

Arm The Spirit

For Revolutionary Resistance

Solidarity With
International
Women's
Day!!



JAN-MAR
1991
No. 6

The War Never Ended...

The war continues as always. It is, and has been, aimed at Third World peoples throughout history. The "New World Order" of U.S. imperialism marks the beginning of a new phase in this war of exploitation and domination of the Third World. With the collapse of state socialism in Eastern Europe we are now seeing the conflict shifting from East/West to North/South. In the wake of the "Cold War" and with the capitalist restructuring of the former "socialist" countries in Eastern Europe the imperialist states can concentrate on an increased exploitation of the South. Any challenge to this, as has been evidenced, will be met with brutal repression.

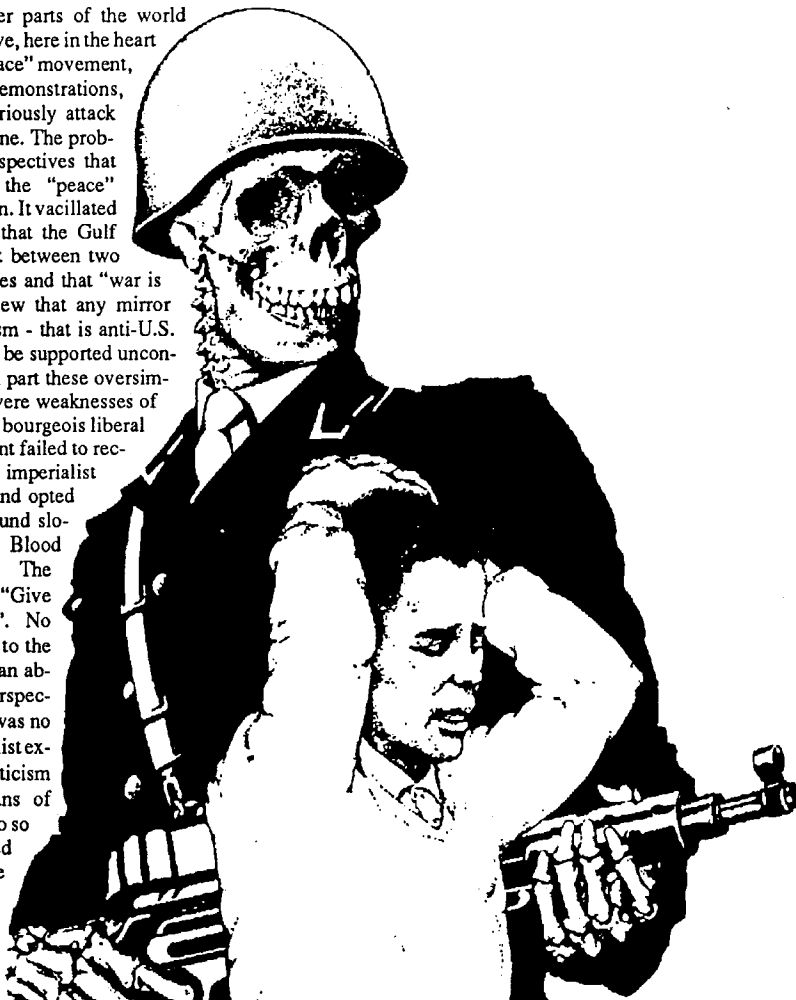
The invasion of Kuwait afforded the U.S. the opportunity to intervene militarily in the Middle East in order to protect its economic interests and to establish a permanent military presence in the region. The U.S. has a long history of maintaining its imperialist hegemony in the Gulf region: its support of the dictatorial regime of the Shah and the continued Zionist occupation of Palestine, to list but a few. The U.S. did not condemn the gassing of Kurdish people in 1988 by the Iraqi government, until it was expedient to do so in the context of the Gulf War. Yet Turkey, a NATO ally, has brutally repressed the Kurdish liberation struggle in its country, of which the U.S. makes no mention. U.S. foreign policy is clearly selective in its support for dictatorial regimes which fall in line with its economic designs while repressing those liberation struggles which seek to free themselves from the yoke of U.S. imperialism.

In recent years there has been a process of restructuring within the world-wide capitalist system that has given rise to the formation of economic blocs. These blocs as represented by the U.S., the European Economic Community and Japan have attempted to consolidate their interests as they become increasingly competitive with each other. In Europe the process of restructuring has seen the construction of a "super-state" of which the recently unified Germany is the leading force. This is seen as a threat to U.S. capital which had built its economy on massive military spending during the arms race of the 80's. With the end of the so-called "Cold War" this military cornerstone of the economy was being rapidly eroded. The process of restructuring in the U.S. capitalist bloc was being facilitated through the "Free Trade" agreement between the U.S. and Canada. This allowed U.S. multi-nationals greater access to natural resources and larger markets. In recent months Mexico has entered into discussions with the U.S. to expand the "Free Trade" agreement. There is now even the possibility of Chile entering into this. While the U.S. touts the benefits of this restructuring it is becoming clear that only U.S. capital will benefit while others suffer. With the decline of the military build-up and cuts in defense spending, the consolidation of the U.S. economic bloc was in crisis. The Gulf War stabilized this crisis. In short order and with minimum loss the U.S. has revitalized its arms industry, renewed defense expenditures and U.S. multi-nationals will rebuild Kuwait at great profit.

And the opposition to all of this? In North America it was constrained by the bounds of legality. While

movements in other parts of the world went on the offensive, here in the heart of the beast the "peace" movement, while mobilizing demonstrations, was not able to seriously attack the U.S. war machine. The problem lay in the perspectives that various parts of the "peace" movement had taken. It vacillated between the view that the Gulf War was a conflict between two equally guilty parties and that "war is wrong" and the view that any mirror image of imperialism - that is anti-U.S. opposition - was to be supported unconditionally. It was in part these oversimplified views that were weaknesses of the movement. The bourgeois liberal part of the movement failed to recognize the racist, imperialist nature of the war and opted instead to rally around slogans such as: "No Blood For Oil", "Bring The Troops Home" and "Give Peace A Chance". No doubt this was due to the fact that there was an absence of a class perspective and that there was no criticism of imperialist exploitation, only criticism of a military means of achieving this. To do so would have exposed their dependence upon this exploitation to maintain their class privilege. On the other hand a section of the movement supported the Iraqi government to the point of being uncritical of its actions and being apologists to its worst excesses. All in the name of "anti-imperialism". The real struggles in the Middle East will be won by the peoples themselves not by dictatorial regimes which claim to represent the will of these peoples. This means solidarity with the Kurdish (something conveniently forgotten about by certain "anti-imperialists") and Palestinian liberation struggles; and solidarity with those people in revolt against the dictatorial regimes of Turkey, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Kuwait.

For us genuine anti-imperialism and real solidarity is achieved by fighting in the imperialist centres to disrupt their smooth functioning. Resistance movements which are built here must base themselves within a perspective of class opposition. Much of the left (but obviously not all) is content to support liberation struggles in other parts of the world while ignoring those struggles happening on their very doorsteps. Concrete anti-imperialism means building not only resistance within those struggles which are occurring here, but being able to fight alongside those struggles happening



The Face Of The New World Order

elsewhere. This for us is genuine internationalist solidarity. The movement here failed to go on the offensive and failed to sabotage the U.S. war machine. Discussion around the movement's failure to react offensively has to begin in some form.

This is by no means a complete analysis, indeed it only scratches the surface. We are only offering up one perspective out of many, but we hope that it can add to the discussion and the debate around the Gulf War and its aftermath.

We Have A New Address:

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War On The Warmakers!

With this chronology we have attempted to give a brief overview of the armed actions that have taken place since (and before) the U.S. led attack on Iraq. Most of this information has been gleaned from alternative sources but we had to rely on the capitalist media for some of it. Needless to say the capitalist press has not covered the scope and width of anti-war resistance particularly that of armed resistance. With the numerous and diverse initiatives that have taken place we have decided to focus on the more militant and armed attacks.

WAR AGAINST WAR!

As part of an international resistance and action day, against the USA and NATO's Gulf war, we, tonight, the 15/02/91, firebombed a Danish branch of the French concern CITROEN (Backersvej 17 Copenhagen).

Our attack, is to be seen in connection with the military engagement in the Gulf war.

The CITROEN industries is an important part of the French military-industrial weapon production, which is currently being used in the war against Iraq.

The UN hunger-campaign (sanctions - ed.) and the USA/NATO terror-bombings against the Iraqi population, makes it necessary to build a comprehensive and many-sided resistance against the war, right here in their own backyard: Anyone who makes profit on and/or is participating in this barbaric war, should be attacked by opponents of war, in one way or another!

USA AND NATO OUT OF THE GULF!

NO TO AN INTERNATIONAL EEC - USA - AND ISRAELI LOBBY DOMINATED MID-EAST CONFERENCE. SUCH A CONFERENCE IS NOTHING MORE THAN THE EEC "ALTERNATIVE" TO THE MILITARY-POLITICAL COURSE OF THE USA!

