

Wildcat

No 7

★★★

15p

**RIOT
SPECIAL**

HANDSWORTH

TOTTENHAM

BRIXTON

S. AFRICA

TOXTETH

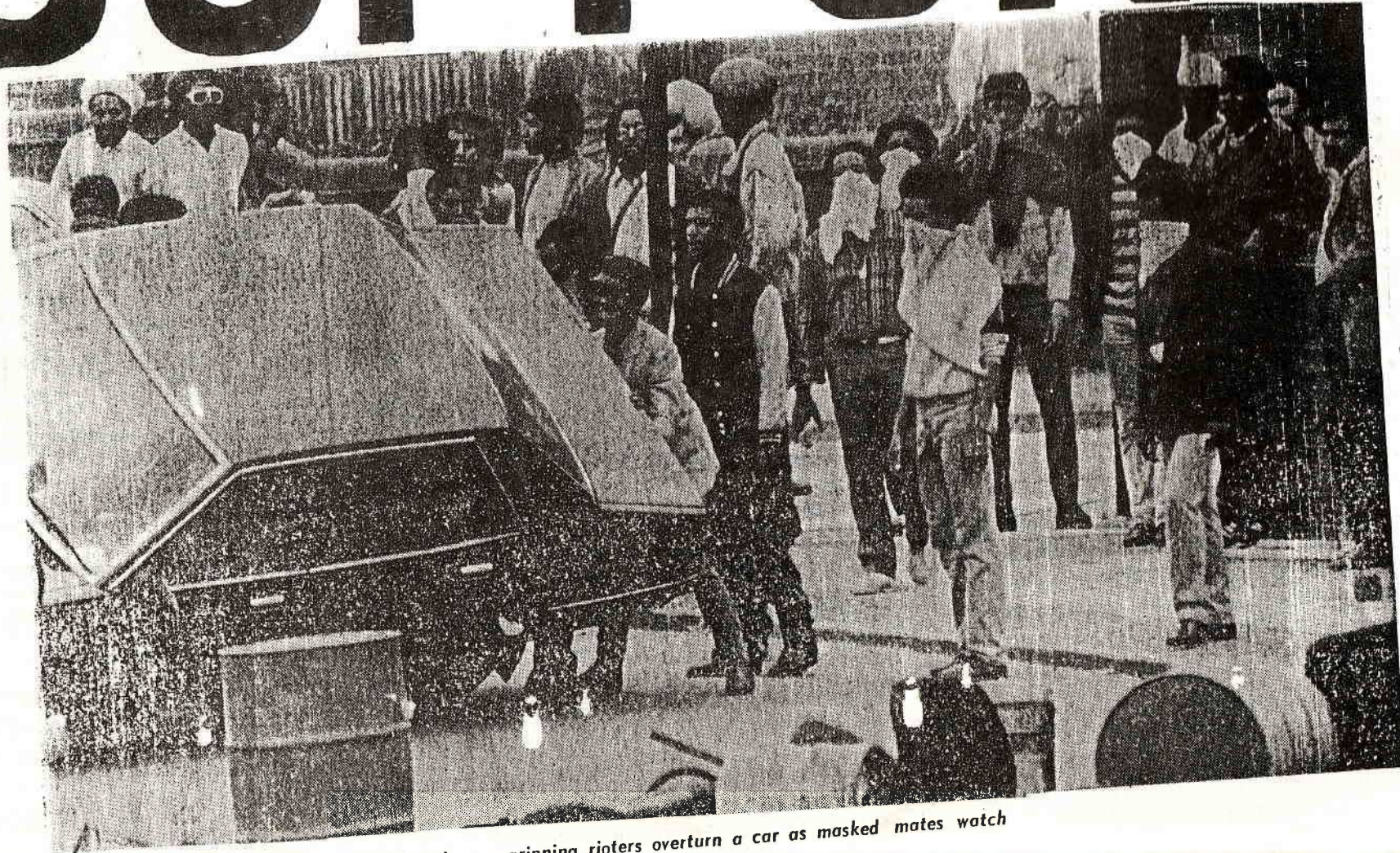




A rioter hurls a brick at police in blazing Lozells Road

THE SPIRIT OF REVOLUTION!

