

DIRECT ACTION

GULF CRISIS pg 2/3

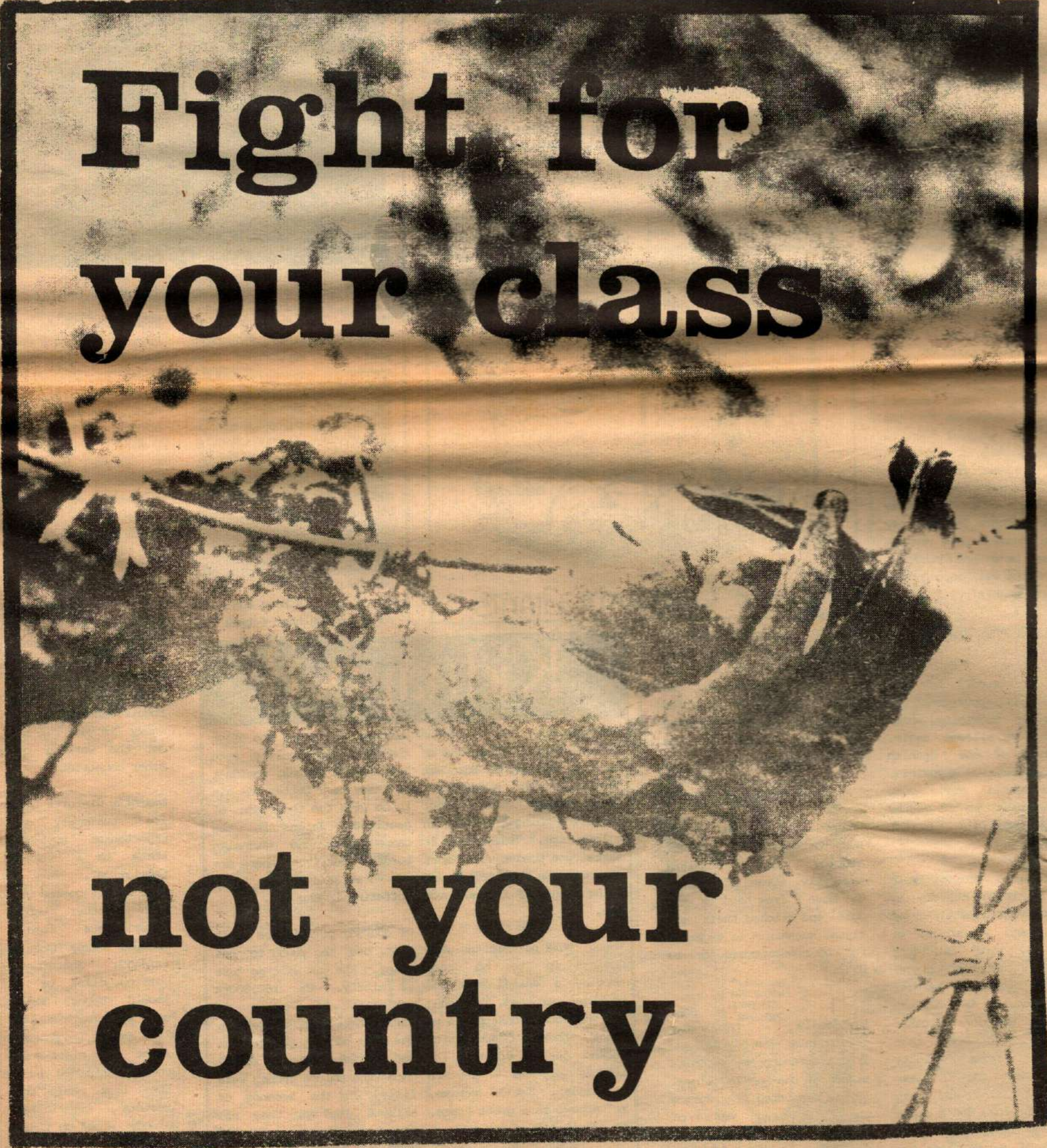
POLL TAX pg 4.

POLICING 1992 pg 8

GARY LINEKER pg 9

The Voice of Anarcho-Syndicalism No. 67 Oct. 1990

30p



Fight for your class

not your country

Direct Action Movement - International Workers Association

HYPOCRISY RULES

The Gulf Crisis has thrown into stark relief the hypocrisy and bullshit of the assorted tyrants, politicians and mediocrities who rule the world. And as the post-Cold War order takes shape it has thrown together some strange bedfellows.

COLONIAL POWERS

Following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, the West rushed to the defence of that great democrat the Emir, while at the same time painting a picture of Saddam Hussein as a latter-day Hitler. Its never been mentioned, of course, that the borders between Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia etc. have no ethnic or national basis. They were simply drawn across the map by the retreating colonial powers (Britain and France), as a way of keeping the Arabs divided and weak, and setting up little fiefdoms like Kuwait. Once oil was discovered under the desert this policy proved to have been a wise one for the western powers.

At first, the western military build-up in the Gulf was vaunted as a defensive shield to protect Saudi Arabia from Iraq. Since then it has taken on the aspect of an offensive force. Thatcher and Bush say Saddam Hussein has to go because he's got chemical weapons and will soon have a nuclear capability.

APPEASEMENT

International aggression must be resisted, they say, citing the appeasement of Hitler as something which cannot be allowed again. (Veterans of the Spanish Civil War, Abyssinia, Czechoslovakia etc. must find this rich in the mouths of Chamberlain's direct descendants).

The chemical weapons were sold to Saddam Hussein by western businessmen, of course. And why should we feel any more confident about Thatcher's finger being on the nuclear trigger than that of a darker-skinned despot? Other countries with less than wonderful human rights records have the nuclear bomb, like Israel and South Africa. But they don't count because they are pro-western of course. As for resisting international aggression, where was the outcry when Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982?

BOGEYMAN

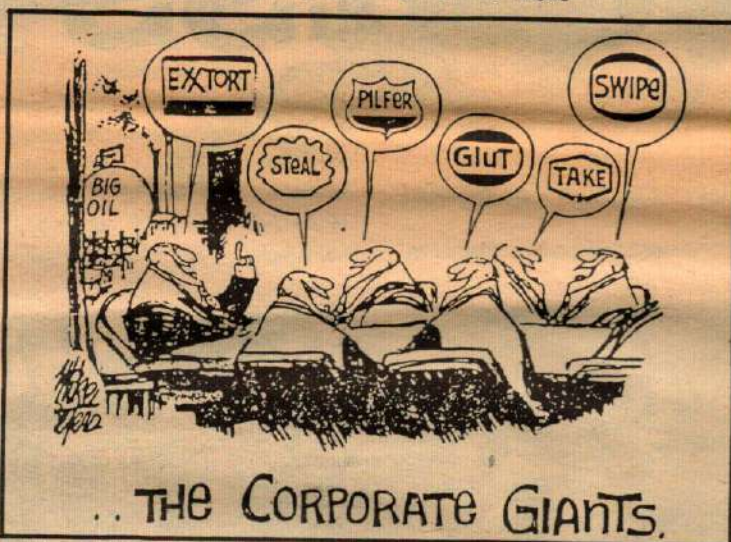
Hussein's conversion into a middle-eastern bogeyman is relatively recent though (previously Gaddafi was the devil incarnate). During the Iran-Iraq War the West was quite happy to supply both sides with arms with which to fight a murderous 8-year war that cost well over 1 million lives (and for what?). When an Iraqi exocet missile disabled the USS Stark a few years back the US Government made little noise and accepted the Iraqi apology for the "mistake" because they supported Hussein against Ayatollah Khomeini.

Similarly, Hussein's conversion into the defender of Islam against the infidel is a recent phenomenon. Certainly, the Iranians must find his "conversion" and peace overtures to them hard to stomach. And weren't the Kurds he used chemical weapons against good

Wherever you look in this mess former deadly enemies are making their peace and uniting against Iraq, while Hussein is desperately trying to make friends with anyone who'll have him ("Free oil for the Third World!"). The stench of hypocrisy is all around.

And that's because this war, like all bosses' wars has nothing to do with morals, or countering aggression, or defending the true faith or any of that. It is about money, oil supplies, and power. And a little war every now and then is good for business. They want us to forget about the Poll Tax, inflation, unemployment etc. and rally around Maggie in a replay of the Falklands.

We say, we're not going to carry a rifle for Thatcher in Belfast, never mind Baghdad! War against the tyrants! Peace amongst the peoples! D.M.



Muslims? But then leaders throughout the ages have liked to claim that God was on their side in war. No doubt, there'll be not a few christian church services for "our boys" in the Arabian desert.

ECONOMIC AID

Meanwhile, at the recent Bush-Gorbachev summit meeting the Russians basically agreed to let the US have a free hand in the Gulf and ditched their ex-client Hussein - in exchange for US economic aid for the USSR.

Supposedly pan-arabic governments in Syria and Iraq are ranged on opposite sides of the battle lines. (Syria supported Iran during the Iran-Iraq war of course). And the British Government wants to re-establish diplomatic ties with the former "sponsors of international terrorism", Syria and Iran.

No War but....

The Socialist Workers Party and other assorted leninists have responded to the imperialist crisis in the Gulf by announcing their "military but not political support for Iraq."

play, they call on the Iraqi working class to line up behind the bosses and behind the notoriously anti working class Baathist state.

