

BRIXTON 121 CENTRE
EVICTON THREAT

The 121 Centre in Brixton has been squatted for 18 years. Lambeth Council gained a re-possession order for the building on Thursday 14th January. Over the years the centre has been home to many publications and campaigns including Anarchist Black Cross, Bad Attitude, AnarQuist, Food Not Bombs, Anti-JSA and labour struggles, a Women’s Group, FDLF etc, and hosted the first ever London anarchist queer festival. They have also provided advice on squatting , cheap vegan meals, and other resources for the local community. This attack on the 121 is just a part of the continuing programme of the gentrification of Brixton.

Although an appeal is planned there isn’t much time and help is needed. Information needs to be spread as widely as possible, ideas gotten, as well as practical assistance in pro-active and defensive measures. People will be in the building every day from 12.00, and there will be resistance meetings every Monday night. so drop by. Offers of banners, bodies and barricades to:

0171 9788214 or 0171 2746655.

ARTHUR’S WOOD

The camp at Arthur’s Wood trying to stop the felling of trees which will interfere with the radar system at Manchester Airport, has won a stay of execution. They have gained the right to a full appeal against the eviction of the camp, which will take place on February 5th.

Meanwhile another camp has been set up in nearby Cedar Woods. It’s a veggie/vegan site and as always, would appreciate new people and visitors
Camp mobile:07775 602954

EF! Action Update needs your action reports (~200 words), articles, **photos** and feedback.
Contact us at: EF!AU, Cornerstone Resource Centre, 16 Sholebroke Avenue, Chapeltown Leeds, LS7 3HB 0113 262 9365
<actionupdate@gn.apc.org>
www.ecoaction.org/efau
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DIGGERS 350: LANDLESS
PEASANTS WANTED

Plans to celebrate the 350th anniversary of the Diggers’ uprising are progresssing apace, with over 150 people attending the gathering in London on the 17th of January to plan actions.

The first event will be a non-confrontational march on April 1st to St. George’s Hill with the intention of laying a carved commemorative stone at the site of the Diggers' original settlement.

Later in April, a land squat will be organised, on a piece of land with either a particularly nasty landlord or plans for development. This event will almost certainly be temporary, as eviction proceedings are likely, but it will also be the base for setting up more permanent land occupations. The Land is Ours have compiled a register of several pieces of unregistered land, and they are looking for groups of people who are interested in long term land-based projects who they can be given away to.

Proposals should be written down and sent to The Land is Ours office by the end of February, or if that’s not possible then taken to the first occupation. At that event the land for permanent camps will be allocated, and hopefully a network set up to ensure their continuation and development.

CLONES CONVERGE ON
CENTRE FOR LIFE

On January 20 faceless clones greeted the many big genetics bods who came for the ‘Making Biotechnology Happen’ conference in Newcastle upon Tyne. The delegates to the conference were confronted with the message ‘Bad Science + Big Business = Bad News’.

This was all taking place at the International Centre for Life which is trying to be the centre for Genetics in Britain. Millions of Millennium money is being spent on its three parts: the Genetics Institute (new home for the University’s genetics experiments), BioScience area (a very flash subsidised office development for bio-tech companies) and the Helix (a theme-park museum promoting genetic engineering). The Centre for Life is peddling sexy propaganda about how great genetic engineering is. It will also be acting as the Centre for Death making sure that what they call "defects" (ie disabled people) never live.

For more information contact: GeneNo, PO Box 1TA, Newcastle NE99 1TA.

ALLOTMENTS IN PERIL

A campaign is brewing in Birmingham over the loss of some allotments to developers. The area, privately controlled by the Directors of the Victoria Jubilee Allotments, is set to become the site of 180 brand new ‘Westbury Homes’ if a current proposal by the company goes through. No new allotments on the site have been let for years despite the Handsworth area having the longest queue for council owned allotments in Birmingham. The campaign is only at the lobbying stage at the moment, but anyone interested should contact HAIG, 34 Beaudesert Road, Handsworth B20 3TG 0121 240 4238 & 5549794 The Land is Ours are running a national allotments campaign, in response to similar local situations around the country - contact the Allotments Coalition Trust on 01865 722016

WHITEHALL GULF WAR
PROTEST ACTIONS

As soon as the US and UK started bombing Iraq on 17 Dec anti war campaigners duly responded in actions. Women carried out 3 independent actions (none of them knew the others were to happen: On the night the bombing commenced Sylvia Boyes from Brum was at the MOD Whitehall, writing ‘DON’T BOMB IRAQ’ across the main doors. When it became evident that no one was around to arrest her she moved on to the cenotaph where she sprayed ‘NOT IN MY NAME TONY’. She was arrested when the police were at last alerted to her activities by the mirth of other protesters. On the same night women from the campaign group ‘Voices In The Wilderness’ sprayed ‘NOT IN OUR NAME’ and threw red paint over the Foreign Ministry. On Thursday 18th Jean Lawless from Leeds walked through the North entrance of the MOD Whitehall, spattered red gloss all over the plush foyer and succeeded in ‘symbolically recreating the aftermath scene of a bomb explosion’, causing over £2000 damage in the process. All are to appear in Bow St Magistrates, charged with criminal damage. Sylvia appears on 22nd Jan.

Also on the night of the bombing 5 people from Faslane Peace camp were arrested while cutting the perimeter fence of the base.

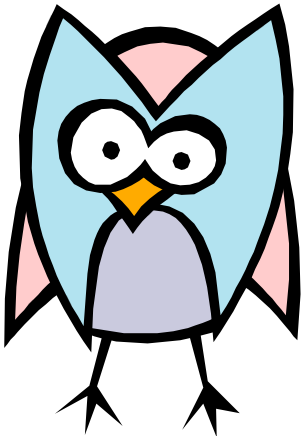
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From: EF! AU. c/o
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16 Sholebroke Avenue,
Leeds LS7 3HB

Subscriptions cost a minimum contribution of £5 for 12 issues. Send more if you can afford it so we can give free subscriptions to prisoners, etc. Cheques payable to Earth First!.Action Update Remember security, false names and a collect or c/o address are best.