SUPPORT



What a laugh . . . grinning rioters overturn a car as masked mates watch

NO
SPA
LI

The Home Secretary getting stoned; the police getting massacred; media scum getting attacked. The growing organisation and ferocity of riots in Britain is a tremendous step forward in the class struggle. We totally support the riots.

Rioters have identified and attacked the enemies of the working class with increasing accuracy and violence; the Home Secretary in Handsworth, a vicar in Brixton (who got his trousers set alight when he tried to calm down the situation), journalists in Tottenham, and everywhere the pigs.

RACISM

The racism of the police and discrimination against blacks in housing and jobs has helped to create inner-city areas where there is a constant state of war between the working class and the police. A riot is where the tables are turned and the most oppressed and powerless sections of the working class go onto the offensive and drive the police off the streets. This isn't just black youth - most of those arrested for the most serious offenses at Handsworth were white. A third of those arrested at Brixton were white. This, and the fact that black and white rioters cooperate in street fighting and looting shows that these are not race riots. It's class against class, not black against white.

Many of the working class inhabitants of Britain's cities have learned the lessons of the defeat of the '81 uprisings. At Tottenham,

the rioters won. At Handsworth, the police hadn't regained control the next day. They couldn't protect Hurd. After that, he didn't dare visit Brixton.

"From now on, it's a life for a life" - Tottenham rioter.

After the police killed Mrs. Jarrett, large numbers of friends and relatives gathered outside Tottenham police station. A few windows were put in. That afternoon, a meeting was held at Broadwater farm estate. After hours of calling for calm, the youth leaders and the council leader Bernie Grant, were advised to leave. All over Tottenham, the filth started coming under attack from youths with bricks and petrol bombs. After that, it turned into the best night of rioting in mainland Britain yet. Pigs were going down like ninepins. 243 were injured, nearly half of those sent in, and one killed. Compared to the small number of rioters injured or arrested, this was undoubtedly a victory.

The level of organisation which seems to have taken place before and during the riots shows that it's not just the police who've been planning what to do since '81. In Tottenham a lorry and vanload of bricks were delivered before the riot. Walkie talkies and whistles were used to coordinate activities. Rioters looted ammunition whilst others held the front line. The next day, the working class community continued to make it clear that it was collectively in control of the area.

The only reason the police chiefs hesitated to use plastic bullets was because they are afraid of the political consequences. A Bloody Sunday on the streets of London would show the whole working class the nature of the British state. The dangers of this for the ruling class are incalculable.

The tougher the police get, the worse the situation becomes since most of the anger that causes riots is directly against police brutality. Even a police force as vicious as the South African one is incapable of controlling mass class anger. The harder the police get, the more their support will dwindle to the minority ruling class whose interests they protect.

'ITS A REVOLUTION'

The riots often start from a specific grievance against the racism of the police - but they rapidly spread to include whole working class communities in a class war against everything which oppresses them.

The Tottenham insurgents said more sense about what causes riots than all the left and right wing capitalist media put together; a New Society journalist was told the following:

"Don't write any of that crap about unemployment and all that. We just don't give a shit, that's all."

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LABOUR: the shocking truth.

Kinnock's performance at the Labour Party conference caused uproar among the left but delighted the press and TV commentators. In the past, Labour Party Conferences have been the scene for token victories for the left-wing activists in the constituency parties. This time Kinnock and the party bosses decided that more votes were to be won by being seen to defeat them.

