

Red Action

10p

ISSUE NO 5

OCTOBER 82

ALL OUT ATTACK

OR UNION JACK

Winter approaches with Thatcher and her colleagues in the Tory Party in confident mood and justifiably so. The massive boost they gained by sacrificing a couple of hundred soldiers in the Falklands was soon followed up by what turned out to be an easy ride over the train drivers who were left alone in the lurch by their "brothers" in the TUC.

Defeats like this are very serious for all working class people as they seriously undermine the confidence of organised workers to take action to maintain or improve their standard of living. At the same time management are given a boost in their confidence and may be tempted to try and get away with things such as new working practices, redundancies and lower wage settlements, they may not have tried it if the big strikes were being won by the workers. So all in all it's been a pretty bleak couple of months or so but at least a bit of light has appeared in the way that the big unions have been forced to give at least token solidarity support for the health workers.

SOLIDARITY

This sort of solidarity action is absolutely vital if they are to get any response from the government. Even the fact that there is overwhelming public support for the healthworkers has failed to move the coldly determined Tories. They know that the health workers have no real economic bargaining power they do not produce a commodity on which other industries are dependent like the miners or engineers and so Thatcher is content to let the action drag on and on, after all the dispute didn't affect her when she had her varicose veins done privately.

ACTION

But if the action begins to spread they can be moved, on one of the things that any government is afraid of is losing control over the economy. That is why they did budge a couple of years ago when the miners began to take action against threatened pit closures when this happens many of the employers bring pressure on the government to resolve the situation. However the employers do know something about solidarity amongst themselves and they are willing to lose out in the short term, including allowing some of their own to go to the wall if necessary. It's an old cliché but it's still as valid as ever. **United we stand Divided we fall.**



We've all heard a great deal about Patriotism in the last twelve months or so. The Royal Wedding and baby, England getting to the World Cup, and crowning it all the Falklands, have all been the signal for a great wave of Patriotic flag waving and drum beating. For many years those who ruled in this and other countries found Patriotism very useful indeed. These people had everything to gain by conquering other lands and people and they go the Working Class of that time to go and do it for them by telling them it was their duty for Queen and country. Those who did the fighting would gain nothing from it. The spoils would go to the rich and comfortable who sent them there.

When Margaret Thatcher calls herself a Patriot, what she means is she is Patriotic to the ruling class. She knows although she doesn't say it that we are not all together in one boat with the same interests we are divided into classes, ruling class and Working class, haves and have nots. Patriotism is used to try and blur this



... OR THE COUNTRY ?

WHAT HAS YOUR QUEEN DONE FOR YOU ?

FOR THE CLASS ...

FIGHTING FOR THEIR RIGHTS

On of the biggest waves of Patriotism ever was during the First World War when millions of young men from all over Europe flocked to do their duty to their country and

found that it consisted of being ordered to charge onto barbed wire and machine guns by stupid halfwit upper class officers and generals. Again the only ones who had anything to gain by the whole affair were far away from the front line. They were at home counting their shares in the arms companies and dreaming of the overseas investments to be had as soon as the boys had done their bit.

Patriotism today is still with us. Still we are told that we must all do our bit for the sake of the country, when workers threaten to strike to maintain their already humble living standards we are told they are holding the country to ransom. That they are being unpatriotic. Margaret Thatcher is a Patriot, she is often saying how much she loves Britain. She loves it so much that she is doing her best to run down the Health Service, throw as many of its people out of work as she can and make sure that those who are working earn as little as possible.

difference, to make Working class people believe that a gain for the ruling class is their gain as well when in reality their gain is our loss, our loss is their gain.

The media are very good at making it seem that Patriotism is a National thing and that everyone is an Enthusiastic Royalist. Whilst this is not strictly true it is true that most Working Class people do have pride and affection for the country of their origin and the people and places are familiar.

This is not really surprising people with little in their lives to be thankful for and have pride in will look for something to identify with and believe in.

As Socialists we shouldn't just blindly criticise this in killjoy fashion but show by logical argument that the Patriotism of the upper class has nothing to offer them. Dont criticise people for being loyal but argue where the loyalty should be. To the working class of this and other countries.



ZOMO CLEANS UP IN POLAND

While Solidarity celebrates its foundation, Poland's army rulers celebrated martial law by shooting down workers. On its second birthday, Solidarity is underground. Thousands are interned, and the hated Zomo riot police club anyone who dares get in the way. No doubt General Jaruzelski is pleased with himself. He's given comfort and useful advice to would-be dictators all over the world. He has also made common cause with the likes of the Brit militarists who run riot in Ireland. The lessons of that were probably very valuable to Jaruzelski.

