

FEEDBACK

ANARCHIST NEWS BENEFIT

23rd March at the Art College, Howard Gardens, Cardiff. WALES (near the prison). Bands playing are Disorder and Lunatic Fringe. Starts 9pm.

BRACKNELL ANARCHISTS

An @ group is being formed in Bracknell. Their contact address is: Box 21, 17 Chatham Street, Reading. BERKS.

BOOKSALE

Freedom Bookshop in Angel Alley off Whitechapel High Street, purveyors of @ literature to the intelligentsia will be having a sale on Friday March 23rd and Saturday March 24th. Ring (01) 2479249 for details.

FREE SPACE SQUAT FOR LIFE

15 people moved into the former Ukrainian Club in Bradford and have set up the People's Squat for Life (it is off Great Horton Road) 13-15 Claremont, BRADFORD 7 W. Yorks. Local people from Bradford and Leeds have visited the Squat (some staying the night in case of Police harassment). Benefits are planned and a Regional Stop the City meeting has been held there. The local Yorkshire Post reported "Squatters Storm Council Building" and a more sympathetic interview with Radio Pennine was aired. The massive building with its many rooms and theatre has come to life, already many local groups want to use what was an empty shell. The Squatters are facing some Council harassment so they are asking people to send letters of support to them. Please visit if you are in the area.

CND Pontificates

A little bird told us that Monsignor Bruce Kent, General Secretary of CND, has instructed all CND groups not to take part in the anti-militarist protests to take place on March 29 in the City of London. One affiliated group - Green CND - has managed, though, to obtain his dispensation as long as their protest is nothing more than a bit of street theatre.

STOP THE CITY MANCHESTER

On Thursday 22nd March in Manchester various actions will take place against those institutions such as the Bank of England, the Stock Exchange and various private companies and stores. Suggestions include: disruption of the traffic, jamming telephone lines, leafletting, releasing balloons and kites, street theatre/music/speakers picketing and more! Those interested in participating can attend a planning meeting held on Monday at Manchester University Students Union, Oxford Rd at 7.30pm (ask for Libertarian Socialist Society). If you would like someone to come to one of your own meets then contact:

67, Albany Rd, Chorlton, MANCHESTER M21
(do not put 'Stop the City' on the envelope please put Susie/Nicky).

MEETINGS

BOURNEMOUTH: Students Union Office, Landsdowne College, Bournemouth for details.

BRADFORD: Meetings and information at the new squat of the Peoples Squat for Life, 13-15 Claremont.

BRISTOL: Bristol Peace Centre, 1 Picton Street, Montpelier, Bristol.

LONDON:

International Social 18th March
4pm Ambulance Station, 306 Old Kent Road, Elephant & Castle Tube.

Co-ordination meetings. Every Monday at Bethnal Green Rights Shop, 296 Bethnal Green Road, Bethnal Green Tube. 7.30.

Leafletting the area on Mondays
12.30pm. Meet at Finsbury Square Cafe.

OXFORD: Campaign Atom,
Wholefood Cafe, Cowley Rd.

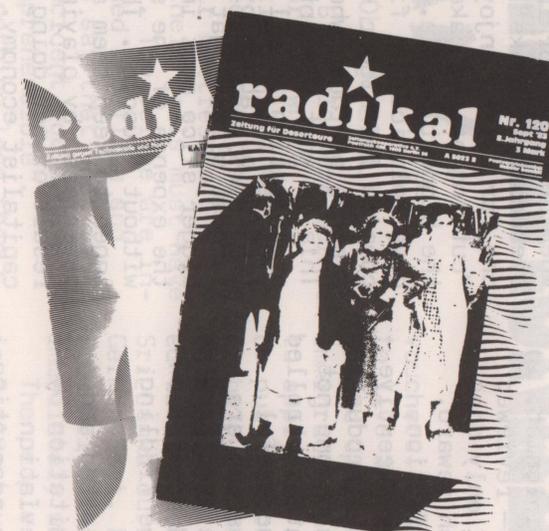
READING: Bridget, Pangbourne 4532.

SHEFFIELD: Benefit and day school
22nd March Commonground, Wicker.
Ph Sheffield 755941.

BLACK FLAG

FORTNIGHTLY NEWSBULLETIN Vol VII 5D No. 108

TWO EDITORS JAILED West Germany



Writing about state repression has landed two comrades, both editors of the anarchist paper "Radikal", a 2½ year jail sentence.

Their crime was that the paper published articles condemning state violence, approving resistance against state repression, and criticising militarism. The persecution also charged them with publishing details about the activities of the Revolutionary Cells, the anarchist underground network, that grew out of the Red Army Fraction and June 2 Movement. The two editors, Benny Haerlin and Micky Kloekner, were found guilty of publishing letters sent to the paper by the RZ. The journalists union in West Germany has condemned the court's decision and has claimed that a dangerous precedent has been set. Reporters and investigative journalists are worried that the verdict represents an infringement on press freedom. The implication is that anyone who publishes stories from the angle of anyone or any organisation, that the state is opposed to (i.e. Communists, revolutionaries, peace protesters, prison support groups, environmental groups, etc) can be subject to criminal proceedings.

It's not illegal to publish or read anarchist papers - not yet! But the state has proven time and time again that it will take every opportunity available and every means at its disposal to criminalise all forms of dissent - if that dissent proves to be an effective challenge.