We are used to this crap



Halabja victims

These so-called internationalists who last year were supporting Iran against Iraq in their barbaric eight year war for regional dominance, and who urged Iranian workers not to strike, mutiny or do anything to disrupt their rulers' war with Saddam, are now offering the same invaluable advice to Iraqi workers.

Oblivious to any revolutionary role which Iraqi workers have and will continue in the future to

from the SWP in terms of British politics when they repeatedly urge the working class to support another capitalist Party, the Labour Party, at elections. In the context of imperialist war, however, such advice is not a matter on which we tolerantly smile with contempt - it is an outright negation of internationalism.

GALLOPING OPPORTUNISM

The internationalist position starts from the proposition that "the enemy is at home". The working class is formed, used, and thrown away entirely to the requirements of capital. The enemy is your own boss and not the working class of other countries.

Leninism distorts this with its customary galloping opportunism towards the state as a "vehicle for revolution". This implies that if our bosses go to war with another bunch of imperialists then "our enemy's enemy must be our friend". Therefore the working class in Britain should support Saddam. To some people this might look like asking Iraqi workers to fight your class enemy for you - certainly the SWP do not look ready to give western imperialism "a bloody nose" on their own, just yet.

OBSCENE

Although this position is only preposterous, it is

Kidnapped

The outcry that greeted Saddam Hussein appearing on the oppressed minority card TV with children of European back in the States, wouldn't hostages was horrendous: it have been better for him "Disgusting." "The most horrific thing I've seen in a long time." "Barbaric". It makes you wonder what sort of words the politicians are going to use if it comes to war.

These same politicians were just use the young to get queuing up to be seen votes - the old will do just holding a child once the as nicely. The 100,000th hostages returned. The young immigrant to arrive in boy who looked unhappy in an Israel this year was met by Iraqi photo opportunity looked just as upset in the arms of a western politician. But of course, Once the column inches were as a pawn in a great game, filled and the seconds of he didn't have a say. departed. Leaving the 83 year old immigrant standing at the airport with nowhere

The real hypocrisy came from American Democrat Jesse to go. Jackson, first off the plane with a freed western Malc, S Yorks DAM

the Class War

made obscene by their further distinction between smaller and greater imperialisms.

Their confident - some might say arrogant - claim that as Iraqi imperialism is the smaller in this case it is less dangerous and should be supported. Less dangerous to whom? Not to the Kurds of Halabja, a city with 10,000 deserters living in it and an armed and rebellious working class, wasted by the chemical weapons of Iraqi imperialism. The working class cannot choose between better and worse imperialisms - they pay the price in blood.

Leninism is theoretically naked and its slogan of "military but not political support" will not stand up. Military support for Iraq means support for the actions of the Iraqi state, armed. This means support for the political aims of the Iraqi ruling class.

Let's cut the crap: military support is political support. The following statement written by Iraqi revolutionaries in this country, puts the internationalist case:



Saddam Hussein's invasion and annexation of Kuwait comes as no surprise - least of all to the Iraqi people. Bringing about the end of the 8 year long "Iran-Iraq" war was no easy task for the bourgeoisie to accomplish. In many ways the ceasefire was merely a diplomatic phrase. The mass conscription of men and boys, the rationing, death and destruction that is the war condition have continued throughout. Life in Iraq is so brutal that in the short "peacetime" workers were harking back to the "good old wartime".

Following the ceasefire inflation, homelessness, unemployment and persecution have soared. Mass executions, political repression, indoctrination of new generations to spy on friends and family all preserve the climate of total fear.

The declaration of another war is a way of maintaining this control by creating new enemies to prevent the people from recognising their true enemy. But the

Halabja chemical massacre has not been forgotten.

The producers of weapons are every bit as responsible for their consequences as those who use them. **A BOMB DROPPED BY SADDAM HAS THE SAME EFFECT AS ONE DROPPED BY BUSH OR THATCHER.**

In all cases it is the workers who are the victims. We must not be tricked into sacrificing millions of our brothers in the present bourgeois quest against Saddam.

As if it is not enough for the bourgeoisie to drag workers from their sleep every morning to exploit them, to isolate them from one another, and, on top of all the other taxes they have to pay, to demand a tax on their very existence (the Poll Tax), it also has to start a war every time it is in a period of crisis - using workers as its cannon fodder.

Looking back at the history of this putrid society and its wars, it is clear that bourgeoisie's only solution to crisis is war - resulting in the butchering of thousands every time. War, isolation and exploitation are inherent in the bourgeoisie's existence. Capitalist war is war, no matter in whose name it is perpetrated, no matter who its victims are.

War signifies the destruction of human life and the production of a climate of total fear. War, no matter when or where it occurs, never has been - and never will be - in the interests of the working class. It is only a means by which to prolong our exploitation.

The working class must no longer be tricked into seeing war as a fight between fascism and democracy, good and evil. The answer is not to replace Saddam with what will surely be another butcher, but to fight to put an end to the daily destruction of our brothers - to replace capitalist war by class war.

As always, we are faced with the choice between war or revolution, barbarism or human society. The choice is ours. We, the working class of the world, must organise ourselves to destroy capitalism before it totally destroys and dehumanises us.

**DOWN WITH ALL STATES!
DOWN WITH WAR!**

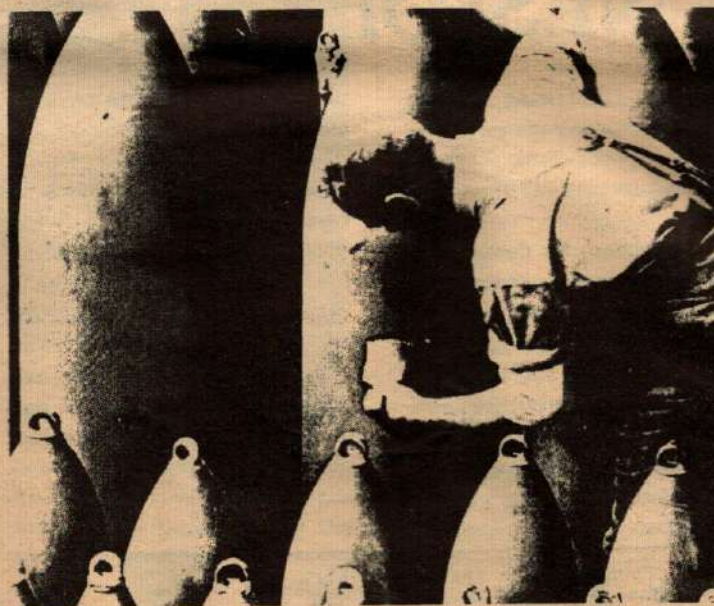
British Bombing

We are being bombarded with nostalgic propaganda about the Second World War. What is more, the current barbarity in the Gulf is being surrealistically confused with that war - we have 'the Allies' not to mention the 'new Hitler'. It seems a good time, then to reprint the following article. It was written in September 1943 for **War Commentary** (the immediate forerunner of **Direct Action**). We make no apologies for digging up a 50 year old article that so brilliantly cuts through the crap of the ruling class' propaganda. (The article has been cut for reasons of space).

BRITISH BOMBING

British bombing has brought death to many thousands of people in the past few weeks. At Quebec, politicians who provide themselves with shelters well out of reach of bombs, are planning to continue massive bombing as a means of carrying on the "war against fascism".

Hamburg, Milan, Genoa, Turin, are covered with ruins, their streets heaped with bodies and flowing with blood. "Hamburgizing" is coming into use as a term for the wholesale destruction of cities, and the mass murder of their populations through terrorist raids. The Press boasts of the RAF's power to carry such destruction to all the cities of Germany and Central Europe. It screamed with indignation when the Germans bombed churches and hospitals, but when the smell of carnage goes up from once beautiful and populous towns they find words of rejoicing.



When the water mains were hit in Milan, and the centre of the city was flooded, they find it a subject for a joke. "Lake Milan" the clever journalist calls it.

What does it matter to him if "the water is flowing between the ruins and the debris of bombed buildings, and people living in the district were forced to remain in the wreckage of their homes for four days until the water subsided and they could get out..." "Lake Milan" is indeed a splendid joke. But while the journalists chuckle in the Fleet Street pubs, the hospitals and rescue squads are working day and night to try and palliate some of the pain and disfigurement, the hunger and exposure of the victims.

Our cartoonists also find wholesale destruction a matter for humorous comment. "Berlin is off the air, and will soon be off the map too!" But when the newspapers publish descriptions and photographs of the destruction and misery in Hamburg and Milan, the people of Clydeside and Coventry, Plymouth and the East End of London will be reminded of the days and nights when their houses were bombed, when their relatives were killed or waited in the hospitals for their turn.

GLOATING

When the papers talk gloatingly of the streams of refugees frantically pouring out of Hamburg with the remnants of their belongings on their backs, of the people of Milan "camping out under the trees", the people of England's bombed cities will remember their own attempts to get away from the night terror, will remember that when they streamed out of Plymouth into the countryside, they found the big houses of the

are bombed, if not the workers who have led lives of misery and toil just like the workers of Clydeside or Coventry? When the port of Naples is bombed, it is the thickly populated working class district which surrounds the harbour that suffers most. The bombs do not hit the sumptuous villas of rich Fascists which are scattered along the shore of the bay of Naples; they hit those high storeyed houses so crowded one on top of the other that the streets are no more than dark passages between them; houses where people live four or five to a room.

