

Red Action

ISSUE NO 8

THE RIGHT TO FIGHT



On the weekend of the 5th August, Red Action will be joining other socialist groups and members of the Troops Out Movement, in attending the annual internment demonstration in Belfast.

SEIZED

This is held to commemorate the events of the 9th of August 1971, when hundreds of men were seized from their homes in catholic/nationalist areas by the army, and held under arrest, many of them for several months, without any charge against them or trial, the aim of this operation was to smash the emerging organisation of the Provisional IRA, an aim in which the events of the last twelve years would suggest, it was none too successful.

MOVING

For us, in Red Action, the trip to the north of Ireland is the highlight of the political calendar. The experience of seeing at first hand the courage and commitment of the nationalist community in their struggle against the forces of the British state is a moving and enlightening experience that leaves us with a greater sense of purpose and commitment for our task.

STRUGGLE

The issue of Ireland is one of great contention for many on the British left. It seems that for some, it is all right for people to take up arms in the struggle for freedom, as long as it is happening on the other side of the world. It is when the bombs start to go off within hearing range that we start to hear talk of 'critical support' or 'conditional support'.

ISSUE

For us in Red Action, there is no problem or confusion on this issue. Both as an organisation and as individuals we support the activities of the Provisional IRA and the Irish National Liberation Army unconditionally and uncritically.

BOMBINGS

Immediately many in this country will no doubt jump back in horror and remind us of the innocent victims of actions like pub bombings.

REALITIES

Undeniably actions have been carried out that with the benefit of hindsight can be seen as mistakes, but these must be seen in the context of the realities of the situation. In Ireland there is a war going on pure and simple, and in wars innocent people get hurt, on both sides. Innocent people have been getting hurt in Ireland for the last 800 years and the reason for it, and the war situation today, is clear. The continued British presence. The only way to end the agony for Ireland is to get the British out, and the history of the British empire (Kenya, Aden, Cyprus etc) proves that the only way to achieve that, is by armed struggle.

STATE

For us in Britain, our task is to support those engaged in that struggle in every way that we can, and not to engage in self indulgent debate about what are, or not, approveable actions (as if they are worried about our approval anyway). We know that their actions are aimed either at the representatives of the British state, or in defense of their communities against loyalist extremists, and that should be enough for us. When the British socialist movement has shown that we are serious in our support of the Republican struggle, then perhaps they will welcome our appraisal of it. Until such time they will no doubt treat our pompous waffle and no action, with the disdain that it deserves.

For those that consider themselves to be socialists, the events of the last couple of months make, pretty depressing reading. The most reactionary government in most people's memory, have been re-elected on a vastly increased majority, and will no doubt take this as the green light to resume their activities with a much greater vigour.

DEFEAT

In actual fact the election was not so much a victory for the Tories as a defeat for the Labour Party. The actual number of Tory votes was less than in 1979, but hundreds of thousands of Labour voters either defected to the Alliance or didn't bother to vote.

POLITICS

It has been the habit of some, in and around the Labour Party, whilst agreeing that it was far from perfect, to argue that it should still be seen as the only realistic alternative to the Tories. It is very easy for the far left groups to be pure about their politics, they would argue, because they are nothing more than tiny fringe groups, that haven't a hope in hell of achieving power and having to put their ideas into practice. Whilst the Labour Party may sometimes compromise on socialist ideals they would say, they are at least capable of actually getting into power and making some achievements, which is better than standing on the sidelines, theoretically pure but actually doing nothing.

LABOUR

Many would perhaps have agreed that this argument had some basis to it, but it can only apply when the Labour Party is actually in a position to challenge seriously. It is only worth compromising if you are getting something for it, and at the moment, the Labour Party, for all their compromises are no challenge

to the Tories whatsoever. In this situation we on the revolutionary left are perhaps entitled to argue back, that if we are going to go down anyway, then what is the point of making any compromise. Let's nail our colours firmly to the mast and be proud of our socialist ideas, rather than apologetic for them as the Labour Party often seems to be.

