

Congrats to Wackersdorf coverage

Hello,
A few days ago we received the Fall '86 issue of *Open Road* you sent to the bookstore where we are working. Of course we were quite surprised to hear something from militants more than 9000 km. away. But more surprising was your brilliant report about the Wackersdorf riot in May 1986. For us, taking part in these events, it was one of the best summaries that we have read. For us in fucking old Europe it is good to see that someone from abroad gets an eye on what is happening here. Even more so as we don't normally hear much from Canada, except the Vancouver Five and some Congress that took place in 1983 or 1984.

A fact that is very funny (or rather not funny) is that a special kind of discussion seems to be the same in Germany as well as in Canada. We mean the letter of B.K. "O.R. Uncritical of Guerrilla Groups." There are positions similar to B.K.'s here as well, from certain kinds of "pure" anarchists, but we normally don't have such severe problems with those groups (CCC, RAD, AD and others). Of course these militants are not anarchists, but nevertheless they are fighting militants and their political roots are the same as ours. You may perhaps know, that what could be called an anarchist movement here, is a great bandspread of very different groups, from non-violent, semi-parliamentarian groups on the one hand, to anarcho-syndicalists and militant squatters on the other. Most of these groups have their own papers from a few hundred copies up to 3000 or 4000. The other thing is, that we in Germany normally don't speak very often of "anarchists" but more of "autonomus".

The autonom movement that can mobilize some 10,000 people for certain demonstrations is an anti-state, anti-imperialist, anti-capitalist movement and most of us use anarchist and autonom as synonyms.

A third group are the so-called anti-imperialists who stand close to the "Rote Armee Fraktion" (RAF), a West German guerrilla group existing now for nearly 15 years. The anti-imperialists, some 1,000 in all of West Germany, are primarily Marxist-Leninists. There are severe conflicts between autonom and anti-imperialists that have their origins in a different analysis of what the situation is here, and concerned with this, the acts and strategy of the RAF. In the eyes of the RAF, we are in a situation of real war against the U.S. and its European colonies. Their strategy is based on actions against U.S. bases here in the FRG and representatives of the West German state.

Many autonom militants think that this is a wrong strategy because it doesn't conform with social reality here and is too abstract. Therefore they prefer

taking part in political mass movements, such as the anti-nuclear power movements (e.g. Wackersdorf), the anti-fascist movement, squatting, asylum aid movement, etc. As a result of the Chernobyl disaster there have been more than 200 attacks on circuit lines, dozens of attempts on building enterprises of nuclear power plants, enterprises exporting to South Africa, etc. The statistics of 1986 say that there were more than 400 bomb and arson attacks last year.

As a reaction to this rapidly increasing militant resistance the West German government made a couple of new laws in early 1987 that, for example, make it possible to put someone into prison for three years if they are propagating violent actions, or even only documenting it (i.e. by publishing communiques such as in the *Open Road*).

Another new law makes it possible to sentence people attacking circuit lines or construction machines for up to ten years in special isolation conditions.

As a result of these laws some papers like *Radikal* can only be published under clandestine conditions with contact addresses in other countries.

The police searched more than 100 left bookstores in fall 1986 confiscating the no. 132 volume of *Radikal* and took proceedings against 194 booksellers accused of "supporting a terrorist union". This winter police prevented an information meeting on the situation of political prisoners in Munich with the same argument. This took place in Munich in the federal state of Bavaria, which has a semi-fascist federal government. This same government prevented a National Congress of anti-nuclear groups in January 1986, another time because of "proposed support of terrorist union". At the last minute a court made it possible to arrange a meeting at which 1000 people of a few hundred groups contributed.

As you can see, the *Open Road* probably couldn't be published under conditions of German law, as well, my letter to you would probably be "support of terrorist unions" in the eyes of the system here. But, for Bakunin's sake, they didn't get a single person that made an attack on circuit lines here. In the past 15 years they killed and arrested some 70 members of the RAF and other clandestine guerrilla groups but not even the nose of any member of the so-called "Closing-time terrorists". So they try to make thinking of resistance illegal. But surely they won't succeed.

When Bakunin came to the U.S., the immigration officer asked him, "Are you a member of any communist party?" "Hell, no!" said Bakunin and laughed loudly.

