

# Red Action

Issue 46 October 1988 20p

## THE S.A.S. AND THE DEATH SQUADS



CAPTAIN ROBERT NAIRAC S.A.S. ASSASSIN EXECUTED BY THE I.R.A., SOUTH ARMAGH 1979.

was operating in the six counties in the early 70's: (C) Infiltration, sabotage, assassination and demolition parties into insurgent held areas. (E) Limited community relations. (F) Liaison with and organisations, training and control of friendly guerilla forces operating against the common enemy'. In a lengthy article in the Guardian in September it admits 'that the SAS and the police units they have trained have carried out precisely these functions, 'with the exception of community relations'. Futher down the page it explains, 'for friendly guerilla forces' read 'informers'? This interpretation is a complete whitewash the reporters rule out (E) so that they can explain (F). In the clandestine world of the SAS 'community relations can only mean making contact with and running informers inside the community. Equally, logic demands that friendly guerilla forces against a common enemy must read - U.V.F and U.F.F. The simple fact is that the sordid truth is unpalatable. In other words the SAS on the instructions of the government are operating South American style 'death squads'.

This was confirmed by a former British Intelligence Major Fred Holloyd, who

This speculation by Forsberg based on an early statement by Hayward that he was on 'undercover work' was fleshed out by a reputed drug and arms dealer called James McCann who explained 'The guy was an undercover SAS assassin in Northern Ireland. He was identified as a soldier in that shooting of three unarmed men in Strabane. The weaponry they use is purchased surreptitiously in the arms market in Continental Europe and smuggled to the North for use in assassination, that's why they are involved in the dope trade. The dope buys the weapons. The whole thing is a screen for the deniable weapons which if found can only be traced to the underworld, drugs rings and so on'. (Magill Magazine March 1987).

There is a war in Ireland. In a war situation the role of the media is straight forward, it must maintain morale at home. For this to be effective, the public must first be insulated from world opinion not dissimilar to the situation in South Africa and Israel.

The events of the last month are a composite of what has actually been happening over there for almost twenty years. The Security Forces do their job and the media do theirs. They compliment each other as they are in fact, the left and right boot of imperialism.

That is why the Daily Stars analysis of the essential difference between clandestine units of the British Army executing republicans and clandestine units of the IRA executing members of the Security Forces is partisan and reasuring and the SAS are "courageous heroes" while the IRA are "cowardly scum". For them it is as simple as that.

In any war, anywhere, no side can claim a monopoly on courage. In any case courage in itself is not a virtue, as it can be exploited for good and evil. As the author John Le Carre, said of the SAS 'it is the courage of the thug put to social use'. If there appears little difference in 'ethics' and 'methods' to separate the two adversaries, what is there that does distinguish them?

This was of course in the mid 70's but there is every indication that far from having abandoned these practices they have simply become more sophisticated. Only last year a 32 year old SAS Captain Simon Hayward was arrested at the Swedish border in a car which contained 50lb, about £70,000 worth of hashish. There was bemusement on all sides, then a flurry of establishment activity. Hayward was visited by two British Consuls and a vice consul, while Sir John Gorst talked of Sweden's 'Medieval system of justice'. Ulf Forsberg the Swedish prosecutor felt 'it must be something very big, I believe there is something in the business of weapons'.

The SAS are heroes; its official. All the papers say so. After the ambush and execution of three IRA volunteers in Omagh County Tyrone, the tabloids out did themselves in their lavish praise of the SAS. Their gratitude and relief at this demonstration of their killing efficiency knew no bounds. The 'Yellow Press' ran centre spread features over ripe in sycophancy and adoration extolling their virtues. They are presented as 'The doers of thankless tasks', 'brutal but humane', democracy's answer to terror', the bewildered squaddies' big brother, up-holders of all that is good and true, clean cut, virtuous handsome and romantic. In short a son every mother would be proud of. The only thing is, none of it is true, in fact and I make no apology for being blunt, it is all bollocks.

The SAS are Thatchers' Praetorian Guard'. They are sent in to take out her enemies. They kill impersonally on instruction. They are not the administrators of some 'higher court of justice'. They have no independent role. They are obedient assassins. They are indeed the 'Dogs of War' and answer only to the sound of their masters voice.

The SAS first burst on to the public scene with their involvement in the siege at the Iranian Embassy in 1980. Their attack on the embassy was filmed live and it was the start of the media's love affair with the SAS. At 7.07pm on May 5th 1980 they attacked the embassy. Eleven minutes later five of the hostage takers were dead.

Only one survived. The public were enthralled, the 26 hostages were released and it was voted best live television in 1980.