SHOUT

Thatcher and her supporters are not apologetic for their ideas. They shout them out from the rooftops, the more outrageous it is, the louder they shout it. This is one of the reasons that they have managed to convince so many people that there is no alternative to them. The response of the 'moderate' elements in the Labour Party to this is to go rightwards with her. Already they are calling for a return to more 'sane' policies as the only way to win the next election. What they are actually saying is that they are willing to go as far to the right as is necessary to win an election without worrying what they are actually calling for.

MEDIA

To actually challenge the ideas of Thatcherism, it is necessary to present a clear and uncompromising alternative to it. Of course this would not win mass support straight away, for Thatcher has had a five year head start for her uncompromising politics and as ever, has the very powerful support of the media. But it does at least hold out some hope of beginning a movement that can be an effective opposition to Thatcherism in the future, if not today. This is one of the main reasons for the unwillingness of the Parliamentary to adopt such a course. Most Labour MPs are far more interested in a seat in the House of Commons today than they are in building an opposition that may be effective eventu-

ally, but will be on the outside for some time to come.

FRINGE

For us on the revolutionary left, there is no such problem. We are quite used to being in small groups in the fringe of the political structure. The question for us of course, is how and when we can change this situation.

VOTERS

This is very difficult in times when the Labour Party is seen by the vast majority as the automatic and only opposition to the Tories. However the experience of the last election suggests that there are hundreds of thousands of former Labour voters who no longer see them as this. Disturbingly many of these moved to the right in the shape of the Alliance (confirming the existence of a trend to the right) but perhaps even more significantly (if the figures in the Guardian can be trusted) large numbers of former Labour voters, and young unemployed didn't vote at all. Among these are those that have been hardest hit by Thatcherism, but presumably could see no alternative to it that was serious enough to warrant a five minute stroll to the polling booth.

LEFT

One day the revolutionary left is going to have to begin to challenge the Labour Party for the position of the opposite to Toryism. The present decline of Labour and the disillusionment of those that should be its strongest supporters suggests that that time may be coming sooner than we think, although it would be madness to write Labour off, it may well yet regenerate itself. But even if it does, that does not change the fact that the time will

CONTD ON

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THIER WAY
THE INEVITABLE WAY

THE LAW OF THE JUNGLE

Every day when you pick up a paper, you read of some person dying in a squalid and undignified way. Often the victims are the very young or the elderly. The motive offered, if there is one, is usually sexual, robbery, or both. The descriptions are detailed and voyeuristic. People read them avidly, like passers by, who crowd round a road accident victim. The police officer in charge will be quoted 'the worst case I've seen in twenty years on the force' etc. The neighbours will offer the mandatory profile 'so full of life, good to the kids, lovely little girl, sadly missed'.

After 2 or 3 days, the police have a suspect who is helping them with their enquiries, charges are expected later today. The readers/viewers response will be revulsion and incomprehension, followed by a quiet and momentary sadness, a flash of anger, flickering images of revenge, a sigh and then back to the telly page. End of story.

The type of crime where a life is snuffed out in a frenzied attack for little or no reason is becoming more and more commonplace. If you subscribe to the bad apple theory, why is it that the bad apples are increasing? Is it to be regarded as a tragic accident, or is it the beginning of an epidemic? If the system, by neglect or omission, is responsible for the death of the victim, is it not responsible for the killer? They are both products of the same society.

Almost 40 years ago, the ruling class were advised to invest in the welfare state, to placate a militant working class, and avoid possible social upheaval. It was a worthwhile concession for them. The status quo was maintained and everybody benefitted. It created an illusion of a more equal society and helped conceal the conflict and misery inherent in the system. Vulgar displays of wealth were frowned upon. There were 'socialist' millionaires and Tory MPs talked of the unacceptable face of capitalism.

Now with a recession deepening, they have decided to call in their investment, and so the cushioned layer of the welfare state is relentlessly rolled back, and as it is, it reveals the underbelly of society, writhing with contradictions and rotten to the core. Because of the nature of the system it is those at the bottom end of the social scale that are hit first and hardest. Small luxuries that make life tolerable are deemed extravagant. Things that are as necessary for psychological well being, as fresh air and sunlight are to the maintenance of the body.

