

HIT AND RUN EDITORS

The Guardian Attacks PFOC and Then Conceals Our Response from its Own Readers (Documents)

In the last issue of BREAKTHROUGH No. 2, PFOC began a critique of the Guardian newspaper from a revolutionary anti-imperialist political perspective. We gave a general outline of the major criticisms of the Guardian's politics. Following this, our first article showed how the Guardian's views on women's emancipation stand in opposition to women's struggles for liberation. In the present combined issue, BREAKTHROUGH No. 3 & 4, we show how the Guardian suppresses and attacks the leading revolutionary role of oppressed nations both inside and outside current US borders.

About the same time that PFOC published its criticisms, the Guardian started its own series of articles attacking its own distorted version of PFOC's politics. The Guardian was going to cover 11 main points which it held to be the essence of our position. In this issue we continue to concentrate on exposure of the Guardian's political line. However, we are also reprinting some materials of that struggle to show how the Guardian refuses to debate the issues. We are printing the paid advertisement which the Guardian refused to print because it exposes the Guardian's dishonesty with its readers. We also include information on how to obtain BREAKTHROUGH which the Guardian never provided, and an exchange of letters between PFOC and the Guardian. Finally, we are printing some comments on the Guardian's opportunism which we have received from political prisoners of war. These materials show that these struggles are not petty squabbles, but have to do with revolutionary solidarity as the primary task of the present time, as opposed to attacks upon national liberation.

These issues embody the most important two-line struggle of our times. We want to make the basic documents generally available. A fuller exposure of the Guardian's

politics and methods is being prepared for this purpose. We will also continue to carry these materials in coming issues of BREAKTHROUGH. We invite people to get in touch with us, order back issues of BREAKTHROUGH and/or subscribe, in order to examine the real issues and our historical analysis. Also, we urge readers to write to the Guardian, expressing your views on their politics and methods in this struggle.

August 15, 1977

To: the Guardian
Attention: Irwin Silber,
Jack Smith

We of the Prairie Fire Organizing Committee have read the two *fan the flames* columns in the July 20 and July 27 Guardians. In the name of conducting political struggle with the revolutionary line of our organization, you have falsified the contents of our provisional political statement (BREAKTHROUGH No. 1); still worse you have viciously assaulted all revolutionary liberation forces in the USA, especially the Black and Native American peoples, who are quite able to speak for themselves. As for us, we demand and require of the Guardian that you apologize to all concerned for the calculated attacks which you have made. We also require that you print in an early issue, while the present series is still current, portions of our statement and other materials to be chosen by us to offset the damage you are doing. This will include suitable portions of Lenin's book, *Imperialism*, to correct your falsification of his views on that subject.

We will include the first set of materials with this letter. We will expect early reply and early action. We will, ourselves, also publish and circulate this letter and our

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The Guardian refused to print this paid advertisement submitted to it by PFOC.*

FROM: Prairie Fire Organizing Committee
TO: The readers of the Guardian

- PFOC has been aware of deep political differences between ourselves and Irwin Silber and the Guardian.
- Now Silber is going all-out against revolutionary anti-imperialism—beginning in the Guardian of July 20, 1977 and continuing with his frenzied "Fan the Flames" column of July 27 on the national question, as in his earlier writings attacking women.
- Silber calls PFOC insignificant—but what he can't stand is any serious challenge to the Guardian's right wing opportunism and chauvinism.
- PFOC is not the real target. The Guardian rages at all genuine politics of revolutionary liberation in the US. Silber heaps contempt and white supremacy on the Black and Native American peoples especially.
- Silber's case is weak, and so he falsifies the political statement of PFOC and still worse, he treats Lenin's analysis of imperialism the same way.

We challenge the Guardian to print and debate facts instead of inventions. We are forwarding the documents.