☐ If the circle is ticked then your subscription has run out - Please renew it NOW!

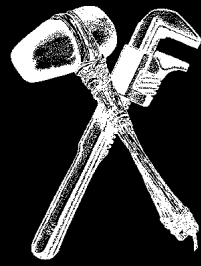
Earth First!

Action Update

Issue 55, Jan / Feb 1999

30p

Where Sold. Free to Prisoners



“Damn their warnings, damn their lies- they will see the people rise” Les Miserables

Three Evictions at Birmingham

The last six weeks have seen three evictions of camps and squats on the route of the Birmingham Northern Relief Road, involving a range of underhand tactics by police and bailiffs. The Moneymore Squats were the first to go. Several hundred police, bailiffs and security guards turned up on the 8th of December. One of the first actions they took was to seize the mobile phones in the campaign office, cutting off any communication with the tunnellers. One phone was returned the next day, but with all its information recorded. At the same time a bunker at the nearby Greenwood site was evicted, despite not being under an re-possession order.

The last two people were removed from the tunnels on the 20th December after about 2 weeks underground and arrested, bringing the total of those arrested to around 30.

On the 9th January, events took a new turn as a nuclear bunker was squatted. However, as the news filtered out, a local farmers wife came and complained that her husband’s ashes were buried underneath a park bench which was on top of the bunker. The occupants were deciding whether or not to leave when some other ‘locals’ turned up - who were actually plain clothes police. They enticed people out of the bunker to chat, and then grabbed them and nicked them for burglary. One person fell back down the shaft of the bunker, breaking her arm in the process. Six people were arrested and remanded for burglary and criminal damage (painting slogans), despite the fact that only 2 people were in the bunker at the time. (See prisoners section.)

The eviction of the third camp came a few days later, on January 13th. With most people

bailed off route from the squats, and six people remanded after the bunker eviction, there were only 3 people around to keep the Greenwood camp running. Police arrived in the evening to talk to people on site, but when they came over, the police claimed they were off the site and therefore it was unoccupied. It was an especially un-called for eviction since the residents were in the process of arranging a deal where they would fill in the tunnels and bunkers in exchange for the eviction being put off - therefore at least ensuring the safety of the trees during an appeal against the road.

A new camp has been set up at The Spinney, half a mile up the road, and with 26½ miles of route left to protect new activists will always be welcome! Camp mobile 07970 301978 - the other number was confiscated by the police.

Shell Head Office Occupied

In solidarity with indigenous resistance to oil giant Royal Dutch/Shell in Nigeria and as a foretaste of direct action to come, 3 groups barricaded themselves into two senior management offices and the corporate library in Shell-Mex House, London. January 4th was the first day of work in 1999, and also Ogoni Day, celebrated since Shell was forced out of Ogoni through massive resistance.

The concerned individuals seized three key locations in the building, some of which had a pleasing view of Waterloo bridge and the banner being hung across it- by others - reading "Shell: Filthy Thieving Murderers - It's Time to Go".

While two of the groups studiously occupied themselves with information marked 'strictly confidential', or phoning out to Shell-related corporations, the others created a live website - www.kemptown.org/shell - updated hourly with details of the action, and information on the Delta, where the oil-sponsored military crackdown has been responsible for over 200 deaths over the last few weeks.

Repeating the demands of the Ijaw of Nigeria; who have so far managed to cut Nigeria's oil output at times by over a third;the activists refused



Offices were barricaded while confidential files were read and 're-filed'.

to leave until Shell agreed to pull out of the Niger-Delta by the 11th, and to end all oil exploration. Shell executives refused to co-operate and instead the TSG (riot police) evicted the occupiers by bashing in the office walls, unfortunately trashing the offices in the process, and arresting the 13 inside on suspicion of criminal damage.All were later released without charge.

The next day some of the 13 returned to leaflet

Shell employees, informing them of why their bosses’ offices were occupied, what a scum company they worked for, and that the building was shutting mid-day, all of which led to all entrances being locked except the main gate which was guarded by police..Shell are still cross about the virtual occupation by the activists’ website which subverts their own.

As if not disgruntled enough, on 8th January, German activists invaded Deutsche Shell in Hamburg in solidarity with the Ijaw. All in all in has been a bad start to the New Year for Shell's PR image and suggesting instead that 1999 will see increased globalisation of resistance to corporate dominance.

The Action Update is a monthly roundup of ecological direct action news and forthcoming events in Britain.
Feature articles inside:
From Criminals to Terrorists?
European Action Round Up

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News In Brief

◆ The US-based EF! journal has announced that it is to start producing a North American EF! Action Update. See international contacts

◆ Undercurrents have a supply of free warm clothing for activists that they have acquired. If you want some then catch them quickly on 01865 203661 before it all goes!

◆ Jabiluka uranium mine, which has faced determined resistance from activists across Australia, is to be delayed by a year, claims the campaign against it. This rumour that was circulating for a while, now seems to have been backed up by reading between the lines of a government press release. Action continues against the preparatory building work for the mine, which will devastate Kakadu National Park and the indigenous Mirrar community.

◆ Protest as traffic calming? After several nukewatch actions stopping nuclear warheads on their way up to Faslane, village councillors have considered asking demonstrators to hold their protests in Haydon Bridge. They thought it would draw people's attention to the village's traffic problem and maybe even slow traffic down!

◆ Lyminge solidarity. Rank's decision to build on Lyminge forest is dependant upon the success of their Oasis holiday village at Penrith. Leaflets, advertising this top destination can be found in travel agents. Remove them.