THE REAL ALTERNATIVE IS:

**UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT TO THE KURDISH AND PALESTINIAN PEOPLES STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE!
SUPPORT FOR ANY INITIATIVE TOWARDS REVOLT, COMING FROM THE ARABIAN, IRANIAN AND TURKISH PEOPLE AIMED AGAINST THEIR DICTATORIAL REGIMES!**

A GREETING OF SOLIDARITY TO THE IMPRISONED COMRADES OF ACTION DIRECTE, WHO SINCE 02/01/91 HAVE BEEN ON HUNGER-STRIKE, FIGHTING FOR THE ABOLITION OF ISOLATION-TORTURE, AND FOR UNIFICATION IN PRISON-COLLECTIVES!

RESISTANCE! NO QUIET IMPERIALIST BACKYARD!

"A COUNTRY, WHICH OPPRESSES ANOTHER, CAN NOT BE FREE ITSELF"

(Rosa Luxembourg)

THE GROUP WAR AGAINST WAR!

Beirut, Lebanon - a bomb explodes at a Lebno-Francaise bank.

Jan. 23

Beirut, Lebanon - bombs go off at the French embassy and a branch of the Saudi-Riadh bank. As well a French bank in Baalbek is attacked.

Jan. 24

Santiago, Chile - attack against a U.S. firm. Attacks also take place in Brazil.

Jan. 25

Athens, Greece - November 17 (a Greek guerrilla group) takes responsibility for the following bombings in Athens: Citibank (a U.S. bank), Barclays (a British bank) and the vehicle of the French Military Attache. A

fourth bomb at another Citibank branch fails to detonate.

Jan. 26

Paris, France - a large anti-war demo later turns into a riot. As well a bomb goes off at the offices of the leftist newspaper Liberation. The newspaper supports the U.S. attack in the Gulf.

Lima, Peru - guerrillas detonate a carbomb at the International airport. As well MRTA (Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement) guerrillas fire instalaza rockets at the U.S. embassy. Later the next week MRTA fires 5 mortar rounds at the embassy again. They have also taken responsibility for attacks on the American Peruvian Cultural Institute and a monument to John F. Kennedy. The Italian embassy has also been attacked.

Washington, D.C. - anti-war demo with police claiming 75,000 people, organizers claiming 250,000. During the march a group of people throw paintbombs, smash windows and spraypaint various targets including the FBI, Justice and Treasury buildings. As well a number of banks have their windows smashed and the World Bank gets spraypainted and has some windows smashed.

Adana, Turkey - the U.S. consulate and a Turkish-American organization are attacked. No one has claimed responsibility at this time.

Beirut, Lebanon - banks affiliated with France and Saudi Arabia are attacked. In Sidon a Franza bank is attacked. This apparently raises the number to 7 of foreign interests in Lebanon that have been attacked.

Berlin, Germany - a Woolworths (U.S. department store chain) is firebombed.

San Juan, Puerto Rico - a pipebomb explodes at a U.S. military recruiting station.

Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - two U.S. airline offices are bombed.

Jan. 27

Athens, Greece - the Greek guerrilla group, November 17, is believed responsible for the bombing of the Inter-American insurance company. No one is injured but lot's of property damage.

Jan. 28

Athens, Greece - an explosion near the British Petroleum offices is again believed to be the work of November 17. A group called "IFN" fires a rocket at the American Express offices. Again no one was injured and all actions in the last few days are against the U.S./U.N. attack in the Gulf.

Jan. 29

Izmir, Turkey - two Turkish leftist guerrilla groups attack 3 separate U.S. and French targets.

Jan. 30

Istanbul, Turkey - considerable property damage is caused when bombs go off at U.S. and British interests as well as the Italian consulate.

Ankara, Turkey - two U.S. military vehicles are torched. Dev Sol executes a retired general, Hulusi Sayin, who used to be a military commander in the Kurdish regions of Turkey.

Feb. 2

Sanaa, Yemen - a bomb goes off at the French embassy. **Lamaka, Cyprus** - bombs go off at a Barclays Bank and an American Express Bank.

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Jan. 13

Puyallup, WA - an Army recruiting station is firebombed and two police cars are also damaged.

Seattle, WA - a couple of molotovs are thrown at the Federal Building.

Jan. 15

San Francisco, CA - 4000-5000 people block the doors of the Federal Building during the morning and early afternoon and prevent over 8,000 Federal employees from going to work. 400 people are arrested during the blockade. Afterwards there is a march to the Bay Bridge which is occupied by over thousand people. Another demonstration organized by Roots Against War starts from the Mission District in Latino and Chicano communities and proceeds towards the Financial District. Conservative police estimates claimed 30,000 demonstrators but the number was much higher. Riots started and huge bonfires were built in the streets. Windows were smashed, lots of spraypainting takes place and at one point people broke into a Citicorp bank. Later on 1,000 people attempt to occupy the Bay Bridge again but are attacked by police. At 11:15 p.m. it is believed that every police official in the city is on duty. The day ended with over 600 arrests.

Jan. 16

Berlin, Germany - the Revolutionary Cells detonate a bomb at the Victory Statue.

Jan. 17

San Francisco, CA - actions took place all over the city with the biggest taking place at the Federal Building where thousands blocked entrances. It's also reported that a recruiting centre was trashed and that two police cars were set on fire. Later in the evening a march took place through the Financial District which was attacked by police with teargas or mace (we're not sure which one it was). Late at night protestors attacked banks and other targets in the Financial District.

Milan, Italy - molotovs are thrown at a British school and an American library in protest of the U.S. attack.

Germany - hundreds of thousands protest against the U.S. attack with fighting between demonstrators and police breaking out in Hamburg, Frankfurt and Berlin.

Jan. 18

Kiel, Germany - the windows of the Kennedy-Haus Cultural Centre are smashed.

Jan. 20

Beirut, Lebanon - a bomb explodes at a British bank in W. Beirut and the Italian embassy is hit by a rocket propelled grenade.

Jan. 21

Istanbul, Turkey - a NATO maintenance facility is attacked by the Turkish guerrilla group Dev Sol.

Red Army Fraction Communique

**WAR TO THE IMPERIALIST WAR!
US-NATO OUT OF THE MIDDLE EAST!
SABOTAGE, DESERT, ATTACK!
SOLIDARITY WITH THE HUNGERSTRIKE OF
OUR IMPRISONED COMRADES FROM AC-
TION DIRECTE AND GRAPO/PCE(r)!
ASSOCIATION OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS
IN WEST-EUROPE!
SOLIDARITY WITH THE STRUGGLE OF THE
POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE ISOLATION
UNITS IN THE US!
STOP THE EXECUTION OF MUMIA ABU-JA-
MAL!**

**SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLES OF THE
MIDDLE EAST AGAINST IMPERIALIST DE-
STRUCTION AND OPPRESSION!**

**IMMEDIATE STOP OF THE GENOCIDE OF THE
PEOPLE OF IRAQ!**

Today we have shot at the U.S. embassy in Bonn with the Commando Vincenzo Spano, because from the beginning the U.S. has taken on the leading role in the war of destruction against the people of Iraq. With our action we place ourselves in one line with all those who around the world have stood up against this U.S.-NATO genocide.

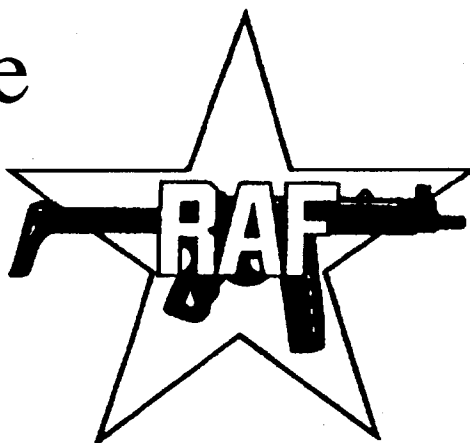
International solidarity is the tenderness of the peoples!

For the imperialist states this war is the first step to push through their new world order for the first time after the cold war. In the interest of imperialism, the Iraqi regime for years has waged war; it has led a war of extermination in a horrendous fashion - even with the use of poison gas - against the Kurdish people. In the last time, Iraq was more and more concerned with expanding its own power position in the region in the Middle East. The Middle East is a politically unstable region for the imperialists. On the one hand, through the struggle of the Palestinian liberation movement, the long breath of the Intifada, the pressure has been created which puts the question for a basic political change on the agenda again and again. On the other hand, it has been clear for a long time, that the ruling cliques in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan and so on are being threatened, sooner or later, by being blown away by their peoples. That is why in this region, whose oil the western multi-nationals and the West-European countries are depending on, no power is supposed to develop which is not under absolute control of the imperialist bloc.

These are the reasons why today the imperialist countries wage this war against a former ally. Imperialism doesn't have any morals. The Saddam Hussein-Hitler comparisons are the propagandist twist through which the ruling powers want to achieve the - from many people non-existent - agreement for this war.

But to this system, any Hitler, Shamir, Ozal, Pinochet, Christiani and whatever their names are, is a friend - as long as he - no matter with what means - pushes the interests of international capital through.

