

## THE REPRESSION TRADE

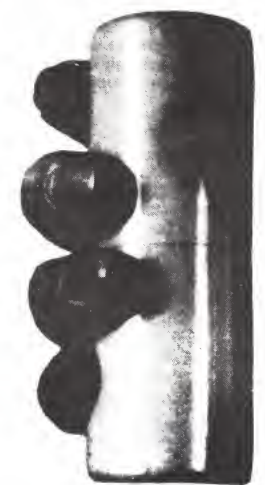
It is vital to oppose the 'Bomb', and hopefully such opposition will widen not narrow people's vision of what they do oppose, to include all militarism. Great Britain is one of the big four arms dealing nations of the world.

Three-quarters of British arms are sold to the Third World, whose governments continue to spend more on arms than health.

But the arms trade does not only prevent the very poor of this world from obtaining their fair share of global resources it also is a major factor in fostering military rivalries, regional arms races and in maintaining dictatorships. Britain might conceivably sell other exports to these nations - to help develop transport and agricultural systems, or a

decent water supply in lieu of arms. In fact, large quantities of arms are sold at a loss - for political reasons. (Nor incidentally, does the arms industry show real interest in providing jobs - more and more workers are replaced by machines.)


Between 1977 and 1979, Britain sold arms to more than 40 countries listed by Amnesty International as having violated human rights. This comes as no surprise when one realises Britain is the world's 2nd



Plastic bullet

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### STOP 'THE CITY'



was a blockade of the Stock Exchange involving 500 - 1000 anarchists, of which 200/210 were arrested in direct confrontations with police, including blockades of courts and Wood St. Police Station. Follow up meetings, to discuss, amongst other things the setting up of a defense fund were held Oct. 15th/16th as this issue went to press. Defense fund address: 121 Railton Rd. London SE24.

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- Buses — can't pay,  
won't pay ETC.

# CARREFOUR - CNT VICTORY

AFTER 127 DAYS OF STRUGGLE, Carrefour Aimar S.p.a., the supermarket chain, was forced to reinstate the two workers and anarcho-syndicalist militants it had sacked five months earlier. The story began on December 28th 1982 when Ignacio Nevado got his dismissal letter; the "official" reason being that a leaflet of the CNT\* section (not recognised by the firm) had been found on him. January 4th another CNT militant, Julian Ortega, was sacked; the pretext this time being that he had taken home his work overalls.

## CARREFOUR BOYCOTT

Faced with these two sackings the CNT Barcelona federation lost no time, organising a large demonstration with the call to "boycott Carrefour." On January 8th the police intervened to break up a picket at the entrance to the supermarket, making a few arrests.

From that day on arrests, insults and tricks became a regular feature, though they failed to shake the CNT's resolve to fight. For 127 consecutive days the anarcho-syndicalist militants of the CNT picketed the supermarket entrance, demanding the reinstatement of the two sacked workers. During all this time the bosses, police, political parties and official unions found themselves united against the Carrefour fight, hoping in a defeat for the CNT.

The anarcho-syndicalist militants used all the means at their disposal to convince people to boycott the supermarket: from stink bombs to leaflets to the erection of barricades in front of the entrances. Many customers who had parked their cars in front of Carrefour got a nasty surprise when they found all the tyres let down....Solidarity with the two sacked workers

wasn't restricted to Barcelona, with demonstrations against Carrefour being organised in many other Spanish cities. Carrefour even flew in their managing director from Paris

## CNT RESISTANCE

to help break the CNT's resistance. He decided to launch a massive publicity campaign, and the slogan "Do your shopping at Carrefour" was transmitted on Spanish radio and television.

Finally on May 17th the judge proclaimed his sentence; the two sackings were illegal (!), and the two workers must be re-hired. The CNT had won, not even the law could win it for Carrefour this time.

On May 19th, the day the two CNT militants returned to work, the firm put out a statement in which it admitted defeat and hoped for a return to the peace lost when it had decided to attack the CNT. A few days later Spanish television and radio began to transmit Carrefour's new publicity slogan: "Now you can shop in peace at Carrefour".

\*CNT - National Confederation of Labour - the Spanish anarcho-syndicalist union federation, has a membership of tens of thousands, organising workers in many industries. A sort of revolutionary TUC. The most militant of the Spanish union confederations.