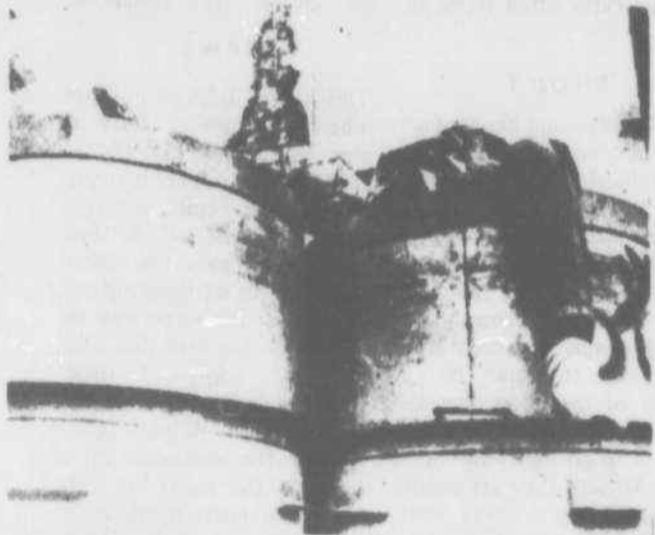
The amateur burglar who savages an old lady in a rage, the father who smashes a child's head against a wall, the mother who leaps from a balcony with her child under her arm, are all victims, whose own levels of tolerance and judgement have finally been drained by the hypocritical



demands of a contradictory society. The realisation that they have no control over the course of their lives unleashes the potential for violence on themselves or those nearest them, unlike the riots of 1981, when whole communities recognised their oppressors and entered into a joint venture to voice their anger.

The middle class way of life is flaunted as desirable and yet it is unattainable for millions. They talk of building character, discipline and respect, when what they really mean is grass on your neighbour, scab on a picket line, and grovel in front of your boss. When they talk of strength they don't mean physical, moral or intellectual, they mean money and who has it?

Like the Tory MP who said nothing concentrates the mind like hunger, the law of the jungle (survival of the fittest, weeding out the weak etc) probably does have a slightly logical flavour to it, and might well appeal to some smug, paunchy stockbroker or magistrate. Wonder how he'll feel about it when some nutter starts to beat the side of his face with a brick.



THE HARDER THEY COME...

Society says that there are a lot of things that 'normal', 'feminine' women do not do. They don't drink pints for a start. They don't play pool, they don't swear and the certainly don't fart (even in private!). They don't go to bed with other women, and they don't feel lust.

Men feel lust, of course. Men are encouraged to. They are 'normal' 'masculine' men, if they enjoy sex, want sex and initiate sex.

In fact, it seems generally believed that men are so full of lust that they can't control their actions because of it! They can be provoked into sexual assault, or rape, by seeing a woman smile, or wear a skirt, - let alone hitchhike!

People may not be able to stop feeling things, but they can control how they react to

those feelings. Men can control actions stimulated by lust, just as they can control actions stimulated by anger or affection.

And as for women, of course women feel lust. But for such a long time we have denied it, and taught that only 'wicked' women, - 'tarts', 'slags', 'whores', even 'lesbians' enjoy, want and initiate sex.

Women can - and do - enjoy sex. They can initiate sexual contact with each other and with men, and can happily find sexual satisfaction. They can - but all too often they don't. The different images of male and female sexuality, the notion of 'good' and 'bad' women, continued problems with contraception, combined with heavy, aggressive, male-orienta-

ted sex, the so-called 'abnormality' of homosexuality, and very little open talk about sexual activity, mean that many people, particularly women, are never sexually satisfied.

Male lust has become an excuse for at best, insensitive sex, and at worst, viciously brutal male violence against women. Pornography, which promotes and glorifies in that powerful lust is seen as an evil oppressive force. But it isn't the lusty love of sex, but the power - physical, economic and social - of men over women, that is evil.

Instead of condemning male lust, we should condemn male power and re-discover female lust. Women too, should enjoy sex. To feel free to lust after each other and after men. To enjoy the

LABOUR

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

come when we will have to challenge them, even if it is not today, and for us on the revolutionary left the question is how will we do this?

