

DEMO OR D.A.? Continued from p. 7

themselves. More usually, the CWF went in for demos and stunts mainly aimed at getting media attention rather than direct action, a step right back to the No M11 Campaign, 1994, for RTS.

JUNE 18TH: INTO THE STREETS

Yet, more from the rarefied rhetoric of the anti-globalisation network than the ex-CWers influence (we think), RTS's mass mobilisation tactics are increasingly being misdirected and misapplied. The anti-GR street party in Birmingham last year was on the borderline between protest and direct action at best. It was argued that closing the city centre to traffic would cause the city massive economic difficulties and teach it not to host GR again in future. The GR leaders met in some leafy mansion a county away anyway but—more relevant to this point—the disruption caused was more an appeal to the city fathers than an end in itself.

The much-hyped replay of Stop the City called for June 18th has all the elements of Birmingham '98 - but worse. This time the GR leaders won't even be meeting there, but in Cologne, Germany, so there's no chance of direct disruption. As most of the business of the City is indoors and electronic, a street party will do little to stop that beyond perhaps delaying the public transport carrying low-grade City workers to their jobs. Suggesting people partying will take it indoors 'storming the Winter Palace'-style is also pretty unlikely, given the passivity of street parties. Why the City? It's a centre of capital but if it's working can't be disrupted, you're not talking direct action here, just a protest, pomo symbollocks. ^{1/3}m people marched round London against the Bomb in the 1980s and it achieved fuck all as it was an appeal to the mighty. Demos display power, rather than

apply it - impressive to frustrated bureaucrats like the ex-CWers but little more than an ego-stroking networking exercise.

Where that crowd failed most emphatically was that it always denounced "capital" in abstract, but never in terms of its material manifestation. Where EJI have been so effective is in doing the opposite, making the revolution now rather than constantly building for it in

where we can most effectively make these interventions - and whether we need to do so publicly or in large groups - and for that we need an analysis that goes beyond vague anti-capitalist rhetoric. Surely, we're better off attacking Civilisation where it's most vulnerable and least guarded—revolution on the periphery rather than hype and throw away gestures in the City.

We should close with another warning:

State manipulation. This is exactly what the State's been doing against the far-Right - not least via Leeds¹³ - for years.

NOTES

¹ Sylvie Deneuve & Charles Reeve's *Holand the Balacavas of the Mexican Southeast* (*Anarchy* 46, Fall-Winter 1998-99, pp. 42-56) has proved unreservedly helpful throughout this section.

realise is the EZLN attitude to overseas volunteers. They're told to operate rather than fight. The reason for those outside Chiapas is that "they wouldn't survive in the jungle" as if competence far better there! The true reason is that fighters from overseas would dilute the indigenous composition of the EZLN, discrediting it as a force for Indian liberation within Mexico ("insulting Indian dignity"). Such anti-internationalist xenophobia ("respecting difference") is, of course, unmentionable outside it so predictably another, more progressive-sounding story is told outsiders.

² We don't deny there was a community angle, true of any campaign, particularly urban ones - the No M11 Campaign cohered around an alliance of local squatters and compulsorily-purchased residents, after all! Our point is that the focus was media, not community, with heavy peace-policing by fluffies to ensure the 'wrong image' wasn't projected. 'Wanstonia Falling' (*Terraviva* 1, Spring 1994) typifies critiques of the time and is an adequate antidote to the 'official history'.

³ 'The Death of Workerism', *GAS2*, Summer 1998, p. 10. RTS's earlier support for transport unions in London is noted here, though its anti-car dimension is too.

⁴ See our critique *Reformism Or Revolution: Green Anarchist's awful warning to Earth First!* for fuller argument.

⁵ Chumbawamba, incidentally, played the diversionary / palliative event organised by the council at the NEC, not the street party (*Birmingham Evening News*, 16 May 1998, p. 2).

⁶ *Independent*, 31st January 1999.

⁷ If the 1980s STC demos are anything to go by, the cops can always cause a public order situation by attacking the street party.

⁸ Larry O'Hara's 'Again Plucking the White Rose: Yorkshire Revisited' in *Notes from the Borderland 2*, Autumn / Winter 1998, p. 34-41

We need to sus out where we can most effectively make these interventions -- and whether we need to do so publicly or in large groups--and for that we need an analysis that goes beyond vague anti-capitalist rhetoric. Surely, we're better off attacking Civilisation where it's most vulnerable and least guarded--revolution on the periphery--rather than hype and throw-away gestures in the City.

future through media appearances and dishing out tracts. EJI thinks they're in an impasse because agreements like GATT mean that ecocidal stuff can be imposed regardless of the will of national government. The anti-GE campaign's shown that doesn't matter. If we can stop imports ourselves or trash what's imported, it doesn't matter what governments anywhere think and, calling ourselves revolutionaries, we should be way past lobbying them anyway, through stunts or whatever. We need to sus out

following the failure of NPOIU's first operation (Washington, 1994-97), their media mouthpieces Jason Benetto, was on about an Operation Jellystone targeted at RTS⁴. With Europe-wide action planned, Europol angle is inevitable. Those that think they can quietly take the money and ultimately prevail would do well to consider how easily they could be taken out by a pre-emptive 'conspiracy to incite' public order offences⁵—pretty much being Benetto's article threatens—and then being substituted by those most amenable to

² Zapatista allies in the 'progressive Church' oppose abortion as a "First World" imposition [Deneuve & Reeve *op cit*, pp. 50-51] and the Zapatistas themselves present highly patriarchal Indian society as a "new model of democracy" despite so many women joining the EZLN to escape it. Typical of Third World 'liberation' movements, this only serves to neutralise the women's grievances, not their social causes.

