. The 'Holy War' against 'the Soviet Satan' has seen the Iranian 77th Infantry Div. take up positions near the frontier with Afghanistan. Expulsion of Soviet Diplomats, house arrest of Soviet citizens, 1,000 pro-Moscow 'plotters imprisioned, and mob lynching of 'communists' in provinces adjoinning the Soviet frontier.

WAR, WAR UNTIL VICTORY

The war with Iraq has lost 300,000 Iranians their lives, 500,000 injured or maimed. 2 Million refugees have fled the war zone. Teenage volunteers are no longer wishing to fight on, the workers' slogans are ' contre les voleurs et les anti-travailleurs'

CHILE

In the middle of the demonstrations in one of Santiago's main avenues, three pigs, perfectly dressed up in military uniforms, were let loose. Passers-by stopped and gave military salutes to the animals before the police could arrest the terrified pigs, throw them into a van and drive them to an unknown fate.

CHINA

In May three people who killed a woman who had failed to meet her dowry requirements, were found guilty of murder by a high court: in this respect a precedent was set. More importantly, in a village near Bhatinda, a 15 year old woman took action of her own and shot dead her father after he had repeatedly raped her: the whole village came out to support her during her trial.

PHILIPPINES

Manila, the capital, has been virtually cordoned off and is now under siege due to guerrilla advances in the rural areas and on the outskirts of the city. The guerrilla organisations include the April 6 Movement (independents), the HNLF (Muslim separatists, aided by Iran) and the NPA (communist, aided by Moscow).

President Mavros is facing increased militant opposition all round: at the last general election only 50% of the electorate bothered to vote at all; on the industrial front strikes continue, despite the threat of armed police intervention, have not been infrequent. The forced exodus of much of the island's population and the industrial exploitation of the once-rural communities in the free-trade zones has intensified a general oppression that is characteristic of Philippine life.

One strike that took place in June 1982 in the Bataan free enterprise zone lasted 14 days, with over 10,000 workers (1/3 of whom were women) walking out of the factories (23 were affected and temporarily shut down). The strike was about atrocious low pay, long hours and bad working conditions. Initially only 200 came out and were on their own for the first 15 weeks; but as soon as the police began to attack the strikers, others came out to show support and those arrested were immediately released. Although those who took part in the strike on the whole gained from their action (better conditions all round), in later months the authorities got their revenge when they arrested some of the activists, injuring others.

Meanwhile the government sponsored trade union, the KMU, and the main opposition party ('moderates') are attempting to cool things down, fearing all out war.
RED-HERRING RAID

A Catherine wheel, a packet of bangers and a golden rain were expropriated in a dawn raid when the famed information-gatherers of the Anti-Terrorist Squad raided the home of an information-gatherer of the equally famed Black Flag group. The raid, which took place on June 29, was characterised as one of the few - if, indeed, the only - thus documented - where the officer in charge - Burke (sic), Detective Inspector - was named as 'out'. His colleagues were sniffing around, only to find that the caller was none other than the solicitor of the person whose home it was that was being raided. The solicitor then proceeded to give Burke a lecture on the application of the 'judges rules'.

While this was going on, two of Burke's colleagues were in another room rummaging through the poster files, only to come across an old 'Persons Unknown' poster with the title, 'Watch Out, This is a Watch Out!' and depicting a photo of D.C. Deeney entering someone's home in the course of his duty. The two were asked whether they knew Deeney. But, alas, it seemed not.

"Black Flag" is, it appears, in the business of counter-terrorism a lot longer than our two intruders. Burke and his colleagues - altogether seven officers took part (4 in plain clothes, 3 uniformed) - got on with their job of meticulously (and tidily) sifting through the contents of the house.

Finally, after spending almost an hour probing every nook and cranny, one officer, reporting presented Burke with the "find of the year": a biscuit, containing few old fireworks - a tinsel, containing few old fireworks - a tin, consisting of few old fireworks. Burke and his colleagues - altogether I leave empty-handed; "we've got to have a suspicion that the ATS had their own strategies incident to this wider drama; their pre-occupation was with different sorts. And why the fireworks? Well, that was the red herring - they had to leave with something, after all their search warrant was specifically to look for evidence concerning poss'le 'criminal damage to property, or injury to persons' (or something).

No, there are no easy answers. For the truth is it is the ATS who are the ones who are up to something, in their constant quest to incriminate the politically active (or in-active). To them everything is suspicous, and everyone a suspect around whom a 'case' can be constructed. They appear amongst us in our midst, collecting information, abiding their time until the right moment when a 'political trial' can prove advantageous.

COPS WHO PLAYED IT SAFE

Police launched a major operation when they were told about a safe abandoned at a roadside. A panda driver was instructed to guard it and a back-up squad was sent to assist while forensic experts rushed to the scene.

After fingerprint checks, half a dozen bobbies attempted to heave the 5'6"-tall safe into the back of a police Land Rover - but failed to move it.

They roped it to the Land Rover and tried to drag it to the kerb but again it refused to budge, "we' were prepared to attack. The 'signs of war' can therefore be predicted in advance and, so the argument went, was a last attempt to warn against the impending disaster before escaping to safer climes. But no. That, according to a leaked local health authority document on civil defence, is not what will happen. Instead there will be no warning at all, on the basis that any such warning could lead to civil disorder and attacks on the authorities. The document was produced by the Trent Area Health Authority and was summarily discarded by pre-attack broadcasts warning that the government was going to announce a new plan - and is supposed to be confidential. It says: "...random movement will be encouraged discouragng pre-attack broadcasts warning that the government has deliberately made no plans for any evacuation," and 'transition to war - far too late, but as a means of taking on the State and its institutions at our discretion and in our time.'

LUBERTARIAN WALKERS!

If you would like to spend some of your Sundays taking a country walk in congenial company, send a s.a.e. for details. We walk on the first Sunday of each month. Next walk: August 7th from Ramsgate, 15, Marcham Rd, London E11. Tel 01-559 5288.

SEX IN THE CITY

Ball restrictions were eased at Leeds Magistrate Court late June for the women charged with involvement in an arson attack on a porn cinema. Ronnie O'Donovan will be pleading not guilty to charges of conspiracy to cause damage and aiding and abetting persons known to cause criminal damage.

The cinema was attacked on the 21st March and responsibility was claimed by Angry Women. Three months later, the court was told that the defendant had been arrested when they had only just landed on the prosecution desk so they were not yet able to proceed with the committal hearing. The trial will virtually be heard in August at the Crown Court.