We in Red Action are a very tiny group much too small to have any effect on the political direction of this country. However that does not stop us from having an opinion, expressing it, and attempting to build round it and become an organisation that can have some influence.

UNITY

We believe that for the Revolutionary left to escape from its fringe group status and start to have some sort of influence over large numbers of the working class, and begin to challenge the Labour Party for their allegiance, it will require some sort of united action from the different left groups. This

does not mean that they would have to bury their theoretical differences, but we should remember that the theoretical differences between the different revolutionary groups are meaningless to most people. Whilst still debating their differences it should still be possible for the left to present a united front that could campaign around basic simple slogans that no left group could disagree with, and at the same

time would strike a chord with the man/woman in the street, and hopefully promote a greater interest in the ideas of the left, whichever part of it they may come into contact with. For example a platform that demanded a legally enforced minimum wage and the reduction of MPs wages to the national average would certainly draw a favourable response from most people.

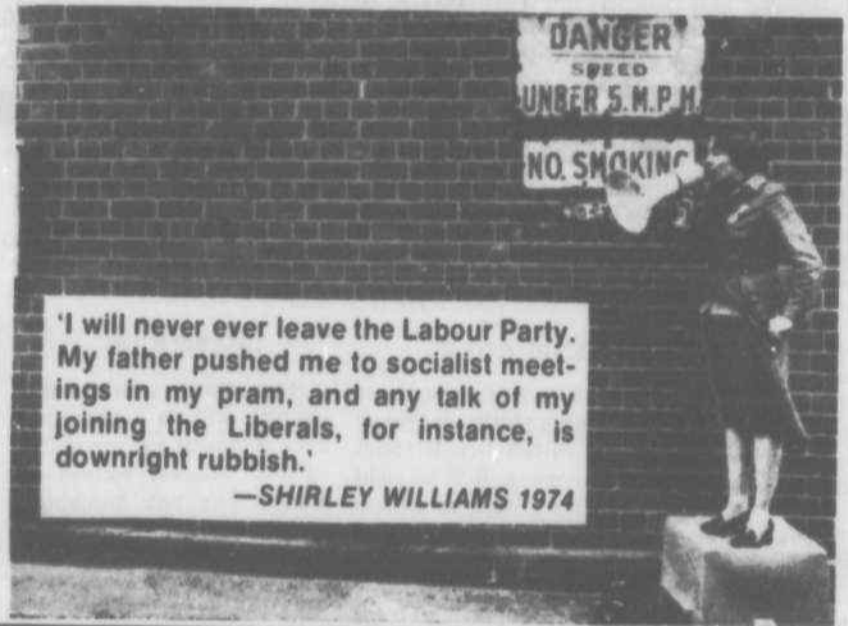
FRONT

This political front, that could come into action at elections, and especially by-elections, could be backed up by an ongoing propaganda

campaign that could utilize celebrity names and cultural events in the tradition of the Anti Nazi League. Obviously we could not seriously hope to win seats or have any dramatic immediate effect on the political structure of the country but we will hopefully be sowing the seeds for what will become a far larger and more effective left of Labour movement than exists today. Unless you sow some seeds somewhere, you cannot expect to reap any harvest anywhere.

AMUSE

Having said all of this it has to be said that the chances of this sort of united action look very slim at the moment. Red Action is certainly too small to initiate it, and it will possibly be a source of some amusement to some of those in the larger more experienced groups, that we have taken it upon ourselves to suggest a strategy for the left. To that we can but reply, that we are more than willing to listen to any alternative strategy but we are still waiting to hear one.



THE IRON FIST

Rumtling down the road strange figures clad for war
Streets of iron, steel, and thunder, crushed under the
iron heel,
Lost amidst metallic clamour, though freedom's sought,
and heart is sure,

So is life neath the iron fist,
Where men's lives they seek to twist
Truth is believed and known by some,
Though the words are wasted on those who come
To break a spirit which screams for right,
To murder those who wish to fight,
So is Ireland neath the iron fist,
Where men care not, see no risk,
To take their country from Britain's list,
For a country so torn by the might of the foe,
Ireland's not alone, their people have a home,
Cos they can break the boundaries but we are free to
roam,
To show the world how their justice is fair,
How they thrash you, bind you, and body they tear,
To deny you your land, womenfolk and child,
And incarcerate those for the colours they wear.

shape and feel and reactions of bodies, to one another.