It was only some time later in a letter to the Guardian that one of the hostages revealed what really happened. When the SAS burst in exploding stun grenades, there was chaos, two of the hostage takers were hit, the other three who were not 'hardened terrorists' but rather naive

students threw down their guns and attempted to surrender. The SAS ordered them to lie on the floor and to the horror of the hostages each was immediately executed with a bullet to the back of the head. The sixth and youngest escaped this fate as he was mistakenly bundled down the stairs with the hostages. When the SAS realised their mistake they tried to drag him back inside, but became involved in a tug of war with some of the hostages who knew what would happen. They won and he survived. Nobody was meant to survive. It was to serve as a warning to others.

The SAS were 'publicly' committed to the north-east of Ireland in 1976. A senior SAS officer proclaimed their philosophy at the time; 'We are all very enthusiastic about going out and wasting a few of the Provisional IRA'. Since then more than 30 people have 'officially' been killed by under cover units including the 5 un-armed republicans shot by the RUC Headquarters Mobile Support Unit in 1982, the cases investigated by John Stalker. He claimed in his testimony that if there was not a shoot to kill policy, 'there was an inclination to shoot suspects dead without warning rather than to arrest them'.

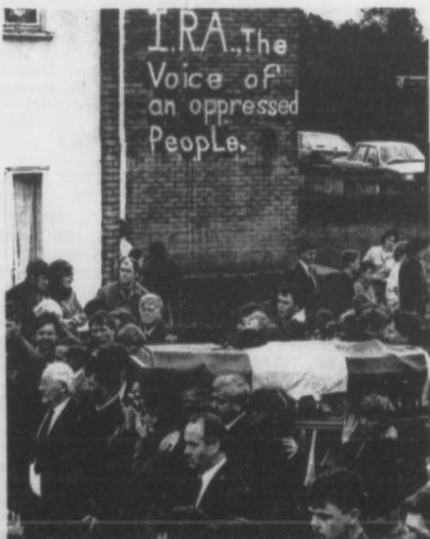
In 1978 the SAS shot dead 16 year old John Boyle, who stumbled on an IRA arms dump during a stake out. He had no connection with any para-military organisation. He was shot in the back. There was no warning. In 1982 17 year old Michael Tighe died by a H.M.S.U, there was no warning. He had no connections with any para-military organisation.

At Loughall eight IRA volunteers were surrounded by a group of 30 heavily armed SAS men. Most of them were riddled with bullets while still inside the van in which they were travelling. They were given no chance to surrender. The survivors were finished off with a bullet to the back of the head. Two civilians, brothers Anthony and Oliver Hughes were driving through the area in their car when the trap

was sprung. Though hundreds of yards from the actual incident their car was riddled with bullets from behind. Anthony was killed and his brother seriously injured. In the case of William Fleming and Daniel Doherty two IRA members killed by the SAS in Derry in 1984, an inquest Jury in a rare comment said the soldiers 'should have tried to arrest them'. They had been shot in the back.

During the trial of two SAS men charged with the murder of John Boyle the Lord Chief Justice Sir Robert Lovry described Sergeant Allan Bohan as an 'untrustworthy witness'. He said the operation 'was badly planned and bungled operation'. In the cases investigated by Mr Stalker it emerged the RUC officers had lied under oath on instructions from senior officers. No member of the SAS or H.M.S.U has ever been convicted of murder.

There is however an even more sinister side to SAS covert military operations in Ireland. A detailed view of SAS general duties can be found in The Army's Land Operations Manual. (A) 'The collection of information on the location and movement of insurgent forces. (B) The ambush



The funeral of Gerard and Martin Hurst.

cont.»

# "ANGELS OF DEATH"

Members of the health service union COHSE 898 branch have initiated the first ever indefinite strike action by nurses within the NHS. The strike commenced on September 5th and although limited to one major London teaching hospital the implications are far ranging, highlighting the increasing awareness and commitment of health workers to the implications of underfunding within the NHS.

After years of cutbacks, sporadic privatisation and exploitation of the workforce by Tory rule, health workers are taking a stand against the planned destruction of the National Health Service.

Since January of this year hospital workers have been taking action in opposition to government policy. Action spiralled as the Manchester health workers initiated the first of many 24 hour strikes throughout the UK, showing the anger, frustration and demoralisation felt by the workforce. The media reaction was diverse ranging from the reporting of 'Angels of Death' to an apparent support for nurses. However, this latest action has been termed premature and received little media coverage. In addition to this there appears an apparent lack of understanding of the crucial factor underlying the latest range of action. The issue in effect re-grading but this can only be perceived as a direct derivative of underfunding which in turn means the disintegration and destruction of the NHS.

