



THE REPRESSION TRADE

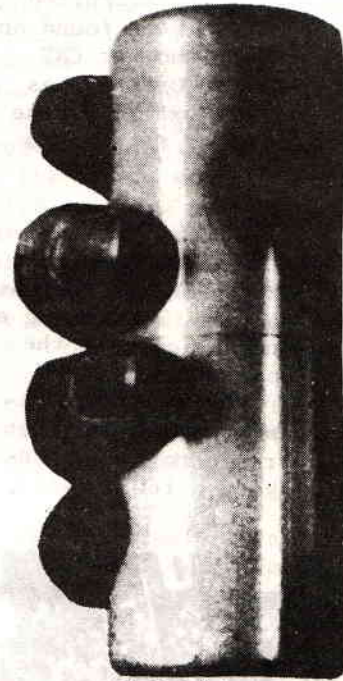
It is vital to oppose the 'Bomb', and hopefully such opposition will widen not narrow people's vision of what they do oppose, to include all militarism. Great Britain is one of the big four arms dealing nations of the world.

Three-quarters of British arms are sold to the Third World, whose governments continue to spend more on arms than health.

But the arms trade does not only prevent the very poor of this world from obtaining their fair share of global resources it also is a major factor in fostering military rivalries, regional arms races and in maintaining dictatorships. Britain might conceivably sell other exports to these nations - to help develop transport and agricultural systems, or a

decent water supply in lieu of arms. In fact, large quantities of arms are sold at a loss - for political reasons. (Nor incidentally, does the arms industry show real interest in providing jobs - more and more workers are replaced by machines.)

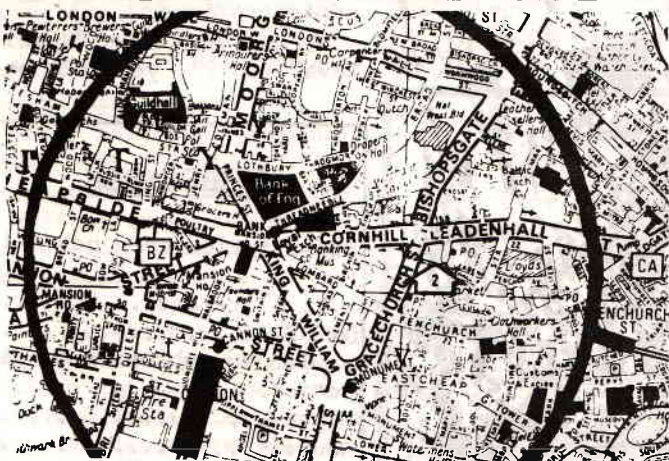
Between 1977 and 1979, Britain sold arms to more than 40 countries listed by Amnesty International as having violated human rights. This comes as no surprise when one realises Britain is the world's 2nd



Plastic bullet

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STOP 'THE CITY'



was a blockade of the Stock Exchange involving 500 - 1000 anarchists, of which 200/210 were arrested in direct confrontations with police, including blockades of courts and Wood St. Police Station. Follow up meetings, to discuss, amongst other things the setting up of a defense fund were held Oct. 15th/16th as this issue went to press. Defense fund address: 121 Railton Rd. London SE24.

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Carrefour
CNT Victory

Work in at
Thornton View

Militarisation of
Polish Mining

Towards
Anarcha-Feminism

Buses — can't pay,
won't pay ETC.

conditions etc. ; so I don't think they can really claim to be respecting the UN Charter.)

Local actions can draw attention to local involvement. One way is to find out which local companies are involved. You can find out from CAAT's booklet "The Arms Traders" (£1.50 + postage) available from CAAT, 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1 9DX. CAAT also have details (and organise protests at) Arms Fairs.

In America direct actions have been taken; since it was revealed last year that most of the US weapons bound for El Salvador were shipped through Port Chicago, near San Francisco, peace activists have come together to form a network - the Port Chicago Campaign, to oppose these exports. Blockades of the port have taken place and land and sea blockades took place on 28th July. That's direct action. CAAT do invaluable work, but I see no point, as an anarchist, in petitioning govts. (who have shown who they are already). Blockades are a good idea. It's a form of 'blacking' I suppose.

