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Ecomedia

BULLETIN

ECOMEDIA c/o P.O. Box 915 Station F Toronto Ontario, M4Y 2N9



LUBICON SUPPORT BLACKOUT

In the past few weeks here in Toronto we seem to have experienced a widespread media blackout on the activities of supporters of the Lubicon Lake Band of Northern Alberta.

The Lubicon Band has been struggling for 47 years to maintain their right to their traditional lands. They have been fighting both the Provincial and the Federal governments as well as a whole slew of oil companies who have invaded the area and destroyed much of the land. The industrial activity in the area has frightened away the animals, making the Lubicon's traditional hunting and trapping economy impossible. Now 95% of the band is on welfare.

Applying pressure for a settlement, the Band called for a boycott of the 1988 Winter Olympics, which are being organized by the very same interests which are responsible for the destruction of the Lubicon land. In a gesture of solidarity, Lubicon supporters have been lining the route of the Olympic Torch Relay with placards protesting the treatment of the Lubicons.

Many people feel that the Olympics will give the Albertan government and corporate figures international respectability, and they aim to draw attention to the province's darker side through demonstrations in support of the Lubicon people. The Torch Relay has been singled out for attention because its organizers, Petro Canada, are one of the companies involved in the destruction of the Lubicon land.

Manitoba's 3,500 member Peguis Indian Band recently announced plans to join the Lubicon's protests. The Peigan Band in Alberta, who once signed Treaty 7, are also planning their own demonstration. The Peigan support will be a blow to Calgary Mayor Ralph Klein, who repeatedly claims that Treaty 7 bands have no problem with the Olympics. Other support has come from communities in the Maritimes who've held their own demonstrations

of support, and from the Mohawk council of Kahnawake in Quebec.

The only way the Lubicon people will call off the boycott of the Olympics is if the Canadian government negotiates a fair settlement. Unless there's some real progress made towards a settlement, the boycott is on. The torch relay will be passing through Toronto on December 23rd, and we'll be organizing to greet it. For more information and details, call Brian at CASNP: 964-0159.

ANIMAL LIBERATION ACTIVISTS COMMITTED TO TRIAL

TORONTO-Five animal liberation activists were committed to trial following their preliminary hearing on November 4th. The five, Jacquie Rabazo, Kenn Quayle, Gail Eric, Linda Cotnam, and David Barbarash, were arrested on January 19, 1987, outside of a Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet and were initially charged with mischief. But after several raids and police investigation, they were charged with a total of 49 offences including past ALF actions from previous weeks and months, as well as possession of stolen property, a dangerous weapon, and an explosive substance.

It became obvious that Provincial Court Judge Mercer had previously made up his mind about the case, and had reacted to emotional outbursts from the Crown Attorney who at times referred to the five as "terrorists". The hearing took a total of four days in court, and the judge heard evidence (and lack thereof) on all charges, and still managed to make his decision without taking at least a day to think about it. Indeed, Judge Mercer announced his decision even before the Crown Attorney finished speaking about it.

The five have filed a legal motion in a higher court to quash their committal. This appeal of Mercer's decision will not be heard until February, 1988.

Another peace sham.

The recent arms deal signed between the leaders of the two 'superpowers' is nothing less than a sham. While the leaders have in actuality only reduced their nuclear arsenals by 3%, the deal has been considered by pacifist liberals as some sort of step in the right direction!

On the contrary, such deals, summits, and politicks are designed merely to take the steam out of opposition in their respective countries. They are an attempt to inspire faith in governments, to convince their respective populations to "wait and let the state bring about disarmament". They are a step away from the empowerment of people, which is what the peace movement ideally should be aiming towards.

Nuclear weapons are only a part of a repressive mechanism which is set in place to protect the interests of the powerful and privileged and to maintain a stranglehold on 'third world' populations, a mechanism which includes conventional arms, armies, police and prisons. They will not be legislated away by governments, and even if they were what difference would it make? As long as the state exists it will need the means to maintain its power, and if it's not nuclear arms you can be damn sure it will be something equally brutal (gas chambers maybe?!).

Our task should be that of empowering people to take control of their own lives, and create real resistance based on direct action, not reformism. To get rid of arms it's going to be necessary to get rid of the whole power system, capitalist, communist or whatever. Sooner or later they've all got to go.

SPANISH SYNDICALISTS UNDER ATTACK

Six militants of the Spanish anarcho-syndicalist union CNT have just gone to trial, accused of collaborating with armed organizations. They are facing sentences amounting to 155 years for charges of disturbances, armed robbery, threats, assaults, murder and attempted murder.