LETTERS OF SUPPORT TO: RADIKAL, c/o ZEITUNGSKOOPERATIVE, POSTGACH 420, EISENBAHNSTRASSE 4, 1000 BERLIN 36 WEST GERMANY 36

BLACK FLAG/BLACK CROSS
c/o Box ABC, 121 Railton Road,
London SE24 (01) 274 6655

Published, typeset & layout by
Black Flag Collective.

Shop and bulk distribution by
A Distribution, 84b Whitechapel
High Street, London E1.

BLACK FLAG READERS MEETING
WILL TAKE PLACE IN LIVERPOOL
ON SATURDAY MARCH 17TH

FROM 11AM TO 11PM

PUB NEAR LIME STREET RAILWAY
STATION.

TEL: (01) 2746655 FOR DETAILS

BENEFIT RESULTS

The Benefit concert for the Vancouver 5 and K. Omori was a great social night. The excellent Happy Ending 15 piece band, Poets and the Canadian DOA band along with videos helped us to get in all £210. Alas, the PA (amplification) cost £90, the hire of instruments for the DOA band was £70 so we only made £50. The major part of this will be sent to the V5 Defence committee with the remainder going into publicity on the Omori case. Thanks to all those who came.

WHAT EVER NEXT?

Shock horrors! You may or may not have seen our ad. in the latest issue of New Statesman. Well if you didn't, it's reproduced below.

Why are we advertising?

Well, we think there's a large number of libertarians and potential libertarians who rarely come across anarchist papers (let alone anarchists) and as the sort of news items that regularly appear in the New Statesman (circulation 30,000) are clearly of interest to libertarian socialists and those on the 'non-aligned left' (whatever that is), we thought that we'd experiment and see just how many new readers to the Flag we'd get as a result. We'll let you know if we decide to take a spot on the telly as well!

Yes, that's right!
There is an alternative to
State Socialism

BLACK FLAG

Fortnightly newspaper 25p
and Quarterly magazine 75p.

Where else can you find . . .

- strategies for workers' defence: mutual aid at the workplace and in the neighbourhood
 - reports and communiques from the 'illegal front' and contacts in the libertarian underground
 - policing: tackling the cause as well as the symptoms
 - anarcho-syndicalism, collectivism and industrial unionism: alternatives to the trade union sell-out
 - sabotaging militarism and state security: creating citizens' militias
 - nationalism (left and right) and the state fascists in our midst
 - squeezing the capital out of capitalism: rekindling the class war and direct resistance
 - prison struggles and international support actions
- Specialising in revolutionary Anarchist ideas, news and comment, regular international updates and anti-state investigations, we print the stories other publications dare not touch.

'It's a riot' - K. Newman
'Outrageous, wittily subversive' -
M. Heseltine

Annual combined subscription £9 UK and
Europe £17 (airmail) elsewhere.
Subscribe NOW and we'll send you the new
Black Flag 1984 'Survival Kit'.



THE ECONOMY

Fiddling at work has enormous benefits says Dr Gerald Mars, a sociologist, in a new book *Cheats at Work* - reviewed in the Daily Telegraph. Not only does it have the offspin of cash reward, but it increases job satisfaction, raises work rates, provides incentive bonuses and leads to greater production.

The "black economy" has become not only an alternative to State-controlled private economy, but is successful whereas "straight work" systems are failing. The latter cannot even provide sufficient work. Increased money flow comes from the skiving, the fiddling, the moonlighting.

Those who work are exploited and can only relieve the exploitation by some degree or other of deviation whether petty theft, false accounting of overtime, unworked work hours, "charging up expenses" and the like. Dr Mars confirms it is "good for workers and bosses". Evasion of tax in some cases is all that makes the job worthwhile.

Those who are kept unemployed are also exploited; their weight of numbers is used to control the economy & keep work down. But those who "moonlight" - go on working privately but receive unemployment benefit - contribute twice; to their exploitation as workers and exploitation as the unemployed. They are the builders of the economy, the government recognises it in recent legislation by offering people who set up in their own businesses the chance of going on to get unemployment pay as well for a couple of years, to get the economy moving.

Question and Answer on Anarchism

Q: Anarchism is against the idea of a vanguard party to give the masses revolutionary awareness and push the masses to abolish capitalism - why? It is also against "dictatorship of the proletariat" why? Won't the workers have to dictate to the bourgeoisie as to what goes on? How would we deal with counter-revolutionaries from taking power? Why not have people's courts, police, prisons and army or even workers' state accountable and rotated, not cut off from the working class, to protect worker's interests, as the Marxists say?

A: A "vanguard" party, that is to say one LEADING "the masses", must come from OUT - SIDE "the masses" (whatever they are: it is a Russian idea, nobody in Western Europe regards themselves as belonging to "the masses"). The idea of the "vanguard" is the old Marxist idea of Leadership by the scholars. Leninism put forward Leadership by the armed scholars, but it seems this has been amended to "the students" who are presumed to have both learning and the revolutionary fervour which

RICH SCUM

March 1st marked the first celebration of the 'Spring Offensive Against The Rich', initiated by Class War. About 40 trouble-makers spat at, threw eggs at, insulted and jostled the rich parasites as they arrived at the Horse and Hounds Ball at the Grosvenor Hotel, owned by Sir Charles Forte and known for its anti-union stance.

