

Red Action

ISSUE NO. 7

JUST A GOOSESTEP AWAY FROM 1984 ?

1983 has a lot in common with 1933 — mass unemployment — Britain in 1983 has a lot in common with Germany in 1933 and we all know what happened there — the mass degeneration into fascism — could it happen again here?

Maybe the fascists are only small fragmented groups on the edge of British politics, but how far are their ideas, such as repatriation of blacks and Asians, or stopping women from working and having abortions, away from the minds of many people in this country, indeed how much do their ideas about race and the nation differ from those of the Tory government? Only by degrees of Saatchi and Saatchi soft sell.

PATRIOTISM

It is not really surprising that this government is popular, which they are in many quarters, when you look at the wet alternatives offered by the Labour Party. What's a boring

economic plan compared to the rampant patriotic drum-beating the Tories want us to get off on.

HELPLESSNESS

The greatest weapon in the armoury of both Thatcher and Hitler, was and is, the despair and helplessness of people who feel they can't fight back. People without work, money, and often pride and happiness. Idiots who say that money can't buy love have never had to lay awake at night, trying to do unequal sums, the dole money versus the rent, food, electric and kids shoes, and then sit in on a Saturday night locked in a bitter and pointless fight with your partner because of the pain of it all. You're ground to pieces at the dole office, the housing office, where do you go to for justice, not the police who can do what they like with impunity. On top of all this they've got the bomb to make us feel even more help-

less. I mean what does it matter if we are all going to be blown to fuck anyway.

OBEDIENCE

In the 1930s Hitler offered Germany strong government. He was the father figure who was going to take care of his children if they were good and worked hard for the nation.

Like Hitler, Thatcher the iron lady also wants to lead a nation of lost children into the path of thrift and righteousness, where children will accept wage cuts for their own good, and girls cheerfully struggle by looking after babies and sick or elderly relatives, in order that the welfare state may be more easily dismantled. After we've all been good and obedient wives and workers for long enough, there will come a golden age and we will all live happily ever after in peace and prosperity.

And they say that talk of a revolution is pie in the sky.

But there are still plenty of angry fighting people about. Weren't the 1981 riots about anger at poverty, pressure and lousy living conditions, about people screaming out loud together rather than jumping off tower blocks on their own. The women at Greenham Common aren't satisfied to sit back and whine, they are showing us the way with direct action. The water workers showed us how to use their muscle to stop their wages and living standards being dragged down any further.

FIGHT-BACK

If we want something better than we have we have to battle for it. A lot of people say that revolutionary socialists, like the people in Red Action, are wasting their time, that things can't be changed. Well, we soon as hell prefer to waste our time kicking the bastards in the balls than lying down waiting for them to drop the bomb on us.

IAN McINTOSH

It is with the deepest regret that Red Action take this, their first opportunity, to record the death of Ian McIntosh. Just 25 years of age, Ian, from Salford in Lancashire, was known by all his friends, as a sincere and committed socialist of some years standing. Ian was a regular participant in Red Action activities, and was known, liked and respected by all of us. We take this belated opportunity to express our deepest and most sincere condolences to all of his family and friends, and to pay tribute to the life of a great socialist, and a wonderful person.

Inside, Ian McIntosh, a friend remembers.

MORE IN COMMON THAN GREENHAM

You may or may not know exactly where Greenham Common is, but everyone now has some idea of what is going on there.

Greenham Common is one of the places chosen for the siting of nuclear cruise missiles in this country. The building of the huge silos designed to hold these missiles started two years ago, and at the same time a group of women set up a peace camp outside the gates of the camp in protest. They have been there ever since.

The solid reliable intransigence of these women and their flair for unusual and imaginative protest; their courage and determination in the face of bad weather, arrest and imprisonment; and the mobilisation of huge numbers of women in mass support, have all been outstanding.

ALL WOMEN

What is even more outstanding is the fact that they are all women. Women who have traditionally taken a supportive role in direct political ac-



tion. Women who have wept as the men went to jail, who have cooked, cleaned and cared for kids while the men campaigned, and whose political efforts have so often been ridiculed and dismissed.

