

(A)

STRIKE!

number 9

D.A.M. TEESSIDE ANARCHIST BROADSHEET I.W.A.

Teesside DAM - Box DAM, 52 Call Lane, Leeds, LS2.

Neo-stalinist governments are dropping like flies in the East. In the West the Communist Parties are dropping the hammer and sickle. It's true most people in the East have illusions about Western-style "democracy". But there are now anarchist groups in Poland, Hungary and the USSR itself. With them we say that the "Free World" is not free, and the "Communist" countries were never anything of the kind. East or West, ALL POWER TO THE SOVIETS!

The Northern Echo, Wednesday, November 15, 1989

Poll tax protest disrupts council

POLL Tax protestors disrupted a meeting of Middlesbrough Council last night.

As the meeting got underway the mayor, Coun Chris Robson, demanded that the protestors remove two notices which they had stuck on the wall of the chamber. On each was written: "Socialists Shouldn't be Helping the Tories to Implement Poll Tax."

The protestors told the mayor he would have to remove them himself if that was what he wanted. Members prevented Coun Robson as he was about to leave the chair to

do so and he adjourned the meeting for ten minutes.

Half an hour later the protestors marched out carrying a six-foot anti-Poll Tax banner and chanting "Can't Pay, Won't Pay."

Forty minutes later all the Tories, bar two, led by their leader Coun Peter Jackson followed the protestors out of the chamber when he was told he would not have a right to reply to a statement on poll tax being read by Coun Mike Carr, the Labour leader.

Before the meeting a Middlesbrough Against Poll Tax spokeswoman said they found the council's haste to implement the Tory tax strange and demanded the council refrained from fining people who did not register.

In Coun Carr's statement he said the council had been opposed to Poll Tax from the start. He said 2,000 names had been gathered for a national petition against it.

Now that it was law the council would use whatever discretion was available to

minimise its impact. But he said: "We do not support the campaign for non-payment. That is a fraudulent approach because it implies that the Poll Tax can be defeated by that method."

He said it was dangerous because it encouraged poor people to get into debt and into court. Poll Tax must be changed politically by information and education and ultimately by political change at the next election, he said.

We are sick and tired of hearing how Labour members of M'bro. Council are against the Poll Tax. Why don't they do something? All they've done so far is give the people of M'bro. platitudes. Why was M'bro. Council the first in the North to move fines against people who haven't registered? Is this how they mean to "minimise its impact"? Councillor Carr and his like don't support the non-payment campaign because they are frauds and parlour socialists. Any excuse is used to avoid making a stand. In the meantime some of the poor people of this town aren't going to wait until Councillor Carr and friends win the next General Election. The Tory flagship is in deep water now. We're going to do our bit to help sink it. We'll be back Councillor Carr!

MAPT, c/o Box RAPT, 90 Corporation Road, Middlesbrough, TSI 2RE



M.A.P.T.

MAPT meets every week, publishes a Newsletter, operates a stall etc. Get involved if you're seriously against the Poll Tax. MAPT has area reps in Gresham, Southfield, Beechwood, Grove Hill, Ayresome and South Bank. Every estate, street, workplace and college has to be organized. A mass movement has to be built like in Scotland, where hundreds of thousands of people are refusing to pay a penny of their Poll Tax. In the meantime tickets for the MAPT Christmas Party are going fast!

CREDIT UNIONS

The High Street banks put on a happy smiling face when they're after your custom (money). Underneath the public relations gloss they're not so friendly. If you've been overdrawn or in debt you know what we mean. Threatening letters, and what is far more sinister, credit blacklisting. It doesn't take £1000s or even £100s debts to find your customer/credit isn't wanted.

The banks and finance companies won't tell you that your name is on a blacklist. You'll learn the hard way - being refused credit. The message is banks don't want poor people who can't pay up! So what's the alternative?

CREDIT UNIONS, local community savings and lending banks, run by the community for the community. They run on a non-profit making basis and offer low cost loans. For people on low incomes, unemployed, or the blacklisted, this is the only option to the loan shark.