The government announced in April the new pay awards for nurses allocating £803 million to fund it. Since then a re-grading exercise has been initiated which formed part of the deal. This means that nurses graded on their qualifications, experience and responsibility and thus receive the appropriate pay award. However, this has led to controversy between management - union



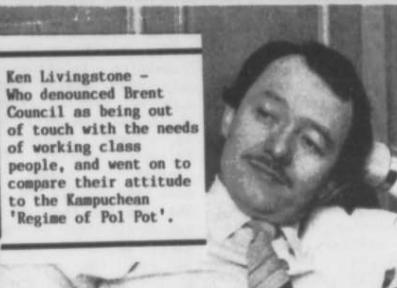
officials and workers themselves. The most important factor is that funding the pay award will be far higher than the government predicted. Nationally it has been estimated that the shortfall could be between £140-£360 million. In London alone the estimates predict a shortfall of £21-42 million. The implications of this shortfall are clear; ward and hospital closures in London.

The imbalance between cash allocation and the needs of the health service have led nurses to fear that they will be downgraded to save funds. This has in turn, led them to question the claims that they would be better off under the new pay deal. In reality it means less resources in every sphere thus; if the new pay deal and cash allocation is accepted the workforce becomes the disassembling tool in the destruction of the most efficient cost effective health service in the world.

It is therefore clear that not only health workers but everyone has to be aware of the carefully calculated precision tactics of the government to destroy the trace elements of socialism which remain in society. After years of meetings, conferences, surveys, research and misfounded trust, there is only one option left. Industrial action by health workers in unison with the workforce at large.

ARTICLE WRITTEN BY A NURSE RECENTLY ON STRIKE.

## THE PARTY'S OVER



Ken Livingstone - Who denounced Brent Council as being out of touch with the needs of working class people, and went on to compare their attitude to the Kampuchean 'Regime of Pol Pot'.

Labour councillors in the London Borough of Brent have over the last couple of months had to face up to the fact that they are politically bankrupt and incapable of leading any opposition to the Tory governments policies aimed at restricting local government spending.

After years of posing as the radical forward looking face of the Labour Party, Brents Labour group are now pressing ahead with cuts of £17 million involving the closure of community centres, nursery schools and old peoples homes and the loss of some 1,000 council jobs.

A one day strike by the local government union NALGO prompted the Labour Group into stepping back from compulsory redundancies but over the last couple of weeks it has become clear that many workers have been successfully intimidated into accepting the voluntary redundancy terms on offer. A recent general meeting of NALGO called to back indefinite

strike action was poorly attended reflecting the labor forces sense of powerlessness in the face of Labour Party complicity with Tory policies. It seems at this stage certain that the Labour Party leadership and senior council officers will now successfully impose new contracts and practises on those workers which remain.

Brent Labour Groups history has been one of drafting up 'radical' manifesto policies. Very good they were, at buying credibility with local people; chucking money at new projects and setting up grand committees to deal with racism, sexism and any other -ism you might add. But when it came down to it they were not prepared to fight for what they had set up. They weren't even prepared to fight for the basic services. Instead they ran away into every legal loophole they could find. When central government took away funding, they raised the rates, when they were faced with rate capping

## THE BLACK AND BLUE LAMP

In the past couple of months two intriguing cases have been rationally resolved in the courts, both of them involved severe police violence used on members of the public. The first of these cases concerned that of Blair Peach.

Blair Peach was a school teacher who was murdered by police during anti-National Front Demonstration nine years ago in Southall. In court it was proved that he was fatally wounded by a blow to the head by a police truncheon, and the said blows were delivered by a unit of the S.P.G who had been flagrant with their use of truncheons on anti-fascist demonstrators throughout that day. Despite the strong forensic evidence no police were ever charged criminally or even disciplined.

However, the story did not end there, for after nine years of constant battling through the courts by his family and friends, the case ended with the Metropolitan Police offering compensation of £75,000 plus another £50,000 legal costs. To the average person it would be fair to say this settlement would constitute a significant admission of guilt. However the Metropolitan Police have a somewhat different interpretation of guilt. In fact they went so far as to say: "although it was extremely likely that a truncheon blow during a police charge on demonstrators caused Blair Peach's death, the payment is not an acceptance of liability". Confused?

A superintendent at Hackney Police Station said; "Providing Trevor Monerville refrains from criminal activity and leads a law-abiding life, the police will not interfere with his activities". Surely you might think that being acquitted and totally exonerated by the courts might imply that he had not been engaging in 'criminal activity' but more so that criminal activity had been acted upon him. To this day police have still not released papers relating to Trevor Monervilles arrest.

The only conclusions that can be are that: 1. Blair Peach committed an extremely clever suicide and the Metropolitan Police are a very benevolent organisation or 2. They are lying bastards and just want the matter done away with once and for all.

The second case which aroused very little media attention is that of Trevor Monerville

Trevor Monerville was a '19' year old black youth who was arrested by police on January last year on alleged robbery charges. He was, severely beaten during his arrest and required an emergency brain operation to remove a blood clot. No account of how his injuries had been received were ever given by police nor were any criminal charges instituted against them.