Translated from "Umanita Nova" (No.27, year 63) by D.M.



CNT march against the 'social contract'.

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# THE MILITARISATION OF POLISH MINING

## NOTES FROM POLISH MINING

The militarization of the Polish mining industry has had, as in every other area of activity, severe consequences for the conditions and safety of the workers. Conditions in the mines have worsened as people work harder for less real wages, and maintenance is virtually non-existent. All that matters is extracting the coal. Leaving their jobs is regarded as desertion subject to a three year prison sentence, and in extreme cases, can mean death.

Under Martial Law, everyone worked Saturdays while there were so-called "voluntary" shifts on Sundays. If anyone failed to turn up for these shifts, they were treated as deserters and penalised accordingly. Since the suspension of Martial Law, Sundays are now free, but Saturday is still a working day. The miners are forced to work arbitrarily-chosen days at the discretion of the military state.

The results of a rigorous six-day week are shown up by the massive stockpiles of unsold coal. One third of the coal extracted has no buyer. Although free Saturdays would solve this problem to an extent by decreasing the coal output by one sixth, this is out of the question under the present regime. The miners need the extra money gained by working a six-day week. Therefore it is unlikely that the long working hours which produce the stockpiles (wasting human and mineral resources) will be reduced.

The "Solidarity year" of 1981 was the best period for work safety and there were remarkably few industrial accidents. Not one miner died due to negligence. The introduction of Martial Law led to a vast increase in fatalities and injuries. These were not reported in the media, unless too many people knew, which made a cover-up impossible. In the first nine months of Martial Law 161 workers were killed in mining accidents, and hundreds injured. These figures are the worst since the 1950's.

On the 3rd April 1982, 5 miners died in the Wiktorja colliery, and a further 7 died on the 5th June. These accidents were due to extraction of coal "inconsistent with the rules and principles of mining techniques". In the Dymitrow Colliery, 11 miners died on the 18th of June, 5 died on the 8th July, and on the 28th November, 17 miners and rescue workers were killed. All of these accidents were due to miners working in tremor-risk areas (which had not been adequately investigated) resulting from exhausted seams not having been made safe. On the 28th December, 5 miners died in the Katowice Colliery as a result of lack of attention being given to the danger of tremors.

The miners of several collieries appealed to the Minister of Mining and Energy in January 1983, stating their desire to end the enormous surplus of coal, and to put a stop to the "tragic tremors" and supposed "natural disasters" which were in effect caused by the failures of the administration to deal adequately with the safety conditions in the mines.

The problem extends to land. In Silesia, 99% of the exhausted

mines are allowed to subside and thus flood, forming massive lakes which threaten buildings over an area of 625 square miles. Props of coal are not left in to prevent caving, but are exploited. Between 1979 and 1990, these props are expected to yield 1 billion tonnes of coal.

The accidents and the wasting of valuable resources show how incapable the state administration is of running an industry in safe conditions. As Solidarnosc is now outlawed, and the official unions are state-controlled, the workers will continue to suffer the consequences of their leaders' faults with bad pay and conditions, long hours, injury, and death. Only when the workers themselves control the fruits of their own labour will the problem be solved.

The miners in Poland are often regarded as being privileged because they have special ration books and separate shops. But this is just a tactic of the state to divide and rule the workers in the different industries. Only when they all get together to overthrow their rulers will real wealth be available to all.

N.C.

(The information for this article comes from "Voice of Solidarnosc". Available from: NSZZ "Solidarnosc" Information Office, 314-320 Grays Inn Rd., London WC1X 8DP.

## HINDLES

At the time of going to press, the Hindle's struggle continues, as reported in the last issue of D.A. The workers have won the right to an Industrial Tribunal for unfair dismissal; they were sacked for

going on strike. Support is still needed, as this dispute has been going on a long time.

Hindles Gears Strike Fund,  
A.U.E.W. Offices,  
2, Claremont, Bradford, BD7 1BQ.



# THE REPRESSION TRADE Continued

largest supplier of the 'tools' (weapons) of repression; (her ally, America is number one in the Repression Trade).

The repression trade is known in the arms trade as "internal security equipment". It has also been referred to as "the technology of political control".