When people can truly, freely choose how they have sex, when they have sex and who they have sex with, without constraints of unwanted pregnancy, or difficult contraception, and without the controls of church morality or social condemnation, then sex will be seen for what it should be. Sex, like singing, laughing, eating, drinking, talking or dancing, is one of life's great delights.

ANARCHY IN U.K. ?

The Red Action public meeting on Ireland held in May was for us, our first contact with a new group and newspaper called Class War. They would probably describe themselves as an anarchist group. One thing is certain, if their first two papers are anything to go by, no one will ever describe them as liberals. Class War is a very well

produced newsheet that manages to combine a high level of anti-capitalist/ruling class anger with humour and entertainment. We in Red Action can only welcome the emergence of another left group outside of the traditional intellectual based pattern. How close groups like Class War and Red Action are or can become is impossible to say at this time. True unity is forged in joint action, and not in debate about fine lines of theoretical difference. We hope for and look forward to this unity of action with Class War in the future.



WHO'S SHITTING ON YOU?

What band should have shot straight to Number 1 with the classic 'Kick Out The Tories'? What band end their set with a vicious version of the Members 'Solitary Confinement' retitled 'Living with Unemployment'? What band keeps fit by going on pub crawls cos the pubs are so far apart in their home town? What band is fronted by a skinhead who wants to run a chain of hairdressing salons? Yes, you've guessed - Harlow's very own Newtown Neurotics. We finally tracked them down to the back of a van in Brixton and, just happening to have a cassette handy, asked them a few questions. . .

RED ACTION: How did you come to sing political songs?

STEVE: We played a gig in Brussels. All live music in Belgium had been banned because of dope smoking at a Peter Tosh gig. We arrived to do a gig there just at the time everyone was getting really ratty. There was a riot the night we arrived which some of the people who come across with us got beaten up and put inside. The next day we were doing a soundcheck and before we could finish the riot police surrounded the building and nailed up the fire exits and they were going to do a baton charge through the front because they believed there were anarchists inside with molotov cocktails and everything. We thought instead of standing around shitting ourselves we might as well shit ourselves and play. So we played under siege to the people who were hanging around in there. Meanwhile the bloke who had organized the gig was arrested and taken to police headquarters. He phoned the media and told them the gig was being stopped by the police. That went across on the radio and when the mayor heard it he blew his top. Bad publicity. So I thought, hang on, we've achieved something here and there's no reason why we can't go on and achieve other things. So I thought it's better to do something constructive within the context of playing in the group and when we come back to England, well, there's plenty to write about

here that isn't right. And that's how it come about.

COLIN: This gig we played, it was on a Saturday night, highlight of everyone's week, right, and ours was the only gig in the whole country. So you can imagine how many people turned up. It was an electrifying experience - very frightening though.

RED ACTION: So when you came back you decided to carry on doing political stuff?

STEVE: The main thing is to inspire people who come to hear us to think about the world around them. That is the purpose of the Neurotics.

COLIN: We don't try to dictate to people at all.

SIMON: We ask them to listen.

STEVE: There's only one thing we dictate to people, when we say you're an idiot if you're a Tory.

RED ACTION: Do you think people listen to what you're saying?

COLIN: Yeah. Hopefully, on a decent night with a decent P.A. people can hear the words, and if they come again they get to know the material better.

SIMON: We've had little nazi skinheads coming up to us at gigs saying that was really good.

STEVE: It does work, cos of the letters we get. They are thinking things out for themselves and asking us questions.

RED ACTION: A lot of your songs are a lot more positive than some bands who just moan a lot.

COLIN: Let's all be depressed and sniff glue 'cos we got no future. That kind of shit.