The Italian workers have shown that, in spite of twenty years of fascist oppression, they knew where their class interests lay. They have refused to be willing tools in the hands of the bosses. They have gone on strike, have sabotaged war industry, have cut telephone wires and disorganized transport. What is the answer of Democratic Britain to their struggle against fascism? Bombing and more bombing. The Allies have asked the Italian people to weaken Mussolini's war machine, and we now take advantage of their weakness to bomb them to bits.

Our politicians professed to want revolution in Europe to overthrow fascism. But it is now clearer than ever that what they are most afraid of is that fascism should be overthrown by popular revolt. They are terrified of revolution, terrified of "Anarchy". They want to establish "order", and as always they are prepared to wade through rivers of blood to secure their idea of order - order in which the workers accept their lot of poverty and pain with resignation.

"Disorder", "Anarchy", cried the bourgeois Press when single-handed resolute like Sbardelotto, Schirru and Lucetti, tried to kill Mussolini. Now the same capitalists want to rub whole cities off the map of Europe; want to reduce whole populations to starvation, with its resulting scourge of epidemics and disease all over the world. This is the peace and order that they want to bring to the workers of the world with their bombs.

Marie-Louise Berneri
(taken from her selected writings **Neither East Nor West**, published by Freedom Press)

rich closed to them, and they were left to wander without food or shelter.

For who suffers in the big industrial towns when they

THE FED

With the dead hand of the Militant Tendency at the tiller, it is no surprise that the All-Britain Anti-Poll Tax Federation has failed to live up to its potential. In truth, the ABF neither covers all of Britain, nor is it a federation, and although its rhetoric is anti-Poll Tax, its action has been so ineffectual as to render even that meaningless.

SHARING EXPERIENCES

This brings us on to what is the crucial question. Is there a role for a national federation of anti-Poll Tax groups? The answer, I believe, is a resounding yes. We have much to gain from co-ordinating actions and sharing experiences and resources. Discussion within a wider forum generally raises the level of debate.

The main purpose of a national federation should be threefold; to share and provide information and carry out research; to co-ordinate national events; and to liaise with the national press and media.

If we take these three main objectives in turn, we can look at how the Militant-led ABF has failed in each respect. Information has not been shared, and Militant have recently taken to working so secretively, it is a wonder they know what each other are doing! All because they are afraid that the State might be tipped off - or perhaps the truth is that they are worried that activists might be tipped off, and turn up in numbers.

No national address list has been published to allow anti-Poll Tax groups to exchange information and experiences at a grassroots level. This is vital to a living movement, and helps develop ideas and policies far more effectively than in political meetings that are outside of the movement.



Non Payment I'll drink to that!

The information provided has been poor, and Militant undermined the (non-Militant) editors of the ABF news-sheet. Their so-called Regional delegates were too busy writing reports for Militant to be concerned with writing anything for so unimportant an organ as an anti-Poll Tax bulletin. If any research has been done we haven't seen it. If it has been done, and not publicised, it's a complete waste of time.

STEWARDSHIP

Secondly, the only national events they have co-ordinated have been the two national demos on March 31st (London and Glasgow), and the Trade Union Rally in Liverpool. Anyone who was on the London demo knows how badly it was organised. Despite warnings from

the three independent National Committee members, Steve Nally of Militant insisted on organising it for only 40,000 people. There were pitiful stewarding arrangements in London, and no legal observers. I won't even bother to talk about the Anti-Poll Tax Trade Union

Conference, and make no apologies for calling it what it was - a rally.

Thirdly, Militant's liaison with the national press and media has left much to be desired. Their chief contribution seems to have been to toe the Tory/Labour line on the police riot, blame anarchists for everything they don't like and have Steve Nally pop up everywhere like a bad penny. If they cannot present the anti-Poll Tax movement in a positive light, they should shut up.

TRICKSTERS

In November, at the Annual Conference, we will decide whether the ABF is a pond in which some people can be big fish, or a fighting organisation dedicated to the destruction of the Poll Tax. We must not make the

same mistakes as last year, and allow ourselves to come away demoralised and defeated by a bunch of political tricksters. We must organise for this conference, and make contact with all grassroots-based local groups.

A full discussion of the role of the ABF would, I believe, lead to the movement adopting the general basis of the federation outlined above. Federalism is based on localities, and regions, and initiative should flow from the bottom up. Delegates should be accountable to and recallable by their mandating bodies. Positions should be rotated, to make sure no one gets too strong an attachment to their post, and to spread the experience as widely as possible so that the number of people participating is maximised.

Hopefully, after the ABF Conference, there will be a 3D meeting to assess the situation. 3D is a national network of activists, not set up in opposition to the ABF, but existing to improve communication within the movement. It stands for strength in diversity, with no one faction controlling or trying to control the movement. Because of its nature as a coalition, 3D contains much that we would disagree with, but at the same time represents an idea of what we would like to see in the anti-Poll Tax movement: groups working together constructively, regardless of their political differences.

Martin, Deptford DAM

IT WONT WORK

** Health workers at Norwich Hospitals pledged to fight wage arrestments in every way, including strike action.

** NALGO in Bristol are refusing to collect poll tax.

** NALGO in Lothian are on strike against wage arrestments.

**Housing workers in Sheffield will strike against any disciplinary action due to boycotting poll tax work.

**Housing workers in Kirklees went on strike after being suspended for

refusing to do poll tax work.

**2,000 council workers in Hackney struck against cuts due to poll tax.

**Bus drivers in Hackney refused to drive the night the local tax was set and prevented their wages being docked by threatening strike action.

**Rolls Royce workers have pledged to strike if any of their workmates have poll tax deductions from their wages.

From Norwich APTU



TYNESIDE

North Tyneside Council, which was rate capped, have launched a vicious attack on all militant employees - using the excuse that it has to lose 1,100 jobs over the next 6 months.

Ex-NALGO secretary John Foster (who helped the council out by averting strikes during 're-structure' and got a nice cushy £30,000 year job as a chief officer as his reward) has drawn up a list of

targeted jobs and - surprise, surprise - the names of many rank and file union activists have appeared on the list!

Also, Foster has decided to close two Advice Centres in the same area of the borough and attempt to replace them with a council run service. (The two advice centres are independent of the council.) These centres also happen to be ones which provide resources for local tenants

and other grass roots community groups as well as an anti poll tax group.

Local people have mounted a campaign against the closures, disrupting council meetings, doing petitions, ringing up councillors continuously (and at 'unsocial' hours) and are planning sit-ins and occupations of the local poll tax offices.

PH, Newcastle



STOP DEPORTATIONS

The West Midlands Anti-Deportation Campaign is supporting two cases where black people are being victimised under Britain's racist immigration controls. Both cases involve the deportation of women and also show up the sexist nature of these laws and how they operate to break up families and wreck lives. Both are affected by the abolition of the right of people served with deportation orders to appeal to an independent adjudicator on compassionate grounds. This right was taken away by the 1988 Immigration Act.

Sonia Malhi has lived in Britain since 1983 and got

(Harry was on holiday from his job as a Charge Nurse in Birmingham), they were interviewed by the British High Commission in Mauritius, but were not given a decision on Dharmowtee's status or an appointment for one.

Since Harry had to return to his job, and his wife's passport was stamped "Entry Clearance to UK Applied For", and as Mauritians require no visa to enter the UK, he took her with him.

At Heathrow airport Dharmowtee was refused leave to enter the country, but allowed in on a temporary admission. Despite representations by their MP

Letter campaigns and petitions are a good means of raising awareness and demonstrating to the State that there is support behind the rhetoric. What the State fears about individual cases is their potential to politicise people and popularise real anti-racism. Nothing increases awareness of racism among white workers so much as knowing a victim and understanding actual cases. No amount of glossy leaflets from NALGO, empty promises from the Labour Party or pseudo-revolutionary posturing can substitute for the real work around individual cases on a local and workplace level.

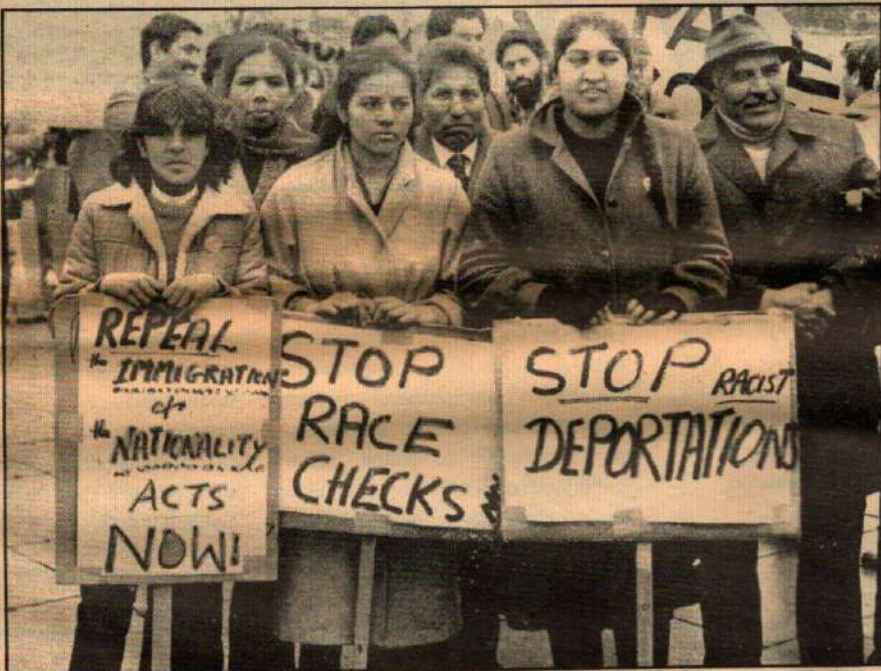
For further information or

CLASS SOLIDARITY

Manchester Council Worker Francis Okanlami was one of the lucky ones. He had the support of his union, NALGO, which has fought and won a number of battles against the deportation of its members as a result of pressure from black members. Taking cases up has greatly increased awareness of and opposition to state racism whilst giving the victims of immigration controls the support of their workmates to help see them through the ordeal which often takes years. Such support has proved much stronger than the promises of "anti-racist" local authorities to

their employees facing this threat.

