

DIRECT ACTION DIRECT ACTION DIRECT ACTION DIRECT

Miners in South Wales managed to evade a massive police siege when over 500 marched throughout the night up and over the 1700' mountain, Mynydd Merthyr, that separated the mining communities from the pit, Merthyr Vale, where two scabs were attempting to strikebreak. The miners bypassed the police roadblocks completely in what can only be described as an operation conducted with almost military precision. The police were taken totally by surprise and outside the pit entrance they regrouped and began attacking the pickets with all the force they could muster, leading to many injuries, including a 'home goal' (a Sunday Times photographer).

A Coal Board employee at Clipstone, near Mansfield, had his home set alight; damage was minor. Later Chris Butcher, alias 'Silver Birch', admitted that where NCB compensation given to scabs was not available or insufficient, extra money was being supplied by the Working Miners' Committee, which in turn is financed by big business.

At Cynheidre Colliery, S Wales, 20 miners' wives broke into the NCB offices and occupied them in order to disrupt work at the pit.

Pickets hijacked a scab vehicle, near Bullcliffe Colliery, Wooley, and poured petrol over it. Before they were about to set it alight, though, they had to scarp because of police reinforcements. The driver of the vehicle and his fellow scab passenger were both dragged out by the ambushers and set upon.

At Kinsley, near Hemsworth, pickets dug trenches across the road to the pit and set up a barricade. Petrol bombs were then used to ignite the barricade, which contained explosive oxygen bottles. Later, shortly after midnight, a 'guerrilla' style combat unit, 50 strong, raided the pit but were driven off by police reinforcements.

Around 15 - 20 well disguised pickets ambushed a police convoy (two DSU's, a patrol car and a NCB van) and bombarded it with bricks and ballbearings fired from catapults. This incident took place in Minsthorpe Lane, South Elmsall.

Police houses were stoned at another incident at Kinsley. The police station at Knottingley was also attacked the same evening.

Wheldale Colliery was the scene of a massive sabotage attack, causing over £100,000 worth of damage. The approach road to the colliery was covered in burning oil and the pits control room was smashed up, electrical equipment damaged and cars overturned. The local NUM organiser blamed the attack on outsiders and said the damage was irreparable, while the NCB local manager said it was the work of 'outside criminal elements'. Perhaps they're both right: ultimately you cannot get anymore criminal or be any more of an outsider than Ian MacGregor!

A JCB digger was used to disrupt police operations when it was brought crashing down on a railway bridge on the only approach road to Fryston Colliery in another attempt to prevent strikebreaking. Police were also bomb-

police and at a magistrates hearing the 13 were given the usual bail restrictions and in addition placed on curfew.

At Saville Colliery, it was reported that around 100 pickets took part in a hit and run 'hit squad' type action resulting in £1000 worth of damage. The pickets turned up in cars, sped through the pit gates and in the space of a couple of minutes smashed vitually every window of the main offices.

BISHOPS & THE PAWNS

The Anglican Bishops represent the most thoughtful section of the ruling class, outside of active party politics, and are well represented in the Establishment and among the Privy Council. They would not be discontented with actions of a Conservative Government if they did not see good reasons for disquiet. Why they are voicing concern and dismay over the Government's monetarist and repressive policies is because they see the signs of Civil War, as clearly as Black Flag has done.

The lowering of standards and the screwing down of income resulting from the monetarist policies have led the miners to prefer their dirty and dangerous jobs to the humiliation of doing nothing. Mrs Thatcher - the first Conservative Prime Minister for years to take the hard line class war approach to politics, utterly rejecting the compromise approach of her predecessors like Butler - would prefer to spend hundreds of millions on either police

dragged out by the ambushers and set upon.

