

' SENSE -ISH ' 1982

9300
5



WHAT ABOUT THE RUSSIANS?

Plans have been announced for the storage of new chemical weapons here in Britain, up to 4000 million dollars may be spent as part of this new programme to prevent Soviets from dropping their nerve gas on us.

Well that's the official line anyway...we've got Trident and Cruise coming as well, all to protect us from the Soviets. The biggest fear people have when asked about their stance on nuclear weapons is the Soviets, they always ask: "well what about the Russians?"

In the last issue was an article suggesting that the real reason for the arms race was to make business for the huge multi-national arms firms, one of which is jointly run by Alex Haig, US Secretary of State, who is notorious for his anti Soviet views. In this article I'd like to concentrate on their excuse for the weapons - THE SOVIET THREAT.

All the time we are told that we need to defend ourselves from the East, (don't get me wrong I'm not trying to say the East is just a victim of Western propaganda, I think the East and West are as bad as each other). We are told that we are free and equal and that we need to defend these rights from the Soviets. We are not free nor are we treated as equals, the West has plans for attacking the East, the West does just as much international tampering as the East does and the West performs similar acts of mind control we are told the East carries out all the time. I now hope to prove all the claims I've just made with evidence which is available to all of us.

WE ARE NOT FREE

Right through our lives we have decisions made for us, it's virtual blackmail, either you fit into the machinery or you suffer shit conditions for the rest of your life. DO You remember being told to get a job with a future by your parents and teachers? If we're so free how is it that everyone moans at some aspect of our society? How many of the people ever bother to do any thing about their gripes? Did you know that you're not allowed to hold public marches, that's why police chiefs can impose bans on all marches in certain areas for a month with no fear of criticism. Did you know that you can be locked up for what you think? It happened to Iris Mills and Rowan Bennett, though they had committed no crime they were imprisoned. Did you know that the police can prevent you from getting a job in an 'influential' position if you're considered a subversive (that means anything from being gay to being an IRA terrorist - I'm not exaggerating). Did you know that the police can open your mail, remove material from it, tap your phones, keep files on you and not let you ever see those files. ALL IN THE NAME OF FREEDOM. As soon as you have a ruler you deny freedom to any subjects. The only freedom is people acting responsibly with consideration for others. We're not free.

WE ARE NOT TREATED EQUALLY

Fascism today is mostly found against people with strong socio-political views, papers always ridicule pacifists, you can read it after any big peace march in the editorials of all the papers, which are supposed to report news not views. Of course there is still racial prejudice in this country, it has come to my notice that there are people in 'respected' positions who sympathise with the British movement scene and that it isn't all just mindless kids. Also there is the fact that most men still see women as inferiors, it's still very much a MAN'S world. And don't you always look for things to pick on in a person's character and appearance? You do it at school, home, office and factory. Don't complain about lack of freedom if it's you who makes the boundaries.

continued overleaf

WEAPONS FOR ATTACK

IT has been stated that the US governments nuclear policy is one of 'pre-emptive first strike', or in more simple terms 'beat the shit out of them before they can beat the shit out of us'. Reagan himself has stated that the US will only negotiate from a position of military strength about nuclear weapons, so either the Soviets agree to submit to Reagan's demands peacefully or he blasts them off the face of the earth.....

THE WEST INTERFERES TOO

Reagan's administration supports and helps the South African regime's invasions into Angola. The SA army carries out massacres of entire villages of people who want no part in the war there between the South Africans and the south west african's peoples organisation (SWAPO) who are only a small group despite Reagan's claims that they control vast parts of Angola. South Africa endorses the belief that white people are better than black people so what is that fine upholder of freedom and justice the US government doing there?

MIND CONTROL

Aren't you brought up to believe that material things are vital to your happiness? Isn't the ideal life portrayed as being one where beautiful men, women and obedient kids are in ample supply? Everybody wants to live in big houses and have nice cars because they can't be happy otherwise? Isn't that what you strive for? Our wonderful system (which is basically a product of us) teaches us that material success is happiness, the system has developed into a 'them and 'us' situation now, them making sure we get fed with materialistic propaganda but only so that they too can search for happiness in the land of 'things', by profitting off our money spending on the goods they tell us will us happiness. They're so stupid that they believe their own lies.

The major fear though that people have of the Soviets is that if we do not have nuclear weapons they will invade us. This fear is based on more lies, look at Switzerland, a non nuclear country, but have the Soviets invaded them? No. Our rulers are telling us lies to make us live in fear, they use your fear to let them profit by making weapons in their arms factories, you pay for those weapons with more than just money, you pay with your freedom and the chance of a fear free life.