An example of this was that of Hackney council worker Marion Gaima, another NALGO member. She had support of all the councillors, even the Tories, but when it came to workers asking for time off so they could demonstrate their support at a vital High Court hearing, the Labour-dominated council said no. The result was a strike on the day which was against the racist immigration laws as well as the council-imposed limits on workers' solidarity.



married in 1986. Her marriage broke down due to violence by her husband and she is currently living with her sister - her only close relative. The Home Office has decided to deport her since her marriage has broken down, despite the fact that her home is in Britain and she has no-one to return to in India since the death of her parents.

The Home Office did not even interview her, but claims it has considered her case fully. Having no right of appeal she has applied to have the order quashed by the courts because she was not interviewed - a legal technicality.

ENTRY REFUSED

Dharmowtee Surju married her husband, Harry, a British citizen, in April this year in Mauritius. Before coming to Britain the same month

Clare Short, the Home Secretary has upheld the Immigration Officer's decision and refused the original application made in Mauritius.

Four dates for Dharmowtee's deportation have been made, but she is now pregnant and also in poor health. Because of this Department of Health doctors are being sent to determine whether she is fit enough to be deported! Her child will have British citizenship.

Readers are urged to write urgently to the Home Office Minister, Peter Lloyd, Home Office, Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1. Quote Reference Number S 653846 for Sonia Malhi and IMP S362457/3 (S) for Dharmowtee Surju.

Though letter writing to the Home Secretary may seem inadequate or 'bourgeois', it is the vital bottom line.

an update contact:

SURJU FAMILY DEFENCE CAMPAIGN and SONIA MALHI DEFENCE CAMPAIGN both c/o 101 Villa Road, Handsworth, Birmingham 19. Tel. (021) 5514518/5544900.

NR, N London DAM

FIGHTBACK

Black community activists, anti-fascists and anarchist groups from around the country demonstrated in solidarity with arrested anti-racists, in Leeds at the beginning of September.

The National Demonstration for the Dewsbury defendants (arrested for resisting the fascist British National Party) was not as well attended as it should have been, but there was a large and vocal anarchist presence of activists from the DAM-IWA, Class Struggle Anarchist Network and Class War.

SEEN OFF

Small groups of fascists were seen off in the usual way, but a major irritation was the heavy and obvious Special Branch presence. There seemed to be more of them than the uniformed pigs! Some Sheffield comrades recognised their local "Branch pigs".

It is clear that the State

is more concerned by radical anti-racism than with the increasing number of racist and fascist attacks.

SELF-ORGANISATION

Encouraging signs for the future were the number of black activists who 'slagged off' State-funded 'anti-racism' and saw the way forward as self-organisation, self-defence and solidarity between the various communities under attack and anti-fascist groups.

In uniting to defend the victims of State racism we lay the groundwork for future struggles against the whole range of attacks and injustices that face ethnic communities and the working class as a whole. We will not tolerate scapegoating of any group of workers -

"RACISTS ATTACK - WE FIGHT BACK!"

P., S.Yorks DAM

SILENCED

The governments' desire to control what people think has extended to history taught in school. In the wake of the 1988 ban by the Home Office on showing anyone speaking in support of 'Northern Ireland terrorist organisations or their apologists', a schools' history series, "Understanding Northern Ireland" is being cut so that extracts showing two famous republicans should not be heard.



The extracts showing Eamonn de Valera, the Sinn Féin President who became Irish Prime Minister and President, and Sean McBride,

the IRA leader who won the Nobel Peace Prize, will have their voices replaced by a commentators' paraphrase or dubbed by actors.

It is one of the features of authoritarian regimes that not only do they try to control the present but they also attempt to change history to suit themselves. This was a favourite pastime of Stalin and Hitler. How long before there is the banning, or even burning, of books that do not reflect the establishment view of history?

Bouncing The Bigots

Early this year a group of people started to mount pickets on a clinic which carries out abortions. They harassed women going into the building, calling them "murderers". They also tried to block the road outside the clinic by kneeling down in the middle and praying. Operation Rescue had come to Britain.

Starting in the US and growing out of the civil rights and the anti nuke movement, Operation Rescue are militantly opposed to abortion. Avowedly pacifist - though their actions in America, Canada and now England give lie to this - they picket abortion clinics in an attempt to "counsel" (read intimidate) women who try to go in.

FULL-TIMERS

In America they have bombed clinics, attacked staff and, as their campaign has failed, escalated their tactics to a point where they concede people may be killed.

They have also sought to spread their activities and to this end sent twenty five full time organisers to England. These particular people were sent because they face almost certain imprisonment if they stayed active in America or Canada.

In England they contacted members of such organisations as SPUC (Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) and Life. They recruited from them and now act as a front organisation for these groups.

In Brixton a group was formed to oppose Rescue by mounting a counter picket. Over the weeks, our tactics evolved and developed. Members of a variety of groups and organisations (DAM, Red Action and others) formed the Clinics Defence Campaign.

The CDC has one main aim - to defend the clinics and oppose Operation Rescue by any means necessary.

Our main concern is not to add to the intimidation of women going into the clinic. A vast crowd clustered round the entrance is inherently frightening. We use what we call "them plus two": simply, if they have 5 people, then we have 7 and we surround them with our banners supporting a woman's right to choose.

We also have back up in case of any trouble and also relief pickets for when the constant singing and praying gets too much.



INFORMATION

Week after they have appeared and been met with a hostile reception. Slowly their numbers decreased as weaker souls got too scared to face up to vigorous local opposition. On one appearance due to a certain incidence they left en masse (well, there were only 3 of them) in an ambulance.

For almost 2 months now they've been happily absent

from Brixton. Happily from Brixton but that means they must be operating elsewhere.

The CDC has amassed a considerable amount of information on Operation Rescue including important details like members names and license plate numbers. We are happy to share this information with anyone who finds these people operating in their area. We can help with pickets and speakers.

CDC feel they have shown the way to defeat Operation Rescue not by being passive but by strong united and determined local opposition to show these people clearly that their presence is not welcome and will not be tolerated.

CDC can be contacted:
c/o 121 Railton Rd, Brixton,
London, SW2

CT, S London DAM

SCA PEGOAT

Workers can only be disgusted at the recent jailing of train driver Robert Morgan, given 18 months for the Purley train crash, especially as only weeks before in the Guinness trials, people who had been guilty of thieving millions got similar sentences.

Nor is this an isolated case. It has now been disclosed that another rail worker, Frances Foster, a guard at Leeds, is also to be charged with manslaughter arising from another train accident.

In both cases workers are being made scapegoats by British Rail and the government by the use of class law.

FAIL SAFE

The accident at Purley would

not have happened if BR had installed a "failsafe mechanism", used on most European railways, that stops trains automatically

when they pass signals that are showing red for stop. BR have refused to install the system because of the cost - this when the number of

incidents of drivers passing signals at danger is rising dramatically.

In the first 6 months of this year, according to BR internal figures, there were 412 incidents of trains passing signals. And this is not even a true figure as the majority of cases are not reported because staff cover them up because of fear of punishment by an increasingly "macho" management.

Again, in the case of Frances Foster, who has been charged with killing an 85 year old woman when she was trapped in a train sliding doors, it is BR who are at fault.

The train on which the accident happened was made on the cheap and has been

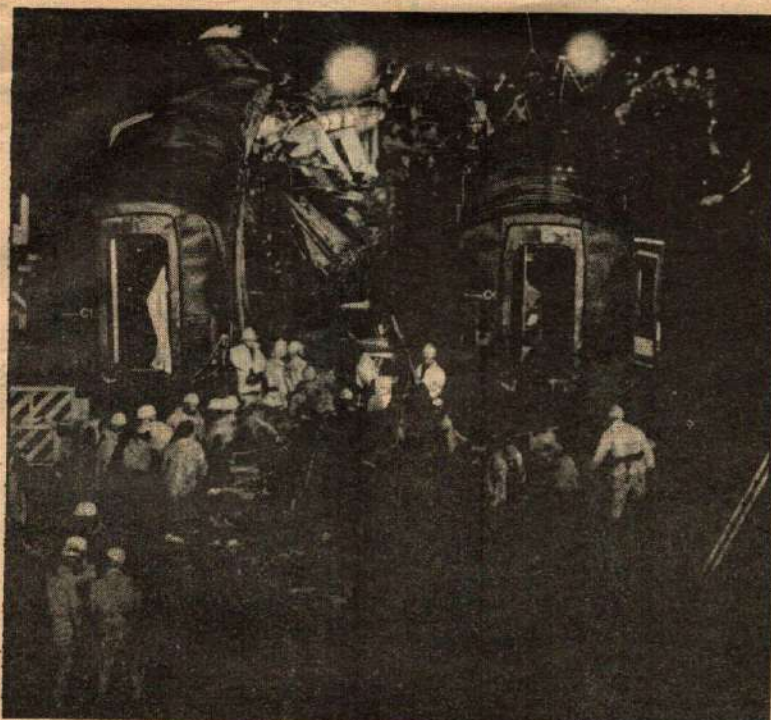
taken out of service because of design faults on a number of occasions. As a result of the accident, the "door close" indicator light has been taken off the train because it has been shown not to be safe.