Look at the parallels. Solidarity's leaders are called "terrorists" and jailed. So are Irish republicans. Solidarity's rank and file get the medicine as the nationalist people of the Six Counties: anti riot gas. The Brit terror machine and Zomo are one and the same. So are Jaruzelski and Thatcher. They just use different methods, at present, though she probably thinks Jaruzelski's policemen are wonderful.

Class War is what it's really all about. In Poland against Stalinism; in Ireland against Brit rule and, in Britain, against a government that gloats over 3 million jobless and hammers health workers.

Boss class papers pretend support for Solidarity. They are liars and hypocrites. They care nothing for workers... or trade unions. That is why they howl for more Tory Anti-union laws. If a Solidarity movement arose here, the boss class - with the press cheering them on - would be the first to reach for the guns... and, then, where would all the badge wearers be?

Solidarity is not beaten. It will rise again... an inspiration to workers everywhere. Solidarity's real allies are those who fight for socialism and freedom and who want to build a movement worthy of our Polish and Irish brothers and sisters... something the Tory press will never do.

That's why we support Solidarity.



Sean, who was on his death bed, let it be known that he had decided to renounce Catholicism and become a Protestant. When the village priest heard of Sean's sudden conversion, he hurried over to see him: "What in God's name made you do it, Sean?" "My time is up, Father. So I said to myself: if anyone's got to die then let it be one of those Orange bastards..."



REDS OUT!

Last December, eight Manchester Anti-Nazi League members were sent to jail for taking a militant stand against Nazi violence in Rochdale. Their "crime"? Recognising the Nazis as a racist scab organisation of the boss class and fighting them accordingly. As a result, some comrades got 12 months, others 15 months. Though some have now been released, there has been and still is considerable hardship for their dependents. All of the comrades themselves will be unemployed.

To combat the problems of hardship for both families and prisoners, anti-Nazis have been raising cash. So far - thanks to the action of those who haven't ducked out of the battle against the Nazis - over £2500 has been raised and distributed. Fund organisers are pleased with this, especially the donations from workers in factories like Mirlees in Stockport, and Gardners in Eccles. It must be said though that MUCH MORE NEEDS TO BE DONE.

As far as Red Action is concerned, the comrades are class war prisoners who deserve full support. We call on all our supporters and readers, and all anti-Nazis to show solidarity with the prisoners and their families in one of the following ways:

- Send a donation to the dependents fund.
 - Get raffle tickets for the Grand Autumn Draw from the address below, and sell them! (prizes include a flight in a plane, a T.V., etc)
 - Get your college/Stewards Committee/ANL branch to affiliate to the Dependents Fund - £10.
 - Collect money from comrades and friends. Rush it to the address below. All donations over £3 will be acknowledged.
- Rochdale 8 Dependents Fund, Box 87, Corn Exchange, Hanging Ditch, Manchester M4 3BN.

A primary school teacher asked her class to write an essay about the police force. One young lad's attempt was nothing if not blunt: "Police is bastards."

The teacher was shocked, and she arranged for the class to visit the local police station and see the police at work. The local constabulary showed the children all over the station, drove them around in squad cars, let them talk to each other over the radios, and finished the day off with a slap up tea.

Next day the teacher asked the class to write another essay about the police force. The young lad's efforts showed more understanding than before. This time he wrote: "Police is cunning bastards."

LOOK OUT SARGE, HERE COMES RED ACTION!



FOR PETE'S SAKE!

Pete Coen is known by all his friends as a dedicated and principled socialist. Pete Coen is also in jail.