Liberty and Fortune,
Roger
With Feminist Greetings,
Caro

NEWS FROM NOWHERE

The Anarchist Black Cross is appealing for funds to help Anarchists in Chile develop their activities against the fascist dictatorship of General Pinochet. Send donations to: Anarchist Black Cross, BM Hurricane, London W.C./N3

The Italian Anarchist Communist Organization (previously O.R.A./U.C.A.T.) has a new name: Federazione dei Communisti anarchici (F.C.A.). Their contact address is: Donato Ronito, c.p. 144, 61100 Pesaro, Italy.

A tour linking the plight of political prisoners Nelson Mandela and Leonard Peltier will come to Vancouver during the 2nd week of May. The tour includes speakers representing the ANC, AIM, and other liberation movements.

The third International Conference on Penal Abolition takes place June 15-19 this year in Montreal, Quebec. Themes are: the concept of punishment, its application by the state through law and the penal system, and abolitionist strategies for the future. Write: 1030 rue Cherrier, Suite 300, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2L 1H9. Telephone: 514-522-5965.

"Ground Zero," a cassette of 40 cuts from punk bands around the world is available for \$5.00 from Boomz, France, Costa Bella #923 Ave. B., Ensenada, Baja California, Mexico.

The second international anarchist meeting in Holland is being planned for Sept. 10 to 14, 1987. The program includes meetings and speakers on various topics regarding anarchists and autonomus, as well as music, theatre, films, video, book presentations, etc. The cost will be about \$40 Canadian. For more info contact: IAB/SWP, PO 19320, 3501 de Utrecht, Holland.

Schwarz Rote, a Berlin anarchist group which publishes a German language anarchist calendar is now interested in helping to set up an international federation of student anarchist groups. For more information contact: Rolf G. Landmesser, Rathenower Str. 23, D-1000, Berlin 21, F.R.G.

Rhythm Activism, a "ranting poetry/rebel orchestra" ensemble has a 60 minute, 11 piece cassette/booklet compilation of live recordings from Montreal to Olympia, Washington, with "news poems," rants and fables about COORS beer, McChicken liberation, inner-city direct action, etc. It's \$6.95 postpaid from Les Pages Noires, 3699, Hutchinson, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2X 2H4. Write for more info about the next anarchist Black Wedge Tour.

The AIDS virus may have been developed at a biological warfare research lab in the U.S. or U.S.S.R., and released, either deliberately or by accident, according to Dr. John Seale, a British expert on sex diseases.

Clara Thalmann Swiss anarchist remembered

Swiss anarchist Clara Thalmann died this January at the age of 78. That she maintained and acted on radical ideals for over sixty years is an inspiration. Thalmann first became politically active in Paris in the 1920's, where she joined the communist party and worked on the French communist paper *Humanite*.

When Stalin became party leader, she agitated within the party against his authoritarian policies and was soon expelled for doing

so. In 1936, she hitchhiked down to Barcelona to take part in the International Workers Olympic Games, planned to counter the Nazi-organized Olympic Games in Berlin. The Worker's Olympics never actually took place, the workers being occupied by that time with a civil war.

She arrived in Spain just as the social revolution was beginning. The Spanish anarchist movement, the largest working class

organization in the country, had taken control of and collectivized two thirds of the republican land and industry. Thalmann at once joined the anarchist militias of the Durruti-columns to fight as a militia woman at the Aragon front.

As the split grew between anarchists and stalinist communists, Thalmann was among the first to warn against compromise with the stalinists. Liberal and stalinist parties sought to maintain the legal system and private property within the republican camp, and forced a split within the anarchist movement by demanding that the anarchists join both regional and central governments.

Clara Thalmann and her husband were forced to go underground when the stalinists formed the SIM, a secret police organization. They were arrested, however, they tried to leave Spain, and sent to private SIM prisons. They were released after a campaign launched by friends in Switzerland, and moved to Paris.

During the Nazi occupation of France in WW 2, Thalmann helped to form a small independent resistance group. Her home became a hide-out for Jewish and revolutionary refugees and was never discovered by the nazis.

In 1954, she founded a commune in the south of France which became a meeting place for revolutionaries from all over the world. She remained politically active and never lost faith in the struggle. Thalmann's main hope for future social and political change was the youth. Their increasing contempt for official policy and their spontaneous readiness to revolt was a main source of her political optimism.



Clara Thalmann