Many of us were masked with 2 people holding a banner "behold your future executioners". The cops took

This may reverse the traditional capitalist morality. But it is sound economic sense. The capitalist system when properly working, does expand the economic "cake" and make a bigger one for all to enjoy. It leaves the "cutting of the cake" to those with the biggest muscle. Those who do not have political or financial pull must compete for bigger slices, at the expense of those who have too much. This is what elementary working class organisation is all about. It is a fiction put about by those with the largest slices that anyone else's bigger slice must inevitably be at the expense of the sections of society without "muscle". The fiction is designed to keep them apart and so remain powerless, by playing on envy. The result of not doing this is a crashed capitalist economy. That's good? But it does not mean prosperity, it simply spreads misery.

In opposition to this economic truth, not only envy, but actually morality and religion are enlisted. (It is regarded as dishonest to fiddle at work). Such morality is purely determined by the Establishment. The "unemployed" were told by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, speaking in Liverpool, that to find jobs they must lower wages. Mr Lawson explained, "Cheaper wages will mean more jobs", in other words, the slice of the cake available to people classified as unemployed, will be increased, if they work, not to the amount carved out by normal commercial and industrial agreements, but in accordance with their status as economic pariahs. This is swindling on a grand scale.

candidly one has doubts about either in great quantity. There is no need to "dictate" to the bourgeoisie, if by that is meant employers, since a revolution would sweep them aside. There is a need for a militia to prevent counter-revolutionaries from outside or inside taking power, but not of courts, police, army etc which represent the counter-revolution. The idea that these State functions can be rotated and made accountable is an attractive liberal idea which never works (British style democracy rotates an elective dictatorship). The very reason why it is said these State functions should be rotated is precisely because in "socialist" countries they palpably are not. The phrase "dictatorship of the proletariat" is a cover-up. There clearly IS a dictatorship. This being impossible to deny, it is said to be a dictatorship "of the proletariat" - but in what way does it differ class-wise from any other dictatorship? Do the judges also mine coal, or the police plough fields, or the Generals put in a morning's ditch-digging? This would even so be only dictatorship by a PART of the proletariat!

half an hour to arrive, so many poncey couples had their night and clothes ruined before we decided to make a tactical retreat. One "Red Action" member was arrested and later charged on four counts, including "assaulting a police officer".

A Chicago US anarchist paper, *The Alarm* reported on a counter-Thanksgiving March of 3,000 people in Chicago in 1884, the following: "The demonstrators groaned, hissed and hooted at the old and young sprigs of aristocracy who filled the windows and were 'beholding their future executioners'".

GCHQ

1. A QUESTION OF LOYALTY



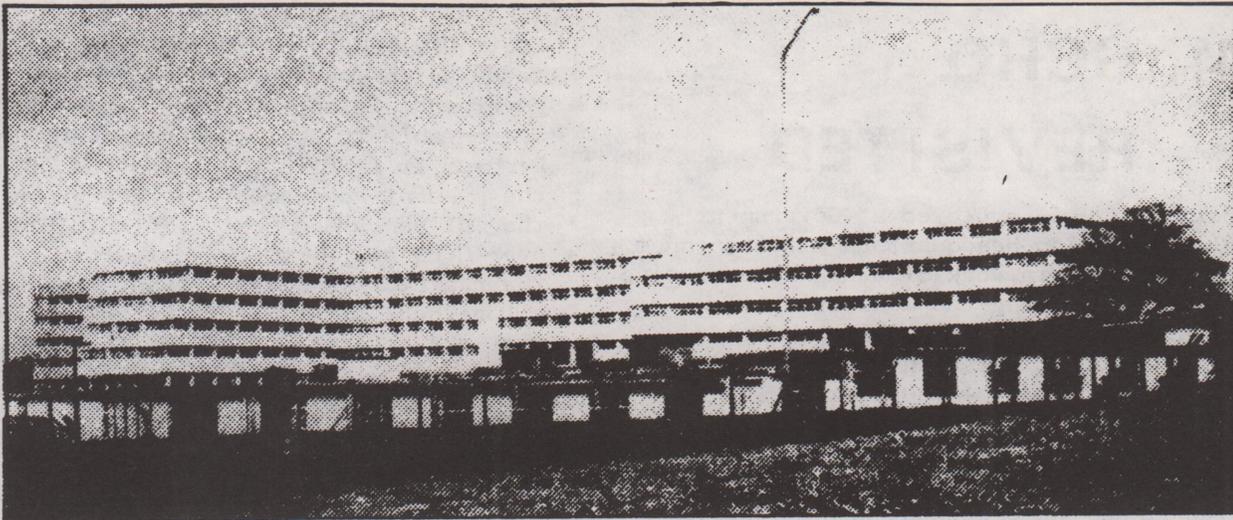
Perhaps the most inspiring thing about Tuesdays 'half day of action' by many trade unionists throughout the country, in protest at the government's attempt to curtail the right to trade union membership, was hearing of the 200 or so Sellafield (Windscale) nuclear power plant workers down tools and come out in solidarity. Other trade unionists who came out in support included rail workers, newspaper workers, shipyard workers, car workers and, of course, civil servants. Even the TUC chief, Len Murray, looked aggressively determined when he announced that the TUC would be withdrawing from many state committees and consultative bodies (not unnecessarily a bad thing for the trade union movement anyway!) in protest. There are now threats of a possible one day national strike if any of the GCHQ staff who refused to be de-unionised are dismissed from their jobs.