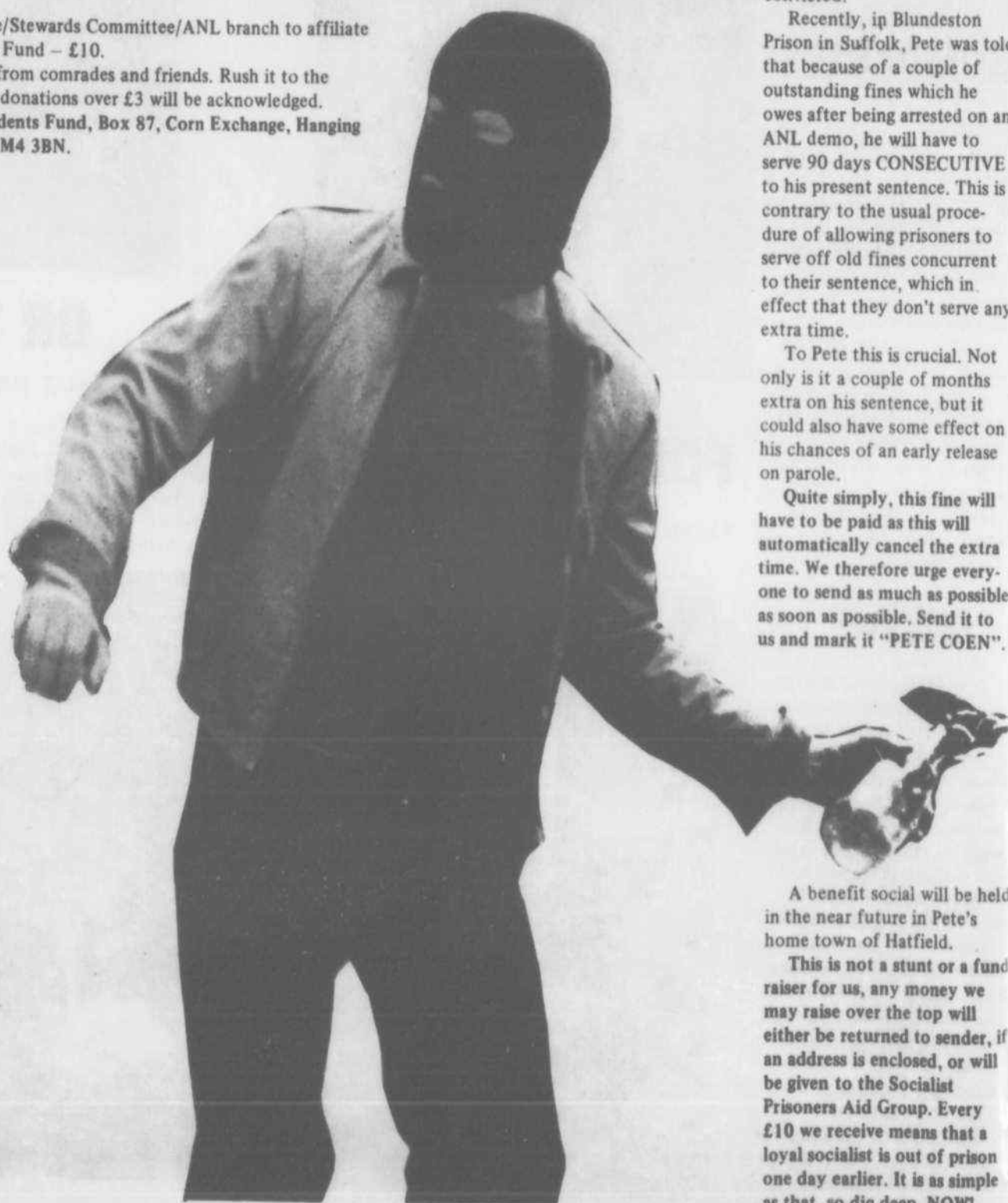
He is serving a three year sentence after being convicted of conspiracy and possession of petrol bombs after last years rioting.

The case against him was based on the evidence of several informants, who made statements in return for immunity from prosecution themselves. All these statements were later withdrawn at the trial, but Pete was still convicted.

Recently, in Blundeston Prison in Suffolk, Pete was told that because of a couple of outstanding fines which he owes after being arrested on an ANL demo, he will have to serve 90 days CONSECUTIVE to his present sentence. This is contrary to the usual procedure of allowing prisoners to serve off old fines concurrent to their sentence, which in effect that they don't serve any extra time.

To Pete this is crucial. Not only is it a couple of months extra on his sentence, but it could also have some effect on his chances of an early release on parole.

Quite simply, this fine will have to be paid as this will automatically cancel the extra time. We therefore urge everyone to send as much as possible as soon as possible. Send it to us and mark it "PETE COEN".



A benefit social will be held in the near future in Pete's home town of Hatfield.

This is not a stunt or a fundraiser for us, any money we may raise over the top will either be returned to sender, if an address is enclosed, or will be given to the Socialist Prisoners Aid Group. Every £10 we receive means that a loyal socialist is out of prison one day earlier. It is as simple as that, so dig deep. NOW!