In South Yorkshire anti-scab direct action has been on the increase. At Charlston, near Wakefield, police blockades were stoned and pickets pushed railway wagons on to a level crossing to block the main approach road to the pit. At Frickley, near South Elmsall, cars were overturned and lamp posts and telegraph posts uprooted to build barricades. At Fryston over 200 pickets erected barricades and at Castleford over seven barricades were erected on the approach to Wheldon Colliery.

the only approach road to Fryston Colliery in another attempt to prevent strikbreaking. Police were also bombarded with stones and oil was poured across the road and street lamps uprooted. Inside the pit itself a NCB stores was smashed up.

At the Prince of Wales Colliery, Pontefract, it took police four attempts to clear the road of pickets. The riot police, backed up by officers in DSU transits, driving at breakneck speed, eventually broke up the picket. Police later arrested 13 miners who had been held up by the police blockade. Three of these pickets were assaulted by the



WHELDALE COLLIERY ATTACK - see item above

promise approach of her predecessors like Butler - would prefer to spend hundreds of millions on either police repression of the strike or on redundancy money and social security (which can always be reduced in real terms), rather than a smaller sum on keeping the mines going and stockpiling coal. This is a line that goes right through the present policy and she relies on the essential masochism of the people at large and the vast propaganda machine of the media to keep herself popular.

But this only makes the prospective Civil War more bitter, it does not make it less likely - and this is what the Bishops clearly see, especially in the clashes between striking and working miners (the vast majority of whom are not Tory supporters, but pawns in the Government's anti-trade union scenario). Mining is not the same as a vicars' tea party; it is a tough occupation and tensions rise high when people see some miners feeling their own mine is safe for the next thirty years so it doesn't matter, and other miners feeling pressurised economically into going back to work. Scars are left which certainly will not heal with a defeat of the strike, and only might heal in the event of an unconditional surrender of the Government with all lost pay paid - an unlikely occurrence.

The division of workers into two camps is the stuff of Civil War since it gives the ambitious sections of the ruling class the chance to recruit from among the workers, using them as pawns in the game. This is what the officer mentality sees as an opportunity, but the Bishops see it as a disaster, proclaiming that their mission is reconciliation. The Bishops may talk in professional terms of compassion, but what they see clearly is the established order breaking up - thus their concern.

**Heathfield, General
Sec. of N.U.M.
Tony Crowther, Nat.
Sec. of DAM (NUR).
A speaker from
Yorkshire N.U.M.**



THE ABOVE CONGRESS FOR INDUSTRIAL ACTION HAS BEEN INITIATED BY THE BURNLEY MINERS SUPPORT GROUP. INVITATIONS HAVE BEEN SENT OUT TO ALL MINERS SUPPORT GROUPS AND TRADE UNION BRANCHES TO SEND DELEGATES.

By the end of 1985 the Miners Strike may well be approaching its third year - if increased mass picketing, occupations, sabotage offensives, etc have not brought a speedier conclusion. In twelve months time many trade unions will also have allied with the company union, EETPU, and the TUC will have given in on all the important issues concerning anti-trade union legislation: ballot schemes, no-strike agreements, as it moves more to the right.

The split within the labour movement will have widened, leaving the Labour Party, the state socialist left and the TUC to put out its usual lies to promote reformism (and party votes).

At the same time there will be another emerging movement of those of our class who will have organised throughout that period for mass rank and file industrial action, not only in support of the mining communities, but for the reorganisation of the class resistance and the ultimate destruction of capitalism and state power.

This movement will be a movement of direct action, committed to creating a real labour movement, based on real industrial and community solidarity, and not the reformism that is mockingly and insultingly metered out by the trades union bureaucracy.

Meanwhile the soft left and the entry-ists still lick their Labour Party masters' boots hoping for a few crumbs from the table. They have already chosen their side: the ruling or yet-to-be ruling cadre.

But back to the present: already the NUM has publicly appealed to all trade unionists and support groups to reject their respective leaderships and to take industrial action, organised at rank and file level. The NUM appeal - albeit implicitly - points the way for the rejection of hierarchical trade unionism and for the return of the more syndicalist practices that were once prevalent in the British labour movement before the authoritarian left hijacked the workers organisations.