I wonder when the anti mili-



"It's a socially useful device for use on the management"

tarist movement will get round to sabotage, despite the risks. Here in the UK you risk arrest for criminal damage, at the other end of the journey is someone being killed or tortured.

It's worth noting that Britain in this respect is not different from 3rd World nations. We now spend more on 'Defence' than Education (for the first time), under Maggie. We have 500,000 people working on production for military use but only 85,000 doctors and

600,000 teachers. Many of these jobs seem innocuous; only 75,000 work directly on arms export contracts, some are in academic research, others may produce fuses for EMI (not even knowing these are bomb fuses). But do workers have to face a choice between the Arms factory and the dole? No. The workers have themselves indicated they'd rather not be in the arms trade, through their Shop Stewards, in the 1976 Alternative Corporate Plan of Lucas Aerospace. They would rather the industry was converted over to civilian production.

You can ask for 45% of your income tax, normally for 'Defence, to be paid via diversionary cheques made out to the Overseas Development Administration instead. Finally, money spent on military goods does not create a lot of wealth either, as few people use and maintain them ie. if the government spend £1,000 million in each area, the military will generate 76,000, the least of all, whereas education will generate 187,000, health 139,000 and construction 100,000.

BUSES

Can't pay, Won't pay

On August 12th Cleveland Transit announced plans to cut local bus services (and therefore jobs) in Teeside in a bid to stem their huge operating losses. In response bus workers imposed a ban on late-night weekend working which remained in operation for the next six weekends. A return to normal working was negotiated on September 22nd when management conceded the extra inspector cover that the union (TGWU) had been demanding.

While wholeheartedly supporting the bus workers' fight to save their jobs and services upon which working people depend, it seems to us that a bit of clear thinking is missing in their approach (or, more likely, in the union leaders).

The main reason Cleveland transport are losing passengers and money is that their fares are so bloody expensive that people can't afford to use their buses as regularly. Cheaper fares would bring back all their lost passengers. For those on the dole, for example, a hefty bus fare can amount to quite a large chunk of their meagre income. Indeed, the Cleveland Unemployed Workers Union makes free bus travel for the unemployed and their families one of its immediate demands.

We have here an example of the kind of warped thinking reformist unionism descends to. Instead of a steadfast defence of jobs and services as things which cannot be touched, the union meets management halfway and in very business-like fashion calls for a clampdown on fare dodging. It doesn't seem to matter that with this call they are only going to shift the burden onto people who don't pay because they can't pay. Other working people in fact.

Revolutionary unionism on the other hand has nobler aspirations and tactics. To it the interests of the whole class matter, not just the short-term interests of one particular section. Therefore, revolutionary unionists call on bus workers to fight for their jobs and the services in a very different way. Instead of penny-pinching with the (for the most part working class) passengers, how about demanding a few "economies" at the top, where the boss class on fat salaries never have to use the buses (or dodge fares).

Instead of the simple withdrawal of bus services (which hurts the passengers more than the management) a more effective tactic for transport workers is to work as normal but not bother to collect fares. This guarantees you public support and will soon bring management to their senses. What about victimisation by the bosses you might ask. If all stand firm what can they do - sack everyone?

MIDDLESBROUGH DAM

TOWARDS ANARCHA FEMINISM

ANARCHA-FEMINIST CONFERENCE.

An Anarcha-Feminist Conference was held at Doncaster Trades Club on SAT. 3 September & on Sunday a mixed meeting was held (the first day was women only). The Conference opened with definitions of anarcha-feminism. The history of feminism has been one of anarchical, non-hierarchical organisation. For some of us, anarchism & feminism are synonymous (do all anarchist men agree though?). We agreed we are not separatists but the validity of separate meetings was upheld (to develop confidence to speak in mixed meetings and generally.) We felt women prefer less theorising than men? We regretted that fewer women were active in mainstream politics? Though that depends on the definition of mainstream. Women's politics are not separate from the industrial struggle; not a side-issue. (low-paid women workers?) The definition of work should be extended to include unpaid work by women (childwork, housework.) Women have three problems with mainstream activities: (1) lack of time due to child-care (2) sexist anarchist men (3) lack of creches at most conferences. Women must not be isolated in the home, nor solely in activist groups but in their community. We might work with as many groups as possible, i.e. Left women, non-political women, and men, but we wanted to show our support, not patronise, & offer resources where we could. Our best way to show sisterhood with women of other cultures (Asian Women's Refuge workers who have been threatened) is to co-operate with their groups. The State defuses our struggle by providing Grants (e.g. Women's Aid, W.I.R.E.S.) Anarcha-feminism opposes all State intervention & women who want political power. In Northern Ireland, women were split into Political women (i.e. anti-imperialists) & women in daily politics (Women's Aid, Rape Crisis Centres.) Anarcha-feminism can bridge both "camps." We felt Trotskyist parties Women's Groups were a way to put women Trots neatly on one side, whereas we could see no issue that did not include men. Nevertheless, we thought too much energy was just wasted by defensive men & also defensive feminists. Mixed views