The GCHQ staff themselves did not go on strike on the 'half day of action'. Their dilemma was that they did not wish to hand to the government the ammunition proving that anti-union campaign had been justified from the very beginning. In the end the vast majority of GCHQ staff signed away their union rights - many clearly doing so under duress and threat of possible dismissal. Many probably have mortgage or HP payments to make: as one member of staff at the time said, 'Choice? There was no choice'.

The main union at GCHQ is the Society of Civil and Public Servants. Their record for industrial action at GCHQ is hardly notable, that is until the government attempted to impose the polygraph (lie detector) as a means of testing loyalty. The staff at GCHQ forcibly rejected any use of the polygraph, and they received strong union backing. As a result panic buttons began to be pushed at Whitehall (and Washington): a 'mole' had already been rooted out at the base and the government's worry was that staff could very well be placed in a position where their loyalties would eventually be inextricably divided between the state and the trade unions. Furthermore the Tories believed firmly in the principle that state security should never be challenged or put at risk because of an industrial dispute.

2. PRECEDENTS

It is clearly the policy of the present government, when it comes down to the issue of trade union rights, to push the limits of their repressive powers as far as they believe they can do so without being effectively challenged. The Tories also believed - quite correctly - that there was much cynicism within the trade union movement with its leadership. But then they seriously underestimated the solidarity workers around the country would show when their trade union rights are attacked.



In one sense GCHQ was a soft option for the government: those with little to lose are generally the most militant and most of the staff at GCHQ are relatively well paid and would probably therefore think twice before risking unemployment. Nevertheless the staunch reaction showed by the GCHQ staff as the dispute developed surprised everyone, while the government's lack of tact and general mismanagement of the whole affair no doubt added to and encouraged the determined resistance shown.

But it was clear very early on that the Tories would win in the end on percentage figures, leaving the way open for them to push the question over loyalty even further by suggesting that that GCHQ staff - and other Crown employees in other top security establishments be 'protected' by law from disloyal influences. In this respect the government would, no doubt, wish to 'do a GCHQ' on other Crown employees, such as those who work at the Royal Ordnance Factories. However many Tory MP's now believe that Thatcher made a grave mistake (hence, the reason why so many abstained at the recent Commons vote) in not accepting the SCPS 'no-strike' offer which, if implemented, could have been used as a precedent - with added TUC blessing - against other 'essential industries', such as Telecom, the Gas Industry, etc.

There is one option though that the government may decide to go for in respect of GCHQ and other security establishments. That is, to initiate the threat of possible legal action (Official Secrets Act and Incitement to Disaffect, etc) against trade unionists (or anyone else for that matter) who try to interfere with the internal dealings of that establishment or try to assist in any industrial dispute. This option would be the government's 'added protection'.

3. THE TUC'S ROLE

It did not take the TUC leadership long to throw its full weight behind the 'no-strike' agreement offer from the SCPS; but then its tactics changed drastically when it saw that the government was not even prepared to bend and accept that. So they cautiously proposed the idea of a 'half day general strike'. Taken aback by the massive

solidarity shown by workers around the country, the TUC leadership has now proposed a possible one day general strike if there are any dismissals at GCHQ. The government may very well decide it would be more tactical to try for transfers rather than actually sacking anyone, which would then mean that the TUC would be left with trying to solve the matter through the courts. Like the government the TUC underestimated the deep anger that workers around the country felt because of the attack on their trade union rights. If a one day general strike - together with other disruptive actions - had been called, the dispute may very well be still very much alive and kicking. As with the NGA dispute workers have shown that it is the rank and file who determine both the pace and degree of protest, while the TUC leadership awkwardly fall in line with the general consensus, until a face-saver can be found.

For its part the TUC leadership probably welcomed the opportunity to become involved in a major campaign that may have helped to restore its waning credibility. Over the last few years especially the trade union movement has suffered defeat after defeat, while its leadership is perceived as merely retreating further down the road of conciliation and compromise. The lower paid, the jobless, those threatened by redundancy: all felt little identification with a movement that appeared to be more concerned with protectionism rather than effective solidarity, with towing the line rather than taking the offensive, and with restrictive practices rather than with job creation.

With the influx of professional bodies and white collar workers, the TUC has gradually lost much of its anti-capitalist pretence. Many of its solidly working class rank and file now swell the ranks of the dole queues. By its own design the TUC caters in the main for only those who are lucky enough to be still earning a wage. And the lower paid wonder if the TUC can do anything at all to prevent them from being priced out of the job market altogether.

The alternative to the TUC can only be a federation of workers and unemployed, organised on class struggle lines,

Liberties are under threat

4. GCHQ REVISITED

Most of those employed at Government Communication Headquarters at Cheltenham are engaged in work of a highly secretive nature involving the monitoring of signals on a global scale on behalf of the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) and SIGINT - the military signals intelligence wing of the Western Alliance.

It is now more or less common knowledge, thanks to the excellent investigative work undertaken by Duncan Campbell (New Statesman), that GCHQ was responsible for arranging the bugging of Harold Wilson's private office, when he was Prime Minister; that it is involved in the design of phone tapping equipment, for use by British Telecom; that GCHQ staff set up and monitored trade union meetings and campaign meetings organised by local activists involved in the Grunwicks dispute. The nature of GCHQ work involves those who work there directly in activities that seek to thwart those opposed to the state or to government policy. Left militants, peace protesters, union activists, anarchists: all come under the the GCHQ microscope.