The initiative is here to be taken.

PRISON SUPPORT

As of December 7 the total number of miners arrested since the inception of the strike is 8731, with 7249 charged. Just over half have had their cases heard: mostly breach of the peace and obstruction. 104 have been given custodial sentences, the rest fines, etc. The serious cases (riot, GBH, conspiracy to riot, etc) are due to be heard soon. These could involve prison sentences - some lengthy. It is widely felt in many countries that Britain does not imprison trade unionists or outlaws effective picketing: the British state relies upon the untruth remaining so and the myth needs to be shattered once and for all - comrades in other countries could organise protests/demonstrations, etc on behalf of imprisoned miners. Comrades closer to home could additionally help by organising the picketing of prisons and the setting up of local prison support groups. All Black Cross contacts are urged to help out and initiate action.

MINERS UPDATE

MINERS UPDATE

MINERS UPDATE

Despite the statement by NUM General Secretary, Peter Heathfield, that there are unlikely to be power cuts this Winter, it is widely known that some power cuts already took place in November. St Albans suffered a 30 minute blackout on domestic supplies, as also did Llanwern Steel Plant. Power workers at W Thurrock power station have succeeded in closing down that plant altogether. Coal supplies at Fiddlers Ferry and Ferrybridge power stations are virtually out of all coal stocks (due to blacking by rail workers). Bold power station is also closed and Drax has suffered major structural damage due to poor coal substitutes. Other reports include a rumour of power cuts in Nottinghamshire (unconfirmed) and power losses by British Telecom (who had to switch to standby generators.) Perhaps Heathfield is 'playing his cards close to his chest' and lulling the government into a false sense of security.

A bank manager at the Scottish town of Lochgelly acted overzealously when he froze the funds of the local NUM account after news of the sequestration order was announced, even though the bank had not been requested by Price Waterhouse to do anything. This overzealousness was promptly dealt with when a pot of brake fluid was poured over his brand new car.

SOURCE: Clydeside A's

Mining community women have set up their own national organisation, the National Womens Organisation. The NWO - a class based organisation - will aim to work for total victory for the mining communities in its present

Around 60 schools have closed down in the Ayrshire region alone due to lack of coal for heating. In one school at Lasswade, janitors refused to accept scab coal from Bilston Glen; they were subsequently suspended and the teachers came out in solidarity. Janitors at the local Further Education College also refused to accept scab coal, but unfortunately no other janitors in other educational establishments followed suit.



Gerald Hartup, the National Organiser for the Freedom Association - exposed recently in a front page write-up in Black Flag on its secret backing of the scab miners anti-strike moves - is now known to have been travelling around the Notts coalfield only days before 'Silver Birch', the scab facilitator, issued his first publicity statement. Hartup, apparently was 'assessing' the situation and offering advice.

Sir Hector Laing (Chairman of United Biscuits and a director of Aims of Industry and the Economic League - two anti-trade union employers' organisations) was responsible for the fund-raising - via his contacts in British business - of £30,000 donated to the 'Miners Ballot Fund'. The Fund helps to finance the legal costs of scabs Ken Foulstone and Bob Taylor (an ex-soldier) who had the strike declared illegal in the courts. The Miners Ballot Fund is handled by solicitors Hodgkinson and Tallent (who have previously been featured in a Black Flag expose on the Freedom Association) of Newark. H & T includes solicitor Jeremy Ware (Chairman of the Grantham Conservative Association), David Payne (former Tory Mayor of Newark Council and current leader of the Tory Group on Newark Council).

There is clear evidence to show that whatever the outcome of the Miners Strike the police intend to continue their occupation of the mining communities to take retribution on pickets and their families and to reward scabs by providing ongoing protection. Such protection will obviously not go on forever,

There have been reports from the

- a class based organisation - will aim to work for total victory for the mining communities in its present struggle against pit closures, to consolidate and strengthen the womens groups that have grown out of the strike, and to build a permanent support network within the mining communities to organise not just on industrial issues but on all issues that affect the mining communities.