For the U.S., this war is the welcomed occasion to more strongly link the question of the leadership role within the western bloc to military strength. At the same time, they of course want to rehabilitate their wrecked economy with this war. At the moment, at the Gulf there



also takes place the struggle of competition of the imperialist core countries or centers among each other about the future control and leadership position in the Middle Eastern region and the leadership position within the imperialist camp. The federal government is conscious of the fact that greater Germany cannot become a new world power solely out of the economic potential of FRG capital. The Fourth Reich needs the unleashed military machine for that, as urgently as the Nazis needed it before. After 45 years the interests of German capital are to be pushed through finally with the whole brutality of the war machinery.

At the moment all preparations are taking place for that. The deployment of the federal army (bundeswehr - ed.) in Turkey and its logistical involvement in this war are first practical steps. With the vehicle of a UN-mission for the federal army, greater Germany wants to create itself, finally again, a free hand for the military submission and looting of the peoples - after the UN, IMF and Worldbank have been made instruments of imperialist war waging against the oppressed peoples. The war in the Middle East is a war of the rich against the poor. As the comrades of the 17th of November in Greece have said:

"The imperialist states are waging a war of scorched earth in Iraq, the amount of death and suffering that is being brought onto a people by the many thousand tons of bombs and the aerial bombardments of the American B-52 bombers, has not been forgotten by the oppressed of this world since Vietnam."

Israel and Turkey are using this genocide against the Iraqi people in order to increase war and terror against the Palestinian and Kurdish people. The Turkish regime - supported by the federal army and other NATO-troops - bombs Kurdish villages and has murdered thousands of people in the border regions. Israel again bombs Palestinian camps in south Lebanon and terrorizes the population in the occupied territories. The Zionist state wants to expel the Palestinians for once and for all and wants to annex parts of Lebanon and Jordan.

Solidarity with the Palestinian Intifada and the Kurdish liberation struggle!

The huge mobilization against this war of extermination has surprised and scared the ruling forces in the FRG. After a year in which the federal government had itself and the re-establishment of greater Germany and the "victory of the system of free enterprise" being celebrated, they are being confronted today with the fact that many people have retained a sense for the fact, that their interests are belonging together with the interests of the people in the Middle East and not with the ruling forces in this world.

The weapon of the psychological warfare with which all those are being denounced by the federal government as well as by the state-supporting left as

racists and anti-semites who have stood up against this genocide, needs to be made blunt. The solidarity with the Iraqi people against the imperialist extermination is part of the struggle of us below against those above. There, where the struggle is being led out of this consciousness, such denunciations are running into empty space. The anti-imperialist struggle belongs directly together with the processes of asserting the concrete living interests of the people, or to stop imperialist destruction processes - both together are one process in which the oppressed are building counter power in concrete steps and push back the imperialist power worldwide.

We want to tell those, who in the last weeks have taken to the streets against this war - for peace - : you have to deal with the fact that imperialist war lies in the logic of the imperialist system. This system produces isolation and competitive pressure, each one against the other, in the "rich" countries. Any human sense of life is to be destroyed. Instead many are supposed to search for their identity in being objective in the consumption terror. Imperialism will always wage wars then, when somewhere in the world its power is in danger. It will not stop to force its determination onto the living interests of the peoples - with force, with money, with lies, with the whole range of its means of domination. There will only be a self-determined life for all without exploitation and oppression, when we have broken the power of the imperialist system. One step in that direction is the coming together of the different initiatives against this genocide:

- in the attacks of revolutionary groups everywhere in the world against the political and military power of U.S.A. and NATO;
- in the blockades against the stockmarkets, the NATO-military bases and in all initiatives, demos, vigils, refusals to military service, sabotage-actions, in which for the people the discussion starts, to conquer and own consciousness, which is independent from the ruling forces, about what is right and necessary.

To the people who have been doing the vigil in front of the U.S.-embassy since the beginning of the war in the gulf: it is likely that you have received a pretty big shock. We have mixed our ammunition with lightning ammunition (tracer bullets - ed.), in order for you to see immediately, where exactly the shooting takes place and so that none of you runs in the wrong direction out of shock. Surely, the media will now proclaim: we has almost executed you. That is bullshit. We knew exactly for the whole time where you had your camp, and we have also, before we started to shoot at the U.S.-embassy, controlled that path down at the Rhine.

Red Army Fraction 14/02/91



Resistance Conspiracy Case Ends

On December 6/90 the Resistance Conspiracy Case finally came to an end with the sentencing of Laura Whitehorn and Linda Evans. This marked the close of a political trial in which the U.S. government had been attempting to pursue its ongoing policy of burying revolutionaries, in particular those who have pursued the path of armed resistance, in prison. Linda and Laura's sentencing was the result of the May/88 indictment by the U.S. government of 7 anti-imperialist revolutionaries (one of whom is currently in clandestinity) on the charges of conspiracy and the bombings of various corporate, military and government targets. In the summer of 1990 the 6 decided to enter into a plea bargain situation because of Alan Berkman's rapidly deteriorating health (see A.T.S.#4). As a result the charges against Tim Blunk, Susan Rosenberg and Alan Berkman were dropped and Linda, Laura and Marilyn Buck agreed to plead guilty to two counts of the conspiracy charge and to the Capitol bombing. On November 16/90 Marilyn was sentenced to an additional 10 years which was to be served consecutively with her already 70-year sentence. On December 6/90 Laura and Linda were both sentenced with Linda receiving two additional 5 year sentences which were to be served concurrently with her already 35-year sentence. It was Laura, facing no current prison sentence, who was to receive the harshest treatment when she was sentenced to 20 years. The state prosecution claimed that she was the main instigator behind the many actions and subsequently she should be made to receive the harshest sentence. The judge, of course, needed little persuasion to follow this so-called "line of reasoning". Because Laura was not previously serving any prison sentence, unlike the others, it was conceivable that she could be out within a relatively short time. This was the main reason for the government's decision to give her the maximum possible sentence not the bogus reasons that the prosecution gave.

With the final sentencings the RCC comrades were dispersed throughout the U.S. prison system. Alan Berkman who had been receiving chemotherapy treatments for his recurrence of cancer (Hodgkins disease) has been moved to a prison in Rochester, Minnesota. During the latter part of 1990 Alan's condition was life-threatening and a campaign was undertaken to have him released on parole. Since then his health has improved and while he has not received parole he has been transferred to a prison where he can receive better medical treatment if he requires it. Marilyn and Susan were sent to F.C.I. Marianna in Florida, Linda to F.C.I. Pleasanton in California and Laura to F.C.I. Lexington in Kentucky. Tim has been sent to U.S.P. Marion, the Bureau of Prison's supermax prison, in Illinois.

Linda Backiel

On December 10, 1990, Linda Backiel, a long-time political activist lawyer was thrown in jail indefinitely for civil contempt for refusing to testify before a grand jury. Linda was refusing to testify about her former client Betty Ann Duke, the seventh member of the Resistance Conspiracy Case, who escaped to freedom a while ago. Linda is a strong legal and political supporter of the Puerto Rican independence movement; most recently defending Filiberto Ojeda Rios (see A.T.S. #5). Letters of love and support should be mailed to Linda Backiel, A-40, Bucks County Correctional Facility, 1730 S. Easton Road, Doylestown, PA 18901 USA.

The end of the Resistance Conspiracy Case marked the finish of the major political trials that had taken place throughout the 80's involving captured guerrillas from the anti-imperialist resistance in the U.S. After a number of actions had taken place in the early 80's involving the United Freedom Front, the Revolutionary Armed Task Force and Red Guerrilla Resistance (and Direct Action here in Canada), the state's counter-insurgency measures began to take their toll on the guerrilla resistance with the capture of a number of combatants. While it can't be assumed that all of the guerrillas have been captured it is safe to say that the various organizations had either been broken or weakened to the point of being incapable of carrying on the fight. As it is there has been no major armed actions since 1985 involving guerrillas from the anti-imperialist resistance. With this phase of the armed struggle over there is a pressing need for an analysis of those actions that took place in the early 80's. The discussion around armed resistance has been rapidly declining since the mid-80's and if the anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist struggle is to be revitalized there needs to be a renewal of this discussion. This is particularly important in the wake of the Persian Gulf War. Of the questions that need to be asked, some of the more important ones are; why wasn't the armed resistance movement able to sustain itself, and why wasn't it able to base itself within popular movements and subsequently be able to reproduce itself? Of course there are many other questions to ask but essentially these questions form the main crux of any discussion that is to begin. Obviously these are not new questions but with the lack of discussion taking place there is a need to put them forth yet again.

Essential to any discussion of course will be the participation of the political prisoners and prisoners of war. Although they have been captured this does not mean they no longer have the capacity to fight, they are now simply fighting on a different level. The interaction of the prisoners with the movements on the outside is essential for the revitalization of resistance movements. With that we encourage people to keep in contact with the RCC comrades as well as other political prisoners and prisoners of war.

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We do not have Alan Berkman's address at this time but hopefully we'll be able to put it in the next issue.