SUBSCRIBE TO RED ACTION

Interested in Red Action? Write us a letter or subscribe to the paper, £3 for 12 issues will cover postage, c/o Box 87, Corn Exchange, Hanging Ditch, Manchester M4 3BN

FOR LONDON BOX 5, 5 CALEDONIAN RD N1

REDSKINS - NO RESERVATIONS

THIS IS AN INTERVIEW WITH CHRIS DEAN (GUITAR, VOCALS) OF REDSKINS. THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BAND ARE MARTIN LEON (BASS) AND NICK KING (DRUMS).

CHRIS: I was pissing about in bands since I heard the Clash. The first serious group was in York. A group called 'No Swastikas'.

RED ACTION: Were you in the Socialist Workers Party at the time?

I weren't actually a card carrying member but I was in and around - because of Rock Against Racism and the Anti Nazi League. We thought we needed to be a specifically anti-fascist band. It was about '78-'79. That went on for about a year as a four piece. There was me and Nick and 2 anarchists. They they moved to London and we found Martin. He was really into Crisis, which I was, perhaps even more than the Clash cos they were more overtly political.

What sort of reaction did you get at gigs?

We got loads of hassle, like virtually every gig we played there was always threats. Nothing really happened, except a couple of times.

So you had no problems getting gigs?

We didn't really have a problem getting gigs. Sometimes you'd get it with the name. But the worst thing was the other way round. You'd get people thinking we were called the 'Swastikas' and they'd be quite prepared to accept that. We sent off stuff to Sounds and twice they printed 'The Swastikas' which was really worrying, cos if they thought we were called the Swastikas they shouldn't have put it fucking in.

You were saying that you were involved with Rock Against Racism. What did you think of RAR?

When it was strong it was fucking brilliant. There was never anything like it. Because of the punk thing you could get really big bands that kids were listening to, to play for RAR, like the Clash, Tom Robinson, X-Ray Spex, Specials. Also because it was so politically hard - it wasn't like some of the CND hangover things in the Sixties. It's a problem now cos you've still got racism on a massive scale. You wonder how you fight it as a band.

Do you think that nowadays what's happening with bands like yourselves Attila the Stockbroker and others - do you think there's a new movement starting to grow?

I hope so. I don't think it's anti-racist. I don't think that's the spark.

Do you think it's broader than that?

Yeah. The Poets (Swells, Attila etc.) and bands like the Newtown Neurotics, the New Model Army and us are not just writing songs to stir things up about racism but we're trying to stir things up about unemployment, Tories, bosses.

With some of the punk bands some people used to say it's just slogans. Maybe keeping it simple and not trying to be too subtle, do you think that's the best way of getting your politics over?

You've got to be very clear. It's like using the word revolution in a song. You can think, well, we believe in revolution so we ought to actually sing about it, but I mean you say the word revolution and ... it's a slogan. And if you just throw in slogans then it can be dangerous if you don't explain them. I don't know about Chelsea's 'Right to Work', I think it was good. That was

believe in revolution. There's lots of kids who wouldn't read a paper like Socialist Worker or whatever, or they see people selling at a tube station and they'll think, uh, commies. Whereas if you've got music that's a good way to draw in kids who otherwise wouldn't be interested in socialist politics. At the same time bands aren't going to build a revolution. It's great that there are political bands and that kids are becoming politicised through music but ultimately I think the only things that bands can do is support the organisations or people that are building something a bit more permanent than a following for a band or a hit record. When the Specials played the Leeds ANL Carnival that's when they really started to change attitudes ...

... especially as they were No. 1 in the charts.

Yeah. The whole point is that when you've got politics that all revolve around the workplace and organising workers and you've got 3 million unemployed and millions of kids who don't work, you've got to have something else apart from purely industrial based politics.

Within the last 5 years do you think that the Left has made a conscious effort to get involved in more aspects of youth culture?

It has made an effort but don't you think it's dropped off now? When it comes to leafletting terraces or whatever you've got to get kids in first. Once you've got a youth following then you can start actually doing things. You can't do it with outsiders. Like RAR could not have been built with a load of 45 year old trade unionists. The reason it was fucking brilliant was because you had so many young people involved. People who were going to see bands anyway, and people who were in bands. It wasn't people who had to read up books at night on who the Clash were.

