DON’T GET FUELED!

A message from the petrol companies

Last month’s petrol crisis has certainly shown this arrogant government of ours that even the most popular of administrations can be rocked by effective direct action. Cutting off the petrol supply quickly ground the country to a halt - something to remember for future struggles! The irony of the “blockade” of petrol refineries and depots by road hauliers and farmers is that this direct action was not carried out by militant workers but by small businessmen. The workers have largely forgotten the effectiveness of direct action, mainly due to manipulations of union bosses [who, incidentally, roundly condemned the action since many of them own petrol stations] and popularisations of their actions by the mass media. The working class, largely supported by sections of all Britain’s classes which each have something to gain from a cut in petrol prices was quickly revealed as nonsense when they jumped at a price hike at the earliest opportunity. Petrol companies also wanted to pressurise the government to keep crude oil tax free.

Given the cross-class temporary alliance, the police chose to back an action which they could easily have broken. Fifteen year earlier they enthusiastically smashed the much more powerful striking miners. This time they did nothing. So, given a highly unusual coincidence of class forces, Britain road ground to a standstill. And the forces of the right wing cheered! You know something’s wrong when the leader of the Tory party congratulates pickets! On such crises, the foundations of fascism could be laid.

LIFE’S A RIOT...

A report from Yugoslavia: “Of course the US is going to establish a puppet regime. I don’t need Milosevic’s propagandists...to tell me that. But TODAY WERE THE MOST BEAUTIFUL FUCKING RIOTS IN THE RECENT HISTORY OF BELGRADE! ...a fucking dictatorial regime has been overthrown. Besides, RIGHT NOW, THERE IS NO FUCKING GOVERNMENT IN DOWNTOWN BELGRADE - THE STREETS ARE RECLAIMED, THE COPS HAVE SURRENDERED OR BEEN DISARMED - MOST PEOPLE ARE GOVERNING THEMSELVES. Expensive cars have been used for barricades all over the city, half the fucking economy is on strike, the pigs took the most wonderful beatings, offices and shops of rich assholes were smashed and the fucking TV Bastille, the fortress of state television has been smashed and burnt! ...If this all is not reason to be joyful, I don’t know what is! I know that this situation may not last long, but I’m gonna enjoy it fully while it lasts. And I hope that we remove the next ‘democratic’ regime in the same way, but in less time!”

SUPPORT PRISONERS

On 8th September Gareth Williams was sentenced to 6 months in prison for affray from N30, despite what his solicitor described as one of the best pleas in mitigation he had heard. It is clear from this that anyone who pleads guilty to similar charges from N30 or Mayday will be sent down. It should also be noted that Danny Penman, a press photographer who was injured at N30 and has been asking for help in suing the police (see Schnews bulletin) refused to give a statement about his own injuries to help in this case. Anyone who thinks they can trust jurnos be warned. Gareth would appreciate letters.

Write to: Gareth Williams FT7291, HM Prison Pentonville, Caledonian Road, London N7 8TT.

There was better news on 12th September when it was found a woman who was charged with assaulting a male cop (when 6 cops arrested her) had no case to answer after hearing the cops evidence. Whilst a great result, unfortunately this prevented a challenge to the legality of the s60 Order (part of the repressive Criminal Justice Bill) imposed by the cops.

info from: Legal Defence & Monitoring Group, 13/9/00

Anarchist prisoner Mark Barnsley has been moved and can now be contacted at: Mark Barnsley WA2897, HMP Frankland, Brasside, DURHAM, DH1 5YD.

He is currently amongst the general prison population (not in segregation). For those of you unfamiliar with previous bulletins, in April this year Mark was beaten up, along with 6 other prisoners while at Long Lartin and charged with ‘barricading a cell’.

After being moved from prison to prison for nearly 5 months he was moved to Wakefield last week where a kangaroo court was held over the incident. Screws blatantly lied about what had happened and Mark was subsequently found guilty of ‘barricading a cell door’. The result being that he will spend an extra 3 weeks in prison through lost remission.

Justice for Mark Barnsley Campaign, c/o 145-9, Cardigan Rd, Leeds, LS6 1JL

Issue Eighteen October 00 Free/Donation
TOP TIPS

for when you’re next rioting to overthrow a dictator or disrupt a capitalist meeting:

**STICK TOGETHER.** If you can, go with a group of mates, people you trust. Keep an eye out for each other, count up after police charges, arrange meeting points in case you get separated.

**MASK UP.** These days the old bill film us from the start of demos. If you don’t want to get lifted later on, wear a mask or scarf over your face.