The success of credit unions in Newcastle has led to the launch of five on Teesside. If you want more details contact your local "community bank": South Bank 467571, Thorntree 248199, Dormanstown 484223, Owton Fens (Hartlepool) 861584, and Bluehall (Stockton) 557705. Alternatively, money could be abolished, but that would be too easy!



Carrara is a town in Italy with a long distinguished anarchist tradition. As in much of Italy, Spain and France, it was anarchism rather than marxism or social democracy which dominated the early labour movement. And Carrara remained an anarchist stronghold long after anarchism had lost its influence elsewhere.

The workers in the famous Carrara marble quarries won the 6 hour day as far back as 1911. For many years the anarchist Alberto Meschi was Secretary of the local Trades Council, and most of the organized workers belonged to the Italian Syndicalist Union (USI, the DAM's sister organization in Italy). Carrara was a bastion of resistance to the blackshirts as the fascists came to power in the early 1920's. In 1926 the Carraran anarchist Gino Lucetti made an attempt on Mussolini's life but unfortunately failed to kill the butcher. In 1943-45 the anarchists played a dominant role in the partizan resistance around Carrara to the fascists and nazis. (The post-war "democratic" State tried to decorate some of the anarchist partizans with medals for this, but the anarchists refused them). In 1957 another Carraran anarchist, Goliardo Fiaschi was captured in Spain, where he gone to join an anarchist guerrilla group, with the intention of killing the dictator Franco. (He spent many years in prison in Spain and Italy, the Anarchist Black Cross in this country campaigning for his release).

In 1978 the International of Anarchist Federations (IFA) held its 3rd Congress in Carrara. In recognition of the anarchist contribution to the labour movement and the anti-fascist resistance, the Mayor of Carrara sent greetings to the Congress! In 1986 Carrara was in the news as the establishment reacted with outrage to the anarchists of Carrara erecting a marble monument to the "terrorist" Gaetano Breschi. (Gaetano Breschi, an anarchist worker, returned to Italy from the U.S. in 1900 to kill the King, to avenge a royalist massacre of workers in Milan two years before.)

Back in 1945 the anarchists took over a building in the main square which had been used by the fascists as their headquarters. The anarchists have been in residence ever since and the building houses the "Germinal" anarchist circle, which is affiliated to the Italian Anarchist Federation (FAI). Now in 1989 the "owners" want to see the building used for different (that is, more profitable) purposes. The authorities have issued "Germinal" with an eviction order. The building is privately owned (and the anarchists always paid rent), but it was built on public land, so the anarchists refuse to move so that the property developers can set up yet another financial or commercial establishment in the town. That's apart from the fact that the anarchists have been there for 45 years and they shed blood to liberate it in 1945.

Continued over...

This comes after attacks on the "Self-managed Social Centres" set up by young anarchists in other parts of Italy. In August the "Leoncavallo" Social Centre in Milan was violently evicted by riot police and then demolished. Like Britain, Italy is an increasingly conformist society, where independent and autonomous spaces are viewed as a subversive threat (which in truth they are). But Carrara won't be an easy nut to crack.

The building has been barricaded since September 26th, when the authorities made a first attempt to carry out the eviction, but were unable to because of the number of people who had been mobilized to defend the building. The anarchists have held meetings to gain the support of citizens and explain why they refuse to move. There have been solidarity strikes amongst students and marble workers. On October 28th a day of solidarity called in support of "Germinal" saw anarchists from all over Italy and from abroad converge on Carrara for a march, rally, music and theatre. As throughout its history anarchist Carrara will not easily be subdued. IL GERMINAL NON SI TOCCA!

FROM 'THE GUARDIAN' 18.11.89

Birmingham Six review plea strengthened

David Pallister

THE inquiry into the West Midlands serious crimes squad is examining a case that reinforces calls for a review of the conviction of the Birmingham Six.

The case is that of Martin Foran, who was convicted of a robbery in 1985.