◆ The Action Update web address has changed - you can still get to it from www.k2net.co.uk/ef, but the new address is www.ecoaction.org/efau. Anyone with web pages out there, please update your links.

◆ The National Front march in Dover, planned for 5th December last year, was cancelled when their coach company pulled out after pressure from trade unionists and anti fascists. The anti-fascist march on the same day went ahead as planned.

◆ National Construction week. 19 - 25th April. Lots of big construction companies will be putting on events across the country to show how good they are for the economy and the environment. Let's fuck it up for them! FREEPOST GR 2172, Cheltenham, GL52 2PR. Tel: 01242 577 277. www.ncw.org.uk

◆ US activists caused \$500,000 of damage on the 18th of Jan when they set fire to the US Forest Industries corporate HQ in Medford, Oregon on Boxing Day.

◆ The Kebele Centre in Bristol, which was squatted, have now raised enough money to buy the building, and so have secured it for the future.

◆ Tinker's Bubble, a land collective of low impact dwellings, has finally won its five year fight for planning permission. 'ra!

AVON RING ROAD

Direct action has taken off on the route of the Avon Ring Road, in response to site clearance work starting in November. The first action at Siston Common near Bristol took place in December, as fifteen protesters took on the diggers with D-locks and tried to block movement of a lone digger-driver. Work stopped for most of the day but with no arrests.

Now a new camp has been established on route at Siston Common, which is progressing nicely, although it is appealing for more people.

On 12th January, the campaign invaded the only building left on route, the day before it was due to be demolished, and christened it the Hotel Chechnya. Kerne Security are surrounding the squat and a date has been set for an eviction hearing.

Bristol Cycling campaign are leading site inspection rides every Sunday from Bristol City Centre along the Sustrans path which will also be destroyed by the road. With three legal challenges running in the courts as well as the direct action campaign, the road does stand a good chance of being stopped. Directions of how to get to the camps are available from the from 84 Colston Street 0797 999 0389

INFOSHOP NETWORK

Over the course of the last three months Worthing Anarchist Teapot have been providing free tea and radical propaganda in four successive squats in Worthing. During January they have been without a building, and so have become mobile, taking the teapot to the streets on three occasions since Christmas.

Meanwhile they are keen to establish a network of infoshops, to enable networking, skill and information sharing between autonomous groups who run info shops/cafes/etc, and to inspire others to create their own autonomous centres. The network will be initially based on the internet, with a website planned and a mailing list up and running (infoshops@tao.ca). To subscribe send the message subscribe infoshops to majordomo@tao.ca. Get in touch with them if you want to get involved, or have information that you think infoshops could use.

EBRD PROTESTS ACROSS THE WORLD

The 14th of December was a world wide day of protest against the financing of the K2/R4 nuclear reactors in the Ukraine by the EBRD (European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.)

The headquarters of the EBRD in London were the scene of a noisy protest which lasted for 2 hours. The protest numbered 45 people, two of whom were dressed as 'mutant giants' and gave chase to any banker who left the building. Four banners were displayed reading 'stop K2/R4 no more Chernobyls', 'no EBRD money for nuclear reactors', 'dirty money' and 'mirnym atom ne byvaet' (Russian for 'there is no peaceful atom'.) Over 1500 leaflets were distributed to the people in the bank and the surrounding offices, and the action ended with a die-in and speeches.

While this went on the bank was the subject of a fax and e-mail blockade with people from all over the world writing in to voice their opposition to the bank's plans.

Protests also took place in Tokyo, Australia, the Ukraine, Russia, and across Eastern Europe, including Poland where passers by were offered the iodine drink which was given out by the authorities to protect them from the effects of Chernobyl in 1986.

A spokesman for A SEED Europe observed, : "it would be a grave mistake of the bank to enter into conflict with just about every environmental organisation in Europe"

AMEC OFFICES OCCUPIED IN AIRPORT ACTION

On the 18th January, over 60 people gathered together for the 2nd of the 'Doin' It In The North' actions, this time to remind those responsible for Manchester Airport that it hasn't been forgotten or forgiven.

A decision was made not to bother wasting time engaging with the media.

The regional headquarters of AMEC (major contractors for Manchester Airport and many other dubious schemes) were invaded by swarms of activists who interrupted a meeting and a buffet lunch. Following on from this, people divided off into a number of offices to re-file and shuffle paperwork, filofaxes etc. Police arrived an hour later and attempted to detain the hordes, who opted instead for exiting by a ground floor window despite attempts to physically stop them by police. Some police who were keen to use CS gas were stopped from doing so by group effort, and the activists left, first linking arms to make certain nobody could be snatched, and headed for the vans. The vans were unable to get away due to stingers on the road (spikes that pierce tyres) or by being hemmed in by police vehicles, and three individuals were arrested for theft of alcohol. However, the executive asked to identify specific individuals could not do so as "they are all wearing dark clothes and hoods".

Meanwhile, Callum Thomas, the Professor of sustainable aviation (oxymoron!) at Manchester Metropolitan Uni was paid a visit. His course is funded by Manchester Airport and his post invented just for him. Ten activists occupied his offices, and leafleted students, whilst two others climbed a lamppost outside to hang a banner.

Information on the third 'Doin' It in the North' action will be out soon.

RTS TUBE ACTION

On Monday 4th January, the first day of the working year, Reclaim the Streets (RTS) activists occupied the head offices of London underground in resistance to privatisation and in solidarity with tube workers. Tube workers had voted to go on strike but their union called it off after London Underground Ltd. obtained a court order under the Tory anti-strike laws.

In December, Prescott signed papers allowing private companies to start 'shadowing' London Transport management to get an idea of what they will be taking over. In response, around 14 people occupied the chief executive's office, disrupting the meeting and then hanging banners. After some conversations with the big chief himself, the police evicted the occupants, none of whom were arrested.