Business is booming. Disturbances in Iran, Indonesia, Nicaragua and Turkey, for instance produced a sharp increase in sales of riot control equipment. In fact repression is a more "dependable" trade than war. Since many governments are engaged in a more or less continuous struggle against dissident movements, which also means that the repression trade has a greater impact on the day to day lives of more people than all other arms transfers combined.

To quote Michael Klare, author of 'Supplying Repression; US support for Authoritarian Regimes Abroad', "faced with a choice between continuation of the status quo and a major social upheaval culminating in the rise of unknown leaders, who may or may not respect the TRADE and INVESTMENT policies of their predecessors, most western powers will opt for the status quo".

It is in the interest of the superpowers to strengthen the internal security capabilities of the Third World regimes friendly to them. Generally their support is aid to military and paramilitary forces but in some cases aid is also given to police powers. Aid can range from training to hardware.

Much 'internal security' hardware is not technically weaponry but they are used in political warfare. Such items include surveillance systems and telephone tapping equipment: riot batons and water cannons; thumbscrews and electric shock devices; and computerised intelligence systems. Software includes training, advisory support etc. It is well known that the National Security Agency of the US (NSA) is currently involved in the covert, selective tapping of millions of private

telephone calls in the UK. They achieve this through the creation of special microwave links in the public telecommunications grid. "The reason proffered to legitimise such surveillance of the internal political activity of an allied country is that US plans to reinforce Europe during a future war could be frustrated by the existence of 'fifth columns'." If you're reading this, there's a chance you're either in one of these 'fifth columns', sympathetic to them, or making a note of my name? The USSR does the same thing (but less is known about it).

It would be wise for the British dissident, normally complacent, to contemplate how the UK develops its equipment. It tests them on the streets of Northern Ireland, of course - which is far less than a million miles away.

The weaponry used to be referred to as 'non lethal' but so many people died, it became embarrassing and the name was changed to 'less lethal'. Less lethal weaponry includes plastic /rubber bullets, CN/CS gas, both of which have lead to death. The names 'plastic bullets', 'tear gas' are deliberately soft sounding so that onlookers do not get the impression that the police are too harsh.

Michael Klare was able to get his information on the USA due to the Freedom of Information Act (which Reagan would like to repeal). In the UK, the Official Secrets Act prevents this. Secrecy can be used as a selling point.

The fact that this forces the peoples of some customers to live in fear, under totalitarian control is called the 'social cost' of maintaining a secure world. Such instruments are the functional tools of cultural imperialism (and symbols of it).

These policing technologies increase violence in the long term; increased militarisation of the police leads to further cultural militarisation. CAAT (Campaign Against Arms Trade) asks peace researchers to

focus more analysis on the police and their equipment, since far more people come into direct contact with them than their military counterpart. Peace activists might also be aware of the connection between police and military. But most of all, I think more support could be given to protests at Arms Fairs often selling weapons of torture (and war), though there may not be a spy base or US nuke base near you, there's almost certainly Army Recruitment Offices, the Territorials and if you're in a city or large town, one major police station containing 'internal security equipment'. But it's overseas it's used chiefly (including Northern Ireland) and it's sold, for profit at Arms Fairs. This is where the export deals are won or lost. Public outcry in Britain in 1978 against a sale of armoured cars to El Salvador meant that order was cancelled.

Britain has an expert public face - hence embargoes on arms sales with Amin's Uganda and South Africa - neither of which was respected, trade continued in both instances. We sold landrovers and trucks (with guns on) to Uganda in 1977. They went to the notorious State Research Centre, Kampala, in which thousands were tortured and murdered. Plessey and Marconi supply radar to South Africa, despite the UN arms embargo on South Africa in 1977. Landrovers (vehicles in general, computer and radiocommunication systems and radar) are classed as 'dual role' equipment and are still sold. They could be used for peaceful purposes, but in fact they are used for repressive purposes. The British govt. continues to justify its arms trade by citing Article 51 of the UN Charter, which gives every country the right to self defence. (The Charter also declares there shall be freedom of association, fair trial, no torture or inhuman imprisonment, arbitrary arrest, and that there shall be food, clothing, housing, education, and health care, work in good

conditions etc. ; so I don't think they can really claim to be respecting the UN Charter.)

Local actions can draw attention to local involvement. One way is to find out which local companies are involved. You can find out from CAAT's booklet "The Arms Traders" (£1.50 + postage) available from CAAT, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1 9DX. CAAT also have details (and organise protests at) Arms Fairs.