STEVE: It must be very hard at school now to keep concentration on your work when at the back of your mind you know there's no jobs. That's where all the moaning comes about. What is vitally important is that those people are not allowed to slip into the attitude that it's always going to be like this and nothing I do is going to make any difference. Everybody should be making a positive effort to say don't take this. This should never happen. It's getting worse and it should be stopped. That is why we are positive. The whole point of our stage act is to bring across a lot of energy, to make people's spines tingle and come out uplifted.

RED ACTION: What about your song 'Mindless Violence' ('mindless violence what does it prove - it proves that you don't know the people that are shitting on you')?

STEVE: It's making the point that the violence stems from higher up and the mindless violence that someone perpetrates on someone else has been instigated along a long line of events. If you're turning the screw on people, bit by bit, someone's going to snap somewhere and it's the weak and more vulnerable that go first. Apart from that there are too many bands carrying an attitude of violence and couldn't care less.

SIMON: The Exploited were playing near the Rainbow when the Jam were playing there, and the Exploited did 'Fuck A Mod'. After the gig all the Exploited fans went up to the Rainbow and kicked the shit out of the mods. No reason at all.

STEVE: If you're in a band you've got a responsibility.

RED ACTION: It reminds me a bit of Sham 69's 'If the

kids are united'.

STEVE: In a sense, but not too much. I wouldn't like to end up in the blind alley Jimmy Pursey ended up in. It's ridiculous to turn round and say I'm exactly the same as you, I drink down the pub, and we're exactly the same. You are the same in the pub but when you're on stage you're different.

RED ACTION: What are your influences for writing songs?

COLIN: The media, obviously. You can't ignore what's going on around you. And what happens to you in your personal life.

STEVE: Strongest musical influences are punk and reggae. If someone in the glossy pop world comes up with something that gets across to a lot of people and is good, we'd say great - let's have more of that.

SIMON: It's like Wham. They're a pop band, but they're great. 'Wham Rap' has got a really good social message. The lyrics in that could easily be a punk lyric.

STEVE: It depends what you expect from a band. As long as they don't turn round and say 'fuck you, I'm a Tory'. That really gets my back up. If I like a band and they do that, I find I go off their music. It happened with Kenny Everett, now I can't stand him.

SIMON: I used to watch Steve Davis play snooker, now I can't stand the guy. (Steve Davis and Kenny Everett appeared alongside Thatcher at the Young Conservative Election Rally).

RED ACTION: Some bands start out and they're great, then things move along and they change their attitudes.

STEVE: We are aware of that. It is fucking hard to keep to what you originally said. You've got to think about your livelihood without ripping everybody off. Another thing, if you've been turning up at gigs and the PA's always shit, your message isn't getting across. There's been times we've done 3 gigs in a row and my voice has been shot to pieces after the first one, and people have paid money to see us give a decent performance. So then you start thinking we'll have to cut down on the one's with tiny PA's and then people misinterpret that.

RED ACTION: Do you think you're a threat ? . . .

COLIN: I don't see why we should be, after all we're only talking common sense.

STEVE: Common sense isn't very popular at the moment!



"I'M ONLY DOING MY JOB"



RUBBISH

Local Councils are being encouraged to sack their own workers, sell their own equipment and pay private firms to do some of the jobs instead. It has happened with a wide range of services, but particularly with emptying dustbins, and the cleaning of offices, schools, hospitals etc.

The Local Council Workers Unions, NALGO, NUPE and the GMWU have shown that people who work for these private contractors work longer hours, earn less money and are given less holidays than people who work for the Councils - and very often the service they provide is worse than was provided by the council workers.

Councils are being encouraged to do this because it is supposedly a way of saving "rate-payers money". However, the contracts offered to

the private firms are only for a limited period - 3 years or 5 years. At the end of that time the firms make an offer as to how much they will charge to renew the contract.

When they first make an offer they make it cheap. The Council give them the job. The Councils then get rid of their workers and equipment - bin lorries - etc. When the private firms come to renew their contracts in a few years time they charge a whole lot more - but the councils have to accept it because they have no longer got the workers or the equipment to provide the service!

So in the end we get a worse service provided by over-worked, under paid workers - and it all costs us more money in rates and taxes!