It is the first indication that the inquiry, conducted by the West Yorkshire police, is prepared to look at allegations before January 1986 — the starting point announced by Mr Geoffrey Dear, the West Midlands Chief Constable, in August when the squad was abolished and 53 officers trans-

ferred. But the allegations of Foran, serving an additional sentence for holding a prison officer hostage, have even further implications for six men serving life for the Birmingham pub bombings. He has served two sentences for robbery, one in 1977 and one which began in 1985.

In both cases he claims that the police made up confession evidence. He also claims to have identified two officers in both cases who were involved in interviewing the Birmingham Six in 1974.

The Police Complaints Authority cannot investigate matters before it was set up in April 1984 but the civilian supervisor, Mr Jeff Crawford,

has indicated that earlier incidents could be included if they affected court verdicts after 1984. The Six had their appeal turned down in January 1988.

The Home Office admitted in July in a letter to Mr Chris Mullin, Labour MP for Sunderland South, that three other members of the squad who interviewed the Six have been involved in recent prosecutions which failed after defence evidence of fabricated statements.

Foran's protestations of innocence have led him to extreme measures. After his conviction in 1977 for three robberies he went on hunger strike and made a seven-week roof-top protest at Nottingham Prison.

At his trial it emerged that a

detective had taken details of his clothing before an identification parade concerning the first robbery. He, however, had exchanged his jacket with another man on the parade and two witnesses picked out the jacket.

Two of the other victims were never called to the parade or the trial, even though one of them knew Foran and later told the organisation Justice that he was not the robber.

Released in 1984, Foran claims that for several months he was harassed by members of the squad until his arrest in September for robbing a pub.

He was convicted on verbal confession evidence which was presented in court by a detec-

tive who took part in the interviewing of Paddy Hill, one of the Birmingham Six.

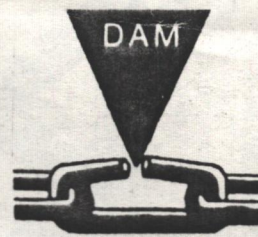
In prison he had a stomach disorder which he believed was not being treated properly.

In 1986 he held a prison warden hostage in a cell for nine hours at Wandsworth to draw attention to his condition.

In November 1987 he was sentenced to a further six years for the offence. He has since had a colostomy operation.

Five serving members of the squad have been suspended. Two of these, and a retired officer, none involved in the Birmingham case, were summoned this week on charges of perjury and intent to pervert the course of justice.

The DAM was formed in 1979 from the SWF (Syndicalist Workers Federation) and other groups and individuals believing in the principles of anarcho-syndicalism. It is the British section of the International Workers Association (IWA), the anarcho-syndicalist international, which was formed in 1922 and has sections in France, Spain, Italy, West Germany, Norway, Denmark, USA, Japan, Australia, Brazil, Argentina and a provisional section in Finland.



Malignant Tendency

Beware of a bogus anti Poll Tax group set up by Militant Tendency supporters simply because they couldn't get control of Middlesbrough Against the Poll Tax. "Southfield/Gresham Anti Poll Tax Union" represents nobody but a scab called Andy Walker. MAPT is the only bona fide anti Poll Tax group in this town so far.

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.



FRAMED BY THE POLICE

WRONGLY SENTENCED TO EIGHT YEARS PRISON.

MARTIN HAS ALWAYS PROTESTED HIS INNOCENCE.

PUT IN SOLITARY 24 HOUR LOCK UP!

BEATEN BY PRISON OFFICERS DENIED VITAL MEDICAL TREATMENT.

The BBC series 'Rough Justice' are considering doing a programme on Martin Foran's case, at long last. Martin was having his infected colostomy (resulting from a beating he got from screws after the operation) treated by a specialist from Stockton. But the authorities at Frankland Prison in Durham denied access to the specialist, who subsequently lost interest. They were obviously afraid of what the specialist might say about Martin's "treatment" in prison.

In a recent letter Martin writes: "Right now the prison doctor is playing games. Whenever I find a doctor who is willing to come and have a look at me, the prison doctor says NO, he knows what's best. So the doctors pull out.