In America direct actions have been taken; since it was revealed last year that most of the US weapons bound for El Salvador were shipped through Port Chicago, near San Francisco, peace activists have come together to form a network - the Port Chicago Campaign, to oppose these exports. Blockades of the port have taken place and land and sea blockades took place on 28th July. That's direct action. CAAT do invaluable work, but I see no point, as an anarchist, in petitioning govts. (who have shown who they are already). Blockades are a good idea. It's a form of 'blacking' I suppose.

I wonder when the anti mili-



"It's a socially useful device for use on the management"

tarist movement will get round to sabotage, despite the risks. Here in the UK you risk arrest for criminal damage, at the other end of the journey is someone being killed or tortured.

It's worth noting that Britain in this respect is not different from 3rd World nations. We now spend more on 'Defence' than Education (for the first time), under Maggie. We have 500,000 people working on production for military use but only 85,000 doctors and

600,000 teachers. Many of these jobs seem innocuous; only 75,000 work directly on arms export contracts, some are in academic research, others may produce fuses for EMI (not even knowing these are bomb fuses). But do workers have to face a choice between the Arms factory and the dole? No. The workers have themselves indicated they'd rather not be in the arms trade, through their Shop Stewards, in the 1976 Alternative Corporate Plan of Lucas Aerospace. They would rather the industry was converted over to civilian production.

You can ask for 45% of your income tax, normally for 'Defence, to be paid via diversionary cheques made out to the Overseas Development Administration instead. Finally, money spent on military goods does not create a lot of wealth either, as few people use and maintain them ie. if the government spend £1,000 million in each area, the military will generate 76,000, the least of all, whereas education will generate 187,000, health 139,000 and construction 100,000.

## BUSES

### Can't pay, Won't pay

On August 12th Cleveland Transit announced plans to cut local bus services (and therefore jobs) in Teeside in a bid to stem their huge operating losses. In response bus workers imposed a ban on late-night weekend working which remained in operation for the next six weekends. A return to normal working was negotiated on September 22nd when management conceded the extra inspector cover that the union (TGWU) had been demanding.

While wholeheartedly supporting the bus workers' fight to save their jobs and services upon which working people depend, it seems to us that a bit of clear thinking is missing in their approach (or, more likely, in the union leaders).

The main reason Cleveland transport are losing passenger-s and money is that their fares are so bloody expensive that people can't afford to use their buses as regularly. Cheaper fares would bring back all their lost passengers. For those on the dole, for example, a hefty bus fare can amount to quite a large chunk of their meagre income. Indeed, the Cleveland Unemployed Workers Union makes free bus travel for the unemployed and their families one of its immediate demands.

We have here an example of the kind of warped thinking reformist unionism descends to. Instead of a steadfast defence of jobs and services as things which cannot be touched, the union meets management halfway and in very business-like fashion calls for a clampdown on fare dodging. It doesn't seem to matter that with this call they are only going to shift the burden onto people who don't pay because they can't pay. Other working people in fact.

Revolutionary unionism on the other hand has nobler aspirations and tactics. To it the interests of the whole class matter, not just the short-term interests of one particular section. Therefore, revolutionary unionists call on bus workers to fight for their jobs and the services in a very different way. Instead of penny-pinching with the (for the most part working class) passengers, how about demanding a few "economies" at the top, where the boss class on fat salaries never have to use the buses (or dodge fares).

Instead of the simple withdrawal of bus services (which hurts the passengers more than the management) a more effective tactic for transport workers is to work as normal but not bother to collect fares. This guarantees you public support and will soon bring management to their senses. What about victimisation by the bosses you might ask. If all stand firm what can they do - sack everyone?

MIDDLESBROUGH: DAM

# THE PEOPLE'S MARCH

## A POST — MORTEM

At the meeting of the Hull Trades Council two of the four Hull sponsored marchers gave a report of the group's experiences as part of the Yorkshire and Humberside contingent of the T.U.C. People's March For Jobs 1983. The marchers had been impressed and emotionally moved by acts of support and solidarity they had witnessed, but were appalled by the lack of organisation, expression of sexist attitudes, the overrule of democratic decisions by stewards and the use of violence by stewards.