GCHQ works directly with MI5 on internal surveillance, including the phone tapping of subversives, etc. Together with the National Security Agency (NSA) in the USA, GCHQ plays a major role in defence of Western interests. The centre is directly connected to out-stations (listening posts) in Cyprus, Malta, Hong Kong, Australia (Pine Gap), West Berlin, as well as similar set-ups in Sweden, Brazil, Turkey and West Germany. Fort Meade, the NSAHQ in Maryland, is its Big Brother and operational co-partner in heading the SIGINT consortium. GCHQ staff are officially part of the Foreign Office and have their own Deputy of State. Much of its budget though comes under the Defence Expenditure.

The other major listening post in the UK - some estimate it to be, perhaps, the most strategic for the Western Alliance - is Menwith Hill, Yorkshire.

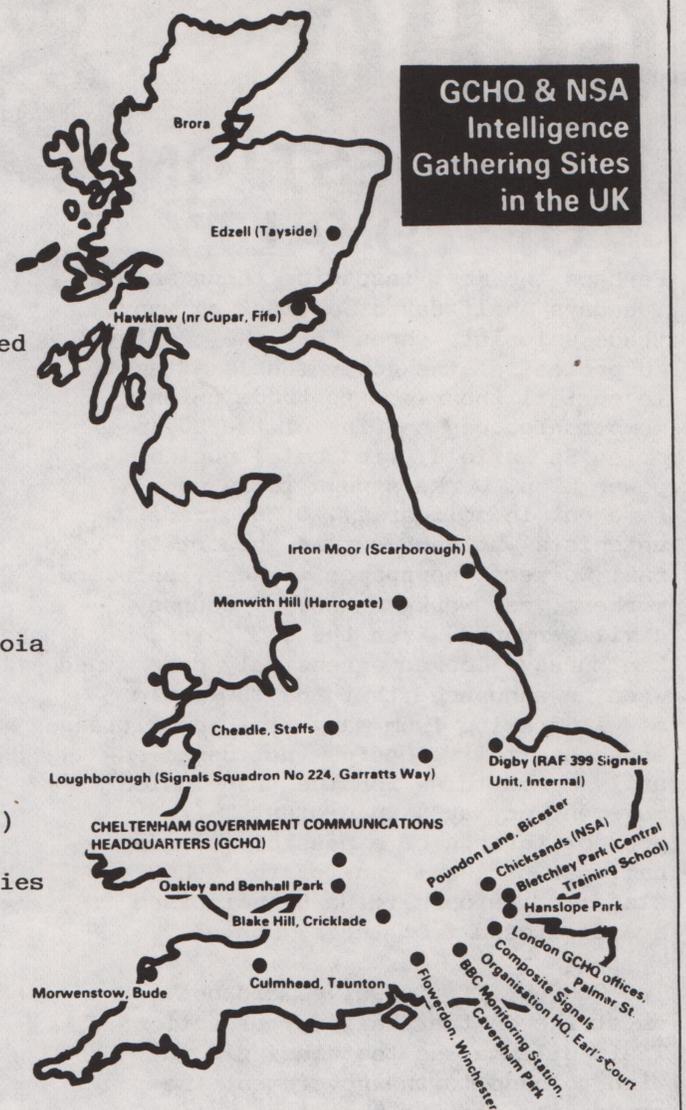
Menwith Hill, to which GCHQ is directly linked, has the capability of monitoring all UK telephone traffic, having a direct input to the BT microwave system (which was, in fact, built to fit in with Menwith Hill's own network). In times of national emergency Menwith Hill and GCHQ will control, operationally, all UK communications, feeding in all communication intelligence to Wartime Military Command. GCHQ is already linked to spyships, spy satellites, and other surveillance centres on a global basis. Under agreement with NSA, it has prime responsibility for Signals Intelligence gathering for the whole of Europe, Africa and western USSR. Ultimately it is responsible to the government, but its operational control is jealously guarded by the Intelligence Service (MI5 and MI6) and SIGINT. GCHQ is just the right kind of establishment that could easily become the centre of a power struggle between Whitehall policy makers and senior figures in the military. The recent dispute over the status of civil servants and government scientists at the centre may very well be symptomatic of such a struggle in deciding to whom GCHQ is ultimately responsible.

By attempting to sever altogether the link between the staff at GCHQ and their Civil Servant trade union and trade union movement generally, the government is hoping to make GCHQ more accountable to Central Government. Perhaps it is also the intention of the present government to strengthen the influence and control of SIGINT over GCHQ staff, to the extent that their status as civil servants is dropped altogether. After all it is quite clear that the Foreign Office and the GCHQ Senior Civil Servants have been unable to maintain the rigid discipline a base such as GCHQ demands. Perhaps it is also an indication of future government plans (to drastically increase surveillance usage - and the number and type of targets selected) that explains the government's current paranoia and enthusiasm in trying to isolate GCHQ staff from outside anti-government (although, not necessarily anti-state) influence. After all, the question must be asked, could trade unionists (whatever their political affiliations) be trusted to help the state in the monitoring and recording of the activities of other fellow trade unionists?

5. A WORKERS CLUB?

There are several options now open to the GCHQ staff, given that the government will probably now play softly softly for a while until the issue is no longer front page news and a 'cause celebre' for trade unionism. Firstly the GCHQ staff could take the opportunity to form a local syndicate of all GCHQ workers - clerks, scientists, cleaners, catering staff, administrators, etc - at the base and to set up their own negotiating committee - composed of delegates from all staff sections.