To Guardian readers: You can obtain the original and genuine materials of the revolutionary position of PFOC directly from us. *BREAKTHROUGH*, PFOC political journal: No. 1 contains our Provisional Political Statement; No. 2 has a general reply to the Guardian's lines with a special article on its line on women, a reprint from the Native Study Group of Vancouver, Canada on Sovereignty, reprints from the African Peoples Socialist Party newspaper *Burning Spear* about the white left and women's struggles; *BREAKTHROUGH* No. 3 will have more on the Guardian's anti-liberation politics.

6 issues of *BREAKTHROUGH* or 5 issues of *BREAKTHROUGH* plus 1 copy of "The Split of the Weather Underground Organization." Either is \$5 plus \$1.00 postage; total \$6.00. Less than six pieces, \$1.25 including postage. Order from:

PFOC, P.O. BOX 40614 Station C, San Francisco CA 94110

*The Guardian did, however, offer to run the ad if PFOC would allow them to rewrite it, saying that they would write to us about this! They finally said they would not run it at all. PFOC also demanded in writing of editors I. Silber and J. Smith that the Guardian print 10 pages of our Provisional Political Statement as well as eight pages of Lenin's work, *Imperialism*, both of which they have falsified constantly in their 'party building' articles as well as in the Guardian attacks on PFOC. This they have categorically refused to do. So much for the Guardian's pretenses about "serious debate", "freedom of the press", and "democratic rights."

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response along with such apology as you may offer. Whether you make the requested corrections or plunge even deeper into opportunism and white supremacy is yours to decide.

Since writing the above we have read the continuation of the Guardian series which resumed in the issue of August 17. This issue does not improve the matter. You announce that you will present our strongest positions squarely and then refute them. In fact you quote more words but present them even more dishonestly. We never expected you to abandon your opportunist politics; we do expect that people will force you to present the real issues instead of the straw monsters you are setting up. By your pre-

sent course you expose your true line more and more.

In all seriousness,

National Committee,
Prairie Fire
Organizing Committee

Enclosures: excerpts from PFOC Provisional Political Statement, BREAKTHROUGH No. 1, pp. 16-29; also from Lenin, *Imperialism* (FLP Peking, 1973) pp. 105-112 and p. 122 to the top of p. 131. Also, the Lenin quote from his report to the 2nd Congress of the Communist International, quoted by us in BT No. 1, p. 18 of enclosed material, requires special note.

the independent radical newsweekly

Guardian

33 West 17th Street, New York, N.Y. 10017 (212) 691-0404

National Committee
PFOC

September 1, 1977

We have received your letter of August 15. Our entire staff and Coordinating Committee unanimously reject your arrogant and absurd demands.

GUARDIAN COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Frances M. Beal Irwin Silber
Ben Bedell Jack A. Smith
Karen Gellen

Comrades:

Many thanks for forwarding me a copy of "Breakthrough" (Vol. 1, No. 2). I found the contents quite relevant and timely. . . .

I cannot find the adequate words that would render your critique on the Guardian the justice that it truly deserves. Exquisite! To say the least.

These pseudo-Marxists-Leninists are long overdue for having their covers pulled. I. Silber is a fake and a discredit to the teachings of Marx and Lenin. This sycophant's recent labeling of our courageous comrades (FALN) as terrorists and individualists is despicably unforgivable! It has been these false, plastic so-called liberal groups such as Silber and his lot who have been thwarting the Black, Indian, women's, prisoners' and all other

progressive struggles in this kountry. In the September 7 edition of their paper they speak of building a *club*! Can you imagine?! They would be better off if they started bingo games! Out of the 29 principles that they assert as the ideological foundation for this club unity, there is not the slightest mention of the prisoners' struggle. Not one word pertaining to prisoners or prisoners mentioned at all! They claim to provide support and leadership to struggles against oppression, racism, capitalism, etc., etc., yet omit giving support to the thousands of sisters and brothers enslaved in amerika's koncentration kamps. If you are in reach of these scavengers, comrades, relate this message from Auschwitz to them. Tell them that the "Dragon" is coming!

—A prisoner in California