Trevor Monerville has subsequently been cleared of all criminal charges laid out against him. However since his arrest last year he has constantly been harassed by police in his home and his workplace. This could in no small way be due to the fact that Trevors parents lodged complaints about police treatment of Trevor during his arrest, last year. Since then he has been arrested three times and has been acquitted or released without charge on all occasions, he has also been constantly goaded and provoked by police in the street and at his workplace.

Blair Peach and Trevor Monerville are two victims that suffer at the hands of state violence. There are many more, they are predominantly either black, left wing, gay etc, or basically just plain ordinary working class people whose face and views do not fit in with that of the system,

ment ridicule. Well done the Labour Party, well done you shit-heads, you absolutely pathetic bunch of wankers. You are successfully deconstructing bit by bit the organisation and people on which your 'socialism' was based.

For revolutionary socialists the environment is increasingly hostile. We cannot make grand speeches and promises. But even where people face defeat we must be there with the arguments for a real socialist transformation pointing out and exposing the fallacy of entrusting our futures to the likes of Labour Party reformists. The battle for us is to reclaim 'socialism' as a working class and revolutionary objective and not the possession of some reformist dogooders.

BRENT NALGO MEMBER AND RED ACTION SUPPORTER

## S.A.S. (CONT)

The IRA is a volunteer 'guerilla' army fighting out of conviction for and against something, for a united Ireland, and against British Occupation. The SAS are part of a huge professional army employed by the British State simply to stop them. They are fighting for no political principle of their own, so in reality they are fighting for nothing but money.



ANTHONY HUGHES  
CIVILIAN KILLED BY SAS AT LOUGHALL.

War has been described as "politics by other means" so in the end one side will be proved to be absolutely right and one side will be absolutely wrong. If the IRA are wrong now, then the civil rights campaigners are equally culpable for demonstrating 20 years ago for one man one vote. The failure of that campaign, physically crushed by the reaction of the 'Orange State' led to the armed struggle and so it is the logical extension of the original campaign.

That is why the media work so hard to convince the working classes that it is in their interest as well, and indeed their 'patriotic duty' to support the war effort against the Irish people. It is implicit in their arguments that a victory for the republican movement poses some threat to our own limited freedoms.

Do they expect us to believe that if the British leave Ireland, the IRA in response will invade Britain? The IRA has no quarrel with the working class of England Scotland and Wales. Their campaign for national liberation is directed solely against our own ruling

class. So should the working class remain neutral? Sitting on the fence will just prolong the agony and delay the inevitable, we must take sides against, the common enemy. In that ideological union lies the key to our own social emancipation. In 1869 Karl Marx wrote "I did believe for a long time it was possible to overthrow the Irish regime by English working class ascendancy. Deeper study has now led me to the opposite conclusion. The English working class will never do anything before it has got rid of Ireland. The wedge must be driven in Ireland. That is why the Irish question is of such importance for the socialist movement generally".

Over a hundred years later the basic relationship is still the same, except I imagine that in 1869 the ruling class were a trifle more discreet in celebrating the successes of their hired assassins. It is in solidarity with the Nationalist people and in our self interest that we in Red Action as members of the British working class may quite unequivocally

- Victory to the IRA.



# CABLE STREET BEAT

Cable Street Beat is a new independent organisation that has been set up for a number of reasons. The main reason is to oppose the small but growing openly nazi music scene, based around the magazine 'Blood and Honour'.

Over the last couple of years they have made fairly extensive European contacts, mainly with nazi skinheads but also with record labels that are happy to promote nazi propaganda. (Rock-O-Rama in Germany and Rebelles European in France). They are also in the process of linking up with American nazis. Infact, at any nazi gig nowadays you can always see a number of international nazis. So today we are faced with the situation where the nazis have completely turned their backs on the 'mainstream' music business and have gone away and built their own completely nazi music scene. They get their records made by sympathetic record companies, they've got their own magazines and fanzines, they've established an international network for distributing their material, and they don't have to pretend they're anything other than what they are - National Socialists - because they're pulling the strings on the first place.

Skrewdriver can still only get 8-900 at a gig, but that isn't the point. The anti-fascist movement, and especially the left, have ignored the problem for too long. The nazis are reaching a section of pissed off white working class youth with their propaganda and up till now there has been no alternative. If we don't get in now and confront the problem while it is still small we're cutting our own throats. By keeping the hard core nazis isolated and making them look over their shoulders all the time we will make it much harder for them to grow into a real force when conditions become more favourable for a mass nazi movement. (Look what happened in France with Le Pen).

Although the nazi movement is small, and the music scene is one of the few areas where they are having limited success, it is still nevertheless dangerous. While the Tory government is racist as hell, they don't actually go round encouraging people to petrol bomb Pakistani homes and assault them on the street, whereas the nazis believe in this very firmly. Taking into account there were 70,000 racist attacks in this country last year, is anyone going to try and tell us there is no connection between this figure and the nazis - and that they aren't a problem.