SUBSCRIBE TO RED ACTION

Red Action is an organisation founded and run by working class people. As such, we have no wealthy sympathisers. Everything we produce is paid for by our members. Each issue of this paper costs us nearly £200 to produce and we get back under £100 in sales. If you agree with our aims or are sympathetic to us, we would welcome your support. You could give us this in two ways.

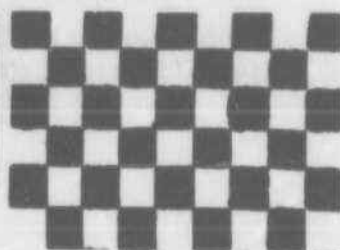
1. By buying extra papers to resell to friends. This would help us to increase our circulation and reduce our deficit.
2. By taking out a subscription to Red Action. This costs £3 for the next ten issues posted to you and if you wished to send us an extra pound or two, rest assured that we will not be offended.

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NEUROTICS (left to right) : STEVE, SIMON, COLIN



RED ACTION IN ACTION

EASTER RISING 1983

About 40 Red Action fun lovers spent the Easter weekend at a seaside holiday camp. The healthy sea air made everyone feel fresh and a good time was had by all. In between the sand castle and light refreshments, we had an excellent meeting on the Russian Revolution (well we are a political organisation you know). We would like to congratulate the Red Action entry in the talent contest, for battling to a fighting third place (who said there were only three contestants) See you next year suckers.

RED ACTION GOES BACK TO SKOOL

While the druids drifted around Salisbury plain worshipping midsummer madness, Red Action held a highly successful day school on the rise of facism in Germany in the thirties. The morning session dealt with the disastrous split in the anti facist opposition, and in the afternoon we heard about the resistance of the German labour movement, something you don't hear very much about. The evening session was held in a local bier keller. Many thanks to the two speakers from the Manchester anti facist movement.

BOBBY SANDS (1)

Several Red Action members travelled to Birmingham for the hunger strikers commemoration march called by Sinn Fein. The turn out of under a thousand was a disappointing one, even allowing for the atrocious weather. A pretty unterrifying crew of fascist/loyalist wankers, tried to attack the Red Action contingent in the Bus Station afterward. Despite their superior numbers they were seen off without too much trouble.

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!

BOBBY SANDS (2)

Red Action leafleted for the hunger strikers march in the May day rally in Victoria Park. It was noticed that no one else was doing this. Fraternal contact was made with groups from Class War and Black Flag who appeared to have a very similar attitude towards the peace forum.

SKINHEADS

In April Red Action were invited to a gig at the Ace in Brixton by one of the performers due to some fascist aggravation a few weeks earlier. There were no fascists at the gig but there was a fight with some skinheads. We would like to take this opportunity to say that we are definitely NOT anti-skinhead. But those particular individuals will just have to be more careful who they try and push around in future.

PEOPLES MARCH FOR JOBS

A big rally with bands and other entertainment, was held at Battersea Park on the 5th of June, for the peoples march for jobs. Red Action were there (aren't we always) to welcome the marchers, and were later seen wandering through the crowd in a daze selling the paper. A march of about 30,000 followed, at the end of which, we all had the dubious pleasure of listening to the empty promises Len Murray (secretary of the T.U.C.) and company. We would like to see a bit less talk and a bit more action. Some lively debates occurred in the park, with assorted Tories, Fascists and zionists. All in a days work.

IRELAND

About 60 assorted molls and their gangsters came to a Red Action public meeting on Ireland the evening before the hunger strikers march part two. After a brief history of Britain's bloody role in Ireland over the last 800 years, several speakers outlined the reasons for our unconditional and uncritical support for the armed struggle. A special award for initiative and intelligence will NOT be going to the Red Action member who managed to book the meeting in the pub used by the Glasgow Rangers London supporters club. A good turn out of Red Action members and supporters attended the march next day. We in Red Action regret that there were two marches, and hope that all organisations will support one march in memory of 10 brave socialist republicans, and support of the cause that they died for.

Now that Parliamentary debate on Capital Punishment has ended the only way it could, despite the Media investing in a massive propoganda exercise to try and influence the result. They claimed it would be the closest vote for years and that Politicians were out of touch with public opinion (when have they ever taken notice of it before) Now that the dust has settled we can look back on the arguements and counter claims with complete objectivity.