NEW PROCEDURES

BR have also introduced a new procedure for staff to use when operating sliding door trains, with the rule book being changed and special training for guards.

Again, as a result of the Leeds accident, so the question must be asked - if the accident, or murder as the state would have it, was the fault of Frances Foster, why have BR made so many changes? But even if the

Continued on
next page



Continued

accidents were not the fault of BR - which they are - how can it be that an ordinary worker can end up in jail?

Of course, it couldn't be anything to do with the fact that railworkers forced the government to backtrack in the strikes last year. Nor to the fact that Thatcher has faced real problems over the run down of the railways and needed a scapegoat. After all, you can run down council housing, social services and hospitals etc and it won't effect your average middle class Tory. But the railways, especially in rural areas and the South-East, where the Tories are dependent upon them, well that's a different matter.

WHAT ABOUT THE UNIONS

But we should not be shocked by the class hatred of the courts. What we should be asking is what happened to our side, to our defenders - in other words, what about the unions?!

In the case of ASLEF, the first reaction of their general secretary, Fullick, was good. Obviously upset and angry, he informed the media that "the real criminals are in Downing Street and the Dept of Transport". He called the sentence "class justice" and informed the press that if he was a driver at Morgans' depot, he would now be sat at home on strike.

Unfortunately, the latter statement was too much for the rest of the ASLEF National Executive and Fullick was called before

them and given a talking to about the law of the land and strikes.

But ASLEF, faced with the growing threat of unofficial strikes, had to be seen to be doing something. They first talked in vague terms about a work to rule which then they postponed until talks with the Transport Secretary, Parkinson. Now it seems that they are pinning their hopes on the courts and backing an appeal.

Meanwhile, behind the scenes, that much underestimated weapon, gossip and misinformation, has been going apace. ASLEF fulltimers have been going round blackening Morgan's name, stating he ignored union help and advice by pleading guilty. By doing so they are blaming the man for his own sentence. They are also putting it about that

they have done a behind the scenes deal with Prison Officers Union and that Morgan will be "looked after" in prison - which can only be described as disgusting.

ATTACK ON OUR CLASS

As for Frances Foster, her union, the NUR, has not reacted so far as no doubt they are waiting for another worker to be sentenced before all the statements of shock and horror.

It is clear that left to their own devices the NUR and ASLEF will do nothing about what is, after all, not just an attack on individuals, but on the working class as a whole.

Pressure must be placed on the unions to call strike action but in the meantime, open meetings of NUR and

ASLEF members should be organised and where possible unofficial action should take place without waiting for the union.

There is little doubt that there is widespread anger amongst railworkers about the jailing of Robert Morgan and the charges against Frances Foster. The trouble is that the reformist unions are too scared of the law and losing their funds to go out and organise action.

In the long term the only answer is to start to organise an alternative organisation, one which will answer class hatred with class hatred and attacks with attacks. One which will recognise the law for what it is - a tool of the ruling class - and show it the contempt it deserves.

TC, DAM Transport Workers

K A S

The following statement of aims and principles was issued by the **Confederation of Anarcho-Syndicalists (KAS)** in the Soviet Union this summer:

The Confederation of Anarcho-syndicalists is an independent political organisation of a non-party type. It was founded in Moscow by 12 local anarchist groups from different parts of the USSR (mainly central Russia, Ukraine, Siberia).

Now KAS consists of more than 35 local organisations, the number of anarchist groups continues to increase. Today's KAS is the heir to the Russian Confederation of Anarcho-Syndicalists which existed in our country in 1918-1926 and was repressed by the NKVD (forerunner of the KGB).

We fight for a libertarian society (stateless socialism) based on collective ownership over the product of labour, self-management and federalism, demilitarisation and non-partyism.

WE STAND FOR:

- non-party soviets where deputies will vote according to the decisions of their electors (imperative mandate), but not according to party decisions;
- direct legislation, making all important decisions through referendums;
- workers' take-over of the

means of production and the products of their labour;

- the establishing of independent trade unions and popular movements, which are not controlled by state and party bureaucracies;

- liquidation of ministries and the establishing of voluntary associations and enterprises in regions and in the different branches of industry;

- a federative society where every collective, city and region will run its own affairs without state or party interference; where the competence of higher-level bodies will be defined by lower-level bodies;

- real guarantees of individual and collective freedom and rights, which can't be violated by any bodies of state power;

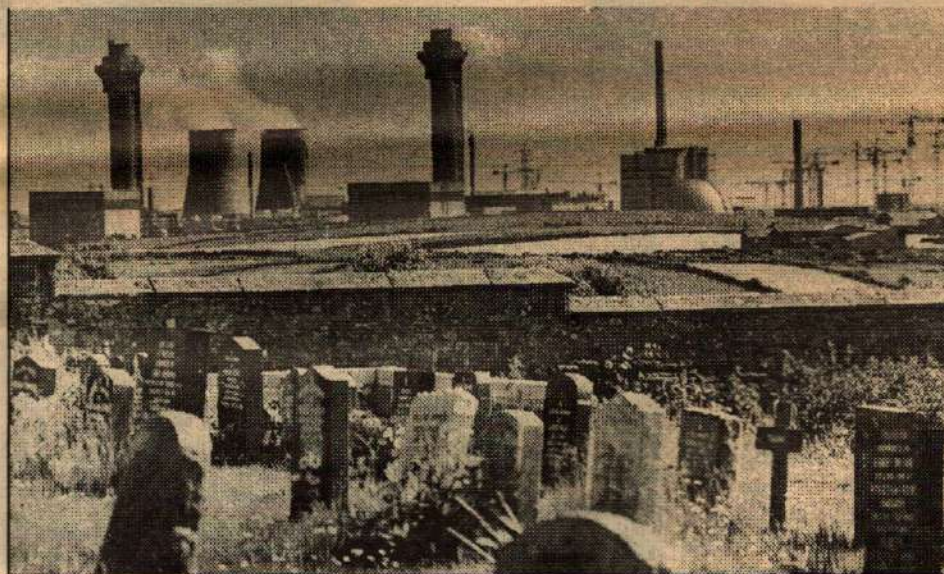
- abolition of any state power over human life - abolition of the death penalty, passport regime, all forms of compulsory labour etc.

- equalisation of rights of all organisations.

We don't fight for political power, but we try to reach our aims by propagandising our views, by establishing and supporting independent popular movements, by participation of KAS members in mass activities.

KAS has no central bodies and bureaucratic apparatus -

CHERNOBYL - BY - THE - SEA



HM Inspectorate of pollution have produced a little-publicised report that shows that plutonium contamination levels at Lavan Sands to the

we reject the principle of centralisation. The only central body is the KAS Congress. Local groups are fully autonomous and act according to the KAS programme and local needs. The minority cannot be violated to execute the majority's decisions, but the minority shouldn't oppose the majority executing its decisions.

The KAS now has 3 regional confederations: the Russian Confederation, the Trans-Urals Confederation of Anarcho-Syndicalists (ZKAS) and the Confederation of Anarchists of the Ukraine, "NABAT" (KAU "Nabat").

Source: KAS Newsletter

north-east of the Menai Straits are nearly **100 times higher** than those found 30 miles north of Chernobyl in 1986! (Total radioactive contamination in the Chernobyl area is, of course, much higher).

The pollution comes from Sellafield - "the squeaky

clean face of nuclear power that has millions of visitors every year". The Irish Sea is now the most radioactive large expanse of water in the world. British Nuclear Fuels discharge two million gallons of radioactive water into the Irish Sea **every day**. Ah, the wonders of the market!

!

A Yorkshire inn chain is employing "local characters" to attract customers to their tourist pubs. One such "character" is an ex-miner who is supposed to teach local dialect, darts and dominoes to tourists, as well as offering "homegrown philosophy" and recipes. For this he receives a free pint every half an hour.

Now even the vital communication between people from different cultures and backgrounds has to be brought under the control of the market! What next? Hire an eccentric relative? Class War Weekend Breaks?

Source: Employment News

Fortress Europe 1992

The abolition of internal borders between European Community countries by the end of 1992 would appear to fulfil one of the historic aims of the international workers' movement. In the name of capitalism and more effective social control, the tedious business of queuing at the passport control for the Special Branch plod to give you a dirty look may soon be over. This paradox exposes the gap between an internal market and what we mean by internationalism.

CHEAP LABOUR

Without the abolition of the economic system which nationalism rests on, the result of lifting border controls is increased trade access (particularly in terms of cheap labour) and an increasingly interventionist internal security apparatus.