For a march with a target of 50% female participation to have no creche or child minding facilities was somewhat surprising. The lack of separate sleeping accommodation on some occasions was disappointing. The constant barrage of sexist jibes and remarks made one Hull woman marcher relieved to leave the march early. One woman was expelled from the march by the stewards against the wishes of her co-marchers, simply because she was nine weeks pregnant.

Marchers were supposed to take daily responsibility for organising the march, by means of regular marchers' meetings. As time went on the meetings became less frequent and the marchers' wishes ignored. One Hull marcher who complained about misrepresentation of marchers' views and that stewards were appointed not elected, was accused of spreading disunity, and was later threatened and assaulted by other marchers. The Hull group experi-

enced further threatening behaviour from marchers and stewards, and reported that a woman marcher from Halifax had her toe broken by the chief security steward. They also witnessed other marchers and stewards attacking members of Oxford Trades Council, when they supported the march. Marchers were not allowed to wear CND badges and could not even choose their own slogans. Some marchers were taken off the march for chanting "Tories Out!"

The Hull marchers intended to send their sixteen page report to Liverpool Trades Council who are to conduct an enquiry. Hull Trades Council decided to forward the report to Yorkshire and Humberside Regional T.U.C. The report was leaked almost immediately to the local press. The anti-union potential of the report is obvious.

From the very outset the high echelons of the T.U.C. did not want the march to take place. The T.U.C. Economic Committee voted against it, as did the Labour Party Executive (some union barons sit on both). It must have been embarrassing when the wider-based T.U.C. General Council overruled the Economic Committee and went ahead with the march without real Labour support. With the announcement of the election, the T.U.C., always anxious to preserve an image of reasonableness and respectability, constrained the genuine anger and resentment of the marchers, by placing strict limitations on the

marchers.

There is little doubt that whenever the efforts of grass roots unemployed or working are directed by the stifling structures of the T.U.C., then these efforts will be reduced to ineffectual, shabby compromise.

The People's March was symptomatic of the T.U.C.'s attitude to the unemployed. The T.U.C. attempts to co-ordinate and direct the bargaining power of groups of workers. The unemployed have no direct bargaining power and are therefore regarded as second-class citizens. Many unions will not maintain services to members who become unemployed, and will not recruit from the unemployed. Either because they fear the influence of the unemployed or cannot afford to service members who cannot pay subscriptions. Thus the unemployed cannot organise within unions. Attempts to form separate unemployed workers' unions are viewed with suspicion by the T.U.C. and it will only support initiatives which are prepared to be bound in its own rigid structures.

The present so-called depression only exacerbates continual process of job erosion by advancing technology. The process is probably inevitable, and in a free society would be desirable. Ineffectually demanding jobs will not remove the traumas of unemployment - only a fundamental re-evaluation of work and social justice will do that. The T.U.C. which is locked into employer/employee bargaining strategies, is not the organisation to advance such radical policies. To improve their position, it is vital that the unemployed organise amongst themselves, both to promote their own campaigns and to forge links with employed workers. Until there exists in society a genuine will to re-think work, then the unemployed will remain out in the cold, a political football to be kicked by all sides.



## DOWN IN THE DUMPS

Britain has been responsible for 90% Of the radioactive waste dumped in the sea. Earlier this year the London Dumping Convention voted for a 2 year moratorium on dumping while the risks to sea life were studied further. This years dumping would have been the largest amount ever dumped- 3500 tonnes, compared to 2700 tonnes last year and 2500 tonnes in 1981.

The nuclear authorities have virtually abandoned the dump following the seamens ban on handling waste. The action by the National Union of Seamen has been a serious blow to the prospect of Britain dumping any more radioactive waste in the sea.

The Nuclear Industries Radioactive Waste Executive ( NIREX) has said that it will not ask the Government

for a military crew for the "Atlantic Fisher" the ship which should have done the dumping. NIREX has said that there is no chance of nuclear waste being stranded at the docks at Sharpness in Gloucestershire awaiting the ship. BR will not authorise the removal of waste until the ship docks with a crew.