**GO EQUIPED.** Some items worth taking along: Junior hack saw, to cut through official locks and chains; a D-lock, for locking places in our own interests; paintbombs and spray cans, to cover cops’ visors and journos’ cameras.

**BUNCH UP.** A solid line that moves around is harder to break up than isolated individuals.

**UN-ARREST PEOPLE.** If someone is grabbed by a snatch squad, they can be snatched back by a determined small group. If you grab someone back, it’s useful to swap clothes to confuse the cops looking to re-arrest them.

**THROWING STUFF.** People who throw stuff inaccurately from 50 yards back are awkers. Have some bottle, move up nearer the front and do it properly or don’t bother.

**FLUFF OFF.** If you aren’t into the fight, or are ‘against violence’, we suggest you move out of the area.

**DON’T SAY CHEESE.** Attacks on Press and TV cameras needs to be stepped up. Small groups of us could decide to concentrate on this in a given situation. Or we’ll find ourselves on the front page of The Sun.

**LEGAL OBSERVERS.** People with orange bibs, saying ‘LDMG/Legal Observer’, are there to gather info on people nicked, get people to witness for them, and get them a solicitor. People with orange bibs, saying ‘LDMG/Legal Observer’, are there to gather info on people nicked, get people to witness for them, and get them a solicitor. Legal observers are aware of it and can act accordingly. Don’t make a statement to the police, don’t admit to anything: ‘NO COMMENT’ is the only reply to questions. Although they can now bring your silence up in court, the best place to start making a defence is with a decent solicitor and access to witness evidence.

| This text is taken from the 1997 'Hungry Brigade' leaflet, the full text [A3] is available from Woking Anarchist Federation |

Prague was the setting for the latest protests and counter summit against the IMF (International Monetary Fund) and WB (World Bank). The events were organised by Inpeg, the Initiative against globalisation, an umbrella group incorporating people holding a wide range of views - liberals, environmentalists, Marxist-Leninists and anarchists. The Czech anarchist movement, and their influence in Inpeg, appeared small. Under the banner of ‘anti-capitalism’ or the even vaguer ‘anti-globalism’ all sorts of groups are to be found. Many of these do not in fact want to destroy capitalism and the state, they just seek to reform it. Some of the Czech anarchists had withdrawn from Inpeg as it was dominated by these liberal ideas.

Our first port of call was the Inpeg info centre in the middle of town, to find some details of the events. We were surprised that there were people taking pictures inside the building and there seemed to be no security. This irresponsible lack of planning caused problems later.

There were various events happening in Prague - a seriously dull counter summit (when we arrived someone was droning on about cashew nuts) and an art and resistance festival. Most of the talks at the counter summit seemed to be liberal, academic or both so we didn’t miss much when we left. Most people were at the convergence centre, two huge old industrial buildings hired by Inpeg. This was the best place to meet other people and get the latest info. Endless meetings seemed to be taking place in English and Spanish, thought it was difficult to hear what was being said.

In the afternoon there was an anti-fascist demonstration. We had some reservations about this as anti-fascist ideology has often been used to provide support for democratic states instead of saying the state should be smashed. In Britain, the Anti-Nazi League has even called for state powers to be increased! We needn’t have been worried through as in the square around a thousand anarchists gathered and the few Marxist-Leninists who turned up were told to leave by the Czech anarchists.

First there was a rally with speeches in several languages and then an impromptu and illegal march though most of Prague city centre. It was inspiring to see anarchists from so many countries working together. There was hardly a cop in sight and no fascists to be seen, though apparently some got bated at the train station and the fascists called for police protection.

The next day there was another march, supposedly part of the art and resistance festival. A welcome change from what we’re used to was that the anarchists were at the front with the lefties trailing behind. Again, though illegal, the march passed peacefully.

For Monday a meeting of Anarchist Communist groups had been organised by the Czech group Solidarita-ORA. Unfortunately the venue was only sorted out at the last minute and details couldn’t be got to us in time.

We’re sure we’ll meet again in future. We spent most of the day planning for the events of tomorrow. We scouted out where the IMF meeting was taking place, got supplies and tried to work out what we would be doing. Inpeg had come up with the daft plan of not blocking the capitalists getting into the conference but to blockade them inside and stop them going to the opera in the evening. Three marches would set off at 11am following routes labelled blue, pink or yellow (the colours were due to the marker pens used, not any deep political significance).