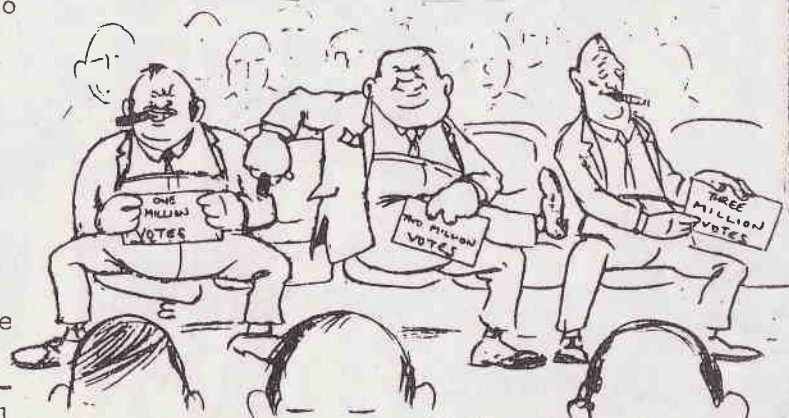
The defeat of the miners' strike made this year's conference a good time to attack the left by calling for 'realism'. In addition Kinnock knew he could rely on the support of the right-wings in the local councils who had backed for their policy of capitulation to Thatcher over the miners issue.

The press and TV support for Kinnock was immense. It reflected growing unease in the ruling class about the effects of Tory policies. These policies are designed to concentrate all the effects of the crisis on the unemployed and lowest paid workers. The rich have got richer. Management salaries rose by 12% last year. Top executives' pay rose by a spectacular 22%.

The policies got the response they deserved from the poor in the cities: riots. Now the ruling class is on the look-out for less divisive policies to avert more riots in the future.

Other cities controlled by the Labour left. In Liverpool the Militant-led council is laying off 30,000 workers and blaming it on the Tories. But capitalists always blame 'factors outside their control' when they attack the working class.

And in a sense they're right. The economic crisis of capitalism means that anyone who attempts to administer capitalism at a national or local level must attack the working class.



TRADE UNION BUREAUCRATS UNLEASH THE MASSES AT A LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

We hope that all workers, and especially the miners who joined the Labour Party during and after the strike, have been convinced by the Labour Conference that they will gain nothing from a future Labour government. Instead of joining Labour they should join the real opposition movement to



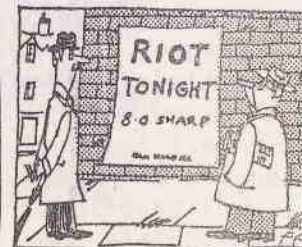
KINNOCK: UNASHAMED MEMBER OF THE RULING CLASS.

AFTER TOTTENHAM...

Riots tonight

THE week-end rioting was not up to the standard set by the previous three week-ends. But what it lacked in intensity it made up in variety, and there were quite a number of entirely new developments.

There was a small riot in Southall in West London when about 60 Asian Indians stoned a police car and consumed



fascinating new development was an apparently motiveless riot at Harrogate, where 100

...ok-out for less divisive polic-
to avert more riots in the future.
our offers an alternative in the
rm of even-handed pay cuts for all
rkers - not just the lowest paid
% of employed workers who have suff-
ed pay cuts under the Tories. This
y we are now told that the cruc-
sue is whether Labour under
k can make a deal with the
over pay. Such an agreement is
condition for relieving the
reon the inner cities by launch-
broad based attack on the
g class as a whole.

from a future Labour government.
Instead of joining Labour they should
Join the real opposition movement to
capitalism in the streets of British
cities - and spread it to the work-
places.

There was a smash riot in
Southall in West London when
about 60 Asian Indians stoned a
police car and overturned a
vehicle. There was some fight-
ing between youths and police
in Gloucester, where rioters had
assembled, it is reported, as
word spread that there was to
be a "copycat" riot.

fascinating new development
was an apparently motiveless
riot at Harrogate, where 100
young people are said to have
broken shop-windows in the
town centre in the middle of the
night.

