

resistance

the anarchist bulletin

In This Issue:
Prague, Prague,
Prague, petrol,
prisoners, and
possibly something else
if we can fit it in...

DON'T GET FUELLED!



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 threat to the government).

Why was this action so effective? The answer lies in the temporary coincidence of sections of all Britain's classes which each had something to gain from a cut in petrol taxes. The working class, largely supported the hauliers action since many of them own cars and welcomed the opportunity to save some money. Petrol taxes are unpopular.

The farmers, who are already massively subsidised out of taxes saw the opportunity to join with road hauliers to gain even further cuts in costs. The road hauliers too saw the chance to increase profits and realise their financial self interests.

The capitalists sought to gain from a cut in petrol taxes to maximise their already massive incomes. This explains the ease by which a handful of blockades stopped fuel distribu-

tion. The simple truth is that the petrol companies actively colluded in the stoppage of petrol flow, helping the hauliers and encouraging the tanker drivers to hang around the depots on full pay, *doing nothing*. The idea that petrol companies genuinely supported 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, Britains 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 *Schnewsbulletin*) 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

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Anarchist prisoner Mark Barnsley has been moved and can now be contacted at:

Mark Barnsley WA2897, HMP
Frankland, Braxside, 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

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 journo 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 wankers. 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. Help them help you, give them names, descriptions, statements on people who've been nicked.

USE YOUR EYES. Watch what the cops are doing, if they're preparing to charge, moving back, vans or horses being moved about. Watch out for spotters pointing out people in the crowd, warn people who've been pointed at.

KEEP ON YOUR TOES. Don't stand still, move around, keep the filth on the run. Don't get trapped in dead ends.

IF YOU GET ARRESTED. Try and make sure people around you, preferably your mates 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

IMF/WB

A report on the

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 though as in the square around a thousand anarchists gathered and the few Marxist-Leninists who turned up were told to leave by Czech anarchists. First there was a rally with speeches in several languages and then an impromptu and illegal march through 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 battered 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 blockading 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

- FOAD

events in Prague



Czech cops feel the heat

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 capitalists 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 pickets 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 comrade 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 devastated the avenues near where the wealth meet. But we should 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.

NEWS OF THE WORLD

A look at the new face of 'caring capitalism':

Third World Debt: The world's seven richest countries, the G7, agreed in Cologne in 1999 to end Third World debt. Actually they agreed to cancel around 40% (\$100billion) owed by the 40 worst affected countries. So far only 5 countries have benefited and only Uganda comes anywhere close to total debt write-off. \$11.9billion has been written off, mostly as a result of agreements pre-dating Cologne. The G7 promised to cancel all debt owed to them. They haven't, even though this represents a fairly small amount. Most debt is owed to the IMF and World Bank, who are outside of these agreements.

Haiti: Haiti owes Western banks \$1.2bn (it pays \$45m per year), 40% of which was amassed under the Duvaliers (a U.S. puppet regime). Jean-Claude Duvalier fled in 1986 with \$900m now deposited in Swiss banks while he lives it up in France. Under the HIPC (Heavily Indebted Poor Countries) initiative of debt cancellation, Haiti will receive absolutely nothing! Why? Because their debt isn't large enough! A situation Western bankers are working hard to rectify.

East Africa: 2 years of crop failures due to unusual weather have left 12million people facing starvation. The biggest cause however, has been war. Famine relief has been hampered by the closure of the Assab seaport (see **resistance14**) due to the territorial war between Ethiopia and Eritrea. In Sudan the muslim north has been fighting the christian south, largely for that very reason, while Somalia remains embroiled in internal conflict, and Uganda continues to be involved in the Congo conflict.

Basic infrastructure in the region is still almost non-existent, what there is has been supplied by aid agencies. While oil pipelines never seem to pose a problem to construct, the same cannot be said for water pipelines.

D.R.Congo: In 2 years 1.7m people have died. 200,000 died fighting, the rest were civilians killed as a result of infrastructure collapse. The UN brokered an agreement to remove the 7 foreign armies to their own borders, while disarming thousands of Rwandans fighting in the Congolese army who were previously responsible for the attempted genocide in Rwanda.

Sierra Leone: While fighting continues in the north, in the diamond producing areas disarmed pro-government militia dig for diamonds alongside RUF rebels, who then sell them to dealers in government controlled towns, while UN peacekeepers watch the banned trade.

Poverty, mass starvation, non-existent infrastructure; Wars fought between the armies of governments, would-be governments, religious fanatics and profiteers; Spiralling debt and spiralling profit; Rich excess and poor misery, colonialists and slaves; Paper laws and meaningless agreements, duplicity and lies. Starting to see a pattern? It's business as usual!

★

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 – 6pm Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London (nearest tube Holborn) <http://freespace.virgin.net/anarchist.bookfair>
Remember to visit the Anarchist Federation stall and say hello.

14th National Demonstration in support of asylum seekers. Meet 1pm 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 , 2-5pm, 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 5HW from 9-10 am. Contact Construction Safety Campaign, PO Box 23844 London SE15 3WR, phone 07747 795954 email construction.safetycampaign@talk21.com

18th Benefit night for Mordechai Vanunu, in prison for last 14 years for spilling beans on Israeli'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 Blytheswood Square – Glasgow. Rally 12.00 City Halls. Contact SCND - 0141 423 1222 - for more details.

28th Anti-police brutality demonstration. Meet 1pm, 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 3rd November Nuclear Trains Day of Action. Contact: London Region CND 020 7607 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

MUMIA MUST LIVE! Radical American journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal is still on death row and faces imminent execution. **Regular meetings and activities in London and elsewhere.** For more information contact: **Mumia Must Live!, BM Haven, London, WC1N 3XX** or email: mumia@callnetuk.com

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 3XX

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-Syndicalists). £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 3QX

Earth First! Action Update £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

Name

Address

.....

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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:

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