Bail conditions of a further 4 months have been imposed upon the 12 defendants who occupied the Price Waterhouse offices in Glasgow. The twelve - all Clydeside anarchists - are charged with 'breach of the peace' and 'malicious mischief'. The trial date is set for April 15, making the bail period (with the usual conditions) a staggering 7½ months.

Scabs broke into the Cannock Unemployed Workers Centre in Littlebrook and destroyed Xmas gifts for the children of striking Staffordshire miners.

The transportation of coal from Bilston Glen is being stepped up. Local private contractors, such as Bruce, Lindsey, Waldie of Haymarket, Edinburgh, are being used in conjunction with NUM scabs. Local strikers have called for mass picketing, but the Scottish NUM leadership has ignored this request. Many strikers are now hoping that mass physical support can be organised at grassroots level, via the Support Groups

SOURCE: Counter Information

Scab miner, Barry Newton, who received widespread media publicity when he appeared on TV with acid burns on his face, alleging assault by pickets, is now facing a possible charge of wasting police time. Apparently he perpetrated the act himself in order to make himself famous!

There have been reports from the picket line at Killoch (South Ayrshire) that scabs have signed a two year no-strike agreement.

The arrest of a Felixstowe trade unionist who witnessed a police assault on a woman bystander in a mining village, led to wildcat strike action in the port, causing all ferry services to be cancelled. Dave Ganders, an NUS Secretary for Felixstowe Port Authority, witnessed the incident while making his weekly visit, on behalf of his fellow trade unionists on the SS Viking Viscount, to the Derbyshire mining community of Brimpton to hand over their regular donation of £1000 to the Support Group. When news of his arrest was made known NUS members in Felixstowe refused to set sail, leading to the ships owners, Townsend Thorenson to plead with the police to let him go in order to prevent the industrial action from widening.

David Hamilton, Chairman of the Dalkeith central strike committee, has been cleared of assaulting a scab. He spent, however, a total of two months in custody awaiting the trial in that he was already on bail conditions (involving an earlier charge of breach of the peace) when arrested again.

Street cleaner Ernest Cusworth, aged 54, was set upon by two riot police while he was on his way to work. He had just got outside his house, in the village of Brampton near Cortonwood, when the two PC's yanked over the garden gate and began to kick him. He was then arrested and held in custody but not charged. He was later hospitalised and is now on tranquilisers. The attack by these thugs left him with a broken collar bone.

to take retribution on pickets and their families and to reward scabs by providing ongoing protection. Such protection will obviously not go on forever, although the main objective is to continue to use the areas provoked into civil war as training areas for the newly developed National Riot Force.

Just as the North of Ireland has served its purpose for training of troops in counter-insurgency warfare, so the mining communities have been used to perfect the policing of industrial and community resistance.

The police will need to be drawn out of their 'occupied' areas, just as the only way troops will ever leave the Six Counties is when they are given different priorities, which in turn could lead to disaffection. Even with rearguard support, a resistance movement would only stand any chance of combatting the professionalism of the combined Security Services, if such resistance included widespread rank and file industrial action.

According to the Police Review, police on anti-picket duty have been warned to beware of pickets stealing police radios - apparently it is thought that the 'NUM has a bounty on them'. PC's have also been advised to wear their truncheon straps inside their pockets as some pickets supposedly have a tendency to whip them out and use them on their owner. In the same article it's stated that Met. police are on strict orders not to go out on the streets alone - especially at night - in case of retribution attacks.

Continued overleaf...

MINERS UPDATE

Since March scab coal has been coming through Exmouth and Teignmouth docks. Currently there is around 2000 tonnes of coal on the dockside and lorries are leaving at a rate of two a minute. Local Labour Party hacks, lefties and trade union bureaucrats have kept very quiet about it all, fearing that they may have to get involved if word gets out as to what is happening. T & G members have also been quite happy to scab. The Teignmouth dockers began scabbing first, followed by dockers at Exmouth. The local T & G made an agreement with the NUM back in May when mass picketing was threatened - but this was later broken. The two remaining NUM pickets believe that the local T & G leaders have come to some sort of 'unofficial' deal with the private dock owners.