Message to supporters, family, friends, from the Resistance Conspiracy 6

Greetings to all of you, our sisters and brothers, our families and friends. Thank you, all of you, for your solidarity.

Despite Judge Greene's pronouncement and sentences today, together we made it clear in that courtroom that there is no case against freedom.

Resistance to US government crimes of war, aggression and genocide is justified and necessary.

When we came here 2 and 1/2 years ago we were the "Capitol bombers", the "terrorists", the outcasts of the Left movement. We lived in shackles and chains, we knew almost no one in this city. Six people faced 40 to 45 additional years in prison. Our commitment to anti-imperialism together with the solidarity of countless people enabled us to turn repression into resistance. We stopped the government from isolating and criminalizing us, our politics, and our movement. We all began to relearn the lesson that if the government can do it to us, they can do it to all who resist.

It is our firm belief that we waged a successful fight against the state's attack.

Many people have asked us, "What happens now?" We believe that all of us must intensify our work - to build a movement that is politically prepared and capable of stopping US military aggression in the Persian Gulf, in Central America, or the attacks on the African-American community here in D.C. We have seen a change in the years that we have been in prison. More people are conscious that political prisoners exist in prisons across this country. But awareness alone is not enough. Our freedom can only be won when the political price that the government must pay to hold 150 of us is too high, and that can only happen in concert with developing revolutionary alternatives and a resistance movement. We hope that the struggle to free all political prisoners and p.o.w.'s will become an integral part of your overall political work, because it is an integral part of the fight for justice.

** Alan's fight for life and his human right to medical treatment is an immediate struggle and we ask all of you to build support for the campaign to free him, and to guarantee his placement in a hospital that can ensure his recovery.

** Mumia Abu Jamal's fight against his impending execution will not be successful without an all-out effort of resistance from every corner.

All of you have helped us to feel alive, to be productive, to forge political association and propel our spirit of resistance. Don't let the walls go back up between us. We've been able to reach one another through the U.S. government security shield, through the walls of the prison. Now, as we are sent off to the federal prisons, it will take even more struggle to maintain our connection. Don't let the walls of Marion and Marianna bury us. Because together we can and will win.



Statement From Anti-Imperialist Women Political Prisoners At Marianna Prison, USA

Historically, we have joined together as women on International Women's Day to celebrate our heritage, acknowledge our history, underline our continued subjugation, press our demands and resist the inequalities that confront us. We did it empowered by the knowledge that in every nation in the world, other women were also raising their voices and fists. This year, March 8, occurs in the shadow of a barbarous episode of United States aggression; the extent of the destruction still unknown, maybe never to be fully revealed. We gather filled with the images of women and children wounded, maimed, dead: the "collateral damage" of allies' "surgically precise" bombardments.

While others cheer the victory, we as women must redouble our efforts to mobilize and organize against the actions of the United States, in support of the self-determination of nations and peoples. As women we raise our voices in solidarity with the people of the Middle East and in particular the Palestinians, the abandoned, invisible, other targets of this war. The hostilities might temporarily ceased, but the war is not over! We are at the beginning of a protracted U.S. military occupation of a large part of the Middle East. The troops are not coming home; they will remain there to impose the will of the United States and its allies and to assure the longevity of feudal ruling dynasties that history has already by-passed. Any hopes for redressing regional grievances through mass democratic movements such as the Intifada will now face an obdurate wall of U.S. marines. Despite the turgid rhetoric emanating Washington, autocracy, women's oppression and backward economic relationships will be reinforced by the presence of the United States. This is the "new world order" commanded by Bush.

If polls are believable, a large portion of women in the United States did support this war. The spectacle of battle-fatigued female soldiers is insufficient to win us over. Could it be that our responsibilities as providers, nurturers, educators, and parents fill our consciousness with a different agenda? We, who must feed the children, care for the sick and dying, find shelter when none is available, clean the wounds left by the increasingly violent, racist, and homophobic attacks, experience the day-to-day reality of the "new world order". The domestic face of war and aggression is increased poverty and degradation. When the bill is finally presented for this "new world order", women and children will the first to pay.

The cost is not limited to economics. Repression, racism, sexism, and homophobia are the other immeasurable debts accumulating the United States. Racial stereotypes are multiplying, reproducing some of the worst caricatures of past years. Arabs have been equated to demons and people have lost compassion for fellow human beings. A prisoner here said: "Let's just turn the place into a parking lot"; it was received with overwhelming applause. Dissent is being silenced; there is a concerted effort to isolate those who disagree. At our prison we were told no discussion of the war would be tolerated while the staff displayed increasingly large flags, buttons and yellow ribbons. Black History Month was used to mobilize support for the war. The majority of the invited speakers represented the most reactionary elements in the African-American community. All these efforts were only partially successful. Dissent continued and the opposition on the outside gave encouragement to those who resisted this manipulation.

As a movement we had a preview of our capacities.

Thousands came into the streets to express condemnation of U.S. military aggression. Yet the world-wide anti-war forces did not stop the war or the bombings and murder of more than 100,000 Iraqi people. The movement has not been successful in forcing the U.S. to uphold the Palestinian people's right to return to their land and end Israeli occupation. We have not won, but we have not definitely lost. The struggle continues.

The upsurge of the last several months may end and the numbers of people in motion may diminish but the contradictions at home, in this prisonhouse of nations and nationalities will continue. 25 years ago, the Black Liberation struggle brought the war home from Vietnam and challenged the society to its white supremacist core; that challenge is more urgent now. In opposing war and aggression abroad, let us not forget the war at home.

In the years since we have been in prison the world has changed drastically. East and West have North and South. But one thing has not changed - U.S.-led imperialism. We are imprisoned because as women we acted in opposition to U.S. imperialism and in support of self-determination of the oppressed nations and peoples. Current events demand continued anti-imperialist resistance.

Now is the time for us as women and as lesbians to come to the forefront and fight for our agenda. As we gather this year and build our walls of resistance let's promise ourselves that when we meet next year we will celebrate the victory of the FMLN in El Salvador, full U.S. withdrawal from the Saudi Arabian peninsula, and an intensified mobilization at home to win full human rights and justice.

VENCEREMOS!

Silvia Baraldini, Marilyn Buck, Susan Rosenberg and Laura Whitehorn (F.C.I. Lexington)

Against The Imperialist War!

The following is from two BR-PCC (Red Brigades-Fighting Communist Party) members who were recently on trial in Rome. They were both acquitted of the charges in the "Red Brigades-Romiti" trial but continue to be imprisoned on other charges. Both are members of the Wotta Sitta collective which is a prison group of captured combatants from various armed organizations in Italy.

This trial has been prepared by the state for defending the FIAT-boss Cesare Romiti, a man - well-known to all Italian proletarians - who led the restructuration of the FIAT corporation during the 80's leaving thousands of families destitute and who today belongs to that imperialist political management which pushes forward the imperialist war in order to solve the increasingly deep crisis of capitalism.

Romiti is also behind the daily bombings of the multi-national force against the Iraqi people occupying the Persian Gulf area.

The imperialist war launched by the west with the Gulf invasion shows once more that capitalism is barbaric.

The destructiveness of the American-Zionist-European imperialist attack against Iraq, against the Arab Palestinian people, against the south of the world is history of these days and it shall be for a long time yet. For this psychological war driven by the Pentagon experts aims to deliberately build up the necessary scenario for bringing the military escalation to the highest degree.

This war is an attack against the whole international proletariat and all the revolutionary movements of the "centre" as well as of the continents of the south.

The triumphant bulletins of the "belligerent"

powers (U.S., Great Britain, France, Italy...) about the dozens of thousands of bombings on Iraq are not the clean balance of a technological war but the inhuman daily accounts of the Arab men, women, children killed "in silence". The racism of this war and of its media campaign is so that the reality of the dead does not appear except when one drop of Israeli blood is shed!

What the imperialist bourgeoisie takes into consideration and carefully calculates is the cost of its high-tech war machines and not of the human life of whole populations.

The real nature of this war is its world-wide character. It crosses over the borders of the Middle East area because besides the concrete reasons of controlling the energy sources, re-balancing of power on behalf of imperialism, global lowering of the contradiction of the Palestinian Revolution liberation struggle, these are the reasons of the structural crisis of capitalism which pushes more and more the strategists of the bourgeoisie to find warmonger-solutions.

One objective is the rebuilding of strict laws on the production-circulation-management of the raw material - oil. Another one is the enforcing and setting-up of the new world-wide capitalist order further forcing the Yalta Balance on behalf of the U.S.

The proletarian masses all over the world have already understood the destructive meaning of this war and are rising up against it. From the Arab peoples already in open rebellion against their ruling class allied with the west and more and more in solidarity with attacked Iraqi people, to the mass base-movements in the U.S. and Europe more and more in struggle against the new power ecstasy of the west and its multi-national force.

The revolutionary forces in Europe and all over the



world know that the only solution is transforming imperialist war into revolutionary war, developing the revolutionary processes in every country and the unitarian attack against imperialism. The multiplicity and continuity of the revolutionary attacks of the last days in many areas of the world (from the Mediterranean to Latin America, from Europe to the Philippines...) is a first signal of this international consciousness.