³ Typical of the gap between image and

ARTICLES

"I DO NOT FIND IT DIFFICULT TO SURVIVE HERE"

A letter from Ted Kaczynski on his imprisonment

Thank you for your letter of September 8. I don't know what press reports may have said about the ADX, but you should bear in mind that press reports very often are wildly inaccurate - as I learned from press reports about my own case.

I think it is inhuman to keep people locked up under any conditions, but beyond the mere fact of imprisonment I don't feel that the conditions here are bad as you seem to believe. I'll describe them briefly, but it must be understood that this description applies only to the part of the prison where the high-profile (that is, the famous) prisoners are kept. I know nothing about the rest of the prison.

The food is usually good, the prison is run in an orderly way and is kept reasonably clean and quiet. The warden is very conscientious, and he and other officials of the prison make the rounds of the cells frequently to ask prisoners if they have any questions or complaints.

My cell is about 2.4 meters by 3.6 meters in dimensions (this is only a guess, as I have no means of measuring) and contains a small concrete table, a concrete stool, a toilet, sink, shower stall, bed, and television set. I do not use the television set except to get the time or instructions about prison routine. My cell has one window to the outdoors. It cannot be opened. The dimensions of the pane are about 10 or 12 centimeters horizontally by 90 or 100 centimeters vertically. The view is not inspiring. The window looks onto a concrete exercise yard filled with wire-mesh cages, each about 3 meters by 5 meters. Into each cage a prisoner is put for the daily exercise period.

I am more fortunate in that I am usually allowed to exercise in an indoor recreation area, the dimensions of which I estimate at

about 4.6 by 8.2 meters, or about 15 by 27 feet. This is big enough for running. I run about 7 1/2 kilometers a day and spend the rest of the daily exercise time walking at a fast pace. The exercise period is given five times a week, Monday through Friday, and lasts, I think, between one and two hours. I have probably an average of about seven or eight hours of exercise each week. The rest of the time I am kept locked in my cell, as are the other prisoners.

For about two months after I was brought here, whenever I was not in my cell or in the recreation area (for example, when I was taken for a medical examination or a meeting with an attorney), my hands were closely chained to my waist and my feet were chained also, and I was kept chained that way throughout the medical examination or the attorney meeting. Now, however, when I am taken from my cell, my hands are placed in handcuffs behind my back but are not chained to my waist, and no chains are put on my feet. Also, when I am put in a visiting booth for a meeting with an attorney the handcuffs are removed. In the booth I am separated from the attorney by a pane of (presumably bullet-proof) glass.

There are two types of guards here, whom I call the "meanies" and the "normals". The meanies take an aggressive attitude with the prisoners; they tend to bark orders rather than speaking in an ordinary tone of voice. The normals behave and speak like normal people. I assume that the meanies

are trained to behave as they do in order to intimidate the prisoners and make them submissive.

When I was first brought here I was greeted by meanies, and for the first two months the guards I was in contact with included both meanies and normals. After the first couple of months I was, with the other high-profile prisoners, moved to a different row of cells, and where I am kept now all of the guards with whom I have regular contact are normals. In fact most of them are nice, friendly people. A few are women.

Prisoners are allowed to have books on almost any subject, and are allowed to send and receive mail. All letters that are sent or received, except correspondence with attorneys, are opened and read by the prison staff.

In social visits, that is, in visits by persons other than attorneys, the prisoner is kept separated from the visitor by a pane of glass that has no openings, and he talks with the visitor by means of a telephone. The prisoner is allowed social visits only by family members and persons with whom he had friendship prior to incarceration. I am estranged from my family (for obvious reasons) and had no close friends prior to incarceration. The few friends I did have live in Lincoln, Montana, and do not have the financial resources to visit me in Colorado. Thus, in practice, I am allowed no visitors other than attorneys. I have appealed this decision, but I am not optimistic about the outcome of the appeal.

I do not find it difficult to survive here. My life in the mountains of Montana accustomed me to solitude. But for some

prisoners not accustomed to solitude these conditions may be very difficult.

It is true that I have written a book, and I think I will be able to find a publisher for it.

I thank you for your offer of books or other assistance. At the moment I have no need to make use of your offer, as many

people have offered me books. However, I will keep your offer in mind and may take advantage of it in the future. I appreciate very much your interest in my case and the fact that you have taken the trouble to write to me.

Sincerely yours,
Theodore J. Kaczynski

TED K. UPDATE



State-styled Unabomber Dr Kaczynski's trial in December 1997 was a farce. His lawyers kept him virtually incommunicado and ignored his instructions. When he tried to sack them, judge Burrell ruled he was too mentally incompetent to do so, but sane enough to face a capital charge. The trial never reached a jury. In a plea bargain Ted K had no input into, Burrell agreed to drop the death element of sentencing in exchange for perpetual imprisonment with no right of appeal.

Ted was then dispatched to Florence super-max, the most high security jail in America, where he's so far been denied any visitors. He's been looking for a new lawyer to overturn the unconstitutional plea bargain. Ted's consistently refused to confirm or deny his innocence, saying he only accepted a guilty plea under impossible circumstances. Late last year he came close enough for the Feds to spread lies to the worldwide media about him chatting to OK bomber Tim McVeigh and the Islamicist who attacked World Trade Centre Towers (also held in Florence) in an attempt to discredit them all.

As this 'hopeful's now backed off, Ted's started to make political comment, publishing a letter in the *Earth First! Journal* calling for more radical splinters.

• Letters of support to Ted Kaczynski [04475-046], US Pen - Admin Max Facility, PO Box 8500, Florence, Colorado 81226, USA.