LEAD THE WAY

These women have not tried to exclude men from the whole campaign against nuclear arms and nuclear power, but they have used Greenham Common to show other women as well as men, that women can organise independently, and can lead the way

for campaigns and protests — in the tradition of the suffragettes.

DETERMINATION

Each small, brave effort, by each big brave woman, strengthens the determination of many more people, who only hear about the action on the news or in the paper. People who have never been involved in any political action, can see that there is something that can be done — that direct action by large groups of people really is powerful!



A FRIEND REMEMBERS

Ian McIntosh is no more, and all of us have lost a dear and valued friend, and the socialist movement has lost one of its greatest adherents. These words are not used lightly. I am fully aware of the danger of being over romantic about someone after they are gone and I am sure that there will be those who read this who will, having never heard of Ian, be very surprised to hear me describing him this way. I REPEAT. I have no hesitation in describing Ian McIntosh as one of the finest examples of both a socialist, and a person that it has been my pleasure to know.

I doubt very much that he would have been impressed to hear me describe him in this way. Ian was not one who was easily impressed by either dramatic phrase or reputation. He would make up his own mind about people in his own time, and in his own cautious, but fair minded way. He was the epitome of his northern Salford upbringing, a true salt of the earth character.

Raised in a traditional Protestant (loyalist) background, Ian's open outlook on life and his experiences, particularly in his union, led him, as he grew older to question many of his earlier views. In time he became a committed socialist, and a supporter of the Republican movement. He joined a revolutionary organisation long before most of those who were to later be his peers, in spite of some reservations about the far left.

Of these reservations the greatest was about the number of middle class socialists involved. His distrust of them was legendary amongst all who knew him and in fact if we were to be honest, we would have to admit that he was a bit of an inverted snob. I'm sure that were he able to read this, he would insist that he was very much of an inverted snob. This could, sometimes, cloud his judgement a little and lead him to be unnecessarily cautious or dismissive of someone because of their class origins, but this was a small price to pay for someone whose commitment, courage, and steadfastness were utterly beyond question.

STOUT

If I had to choose one word to describe Ian I would choose stout. There were many that had good reason to be grateful for his stoutness. Those that were responsible for arranging activities and events that are not very fashionable with many on the left. Events where some sort of opposition could possibly be expected, particularly Republican initiatives. Ian never refused his assistance and would often travel long distances to help out.

HACKS

His willingness to put himself out should not be taken as an indication that his whole life revolved around nothing more than socialist events. He led a full and varied social life and was well known in more than one pub at more than one end of the country. Some of the more zealous in the socialist movement were sometimes critical of his unwillingness to put politics first for 24 hours every day, and it is true that it would have taken great persuasion to get him out selling



papers during opening hours on a Friday or Saturday night. But Ian was never concerned by criticism of this sort. Having been around the movement longer than many of those who were critical of his attitude, he was fully aware of how so many who make the most demands and most noise soon either burn themselves out and disappear or just turn into mindless hacks spouting out the party line. He made his contribution in his own way, and over the years contributed many times more than those who had been so ready to criticise him for his lack of commitment. All those who knew him well, knew that for anything really important, any time, anywhere, no one was more reliable.

Ian was a firm and uncompromising believer in direct action whenever necessary, particularly against the fascists, and was always willing to put his money where his mouth was. I myself can remember an incident where I was suddenly isolated amongst a group of fascists after an incident, and how Ian on seeing this was immediately alongside without regard to the odds.

FOUNDER

When the first meeting of the future founder members of Red Action took place, Ian was present. This had come about because most of those involved had been recently expelled from a left wing organisation. Ian had also been a member of this organisation but had previously left it, and came in for some criticism for this from those later to be expelled. For someone who was not considered to be, and never tried to be a leader figure or philosopher, he had an annoying habit of being way ahead of everyone else. He was again present at the founding of Red Action and will always be considered by all of us as one of our spiritual founders.

