

RE-ANTI-FASCIST ACTION!

The last year or so has seen open racism and racist violence reach their highest level for years in our cities and especially in East London. Reports of racist firebombings, stabbings and murders are now commonplace even in the racist gutter press with only the police still denying the true causes of these attacks. Fascist activity - NF marches etc - is at its highest level since the late 70's with e.g. over 150 at an NF meeting in Brighton recently, though it is still low in comparison with the NF being 3rd overall in percentage votes in GLC elections of 1977. At the recent relaunch of Bradford NF only 15 of the "master" race appeared. The current racist violence seems to come from unorganised white youth rather than a coordinated terror campaign, while the Tory party has captured the organised racism the NF once represented. The riots were used as an excuse for racism and calls for more policing - mostly what the riots were against in the first place! In Tottenham white councilworkers marched against Bernie Grant in the post-riot hysteria.

Against this background a group called Anti Fascist Action was set up. At its founding conference in July 85, AFA appeared to be committed to both direct action against fascism, wherever it reared its ugly head, and to a mass propaganda campaign. After 5 months existence AFA has done virtually nothing and has firmly entrenched itself in the Labour party quagmire.

SO WHATS WRONG WITH AFA ?

1/ AFA sees fascism apart from patriotism and state racism. It produced a disgustingly patriotic leaflet for the anti-'NF Remembrance Day Parade' demo, with anti-fascists drawn as "true--Brits". AFA concentrates too much on the fascism and racism of small groups and not the racism inherent in 'British Democracy' -the Tories and the 'Loyal Opposition'.

2/ AFA is based in and indirectly funded by the Labour party. The dominant groups in AFA are all GLC funded. Politically, they support police monitoring and the ridiculous idea of police accountability, and keep quiet about Labour party racism. Kinnockio recently went to Walthamstow and told victims of racist attacks to stay calm and trust British justice!

3/ AFA proudly boasts of not being dominated by a particular left-wing group, as the ANL was by the Socialist Worker party. In reality this means AFA is dominated by Labour party members, while its anti-left ideology blinds it to the nature of racism/fascism and how to fight them.

All this has meant in practice that AFA has done little else but produce press-releases and set up sub-committees. What direct action has been taken has been by Red Action, with the credit being taken by AFA. The demo against the NF annual Remembrance Day Parade is a good example: to counter such a big march and police presence, tight secret planning and/or a mass leafletting/poster campaign was needed. Neither were done -just a few leaflets one week beforehand.

SO HOW DO WE DEFEAT FASCISM ?

CLASS WAR believes fascism must be physically confronted wherever it appears, and we support, more importantly, self-defense groups based on the community. We also support communities which go on the offensive against the racists/police. At the same time though a mass campaign is needed in the factories/estates attacking not just fascism but racism and patriotism. And from a class point of view, this means attacking not just the NF but also the state -the Tories, and Labour. While we must verbally and physically confront racism in the working class we must not fall into the trap, like the liberals, of blaming the working class. Racism doesn't come from the working class -we

are not born racist- racism is used as a tool to divide the working class and it comes from and the blame lies with capitalism and the state. Attacking racism is crucial to uniting the working class. Anti-racism is not a side-issue nor is it a separate issue. It is totally part of our struggle. Only the working class can really fight racism -the Labour party's paper anti racism is just words- and only the working class will destroy fascism and racism when we get together and start to destroy capitalism and its state .

CLASS WAR affiliated to AFA at its founding conference. We generally supported its aims and wished to be part of what looked like becoming an active anti-fascist group. However in October 85 we were suspended "due to very serious allegations". These were based on a Guardian report of the Brixton riot which alleged CW was run by ex-leading NF'ers. This ridiculous smear has been dropped now but a number of new lies, smears etc have been invented by the AFA secretariat since. In December, after being barred from putting our position to an AFA meeting, CW was resuspended for another 6 months. Basically AFA secretariat are Labour party liberals who hate anarchists and anyone who rejects their pathetic brand of softly-softly anti-racism. (e.g. one accusation that we attacked the police on a Newham 7 demo which got a number of Asians nicked. This is insulting to the Asian people fighting back: they don't need/want us to lead them. They hate the police, fight them when they want and we support them in that.

CLASS WAR rejects (for the 100th time!!!) all accusations of racism thrown at us. We have nothing to hide. We have been witchhunted out of AFA and demand our suspension is lifted.

A leaflet containing all the allegations and our response is being prepared for the AFA February conference.