As far as I know this is the
first case in modern times of a
riot in a cathedral city. There
was also an interesting riot in,
of all places, Welshpool, a
pleasant market town on the
Welsh border, where shop win-
dows and the windows of a
police-car were smashed (a
"serious disturbance," said a
police spokesman).

If one tries to think of an
English town of the utmost re-
spectability Harrogate is one
which will certainly come to
mind. It is not only prosperous
and wealthy. It must contain
as large a number of those
admirable, no-nonsense York-
shire ladies with "improved"
accents and very definite views
about everything as any place
o arth.

But for the expert the most

Tel 15-10-85

it there can be a riot in
Harrogate there can be a riot
anywhere in the United
Kingdom. In this case no
arrests were made. Was this
because the police simply could
not believe the evidence of their
senses?

It so **Militant**

might appear to be a risk for
ck in all this that he will
ate the Militant supporters and
leftists who make up the major-
active members of the Labour

But despite their protests
e leftists will knuckle under
rk for a Labour victory at the
xtelection anyway.

fact the leftists will support the
our Party whoever leads it, and
atever its policies. Because they
y, the Labour Party is 'the party of
e working class'. This is a sick
ke.

our has always followed capitalist
licies. It is part of the capital-
t state at national and local level,
ether in power or in opposition.
is run by members of the ruling
ass: MPs, union and local council
eaucrats. As for the leftists
mselves, they are nothing but as-
ing bureaucrats. When they do get
power in the local councils they
like any other bosses - witness
many bitter strikes by local
ncil workers in Liverpool, Sheff-

Militant and the other Labour leftists
oppose the riots. At a recent meeting
we attended Militant MP Terry Fields
said that their aim was to channel the
'mindless violence' of the rioters into
the Labour Party. We also want the
rioters to turn their attention to the
Labour Party - in a revolutionary
struggle which wipes the Labour Party
off the face of the planet along with
the rest of the capitalist state.



Cut off Norman's head and

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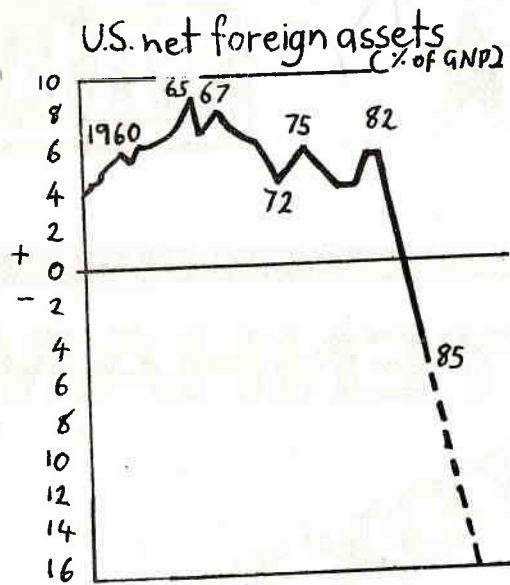
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PASSING THE BUCK

THE DOLLAR CRISIS

Sometime between April and June 1985 the United States went into debt for the first time since 1914. As the chart shows, this wasn't a temporary aberration involving a few million dollars, but a massive sustained, unprecedented and almost unimaginable transfer of resources to America from the rest of the world.



Figures from the FINANCIAL TIMES

In the 50's and 60's American overseas investment helped to stimulate the world economy. Now the position is reversed. During 1985 \$120 billion of the world's investment capital will flow into the U.S. This figure is almost twice the total investment going

last year, thanks largely to trade with the US. But interest payments on loans - most of which eventually finds its way to America - amounted to \$11.2 billion. America's getting Brazilian goods and Brazilian money. International loans to

Latin America have virtually dried up over the past two years. Debt repayments mean that an estimated \$150 billion will leave Latin America during 1983-87. Income per capita in the region has already fallen by 10% since 1980 and living standards are plummeting. In Africa, foreign aid will need to double for there to be even a chance of halting the decline in production and living standards. Foreign aid to Africa is declining.



moves to reduce the value of the dollar to reduce pressure on US industry.