Ignoring the nazis only encourages them. It is a sad fact of life that in London you can go down Carnaby Street or Camden Market and see Swastikas openly on sale. This is nothing to do with punk or trying to shock or anything like that. They are on sale alongside Skrewdriver T-Shirts SS badges and other nazi merchandise. It is our lack of opposition that has given them the confidence to move into these areas and we are not prepared to let this go unchallenged. Having nazi symbols on display encourages the growth of nazi politics.



1930's "THEY DID NOT PASS", 1980's "THEY SHALL NOT PASS". THE FIGHT GOES ON. RED ACTION MEMBERS HELP DISRUPT AN NF ELECTION MEETING IN GREENWICH - IN THE TRADITIONAL MANNER. (JANUARY 1987).

Again this spread of influence is independent of the nazi parties and a result of the work of 'Blood and Honour', so it proves you can't judge the strength of the nazis by the number of votes they get (which at the moment is very few). By us not confronting their activities they have reached the stage where they now have the confidence to start attacking other gigs, bands like the Pogues, Desmond Dekker and the Upstarts have all had trouble recently. Back in the '70's the front started attacking gigs by bands who were opposed to them and this was only sorted out when they were confronted head on (and beaten) at three gigs. The anti-fascist movement cannot stand idly by while bands who have publicly condemned fascism are attacked. It only helps the nazis look stronger and that is what appeals to disaffected working class youth - an organisation that can do things, that isn't all mouth. It is therefore obvious that we have to prevent this happening. We see ourselves very much as part of the anti-fascist movement, which has to operate on many different levels. We can help the broader anti-fascist movement in other ways as well. By putting on gigs we can publicise the activities of the anti-fascist movement to a broader audience and similarly we can raise money for campaigns and people arrested on anti-fascist activities.

Our first major gig is an 'Anniversary of the Battle of Cable Street' gig at the Electric Ballroom on 4th October, featuring 'The Men They Couldn't Hang', 'Howling Wilf and the Vee Jays', 'Atilla' and the 'Neurotics'.

As we say in our propaganda, we want to recreate the spirit of militant anti-fascism that prevented the Blackshirts marching through the East End on 4th October 1936.

As well as starting a campaign to get rid of nazi symbols from Carnaby Street etc., we are planning to promote a gig with the Upstarts, a consistently anti-fascist band who the nazis want to prevent playing in Britain. We say it is the duty of all anti-fascists to ensure they do play again. This has nothing to do with whether you like the band or not - but is part of the fight against fascism - or in other words the fight for the hearts and minds of the 'alienated' youth of today.

Further information on Cable Street Beat available from:

PO Box 273  
Forest Gate,  
London  
E7.

## MORE THAN JUST A RED ACTION

In the last edition of the paper it was asserted that Red Action was the only left organisation to positively respond to an appeal from the Irish Republican Socialist Movement for sponsorship of their Prisoners of War. We have since learned that a number of other groups are lending their support. These include the Revolutionary Communist Group, the Internationalist Faction and Workers Press. The Irish Republican Socialist Party itself has its own support groups and other support groups have been established in various localities. Red Action has assisted in setting up six local support groups.

Full details of local support groups are available from:

I.R.S.P  
c/o James O'Brien,  
265 Seven Sisters Road,  
London N4.

"There are few more depressing aspects of the Thatcher era than the fact that many ordinary middle class Guardian readers should once again contemplate sending their off spring to these (public) schools in the misguided belief that they will acquire an education that will fit them for the 21st century. Mine suited me to be a district commissioner in the out post of an empire that had disappeared".

Richard Gott Journalist The Guardian.

## THANKYOU COMRADE

Dear Bros & Sisters,

We would like to take this opportunity to thank "Red Action" for the collection and card which were much appreciated. You will be pleased to hear that Micheal has made very good progress as of late and is on the mend. Apart from local collections yours was the first from the Labour Movement. We are still chuffed that it should be "Red Action". We look forward to seeing you soon, once again thanks.

Yours in unity,

Tom, Theresa, Kevin and Micheal

A letter from a Red Action supporter whose son was badly burned by a booby-trap bomb left in his local playground. An 18 year old youth, has been arrested and charged. The fact that the accused is a serving member of Her Majestys Armed Forces has meant the matter has been sensitively handled by the police, press and media. Full report next issue.

## RED ACTION ON MERSEYSIDE

If interested in finding out more/getting active in the North West or on Merseyside. There is a grouping of members and supporting members on Merseyside who can be contacted by writing to:

RED ACTION MERSEYSIDE  
P.O. BOX 80  
SOUTHPORT  
PR8 6BH

## SUPPORT RED ACTION



Red Action is an organisation founded by working class people to work for the furthering of the cause of Socialism. Membership is open to all who accept our political principles and pay a weekly subscription. Every member has an equal vote on all Red Action policy and decisions.