VICTIM

Ian killed himself. It is not a pleasant reality for any of

us but we have to face facts. It seems that he had been plunged into a deep depression by a motor accident that he had been involved in a week earlier where someone was killed. Apparently he had been deeply shocked by the fact

that passing motorists would not stop when he tried to flag them down to assist the victim. It is some indication of the basic trust and belief in the good in people that he had, that he could be so shook up by this. For all his experience and toughness, he retained an air of innocence and naivety about himself. He was basically a good bloke. At the risk of again being accused of dropping cliches, I think I can honestly say that I did not know one person who knew him and disliked him.

Some will say that he was wrong to do what he did, that it was an admission of defeat. Was it or wasn't it? It was certainly wrong for all of us left to mourn and miss him, and all of us will always wonder whether there was something that we could have done that we should have seen. At the same time it is difficult to avoid the conclusion that everyone has the right to do whatever they wish with their own life, and that that wish should be respected, no matter how distasteful it is to the rest of us.

FAREWELL

Ian is now just a memory to us all, and the pain of knowing what a great socialist we have lost can be outweighed only by the pain of knowing what a great friend we have lost. Farewell Stig, brave, dependable, stoutest of the stout. No one is more deserving of these words than you. Your time with us was short, but we will comfort ourselves with the knowledge that you achieved more in your few years than many do in three times as long. Farewell Stig, wonderful comrade and dearest, dearest friend. Time will heal the emptiness of your absence but will never erase your memory. For us still here, that memory will be an inspiration in our struggle to build the better world that you believed in. I can only end by saying what a privilege and a pleasure it was to be a friend to one of the finest people I ever have, or ever will meet.



SCUM & SCRUBBERS

First the good news — after the 24 May this year borstals will no longer exist. Now the bad news — the criminal justice act which comes into effect the next day introduces youth custody centres instead — and many more things besides.

At present young offenders can be sentenced to detention centres or to borstals. D.C.s are only for boys and are supposed to be the famous 'short sharp shock' treatment. Short (as short as six weeks) sharp (a tight military regime) and

The new sentence is a youth custody order. These will be introduced on young people aged 15 to 21, who will then be sent to youth custody centres (the old borstals and young prisoners' jails renamed). Youth custody orders can be made for as 'short' as three months, or as long as three years. Unlike borstals, youth custody centres are not going to have any training element and are likely to have a stricter regime than the old borstals.

The stated aim of the act is to reduce the amount of

make a 'supervised activity order' which sentences a young person to attend a particular club or activity, for a certain time each week (how do you fancy a 24 hour sentence at your local youth club?) or a supervision order with curfew — where you are sentenced to stay at home from 6 pm to 6 am every day for three months.

The criminal justice act is not all bad. At least on a youth custody order, unlike borstals, you will know your release date as soon as you are sen-



a shock for young men 'on the brink of a criminal career.' Borstal training is for 15-19 year olds, girls as well as boys. The sentence is not fixed — from six months to two years — depending on how well a person responds to the so called training i.e. how well they behave.

time that young people spend in jail. However there is nothing in the new arrangements which stops magistrates sending people down — it just gives them different ways of doing it.

The act also includes other sentences that magistrates can give to young people. It will be possible for a magistrate

tenced, and even the sharpest shock is pretty short if you only serve two weeks. But the underlying philosophy of the act — and the way it could be put into action — is the worrying point. The philosophy is one of more control. More control in more punitive tougher institutions, more control by magistrates over young people, their home life and leisure, more control over parents and children.

The government's ideas for control are much more harshly illustrated in their plans for police powers in the police and criminal evidence bill. If this bill becomes law — which it is well on the way to being — it will give the police far more powers. They will be able to stop and search anyone at any time (they do already — but now they will be officially allowed to). They will be allowed to search the homes of people who are not suspected of any offence, and they can look through the confidential files of doctors, social workers etc. This means that they will be allowed access to large amounts of information officially (no need for bothersome phone-tapping).

Not long until 1984, huh?