As long as the budget deficit remains at present levels, the US needs high interest rates to attract the funds it needs to avoid going bankrupt. As long as interest rates remain high, speculators will carry on buying dollars and pushing up its value.

The US government has announced plans to lend an extra \$20 billion to the third world over the next three years. \$7 billion is peanuts. But even this will only be lent on the strict understanding that none of it is used to produce goods for the working class or the poor. It has to be used to produce exports to generate funds to pay off existing debts.

Where will it all end ?

By attempting to depress the value of the dollar, US authorities are playing a dangerous game. If even a small proportion of overseas holders of US dollars decided to cash them in, American reserves (currently little more than \$30 billion) would last a matter of

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the U.S. This figure is almost twice the total investment going to all the worlds under-developed countries put together.

The lynchpin of the US economic policy is high interest rates. Because of the world recession, currency speculation appeals to investors as a much easier way of making money than by investing in industry. Every day more than \$150 billion - enough to repay the entire debt of Sub-Saharan Africa twice over - changes hands on the foreign exchange markets. The world is awash with money looking for the easiest way to make a quick buck, and high US interest rates mean that the quickest buck of all is to be made by buying dollars.

Speculative demand for the dollar has pushed its value up by 65% since 1981. As a result, the dollar price of imported raw materials has fallen dramatically - causing devastation in 3rd world economies dependant on raw materials exports. But cheap imports - and dear US exports - have lead to a growing US trade deficit, now \$150 billion per year. This causes problems for US business. But from the point of view of the world

EXPLOITING THE THIRD WORLD

economy the deficit represents a transfer of cheap goods and services to the worlds richest economy.

Much of the money and the products flowing into the US comes from the under-developed world. Brazil had



What's happening to all the money flooding into America? It's certainly not going to American workers. Their real wages have declined by 9% since 1967 and by a further 1% last year. It is not being invested in US industry. It is being used to help fund the US government's \$200 billion budget deficit - and especially to pay for the 'star wars' programme and the rest of the US arms build-up.

The deficit is vital for US business, since it is used to buy the products of US industry - particularly the arms industry. Without the deficit there would be a slump. But US business has to help fund the deficit. High interest rates encourage investors to buy US government bonds and discourage investment in industry. With low investment, industrial productivity has hardly grown over the past four years. This makes worse the loss of competitiveness already being suffered by US industry as a result of the strong dollar. Several industries are on the verge of extinction. The growth rate of the US economy has fallen dramatically in the past year to only 2%.

Many businessmen, union leaders, and their supporters in Congress see protectionism as the answer. There are currently 300 protectionist bills waiting to go through Congress. But US leaders know that if these bills are passed they will lead to the collapse of the world economic order based (more or less) on free trade.

cash them in, American reserves (currently little more than \$30 billion) would last a matter of seconds.

The American economy could collapse at any minute, bringing the world economy down with it. But for the moment this is unlikely. World leaders are prepared to prop up the US economy because in the end it's not them that have to pay for it, but us - the working class and poor of the world. Are we going to stand for it? Of course not. Riots and rebellions are sweeping the world. The most likely outcome of American foreign policy is worldwide revolution.

HOW SOCIALIST IS THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY ?



NEW PAMPHLET!

Wildcat

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FROM the Wildcat address

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THE RIOTS

NOTHING
SPARKLES
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'ITS BETTER
THAN
THE TELLY
ISNT IT'

said

one old lady,
walking her dog
through the
insurgents.

class people. These scum have to be dealt with in exactly the same way as scabs in strikes. Some of the arson has been stupid; burning shops adjacent to working class houses is dangerous and alienates people from the riots.