DETERENT

The most controversial issue voted on was that terrorists should be hanged. Conveniently forgetting that they would be convicted by non jury Diplock courts and that the same Administration allowed ten young men to die because they rejected their claim to Political Status. The pro-hanging lobby argued that Capital Punishment would deter terrorism in the North of Ireland. Without much examination this is evidenced by a lot of hollocks. If they bothered to read their papers they would realise that the British State already employs the ultimate weapon and that public executions are common place. Children are executed for 'hooliganism'; teenage joyriders are assassinated for T.D.A., unarmed petty thieves, are shot for their temerity, and for being Irish. Death is no stranger in Britains final colony.

MARTYRS

The counter arguement goes that if hanging was introduced it would create martyrs? The Nationalist people would lay claim with some justification, that the British

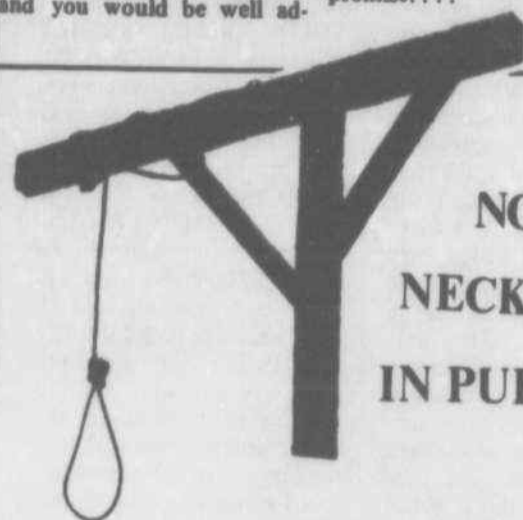
IN THE WORST POSSIBLE TASTE

A special Red Action award for the shitbag of the year, goes to Kenny Everett for his appearance with Margaret Thatcher at the young conservatives rally at Wembley. Everett made his name and no doubt a considerable sum of money with an image of being an anti-establishment rebel to whom nothing was sacred. So convincing was this image, that many people on hearing of his appearance assumed that it must have been one enormous piss-take. Surely it couldn't be for real, not Kenny Everett. But sure enough, there he was on the box, with a vote Tory badge, just like Bob Monkhouse and Monty Modlyn and all the other slimy slags that we would have expected to be there. Sucking up to Thatcher, queen of the establishment, darling of the stockbroker belts. Everett you are a dirty slimy traitorous snake, and you would be well advised to not come opening any fetes or anything near to us. That's not a threat that's a promise....



LOW LIFE

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War Machine is quite efficient at making plenty of martyrs on its own. The most convincing arguement against its effectiveness comes from the Provos themselves. Believing firmly in the principle of one demonstration being better than a thousand words, they displayed total indifference and contempt for the British Parliament by placing a mine that blew away four U.D.R lackys on the very evening the votes were being cast.

ATTACKS

Raising the issue of Capital Punishment for the murder of screws and the Old Bill has no current value as this type of crime is hardly rampant, with considerable foresight they are laying contingesey plans for the future. For with the deteriorating conditions in Society being reflected more ominously in Prisons, attacks on these loyal servants will become a frequent event.

CASTRATION

The arguement that Capital Punishment and its value as a deterrent is equally roppy. Most murders are of the domestic variety, occur in the heat of the moment with no thought for the consequences, so the deterrent aspect has no value. Equally if the crime is premeditated the potential assassin is going to invest at least as much thought in plotting to get away with it as he is in planning the crime itself. Therefore whether the penalty is being boiled in oil and/or castration is of no consequence what so ever, because he KNOWS he wont be caught.

LOBBY

What the pro-hanging lobby will do know of course is to push for more severe sentences and by using the same arguement for crimes of violence. The fact that Britain has more jails and people in them already serving longer sentences than in any other country in Europe will be completely ignored. If you create a system where violence thrives and incubates, the answer isnt to build more and bigger Prisons to contain the offenders, Logic demands that you change the fucking system.