RTS have previously done actions in support of striking tube workers and with the Liverpool dockers. In July environmental activists climbed onto the roof of a tube train at Bank and shut down the eastbound Central Line. During the 1996 tube strike RTS activists organised a simultaneous 'Critical Mass' bike blockade in Trafalgar Square. While draconian anti-strike laws limit official protest, there is growing resistance through unofficial action like the wildcat strikes being used so successfully by electricians on the Jubilee Line Extension. RTS 0171 281 4621

CRYSTAL PALACE

The year-old camp at crystal palace is now preparing for eviction. The camp, set up to defend a public open space from becoming a multiplex cinema and leisure complex, was in court during December just before Christmas. They have now had a final health and safety meeting with Bromley Council, and eviction could be at any time. 0181 693 8200

OVER A BARREL AT ASHTON COURT

On 4th December 98, Ashton Court's 'Craggy Island' camp enjoyed its latest post-party protest. A magnificently constructed mobile lock-on (called Ian Trantor) and a huge tripod were unleashed onto sleepy security guards at Durnford Quarry at 7.00am.

Whilst otherwise occupied halting the erection of the tripod security allowed "Trantor" to be rolled in -an oil drum accommodating four traditional lock-on tubes in his reinforced concrete belly. Blocking the access road to the Pioneer Aggregates dusty lair, four activists thrust their hands into "Trantor's" icy bowels. A bonus protester D-locked herself to the quarry gates, performing folk-songs until freed two hours later. "Trantor proved to be unmoveable; Guards non-plussed, police flummoxed and fire services decided it would be dangerous to try.

Five hours of queuing lorries later quarry officials took down their own defences to build a new access road. Protestors unlocked, were arrested, giving the safety of the nearby tunnellers as reason for their actions. The arrestees have not been able to get full legal aid, so a benefit gig on the 30th January (see diary) will raise money towards court costs. The newly named 'Altered State of Bulgaria' continues to push forward attempts to make pioneer aggregates and Bristol City Council acknowledge and act on the presence of the tunnel underneath their meadow. Spurred on by meadow translocation company Alaska driving dangerously close to their underground home on 6th January, camp members decided media tarting was the only way to get the message through and have opened up the previously secret tunnel to all interested media. 07970 423834

SUMMER GATHERING '99

If there is to be a summer gathering this year, we will need to start organising it fairly soon. The Action Update is prepared to act as the *initial* contact for people who want to get involved.

Each year, one of the biggest problems is finding a suitable piece of land to hold it on. Anyone who knows of somewhere with enough camping space for 600 people, with a sympathetic owner who is prepared to put up with potential police harassment, let us know on 0113 262 9365

MASKING UP - THE NEW LAWS

In our feature on masking up last issue, we neglected to mention the new laws, coming into force in the next month or so, which will allow the police to remove masks under certain circumstances. So here's some information about them and when they apply.

According to Government sources, sections 25-27 of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 "aim at preventing violence by giving the police the power to unmask potential violent offenders". It's important to note first these new laws, which come into force on 1 March 1999, will NOT make masking up itself illegal unlike in some other countries.

Second, this power can only be used by the police when they already have an authorisation under Criminal Justice & Public Order Act, s60 to undertake random searches in anticipation of serious violence (the new laws actually form subsection 4A of s60). If you do not "remove any item which the constable reasonably believes you are wearing wholly or mainly for the purpose of concealing your identity" you can be arrested, and the police have the power to seize any such item. There's nothing to stop you (as in quite a few of you or you'll get taken by snatch squads) having a stash of masks nearer wherever you're going, which you could then put on while in a crowd before any action for which you don't want to be IDed while doing and then get rid of the mask when you want to leave. Of course, where people are masked up, this could well count as reasonable grounds for an authorisation under s60 to be made, even if people are just trying not to be IDed by the police EGTs.

NEWBURY REUNION REVELRY

On Sunday 10th January the third Newbury Reunion Rally saw 250 people take over the newly-opened bypass for the afternoon. The reunion, initially planned as a vigil at Donnington Castle, went straight on to the road at the first opportunity, at the Speen Interchange, near where the Granny Ash camp once was. Both carriageways were successfully taken in what was effectively a spontaneous Reclaim The Streets party but with a broader mix of people, no brain-shuddering techno and no lairy pissheads.

There was a slow walk north up the route of the bypass. Three vanloads of police overtook and formed a cordon across the road but the line was uselessly thin and easily breached. They went back to their vans, overtook and formed a cordon again, and were overtaken again. After a third leapfrog, the playground-style game swapped sides and the crowd cordoned the police back. There were four arrests (one for throwing rocks at the police helicopter and another for writing with a finger on a muddy roadsign!)

At the top of the route, by the three saved trees at Mary Hare the police brought out the helmeted riot thugs. But it was OK, the road had been closed for hours, the sun was setting, it was time to go anyway. Everyone slowly walked back up the road to Donnington, putting rocks and heavy iron drain covers and anything else into the road, ensuring that it stayed closed late into the night. At Donnington Castle, there was free soup for all. See you there next year!

EPSOM EVICTION

The Silver Beeches camp at Epsom, set up last year to defend woodland against a car park and access road was evicted in January.

Up to 500 police, accompanied by bailiffs, the Forward Intelligence Team, scab climbers and tunnellers and the Under Sheriff of Greater London, arrived at the camp in an operation believed to have cost around £100,000.

The camp had in fact been abandoned (and partly burned out) a month beforehand and when the police arrived it was to find only one man living in a van.

A local councillor justified the operation saying that they 'didn't know how many people were going to be on that site' despite the fact that it was located right next to the local police station.

Action Diary

January
29-31. Earth First Winter Moot. Contact Notts EF! 0115 9585666

30. Ashton Court Benefit Ceilidh at St. Werburghs Community Centre, Horley Road, Bristol

February
14. South Downs Mass Tresspass Meet Brighton Station 10am 01273 620815
13 -15 Mass Blockade at Faslane Peace Camp. Dry venue, briefings and training.
14 Valentine's cards to the EF!AU at usual address.