SCAB STEWARDS

TGWU and NUPE shop stewards in Haringey organised a 24-hour strike against the riot, and organised a collection for PC Blakelock's widow. We are glad to say that only a few hundred workers supported the strike.

The role of 'community leaders' can be compared to the role of unions. They attempt to negotiate with the state on behalf of a rioting community. The level of the struggle is a reflection of how little respect these self-declared representatives have amongst the rioters. The industrial workers should treat its 'leaders' with the same level of contempt. When Bernie Grant said the police got a bloody good hiding, he

The atmosphere of a riot is not one of tension but of some kind of carnival

... Bomb in a

Babycham bottle

ABOVE: MOLOTOV 'COCKTAIL'
FOUND AFTER TOTTENHAM
RIOT.



ther said :
's a revolution. First South
ica, then Handsworth and Brixton,
here."

s better than telly isn't it?"
one old lady, taking her dog
a walk through the insurgents.

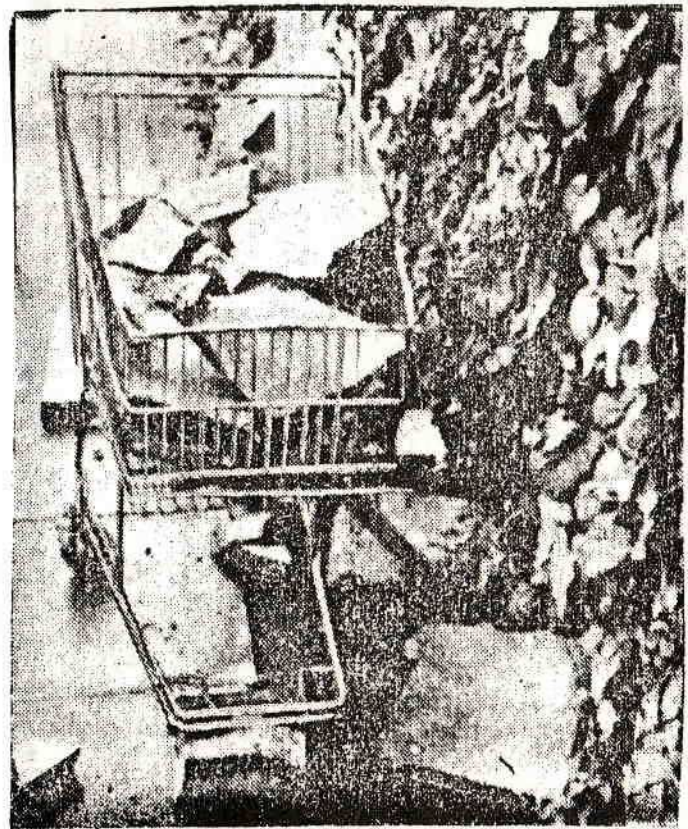
the spirit of revolution, of
smashing the police and everything
which keeps us down and enjoying
it, is spreading. There will be
more sleepless nights in Downing
street in the near future, whichever
capitalist shit happens to live
here.

miners' wife in Yorkshire said:
"I take my hat off to those lads
in Tottenham, they've got courage.
We've been called 'violent mobs'
as well, and we know whose side
we're on."
When this attitude spreads through-
out the working class, the capital-
ists will be scared shitless. Ind-
ustrial strikes and riots together
are the road to revolution.

for those who take part. As well as
some of the direct gains made as the
contents of shops are freely distrib-
uted, there is also the feeling of
power and self confidence gained as
people exercise their collective
strength and take control over an
area.

For example youths confiscated the tape
recorder of a BBC reporter and only
returned it when they had discussed
what they wanted to say. It's a
question of taking control of our lives
and our world.

We have some criticisms of the riots.
There was a gang of muggers in
Brixton, attacking innocent working



Ammunition loaded in a trolley

was surrounded by Tottenham youths.
After that, he changed his mind,
under pressure from his fellow
Labour Party hacks.