Furthermore, GCHQ staff could go on the offensive by collectively rejecting any further work involving the surveillance of fellow trade unionists - a step in the right direction at least. To date there has never been any trade union picket of GCHQ against the kind of work undertaken at the centre. The TUC have kept completely silent on this whole issue (although, admittedly, much of the monitoring the GCHQ staff do would probably be on the sort of labour militant the TUC leadership would feel little in common with).



The GCHQ staff have received the support and solidarity of trade unionists and workers throughout the country: they could easily reciprocate this solidarity by helping (either openly or anonymously) to expose the extent of the state's anti-trade union activities. After all, is not the government's bribe of £1000 for any GCHQ employee who agrees to become disassociated with their trade union in order that they can retain their job, merely a form of incitement? Incitement to disaffection (from trade unionism). The government has demonstrated that it has acted only as to be expected: to coerce and cajole, by use of threat, those who have shown it loyalty in the past, in order that the security of the corporate state and the 'interests of the nation' may rule supreme. Disaffection can clearly be a two-way affair! And if the state can go on the offensive when it comes down to inciting disloyalty, then so can the trade union movement.

DONCASTER ANARCHISTS HARASSED

On the night of the 15th of February a quarry in South Yorkshire was attacked and sabotaged by 'Open Membership'. In their statement to the press 'Open Membership' claimed responsibility for slashing conveyor belts, pouring sand into diesel engines and daubing slogans, damage estimated at £1,000. They also stated their intention to burn down the office on site, but refrained from this because the night was foggy which would have put the fire personnel at risk.

The quarry is owned by Amey Roadstone Corporation, which are sub-contractors at Greenham Common. 'Open

Membership' claimed responsibility for a similar action in November at a quarry owned by Tarmac who are also involved in construction at Greenham.

A week after this attack, on the 23rd of February three anarchists were arrested in Doncaster and held for questioning for 11 hours, their home was searched and items taken for forensic tests.

During the questioning the police implied that the arrests had taken place because of a tip off, from someone who not only set the comrades up but informed the police of their political ideology. Because of the nature of the questioning it is believed that someone within the local CND group informed on the Doncaster comrades, either because he/she believed they were responsible or because of their politics.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

JAPAN

STATE VIOLENCE

GERMANY

IMMIGRATION CONTROL IN BERLIN

On New Years eve 1983 6 people were burned to death in a Berlin prison where they were awaiting deportation. All investigations by the Fire Brigade show that these prisoners who lit their mattresses and blocked the doors of their cells must have been driven to despair. The police are investigating the supposed rebellion and arson. The politicians say that they can't understand how this incident could have happened. "It is incomprehensible".

Behind all this is nothing less than a repressive and racist policy which has been practised by the German Govt. for years. It is aimed at people who come from other countries to seek asylum or want to join their families who have lived in Germany for years.

In a Christmas message in Berlin the Interior and most hated for his repressive policy against Berlin squatters) called upon everybody who seeks asylum to leave Germany voluntarily. "We cannot solve the problems of other countries; and in the best interest of all our taxpayers and the jobmarket we cannot allow an unlimited number of people to live in our country."

In fact less than 10% of all applications for asylum get accepted and other deterrent methods are common practise. People who seek asylum are not allowed to work. They get supplementary benefit from the Govt., but not as cash, they get

vouchers. Lots of these people are forced to live in assembly camps. Foreigners get picked up in the street in Berlin by the Immigration police before they are able to apply for asylum. Then they will either be put into prison to await deportation or be put immediately onto a plane to fly them back to their countries. This happened to hundreds of people from Pakistan and Sri Lanka during 1978 & 1981 although the German Govt. knew that most of the people from Sri Lanka would get arrested almost immediately when they arrived.

The people who have been put in prison in Berlin have to stay there very often for several months, sometimes for over a year. The prison conditions are (like in any other prison) absolutely humiliating. "There is space" for about 55 prisoners, divided up in 3 cells each for 15-20 people. There is no possibility for any sort of recreation: no television, radio, newspapers. "normal life, minus liberty", that's what the Berlin President of Police calls it. But the prisoners think about it in a very different way. The incident on New Years Eve when six prisoners died was just one of many protests against deportation and prison conditions. Ten people committed suicide last year, in August 1983, 36 prisoners went on hunger strike for about 5 weeks and in September 1982 about 30 prisoners tried to commit suicide together. The Berlin parliament acknowledged that the prison conditions are dreadful, but nothing changed.

SOURCE: *Internationalist*.

FRANCE

DEBT TO SOCIETY

Three French Nazi collaborators have been released. Two had originally been sentenced to death, one to life; all were released after twenty years imprisonment. Mtre Serge Klarsfeld, the lawyer and Nazi-catcher, said, "These three men, Jean Barbier, Jacques Vassasseur and Joseph Cartial, have paid their debt to society".

We are not in favour of keeping people in jail. These people were guilty of mass murders in France, in collusion with Klaus Barbie, "the Butcher of Lyons". Yet we cannot help thinking of so many dear comrades in Spain who paid "their debt" to society

also with twenty years, and what was their crime? Trying to prevent these people carrying on their butchery on Spanish soil! And we think of certain French Anarchists, held up to hatred for the whole world (except Paris, incidentally, where nobody ever dares do so because they are regarded as heroes of working-class resistance) guillotined for perhaps one murder - not forty and fifty groups of pathetic refugee schoolchildren, running into 14,000 in this particular case. The Anarchists singled out a Statist and made them pay for their super-statist crimes. Whereas the Nazi super-statists singled out a whole race or nation to pay for their own crimes!