One of the private dock owners - Carter, based in Exmouth - also owns half the property in the area and a haulage firm that is helping to transport scab coal. This firm is Greendales, while another scab haulage company prominent in the area, is P & M of Crediton. Most of the coal arriving at Exmouth and Teignmouth is from Poland (via Rotterdam) and South Africa. Some of the coal is being stockpiled at Carters farm at Woodbury, before distribution.

Opposition to the scabbing is virtually zero. Some of the Teignmouth coal is being directed to the power stations, as well as steel works in South Wales. In the meantime it is patently clear that the NUM need as much help as possible

A local Miners Support Group has occupied the FNV (Dutch TUC) Transport Board office in the Netherlands over their intransigence in formulating a policy for dealing with scab coal destined for Britain. The Dutch trade union leadership has refused to boycott Polish coal unless they are specifically requested by the TUC. They have refused to obey requests by the NUM on the grounds that the NUM has gone it alone during the strike. It seems that solidarity between the bureaucrats is stronger than that at grassroots! Latest news, however, is that the TUC are 'considering' putting pressure on the FNV, who in turn are being pressurised by local rank and file support groups.

In North Staffordshire mining families transported as a result of an earlier generation of pit closures in the North-East have been doubly penalised. Over the past twenty years three pits in Stoke-on-Trent have been closed down and so Jordies who emigrated down either faced forced retirement or being moved to yet another mine (15 miles from where they live). One of the mines closed down - Whitfield Colliery - was turned into a mining museum by the NCB - at great cost, apparently a lot more than it would have cost to have kept the pit open. Undaunted local pickets have set up a picket line at the 'museum' entrance and have prevented 'tourists' from getting in. The local miners support group at nearby Biddulph are desperate for financial help - many North Staffs miners never came out on strike but have refused to collaborate with the Notts scabs or the various legal actions - the strikers meanwhile are in a minority and are out of the public eye. Like the minority Notts strikers they need far more mutual aid, perhaps, than their comrades in the more solid areas.

that army activity in preparation for the movement of strike-bound coal in the Durham area is taking place. If the alleged disaffection posters have not yet come your way, then they can always be substituted by a home-made variety. Remember, though, mere possession of disaffection material can involve stiff sentences (eg 2 years or so).

Lord Taylor (of Taylor-Woodrow PLC and the Economic League) is negotiating the purchase of two CEBG power stations (Plymouth B plus one other unnamed). Taylor - who is a great believer in no-strike agreements - already owns a huge chunk of the privatised open-cast mines: hence if the purchase went through he would be in a position to fuel his own coal-fired stations. EETPU leaders, no doubt, would go along with all this, providing it fits in with their 'I'm all right, Jack' philosophy and their rewards for their members were sufficiently reasonable whether to the detriment of others or not.

The Territorial Army is increasing its recruiting activities in South Yorkshire. Recently ads have appeared in local papers inviting local citizens to join the Home Service Force. This force is the much smaller version of the Defence Begins At Home brigade earlier featured in a Black Flag expose. The HSF will specialise in providing rear-guard support against 'subversives' and revolutionaries in times of crisis. Recruitment is limited to loyalists only, of course, with special preference given to ex-Service men, etc.

The three Derbyshire scabs who applied to the High Court restraining the NUM from suspending any Derbyshire miner who continued to strikebreak engaged Nicholas Lyell to represent them. Lyell

as well as steel works in South Wales. In the meantime it is patently clear that the NUM need as much help as possible to stop further imports from getting in these two ports. As for Mr Carter...
SOURCE: Exeter Anarchists.