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THE MEN OF VIOLENCE

Even in detailed and unemotional study, it is difficult to find much evidence of the much heralded British sense of fair play. There are however plenty of other less noble characteristics which the Irish, and the oppressed of other small countries (Aden, Cyprus etc.) may identify with them, such as stupidity, vindictiveness, and most of all hypocrisy.

This may come as an unpleasant surprise to the apologist for imperialism who thinks that the only reason these countries were invaded in the first place was to civilise them and bring Christianity to them, and after all this the vanquished natives show little gratitude. Ungrateful bastards! After all that we did for them!

UPRISINGS

The reality of the 'troubles' in Northern Ireland is that they are actually the climax to a war that began in 1169, when the Normans, having defeated the Saxons, decided to try their luck across the water. It was never a complete success, because throughout the centuries there were organised uprisings (sometimes three in a single century) and plenty of extra parliamentary behaviour.

One of the most common complaints made about the Irish by the British, aside from the fact that they are stupid and priest ridden, is over their preoccupation with their history. Well why not - there are plenty of precedents for the war in the north in it.

SYMPATHY

It is always disgusting to read the headlines, editorials and quotes from leading public figures that greet the news of another 'atrocious' (they don't seem to worry too much about the odd soldier or policeman that are killed nearly every other day - too boring perhaps). The paragraphs are packed with predictable condemnations and colourful descriptions - barbarous, disgusting, murderous etc. One might look on the crocodile tears of M.P.s and their kind with more sympathy if they had publicly declared themselves to be pacifists. But nothing could be further from the truth. It is not violence that upsets them, it is its source.

BALLYKELLY

They are the same people who screamed their approval of the bombing of the General Belgrano, where 600 Argentinian conscripts died no less painfully than the victims of the Ballykelly bombing, and the same who didn't lift a finger to stop the death, by slow starvation, of 'ten healthy young men' as they are now described by the British media. Where was their humanity then - not a fucking bleat.

SAS

Recruitment programs for the Paras are dressed up as an entertainment. Books and documentaries are devoted to the worship of the SAS and

replays of the Iranian Embassy siege were voted live action of the year. (The same embassy where the four kidnappers were disarmed, ordered to lie on the floor and were executed with a shot in the back of the head.) The Falklands campaign is glorified and compared with the blitz (even though the poor bastards who were burned and maimed were barred from the victory parade) all this is used by the media, and the establishment to try and make it seem that 'our' British violence is somehow glamorous and right. Violence is ugly no matter what form it takes. Whether it is someone being mutilated by a bomb, or someone having their face shredded by a glass in a pub brawl, there is nothing romantic about killing and maiming people and there is no justification for glamourising it. It, nevertheless, is justified in the fight for freedom from your oppressor.

If the aims and aspirations of a political movement are suppressed by a system designed to stop them ever having them realised, then people may be forced to kill. It does not make the killers original claims for freedom ANY LESS LEGITIMATE! After all, if you shit on people for 800 years it's a bit unrealistic to cry foul when they put a bomb in a soldiers pub ISN'T IT.

"CUT THE CRAP..."
with the

ANTI SOCIAL WORKERS

The envelope crashed through the letter box and embedded itself in the doormat - it was that loaded. It told of a sinister movement called 'Reds Against Trendies.' It spoke of a fiendish plot to mate Shergar and Lady Di. It said that the 'Mad Professor' supplied the music. It confessed to having a soft spot for Tories - Romney Marsh! It admitted to liking football (but surely not Luton?!) beer and boots. And it was signed by the Anti-Social Workers, adding the outrageous claim that their music is more catchy than a dose of clap at a drunken orgy. Checking the postmark, which said Leighton Buzzard, Red Action's roving reporters - 'Fred the Red' and the 'Barbarian' - set out to track down these monstrous minstrels.

RED ACTION: How did the band start?

TIM: We decided we'd promote a gig in the area 'cos there was fuck all going on, so we put on the Newtown Neurotics and the Redskins, and we thought, fuck it, we might as well do something ourselves. There wasn't much

TIM: I don't think bands like us should stop at music. It's an idea to put across. We should go as far as we can to put that idea across as well as enjoy the music.