27 June 18th National Meeting; workshops and discussions on tactics and issues for all interested parties.

Phone RTS or London Greenpeace for details.
27 Antinuclear Demo/ workshops/ camp in Gorleben, Germany Contact 0049 (0)5841 4684/3197

March
1 National Day of action against all blood sports. Contact Portsmouth 3 Defence Campaign, C/O Box H, 167 Fawcett Rd., Southsea Hants PO4 ODH

3-7 Darmstadt, Germany, Global Network against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space

8 International Women's Day. Organise actions in your area now.

21. South Downs Mass Tresspass Meet Brighton Station 10am 01273620815

30 Celebration of Charles 1 execution - starts 11am outside Banqueting Hall, Whitehall. Contact MA'M tel: 0956 506946

DATE TO BE CONFIRMED "spring into action" West Country Activist gathering
30-4 April Diggers 350 week. Events around the world to carry on what Gerrard Winstanley and the rest started 350 wears ago. contact TLIO 01865 722016

April
European activists gathering in Spain
Contact ASEED

30. Reclaim the Streets Party, Berlin

June
18. Global Day of Action in Financial Centres around the world

Prisoners

John Mycroft. CE 7919
Paul Wood. CE 7920
HMYOI Brinford, New Road, Fetherstone, Wolverhampton, WV10 7PY.
(Disco) Dave Dragonetti
HM Prison Winston Green Road, Winston Green, Birmingham, B18 48S
On remand untill the 9th Feb for criminal damage and burgalry in the nuclear bunker of Birmingham Northern Relief Road.

Taj Ahmed BT9173 HMP Preston PR1 SAB and Roberto Brollini CC5829 HMYO1 Lancaster Farms, Stone Row Head, off Avernmore Rd., Lancs LA1 3Q2

Both these prisoners are on remand, charged with ABH after Andrew Weardon (parliamentary candidate for the British National Party) was 'knocked out and hospitalised'.

EF! CONTACTS FEBRUARY '99

ACTION GROUPS			
Arun Valley EF! c/o 1 York Road, Littlehampton, W. Sussex 01903 721615 aunet@radcall.demon.co.uk	Manchester EF! Dept 29, 255 Wilmslow Rd, Manchester M14 5LW. 0161 2266814 manco@genatodo.freeseve.co.uk	York EF! c/o York LEAF, PO Box 323, York	Anarchist Communist Federation c/o 84b Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 7QX
Bath EF! c/o PO Box 426, Bath, Somerset BA122D 01249 713742	Mid-Somerset EF! PO Box 23, 5 High St, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9PU	SUPPORT GROUPS	Anarchist-Primitivist Network PO Box 252, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 3AY
Blackburn EF! 12 Balmoral Road, Darwen, Lancashire BB3 2EW	Norfolk EF! The Greenhouse, 42-46 Bethel Street, Norwich NR2 1NR	Acme Tat Supplies (protest-tat at cost price) c/o Leeds EF!	Anti-Fascist Action BM Box 1734, London WC1N 3XX
Bristol EF! c/o Box 51, Greenleaf Bookshop, 82 Colston St, Bristol BS1 5BB 0117 939 3093	Nottingham EF! c/o The Rainbow Centre, 182 Mansfield Road, Nottingham NG1 3HW 0115 958 5666	Corporate Watch (as for Oxford EF!) 01865 791391 mail@corporatewatch.i-way.co.uk	Do or Die (journal) c/o South Downs EF!
Cambridge EF! Box E , 12 Mill Road, Cambridge	Oldham EF! PO Box 127 Oldham OL4 3FE	Spirit of Freedom (Earth Lib. Prisoners) c/o BM HEAL, London WC1N 3XX earthlibprisoner@hotmail.com	Anti-Quarry Action (AQUA) Kimberly Mill Park, King's Steignton TQ12 3NR 01626 363844
Cardiff EF! c/o Green Group, Glamorgan Uni SU, Pontypridd, Mid- Glamorgan CF37 1DL	Oxford Community Action Box E , 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ	Head State Support Group 72 Park Road, Worthing BN11 2AN	Campaign Legal Group (self-training) 43 Swan Meadow Road, Poolstock, Wigan WN3 5BJ. 01942 513792
Cheltenham EF! 16 Portland Street Cheltenham Gloucs. GL52 2PB chelt_ef@yahoo.com	Pendle EF! Klondike Central Prospect Farm, Lenches Road, Colne, Lancs, BB8 8ET 01282 870 919	EF! Action Update c/o Leeds EF! actionupdate@gn.apc.org	Disabled Action Network 3 Crawley Road, Wood Green, London N22 6AN 0181 8891361
Exeter Env. Network PO Box 185, Exeter EX4 4EW	Reclaim the Streets PO Box 9656, London N4 4JY. 0171 281 4621 rts@gn.apc.org	PROPAGANDA	DELTA C/O Leaf
Fife EF! c/o 91 South Street, St. Andrews, Fife KY16 9Q 01334 477411	Reclaim the Valleys c/o Swansea Environment Centre, Pier Street, Swansea SA1 1RY	Aufheben c/o POB 2971, Brighton, BN2 2TT	Earth Circus Network CREATE Centre, Smeaton Road, Bristol BS1 6XN. 0117 9250505
The Flat Oak Society c/o 3 St Alphege Lane, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2EB.01227 463368	Reading Roadbusters R.I.S. Centre, 35-39 London Street, Reading, Berkshire 0118 954 6430 roadbusters@clara.net	Black Flag BM Hurricane, London WC1N3XX	EarthRights (env. law & right to protest advice) Law Centre Federation, Duchess House, 18-19 Warren Street, London W1P 5DB.
Glasgow EF! PO Box 180, Glasgow G4 9AB	Sheffield EF! c/o SheFIN, 54 Upperthorpe Rd, Sheffield, S63EB. 0114 263 4494	Counter Information C/O Transmission, 28 Kings St., Glasgow G1 5QP	07071 225011 earthrights@gn.apc.org
Guildford EF! PO Box 217, Guildford GU1 1WS fax 01483 203212	Southampton EF! SUSU Pigeonholes, Southampton University, University Road, Southampton eco@soton.ac.uk	Genetics Update C/O GEN	Environmental Ploughshares (affinity group-based NVDA)
Gwynedd & Mon EF! The Greenhouse, 1 Trevelyan Terrace, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 1AX. 01248 355821 afu01b@bangor.ac.uk	South Devon EF! Birdwood House, 44 High Street, Totnes, Devon. 01626 363844	Green Line PO Box 5, Lostwithiel, Cornwall, PL22 0YT 0870 733 4970	Box W, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ
Hereford EF! Wern Derys, Michaelchurch Escley, Hereford HR2 0JZ 01981 510659	South Downs EF! PO Box 2971, Brighton BN2 2TT savange@easynet.co.uk	Peace News 5 Caledonian Rd, London N1 9DY	Forest Action Network (as for Norfolk EF!) 01603 611953 fanuk@envirolink.org
Hull On Earth c/o PO Box 43, Hull HU1 1AA	Swansea People EF! c/o Green Action, Swansea Uni SU, Swansea, Wales	Smash Hits BM BOX 5538, London, WC1N 3XX	Gandalf Support Campaign c/o London Greenpeace, Panther House, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X OAP lgp@envirolink.org
LEAF Box Z, 13 Biddulph St, Leicester LE2 1BH 0116 255 3223	TAPP (Tyneside Action for People & Planet) PO Box ITA, Newcastle Upon Tyne NE1 1TA tapp@newcastle54. freeseve.co.uk	Squall 0171 5611204 eds@squall.co.uk	Genetic Engineering Network (GEN) (as for RTS) 0181 374 9516 genetics@gn.apc.org
Leeds EF! c/o Cornerstone Resource Centre, 16 Sholebroke Avenue, Leeds LS7 3HB 0113 262 9365 cornerstone@gn.apc.org	Warwick EF! c/o Green Society, Warwick Uni SU, Coventry CV4 7AL suad@csv.warwick.ac.uk	OTHER CONTACTS	GenetIX Snowball (open crop removal) One World Centre, 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS 0161-834 0295 genetixsnowball@orange.net.co.uk
Liverpool EF! 96 Bold Street, Liverpool L1	Wolves Eco Action c/o Wolves Hunt Sabs, Wolves Uni SU, Wulfruna Street, Wolverhampton	Advisory Service for Squatters 2, St Pauls Road, London N1 2QN 0171 359 8814 advice@squat.freeseve.co.uk	Hunt Saboteurs Association PO Box 2786, Brighton BN2 2AX 01273 622827 hsa@gn.apc.org
Lune EF! c/o Bookcellar, 9 Meeting House Lane, Lancaster LA1 1TJ.		ALF Supporters Group BCM Box 1160, London WC1N 3XX 1003021616@comp userve.com	Friends of MOVE PO Box 14129, London W12 8GR