On the last Right to Work march you were marching as well as playing. Did you think people were getting involved in wider political issues?

Yeah, instead of just talking about what your favourite bands are or football or something, you start talking about what it's like down their dole office or on their YOPs scheme.

Are you a skinhead band?

Yes and no. We never wanted just to pull a skinhead following. That would be pointless. You'd get the sort of problems Sham 69 had. When the media or left wing start equating skinheads with fascists it's very dangerous. We're not a skinhead band like the Last Resort or the 4-skins who play for skins and maybe a few punks and that's it. I think it's crazy if you say we're not going to do Top of the Pops or interviews in the music press or do stuff on the radio cos you're cutting out the number of people you're getting across to. The whole idea behind the name is that any skinhead with an ounce of intelligence is anti-racist

because racism is so anti working class. Fascism always smashed any kind of working class or socialist organisation. We want skinheads to come along - we wouldn't play somewhere like the 100 Club where they don't let skinheads in. We're a skinhead band in as much as we've got number ones (when they're not growing out)



Assuming that we have some sort of mass revolutionary change in this country how do you see the music industry changing?

If you've got a youth audience that suddenly becomes class conscious, becomes revolutionary, they're not going to be interested in Haircut 100. Haircut 100 will be redundant. Look at all the rebel music come out of Ireland. It's not coming out of there because they particularly like moaning about the system - it come out because there is a struggle going on. When people become conscious of their class they're



going to want to turn to music that expresses that. I think music that went out of its way to avoid talking about social issues just wouldn't get bought. There's always been rebel protest music, whether it's Dylan, the Stones or the Clash. Like a lot of Irish rebel music as well. A lot of rebel music is looking back the whole time. I think you've got to look backwards to learn lessons but you must always look forward to what you're going for. The press, the capitalist press don't give two fucks about what people on the dole or working in a job have to say. But the



music press is interested in what Paul Weller's got to say or the Daily Mirror's interested in what Buster Bloodvessel's got to say, and I think that's the thing about rock stars - suddenly you've got working class people who people are listening to with an opportunity to speak and I think if they're just gonna waste it by talking about what drugs they're on - I think that's fucking irresponsible. It's criminal. The other thing about rebel music that you think is politically right on and ideologically sound and no one listens to isn't rebel music as far as I'm concerned. It's irrelevant. Music only becomes rebellious or revolutionary in the hands of an audience. If it stays on the record and no one bought it, no one hears it, it doesn't mean anything. Gigs are like the socialist way of making music. Live music is when you get people involved.



Venue NEW ALBUMS EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM MARCH 10

LIVE MUSIC! REGGAE Two Bands on a Blues

JAILHOUSE ROCK!

BENEFIT FOR: ROCHDALE '8
23rd OCTOBER
M/CER POLY SU

BENEFIT FOR: PETE COEN
6th NOVEMBER
HATFIELD POLY

Nightlife: DANGER **Music**

Clubs & Discos **10" DUB** **FUNK**

OK, although it was very much like a rant. A slogan. Even better is stuff on 'The Gift' the new Jam Album, where it goes into more detail. The problem with bands like the Gang of Four or the Pop Group was like it was a funk base but it was so distorted it wasn't accessible. Most kids who want political music will go to the Jam or the Clash. You've got to be so fucking hard and so clear cut. You've got to win people through your music and then be absolutely uncompromising with your politics.

Some of it comes back to whether or not people can hear at a gig. On record it's different. Even if people can't hear what you're singing you can put the words on the sleeve.

With our single 'Lev Bronstein' the idea was to put important sections of the lyrics on the sleeve. In hindsight I'd criticise it, like it's not clear enough. No one knows who Lev Bronstein is. We've since written other songs similar to that with more explicit lyrics. Something like 'Kick Over the Statues'. You play that at gigs and it does get across, they start singing along in the chorus bits.

Do you think being in a band is a good way of getting over politics?

It's really hard. Me and Martin don't believe in just singing protest songs and just moaning about the system, we actually

RED ACTION

IN ACTION

LONDON

On Sunday, 1st of August, as Red Action and ANL supporters turned up for their regular Sunday morning paper sale and leafletting, they found that about fifteen National Front members had turned up early, and grabbed their usual pitch. After a few minutes an argument broke out between an anti-nazi and a certain Ian Anderson, a National Front organiser. Anderson was heard to shout 'Get 'em, Lads!' at which point a fight broke out, which ended with Anderson and his troops making a very quick exit.