Richard.

**EAST AND WEST OPPRESS. THEY
BOTH SAY THEIRS IS THE CAUSE
OF FREEDOM. DON'T BE A
PAWN IN THIS GAME OF
DEATH. DESTROY POWER—
NOT PEOPLE.**

CON TAX

PLEA FOR PEACE

Crass are producing leaflets containing letters addressed to Reagan and Brezhnev asking them to do something to work towards peace. The letters ask for a tiny part of the world arms budget to be given to the non government organisations working for peace, also the letters try to touch what heart the leaders may have left with the request for peace.

The letter to Brezhnev is written in Russian but I expect they have many translators in The Kremlin so if you want to write and don't know Russian, I don't think it will matter.

Admittedly it's a long shot but if enough people who say they want peace have the courage to do more than just say they're pacifists or anti nukes then perhaps the request will bring some favourable results.

It's a lot more constructive than just moaning about the threat of a nuclear war.

write to: Mr Ronald Reagan. President of the USA. The White House Washington DC. USA..... Mr Leonid Brezhnev. President of the Supreme Soviet. The Kremlin. Moscow. USSR..... If you want one of the typed out versions Crass are at: Crass; C/O Rough Trade, 202 Kensington Park Road. London W11 .

SCHOOL'S OUT

"School is back.....and the guns and gangs take over on the campus.....

School starts tomorrow in Los Angeles and Pitty Mitchell, 6ft 8in ex marine will be back on duty at Locke High School with his truncheon and 38 Smith and Wesson pistol.

He is almost certain to need it. There were 203 gun battles on LA playgrounds last year. Just a few days before the school holidays Michael Lynn Carr, a 16 year old, was murdered during a lunchbreak at Manuel Arts High School, an innocent bystander in a gang fight...

The catalogue of violence for the city's past school year included 250 sex offences and 600 assaults on teachers.

At present 4 13 year olds are on trial for murder. There were 192 youth gang murders in LA last year, a figure which will be easily surpassed this year.

As one 16 year old gang member put it "Person with gun got best hand...what's the use of going out, getting all messed up, dirtying your clothes, when you can take your finger and pull the trigger? Bang, bang bang I got the fool, I'm kind of happy."

If he's caught he will probably get no more than 2/3 years in a detention centre; he may even get off free, because when his case comes up fellow gang members crowd the court room and stare ominously at witnesses. This intimidation often works and witnesses suffer sudden memory lapses.

They have good cause for fear, after Carr's death at Locke High school, one of the witnesses was killed the next day.

American citizens now possess 55 million guns. One life is claimed every 24 minutes in the growing violence."

(this was taken from an article by John Barnes in The Sunday Times Sept 13 1981)

It's frightening to know that as well as Reagan, Haig, Weinberger, etc a vast number of the American people are trigger happy lunatics.

Even more frightening to know that America will continue to produce these types, and continue to vote them blindly into government, just because they talk fervently about patriotism and "our great country" (shades of Hitler maybe?).

This was sent in by Mike Brady.

Here's some poems from Simon of 'WHY' magazine.....

4MIN WARNING.

why do we need this warning/4mins of hysteria/4mins to do all we ever wanted to do/4mins with the family/4mins to protect ourselves/

Do you really think I wanna know when I'm going to die?

humans are black or white/animals are animals, cow or bird/humans have a theory that they are the most superior beings on this earth/if being superior means war, death and violence/they can stuff it - equality for everything.

the answer to the problem is to put them in the army/it may send them barmy/but we've solved our problem/ when they come out they'll be mature men/sure they will/mature men with the knowledge to kill you and they'll hate you/instead of a teenage rebel

ah so you want anarchy for the UK/but who will rule when the government falls/we'll still have violence on the streets/the people will never be content, always wanting a better life/who ever takes power in their hands will be hated by the people/they just try and bring you down.

"ANARCHY IN THE U.K."

"Dear Sense,

Anarchy in the UK - it's a contradiction in terms. Alright so it's only a term to describe an area of land but what is anarchy? Is it smashing governments? It can't be. What would happen if the country got into a state of anarchy now? No one can seriously believe that everyone would suddenly become peaceful and helpful, look what happens in the recent riots, anarchy was present, there were no cops in the no go areas and people looted. This is what anarchy means today, a state of chaos. Is this the sort of anarchy you want? I hope not.