If you support our aims but do not wish to become a member, you can become a supporting member. This does not entitle you to vote, but you will receive:

1. A free subscription to the newspaper.
2. A regular internal newsletter that will keep you informed of what is going on in the organisation.
3. Notification of any Red Action activities in your area.

The cost for this is £10 for one year.

Subscriptions to the paper are still available separately. The cost is £3 pounds for ten issues. Please remember that producing a paper is a very uneconomic business and we are always very grateful for any donations, and especially grateful to anyone who can take extra copies to sell.

PO box 158  
Hatfield  
Herts

Sean Taggart - Unemployed bricklayer, Derry.

# LIVING poetry

WORK WITHOUT FACES

Some were selecting stones from the pile  
And marking them to be shaped to fit the bond  
Some were hawking in the fresh mortar  
And beating the stuff that had begun to dry  
Some were knelt to cut the precious stones  
And then stood to clear the chippings to the skip  
Craftsmen matched each cut with the pattern  
And scooped their mortar to bed each moulded stone  
We all worked on the line together  
Racing time against effort  
To build another man's wall

In anger I reached my mate a stone  
Paddy - where do we fit in their pattern  
And we the founds, the bricks, or mortar?  
Step back and point to yourself in the wall  
His eyes chipped at my question  
Mine shaped no answer  
Facing his doubts he bedded the stone  
And entered the pattern in fear  
It's our work, he murmured  
As he studied the fit

We're paid to labour: we need money to live  
So we sell ourselves each day to get by Paddy  
All we own is our tools: who owns our minds?  
Each clanging hammer stopped to listen  
What are you on about?  
One of them asked  
I started again  
From the beginning  
This time no-one turned away

Their schools design and discipline our minds  
And convince us we're parasites and fools  
Their newspapers sell us white lies in black ink  
And call it our freedom of speech  
Their priests dictate the principle of life  
As we kneel in their arena to receive their guilt  
Their bankers beckon offering cheap dreams on credit  
Trading countries for weapons in the name of peace  
We confuse work with freedom  
And fantasy for life  
And vote for the heir to the throne

It took so long to tell the truth  
There was so much that needed to be said  
Right until the last work they remained in doubt  
They weren't afraid  
Though they were defenceless, they resisted  
But every tut and snort revealed crumbling barriers  
That needed to come down  
For the first time in their lives  
They had stepped back  
And looked at their own individuality

They'd seen their worth  
The time that had been wasted  
Their faces tore with hatred  
At being kept ignorant and unaware  
Their hearts burned with desire for knowledge  
They stood to clear the chippings to the skip

# THE VOICE OF REASON



The following is a description by former Daily Mirror journalist John Pilger of his visit to a coal mine in Durham 1974:

"The noise of the drill was incessant, and the sting from the dust and water was believed only when I lay on my stomach in the slush and crawled under the stone and into the tunnel beside the coal face, which has three and a half feet high and slightly wider than my shoulders"...It looked like a scene from a Victorian etching, the men their bodies doubled and contorted following the machines. They reminded me of troops bringing up artillery under fire - their lives depended upon how they worked in every sense. ...This was another kind of front line"...It was twenty past eight in the morning. The walk and ride back seemed eternal, the breathing of the men in time with their long steps was metallic. Then at last, the cage up".

In a few weeks the monopolies and merger commission is expected to produce a report on coal industry efficiency, paving the way for an extension of the working day. Ministers are also expected to bring forward a Bill repealing the 1908 Hours of Work Act which restricts underground work in the mines to seven and a half hours. (Guardian September 6th).

So much for the many generations of Labour politicians who over the last 80 years have insisted that the system could be made to work in our favour and the real interests of the working class lay not in revolution but in compromise and reform. Tell it to the Miners.

Last month the Dictator of Pakistan General Zia was killed when his plane blew up minutes after take off. Ronald Reagan said of him; "The US was fortunate to have such a friend in President Zia" and Thatcher commented; "President Zia had won the admiration of the world for his support for the Afghan people".

In 1977 Zia staged an army coup and overthrew the democratically elected government of Ali Bhutto. In September 1979 despite appeals from virtually every government in the world, he hung his own Prime Minister.

A sympathetic obituary in the Guardian stated that under his rule the Islamic line was not "cruelly enforced - there were floggings but few amputations for instance". Only a few amputations? Oh well, thats all right then.

For Britain and the US Foreign policy is obviously dictated by the old maxim 'My enemy's enemy is my friend when you consider some of their friends; Pinochet, Stroessner, Noriega, Botha to name but a few. Another old saying springs to mind and appears equally valid: 'By their friends you shall know them'.

## ROUND-UP

The picket was part of an on-going campaign by the U.W.C to protest over the governments new Employment Training Programme

### P.+O. Strikers

Over the last few months, Red Action has held numerous street collections for the sacked P+O workers still on strike at Dover.

This picket marked the first T.V appearance of the Red Action banner, which will be available to sign autographs at demonstrations all over the country.