WHAT IS EARTH FIRST!?

Earth First! is not a cohesive group or campaign, but a convenient banner for people who share similar philosophies to work under. The general principles behind the name are non-hierarchical organisation and the use of direct action to confront, stop and eventually reverse the forces that are responsible for the destruction of the Earth and its inhabitants. The above contacts are autonomous groups that consider themselves to share these principles. The **Propaganda** section lists non-EF! publications which we think are worth reading. **International Contacts** are entry points into that country's own network of groups. **Other Contacts** are ones whose aims and principles we agree with fully or in part, or groups that we think may be of use or interest to people. For groups web addresses visit www.k2net.co.uk/ef/

NEW ADDITIONS OR ALTERATIONS ARE SHOWN IN BOLD

From Criminals to Terrorists?

In 1994 the Tories criminalised us-now New Labour plan to brand us terrorists....

Extract from "Legislation Against Terrorism"

- a Consultation Paper just published by the Government

3.10 Animal rights, and to a lesser extent environmental rights activists, have mounted, and continue to pursue, persistent and destructive campaigns. Last year, for example, more than 800 incidents were recorded by the Animal Rights National Index (ARNI)...

3.11 While the level of terrorist activity by such groups is lower, and the sophistication of their organisation and methods less well developed, than that of some of the terrorist groups in Northern Ireland, or of some of the international terrorist groups, there is nothing to indicate that the threat they pose will go away. Acts of serious violence against people and property have undoubtedly been committed in the UK by these domestic groups.

3.16 The Government agrees that the new legislation should bite only on the use of serious violence...The Government does not believe that special powers are needed to deal with matters [such as blackmail or extortion for gain] where there is no intent to disrupt or undermine the democratic process...terrorism should be redefined as "the use of serious violence against persons **or property**, or the threat to use such violence, to intimidate or coerce a government, the public, or any section of the public for political, religious or ideological ends". The term serious violence would need to be defined so that it included serious disruption, for instance resulting from attacks on computer installations or public utilities...

[the full document is at
<http://www.official-documents.co.uk/document/cm41/4178/4178.htm> and consultation deadline is 16 March 1999]

Who will fall within the new definition of "terrorist"?

It seems clear from the above that the state intends to deal with a significant section of activists as terrorists. Particularly, damage to property, which most activists view as non-violent action, is included as terrorist activity alongside violence to people. For example, the flier for the world-wide demonstrations planned for June 18 1999 mentions "sabotage" and "hacktivism". The planning of these two activities would trigger the classification of "terrorists" for all of the "growing alliance of social and environmental movements" involved, were the new proposals law by June, which of course they won't be.