There's some progress in my case. The police are looking into my case, as the police complaints board over-ruled the Yorkshire police and told them to look into it. But I don't trust the police. It's just wait and see.

Yes I agree with you, every day some new case is coming to light. At least it shows the people that it does go on, whereas they wouldn't have it before the Guildford Four case broke. That has done cases like mine the world of good.

Do please keep in touch, as your letters are always welcome. It shows these people I'm not forgot."

If you want to help Martin you can write protesting at his treatment to the Governor, HMP Frankland, P.O. Box 40, Finchale Avenue, Brasside, Durham, DH1 5YD. If you want to make a donation to the 'Martin Foran Defence Fund' or want to know more about the campaign for his release write to: 'Conviction', P.O. Box 522, Sheffield, S1 3FF.

PAUL HILL

On Saturday morning May 23rd 1981 it pissed down and I got soaked. About twenty of us (from the Troops Out Movement, Socialist Workers Party and Hull Anarchist Group) were stood outside Hull prison to express our solidarity with four Irish prisoners inside. One of them was Paul Hill.

It was the time of the "Dirty Protest" and the Hunger Strike by republican prisoners in the "H blocks" at Long Kesh and the women's jail at Armagh. They were demanding political status. They refused to wear prison uniform and so had only a blanket to cover their bodies. In protest at continual beatings and humiliating strip searches by the screws the prisoners refused to leave their cells and smeared their own shit on the cell walls. Later that year ten of the hunger strikers were dead, in Bobby Sands' case after having been elected to Parliament as he lay dying. Through it all Thatcher kept a stiff upper lip.

As well as those in the H blocks and at Armagh, Paul Hill was on the blanket protest in Hull. The anarchist group held up a sheet that day with "SMASH ALL PRISONS" painted on it, together with "H blocks, Armagh, political status for political prisoners". A few of us wrapped ourselves in blankets to signify our solidarity with those "on the blanket". As we stood there a convoy of Army vehicles passed along Hedon Road. The photographer from the 'Hull Daily Mail' caught the moment as the pickets responded with chants of "troops out!" and "you'll get yours" to the V-signs of the squaddies.

I remember writing a note from the picket to Paul Hill saying he wasn't forgotten and handing it in at the gate, but I doubt if he ever saw it. And now he's been released and the pigs, judges, and politicians admit they made a terrible "mistake" when they jailed him 15 years ago. But of course it wasn't simply a mistake or "miscarriage of justice". Together with the Birmingham Six and Broadwater Farm cases the Guildford Four case was simply meant to terrorize a community, in this case the Irish in England.

Paul Hill was shunted from prison to prison 50 times, spent a total of 4 years in solitary confinement, and suffered countless beatings from screws. Paul Hill I salute you. The last eight years haven't been easy for me in Thatcher's Britain, but Christ knows that compared to what you've been doing for the last eight years and more it's been a picnic.

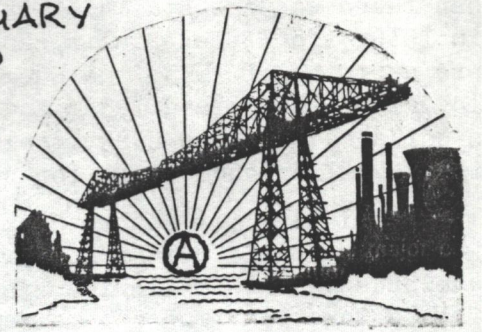
"They cannot isolate what they cannot see... Our spirits remain free." — Paul Hill, 1978

(A)

STRIKE!

number 10

FEBRUARY 1990



No saviour from on high delivers;
No trust have we in prince or peer.
Our own right hand the chains must shiver;

D.A.M. TEESSIDE ANARCHIST BROADSHEET I.W.A.

Teesside DAM - Box DAM, 52 Call Lane, Leeds, LS2.