Our internationalism comes through the experience of class struggle when workers see the practical necessity of international solidarity in waging a war against international capital. The first goal of internationalists is the suppression of all states and state apparatus, their final aim to release the immense power of innumerable human cultures through direct comparison and free co-operation.

ANGLO-IRISH

John Alderson, a senior police strategist, writing in *Police Review* (1/6/88), argued that border controls can give a false picture of state security. As in the case of the north of Ireland, where both smugglers and republicans avoid border controls without difficulty. The Anglo-Irish Agreement is an open admission that state security needs to go beyond border containment to full police and judicial co-operation in order to be effective. Alderson comments on the abolition of all police and customs formalities:

"This could be expected to stimulate inter-state police and criminal administration and to move the focus for the prevention and detection of crime from a static border control policy to more fluid and probably more effective responses."

INTERPOL

At present there are three levels of Euro-policing: first and best-known is **Interpol**, which collates security information and criminal intelligence among all EC member countries. Secondly, and most importantly, is the **Trevi Group** which has emerged as the chief forum for vested interests in the security apparatus and political/business world. Lastly are the long-standing informal contacts between European security forces, for instance in keeping tabs on each others' political enemies or co-ordinating a massive intelligence and paramilitary exercise like 'Italia 90'.

of Trevi Group Ministers (Paris 15/12/89). Considering the increasing

ease of communication and travel they conclude:

"Furthermore, these facilities bring about certain risks with respect to public order and internal security."

Amidst all the talk about drug trafficking, terrorism and illegal immigration the real concern of the ruling class is that in a Europe with internal borders the state institutions may not be adequate in maintaining social control. Douglas Hurd, the British Foreign Secretary, has talked openly of borders being an

'rights of citizens to travel and sell their labour freely' etc., is a blind to hide the naked self interest of the capitalist class, who want to have their cake and eat it. On the one hand, the internal market is designed to fulfil their requirements for a cheap and plentiful supply of labour. On the other, they are determined to ensure that there is no chance of a breakdown in 'public order' crossing national boundaries.

FLICS SANS FRONTIERES

If the much vaunted 'freedom of movement' side of the internal market is a cover for an increasingly

European policing will be established."

In fact, the process of enforcing a common EC immigration policy ('homogenous supervision of frontier crossings') has already started. Italy, which has traditionally had no immigration controls is tightening up on immigration

from African countries. EC leaders are looking nervously at Eastern Europe, determined to stem any movement of their populations towards the affluent west.

ECONOMIC MIGRATION

As the experience of the failed attempts to enforce a



The Trevi Group, which was established in 1976, is charged with preparing the ground for the creation of a **Europol**. It consists of a number of committees covering crime and terrorism, police training, forensic science and police technology. Policy decisions are taken by EC Foreign Ministers and their senior officials on the basis of reports drawn up by lower level committees of police officials and civil servants.

As such, it is the perfect example of the way in which the state security apparatus pursues its interests well aware from the glare of publicity, but at the heart of influence and power.

PUBLIC ORDER

While the parliamentary Left witters on about the 'Workers Charter' the real social content of 1992 is revealed by the Declaration

impediment to state security:

"The Trevi Machinery exists to leap over frontiers... our capitals and other cities contain a melange of groups who for one reason or another are capable of terrorism. They don't respect frontiers and it is essential that our efforts are not inhibited by frontiers."

SCHENGEN

In June 1990 the Schengen group of countries (Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg, France and West Germany) lifted all mutual border controls, and allowed each others' police forces certain jurisdiction to pursue criminals across national frontiers.

It must be clear that all the liberal talk about 'opening up Europe', 'freedom of movement',

interventionist and proactive police state, then there is another side to 1992 which reinforces these new police powers. If internal border controls are being lifted, then the Trevi Group proposals have made it clear that external borders will be greatly reinforced. The prospect of a 'Fortress Europe' goes hand in hand with the lifting of borders internally. In Alderson's jargon:



"The realities are, that security needs will be moved to the periphery and to greater fluidity of internal collaboration...A new era of

land border against economic migration between the USA and Mexico shows however, this may not be so easy.

The 1990's has already seen the need for a fresh carve-up of the globe by the major economic blocs. It is scarcely possible any longer to talk about the distinct interests of national capitals (when British capitalists cannot raise the equity to finish their part of the Channel Tunnel, French capitalists have to step into the breach to rescue their investment).

In 1992 the worry for the competing capitals of Europe is that peripheral, backward nations like Britain should not provide the spark which sets fire to the social order of Europe. For revolutionary internationalists, their fear is our opportunity.

Alex, Bristol DAM



Out To Win

Anarchosyndicalists have traditionally fought against all laws as we see them as part of the mechanism by which the people in power, the ruling class, has managed to maintain its power, economic, social and political, over the vast majority of the population, the working class. We have always fought against laws and those who support and implement them ie the police and judiciary.

We oppose all laws as such but this does not mean at the moment we would wish there to be no laws. It is clear that certain legal requirements that, for example, employers have to fulfill are, under the present circumstances, useful to us. This does not

detract from our ultimate aim of replacing all laws by rules freely agreed by the whole collective which would be basic and minimalised.

In other words, at times, we demand certain laws be implemented for our benefit. A simple example of this would be the right of equal opportunities for lesbians and gay men in the workplace. We do not demand that the law be implemented because the idea of law is correct but because we believe that gays and lesbians should not be discriminated against in the workplace. And anarcho-syndicalists defend anyone's right to express their sexual preference at work and defend workers against attacks of any sort by the

boss class. If the law is not applied we must use direct action involving as many people as possible. However, most laws usually act against our collective benefit and are designed to

As a result of this barbaric law 2454 gay men were convicted in 1988 for having consensual sexual relations below the age of 21. Some have been imprisoned as a result.



do so.* Some such laws are those used to oppress gays and lesbians. We need look no further than the ridiculous case in April 1988 when two gay men were fined under Section 5 (which prohibits insulting or threatening behaviour) for kissing in the street! Other laws have been established to limit this kind of sexual expression. The 1967 Sexual Offences Act which 'legalised' male homosexuality for over 21's is a disgraceful example of this.

This law is outrageous on two points: firstly, it supposes that society has to be protected against homosexual acts as something immoral and indecent, and secondly, it supposes that young people have not realised where their sexual feelings lie at the grand old age of 21!

Sexuality and sex are used by the bosses to divide us, the working class. The idea is: take it out on a gay man or a black person or a

bisexual rather than on our real enemies, the bosses and state. All laws, all attacks on us because of sex and sexual leaning (gay or straight) must be fought both in and outside the workplace. It is not sufficient to raise the banner of 'Gay and Lesbian Rights' from time to time as many political groups such as the SWP or Worker's Power (who can't even defend gays from harassment in their own organisation and yet who expel others for not towing the party line on sexual politics). All these groups do - if they don't actually think gayness is a bourgeois deviation to be cured after the revolution - is to conveniently forget lesbian and gay rights when there is no march or recruiting to be done.

This issue must be at the top of the pile at all times - all attacks on gays and lesbians must be defended as attacks on the whole of our class. We want a society that is not governed by laws (as the bourgeoisie and authoritarian 'socialists' desire) but by freedom which is regulated by free people through free agreements and where free sexual relations and free love between man and woman, woman and woman, and man and man can exist and prosper. Richard,

THE GREEN GODDESS

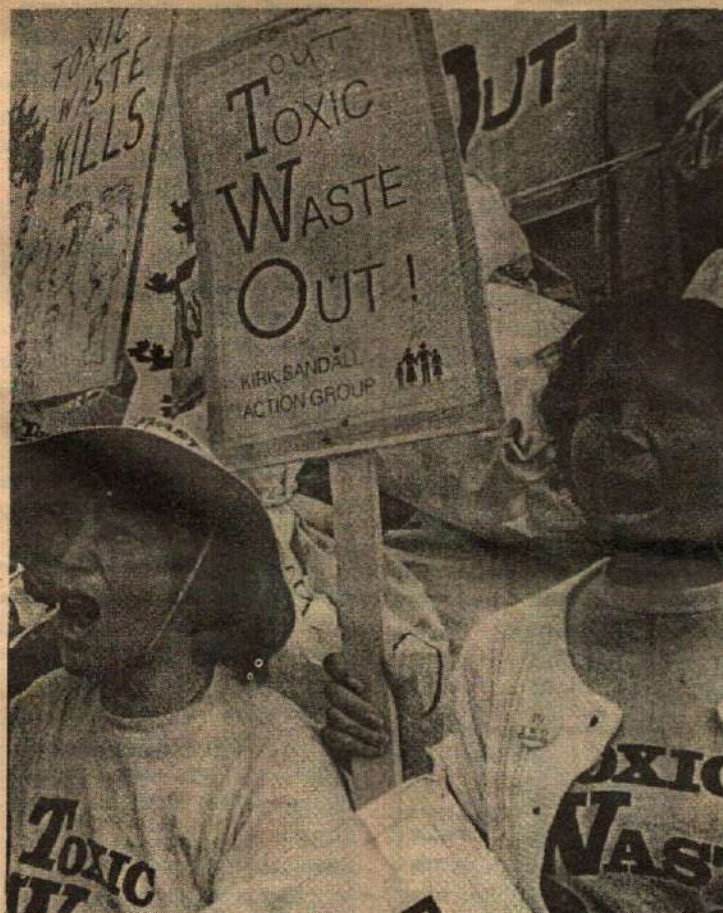
It's the "in thing" these days to be Green and people are falling over themselves in an effort to buy biodegradable trash bags and recycled toilet paper in an effort to be environmentally sound.