On the morning of November 28th, 1984, police raided the six members' homes. They were arrested and held incommunicado for 7 to 9 days, tortured, threatened, and denied contact with lawyers. Fellow workers responded immediately: continuous demonstrations, strikes and support meetings.

The charges stem from incidents which occurred in response to intense labour problems at the Michelin plant in Vitoria in the late 70's and early 80's. Michelin, a French multinational which

specializes in tires, has a long history of anti-union policies and general disrespect for workers. In 1979 confrontations between Michelin management and workers were widespread, revolving around management's attempts to bring in a new system which would put workers at a big disadvantage. Although this was defeated in a mutually signed collective agreement later in the year, Michelin's anti-labour actions continued and more strikes were called. 1980 began with continuous labour conflicts and more attempts by management to bring in the same system defeated in the previous agreement. The local police collaborated in the repression of workers and there were continuous confrontations with both police and scabs. The situation escalated; it became more violent, and it spread to other areas and industries. Michelin responded by throwing out more workers and imposing new sanctions.

On the 16th of May, 1980, Jesus Casanova, Michelin's assistant Personnel Manager, was injured in an attempted killing claimed by the Autonomous Anti-Capitalist Commandos. On June 25th Mr. Hergueta, Technical Manager, was killed.

Late in 1980, the conflict was solved and a new Collective Agreement signed. What makes this case important is the use of Spain's Anti-Terrorist Law. The Law allows the Police to hold any arrested people up to 10 days incommunicado, without a lawyer, and of course subjected to any physical or psychological tortures the Spanish Police care to administer. The police have no conclusive evidence except for confessions from some of the men signed while in detention. As soon as the six were freed they denied all accusations of belonging to or collaborating with armed organizations.

Support for these men is essential. They need financial support for their defense as well as letters of support to officials in Spain. The Anarchist Black Cross Toronto will be organizing support for them here in Toronto. If you write to the following address, they can give you the addresses to write to both for donations and for support. They can be reached at P. O. Box 6326 Stn A Toronto Ontario, M5W 1P7.

Please call the: Spanish Consulate in Toronto at (416) 636-1216

Financial support for the campaign can be sent to:

•Caja Provincial de Ahorros de Alava c/c # 2141216, Marcelo de la Torre Sanz, Vitoria.



THE END OF THE SARAWAK BLOCKADE

The destruction of the tropical rainforests is one of the most severe environmental disasters threatening all life on this planet. Malaysia is the country where deforestation is currently the most rapid. And within the country of Malaysia, Sarawak is the most affected state. In 1983 Malaysia accounted for 58% of total world export of tropical logs. In 1985, the Sarawak region accounted for 39% of Malaysia's total log production. In 1985, about 670,000 hectares were logged in Malaysia. Of this, 270,000 were logged in Sarawak. It is estimated that every minute 3 acres of forest are logged in Malaysia alone; that's 188 acres every hour. Like tropical forests everywhere, the Malaysian forests are being felled so fast that it is estimated that none will remain in as little as 20 years. Hundreds of thousands of Native people live a traditional hunter-gatherer lifestyle in, and thus depend on the Sarawak forest for survival. It is the oldest forest in the world at 150 million years old.

It was in this context that Ecomedia Radio reported the Last Stand of the Sarawak people in October, when the human blockade of the logging roads by the Native people was still going strong after five months. There were 30 Native communities involved in at least 12 blockades scattered over their ancestral regions of Baram and Limbang. I regret to say, that we have received notice from Survival International that the blockades have been brought to an end, after seven long months of resistance.

Commencing on October 27, the Malaysian Government security forces began a nation wide crackdown on all opposition elements. At least 93 arrests have so far been reported under the Internal Security Act, by which individuals may be held without trial for up to 2 years. The government has sought to justify the intense crack-down as necessary to prevent racial riots within the multi-ethnic state.

As for the police attack on the Sarawak blockades, police carried out a mass arrest of 42 Native people. The 42 detainees were charged on November 12 under the penal code with 'obstruct police', 'wrongful restraint', and with the 'unlawful occupation of State lands'. The latter charge is particularly disgusting, since it is their own tribal lands the people were defending. The latest arrests bring the total number of Native people arrested for their involvement in the blockades to 48. Earlier, 6 others were arrested for burning down a bridge, used to extract timber from their lands.