MARK: Are you saying that we should get together to form a movement?

RED ACTION: Just asking.

TIM: I think one of the reasons why the Left is failing at the moment is 'cos you've got to be into strikes and industrial stuff and kids are left out which is sad. There's fuck all being said for youth at the moment.

DANNY (friend of the band): I think Tim has a bias for youth culture against industrial work. You need a balance.

PAUL: You've got 57 varieties on the Left, what you need is not so much back biting and in-fighting, you've got to have united action.

RED ACTION: There's a lot of young people who are interested in politics but don't get involved with the Left 'cos they don't seem to have much



time to write any songs so we came up with the idea of using backing tapes, so we nicked a load of reggae songs off records and just sung over the top. The reaction was pretty good so we thought we'd keep on doing it.

PAUL: I think reggae's got a really bad name. It was brilliant but a lot of reggae now is all back to Africa, Jah, a woman's place is in the kitchen, and get stoned out of your head. It's very negative and inward looking.

RED ACTION: So you want to play reggae with a more militant message?

MARK: The spirit of punk but with a different kind of music.

RED ACTION: What do you sing about?

TIM: Songs like 'Vandalize the Vatican,' if you really want to help the poor nick the riches behind the church door. 'Democracy' which is about shooting people for the cause of freedom. 'Pagan Man' about big macho skinheads. 'England,' the song that sparked off two riots.

RED ACTION: Do you see bands like yourselves, Neurotics, Redskins, ranters etc. as being part of the same thing?

... a good Rock Against Racism gig there used to be banners, posters, leaflets, slides projected on the wall - rather than making it like any other gig with the money just happening to go to RAR. Trying to make a very noticeable difference.

TIM: I think it's just a coincidence that a lot of bands have come up who think the same way.

MARK: Yeah. But it would be a good thing for us to unite and form some kind of movement.

PAUL: We've got our own slides. Pictures of Nicaragua, Vietnam, the lot, and there's words from the songs over the slides. They're really fucking powerful. We've got posters as well. But I don't want to get in the trap of coming over as nice little politicians. I think it's important to entertain first then get your message over.

TIM: Best way to get your message over is if you enjoy it, you think, yeah, a political band but they're really funny.

RED ACTION: There's no reason why we can't be proud to be socialists but still have the crack and generally misbehave.

to offer them.

DANNY: You said disillusioned with the Left, but where I work I haven't met one person who's said 'I'm disillusioned with the Left' or even looked like he's disillusioned with the Left. Disillusioned, full stop! We've got to get our politics over.

RED ACTION: As a band how far can you see yourselves going?

TIM: Number one ... Rolls Royce ...

MARK: I'd like to end up - this is real dream stuff - so that we don't have to sing the songs that we do. If what we are singing about actually happened.

PAUL: I'd like to be able to make a living out of it but I wouldn't want to change my lifestyle. You get bands being militant behind the microphone but what happens when they're out on the street - they talk a lot but actually do very little.

TIM: What I'd really like to do is get on Top of the Pops and do a song inciting housewives to petrol bomb coppers' cars.

JOE M^c DONNELL
MURDERED
BY
THATCHER



RED ACTION IN ACTION

BLOODY SUNDAY

A good turnout of Red Action members and supporters braved sub-zero temperatures to attend the Bloody Sunday demo in Leeds. About 2,000 people were on the march to commemorate the murder of 13 civilians on a Civil Rights march in Derry (1972) by the Parachute Regiment.

MANCHESTER MARTYRS

A strong Red Action contingent helped steward the demonstration which successfully marched through Manchester despite threats of attacks from fascists/loyalists. At the beginning of the march there was a brief scuffle with the opposition who were... ahem... seen off. Some of those involved were seen to be wearing Red Action badges, the only conclusion we can draw from this is that someone is giving Red Action badges to the hooligan element.