were expressed on the Greenham Common Women; qualified support was given to the core of politically aware women there, whom we hoped would up the level of the sabotage activities. On Porn, we say "censorship" is our self-expression, i.e. not from any Govt. but us, those effected. We supported Angry Women in bombing Porn Shops as direct action. Porn is not only an oppressive image of women - it involves as well the exploitation of women who work in the Porno Industry. Is there more reaction on racism/classism than sexism from male anarchists? As Anarcha-feminists, we support women taking direct action, not appeals for anti-porn laws, nor tougher sentences for rapists; instead, we support organisation by women as far as possible against rape, i.e. provision of minibuses, self-defence classes, vigilante women taking revenge on rapists. Abortion was debated (one woman said she did not want an abortion, others must choose for themselves.) We need to oppose any planned anti-abortion legislation (e.g. in Ireland), but we do not depend on appeals to the State. Women in D.A.M. felt that "Direct Action" should include more anarcha-feminism. (please send us Copy.) A D.A.M. pamphlet on Anarcha-feminism is planned for publication soon. On the next day, no men disagreed (at first) to "Women Only" meetings, on the grounds that women are oppressed differently to men. The men said in male groups there are tensions (class; homo/hetero tensions), especially men oppressed by macho men. We wondered how can we best confront dominators, male or female? The men asked us if our meeting would've been spoiled by the presence of men? Some women said yes, some said no; the women did not feel hindered/tense with the particular men present. Later, one man did object to women only meetings. The women felt only they defended women only meetings, not the men. Some men said we were jumping to conclusions about their reasons & this offended them. The man who objected compared women only meetings with black only meetings, which he said were all anti-white. The women replied that our meeting was not anti-men. If non-sexist men criticised sexist men, they felt ignored or, in some social circles, ridiculed as gay. (This

sexism against gay men they also find difficult to confront, without alienating other men.) Brief mention was made of the Saturday's anarchist videos. We liked the Women's Fire Brigade, supporters of the Vancouver Five, who are women of all ages and in the video on Jewish anarchists in New York, noted that the majority of those activists were of the "older generation". Videos are available from 121, Railton Road, London SE24.

The number of women present was fewer than expected (many of them in D.A.M.). It is hoped to hold a larger anarcha-feminist Conference next year. In 1980, a conference of 100 women was held; we were short of time perhaps, but a start has been made to revive - and expand - anarcha-feminism in Britain, of which "The Anarchist Feminist Magazine" must surely play a part. Send copy to The Anarchist Feminist Magazine, now c/o Leeds Anarchist Women, BOX V, 59, Cockridge Street, Leeds.

N.B. On Sunday, we also re-discussed Northern Ireland, Race and Rape.

SUBSIDIES

Public transport subsidies in Britain's main urban areas should be increased - according to the Department of Transport computer model which was initially set up to cut subsidies. Details of this embarrassing result for the government were revealed recently at a major traffic conference held at Sussex University organised by Planning and Transport Computation and Research.

The 1983 Transport Act enables the Department of Transport to limit subsidies to public transport in London and the metropolitan counties. So, to decide which counties should get more subsidies and which less, the Department got together with a consultant from the L.S.E. and developed a computer model to divide up the cake. The model revealed that even South Yorkshire with the highest bus subsidy in Britain should have a higher subsidy. And in Greater Manchester and West Yorkshire, bus and train fares ought to be cut by a quarter, and paid for by higher subsidies.