At the moment, the police, police
stations, the courts and journalists
have all been recognised as enemies.
We don't doubt that as the struggle
escalates the whole of the state app-
aratus will be targetted, including
the unions and the Labour Party.

If the struggle in South Africa
is anything to go by, in the coming
years, the 'piggies in the middle'
will have an increasingly difficult
time holding back the forces of class
war which are preparing to raze this
society of oppression to the ground.

**THE
FATAL TOLL**

**POLICE: 1 DEAD
223 INJURED**

OF THESE, 163 OFFICERS WERE
TREATED FOR MINOR INJURIES,
60 WERE TAKEN TO HOSPITAL
5 OFFICERS ARE SERIOUS

20 CIVILIANS HURT

ARRESTS: 16

THE SCORE FROM TOTTENHAM
ANOTHER TWENTY COPPERS
WERE HURT AND FIVE OF THE
CIVILIANS INJURED WERE
JOURNALISTS.

Over the past few months violent attacks on working class blacks, asians, gays and their homes and meeting places have been on the increase. The bastards who carry out these attacks must be violently and vigourously opposed where ever they peddle their hatred. Where ever they organise then so must we to defend ourselves and our communities.

FASCISM &

ANTI-FASCISM

Fascism/Anti-Fascism by Jean Barrot is available from our Manchester address for 75p inc postage, or from your local radical bookshop. We would like to point out that we have no connection with the publishers, and that the translator's introduction is total bullshit.

THE SPANISH CIVIL WAR

The leftist response to these attacks has been typical, they have resurrected the ever diversionary tactic of the anti-fascist front. The reasoning behind the front is simple, to unite both opponents and supporters of capitalism under the banner of anti-fascism with one of the main aims being recruitment of new members to the organising parties.

By compromising with liberal and radical defenders of capitalism these fronts always end up helping maintain the system that maintains the prejudices that they are supposed to be fighting. In other words, they may have some success in fighting individual bigots or organisations, but take no action against the real

ANTI-FASCISM TODAY

Written originally as an introduction to an anthology of writings on the Spanish civil war, Fascism/Anti-fascism by Jean Barrot is a pamphlet that attempts to show how anti-fascist fronts can only act against the interests of the working class. By looking at various examples of where totalitarian right wing governments have come to power he shows how the anti-fascist fronts have actually aided that process.

The state is the tool the ruling class use to maintain their stranglehold upon the workingclass. The particular form the state takes, whether it be 'democratic' or 'totalitarian' depends only upon the bosses' needs at the time. They will use democracy when they are able to offer us the limited choices that capitalism can grant in its 'better' periods and totalitarianism, left or right, Stalin or Hitler, when it can only offer the iron rod.

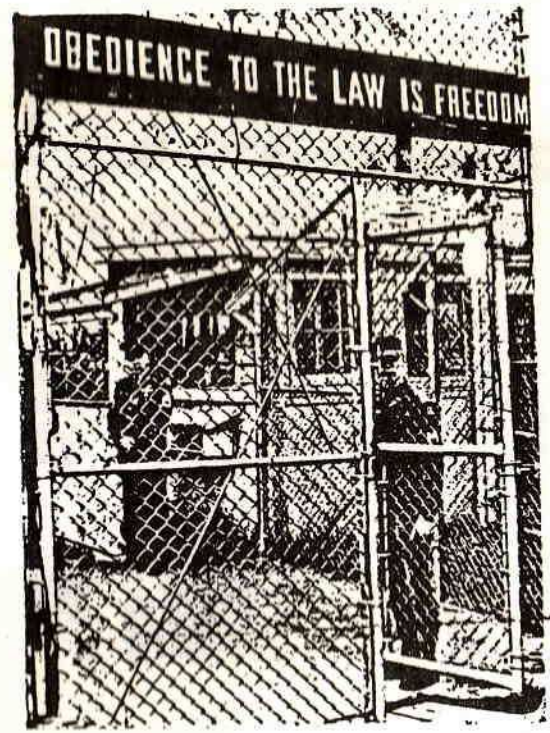
The Spanish civil war began in 1936 with the fascist military coup. For a number of years the Republican government had been having great difficulties in suppressing a tide of working class rebellion and in doing so had murdered thousands of workers.