WE ARE RED ACTION

Red Action was formed in late 1981 when some working class socialists had finally had enough of being used then abused by liberals on the so-called revolutionary left. We believe that working class people have the power and ability to run their own lives. That goes for Red Action as well. We can organise and educate ourselves as Red Workers without any interference from middle class intellectuals.

Since our formation we have concentrated on fighting the fascists and supporting the Irish Nationalist struggle against the British ruling class. This is because we feel that most of the Left won't work in these areas as they can't get members out of them.

We intend to avoid at all costs, becoming like the other left groups; we are not a revolutionary party although it is not an impossibility that we might form a Party in the future.

The key thing for us is that we build a movement within the working class which has revolution as its aim. This movement must be rooted in the working class because only we as working class people have the power to sweep the Boss Class off the face of the earth. We will use any means at our disposal to further this aim. We do not reject any ideas, strategies or tactics just because we didn't think of them ourselves.

We believe that socialism belongs to the working class, and that while it is true that an organisation must be able to give a lead to the class, it must also be able to reflect the spirit and consciousness of the class.

We in Red Action will strive to this end. To justify our existence to the most critical and cynical audience of all - the working class, and present socialist politics in a way that identifies with them in their work and their leisure.

We are not puritan socialists, and are certainly not afraid to enjoy ourselves and celebrate all that is positive in working class culture

WE ARE FOR

1. A working class organisation inspired and directed by working class people
 2. United action between socialist groups FOR THE CLASS NOT THE PARTY
 3. The Irish National liberation struggle against our own British ruling class
 4. Total opposition to fascist organisations
 5. Union strength - we support any picket line - in defence of workers living standards.
 6. Opposition to all prejudice which divides workers, white against black, men against women.
 7. Killing the lie that the "Communist states" are socialist.
 8. Young peoples fight to determine their own future.
- RED ACTION IS AGAINST
1. Anything read in the Daily Express!

NOT QUITE JOHN McVICAR BUT....

My name is Pete Coen. This is the first edition of Red Action since my release from prison for petrol bomb offences in the summer of 1981. The purpose of this article is (1) to give my impressions of prison life, and (2) to thank all those who made time inside that little bit easier, with an especially big thank you to all those who helped in paying off my outstanding fine, saving me from an extra two months inside.

As you would expect I have many reflections on my time spent inside, and I think the conclusion is, is that prison is an absolute waste of time for most people. All that judges and magistrates have on their mind is punishment, more punishment, and nothing but punishment.

Most people have a wrong idea of what a prison is like, their misplaced belief being that it contains hundreds of desperate men who would attempt to kill you at the first opportunity. In reality it is not like that. Violence is not that common, and when it does happen it tends to be minor. There are exceptions but generally speaking this is true. Conditions can be very bad especially in the London prisons (Wandsworth, Brixton, the Scrubs and Pentonville) but you cope. The basic point

about prison is that is boring, and therefore it is mentally tough. The fact that you are deprived of most things that make life bearable - social contact with friends, the company of the opposite sex, and most of all, the ability to control your own life, make prison a mental rather than a physical test.

ANTI FASCIST

This is where the help of friends is so important. Letters and visits are your only contact with the outside world, and regular amounts of both keep your spirits up. During my time inside there was another group of people, from the Manchester area, who were serving sentences for anti-fascist activity (you may have read about them in past issues of Red Action) and I'm sure they would agree with what I have said. I had some contact with them and this made me feel less isolated and part of a wider struggle, which was also a great boost to my morale.

Many screws have a belief that the reason why there is no great trouble in prison is down to the fact that they are on good terms with the cons. There is one answer to that - BULLSHIT. They pretend this to the public, but nothing could be further from the truth. The main reasons for the lack of trouble in most prisons are (1) most people will put up with anything to not lose their chance of parole (2) a lot of the people in prison are social misfits, who are used to taking all the shit that is thrown at them and (3) anyone who attempts to organise prisoners in any way is quickly moved to another prison. So most of the time they are dealing with people who are unwilling or unable to cause them any sort of trouble.