The Seamens boycott shows that workers can stop harm to the seas through dumping by direct action and are not as insensitive to the environment as some people would believe or others would hope. The nuclear industry wants to dump 10 times as much waste into the sea by 1990. If nuclear energy is so safe, as we are always told, then why not dump the waste in the nuclear bosses front gardens. JCB

## The Heat is ON

The Fire Protection Association, on which are represented Britain's leading fire insurance firms, has come up with an interesting sidelight on the present recession. According to the FPA the number of "grudge fires" is increasing. These are fires which have been started by workers who have been sacked or made redundant; they start the fire as a way of getting their own back, a sort of spectacular way of putting two fingers up at the boss. One can sympathise, but burning down the workplace only puts more people out of work. The only serious response to the threat of unemployment is to take over the workplace, establish workers' control, and - MAKE THE BOSSES REDUNDANT. When that starts to happen the class war will really be hotting up.

## Urge to Destroy

Three bricklayers in North Yorks. last month making "superhomes" for the rich were sacked without being paid for allegedly botching the job.

Rather than be conned into working for nothing, a house which took 3 weeks to build was demolished in just 30 minutes with the aid of 14lb sledgehammers and axes...

Now who said that the workers are lazy?...

## VANCOUVER 5

The political trials of 5 well respected militants in Canada are now in progress. Julie Eelmas, Gerry Hannah, Ann Hansen, Doug Stewart and Brent Taylor are charged with arson on 2 "Red Hot" video porn shops in Vancouver, and bombing a power station and a cruise missile factory in Toronto.

A London support group has been formed; write for more info to: Vancouver 5 Box

ABC, 121 Railton Rd. London SE 24.



## MADE IN JAPAN

Once again, the Japanese are leading the way in world industry, as far as wonderful new ideas are concerned. Their latest innovation in the field of industrial relations is the idea that has been implemented at the Toshiba and Sanyo TV factories at Plymouth and Lowestoft respectively. The arrangement is this - the management and the workers wear the same blue overalls, to help break down the barriers

between them. They also use the same washrooms, toilets and canteens. What's more, the workers are free to discuss any problems with the management, at any time. This may sound all very well, but, not surprisingly, there is a catch. In return for these "concessions", all the workforce have to do is to make an agreement to totally give up their right to strike! C.K.

# FREE RADIO

## Ecoutez Radio-Libertaire

Radio libre de la Fédération anarchiste émettant sur Paris



De 14 H a 18 H  
el sábado, emisión  
en español con la  
CNT

Sept. 3rd  
march

Sur 89,5 MHz — F.M.

Radio Libertaire is an anarchist radio station in France with an estimated daily audience of around 100,000. On Sunday August 28th it was the target of government repression as police raided the centre of the French Anarchist Federation and smashed Radio Libertaire's equipment (the French

government, it should be noted, is a "socialist" one). Protests against this suppression of free speech were not long in forthcoming. In France these came from, among others, the proof-readers union affiliated to the CGT (communist union federation), the CGT-FO (anti-communist union federation),,

the CNT (anarcho-syndicalist union federation) and even some Socialist Party members. September 3rd saw 5000 people marching in Paris in support of Radio Libertaire. From Italy the International of Anarchist Federations sent a note of protest, while in Spain the National Committee of the CNT (Spain) and the secretariat of the International Workers Association sent a delegation to the French embassy in Madrid. The Swedish anarcho-syndicalist federation also declared its indignation. In Oslo in Norway a demonstration was organised in front of the French embassy and a delegation from ANORG (the Norwegian Anarchist Organisation) delivered a protest letter.

Readers of Direct Action can add their voice to these protests by writing to the French Consulate, 24 Rutland Gate, London SW7. Despite the repression Radio Libertaire began broadcasting again on Sept. 5th from 6am to midnight; the fight for free speech in France goes on!

### FEDERATION ANARCHISTE FRANCAISE

RELATIONS  
INTERNATIONALES  
145 rue AMELOT 75011 PARIS  
tel: 33.1.805 34 08



adhérente à l'Internationale des Fédérations Anarchistes

### Cont from P.7

In honour of these martyrs of the working class not only is November 11th marked with Anarchist meetings, but also May Day, which has become the day of workers the world over before being an excuse for the State Capitalists to show their might or for reformists to smother class struggle. It was observed as a day to fight for concrete gains with the aim of an 8 hour day.

The Haymarket Martyrs were not the only victims of the U.S. reaction in the month of November. In 1915 I.W.W. song writer Joe Hill was executed by the Mormon authorities in Utah. Before this R.J Horton was shot by a policeman in

Salt Lake City for speaking to a crowd in defense of the famous wobbly.