### Belfast

Once again Red Action members and supporters travelled to Belfast for the annual Anti-Internment march. This years visit was particularly successful due to the large number of 'first timers' who made the trip.

The march itself was smaller than previous years, due to bad weather, but still numbered several thousand.

### U.W.C.

As part of the Unemployed Workers Charter, Red Action members travelled to Bournemouth on September 5th to picket the T.U.C. conference.

While in Belfast, Red Action attended two informative and well attended meetings with our hosts the IRSP who once again we must thank for their hospitality and help in making the trip so enjoyable.

During an interview with CBS news Tom King in an obvious attempt to ingratiate himself to an American 'Pinko hating' audience, he denounced the IRA as "Marxists".

In the same week Geoffrey Taylor a reporter for the Guardian vehemently denied that the IRA were "Marxists at all", and in an effort to recreate the spirit of the blitz he insisted that they were in fact - "Fascists", and he "could see no reason why they should not be locked up as they were in the second world war when they were on Hitlers side".

For the propagandists of the establishment it quite obviously is a "case of horses for courses". He then dribbled on "would that they were Marxists. You can argue with Marxists, Marxists are generally humane. Marxists are generally civilised".

Mr Taylor and I must move in slightly different circles for the "street marxists" I know (as against the armchair variety) can - it is true - be rational and reasonable in discussion and debate. But in actually fighting for what they believe in they have struck me as being about as 'civilised' as a pitbull - with a habit. In his circle they would probably be known as conviction politicians.

## night thoughts

"You would have your usual anti-semitism among American soldiers, but I would never allow it where I was. I would swing out at it, physically. I got into plenty of fights...If you had brains and no money during the thirties you were a communist".

Walter Matthau - Actor.

"People don't even have the energy to commit suicide, so they switch on the television and vegetate in front of it, its easier".

Rev. Malcolm Cuthbertson on the Easterhouse Estate Glasgow, where over 60% are unemployed.

If (British) army intelligence is correct and the IRA consists of no more than 260 active members, then by tying up 12,000 troops, 8,000 RUC, 6,000 UDR and contingents from the SAS, MIS and government communications headquarters it is doing better, proportionately, than the special operations executive did against the Germans in occupied France during the last war.

James Rusbridger - Sunday Telegraph.

### 'Join us, we're winning'

A successful recruiting slogan for the IRA in Tyrone according to local priest Father Denis Faul. Observer September 4th.

"Britain (government) seems to think environmental health is a class issue, that only applies to the lower classes, so who cares".

Ellen Silbergeld, Toxicologist of the Environmental Defend Fund Washington, Evening Standard September 1st.

"Planting a bomb by stealth in a barracks takes courage and cunning akin in these days of Aranda Commemorations to singeing the King of Spains Beard".

General Sir Anthony Farrar Hockley former Commander-in-Chief of British Forces in the six counties, writing in the Times about the IRA.

Officers joke about the difference between 'information' and 'evidence'. 'Information' is how you know he did it. 'Evidence' is how it is proved in court. And when did you last hear of an officer speak of an accused man, being found not guilty, they talk of criminals getting off. I was taken aback to find among lawyer friends that none doubted that the Met. sometimes fabricate evidence.

Matthew Parris - Former Tory MP. Sunday Telegraph.

Suicides by members of the RUC have increased five fold in the last 10 years according to a study by a Belfast psychiatrist between 1976 and 1986. There were 35 suicides by RUC officers 34 of whom shot themselves with their own guns, compared to 7 between 1966 and 1976.

Guardian September 1st.

"There can be no united Ireland without the total defeat of the IRA and its murderous gangs north and south of the border".

Schizophrenic Editorial Sunday Mirror.

"They asked me if I wanted to play a bit part. They wanted me to play a policeman but I'm a straight person now. I'm too straight to play a policeman".

- Great Train Robber, Buster Edwards, about the film 'Buster'.

"It's hard being black. You ever been black? I was black once...when I was poor".  
-Larry Holmes, former heavyweight boxing champion.

# WE ARE RED ACTION

RED ACTION IS AN ORGANISATION FOUNDED TO WORK TOWARDS THE ENDING OF THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM OF PRODUCTION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOCIALIST ONE

**CAPITALISM** The need of capital and labour cannot ever be reconciled. In other words the quest by the employing classes for greater profit, is in eternal conflict with the demands of the working class for higher wages, shorter hours etc. It is in the obvious interest of the employer to keep wages down as low as possible while it is equally obvious that this does not serve the interests of the majority. The two systems capitalism and socialism cannot co-exist, as they are in constant struggle pulling in opposite directions, each in pursuit of its own goals. A victory for one is necessarily a defeat for the other. This is the major source of conflict in the world today. Capitalism is a system which is based on the private ownership of the means of production. This means that the factories, workplaces, natural resources etc, on which we all depend to produce the necessities of life are the private property of a few individuals, who use them to produce not what is most socially necessary, but whatever will make them the most profit. When it suits them, they are able to close down those productive resources, even though there may be great social need for what could be produced on them. Regardless of how rich a country may be in natural resources, capitalism can never provide equality of wealth due to its own inherent limitations. It is obviously impossible for everybody to become a capitalist (employer) and so to function, the system demands the creation and maintenance of an employing class and a working class, or if you like an upper class and lower class. Propping up this system, are the forces of social control—army, police force, civil service etc—all controlled by totally unelected and un-accountable representatives of the capitalist class.