RACIST SCREWS

You find quite a lot of racist opinion in prison from both screws and cons, but it is rarely translated into any sort of action. There are occasional incidents of racial conflict, but these are mostly caused when an NF or BM con opens his mouth. The same tends to go for the screws, but there are some examples of blatant racism. In one of the prisons that I was

be any less successful. This shows quite clearly that prison is about punishment and nothing else.

These people are those that have missed out on most things in life, and the prison system as it operates does nothing to change this. Education is a good example - what better way to spend your time in prison than by learning the skills you failed to at school; but the provisions for this are very poor. This is especially true of the local big city prisons, where there are next to no educational facilities, and the few that there are, are often subject to cancellation. Private study can also be severely restricted by having three people crammed into a cell built for one.

FACILITIES

Even when you are moved to a prison where there is better provision, the authorities often make it difficult for you to enjoy this facility. If you

apply to do full time education you are paid less money than anyone else, and what use is that to, say, someone who smokes, and whose only pleasure in life is a few smokes. If you go part time you are given all the worst jobs during the rest of the time. Hardly a good way to promote the prison educational service.

WASTE OF TIME

The prison that I was in was supposedly a 'training prison', but training for what? There was only one course in the whole prison that could teach you a trade (a tailor course) and on that there was room for about a dozen people at one time. That was the extent of the training facilities in that particular training prison.

Prison is not about training, it is about punishment. It takes you out of circulation for a while and puts you back into the same situation as before only with a few more problems and hang-ups to cope with. It is a complete waste of time for most of those that go through it.

ANOTHER SOCIAL MISFIT ABOUT TO ENJOY H.M. EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES.....



MOLOTOV COCKTAIL? BUT I'M TEETOTAL SARGE!

The prison system is supposed to give you a number of rights, but in effect this is not the case. I saw, on many occasions, people go through the proper procedure to make a complaint, only to be removed to another prison for their trouble, with all the disruption that this entails. What really worries the prison authorities is when prisoners join together to complain and use their full power, for they in terror of any organised opposition to their dictatorial rule.

in, the father of a current England international footballer operates a ban on blacks working in the laundry, and in the nine months that I was there no black worked there.

SOCIAL MISFITS

Most of the social misfits in prison could never be described as a danger to society. At the very worst they are no more than a nuisance, but the state would rather spend large sums of money keeping them in prison, which does no good at all, than try other forms of treatment which could be far cheaper and certainly couldn't

EEH-BAH-GUM MORE RED SCUM!

Do you remember Tom Robinson? Up against the wall? Winter of '79? Maybe Tom was wrong about the date, but his lyrics weren't far wrong; the new police on the streets, more and more on the dole and, contrary to the belief of some on the left the front and B.M. are growing. Not with marches and votes, but underground with guns contacting nazis from all over Europe and (in areas of Manchester at least) increasing racial attacks. Now is the test for us. Let the middle class mouthpieces and trendy lefties hold their meetings, make their speeches, and go on reading every word of Marx. We all know that when the going gets tough they will soon disappear. It's up to us to stick together, build amongst our brothers and sisters in the working class, and show by our actions that we are not just another talking shop.

I have read Red Action and it seems the only paper that I could, or would, sell at Moss Side precinct to the kids or

take to Longsight, which is a big Asian area where the young Asians are sick of being told by their elders to cool it and not fight back against the racist attacks on them (even when they burnt down the local mosque).

The Asian youth are setting up a defence group and that's where the Red Action comes in. We won't try to take over their group like the SWP would - we give them all the help we can any way we can and let them use us. Because we don't bottle out when the fash turn up, and through reading the paper they can see what we are about, and we can be effective.

Until now, we here in the wild north, have just been supporters of Red Action, but it has been decided to set up a branch and get a regular paper sale going. We don't have to ask for the support of London R.A. as it has already been given many times. Anyone wishing to join Manchester Red Action should contact us. This letter was sent to us by a contact in Manchester.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

TO ALL THE TRENDY
LEFTIES WHO CALL
US APOLITICAL
BOOT-BOYS HERE
IS OUR BIRTHDAY
SALUTE TO MARX!