...continued on page 10

Our Dreams Will Become Their Nightmares

Student Uprising In Greece

In the wake of the outbreak of war in the Middle East the Greek government is faced with a serious crisis. What sparked the current situation was the government's educational policies which were met by grave resistance, especially of high-school students. Today, this struggle has taken on a clearly anti-government line with the potential to target the total of government policies. Since the outbreak of the Jan. 10-11th clashes in Athens and other cities the government and opposition parties have been lost as to how to deal with the crisis. With the help of the mass media, a systematic effort was made to slander and deflate the situation. Greece's deep political crisis was once again highlighted. It was obvious that no opposition party dared to ask for the resignation of the government or move in that direction. No party is willing to take over power at a time when there are no alternatives to handling the crisis on the level of power politics. Their interest was therefore to diminish the unrest. It is a rule in power politics that whatever cannot be managed or manipulated is a threat.

Greece has been undergoing often severe changes in the last decade. The previous socio-democratic P.A.S.O.K. government paved the road for the unprecedented neo-conservative attack on all social fronts. The Greek economy has been in a perennial state of crisis and has served as the pretext for a package of measures like: new improved austerity measures, lay offs, privatization or closure of "bankrupt" public enterprises - with subsequent lay offs - anti-strike laws, and in schools, intensification of studies, the connection of university research and work with the needs of production and finally the introduction of privately owned universities. To seal all of the above and put society in a corner, came an anti-terrorist bill as well. These measures, in total, are euphemistically referred to by the government as stabilizing and modernizing programs or an attempt to deliver Greek society to the European as passive and defenceless as possible.

The so-called stabilizing of the Greek economy is primarily a re-adjustment of the priorities of a whole society to serve the interests of capital. Greek capitalism is striving to become a member of the new economic order under the best possible prospects. The institutional substructure that the government has been building for the last 10 months, with a series of bills, is aimed at creating the necessary climate for easy and total profit-mongering and exploitation. In November, and after austerity measures had already been in place, an anti-strike bill was introduced to curb any workers' resistance. The reaction of the unions throughout 10 months of conservative rule has been to call for repeated strikes - in fact, in this period more strikes have been called than any other single time in the past. However, the unwillingness and treacherous stance of the syndicalist bureaucracy led the workers' struggles to isolation and a dead end. The lack of a political vision to escalate and dynamically confront those policies created frustration and hopelessness among workers. By the time the anti-strike bill was introduced, only 1000 workers gathered outside the parliament to protest. In the quagmire fed by the syndicalist bureaucracy, there were exceptions that managed to largely escape their control but most often they were condemned to isolation.

The anti-terrorist bill was introduced to complement the anti-strike law. Targeted specifically at political groups, whose politics and practices the government considers dangerous, it is also directed at society as a whole, making it responsible for terrorism. Laws like these, wherever they have been implemented, are aimed at dividing society and rendering its defenses obsolete. By redefining the limits of legality and thus stigmatizing

political ideas and choice, the government is attempting to channel any voice of opposition away from becoming a serious threat.

The "excellence" of parliamentary democracy, if it cannot be proven, has to be imposed.

The student movement was begun primarily by high-school students who moved in late October to occupy their schools in protest of the government's plan to institute a series of measures that would limit their freedom and exercise more control both in and outside of the classroom. (Some of these measures included the reduced role of student councils, limiting the number of allowable absences as well the registering of a pupil's behaviour as an important factor in the overall student assessment.) The occupations spread all over Greece and quickly became a serious social issue. In the meantime, university students began to mobilize as well. The prospect of private universities, the decreased amount of funding for education as well as the connection of university studies and research to the needs of production were among some of the points of contention. Universities, especially in the countryside, were occupied by protesting students. Athens and other cities were rocked by large demonstrations often jointly organized by high-school and university students. The number of protesters soared to 50,000 and more in the demo's. In mid-December one such protest was attacked by riot police outside the Ministry of Education. Firing a number of toxic gases and using their batons with astounding ferocity, they managed to oust the students from the narrow streets surrounding the ministry. The government was not willing to back down and they meant it.

Over Christmas the government put forward a plan to break the occupations in the high schools. By now the high-school student movement had become massive. In all of Greece there were perhaps less than a handful of schools that were not occupied. Faced with this severe political and social crisis, the government - with the help of parents who opposed the occupations and party member thugs - planned to create disturbances in the high-schools, kick out the occupying students and terrorize the rest. Teachers were called upon to proceed to their schools regularly and record absent students even if they had to do so on the sidewalk. The teachers' union refused to play that role and called for a three-hour work stoppage for a day. The government however proceeded as scheduled. Party thugs and "indignant" parents stormed many high-schools and beat up students, teachers and supporting parents.

In one of these attacks in Patra, a 38 year old leftist teacher was murdered by a known conservative party member-thug. The response in Patra was swift. After a large demo the next night, a fierce riot erupted with clashes continuing into the morning hours. In Athens, two days later, more than 100,000 high-school and university students turned out to express their outrage with the murder of the teacher. At the end of this demo and while high-school students were blocking the centre of the city, the riot police moved into action. The clashes that ensued, quickly spread all over the city. Police vans were attacked and burned down, fires and barricades burned in every street in the centre of the city. Unlike many other times, participation of people in the riots was massive, 10,000 to 20,000 were battling the police. Athens was burning; this unprecedented unrest was



most definitely reminiscent of other times. In front of this explosion the government and all official parties were panic stricken.

From the start of the episodes the press and the media in general tried to diminish, misinform and slander the importance and scale of the unrest. The "usual" 300 or so anarchists were held as responsible. Cries for their arrest and even execution were not unusual to be heard by radio announcers and other "journalists". What they all tried to hide and were afraid to admit was the fact that this rebellion and popular fury was large enough to crush them given the right circumstances.

Unable to control the large crowds, the police engaged in a chemical war in order to disperse the people, but without success. Literally thousands of rounds of toxic CS and CN gas were fired that night rendering Athens air suffocating. The terror of the chemical war was completed by a catastrophic fire in an apartment building which the police ignited killing four people!

The next day another demonstration was called to protest the climate of repression and killings by the police the previous day. Participation was again massive and at the end of the demo conservative party offices were attacked and burned down. In the following clashes, again a large number of people battled with the police. Rocks and hundreds of molotovs were used to repel the police who again fired a generous amount of toxic gas, aiming them directly at the demonstrators! In the two and a half days of riots, police buses, banks, government buildings were attacked. Even though the Polytechnic school of the university and the surrounding area became the centre of the activities, barricades and clashes also occurred all over the city. Hundreds of people were injured and many more suffered from the toxic gases. The second night, police arrested about 50 people at random and charged about 22 of them. While in police custody they were beaten up and severely harassed. Similar clashes, it should be noted, took place in Thessaloniki where three people were arrested.

These events forced people to force the government to retreat and take all the educational measures back.

The anarchist presence in the universities and especially in the high-schools is substantial. Many of the slogans yelled, particularly at the later demonstrations, were anarchist. Anarchists, as part of the wider social movement, have actively participated in these mobilizations and tried to give them their own radical stigma.

The outbreak of war and the government's retreat, especially in relation to the high-school measures, has curbed the high-school student movement. University students however are still going on. Attempts have been made to give their struggle an anti-war, anti-imperialist hue. Most universities remain occupied and recently a large march protested outside the American embassy.

In these days of social crisis and war, this movement has potential - if the various party hawks and bureaucrats don't subvert it, as all signs indicate - to develop autonomously, spread and gather around it other social sectors. Today when the world powers are trying to extend their dominance and control, and render most of the world's peoples to the profit mongering of western capitalists, it is important to strengthen social movements in order to rupture the heart of the beast everywhere.

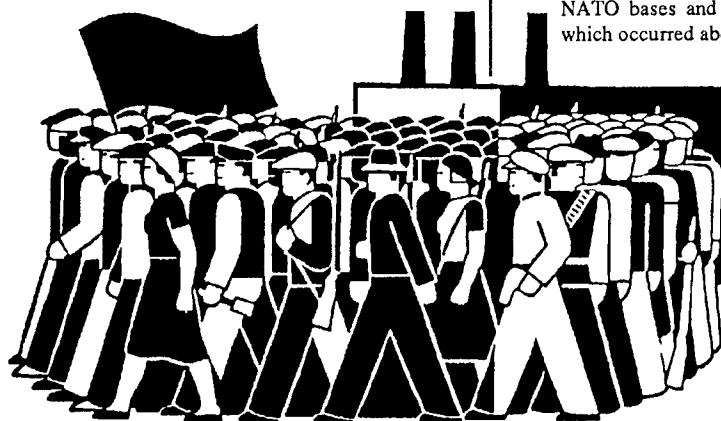
"Our Dreams Will Become Their Nightmares"

- popular high-school student slogan during the recent mobilizations.