**SOCIALISM** It is impossible for us today to say exactly what a socialist system will be like, as when it happens there will be millions of others involved in shaping it. However there are some features that would have to be present in any society, before we would be willing to consider it as socialist.

**PUBLIC OWNERSHIP** Only when all of the major productive resources and industry are taken into public ownership, will it be possible for the democratic will of the majority to ensure that they are at all times employed in the most socially useful manner. This will result in a massive increase in production and wealth.

**CONTROL OF SOCIETY** All those who occupy positions of power and authority will be elected by those they represent and subject to recall.

**FREEDOM AND EQUALITY** All will be expected to contribute to production and all will receive equal reward and have equal rights, irrespective of sex, race or creed. The state will provide adequate facilities to cater for the needs of the elderly, sick, handicapped, nursing mothers etc, who will all receive a full wage. All questions of personal morality will be free from state interference. Abortion and contraception will be legal and provided by the state. There will be freedom of worship for all religion, but no church will be allowed to interfere in state matters.

**INTERNATIONALISM** The capitalist economic system is linked up internationally, therefore the struggle to overthrow it is a worldwide one. All workers everywhere have the same interests. It is impossible for socialism to exist in isolation in one country, as the power of international capitalism would crush it.

**NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD TO SOCIALISM** Socialism cannot be achieved through the parliamentary system, because the real power in society lays not with elected MPs but with rich industrialists and the leaders of the armed forces, police judiciary etc. The present structures cannot be reformed they must be overthrown. The Labour Party does not try to end capitalism, but merely give the workers a better deal within it.

**UNION STRENGTH. WE SUPPORT ANY PICKET LINE IN DEFENCE OF WORKERS LIVING STANDARDS.** We support a strong organised rank and file movement within the unions. Union officials should be supported as long as they represent their members correctly. But rank and file unionists must reserve the right to take action independent of the officials when necessary.

**TOTAL OPPOSITION TO RACISM AND FASCISM** We opposed any movement or ideology which attempts to divide the working class on grounds of race, sex, or creed. We recognise the need to oppose fascist organisations, both ideologically and physically on the streets.

**THE IRISH NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE AGAINST OUR OWN RULING CLASS** We support the right of oppressed people the world over to fight back. We unconditionally support the right of the revolutionary armies The Irish Republican Army, and the Irish National Liberation Army, to engage in armed struggle to free their country from British rule. We draw great inspiration from the principled and courageous manner in which they conduct their struggle, and from the way in which they have integrated cultural and class expression into their political movement.

**THE "COMMUNIST" STATES** The regimes in countries such as Russia, China Cuba etc, are used as examples to try and prove socialism undesirable. In our view, although these countries have planned economies, they cannot be described as socialist. We contend that socialism cannot be implemented from above by an unaccountable ruling elite. Public ownership, freedom and democracy are all essential features of socialism and in their absence it cannot exist. We support the right of the people in these states to overthrow the leadership and implement socialist policies. At the same time however, we recognise the difficulties that states such as Nicaragua—and others past and present—face, from capitalist backed mercenary armies, military intervention, and economic sabotage, which make immediate transition to a socialist system impossible. While these states remain progressive, we will continue to support them.

**THE ORGANISATION** Traditionally, the structure of revolutionary socialist groups in this country, has been one where the leadership is made up of a small group of self selected academics and intellectual, who wield absolute authority over the membership. Such a structure fails, firstly because there can be no true democracy in such a set up, and corruption soon sets in, and secondly because those leading the organisation are so far removed from the realities of working class life, it cannot relate properly to that class. A revolutionary socialist organisation must be composed of and led by working class people. It must recognise that no leadership is immune from corruption and be truly democratic in its internal structures. It must be ready to work in a non sectarian manner with other socialist and progressive groups. It must present socialist politics in a manner in which working class people can identify with in their life and their work and their leisure. It must be consistent, principled and above all honest in its politics. Only then will it begin to be able to relate to the working class, most of whom today are cynical if not hostile towards the revolutionary left. We recognise that a revolutionary working class party is necessary if capitalism is to be overthrown. We are not that party, neither are those groups which claim to be it. We will work to keep alive a tradition of working class militancy, until such time as enough militants can be brought together to form that party.