The arrests follow weeks of escalating tension in the blockade area. The government has flooded the area with military and para-military forces, including units of the heavily armed Police Field Force, which is trained in counter insurgency. Despite the intimidating presence of the so-called security forces, the Native people had resolutely maintained their blockades. But police action has increased, and apart from the actual arrests, there have been reports of the blockades being forcibly broken up with the security forces firing shots over the peoples' heads. Until now, the Native people have responded by reconstructing the blockades as soon as the police have withdrawn. But, according to the latest accounts, twelve of the sixteen barricades have now been abandoned. The other four remain in place, being the subject of court actions between the Native communities and the logging companies.

It is no secret that the majority of timber concessions in Sarawak are owned by politicians. In fact, the Chief Minister of Sarawak is also the Minister in charge of Forestry, and it has long been known that timber concessions are handed out by the Department of Forestry as political favours.

Indigenous people of all regions are forced to wage a war for their own survival. Their opponent? The international industrial-corporate interests which control all governments. It is a deadly opponent indeed, but one who needs to be resisted by any means necessary. Before all life on this planet is exterminated. No mistake can be made that for seven months, Sarawak was the front line of that struggle: so we are deeply disturbed by the recent turn of events there. From all of us at Ecomedia, we send love, strength and solidarity to the people of the Sarawak region: may they continue their struggle on to victory.

It is thought that international attention and support helped to effectively delay the government's intervention - which was expected by most months before. We must keep this up!

Direct your disgust to:
High Commission of Malaysia in Canada
60 Boteler St.
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 8Y7
(tel.) 237-5182/3/4.

Rote Zora victory

The armed activist group Rote Zora recently won concessions from the Adler textiles company after a series of firebombings claimed by the group. The Rote Zora are an all-wimmin West German guerilla group connected to the Revolutionary Cells.

Adler Textiles gave in to the guerillas' demands for a revocation of planned dismissals in the company's South Korean branch, *Flair Fashion*, permission of works council elections, and an appreciable increase in wage levels. This was a considerable change in policy for a corporation which generally follows the path of most multinationals, exploiting the labour, land and resources of so-called third-world nations.

The head of the West German federal criminal investigation department is very upset by the Rote Zora's success, as he feels it will encourage others to carry out similar actions. (German Tribune, Nov. 187)



IN BRIEF

TORONTO-Supporters of full access to free abortions are asked to demonstrate at the 85 Harbord St. clinic at 5:30 p.m., one week after the Supreme Court of Canada brings down its ruling on the 1984 jury acquittal of Drs Morgentaler, Scott and Simolung. Good or bad, this ruling will have a major impact on women's lives. On the Tuesday following the ruling, the Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics will hold a special meeting to organize the pro-choice movement's response at St Paul's Centre, 427 Bloor St. W., at 7:30 p.m.

SIX NATIONS ONEIDA-The Oneida Nation recently won its decades-long land claims suit in New York State, by a 5-4 decision in the U.S. Supreme Court. Included in the settlement was a sizable damages payment covering 200 years "back rent". For more information, please see our next Bulletin.

Q & A

Q: Do you envisage an anarchist society as being an industrialized society?

A: Not necessarily. An anarchist society, emphasizing individual freedom to choose, is unlikely to be heavily industrialized, whereas a state society, aimed at getting the maximum production out of its citizens, is likely to be so. It may well be that, when the workers have control of their industries, they will break them down into smaller units, which will be far easier for workers to control directly, and even (to judge from trends one can see already) into one-person units and small collectives. Environmental considerations would also contribute to this trend.

One example of what can happen when regions are free to choose their own path has occurred in the northeast and central regions of Italy, from Florence to the Veneto, where towns are characterized by greater solidarity and autonomy than their North American counterparts. In the 1950s a large number of these towns and cities decided that, rather than competing to attract businesses to move to the city, they would support development of small-scale, highly skilled production. Each city fostered a myriad of small enterprises, often offering state-of-the-art courses, public housing, transportation, highway improvements and sometimes public financing. These enterprises use broadly skilled workers and multiple-use automated machinery. In Modena, for instance, an artisan's village was developed where unemployed workers could set up their own businesses in buildings which housed their workshops on the first floor and often their living quarters on the second. Over 500 small firms housed in recently planned working neighbourhoods, along with a few larger firms, now employ about 7,000 workers. Most of the enterprises are set up as partnerships, but some are cooperatives. 90% of the worker-owners are former factory workers. Such artisan villages are democratically run due to the small group situations, and have potential for rapid growth due to the ease with which it is possible to set up a new shop. (Changing Work, Spring 1986, p.29.)

ECOMEDIA RADIO

Ecomedia can also be heard on Radio. We broadcast reports three times a week on CKLN 88.1 F.M. if you live in or near the Toronto area, tune in on Mondays and Wednesdays between 11 am and 12 noon on the newswave show, and Wednesday afternoons at 4.