It seems society's debts need to be collected by a fairer collecting agency.

told him that his case had been that very morning, and could he come in to let them sort it out? On arrival he was arrested and put in jail (Brixton) on remand. The judge who put him there mentioned that his was 'a very serious offence' and there is a possibility of him being kept there for some time. One bright moment only: a fellow prisoner told him of an incident in court, where the judge asked the spokesman for a gang of 'burglars' for detailed information regarding the break-ins they had pleaded guilty to. 'Well in fact, your honour', the spokesman said, 'one of the places was your summer residence.' 'Oh, yes?' 'That's right, your honour, but all I found were some vibrators and a load of rubber gear'. The judge walked out in disgust... Good luck to Martin, and here's hoping you don't get a kinky one.

With the life of our comrade Omori still hanging very much in the balance, it was with interest that we learnt of a recent report, published by a group of Tokyo lawyers, has revealed evidence to prove that Japanese police methods for extracting confessions, where other 'evidence' is lacking, is not exactly the finest example of fair play. Many ex-prisoners, who were later acquitted of all charges, gave details of brutal interrogations and torture. The percentage of wrongful arrests and false convictions in Japan is extremely high. A study of 25 people who confessed to crimes they did not commit, and whose names were later cleared, showed that in each case torture and harsh interrogation techniques were used by the police in order that the case could be 'wrapped up'. Astonishingly EIGHTY-SIX PER CENT of all committals to trial in Japan are as a result of a so-called confession. Even more astonishing is the percentage rate for convictions claimed by the judicial authorities: 99.7%!

One lawyer has stated that the authorities depend heavily on confessions because the police are basically useless at their job. Perhaps another factor in securing early admissions of guilt is the extraordinary physical conditions of Japanese police cells. Suspects and remand prisoners are put not in cells but in small cages, which are so tiny that the prisoner cannot even stand up. At night lights are invariably left on all the time. The food is supposed to be atrocious. Surveillance is on a 24 hour basis.

Japan's most famous prisoner was Sakae Menda. He served 34 years - after 'confessing' to murder - and was constantly under the threat of the death penalty. He was recently released after a retrial, when his earlier conviction was overturned. The Japanese legal system allows police to hold suspects almost indefinitely until their enquiries are complete - in other words until they have extracted a confession. Suspects and remand prisoners in addition have few rights with regard to access to solicitors. The police need no magistrates order to detain suspects or to keep them imprisoned for long periods of time. None of this may amount to actual torture - although there are numerous instances of police brutality and physical assault on prisoners during interrogation periods. Nevertheless the conditions themselves that force prisoners to admit to crimes they had nothing to do with are in themselves a form of torture, the consequences of which can sometimes, as Omori may soon know, be terminal.

MULTI - NATIONAL

HYSTER SHYSTER

Some issues back we reported on the situation of the workers at Hyster's fork-lift truck plant. The company forced the workers to accept large wage cuts in return for the promise of job security and the creation of 1000-1500 new jobs in the area which has one of the highest unemployment rates in Britain. If you were sceptical you were right. The bosses are now saying that it never at any time promised new jobs and the guarantees of job security were 'conditional'. The same company made similar spurious pledges in Europe and the States and looks like getting away with it!



PRISONER ON REMAND IN BRIXTON

Martin Smith was arrested during 'Stop The City' last year for 'attempted criminal damage to a police vehicle'. He was ill over the period when his trial came up and into the courts to let them know. They accepted the explanation but then a warrant was put out for his arrest and finally a new date set. But they didn't inform him properly either of the date or the whereabouts of the case; when he phoned up and after a few hours got through to the right authorities they

PRISONS

DURHAM PRISON

Five women in Durham Prison are still on hunger strike in protest at the harsh conditions still being maintained in one of the prison's wings.

The five are receiving support in their protest from a group of ex-prisoners called Women in Prison.

Three of the women are classified as Category A (ie, considered to be highly dangerous). One of the five is Judith Ward who was convicted of involvement in the M62 coach bombing against British soldiers. Lorraine Greenwood, aged 22, began the protest 4 weeks back: she is now very weak and cannot continue much longer. They are all kept in a unit that was originally built in 1965 to house male prisoners who were considered to be particularly dangerous.

The women insist on being moved to an all womens prison; they also demand that the unit be closed down for good. The unit has already been condemned by two government enquiries.

MATT LYGATE

Matt Lygate, having bravely survived his 34 year sentence, completing 12 years of it - during which ordeal his own republican socialist nationalist comrades would not stand by him - is now of course legit and welcomed by them for his courageous stand, only a decade after it could have done some good. Matt's support came from anarchists. But as he confessed to a prison colleague, he couldn't go along with anarchism "not after reading *State and Revolution* by Lenin, how could anyone?" This is the book that really castigates anarchism as "petty bourgeois". After reading it Will Lawther and many others deserted anarchism, eventually to become trade union leaders and in the end knights and privy councillors in court knee-breeches. Matt is standing as candidate for the rectorship of Glasgow University.

The women are constantly confined to the wing. They have no access at all to the prison's exercise facilities, library, gymnasium, kitchens, hospital and recreation areas. That is because they are not allowed to associate with the other inmates who are all men. The women have also been prevented from taking classes of any sort, including Open University Courses. Most of the time they are kept in solitary, with only short periods of limited association.