Having failed with the strong arm approach they resorted to other traditional fascist tactics, and went whining to the police, who arrested about a dozen anti-nazis as they were leaving Chapel Market. Eventually, three of them were charged with causing A.B.H. to Anderson. All three have pleaded *NOT GUILTY* and elected trial at Crown Court. They were originally refused legal aid, but have now been granted it partially, but will have to pay part of their costs.

BELFAST

Twenty five Red Action members and friends joined the annual delegation to Belfast, to join in the demonstration, on the anniversary of the introduction of internment without trial. As always the trip was a moving and enlightening experience for all who attended, and the courage and commitment of the Nationalist community in their brave struggle, and the warmth of the welcome they gave us, will be a constant source of inspiration to us in the twelve months until we go again.

WE ARE RED ACTION

Red Action was formed in late 1981 when some working class socialists had finally had enough of being used then abused by liberals on the so-called revolutionary left. We believe that working class people have the power and ability to run their own lives. That goes for Red Action as well. We can organise and educate ourselves as Red Workers without any interference from middle class intellectuals.

Since our formation we have concentrated on fighting the fascists and supporting the Irish Nationalist struggle against the British ruling class. This is because we feel that most of the Left won't work in these areas as they can't get members out of them.

We intend to avoid at all costs, becoming like the other left groups; we are not a revolutionary party although it is not an impossibility that we might form a Party in the future.

The key thing for us is that we build a movement within the working class which has revolution as its aim. This movement must be rooted in the working class because only we as working class people have the power to sweep the Boss Class off the face of the earth. We will use any means at our disposal to further this aim. We do not reject any ideas, strategies or tactics just because we didn't think of them ourselves.

We believe that socialism belongs to the working class, and that while it is true that an organisation must be able to give a lead to the class, it must also be able to reflect the spirit and consciousness of the class.

We in Red Action will strive to this end. To justify our existence to the most critical and cynical audience of all - the working class, and present socialist politics in a way that identifies with them in their work and their leisure.

We are not puritan socialists, and are certainly not afraid to enjoy ourselves and celebrate all that is positive in working class culture.

WE ARE FOR

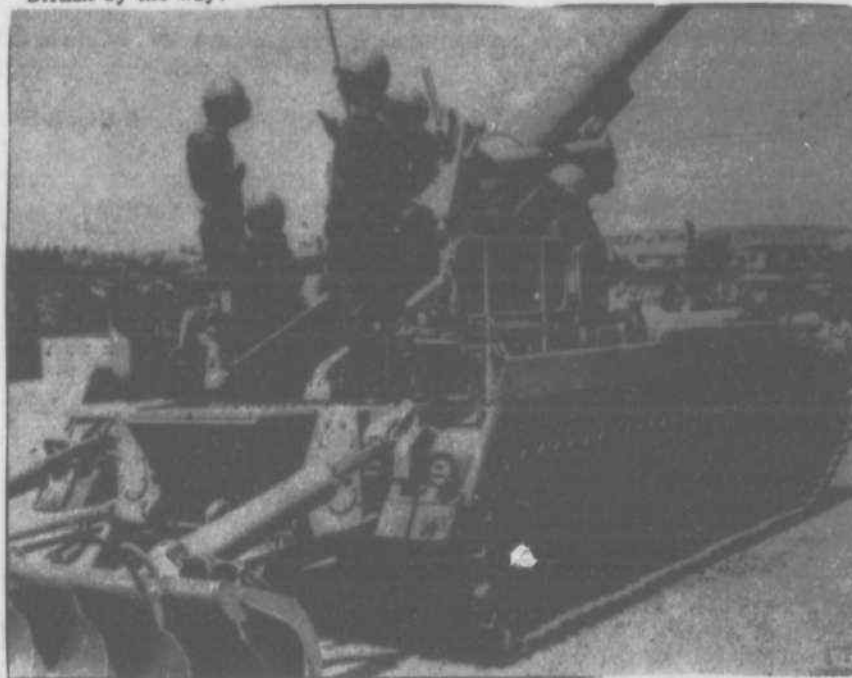
1. A working class organisation inspired and directed by working class people
2. United action between socialist groups FOR THE CLASS NOT THE PARTY
3. The Irish National liberation struggle against our own British ruling class
4. Total opposition to fascist organisations
5. Union strength - we support any picket line - in defence of workers living standards.
6. Opposition to all prejudice which divides workers, white against black, men against women.
7. Killing the lie that the "Communist states" are socialist.
8. Young peoples fight to determine their own future.