January 31/90 Athens, Greece

Update (February 25/90): In recent days the mobilizations in the schools have ceased. The government's retreat dampened the enthusiasm to escalate the struggle. What remains important is that this three month confrontation was the first serious rupture in the conservative government's policies. Most importantly this occurred from a massive and autonomous movement - especially with high-school students. This struggle has radicalized sectors of the students, in the universities and particularly in the high-schools.

In a climate of war governments seek to impose discipline on society. A favourable time to marginalize social resistance. The continuation of the struggle and



In Solidarity,
Anarchists for Social
and Class War

(We are a group of comrades working together for the past year in Athens. Our ambition is to spread our analysis and action to the wider social fronts in a sustained and responsible effort. For more info contact: P.O. Box 31229, Athens, Greece 10035)

A Short Chronology Of The Resistance In Greece

We have put together this chronology concerning events in Greece in the late part of '90 and early months of '91 to give a glimpse of the various struggles taking place. Most of our information has come from an English-language bulletin called A-Infos which is published by anarchists in Athens. They can be contacted at: API/ABC c/o 8 Aristidou Str., 10559 Athens, GREECE.

November 5/90

Thugs from the New Democracy Party (right-conservative party in power) attacked workers who had been occupying the Piraeiki-Patraiki textile factory in Patras for a number of months. Many workers and 5 fascists were injured.

November 14/90

Armed special units of the Greek police attacked and invaded the prison of Alikarnassos near Heraklion, Crete where a prisoners' revolt had taken place on October 9/90. Eleven of the prisoners are put into isolation cells as a result. Meanwhile the revolt in the prison of Aghios Stefanos near Patras continues.

On the same day the court decides to postpone the trial of Smimeos and Marinos who are both accused of being members of the armed group, Anti-State Struggle. They had both been arrested on October 1/87 when a third alleged member of the group, Michalis Prekas, was killed by police during a gun-battle.

November 17/90

The usual march from the Polytechnic to the U.S. embassy commemorating the student uprising in 1973 does not attract the usual number of participants due to heavy rain. Nonetheless over 3,000 anarchists take part and proceed to attack, with stones and molotovs, many banks, government buildings and luxury hotels. Happily no one is arrested!

November 19/90

Police attack and invade the Aghios Stefanos prison which has been in revolt since October 11/90. The prisoners are taken by force to isolation cells. The

Ag. Stefanos prison in Patras was the last one in revolt. In other prisons revolts had ended in response to the reforms instituted by the Ministry of Justice that had been designed to alleviate conditions in Greek prisons.

November 20/90

November 17th (urban guerrilla organization) attempts to kill Vardis Vardinogiannis (one of the richest individuals in Greece) in the Athens suburb of Ekali. Due to heavy reinforcement of his car the bomb fails to kill Vardinogiannis.

November 26/90

Police arrest Jannis Bouketsidis, Spiros Kojannis and issue a warrant for Georgos Balafas. The arrests are in connection with the raid on the hide-out of Kiriakos Mazokopos (anarchist who was injured in a bomb explosion on Nov. 7/90 - see our last issue for more info) when fingerprints were found that allegedly belonged to the three comrades. Bouketsidis was known to the police because he was arrested in '84 for allegedly fire-bombing a taxation office. He was later found not guilty of the charges. Police claim that Balafas is a member of the armed group Anti-State Struggle who took part in a gunfight with police in '86 which resulted in the death of 3 cops.

November 27/90

In the city of Kalamata, Rosina Berkner is arrested in connection with the Mazokopos hide-out. She had been arrested in the past for allegedly being a member of an armed group but was acquitted of those charges. Mazokopos' condition worsens and he also loses his right eye (the left one was destroyed during the explosion).

December 6/90

Over a million Greek workers begin a general strike which is to last over 48 hours.

January 8/91

A leftist teacher is murdered by fascists and

support for social sectors that are mobilizing is therefore important in times of crisis.

Recently the government arrested and jailed an anarchist, Vardis Tsouris. On July 23/90 in the town of Chania on the island of Crete, a demonstration against the U.S./NATO bases located there turned into a riot when protesters were attacked by riot police. The riot lasted for 18 hours and after it was over more than 50 people were charged. Tsouris was arrested 6 months later. In a response to the authorities he denounced his arrest and demanded his immediate and unconditional release. Protests were organized in Athens and Crete. In Crete, thousands turned out to protest against the U.S./NATO bases and to demand Tsouris' release, which occurred about a week ago.

members of ONNED (the ruling conservative party's youth group). The teacher had been active in the student struggle that was taking place across the country.

January 10/91

A huge demo, that was called in response to the murder of the teacher, turns into a massive riot with fierce fighting taking place between demonstrators and the police. The main square in Athens is occupied and burning barricades are set up. Fighting continues through the night and many banks and government buildings are attacked. Riots also take place in other Greek cities. Four people are murdered by police during the riots.

January 31/91

In Chania on the island of Crete a judge orders the imprisonment of an anarchist, Vardis Churis, for his part in the militant demonstrations that took place against the US/NATO bases in July (another comrade, Manolis Chiniarakis, had been imprisoned in November for his part in the demos). Sixty comrades who were at the trial blocked all the court exits thereby preventing the police from leaving with Churis. Police re-enforcements had to be called from other towns on the island to move Churis to the local prison.

February 1/91

Over 3000 people participate in a demonstration outside the prison that holds Churis and Chiniarakis. The demonstrators demand the immediate release of both comrades.

March 12/91

Five bomb attacks take place in Athens destroying tourist buses and damaging nearby buildings. No one has claimed responsibility (as we write this - ed.) for the action but it is thought to be in response to government's use of tourist buses and army vehicles to replace public buses because of a strike of public bus drivers. The drivers are on strike because of a government plan to privatize the public transit system.

The GRAPO Hungerstrike Is Important For Imprisoned Revolutionaries All Over The World

An Interview With Monika Barberich

The following interview has been taken from the July/August issue of the Spanish magazine Area Critica.

Monika Barberich, ex-RAF member, spent 17 years in Moabit prison in West Germany, accused of various armed actions. During this time she participated in 9 hungerstrikes with German political prisoners who have always struggled against isolation and for their regrouping.

Area Critica: What have the living conditions been like in the prisons you have been in?

Monika Barberich: Most of my time in prison I have been in isolation, totally isolated or in small groups. Only for a short period was I in normal prison conditions with common prisoners, but the last 8 years I spent completely isolated in a maximum security unit.

AC: What can you highlight of the German prison regimen?

MB: Isolation is the cruelest form of torture for the political prisoners. The German state tries to present an image of normal conditions but in reality, even though several prisoners may be in the same prison they can't even see each other. All contact among them, even with the social prisoners, is cut off by the prison administration and moroso when there are guerrilla attacks on the outside, which shows that the political prisoners continue to be hostages of the state. As to our communications with the outside, all visits with our family members are monitored by prison officials as well as by the political police; our mail is censored as are all types of writings, be they books, newspapers or photocopies to the point that in Bruchal and Stammheim prison nothing gets in.

AC: You were in prison in 1977, during the so-called "suicides" of the leaders of the RAF (they were Gudrun Ensslin, Jan-Carl Raspe and Andreas Baader - ed.). What can you tell us about that?

MB: With these murders the German government wanted to paralyse the guerrilla on the outside because, as the very government said at the time, the Schleyer kidnapping and other actions that year were the greatest challenge to the German state since the end of WW2. The murders were a response to the guerrilla's attacks, a response which the German state hoped would annihilate, once and for all, revolutionary politics, as the prisoners that they killed were very important cadres, for the development of resistance on the inside as well as for the comrades on the outside who, precisely with that kidnapping were trying to free them.

AC: After that was there any attempt by the government to finish off all the political prisoners by these means?

MB: They never did so in such a strong manner or in a confrontation like that. The only comparison is what they did in 1981 during the hungerstrike when they killed Sigurd Debus. With that they wanted to set the prisoners back from their resistance posture. But in the end, we saw they didn't get what they wanted with the massacre of 1977, as they didn't try it again in that manner. They changed their tactics. Their goal with RAF militants was no longer to arrest them but to kill

them before and thus avoid the problems of resistance in prison.

AC: It is known that West Germany has "exported" its prison system. Here in Spain the conditions of political prisoners are very similar to those in West Germany. What do you think of this?

MB: I think it has its context in the economic restructuring of Western Europe before unification in 1992 and in the same measure that economic means are unified, so are repressive policies. The existence in Spain of collectives of political prisoners was very important for the German political prisoners because it was a living example of what was possible and how it was possible. And, on the other hand, for the German state, it's very important that there be no visible resistance by prisoners either in their own country or elsewhere in the Common Market. For the 1992 project absolute passivity is needed on all parts and the prisoners' struggle has always been very important for the development of the revolutionary movements outside. That's how it is in Germany and I think that's how it is in Spain as well.

AC: What would you highlight of the struggle you maintained against the extermination policy?