As capitalism and communism crumble into mass unemployment and food shortages there becomes a growing likelihood of any country lapsing into a state of ~~A~~, with violence, riots and what we've seen in other Euro countries and the UK lately. If we got anarchy now then it'll be crushed ruthlessly by authorities (see what happens in Poland). I'm not that Solidarity's an anarchist organisation but any attempt at revolution or threatening a country's power results in oppression, and at the moment most western countries can crush a revolution by anarchists. It's a waste of time plotting revolt today, what we have to do is to try to convert people to an anarchist way of thinking. We have to show people it's better to share things but we can't say it's wrong to like collecting clothes or records or whatever. Anarchists must start at the beginning and gradually get the message over to their closest friends and relatives. Let your kid brother or sister use your records if you're going out, it sounds insignificant now but if you react to people in this way then they'll react to you and others in the same way. Don't call Tories 'wankers'. If someone calls me a socialist wanker I don't think that maybe Tories are right after all, I think 'what an unconstructive comment'. People react to abuse, which means they only keep their ideals but in a stronger way, people think about a constructive comment. It's going to take a bloody long time to get people to understand what anarchy is really about, decades and generations, after all we're still waiting for a Marxist state to appear after over a century of Marxist thinking.

What I'm saying is this, in order to get the kind of anarchism we want, peaceful community co-operation; we need to get a (inter)national understanding and want for anarchism, we need a breathing space to achieve this, or the peaceful revolt (in ideology) will collapse into the sort of disaster

Russia has been through since 1917. In order to be able to get a widespread feeling that anarchism isn't just rioting (as the media makes out) we need the most liberally minded government in office which can keep the country out of chaos but one in which we can actively spread the anarchist ideals. Peaceful anarchism can't be spread in an atmosphere of tension and hate for authority, it must be in an atmosphere of peace.

PEACEFUL ANARCHY CAN ONLY BE BUILT ON THE FOUNDATIONS OF LIBERAL THINKING.

Don't spoil your voting slip cos you think democracy is a farce, use it to set the mood for anarchism.

you may think that compromising but when people's basic values are attacked then the process must be gradual to get anywhere. Once there's a general want for anarchism legal restrictions on what we do will wither and authority will have to accept the situation, and the more liberal the authority is then the easier it will be to climb off the pedestal of government. For practical reasons we need a socialist state before anarchy, we need to know how the country runs (it's useless pretending that we can be totally self sufficient) and ordinary workers need to have the means of production in their hands for a gradual takeover.

we must work with other countries as individual anarchists must work within the state now. ANARCHY IN THE WORLD!

sent in by Jim Woods.

ANARCHY ISN'T RIOTING COS THAT'S IMPOSING YOUR WILL ON OTHERS.....

LETTERS

Here's some letters and articles from people who took the time out to put their views to paper. Thanx to everyone who wrote.

Dear Mr Evans.

I read with a great deal of interest your article in issue 2 on the police force. In it you advocated that the police force should eventually be abolished. Any sane person would know that this is ludicrous as it would promote crime on a scale never seen before. People would never get to sleep at night knowing that there is no one protecting their interests. For example when there is an earthquake or some other disaster the first thing people do is loot shops or houses, even normally law abiding citizens may not be able to resist the temptation. This was evident in the Brixton, Toxteth and Moss Side riots and shows that a lot of people given the chance would turn to crime. It is one of the basic human requirements to have a group of people who look after the interests of other people other wise it would be the survival of the fittest with the weakest being persecuted by the stronger. I think that what you write is too idealistic. You do not think of the consequences of what you write. Idealism is alright up to a point but again you have to consider the consequences.

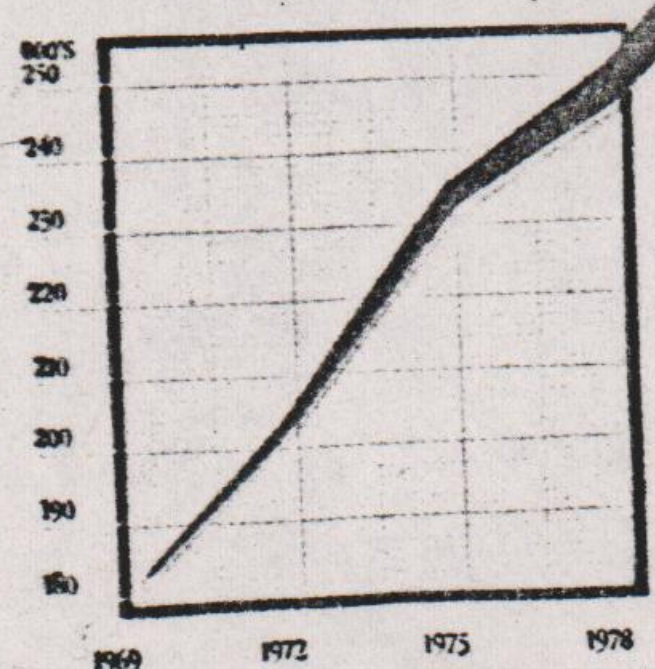
C. Gibbons.