If the state wants to proscribe a group (see below) it will be hard to argue against the decision. As was seen in the recent "GAndALF" case, the state and its organs are likely to make great use of Public Interest Immunity certificates in any cases involving radical activists, and the courts shy away from overturning any decision affecting national security. The trigger term "serious violence" is hard to define; the same term is used in section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, which is often used by police at demonstrations to carry out random stop & searches.

It would not be difficult for many EF! groups, or even Genetix Snowball, to fall within the new classification; support for actions involving eco-tage would be enough. It is likely that liberties will be taken in deciding which groups are connected with which others and in glossing over the fact that few have concepts of 'membership'. Certainly the impression from much of the recent media coverage concerning the animal liberation movement was that groups such as the ALF were described as organisations with members; their loose structure was seen as existing merely to make it harder for police to deal with them rather than being there due to belief in libertarian/anarchist principles of (dis)organisation.

The state and indeed others might even be tempted to follow the FBI's tactics and try a Judi Bari-style bombing so that they could have the necessary evidence to class movements as terrorist.

What difference will it make?

There are a number of powers that can be used against organisations deemed terrorist, though at present they can only be used against organisations engaged in international terrorism or terrorism relating to the affairs of Ireland, as opposed to domestic terrorism. Here are some of the powers proposed:

PROSCRIPTION - the Home Secretary could proscribe, i.e. ban, any group concerned in, promoting or encouraging terrorism. Belonging to a proscribed organisation, soliciting support or funds for it, or displaying support for it in public would all be criminal offences. At present, the view of a senior police officer as to whether someone is a member of a proscribed organisation is admissible as evidence in court.

FINANCES - proscribed groups' funds could be seized and fundraising for such groups made illegal.

NEW ARREST/STOP & SEARCH POWERS FOR POLICE - against anyone they have reasonable suspicion is "concerned in the commission, preparation or instigation of acts of terrorism". The absence of any requirement for reasonable suspicion of a specific offence effectively allows the police free rein to arrest whomsoever they wish. Normal rights under PACE (e.g. legal advice, detention time limits) would not apply.

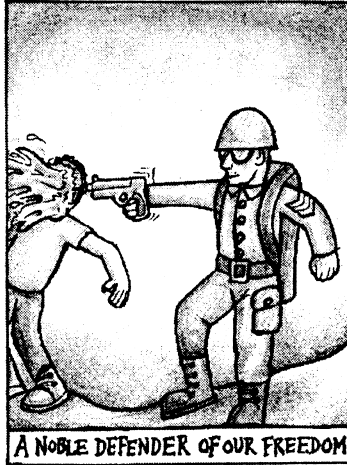
INFORMATION - Making it an offence to collect, record or possess any information which might be useful to terrorists. This could mean the end of the Corporate Watch address book, or even lists of fields with GE crops.

· There is a proposal to make it an offence "to fail to report information to the police which might be of material assistance in preventing an act of terrorism or in arresting someone carrying out such an act". While this is unlikely to become law at present on this island, it already is in N Ireland.

· The recent Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Act 1998 makes it a crime to conspire with others to commit any crime abroad that would also be a crime in the UK if committed there, and there are now proposals also making it a crime to merely incite others to take such action abroad. This would include "crimes" such as damaging weapons of oppression used by the occupying states in Kurdistan or East Timor, and the creation of these offences would have a dramatic chilling effect on support for oppressed people abroad.

Conclusions

One of the biggest problems with the new definition for ecological, social and animal rights activists is that it includes activities that just cause economic damage as opposed to only those creating fear or terror. The legal definition of terrorism will thus be far wider than the dictionary definition. That said, it would be wrong to become too paranoid about the proposed legislation. The Criminal Justice Bill seemed like the end of the world to many, yet we came out not only far stronger and more united, but also more liberated from the law's interpretation of right and wrong.



EUROPEAN ACTIVISTS VIDEO NETWORK

Organic Chaos are setting up an activists' video network. The plan is to exchange video footage, video equipment and information about who, when and where to film throughout Europe. They are creating several archives, where people can send as well as receive copies of footage. As well as exchanging footage they co-ordinate information about where to hire or lend equipment, who is filming when and where and who can give training in filming and editing. So far individuals and groups from the Netherlands, Germany, and Poland are involved. The network will be non-profit and anti copyright.

Organic Chaos Network P.O. Box 780
6130 AT Sittard The Netherlands
Tel. +46 4524803 e mail: ramp@antenna.nl
The Radix Video Archive for direct action collects and lends out videos throughout Europe, especially the East and South. radix, c/o KuNo, Wurzelbauerstr. 29, D-90409 Nuernberg.
radix@pathfindermail.com

NETHERLANDS

The latest stage in the ongoing campaign against the expansion of Schipol Airport involved the squatting of a house near Amsterdam. It was held for about five days, but the police took the building while most squatters were at a demo in Amsterdam.

Contact Groene Front! Postbus 85069, 3058AB, Utrecht

COLOGNE

- 3-21 June, Resistance camp '99, in the heart of the city during the G8 and EU summit, co-organised by Ya Basta - European Zapatista support network. Help and tat from experienced radical campers much wanted! fax 0049 (0)69 774670, Bdeo@asta.rwth-aachen.de

AN RTS IN LÜBECK

...took place on December 22nd. About 50 people marched through the town centre and reclaimed a local road. Unfortunately, they were moved on by police after only half an hour.