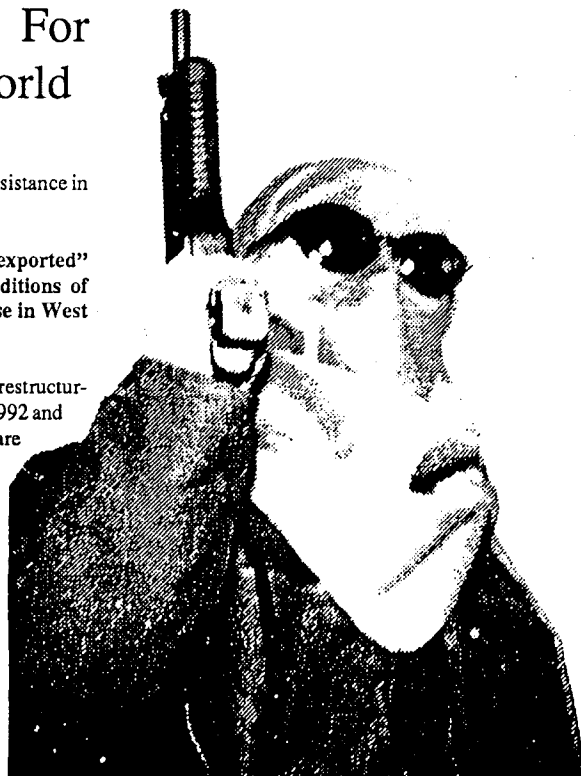
MB: The hungerstrikes, because they have been and continue to be the only way to struggle together despite being separated. And even though they have not gained their basic objectives of regrouping, conditions always improved after hungerstrikes, for us as prisoners as well as on the outside, because in each hungerstrike there was an important mobilization, each one of our hungerstrikes has been a political offensive which has allowed us to advance the resistance movement.

AC: How have those positive results been seen?

MB: First, in gaining the solidarity and the support of different social groups for the strike's objectives, but also the fact that with the hungerstrikes we have raised awareness that isolation is torture, that the government can no longer justify the application of isolation and that they are isolating the prisoners, which has been denied by the government for many years. This is clear now for various collectives and social groups, including many people who reject the armed struggle but who recognize the demand for regrouping as a necessary response and politically just response to the isolation policy.

AC: What do you think of the struggle that the prisoners of the PCE(r) and the GRAPO's are realizing in Spain now?

MB: I think that the struggle that is carried out in one country, as it is in Spain now, has a great importance for the conditions in other countries and I would like to quote what a German political prisoner said, referring to the struggle of the Spanish prisoners: "If the German prisoners in the last strike had gained regrouping, the Spanish prisoners wouldn't have to fight for it now." From then the prisoners of the RAF and other resistance movements have supported the hungerstrike by the GRAPO and PCE(r) prisoners, with chain hungerstrikes of a week in duration and have actually restarted this



initiative in view of the length of this struggle.

AC: Why are you in Madrid?

MB: Because since I got out of prison I have continued to struggle for the regrouping of the RAF prisoners and parting from the importance which the struggle here in Spain has for the situation in Germany, I have participated as part of an anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist resistance group which in Germany has developed various activities several times in support of the struggle of the Spanish prisoners. And coming here is part of that activity.

AC: What message do you have for the resisting prisoners in Spain?

MB: I don't have a "message" with chosen words because I know from experience that when you are in prison struggling with only your strength against so much adversity. Knowing that outside as well as inside there are people who support our struggle is the best message we can get. That is why we are here and I think that is how the prisoners on hungerstrike will understand it.

GRAPO Hungerstrike Ends

On February 19, 1991 the last 3 GRAPO prisoners broke off their hungerstrike. Towards the end of the hungerstrike there had been 30 or so prisoners still participating. A communique from the PCE(r) stated that the hungerstrike was called off in view of the suffering of the prisoners and so that there would be no more deaths. The Spanish state's intransigence, and the lack of any real progress towards association were cited as reasons for the ending of, at 476 days, the longest hungerstrike by political prisoners in Europe. As well, the continued moving of prisoners from prison to prison and the difficulties of being able to communicate with each other because of restrictions on visits and access to lawyers and the censoring of mail, all contributed to the calling off of the hungerstrike.

We hope to have more information next issue.

Action Directe Hungerstrike

On January 2/90 prisoners from Action Directe began a new unlimited hungerstrike chain. In their hungerstrike declaration they state that "We will maintain our initiative up till every form of isolation and the special restrictions of our detention are cancelled, up to our regroupment as political prisoners." (from a statement by the Struggling Committee of the Action Directe prisoners). The last AD hungerstrike which began in April of 1989 ended in July of the same year with the 4 members who began the strike gaining visiting rights with each other for one and a half hours per day, but they remained segregated from each other by sex. It would appear that the authorities have rescinded these conditions and the members of AD are once again in isolation.

Action Directe was formed in 1978 as an amalgamation of anarchist and communist groups such as NAPAP, GARI and the Ulrike Meinhof Commando, and, in their own words, "from the moment of our emergence, we have been a communist guerilla advocating anti-imperialist struggle from a class position. A consequence of this has been an appreciation of revolutionary outlawry." Jean Marc Roullan, one of the founders of Action Directe laid out the objective of AD in a 1981 interview: "We want a communist society, with every proletarian conscious of his class identity - that is to say the destruction of capitalist society based on merchants profiting from the wage earning class. And we think that the end of "man's" exploitation of "man" will come with the destruction of this capitalist society, full of unemployment, misery, exploitation organised murder, accidents at work in the name of profit. We are true communists".

AD's early actions were aimed at the institutions of the French state, particularly because of France's role in Africa. In March of 1980 they bombed the office of the DST (French FBI) and machine-gunned "the chief vehicle of French imperialism in pillaging the Third World ...the Ministry of Co-operation" in opposition to the French army's activities in Chad and the Central African Republic.

Between September 1980 and December 1981 many members of AD were arrested, but election of a "Socialist" government in May 1981 led to a presidential amnesty which released prisoners accused of crimes related to state security but not charged with murder. AD emerged determined "to continue the fight".

In 1982 AD released two documents, "Pour un projet communiste" and Sur l'imperialisme americain" which elaborated AD's theoretical views. In "Pour un projet communiste" AD argued that political intervention in factories and neighbourhoods had to take illegal forms since the bourgeoisie does not permit the expressions of proletarian aspirations in any other way. For AD carrying out illegal action necessitated the stabilization of a military-political network aiming to enlarge the spaces of counter-power and importantly, the realization that armed struggle is not an end in itself and that voluntarism and adventurism would negate the desired ends. "Sur l'imperialisme americain" dealt specifically with the internationalization of American capitalism, and the emergence of a "world capitalist system", and argued that the economic crisis of the early 1980's led to increased Third World investments by US companies and a restructuring based on agriculture and high technology sectors. June of 1982 saw the Marcel Rayman Fighting Unit of Action Directe put this theory into practice with an attack on an Israeli diplomat's car. An accompanying communique associated Israeli action with US geo-political strategy: "Israel serves American imperialism. This state...is the ideal flunkie for the base of US doings in the Near East and even elsewhere". Further attacks targeted the right-wing monthly "Min-

ute", the offices of the Socialist Party, and the National Office of Immigration. August 1983 saw AD attack the Ministry of Defence in protest against French African policy. AD demanded the withdrawal of French troops from Chad and argued that Prime Minister Mitterand was being manipulated by the US. Several AD activists were arrested during this time, among them Frederic Oriach and Heylette Besse.

1984 saw AD begin to target NATO. According to Roullan, "the redeployment of the imperialist forces (the loss of the relative French autonomy, among other things) has brought us to change our targets from the imperialism of the metropolis to world-wide imperialism". In July the Institute Atlantique des Affaires Internationales was bombed because of its central role in NATO's European strategy due to its research of industrial structuring, missile implantation, and European military and economic unification. AD followed up in this vein with attacks against the European Space Agency and arms manufacturers such as Dassault and Messier-Hispano-Bugatti. Regis Schleicher, an AD militant explained AD's reasoning: "In France, the imperialist war project and capitalist aggression against the working class concretize themselves in the strength-



ening of an atlanticist policy (we assume this refers to participation within the NATO framework) which includes renewed participation in atlanticist organizations...and increased contributions to the development of war technology. For this reason international tools of domination and destruction have been the targets for attack". AD member Regis Schleicher was arrested, along with Heylette Besse in March 1984.

In January of 1985 Action Directe announced the formation of a guerrilla front together with the Red Army Fraction. This was followed by the execution of General Rene Audran, responsible for French overseas arms sales, contract negotiations, and international arms cooperation, and by attacks against the IMF, businesses investing in South Africa and companies with defence ministry contracts. On June 26/85, AD attempted to execute Henri Blandin, auditor-general of the army and director of special investigations, and on April 15, 1986, they attempted to execute CNPF (employers association) vice-president Guy Brana. In May of 1986 Interpol headquarters was bombed by AD, due in part to Interpol's role as a co-ordinator of information which

...continued on page 10

Brazilian Kidnapping Case

On December 16/1989, over 200 police surrounded a house in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Inside were six people suspected of kidnapping Sao Paulo millionaire Abilio Diniz. Twenty-four hours later, Diniz was released and the six suspects taken into custody. Altogether, ten people would be charged and convicted of extortion thorough kidnapping, possession of illegal weapons and false documents. Among the ten are two Argentines, one Brazilian, five Chileans and two Canadians; Christine Lamont and Dave Spencer, both well known among the radical leftist, and particularly Central American solidarity, groups in Vancouver.