RED ACTION IS AGAINST

1. Anything read in the Daily Express!

HOLOCAUST

Slaughter, Bloodbath, Mass Murder, are all terms which would apply to the Israeli bombardment of West Beirut. Its purpose was to smash the Palestine Liberation Organisation but it was not successful. The PLO could do little about Israeli bombing and rocket attacks. On the other hand, they stopped the Israelis from advancing too far into Palestinian territory. This in itself was a fantastic achievement when you consider all the ultra modern equipment which the Israelis have at their disposal. Equipment supplied by the Americans and the British by the way.



Israeli soldiers "keep the peace"

MILITARY DEFEAT

The PLO have still suffered a military defeat. Many of their fighters have been dispersed across the middle east far away from their native Palestine. The Israelis have almost total control of Lebanon especially in the South where towns like Saida and Damour are occupied. The Israelis leave their "friends" the extreme right wing christian Phalangists in Beirut who would love an opportunity to have a crack at the remaining Palestinians. In Palestine itself, the West Bank and Gaza are occupied and patrolled by Israeli soldiers in the same manner as Brit soldiers patrol nationalist areas in the North East of Ireland.

COLONISATION

During 1948, a million Palestinians had to flee Palestine in the face of attacks on their villages by Zionists and their supporters. Histadrut - the present Israeli TUC - organised a massive boycott of Palestinian products. It was in this year that the United Nations allocated land in Palestine to Jews who no longer wished to live in Europe and who wished to join their "oriental" brothers in the middle east. Palestine was split in two by the creation of an Israeli state. A state which the Palestinians have always refused to recognise. The Zionists were not satisfied with this though. Under the slogans

"Capture the Work" and "Capture the soil" they started to set up communities, or Kibbutz, in new areas of Palestine. This colonisation process continues today; in places like the West Bank and Gaza.

Few people, even the Palestinians, would deny the right of Jews to live in Palestine but they do not have the right to stamp on the Palestinians and claim Palestine as their own. The Israelis can only do this because of massive military help, "for defensive purposes", that they get from places like America and Britain. This and

to smash capitalism - the breeding ground of racism. The history of Jews in Europe and Russia is spattered with blood. Jewish blood. Jews have been massacred, sometimes in their thousands, simply because they were Jewish but Zionism will not solve anything. Now we see Zionists co-operating with fascists in the Lebanon. Israel has been sending "advisers" to El Salvador to help the extreme right fight the Guerrillas. It is not a pretty sight.

The key to a free Palestine lies with the Arab Working Class. Arab workers have many Palestinians in their ranks. These will be joined by still more militants who have been forced to leave Beirut for places like Egypt and Tunisia. Workers have already shown their power in Egypt in the big strike waves of 1977. Oil workers and Construction workers could place massive pressure on their rulers to act on Palestine; especially now that the middle east is becoming more and more industrialised. The Palestinians will never achieve true freedom until there is a socialist revolution in the middle east.

The chance to return to Palestine is a staging post on the road to true freedom. When the profits of companies in the middle east are threatened by mass action they will soon move to calm the waters. If this meant allowing Palestinian refugees to return to Palestine and allowing them limited freedom it wouldn't be a problem. In fact the Americans are even making noises about just such a "solution".

Meanwhile the Palestinians will continue the armed struggle, knowing only too well what would happen if they were to lay down their arms.

The PLO can never be totally wiped out because they are part of the communities they defend. The more the Israelis try to clamp down on the Palestinians the stronger the PLO becomes within the communities. If they relax, the PLO can attack their units.

Our job in England is not to tell freedom fighters in other countries how they should fight their wars. It is to support their cause and show solidarity. DO IT!



WHERE TO NOW

YASSAR?

In his book "The Jewish State", a leading Zionist called Theodore Herzl describes how Palestine should be colonised by Jews and in this way form a western outpost in the "barbaric" middle east. This theory fitted in nicely with British and American hopes for having a base in the oil rich area. Zionists believe that Jews have to have their own state because non Jews will always be anti-Jewish. Not all Jews hold this idea; some like Rosa Luxemburg decided to fight racism by organising workers

PALESTINE!
9th OCTOBER

DEMO...
organized by
Palestine Solidarity
Campaign
ASSEMBLE
**SPEAKERS
CORNER**