In November 1916 four workers were shot in the Free Speech Fight and in 1919 Wesley Everest was lynched in Washington State for resisting a raid on the lumber workers hall. Hundreds of others have been victims up to the present day.

Whilst the workers today should point to the role of the Chicago Martyrs and others in the history of the workers struggles a lot of unspectacular work is needed to achieve full scale marches and commemorations in Britain. Otherwise we risk showing our weakness. As Joe Hill said before his death, "Don't waste time mourning - ORGANISE!".

The case of the Newham 8 starts on October 24th, a picket of the Court at Snaresbrook for the duration of the trial is planned.

Newham 8 Defence Campaign  
P.O.Box 273, London E7 9JN  
Tele: (01)555 3331 (day),  
(01)534 1640 (eve.)

SELF DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE

THE ONLY CONSPIRACY IS POLICE  
CONSPIRACY  
(Information taken from BLACK  
FLAG.)

The South Manchester Anarchist Group has asked us to announce their existence. They can be contacted c/o Raven Press, 8 - 10 Gt. Ancoats St., Manchester 4.



## TOWARDS ANARCHA FEMINISM

### ANARCHA-FEMINIST CONFERENCE.

An Anarcha-Feminist Conference was held at Doncaster Trades Club on SAT.3 September & on Sunday a mixed meeting was held (the first day was women only). The Conference opened with definitions of anarcha-feminism. The history of feminism has been one of anarchical, non-hierarchical organisation. For some of us, anarchism & feminism are synonymous (do all anarchist men agree though?). We agreed we are not separatists but the validity of separate meetings was upheld (to develop confidence to speak in mixed meetings and generally.) We felt women prefer less theorising than men? We regretted that fewer women were active in mainstream politics? Though that depends on the definition of mainstream. Women's politics are not separate from the industrial struggle; not a side-issue. (low-paid women workers?) The definition of work should be extended to include unpaid work by women (childwork, housework.) Women have three problems with mainstream activities: (1) lack of time due to child-care (2) sexist anarchist men (3) lack of creches at most conferences. Women must not be isolated in the home, nor solely in activist groups but in their community. We might work with as many groups as possible, i.e. Left women, non-political women, and men, but we wanted to show our support, not patronise, & offer resources where we could. Our best way to show sisterhood with women of other cultures (Asian Women's Refuge workers who have been threatened) is to co-operate with their groups. The State defuses our struggle by providing Grants (e.g. Women's Aid, W.I.R., E.S.) Anarcha-feminism opposes all State intervention & women who want political power. In Northern Ireland, women were split into Political women (i.e. anti-imperialists) & women in daily politics (Women's Aid, Rape Crisis Centres.) Anarcha-feminism can bridge both "camps." We felt Trotskyist parties Women's Groups were a way to put women Trots neatly on one side, whereas we could see no issue that did not include men. Nevertheless, we thought too much energy was just wasted by defensive men & also defensive feminists. Mixed views

were expressed on the Greenham Common Women; qualified support was given to the core of politically aware women there, whom we hoped would up the level of the sabotage activities. On Porn, we say "censorship" is our self-expression, i.e. not from any Govt. but us, those effected. We supported Angry Women in bombing Porn Shops as direct action. Porn is not only an oppressive image of women - it involves as well the exploitation of women who work in the Porno Industry. Is there more reaction on racism/classism than sexism from male anarchists? As Anarcha-feminists, we support women taking direct action, not appeals for anti-porn laws, nor tougher sentences for rapists; instead, we support organisation by women as far as possible against rape, i.e. provision of minibuses, self-defence classes, vigilante women taking revenge on rapists. Abortion was debated (one woman said she did not want an abortion, others must choose for themselves.) We need to oppose any planned anti-abortion legislation (e.g. in Ireland), but we do not depend on appeals to the State. Women in D.A.M. felt that "Direct Action" should include more anarcha-feminism. (please send us Copy.) A D.A.M. pamphlet on Anarcha-feminism is planned for publication soon. On the next day, no men disagreed (at first) to "Women Only" meetings, on the grounds that women are oppressed differently to men. The men said in male groups there are tensions (class; homo/hetero tensions), especially men oppressed by macho men. We wondered how can we best confront dominators, male or female? The men asked us if our meeting would've been spoiled by the presence of men? Some women said yes, some said no; the women did not feel hindered/tense with the particular men present. Later, one man did object to women only meetings. The women felt only they defended women only meetings, not the men. Some men said we were jumping to conclusions about their reasons & this offended them. The man who objected compared women only meetings with black only meetings, which he said were all anti-white. The women replied that our meeting was not anti-men. If non-sexist men criticised sexist men, they felt ignored or, in some social circles, ridiculed as gay. (This