Personally, I'm all in favour of solar panels and of threatened land being saved from becoming the site of yet another "Happy Eater". I buy biodegradably sussed washing-up liquid and free range eggs. But I consider these products to be luxuries that are not always affordable. So while those with the money are flexing their credit cards and saving the rainforests, the vast majority of us, though we may want to, can't afford it. Or can we?

PLUNDER

I reckon there are two answers to this: 1) we can't afford not to and 2) meaningful and lasting action to reverse the plundering of our planet is not a matter of buying power - it's a matter of world-wide working class action.

If we don't get our act together soon and do something about the ecology, it won't matter whether we



win the revolution as the stinking cesspit we inherit won't be much of a prize. And the glorious day is not coming tomorrow or the day after - so what can we do now?

Too many of us reckon there's not a lot you can do now, that using lead-free

petrol and recycling aluminium tins is just too trendy for words. Come the revolution, we'll put it all right. Well, people, especially those without the means to buy clean water and to live in the relatively cleaner parts of town are suffering from the effects of pollution now. So we must act now.

CHANGE NOW

I think it's important that we make every little change that we can, even down to just something like not dousing our gardens in chemicals (each year in Britain over £20 million is spent on garden chemicals). OK, that is just a drop in the bucket compared to what giant companies like ICI pump out and barely makes a dent in reducing the overall contamination of this country, let alone the world. But it's a start.

So one small part of it is to change a few habits when shopping. But, more importantly, we must look for ways to change things together, not just as individuals making consumer choices but as a class changing history.

HIGHER PRICE

Many people can't afford the higher priced ecologically sound products. And perhaps they live in council flats which are insulated with asbestos and they can't simply rip it out and replace it. But what they can do is organise on their estates to demand the Council update their homes with safe materials.

Now everyone knows that if Mrs Jones and Mr Brown and everyone else write polite but firm letters to the Council or phone up and moan at the harassed clerks in the Housing Department that nothing will happen. And even if Mrs Jones is particularly bold and goes to her Counsellor's surgery to demand in person that the toxic waste dump across the street from her kid's school be shut, all she'll get for her pains is smiles and handshakes and she'll be out standing on the pavement before she knows it - having achieved nothing.

Polite letters and even stropky interviews with politicians never changes anything. And yet most of us persist in using such inefficient and disheartening methods to try and achieve something.

We elect Committees and Honourable Presidents; have candle-lit protests and send off hundreds of balloons; we write petitions and present them to government; we march from one end of the country to the other and have our cause talked about on TV - and we become tired, alienated and

Continued on next page

Continued

burnt-out. We go back to wearing "Save the Whale" t-shirts and counting tadpoles at the local pond because we feel we can do nothing else.

It is for this reason - to combat our sense of isolation and alienation - that although we can and should all do our bit to help clean up the earth by personal, consumerist means, the most powerful weapon at our disposal is the collective action of our class.

ORGANISE AND FIGHT

Anarchosyndicalism is about workers organising and fighting for a better world. We are not utopianists and therefore do not opt out of fighting for the little changes in the here and now.

dangerous substances, my kid goes to that school across from the toxic waste dump, too. This is supposed to be a Nuclear Free town so what are they doing about that waste? I'm certainly not paying my Poll Tax now if they can't even clean up our town...

One issue leads to another, though nothing is ever as simple as the above scenario. However, the mere fact that almost everyone is interested in health and safety (though perhaps only their own and not fellow workers!) and most are interested in environmental issues shows a way for us to bridge the sometimes seemingly cavernous gaps between many of the struggles that face us as a class. We must be able to point out clearly the



"One day, son, all this will be junk mail"

Little changes mean, for example, getting your boss to fit reflector screens on your VDU at work.

Concern about one aspect of health and safety can lead to further questioning of work conditions. OK, they've given us these screens, but now they expect us to sit here in one position for 7 hours a day! That's not very healthy! And the crap wages they pay us are certainly no consolation...

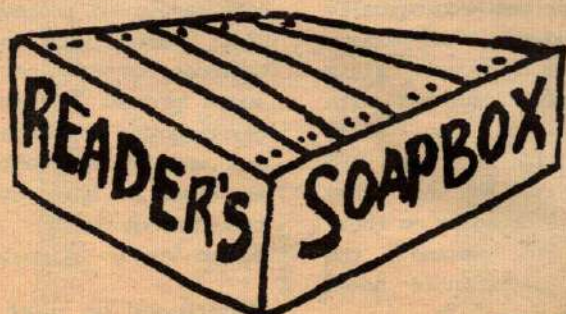
BACK ON THE ESTATE

Meanwhile, back on the estate, Mrs Jones, who helped win the VDU screens at work, gets together with Mr Brown and others on the estate to form a Tenants Group which is concerned about the asbestos in their ceilings. And yeah, while we're talking about

connection between apparently personal health and safety issues (VDU screens) and the pollution and exploitation of the Earth in general. We are exploited as wage slaves and the Earth is exploited as a commodity.

These issues are linked and if we can help explain to people that the mechanisms of capitalism which are slaughtering whales and dolphins are the same mechanisms which ignore safety checks at the workplace - ie the desire for profit - then just maybe this planet stands a chance. For if we don't make these links and don't do something now, then the world we claim as ours will not be worth having.

Donna,



APPEAL

With hyper-inflation rampant in Argentina, the members of the historic anarcho-syndicalist movement, the FORA, have written an urgent appeal for funds to the sections of the International Workers Association. As the cost of living goes through the roof the members of the FORA, along with the rest of the Argentine working class, are

finding it increasingly difficult to live, let alone carry on political work.

The FORA are appealing for financial support to enable them to maintain their activity in this increasingly desperate situation.

The National Committee of the DAM has already decided to send money, but DA readers who would like to show their solidarity also can send cheques/PO's (made

out to the LEO ROSSER MEMORIAL FUND) to the DAM International Secretary, c/o Edinburgh DAM, PO Box 516, Southwest DO, Edinburgh EH10. (Please indicate that the money is for the FORA).



LETTERS

Dear Da,

I was glad to see that liberalism is alive and well in "Direct Action" no.66. According to the article about kneecapping, the truth must be somewhere in between what the British State says and what the IRA says. Well, how jolly liberal of us to take the middle way!

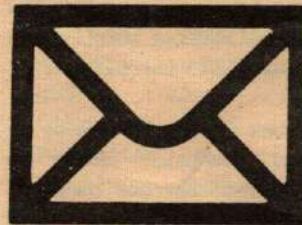
I don't think the IRA is the be-all end-all of everything, but they are not putting bullets into potential supporters and making enemies for themselves. They are putting into anti-social elements who would never support them anyhow.

There's a well known Irish play called "Playboy of the Western World" about a man who kills his bullying father and becomes a hero in a village on the west coast. However, when his injured, but living, father catches up with him, he has to kill him in front of the villagers. Having actually seen the dirty deed, the fickle villagers turn on him and want him taken to court and hung.

Nancy Gracey's campaign will go the same way as the Peace People in the 70s. It will be used by the British government to discredit the IRA, portraying them as psychos, because they dare to question the State's monopoly on justice. They will use it to further justify their actions in Ireland.

With the prison riots earlier in the year, more people are aware that the penal system doesn't work. It throws up the question what would we, as anarchists, have instead. Does everyone think that everything will be fine and dandy after the revolution and that there won't be any more anti-social crime?

Maybe that's why potential supporters don't take us seriously. What about



dealing with anti-social crime in the here and now instead of sitting in our armchairs - when we're not sitting on the fence - passing moral judgements on the IRA and advocating nice ideas about community action that we're nowhere near achieving ourselves.

Yours,
Mark, Glasgow

Dear Sisters,

We are a Women's Centre campaigning for the ending of female genital mutilation and all traditional practices that endanger the lives of women such as force feeding, childhood marriage, polygamy and brutal abuse of women and children.

We also provide direct services for the battered, destitute, elderly and homeless women; and we campaign vigorously against the widespread of AIDS amongst women. Through peer counselling, community events, information dissemination, public information on the radio and television and newspapers, we work for the change of attitudes towards violence against women.

Unfortunately, the civil war in the strife-torn Republic of Liberia in West Africa has further aggravated our situation as some women refugees and children have risked their lives travelling in open boat dug out of tree trunk through the Atlantic Ocean to our Centre.

Amongst these women are five, raped and one with broken bottle dumped in her vagina by the rebel soldiers of Charles Taylor's so-called National Patriotic Front; the main rebel group fighting to overthrow President Samuel Doe of Liberia.

According to the women, these atrocities were perpetrated on them because they hailed from the tribe of President Doe whom the rebels are trying to oust from power as a reprisal to the Liberian Government troops' killing of Charles Taylors' tribesmen who are suspected to be aiding the rebels.

As women we cannot remain indifferent to the plight of these unfortunate women, and we cannot turn them away from our Centre. We have therefore been compelled to use all available funds to provide emergency care and services for these "unexpected strangers" who are suffering from exposure, hunger and disease.