The unit has maximum security conditions. Dog runs, electronic devices, CCTV are all features of the wing. Recently up to £10,000 has been spent on flood-lit lighting and barbed wire coils. The unit was in fact closed down in 1971 after riots by the then male inmates. It was reopened again in 1974 after a spate of guerrilla attacks, involving women, concerning mainly Irish and Arab issues. It should never have been built at all and it is clear that despite earlier condemnations, the prison authorities have every intention of keeping the place available for future use, whether or not the women succeed in getting transfers.

JOSIE THOMAS

Josie Thomas, the Huddersfield woman has lost her Appeal against Deportation. She is appealing against the decision, if that appeal fails she will be deported. Josie has lived in Huddersfield for the past 20+ years called in by the British Govt. to do the shit work. She has supported herself by working ever since, getting a skin disease from when she worked in a fireworks factory. She lost her right to stay in Britain when she went back to Grenada to nurse her father (who was dying) & stayed there five months too long. Due to the unfamiliarity with bureaucracy she did not realise she had stayed out of the UK for too long and she did not qualify for residence permit when she got back to Britland. The Home Office insists it gave her a repatriation grant, Josey denies this. Her family has been split between the UK & Grenada ever since. Help Josie by writing to David Waddington at the Home Office quoting the reg. no. T135557.

LETTERS

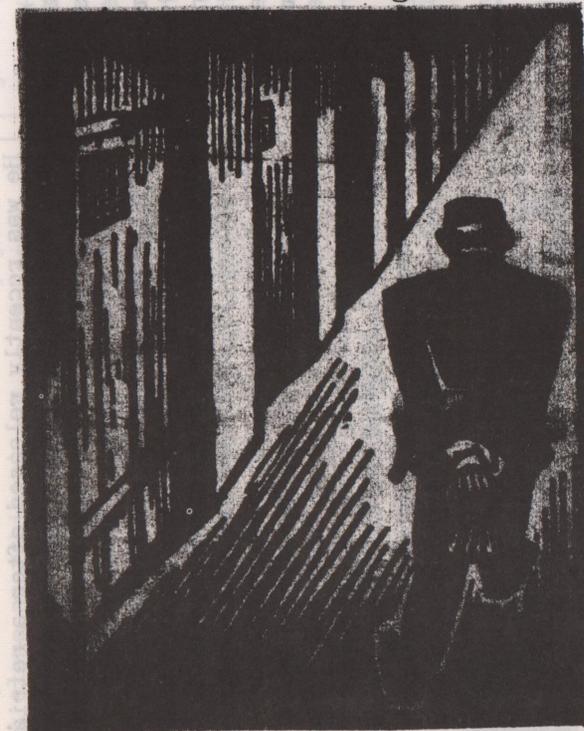
IRELAND

Since the escape at Long Kesh, the Prison Officers Association (screws union) have increased their harassment of Nationalist and Republican prisoners, especially re-captured escapees.

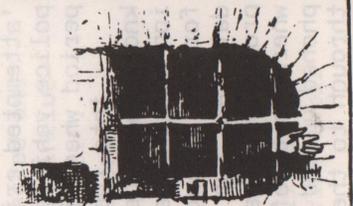
There have not only been restrictions on handicrafts and hobbies - even the educational facilities have been stopped. There are now no opportunities to study for 'O' or 'A' levels or Open University courses. On the whole it is felt that the screws are doing everything they can to initiate protests, which can then be used in their current dispute over pay and staffing levels.

In addition mail is going missing - more so than usual - visits are being cut short or stopped altogether, and tension is mounting generally. Only recently 19 ex-escapees, who were recaptured, were badly beaten up and left naked in solitary. They have since not been allowed to mix with other prisoners, nor to have any physical contact with their families during visits. At night lights are also being switched on at hourly intervals, in order that the prisoners are prevented from getting any proper sleep.

SOURCE: A letter smuggled out of Long Kesh.



RETURN TO
DRAWER "O", BURNABY
BRITISH COLUMBIA
V5H 3N4



CANADA

Its 10pm and we've just been locked in for the night for some privacy, peace and quiet. I write letters, read or even just sit and contemplate without any distractions.

The whole media-coverage around this first Trial is really strange in that they are not allowed to mention the upcoming "political" bombing trials or refer to us as anarchists, extremists or terrorists, so the reporting is very low key and strictly "criminal". We're still at a very early stage of this trial in front of the jury. It was pretty funny that the members of the Emergency Response Team wore their scarlet tunics - the full dress RCMP uniform - in court. They looked like they'd just ridden up to the Court on horseback or stepped out of some tourism poster. Ah, the RCMP - symbol of Canada. The McDonald Commission Inquiry into the RCMP a few years back revealed that the RCMP activities against the Quebec separatist movement and the urban guerrilla F.L.Q included: false communiques, dynamite thefts by police, burning of a barn where a meeting was planned to be held, Breaking and Enter-

ing of offices used by 'radicals', duplication of computerised party membership lists; intimidation of activists in attempts to create informers etc.

D.O.A. are touring Britain and Europe soon, they are worth checking out if you hear where they'll be playing. Their last record was called *General Strike* and the one before that was a benefit single with the proceeds going to our defence.

Other than having to endure the Court tedium day after day I'm doing quite good. I hope things are well for you all. Take good care.

The streets are the garden beds of the future. Salud!

Brent Taylor

Free the Vancouver Five
Newsletter available
for a donation from:
Box 48296, Bentall Stn.
VANCOUVER B.C. V7X 1A1
CANADA