The trial, one of Brazil's most "spectacular", lasted four months and ended in May/90. The sentences ranged from 5-15 years, with Christine sentenced to eight and Dave to ten in solitary confinement. The police used the trial in an attempt to compensate for their own inefficiency, dragging up all recent, unsolved major kidnappings and claiming the ten were responsible for these. As proof, they pointed to the past activities of various members charged in the case, including membership in guerrilla groups in Chile and bank receipts they claim to have found with deposits totalling \$2.5-million sent to Winnipeg and Vancouver bank accounts. Due to lack of evidence they were unable to charge the ten with any of these.

Seven people, including Christine and Dave, plead "not guilty", and three plead "guilty". Dave and Christine stated they were unaware a kidnapping had occurred, in the house they had rented, until police had surrounded it on Dec. 16th. Diniz himself claimed this was impossible, and in court was unable to identify voices of the suspects (Diniz had been captured Dec. 11/89 and held in the house).

Though Christine received eight years in semi-open prison, the judge must issue a directive ending the solitary confinement she has been held in since her arrest. At this point, the judge has not done this. Canadian External Affairs has also discussed with Brazil the conditions for extradition, but no agreement has ever been reached and it's unlikely this case will establish such an agreement.

Presently, the group are appealing their sentence and in this regard focusing on the political aspect of the case. Under Brazilian laws, political actions receive lesser sentences than "criminal" actions. During the trial, the prosecution negated the political intentions by pushing the idea that any monies received from the kidnapping would exit Brazil, and was therefore not political in Brazil itself.

The appeal process may last up to 8 months, and David and Christine are not pursuing extradition at the moment. They've asked for material support (books, magazines etc.) and have indicated they feel there's little comrades can do beyond this (for the moment).

We encourage comrades to write, and to publicize the case.

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(taken from Resistance #14)

Action Directe Hungerstrike continued...

could be used in the repression of the guerrilla and in the repression of mass antagonisms and proletarian liberation. Also in 1986, several members of AD were arrested in Lyon; Andre Olivier, Joelle Crepet, and Bernard Blanc. They, along with others are thought to have represented a tendency within AD which had differences with the rest of Action Directe. On November 17/86, AD executed Georges Besse, the President of Renault. He was described by an AD militant as "a perfect technocrat with a long career in the nuclear industry, both civilian and military". Besse was to AD a leading figure in the international imperialist transformation and attack on working class interests and by striking at him they were striking at the heart of the military-industrial complex.

On February 21/87 French police raided a farmhouse near Orleans and arrested 3 members of Action Directe; Jean Marc Rouillan, Nathalie Menigon, and Joelle Aubron. On December 1/87, AD militants Rouillan, Menigon, Aubron, and Georges Cipriani began a hungerstrike calling for the closure of isolation units and for the status of political prisoners. After 116 days they stopped the hungerstrike with none of their demands having been met. According to the four the struggle for regroupment "is not a single issue struggle for or against one particular law from the ministries, but a group initiative that attacks the central project of the bourgeoisie against the revolutionary prisoners and proletarian antagonism in the imperialist prisons, and should be considered as a time for organizing and building revolutionary policy for liberation."

Action Directe has now again taken up this "initiative", fighting for an end to isolation and for their regroupment. We have at this time no further information on the hungerstrike or on the condition of the hungerstrikers. We extend our solidarity to the fighting prisoners of Action Directe.

The Case Against Four Kurdish Women In Celle

On Jan. 8/91 the court in Celle, Germany began hearing a new political trial of four Kurdish women, the most important charge being "membership in a terrorist organization" (para. 129a). Two of the women have additional charges including forcible confinement and document falsification. Two of the women are being held in Celle, and one of them has been in isolation for a year.

The court in Celle has been especially enlarged with two more judges "taking into consideration the particular burden which has resulted from the extensive criminal cases against the officers of the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) (another trial in Dusseldorf is currently taking place with a number of PKK members who are being charged under para. 129a for actions that took place outside of the FRG - ed.)

The accusation, according to 129a, makes reference to the judicial and political construction of a "sub-organization" of the PKK. Although the Public Ministry has not yet fully defined this "sub-organization", the court in Dusseldorf has described it as follows: Secretary General, Executive Committee Europe, Central Committee Europe, all Regional Offices in Europe and the section for "Information Service, Party Security and Control". With the help of 129a the FRG is trying to criminalize an entire foreign organization, the PKK. The opportunity to do this was created by the changes to the law as they affected the structure of the courts and by the changes to 129a which went into effect Jan. 7/87. This has given the FRG judicial system an opening to persecute so-called "foreign associations" which have their base in a foreign country. It is of interest to note their trial was delayed by 8 hours because the defense refused to submit to body searches.

War On The Warmakers continued...

Feb. 4

Athens, Greece - more attacks against French and British banks.

Feb. 7

London, England - the IRA fires 3 mortar shells at 10 Downing St., the residence of the British Prime Minister.

Feb. 10

Athens, Greece - a tourist train car is blown up on tracks in the Akropolis region of Athens. Unconfirmed whether or not this is war-related.

Feb. 13

Bonn, Germany - the Red Army Fraction carries out a machinegun attack on the U.S. embassy. No one is injured during the action.

Feb. 15

Copenhagen, Denmark - the French company CITROEN is firebombed because of its role in the war.

Mar. 16

Turkey - Dev Sol claims responsibility for ten bombings in Istanbul, Ankara and Izmir. They all took place within a half hour period and occurred ten hours before the arrival of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. Another bomb exploded at a U.S. facility, killing a guerrilla.

Against The Imperialist War! continued...

As communist prisoners we are on the side of the Iraqi people and of the whole Arab people attacked by the multi-national force and on the side of all the peoples and proletarians fighting against the imperialist barbarism.

Against the imperialist war develop the international class war!

War to NATO and to the Multi-National Force!


Fight together against imperialism in Europe and in the Tricontinent of the south!

Reinforcing the revolutionary anti-imperialist front in Europe and in the Mediterranean-Middle East area!

Some comrades of the Collectivo Comunista Prigionieri Wotta Sitta

Luciano Farina
Giovanni Senzani

Rome, January 28, 1991 (Proceedings of "Red Brigades-Romiti" trial)



Arm The Spirit is an information collective focusing on militant and revolutionary struggles. Our perspective is autonomous but we see a need to discuss and analyse all forms of left resistance in order to contribute to a revolutionary process. We welcome and encourage others to join us in our work.

La Lucha Continua!

Angehorigen Info Acquitted

On December 19/90, the court at Koln acquitted Heidi Hinrichsen of the "Family Members" (family and friends of the RAF and resistance - ed.), and Christiane Schneider of the G.N.N. publishing house (which publishes the bi-weekly Angehorigen-Info). They were charged with "having made the FRG maliciously contemptible" in a declaration of December 16, 1989. In this declaration the Family Committee had revealed what repercussions the RAF prisoners had been subjected to after the RAF attack on Herrhausen, and in connection with this made reference to the events in Stammheim in 1976/1977. The declaration showed the connection between the torture of the prisoners with the murder of Ulrike in May 1976 and the murders of Andreas Baader, Gudrun Ensslin, Jan Carl Raspe, and Ingrid Schubert, and the attempted murder of Imgard Moller in the fall of 1977.

The acquittal took no more than 10 minutes and the judge argued that "whatever may have really happened in Stammheim, will forever remain a veiled piece of history. Regardless of whether or not the information Info published is true or not, no one witnessed the events. Consequently the question of guilt is a dead issue."

The people of Angehorigen-Info view this acquittal as an important victory in the defence of Info and of the rights of prisoners and their families and friends to speak openly. The Public Ministry has now failed in its 3rd attempt to muzzle Angehorigen-Info, and apparently the Public Ministry will go into appeal, urged on by the Federal Public Ministry.

Money!!

Here we are with issue #6. This is our biggest issue yet, and consequently our most expensive. Its bigger because we haven't published since December, primarily because of a lack of money. If you feel that Arm The Spirit is an important resource and would like to see it continue to cover militant and revolutionary struggles, we ask for your support in the form of a financial contribution. We are trying to publish on a near monthly basis, and each issue costs around \$250.00. On top of this, we continue to work on our first magazine issue, which will entail further costs. Any contributions to help meet these costs will be greatly appreciated.



Subscriptions for this bulletin are \$10.00 for 10 issues. The bulletin will come out at least 10 times a year on a near monthly basis. We are also in the process of setting up a small mailorder literature service. Please send \$1 for the mailorder list. We accept cash (conceal it well) or money orders but no cheques. If sending a money order please do not put 'Arm The Spirit' just leave it blank.

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