AMBULANCE DISPUTE

Everyone supports the ambulance workers' fight for better pay. 'Sun' readers who were vehemently against the miners, printers or dockers when they were on strike see the ambulance workers differently. Even Tories like Richard Holt (MP for Langaurgh) say they support the ambulance workers' case (no doubt because he realises what an electoral liability the Government line is).

With this overwhelming level of public support you'd think the union side would be hard pressed to manage to lose this one. For months the union leaders have pursued a strategy of winning public opinion. Now they've got all the public opinion on their side they're ever likely to get. So what was the next step from Norman Willis and Co.? The fifteen minute "national protest" on January 30th. What a shower. 15 minutes, is that all the ambulance workers are worth? It should have been at least a day long general strike. Talk about snatching defeat from the jaws of victory...

But unions don't have to be weak and hesitant. They're like that in this country because they're run by reformists like Willis (who the miners should've strung when they had the chance back in 1984) and Roger 'voice of moderation' Poole. We agree with the rank & file ambulance workers who want to escalate the action. Anarcho-syndicalists want to see a fighting union movement that knows we're involved in a class war and doesn't waste time on p.r. campaigns. Token gestures like January 30th (no matter how well supported) and triumphalist speeches from the platform (like we had in Middlesbrough on January 30th) are no substitute for strike action.

REVOLUTION OR REFORM?

It's an often used cliché, but nonetheless true, that we live in exiting times...

The end of 1989 saw neo-stalinist regimes in central Europe fall one after the other under the pressure for reform from the masses.

Gorbachov came to power in 1985 with a programme ('glasnost' and 'perestroika') to reform the USSR in order to get the moribund economy moving. But in making piecemeal reforms he opened the way for the slow but steady process of disintegration of the Russian empire. And it isn't stopping at the USSR's borders, as the events in the Baltic States and Transcaucasia show.

The popular movements in central Europe which threw off the stalinist yoke are politically immature, not suprisingly after so many years of dictatorship. They have illusions about Western style parliamentary "democracy". (Though at least some of the activists say they don't want to exchange one form of oppression for another...).

And of course cold warriors like Thatcher in the West are busy making capital out of the disintegration of the Russian empire. Another worrying development is the neo-nazi groups riding of the wave of German nationalist sentiment. (There have been clashes recently on demonstrations in East Germany between nazi skinheads and other demonstrators.)

But on the whole anarcho-syndicalists welcome the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the neo-stalinist monolith. It opens the way for what should be on the agenda East and West... SOCIAL REVOLUTION!

At school in the "Free World" we were taught that NATO was created to defend us from the "communist" hordes. They never told us that NATO was set up before the Warsaw Pact, and that the USSR even tried to join NATO first. Stalin wasn't the only one responsible for the Iron Curtain coming down for 40 odd years. Churchill and Roosevelt had at least as much to do with it. And now that the Warsaw Pact is crumbling before our eyes, what possible justification can there be for NATO and the obsenity of billions spent on armaments while half the world goes hungry?

Amidst all the euphoria surrounding the breaching of the Berlin Wall, why weren't we told about the anti-fascist demonstrator run down and killed by a police car in Gottingen, West Germany, at around the same time? How many people know that in 1988 anarchists from West Berlin had to scale the Wall near the Brandenberg Gate and seek refuge in East Berlin from riot police?

We are pleased to announce that the Ceskoslovenske Anarchistkycke Sdruzeni (Czechoslovak Anarchist Union) was founded on 10.10.89. They join the anarchists already active in Poland, Hungary, East Germany, and the USSR itself. Lenin must turning in his grave.

Our rulers in the West are wringing their hands at the prospect of new markets and cheap labour in the East. But the collapse of the Russian empire opens up prospects the international working class also. The decks have been cleared. When we agitate in the West no longer will they be able to shout "get back to Russia!". And no longer will the authorities in the East be able to label all dissidents as CIA agents.

At the same time, State socialism comes out of all this totally discredited. After 73 years in the USSR and 45 years in her former central European satellites in which to build a communist society, what are the heirs of Lenin, Trotsky and Stalin doing? Why they're busy bringing back the very things the 1917 Russian Revolution sought to abolish, so-called "free enterprise" and bougeois democracy.