The High Court has ordered that the funds of the students union of the North London Polytechnic be handed over to an official Receiver because the union attempted to pay £5000 to the Miners Relief Fund and £5000 to the Ethiopian Famine Appeal. The lesson to be learnt here is that students should devise their own separate funds, outside of NUS control, if such Court orders are to be avoided in the future.

Over 40 drivers have been suspended by Texaco after they voted not to cross NUM picket lines at power stations along the Thames. The drivers are all based at Dagenham, Essex.

The McGibbons family, who have been active as scab organisers (not only in the Kent coalfield, but also - a few years back - in the car industry) are selling their £70,000 house and emigrating to Australia (now that they've tried - and failed - to stir up an anti-union rebellion.) Irene McGibbon was the woman who appeared at the Tory Party Conference on behalf of the Miners Wives - Back to Work Movement (sic). Both are known to have close contacts with the Freedom Association. They, presumably, think they will be safe from retribution on the other side of the world. But hopefully, away from their British police protection, they may find a few angry comrades and trade unionists who will give them a hard time.

More scab firms - this time the Doncaster area: Kennings Van Hire, Salford Van Hire.

far more mutual aid, perhaps, than their comrades in the more solid areas.

There is a rumour going round that a campaign to incite soldiers not to take part in strikebreaking activities (especially the movement of scab coal) is underway. Information is coming through

the cutting below is taken from the latest issue of Monochrome. They assure us that they are able to furnish us with proof that the statement has not been faked by an overzealous contributor and that they have documentary evidence to establish that the cop is bone fide.

PICKET COP SPEAKS OUT

The following letter was written by an experienced officer in the Metropolitan Police.

Dear Sir,

I can't give you my name, but the following might be of interest to you in your work. I am a P.C. in the Metropolitan Police. Since March I've been away on PSUs (Police Support Units) to the Midlands and to Kent, staying at military bases and police HQs for a week or so at a time.

There's been a bad breakdown of discipline by some of our serials. These are examples of some of the things that have happened.

1. The mining village of Kersley, Warwickshire. May: 3 of our men got caught shoplifting in uniform in a village shop, 2 got sent home.

2. There's been a lot of petty thieving - radios, razors, cameras, video films. This caused a lot of bad feeling with the army because they had to search some of their men on their way to N. Ireland.

3. TADAs, Military & civilian vehicles have been taken without consent by PCs. 3 blokes got a military lorry started & went joyriding in it. Quite a lot of civilian cars have been taken & dumped to get back to the barracks late at night from local pubs & clubs.

4. Some of our blokes have gone beserk drinking & gambling away from home; it's been quite normal to spend £80 a week on booze, so you can tell what state a lot of people have been in most of the time. Card-games are usually for a pot of £30 plus.

5. There were 2 cases of homosexuality in Warwickshire in May; a sergeant and a P.C. got caught in the showers, committing buggery. Another 2 men got caught making love in the same sleeping bag.

6. There was so much trouble in Warwickshire that the barracks commander wanted to send all our serials home (about 170 men). In the end about 10 got

sent home.

7. Outside Coventry, we were using Conservative Party clubs as temporary police stations. It's as if the Met. Police was just being used as part of the Tory Party.

8. Up in Derbyshire, we were billeted at the Derby Police HQ but there was so much trouble again, like I've described, that we aren't welcome in Derbyshire any more. We aren't welcome to use the HQ and won't be sent to Derbyshire again.

9. There's been a lot of fights between our men. Some charges for assault have been brought, including one for GBH.

10. They were trying to run things on military lines, getting us marching about saluting all the time. We were sleeping in places like aircraft hangers, while our sergeants & inspectors were put in officers messes with batmen. Our inspector got a bollocking for not putting his shoes out to be shone of a night.

11. There's been a lot of bent things going on at the picket lines themselves. We got told to make a lot of arrests when we first arrived at a place "to get on top of things". We arrived at one pit and nothing happened the first half hour. The superintendent got angry when he found out there'd been no arrests yet, so in the next half hour we made 15 arrests. Some miners got arrested and in the confusion nobody knew the end, they asked for volunteers to say they'd arrested them, but the officers who did hadn't been involved in the arrests at all. One of the miners who got arrested was given water from a lavatory pan to drink by a sergeant.