**Anarchist Communists**

Anarchist Communist groups had put out a call for a meeting about forming a ‘red and black revolutionary bloc’ on one of the routes. Anti-fascist groups also had a meeting to determine their plans. Our team split between these two meetings, but neither meeting could come to a conclusion. There were difficulties as delegates from the various groups could not commit themselves to following a particular route without consulting with the rest of their group. But the main problem was when the lack of security became apparent. An (unfounded) rumour went round that the information centre had been attacked by fascists so most people dropped everything to dash to the city centre. If a group had been delegated to deal with security problems this chaotic response would not have happened. So before the big day we had no definite plans, though most anarchist organisations had said they would be on the blue route.

When September 26th arrived we found that sure enough the black bloc was forming at the ‘blue’ meeting point. The biggest group on the yellow route was the Italian direct actionists Ya Basta, and on the Pink route there seemed to be most of the Marxist-Leninists as well as British Earth First and a samba band (though the latter two groups had their own plans as well).

It took a long time to leave the park but once we were out we marched unopposed to within a few hundred metres of the conference centre. Here we hit the cops and we hit them hard. The streets of Prague are cobbled and a constant rain of rocks fell on the cops for over two hours. Some people had also had the foresight to equip themselves with
events in Prague

petrol bombs, which are always a crowd pleaser! On the down side we were advancing up a steep hill, there were thousands of riot cops and they had water cannon, stun grenades, and tear gas. Gas masks proved to be a sounder investment than any the World Bank has ever made. Eventually though the cops gained the upper hand and we were beaten back and dispersed.

Pitched battle

When we were making our escape from the rampaging riot cops we chanced upon the Marxist-Leninists from the pink route. Though they were marching along chanting for revolution at the tops of their voices there were only about half a dozen cops in sight and none of them were in riot gear. It made quite a change from the pitched battle we'd just left and shows that the state knows where the real threat lies.

Sporadic skirmishes continued on and off throughout the day. The opera was cancelled and the capitalist at a banquet found the arrival of 200 anarchists hard to digest and, of course, McDonalds was trashed.

Very few arrests happened whilst all this excitement was going on but the cops soon made up for this the next day, arresting anyone they could get their hands on. People at picket lines were rounded up en masse and anyone who looked like a protestor ran a high risk of being nicked. In total the police say 859 people were arrested, though it seems only 25 have been charged. Prisoners were treated brutally, and reports of beatings are common.

London Anarchist Federation and NE London Solidarity Federation had organised a picket of the Czech embassy for the day after S26, to highlight the cases of Czech anarchists already suffering state repression, and in support of those in Prague. We were able to get word to them that mass arrests had been taking place and several more pickets were organised by activists in London. Continuing prisoner solidarity work is vital. The Czech anarchist movement desperately needs money to deal with the legal cases. A campaign from Solidarita-ORA is coming to the Anarchist bookfair in London so remember to dig deep in your pockets when the collecting bucket comes round. Another benefit gig is also being planned in London on the 28th October. Contact us for more details.

Class struggle

The events of S26 were in many ways a success. Though none on the marches broke the police lines (indeed one march didn’t even try) some people did manage to get through, and the IMF/WB meeting was seriously disrupted. Most of the delegate were too scared to go to the meeting the next day and the conference closed a day early. We certainly did not delude ourselves that ‘days of action’ can bring down capitalism and the state. Only mass class struggle can achieve that and create a libertarian communist society.
Who are we?

We are an organisation of class struggle anarchists aiming to abolish Capitalism and all oppression to create a free and equal society. This is Anarchist Communism. We see today’s society as being divided into two main opposing classes: the ruling class which controls all the power and wealth, and the working class which the rulers exploit to maintain this. By racism, sexism and other forms of oppression, as well as war and environmental destruction the rulers weaken and divide us. Only the direct action of working class people can defeat these attacks and ultimately overthrow capitalism.

As the capitalist system rules the whole world its destruction must be complete and world wide. We reject attempts to reform it such as working through parliament and national liberation movements as they fail to challenge capitalism itself. Unions also work as a part of the capitalist system, so although workers struggle within them they will be unable to bring about capitalism’s destruction unless they go beyond these limits.

Organisation is vital if we’re to beat the bosses so we work for a united anarchist movement and are affiliated to the International of Anarchist Federations.

Join the Resistance

The Anarchist Federation have members up and down Britain fighting for the kind of world outlined above. We take part in everyday struggles which affect us all, such as industrial disputes, strikes and supporting prisoners. We are active in environmental struggles, anti-racism and against government attacks on our community.