Some marxists began to see the USSR as "State capitalist" rather than a "workers State" after Trotsky lost his power struggle with Stalin in the late 1920's.

But way back in 1872 Mikhail Bakunin, a collaborator with Marx in the First International, and the father of anarchism, warned what the marxian programme of the "dictatorship of the proletariat" would lead to: "In reality it would be for the proletariat a barrack regime, where the standardized mass of men and women workers would wake, sleep, work and live to the beat of the drum. For the clever and learned a privilege of governing; and for the mercenary minded, a vast field of lucrative jobbery."

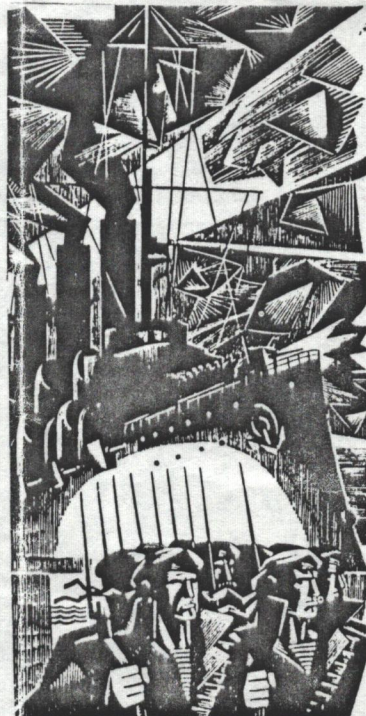
In 1917 the Russian anarchists played an active part in the Revolution which had been launched under the slogan "all power to the soviets!". Already by 1918 they were being attacked by the Bolsheviks they'd fought alongside in the insurrection, who were now busy building their "workers State" and liquidating opposition on the Left. (NB. This was before the Civil War, usually cited by trotskyists as an apology for the monstrosity Lenin and Trotsky started and Stalin perfected.)

In a large area of the Ukraine the anarchist peasant Nestor Makhno gave his name to a movement, the Makhnovschina, which between 1918 and 1921 fought successive White armies and Trotsky's Red Army as it sought to defend the free communes and soviets in the area under its control. The Bolsheviks made an alliance with the Makhnovists three times in order to jointly defeat invading White armies, and each time turned on the Makhnovists once the Whites had been seen off. Lenin and Trotsky could not allow the Makhnovist experiment of a communism free of the DICTATORSHIP OF THE PARTY.

The last flicker of the Revolution was extinguished at the Kronstadt naval base in 1921. Lenin had called the Kronstadt sailors "the flower of the Revolution" in 1917. When in 1921 the sailors (many of them rank & file Bolsheviks) revolted and tried to rescue the Revolution from the bureaucrats, Trotsky said "We will shoot you down like partridges".

Kronstadt replied: "Having gained power the Communist Party is now fearful only of losing it... Here in Kronstadt has been laid the cornerstone of the Third Revolution to break the last chains of the worker and open the new, broad road to socialist creativeness... leaving behind the Constituent Assembly with its bourgeois regime, and the Communist Party dictatorship with its Cheka and State capitalism". Needless to say, the Kronstadt revolt was mercilessly crushed by the new Red Czars.

After Stalin came to power most of the old Bolsheviks ended up being liquidated by the very "workers State" they'd helped to create, during the great purges of the 1930's. Meanwhile millions of peasants starved as a direct consequence of the crazy policy of forced collectivization.

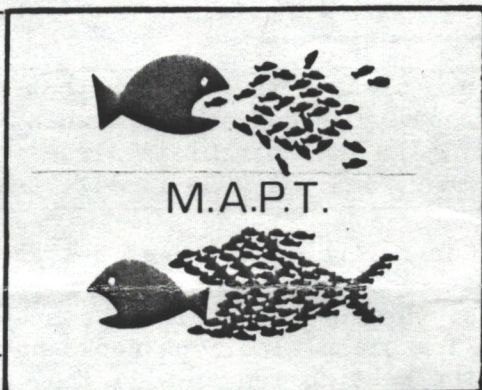


CONTINUED >>

Then there was the stalinist sabotage of the Spanish Revolution in 1936, the Hitler-Stalin Pact of 1939, the East Berlin workers uprising of 1953, the Hungarian Revolution of 1956, Czechoslovakia 1968, Poland 1980, and in 1989 the whole house of cards collapsed. In the USSR itself last summer striking miners in Siberia called once again for "ALL POWER TO THE SOVIETS!"