12. The reason Arthur Scargill got hit over the head at Orreave

was that all the PC's were trying to get his baseball cap as a trophy. There was a "bounty" of a £100 ready for anyone who got it.

13. In Kent; there was the same trouble we had in Derby & Warwick. We're not welcome in Kent anymore either. Their chief constable has said he won't have us there any more. In Kent, we were using the old Ramsgate hoverport for meals and a control centre. Some of our P.C.s dug up the farmer's field & stole 3 rows of potatoes and some vegetables. That happened up north as well, but it got blamed on striking miners.

14. There's been some talk about using water cannon & plastic bullets, I know there's been some training going on recently. The Met has got 2 new water cannons, a Leyland and a Volvo. I've seen these: one of them was turned on a 50-gallon oil drum full of water. It lifted it up and sent it backwards for about 50 yards.

15. Special Branch have been around the pits a lot. They were under cover at a miners welfare club outside Coventry but I don't know what they were doing there. The Kent Police was using a TV unit in plain clothes to film miners. The miners let them do it because they were posing as an independent TV company making a film. The man in charge had a strong American accent, so they believed it was a foreign TV company.

I've been on a lot of strikes and marches over the last few years, but this is the most political one I've ever known. Some of our P.C.s who were in the army say it's been just like N. Ireland. *This is all genuine.* What's been going on needs to be sorted out. Things have got well out of hand lately. Sorry I can't give my name, but I've got my family to think about.

MACGREGOR CONNECTION

As Chairman of the AMAX Corporation MacGregor got to know a lot about forced resettlement methods and community exploitation. Besides its US concerns, AMAX owned mining set-ups in Australia, involving the use of massive police numbers to get rid of Aborigines from their 'homelands' where the iron-ore was lodged. Needless to say Amax got its way and after the resettlement the Aborigines' land was totally carved up out of all recognition.

AMAX also had - and still has - mining concerns in South Africa and Namibia. In addition AMAX has connections with the Oppenheimer empire of Chartered Consolidated and Anglo-American.

MacGregor himself is director of several companies in addition to being NCB Chairman. One directorship he holds is on the Brunswick Corporation, which manufactures a variety of products including defence equipment. He is also a director of LTV (another US Defence Department supplier). Atlantic Assets - another company of which MacGregor is a director - is a majority shareholder of a UK company, United Scientific Holdings, a firm specialising in the manufacture of armaments and riot-control vehicles. USH is also the parent company of Alvis Ltd, another UK armoured vehicles manufacturer. The current chairman of USH was appointed as an unpaid advisor to Michael Heseltine, the government Defence Minister, for a six month stretch.

Another interesting piece of background history is that Midland Bank is a major shareholder of SOCAL, which in turn is a major shareholder of AMAX. Sir John Cuckney, a Midland Bank director, was also a director of Lazards, MacGregor

SOUTH WALES SYNDICALISTS

Some miners in South Wales are currently circulating a leaflet arguing the case for rank and file syndicalist type action. They urge that strike committees should include militants from all sections of the local community and that it was a mistake not to adopt offensive actions earlier. Too much emphasis on support work and not enough on actual mass picketing is another criticism that is raised against current strategy. 'We as grass roots members need to take control of the strike', the union bureaucrats have been 'short-sighted', mistakenly concentrating on conducting 'negotiating with leaders of other unions in talks where promises of support come cheap'. The leadership is accused of using the rank and file as 'picket fodder'. The leaflet concludes that the strike should be run directly at rank and file level.

Coming from the most solid striking area, this initiative is yet to be realised. More than any other mining area South Wales can justifiably boast that the Miners Lodges are the centres of community life, organising local activity in the class interest. This syndicalist approach is part and parcel of the whole Welsh mining tradition and is still very much alive.