A33, NORTHWEST GERMANY

The long running camp on the proposed route from Bielefeld to Osnabrück had seen eviction scares all through 1998, and was finally taken by the state while most residents supported the blockade of a trunk road 200 km to the North. Attempts at reoccupation of the original or another site have failed so far. For now, activists are living in caravans on a car park, waiting for another opportunity. Contact: tel 0049 5425 270

A 20, NORTH GERMANY

The protest against this Trans-European Motorway has been going on for years with camps and actions in various places. It has also suffered several severe blows recently. The last camp had to be abandoned because of neo-fascist attacks, and the environmental establishment like Greenpeace and BUND (FoE Germany) have abandoned opposition to the road. Local initiatives continue despite these adversities. Next big action: [A four day camp in May, with squatting on building sites, street theatre, and a march through Luebeck. A permanent camp might continue after that. JUP! : Am Bürgerpark 2, 23843 Bad Oldesloe, Germany; Tel: 04531/4512, Email: jup-od@lynet.de

FINLAND

Finnish activists are braving the Scandinavian winter to protest against logging of the old-growth Malahvia forest. Around 30 activists have arrived in the area where Finnish timber multinationals Stora-Enso and UPM-Kymmene have started an initial 35 hectare clear-cut and further selective logging, and are being put up by supportive locals, since even the most conservative elements of the area are opposed to the logging. Having heard of the presence of activists, the logging companies decided not to operate on the day of the planned protest, 5th January. The Ministry of the Environment have now backed down until the summer. For anyone interested in solidarity actions, both Stora-Enso and UPM-Kymmene have offices in Britain, the addresses of which are on their websites www.enso.com and www.upm-kymmene.com

BELARUS

Ecoline - environmental library and infoservice Pobox170, Minsk, 113 220113, Belarus, 00375 1723464, ecobel@glas.apc.org

POLAND

Campaign against the A4 motorway from Berlin to Krakow is still active. It has so far seen a couple of protest sites. Contact Olaf Swolkien 0048 (0)12 4222264, wapienica@pnrwi.most.org.pl

GLEN OF THE DOWNS

A campaign has been opposing the planned Euroroute from Dublin/Belfast to Paris and Madrid for well over a year now. The motorway is supposed to cut through a large wooded valley. On January 14th about 80 workers moved in illegally to fell about 50 trees near Wicklow and at the North end of the Glen. Protesters eventually managed to stop the felling which was ordered by the County Council and are now back in court for further hearings. A phone/email tree is in place for future clearance work. Contact Pobal An Dulra

CORK HARBOUR

Construction company EBS plans to erect 84 170ft high pylons on the island of Cobh in Cork harbour, to transport electricity from their power station to the other end of the harbour. Hundreds of islanders would face the risk of cancer and devastation of their home with one pylon per three acres. There are now two camps set up in to stop the building of the pylons and to force an alternative solution onto the agenda.

EVICITION IN MADRID

The Laboratorio, anarchist social centre in the heart of Madrid, was evicted just before Christmas, following a surprise attack by riot cops. On 22nd December, the 'okupas' were given 2 hours to leave with their personal possessions. All databases were taken for intelligence and then the bulldozers moved in. The squatter movement is the driving force behind resistance culture in Spain and the state has virtually declared war against it, outlawing squatting and pressing ahead with brutal evictions. However, as the kids chant on the demos, then 'one eviction, another squat' (sounds sexier in Spanish), its not long before another building is taken, and the city councils are having a hard time keeping up.

The Laboratorio have got a new place, latest info www.nodo50.org/desalojo.htm

FRANCE

November: A disused slaughterhouse was squatted in Dijon by activists from the autonomous centre "maloka"
13 Oct - 5 Nov. 500 km march for protection of the forests of the Earth, ending in a two-day tree occupation in Fontainebleau, coinciding with the opening of an international conference on nature conservation
7-8 Nov. Disruption of the prestigious hunt in Fontainebleau
"Collectif pour des rues librees" - autonomous centre in Lyon, focus on car-free cities, publishers of "Carbusters" magazine (in English)
4 rue Bodin, 0033 42002357, rgheut@humboldt1.com

A17 DRESDEN - PRAGUE

Another Trans European Route. While work on the Czech part of the road has stopped because of lack of funds, the German part is due to be started this year, after years of legal battles. A camp has been going in a valley outside Dresden for more than a year. Contact: Am Erlengrund 9a, D- 01462 Zoellmen (near Dresden), tel: 0049 351 804 5444

CROATIA

Youth Culture Movement of Split, infoshop, Vukovarska 139, Split, ozren.culic@fesb.hr
Attack, autonomous cultural factory in Zagreb, Republike Austrije 17/I Tel ++385 (0)1 3777866, arkzin_zg@zamir-zg.ztn.apc.org
The longest standing squat in Croatia's history has been occupied for 3 months now.

SLOVENIA

Skrati (elves) autonomous infoshop in Ljubljana: skrati@kud-fp.si (Metelkova -6, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia)

GREECE IS THE WORD...

Over half of the high schools in Greece have been occupied in mass resistance against new government legislation. Those engaged in this struggle are facing severe persecution, increasing after riots whereby cop cars were set on fire.

There is also continued struggle against the multinational TVX Gold which has been trying to extract gold from the area of Strymonikos (Chalkidiki). Local residents have resisted for over a decade to defend the area, and have often faced the authorities in risk of their lives.
Autonomous centre of Kavala, PO Box 1456 P.C. 651 10, Kavala, Greece

ISRAEL ACTIONS

Pedants will no doubt remind us that Israel is actually in Asia, but it is the home of an active ecological direct action movement. The proposed Trans Israel Highway has been actively resisted recently. At the end of July a press conference was disrupted with half a ton of ice and calls to 'freeze this highway'. In September the roof of the Tel Aviv branch of the Bank Hapoalim, which finances the project, was occupied, with activists abseiling off to display a banner.

Other recent actions include working with the local fishermen to preserve the 4000 year old Jaffa harbour from the clutches of real estate dealers. Fishermen took their boats and nets to Rabin Square in Tel Aviv for a day of protest.

In August there was a crane occupation against the Herzlia Marina, which has caused tremendous damage to the surrounding coastline. Two activists on smaller cranes were violently forced down after one day, but four other activists remained up a larger crane for 4 days.

European Round-up