State socialism (or rather State capitalism, as Bakunin warned 120 years ago) is "withering away" before our eyes. As we head towards the new millenium, is the world in for a total capitalist restoration? The only alternative is libertarian communism, or anarchy, without the State or the Party.

Middlesbrough Against the Poll Tax meets every week, and is establishing a network of resistance throughout the town. Get involved if your not happy about a £400+ Poll Tax bill (this year), the attack on council services by the back door this involves, and the erosion of civil liberties implicit. **RESIST TO EXIST!**



SHOOT TO KILL

Some British warships are carrying laser weapons as part of their murderous armoury. The laser gun is designed to blind pilots of attacking aircraft. News of the weapon was successfully kept out of the British press by placing a D-notice (State censorship of the media) on it. The discovery only came about when a Spanish journalist spotted the weapon(s) on the Type 23 frigate, HMS Coventry. The Navy has launched an inquiry into how the story was leaked.

They could take a tip from the Army in Belfast, who happily pull the trigger and ask questions later. The murder of three betting shop robbers (free enterprise capitalists) confirms the British Army's shoot-to-kill policy continues. Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland Minister, confirmed this by suggesting anyone carrying a replica gun would get the same.

The 'secret' laser weapon also confirms the view of many at Greenham Common peace camp that the military used high frequency weapons which caused nausea to the peace women. Of course the military have denied the use of such a weapon, but would that not have been true of the laser gun!

POLICE STATE

We already have cameras watching the roads and streets. The next step seems to be the computer readable vehicle registration plate. With London suffering all day traffic jams, the idea of toll roads and price zones to deter motorists seems another step. Apart from making London a zone for rich carowners only, the charging would be carried out by computers under the road reading number plates and so sending a toll bill to the vehicle owner. Like all such devices, they have a double purpose. We can now be followed and monitored by computers.

Unfortunately for the Government (very upsetting, ha, ha!), their computer tagging test in Nottingham has failed. They had planned to place non-violent prisoners under house arrest by tagging. The transmitters though have been unreliable, with police charging around looking for 'missing' prisoners who hadn't left their homes (prison).

All of this should question the concept that we in the West are "free". Don't believe it! The governments in the West and in the East for all their so-called ideological differences show the same amount of respect for their people... Dissidents are not wanted.

FASCIST

Ever wondered what sort of people write racist letters to the 'Evening Gazette' (apart from regular contributor Richard Holt this is)? The specimen below comes from Acklam nazi 'Adolf' Midgley, of 43 Trimdon Avenue (tel: 818575), who is a member of the British National Party (BNP). Most black people are working class. They get the worst deal and also the blame. Midgley and his type insite and commit attacks on the black community, such as arson attacks which sometimes wipe out whole families. We say fight the bosses not the blacks. Nazis fuck off!

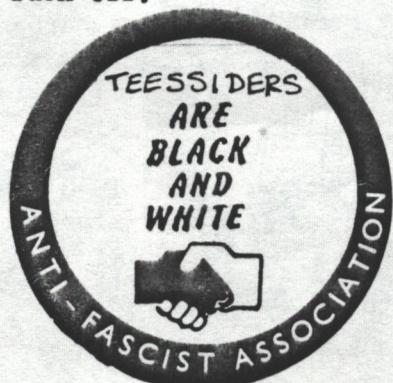
COUNCILLOR Harford writes of an "apparent unwillingness to accept that we now live in a truly multicultural society."