FITZWILLIAM 9

Back in July in the village of Fitzwilliam, near Pontefract, around 200 locals demonstrated at the local police station to protest at the harassment of a local picket organiser, Brendan Conway. Despite an agreement by Brendan that he would present himself to the police for questioning the police pre-empted the situation by storming the

WE'RE IN HERE FOR YOU

FREE ALL CLASS WAR



PRISONERS NOW

YOU'RE OUT THERE FOR US



AIMS AND PRINCIPLES OF THE DIRECT ACTION MOVEMENT

- (1) The Direct Action Movement is a working class organisation.
- (2) Our aim is the creation of a free and classless society.
- (3) We are fighting to abolish the state, capitalism and wage slavery in all their forms and replace them by self-managed production for need not profit.
- (4) In order to bring about the new social order, the workers must take over the means

in turn is a major shareholder of AMAX. Sir John Cuckney, a Midland Bank director, was also a director of Lazards, MacGregor old employers. Midland is also the NUM's bank - the bank that was so willing to comply with the sequestration order. Cuckney is presently chairman of the International Military Services, 'the governments undercover arms sales organisation', representing all sales for the Royal Ordnance Factories overseas market.

(The above is an edited version of a longer, well documented, piece of research in the latest issue of the Lobster - see PUBLICATIONS).

A record has been made by a group called The Enemy Within. The title of the main track is called Strike. All proceeds from the sale of the record are to be donated to the Miners Solidarity Fund. The Enemy Within recognise that the record will get no promotions within the Media and no airplay. Promotion will therefore be by word of mouth. The record is on the Rough Trade label in both 7" and 12" versions. Get your local record store to order copies.



Conway. Despite an agreement by Brecht that he would present himself to the police for questioning the police pre-empted the situation by storming the local pub and daring those inside to fight back. Over 50 riot cops waded in and beat up everyone in sight. The villagers were herded outside and the police made a grab for Conway, who they then handcuffed, with another local, to a lamp post in front of the crowd so as to prevent them from throwing bricks. Meanwhile many locals were beaten senseless, one person (who came to cool things down) was beaten with a truncheon 15 times. Conway's woman friend was also beaten when she went to his rescue.

Altogether nine people were arrested. Lord Gifford, the defence lawyer, stated in court that the police attack, led by C.I. Reece, was nothing more than a punitive expedition and that the whole incident was provoked.

The verdicts - predictably - came down in favour of the police. Conway got a suspended sentence, as did two others. Three defendants are still to be charged and two were acquitted. However Peter Hurst (an unemployed builder) was made the fall guy and got 6 months imprisonment for alleged assault. Hurst is now in Armley Jail, Leeds.

forms and replace them by self-managed production for need not profit.

(4) In order to bring about the new social order, the workers must take over the means of production and distribution. We are the sworn enemies of those who would take over on behalf of the workers.

(5) We believe that the only way for the working class to achieve this is for independent organisation in the workplace and community and federation with others in the same industry and locality, independent of, and opposed to all political parties and trade union bureaucracies. All such workers organisations must be controlled by workers themselves and must unite rather than divide the workers movement. Any and all delegates of such workers organisations must be subject to immediate recall by the workers.

(6) We are opposed to all States and State institutions. The working class has no country. The class struggle is worldwide and recognises no artificial boundaries. The armies and police of all States do not exist to protect the workers of those States, they exist only as the repressive arm of the ruling class.

(7) We oppose racism, sexism, militarism and all attitudes and institutions that stand in the way of equality and the right of all people everywhere to control their own lives and the environment.

(8) 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.

I would like to know more about the DAM/IWA. Please send more information. I enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

NAME.....
ADDRESS.....
.....
POSTCODE.....
OCCUPATION.....
TRADE UNION.....

Cut out and send to:
DAM/IWA, c/o 223 Greenwood Road, Benchill, MANCHESTER M22 7HB.