This has increased our financial problems and the situation has precipitated an immediate need for relief materials such as clothing, shoes and medicaments. In addition we are facing acute shortage of accommodation too.

In these circumstances, we are earnestly and sincerely appealing to you to come to our immediate help by donating whatever you can afford for the care of these war victims. For we cannot by ourselves meet with this emergency situation since we are a non-governmental feminist organisation which depends on donations.

Donations by personal cheques, bankdrafts or International Money Order will be graciously accepted and packages should be sent by Registered Mail.

Material gifts such as clothing, shoes, medicaments etc will also be accepted and packages should be inscribed "Charity Donation/Not For Sale". Please do not enclose money in packages containing material gifts.

Address to:
Hannah Edemikpong (Mrs)
c/o Box 185
Eket
Akwa Ibom State
Nigeria, West Africa

Dear DA,

The "Constructive Anarchism" in the Readers Soap Box page appears to be written by someone who has just left a marxist organisation but has not left the dogma of Marx or statist ideas behind them.

Anarchists do not believe that an anarchist society is an "irrisistable product of social history" - this is simplistic marxist thinking.

Libertarian communism will have to be built and fought for against all the old ideas and institutions - there is nothing inevitable about it.

The section on work and distribution is very odd with its bit about dependants and maintaining people if there is not enough work to go around. Work will be shared and if there is less work we all do less or, more likely, in an attempt to increase not only the quality of produce but the quality of work time, it shall take longer to produce things.

As for dependants there is no such thing. There are those whose ability to contribute is limited by physical or mental reasons, there are the young who are waiting to contribute and

there are the old and ill who have already worked or will work in the future. What ever happened to from each according to their ability and to each according to their need?

There is a need for articles on anarchist theory, but anarchism is not rehashed marxism or liberal statism as these two ideas are our greatest enemies for they allow authority and power to grow and lull working class people into a false sense of security.

A.D. Peel, Wath-upon-Deame

REVIEWS

The Memphis Belle is an American B17 bomber about to be taken on its 25th and final mission over Nazi Germany by 10 clean-cut all-American boys. And it is the most hyped rubbish you are going to see this year.

The film attempts to be an honest portrayal of war, being based on a war time documentary of the real Memphis Belle but it contains major distortions about the reality of war.

The film is an amalgamation of all the cliches of all the bomber films ever made - the waiting dog, the lucky charms, the captain talking to the plane - if you've seen one you've seen them all. Perhaps the one bit of originality in the whole film is during the "what will we do after the war" chats. When one of the crew dreams of establishing a chain of cafes selling the same food, with the same decor in every town, the boredom turns into a real desire to have them blown out of the sky.

The Memphis Belle is part of the leading squadron of a force of over 350 B17s. As the lead aircraft are shot down or forced to retire, our gallant crew find themselves at the front, responsible for dropping the

first bombs for everyone to aim at. As they make the run toward the target, an aircraft factory, it clouds over. It is then that the propaganda takes over.

The captain orders the squadron to go round and try again. Impassioned speeches about innocent women and children and "a man's gotta



do what a man's gotta do" may make a good story line (if it doesn't make you sick) but it's better off in a Rambo film than in one which claims to be the real thing.

It just couldn't happen. The 350 planes all flying in close formation just stopped, waiting for the heros to do their stuff. Or they all flew in a massive circle oblivious to the fact that they would run out of fuel. Anyway, as the Memphis Belle approaches for the second time the clouds

miraculously clear, leaving a perfect target.

The portrayal of the just an honest war is a joke. Bombing nowadays is not a precision thing - just look at the USAF raid against Libya with hi-tech missiles.

In WWII it was even less so. Air bombing is about the destruction of infrastructure - buildings, bridges, roads - the people on the ground are irrelevant. This film tries to make us believe that in order to attempt to save the lives of German civilians, US airmen would risk their own. The fact that the aircraft factory was probably full of conscript labour from all over Europe didn't bother them.

Normally this film could be dismissed, but with the build-up in the Gulf it takes on more significance. If the war goes off in the Gulf, all sorts of targets will be hit and the civilians on the ground will make no difference whether they are citizens of friendly, neutral or enemy states. The words of politicians and military PR men will say differently, but that is the reality of war.

Malc, S Yorks DAM

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The Direct Action Movement was formed in 1979 by the Syndicalist Workers Federation and other groups and individuals believing in the the principles of anarchosyndicalism. The DAM is the british section of the International Workers Association (IWA). The IWA, formed in 1922, presently has sections in France, Spain, Italy, Norway, Denmark, Germany (East and West), Japan, Australia, Argentina, Brazil and the USA, and a provisional section in Finland.

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JP, Norfolk.....	88.00
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Many thanks to these comrades and to those readers who took out Supporters Subscriptions.

AIMS AND PRINCIPLES

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 by independent organisation in the workplace and the 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 the workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers' movement. Any and all such delegates 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 environment.
8. The Direct Action Movement is resolved to initiate, encourage and wholeheartedly support the creation of independent workers' unions based on the principles of anarcho-syndicalism.
9. 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.

Direct Action has always been run on a shoe-string. Donations, large or small, make a real difference. So, if you've got some spare cash lying around you now know where to send it!



DIRECT ACTION

Fight Racism~Smash
Immigration Laws - Demo,
Sat. Nov. 3rd, MANCHESTER,
Assemble 1pm, Alexandra Park, Moss Side

Support The Trafalgar Square Defendants

As DA goes to press, confusion reigns over whether there will be an anti-Poll Tax event in London on 20th October. The Trafalgar Square Defendants' Campaign has been planning a march to draw attention to the treatment of defendants by the police and courts. The Campaign has picketted Mirror Group Newspapers over their "If you know 'em, shop 'em" features; Brixton, Wormwood Scrubs and Pentonville prisons, where defendants are held; as well as the courts. The October demonstration was supposed to draw these actions together, and pull the entire anti-Poll Tax movement in support of TSDC.

To this end, the London Anti-Poll Tax Federation was approached to support such a march to coincide with a festival to welcome the Militant-organised People's March Against the Poll Tax, at Brockwell Park. Militant stalled, claiming they had no mandate to decide on the question. Despite a clear majority for the march, Militant managed to defer a decision. Meanwhile, the Brockwell Park festival was cancelled by the All-Britain Federation, organisers of the People's March, fearing a "take-over" by TSDC. (It was also discovered that Trafalgar Square was booked for the 20th by the Disabled Consortium, an umbrella organisation for disabled action groups).

OPEN CONTEMPT

The debate in the London Fed centred around whether the march was to be solely about nice, respectable civil disobedience, and the Poll

Tax as an isolated, single issue; or about linking the fight to the attempted criminalisation of the movement, and of protest and resistance generally, and the Poll Tax as a class issue.

In supporting the former position, Militant displayed open contempt for street politics, and for the working class in general. Although they won the vote, they inflicted political

Taafe, wife of Militant's editor, even declared that any independent activity organised by TSDC should be disowned. Militant are on the way out but it is important that we minimise the damage they can do to the anti-Poll Tax movement in their death throes, and do not allow complacency to let them off the hook.

DISABLED CONSORTIUM

Militant also patronisingly

Disabled people are hard hit by the Poll Tax and the rally's organisers stress their support for the anti-Poll Tax movement and TSDC. However, they feel that an anti-Poll Tax march and its attendant police presence will scare disabled people away. A march on 20th October would, therefore, not only damage relations between disabled people and the anti-Poll Tax movement, but also disabled people's fight for their rights. The

march to the 21st. Failing that, a planned feeder march through Trafalgar Square by TSDC should be called off.

Friday 19th is International Solidarity Day with TSDC, in which International Workers Association sections and contacts will be taking part, and an event can be organised then.

The blame for this confused situation must lie squarely with Militant, whose craving for respectability, their sectarianism and incompetence will continue to plague the anti-Poll Tax movement until we organise to democratise its structures. Militant hacks must be removed from positions as delegates and officers at all levels, and this can only be done by an organised opposition defeating them politically. The 3D Network is the basis of that opposition, and all DA readers should support it.

NR, Hornsey APT



injuries on themselves. Most notably, two of their members had to be told they were breaching their mandates, and three more were caught voting against their mandates.

Militant don't know what democracy is, but they're against it! They are reducing the activities of the movement to maintaining their precarious position in the Labour Party. Linda

used the Disabled Consortium rally to paint anti-Poll Tax activists as riot-prone hooligans who couldn't be trusted within miles of such an event. It was TSDC, however, not the London Fed, who met the organisers of the disabled people's rally first. The latter object to any event in London on 20th October, because it will draw attention away from what has taken them months of hard work to organise.

streets can not be reclaimed by denying them to disabled people, they will have to be reclaimed another day, and links should be made to make anti-Poll Tax activities accessible to all those affected by the Tax.

SOLIDARITY

At the next TSDC National Defendants' meeting it will be proposed that the London Fed be asked to move the

TSDC produce a magazine called **Stand Firm**. It and further details can be obtained from: TSDC, c/o Haldane Society, Room 205, Panther House, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X 0AP. Tel. (071) 833 8958. Don't forget your donation!

3D - Don't Pay! Don't Collect! Don't Implement! - is an independent anti-Poll Tax network and magazine dedicated to democratising the movement in order to make it more effective. Send donations to: 3D, c/o 116 The Avenue, London N17. Tel. (081) 808 5893 (Sham).