Dear Chris,

Thanx for writing the letter. My opinion is that the police force should be abolished only when people are responsible enough to look after themselves and to care for one another. That's what anarchy is, not the image of rioting and the 'Everyone out for themselves' image the press gives us. I don't think it is one of the basic requirements of my life to have someone looking after my interests, the police force in its current form tends to impose its interests on me. It opens our mail, so much for the freedom it is supposed to uphold, it removes material it thinks threatening, it protects people alright - the people in power. I'm not saying get rid of it now, before that the police have to get back to the job they're supposed to do helping people. As Ian said in issue 2 we do need a new society, we need to change cos we are society, we need to be less possessive and less violent if we can become so then there will be less and less need for a police force, I think we need to change cos there is so much hate caused by possessive, right from the little kid who cries and fights cos something is 'mine' to the adult who gets so pleased with his new car and puts all his energy into looking after it and keeping it safe. And to the politician who wants to protect his wealth and power with the army and police cos he's scared someone's going to take that power away from him. He has no right to that power, no right to influence my life if I don't want him to, no right to use the police to interfere with my life if I don't want him to when I have done no one any harm. I don't feel I'm being too idealistic, I think I'm being realistic cos I feel the only way humanity will survive is to be kind to itself. I don't think it's against our nature to care, if that's so then there are a lot of unnatural people around.

love and peace,

3 out of 4 homes will be burgled Richard.
or vandalised sometime.



Increase in burglaries.

The lies they're spreading
You need
Protection NOW

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME?

"A's a sympathiser of the 'movement', I took part on the 12th July in the planned demonstration for the withdrawal of legal proceedings against about 60 drivers.

I didn't hear the warning that the streets had to be cleared in one minute, so that the completely excessive attack by the police took me completely by surprise. I started to run, a few metres behind me there was a police cordon that was firing rubber bullets and tear gas which was whistling past my ears. With a headlong dive through the AJZ window I was able to secure temporary safety. After I had been able to somewhat orientate myself in the inside of the building, despite the watering of my eyes and difficulty in breathing, a picture of terror presented itself: a girl with cheeks that had been shot through; another youngster streaming with blood hit by rubber bullets; people who were hardly able to breathe anymore were writhing on the floor; and a girl who lashing out from shock, only to run blind into the direction of the attacking police later.

Once again the police used army gas which had been outlawed by UNO convention. The brutal attack of the police had been also brought about something of a change in me, rather quickly, namely an absolute radicalization. Up to June 1980 I was of the opinion that conflicts with the police could be solved in non violent ways and means. Today, after I have been hit with rubber bullets and tear gas grenades again, after I know that the police, instead of taking a demonstrator, whose eye had been severely damaged, to the hospital, brutally beat him up, after I had to watch how police beat up press reporters and even a woman who had a child with her, and then spray them from very nearby with tear gas, I am....."

This was sent in by Pat Burrows; she translated it from a leaflet with an LP by the Swiss band Crazy. I would not consider and endorse violence as a means of successfully combatting the police, I thought it provided a possible warning of the way our police force is going.

22I984/22I984/22I984/22I984/22I984/22I984/22I984/22I984/22I984/22I984/22I98

This next article is by Steve of Terminal Illiteracy, it runs along the same theme as Pat's.....

"The door opens. Three men enter, all dressed in black. I cower in the corner. They approach me. "What's this we hear about you printing subversive literature then?" A boot crashes into my groin. I collapse in a crumpled heap. "Don't you know it's illegal to print anything unless it's approved by the government? All this anarchy stuff might start people thinking that there could be a better life than this. Free from control, oppressive systems, a free state. Now this can never happen can it?" I howl in agony as they shove lighted cigarettes into my naked, filthy skin. Then they build up into a frenzy, smashing teeth, caving my skull in with their steel toe capped boots. Everything around me dissolves into a mist of red and black. I wake in a hospital, my watch reads JUNE 2 1984.

1984? Two years to go. Total control or total freedom? Which do you choose? It's up to us all now. Subvert. Break out of your chains."

ANARCHY?

OR

**FOLLOW THE
RULES**