It can never be "truly" because immigration was based on an unwilling indigenous population, and the constant strictures meted out to us from the race relations

industry are consequent indignities. Our feelings are not unique. There are almost daily reports of "ethnic unrest" throughout the world.

D H MIDGLEY
Trimdon Avenue,
Middlesbrough.

1.2.1990



The £400,000,000 loss on the Rover privatization is eight times the total raised by Live Aid... If we really want to "feed the world" no amount of band-aids suffice. We need to take an axe to the root, capitalism.

ONE LAW FOR US...

The recent case of Tracey Scott, the 19 year old supermarket check-out girl jailed for turning a blind eye to shoplifters, quite rightly raised a furore. Judge Pickles (who used to work at Teesside Magistrates Court) said he didn't want to separate Tracey's 10 week old child from its mother. But he felt he had to give Tracey a prison sentence to deter women from getting pregnant in order to avoid prison sentences! So off he sent mother and baby to be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure.

Contrast this with the sympathetic treatment given to one Clive Morris recently at Teesside Magistrates Court. As the Manager at Woolworths store in Billingham Morris used to take great pleasure in catching shoplifters, even if they were little kids who'd nicked a few sweets. He'd spend the day walking the store and lording it over his workers. In his spare time he'd watch videos taken home from the store, which he'd later return to the shelves for sale. If he was short of cash he'd take a loan out of the tills. (But if one of the tills was short a few quid at the end of the day the check-out girls would be in for a grilling...). I know all this because my mother worked for him. Anyway, you get the picture, he was a right little shit.

His behaviour became too much even for Woolworths head office. They wanted him to move on. The Billingham store is only small and should've been being run by some 25 year old with a plastic smile busy climbing the management ladder, not the middle-aged Morris who'd been there since god knows when. But Morris had a cushy little number and would he fuck move on.

In desperation Woolworths staged surprise visits and spot checks to try to find some reason to be able to sack him. When police found several hundred quids worth of goods from the store in Morris's garage this should have been his cue to go straight to prison, you'd have thought.

But Morris is a middle-aged executive, not a 19 year old supermarket worker. He was also a stalwart of the Conservative Party in Norton, and his ex wife is a J.P.! (In court he explained his sticky fingers as being due to the stress of his recent divorce, poor thing.)

You guessed it, our Clive didn't go to jail. In fact not much seems to have happed to him at all, and he's now got himself another cushy job with ICI...

DEREK HATTON

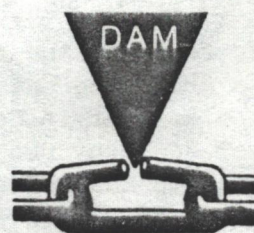
Ex Liverpool Council Leader and member (oops, sorry supporter) of the Tapeworm Tendency. In 1987 Derek Hatton said he was fighting for the people of Liverpool. Three years later - now barred from holding Council office - he works for a firm of property speculators in the city.

There's a lot of work coming Hatton's way at the moment, due to the Thatcherite policies of the new Liverpool Council. All municipal properties are up for grabs - parks, swimming pools, factory sites - and all at dirt cheap prices. Liverpool's for sale. It's a strange twist of fate that Hatton and the Labour council are trying to outdo the Tories. As usual, the people of Liverpool have become the pawns of politicians and business. Never trust a politician, especially the ones who say they're for the people.

SOUTH AFRICA

So the South African regime has been forced to start negotiating the terms of its surrender. Nelson Mandela setting the terms of his own release from his captors of 28 years says it all. No doubt the Bothas will try for a deal with moderate blacks and the ANC which dismantles Apartheid but leaves capitalism intact. But the combative union movement and the "comrades" in the townships will have something to say about that. La lotta continua!

The DAM was formed in 1979 from the SWF (Syndicalist Workers Federation) and other groups and individuals believing in the principles of anarcho-syndicalism. It is the British section of the International Workers Association (IWA), the anarcho-syndicalist International, which was formed in 1922 and has sections in France, Spain, Italy, West Germany, Norway, Denmark, USA, Japan, Australia, Brazil, Argentina and a provisional section in Finland.



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.