For more information on anarchism, the Anarchist Federation and fighting back contact:

Anarchist Federation, 84B Whitechapel High Street London E1 7QX
Tel 07946 214 590
www.afed.org.uk
email: anarchisstfederation@bigfoot.com

What’s Going On?

Send us details of your event for inclusion in resistance

For the latest news visit our website: www.afed.org.uk

Take precautions when going on demonstrations and don’t take cameras

October:

- Sat 14th. Anarchist Bookfair 10 am – 6 pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London (nearest tube Holborn) http://freespace.virgin.net/anarchist.bookfair
- Rember to visit the Anarchist Federation stall and say hello.
- 14th National Demonstration in support of asylum seekers. Meet 1 pm Embankment.
- 14th Bath Reclaim The Streets Party meet 12 noon @ the Circus
- 14th Stop Racist Killings A national demonstration called by the National Civil Rights Movement, 12pm Embankment, London
- 15th Meeting to discuss May Day 2001, 2-5 pm, at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Trots are not welcome.
- 16th Annual World Anti-McDonald’s Day Actions taking place outside stores across the country, for info contact Veggies 0845 458 9595
- 17th No Borders Meeting at the Cock Tavern, Phoenix Road, near Euston, London, 6pm
- 17th The Construction Safety Campaign are planning a protest outside: Holiday Inn, Nelson Dock, 265 Rotherhithe Street, London SE16 6HW from 9-10 am. Contact Construction Safety Campaign, PO Box 23844 London SE15 3WR, phone 07747 759594 email construction.safetycampaign@talk21.com
- 17th Benefit night for Mordechai Vanunu, in prison for last 14 years for spilling beans on Israel’s nuclear secrets at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London (nearest tube Holborn) 7-9.30 pm £10/5 conc. 020 7378 9324 www.vanunu.freeserve.co.uk
- 28th Time Up For Trident – Glasgow: Call for the scrapping of Trident and the switching of Trident jobs to more productive work. Assemble: 10.30 Blytheswoode Square – Glasgow. Rally 12.00 City Halls. Contact SCND - 0141 423 1222 - for more details.
- 28th Anti-police brutality demonstration. Meet 1 pm, Trafalgar Square, London.
- 28th Benfit gig in London for people arrested in Prague. Contact us for more info
- 31st Casualisation Kills The Simon Jones case, public meeting in Manchester, 7-30pm at The Brow House, 1 Mabfield Road, Fallowfield, Manchester. Contact: SF, PO Box 1681, London N8 7LE Tel: 0208 3745027 www.simonjones.org.uk

November:

- 2nd Nuclear Workers Day of Action. Contact: London Region CND 020 7670 2302, West Midlands CND 0121 643 4617.
- 10th Actions against Shell on 5th Anniversary of “judicial murder” of Ken Saro Wiwa and 8 other Ogoni activists. 0208 6789605 mosopgb@aol.com
- 24th Buy Nothing Day - fuck the shop till you drop culture. Contact Enough! 0161 226 6668 www.adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd
- 25th Steal Something Day 6668 www.adbusters.org/campaigns/bnd

And if you like resistance check out these...

Organise! for revolutionary anarchism. Magazine of the Anarchist Federation. By far the best mag going (us, biased??), giving in depth reporting and analysis from the class struggle. £1.50 an issue/subscriptions £3 from AF c/o 84b, Whitechapel High St, London, E1 7QX.

Black Flag legendary anarchist mag. £1.50 issue/£6 a sub. BM Hurricane, London, WC1N 3XW

Counter Information Free anarchist news-sheet reporting on struggles from around the world. Transmission, 28 King St, Glasgow, Scotland, G1 5QP

Direct Action if revolutionary unionism is your thing read the paper of the Solidarity Federation (Anarcho-Syndicalist). £1.50 issue/£5 sub. PO Box 29, SW PDO, M15 5HW.

SchNEWS Weekly direct action news-sheet. Send stamps to: PO Box 2600, Brighton, BN2 2DX

Class War Anarchist tabloid - the name says it all. Subs from PO Box 467, London, E8 3OX

Earth First! Action £5 for 12 issue sub. PO Box 1TA, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, NE99 1TA Freedom Bookshop 84b, Whitechapel High St (in Angel Alley), London, E1 7QX

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☐ I enclose £3 for a years subscription to Organise! magazine.
☐ I am interested in the Anarchist Federation and would like more information.
☐ No, I can’t be arsed to get involved but I’ll send you a large wad of dosh

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