The majority of the ruling class welcomed fascism with open arms, seeing it as the 'party of order' which would finish off the job the republicans had begun.

The leftists formed a united front against fascism, asking Spanish workers to fight and die for the same Republicans who had crushed their attempts at revolution less than a year earlier. When workers in Barcelona once again arose in insurrection in May 1937 they were persuaded by the leftists - including Trotskyists and Anarchists, to lay down their arms in the name

Modern day anti-fascist fronts over-estimate the strength of groups such as the National Front and British Movement. Although attacks based on sexual and racial prejudice are increasing, this is not because the organisations on the extreme right are becoming any more active and powerful, but because the state maintains and promotes existing divisions within the working class. The state wants us to blame bad housing, unemployment and all the rest of the shit forced upon us on each other rather than upon the ruling class. Any organisation that attempts to fight these attacks without fighting the state is also diverting people's attention from the necessary struggle.

Next year we will see the 50th anniversary of the beginning of the Spanish war, a war between fascism and anti-fascism. Here the tactic of the united front reached its peak and it is this that the left refer to when setting up their fronts today. But the situation today is very different to that of the 1930's, the ruling class does not need a fascist state these days, and even so the united front in Spain was worse than useless to the working class in any case.



DEMOCRATIC IDEOLOGY

In fact we have only two real choices not between totalitarianism and democracy, but between accepting the specific form of control that capitalism forces upon us at any time or refusing to accept capitalism in any form.

The anti-fascists hope that by fighting for democracy the working class will somehow end up fighting for communism, but as Barrot says :

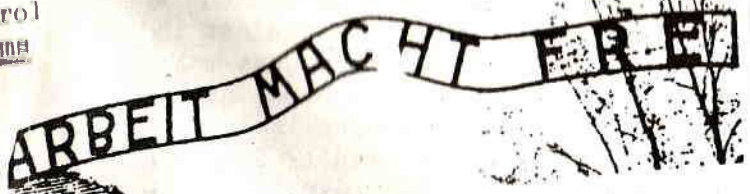
"The proletariat will destroy totalitarianism only by destroying all political forms at the same time. Until then there will be a succession of 'fascist' and 'democratic' systems ... "

... persuaded by the leftists - including Trotskyists and Anarchists, to lay down their arms in the name of anti-fascist unity. Barrot concludes:-

"We may speak of a war in Spain but not of revolution. The primary function of this war was to solve a capitalist problem: the construction of a legitimate State in Spain which would develop its national capital in the most efficient way possible while integrating the proletariat. ... The 1936-39 war fulfilled the same function for Spain as World War II for the rest of the world, but with the following important difference: it started off from a revolutionary upsurge strong enough to repulse fascism and force democracy to take up arms against the fascist menace, but too weak to destroy them both. But by not defeating both the revolution was doomed, because fascism and democracy were both potential forms of the legitimate capitalist state. Whichever one triumphed, the proletarians were sure to be crushed by the blows always reserved for them by the capitalist state."

Barrot paints a similar picture of the rise to power of other totalitarian governments in Chile, Portugal, Italy and Germany. On the whole this pamphlet is recommended to anyone who

wishes to understand the means by which fascism is foisted upon the working class, even though at times the words he uses are a bit obscure and can make it a struggle to read. The pamphlet shows that anti-fascist fronts should be treated with the same contempt as we should show to all other pro-capitalist organisations.



Inscription at the gate of Auschwitz: "Work Makes You Free"

FASCIST IDEOLOGY