sexism against gay men they also find difficult to confront, without alienating other men.) Brief mention was made of the Saturday's anarchist videos. We liked the Women's Fire Brigade, supporters of the Vancouver Five, who are women of all ages and in the video on Jewish anarchists in New York, noted that the majority of those activists were of the "older generation". Videos are available from 121, Railton Road, London SE24.

The number of women present was fewer than expected (many of them in D.A.M.). It is hoped to hold a larger anarcha-feminist Conference next year. In 1980, a conference of 100 women was held; we were short of time perhaps, but a start has been made to revive and expand anarcha-feminism in Britain, of which "The Anarchist Feminist Magazine" must surely play a part. Send copy to The Anarchist Feminist Magazine, now c/o Leeds Anarchist Women, BOX V, 59, Cookridge Street, Leeds.

N.B. On Sunday, we also discussed Northern Ireland, Rape and Rape.

### SUBSIDIES

Public transport subsidies in Britain's main urban areas should be increased - according to the Department of Transport computer model which was initially set up to cut subsidies. Details of this embarrassing result for the government were revealed recently at a major traffic conference held at Sussex University organised by Planning and Transport Computation and Research.

The 1983 Transport Act enables the Department of Transport to limit subsidies to public transport in London and the metropolitan counties. So, to decide which counties should get more subsidies and which less, the Department got together with a consultant from the L.S.E. and developed a computer model to divide up the cake. The model revealed that even South Yorkshire with the highest bus subsidy in Britain should have a higher subsidy. And in Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire, bus and train fares ought to be cut by a quarter, and paid for by higher subsidies.



# Direct Action Movement

Aims and Principles of the Direct Action Movement

- (1) The Direct Action Movement is a working class organisation.
- (2) Our aim is the creation of a free and classless society.
- (3) We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery in all their forms and replace them by self-managed production for need not profit.
- (4) In order to bring about the new social order, the workers must take over the means of production and distribution. We are the sworn enemies of those who would take over on behalf of the workers.
- (5) We believe that the only way for the working class to achieve this is for independent organisation in the workplace and community and federation with others in the same industry and locality, independent of, and opposed to all political parties and trade union bureaucracies. All such workers organisations must be controlled by workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers movement. Any and all delegates and representatives of such workers organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers.
- (6) We are opposed to all States and State institutions. The working class has no country. The class struggle is worldwide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all States do not exist to protect the workers of those States, they exist only as the repressive arm of the ruling class.
- (7) We oppose racism, sexism, militarism and all attitudes and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the right of all people everywhere to control their own lives and the environment.

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 Cut out and send to DAM/IWA:-  
 c/o The Autonomy Centre, Raven  
 Press, 8 - 10 Great Ancoats  
 Street, Manchester 4.

**MANCHESTER DAM/IWA:**  
 The former mailing address for Manchester DAM at the Corn Exchange has been discontinued. The new address is now: the Autonomy Centre c/o Raven Press, 8 - 10 Great Ancoats St. Manchester 4.

**Press ££ Appeal**

Thank to the Comrades who sent in money to help us produce this copy of Direct Action, readers are asked to send donations in, no matter how small to;

Direct Action  
 Box DAM  
 59 Cookridge Street,  
 Leeds.  
 LS2 3AW.

Cheques and P.O.'s should be made out to Direct Action.

The Direct Action Movement is a federation of groups and individuals who believe in the principles of anarcho-syndicalism; a system where the workers alone control industry and the community without the dictates of politicians, bureaucrats, bosses and so-called experts.

## LOCAL CONTACTS

### CLASS STRUGGLE

Various branches of the DAM (in Birmingham, Burnley, Hull and Middlesbrough) are now pro-

ducing their own broadsheets or papers (Class Struggle, The Agitator, Strike Back etc.). The Hull branch inform us that

copies of their paper, Class Struggle, are available from our national address. Send an SAE.

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