

News from Nowhere

Revolt Women, PO Box 46571, Sta. G, Vancouver, B.C., is a new anarchy-feminist group which got together to write a paper on anarchism that was presented (and well received) at a local conference on Feminism. After the conference they formed a study group which has discussed a range of subjects including crime, violence, the role of leadership—"we have made a commitment to study anarchist analysis and strategy, and hope to add our writings on the connections between feminism and anarchism to those relatively few that already exist." They'd like to make contact with other anarchist feminists, and local women interested in the study group.

Black Rose, a Boston anarchist group, marked the fiftieth anniversary (Aug. 23, 1977) of the deaths of **Sacco and Vanzetti** with street theatre and a midnight ceremony at the state house. Black Rose has also planned a lecture series which includes Taylor Stoehr (Sept. 16), Murray Bookchin (Sept. 30), Bill Nowlin (Oct. 28) and Freda Salzman (Nov. 18). All lectures take place in Cambridge, Mass. at M.I.T., Building 9, Room 150. Friday nights, 8:00 p.m. and admission is free. For further information call (617) 547-5513. . . **The Regina Anarchist Group (RAG)**, Box 3658, Regina, Sask., is a new group interested in getting together with other anarchists in the Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Montana and North and South Dakota region. They've just published **The Struggle Against the State**, a translation of an article by **Nestor Makhno** (5¢ plus postage) and plan to print more pamphlets.

Mutualist Books, PO Box 1283, Rochester, N.Y. 14603, is gathering articles and information for a book on "the Tyranny of Vanguard Parties from the point of view of former members". . . the new issue of **Red Menace**, Box 171, Station D, Toronto, Ont., (75¢) offers articles of a theoretical and practical nature with good graphics and humour. . . **Solidarity Books**, PO Box 546, Sta. Z, Toronto, Ont., is distributing the **Anarchists in the Spanish Revolution** by Jose Peirats. They're asking for \$3.50 plus 50¢, but their "first object is to get the book into the hands of those who want it, so please don't let lack of funds hold back orders..."

After a bomb recently planted by the **George Jackson Brigade** was disarmed before it went off, the group found itself faced with the dilemma of being willing to watch a cop die trying to disarm a booby-trapped bomb or being willing to watch unbooby-trapped bombs disarmed. In response to the GJB's request for "constructive criticism about this and the other contradictions that surround bombing as a revolutionary tactic," the **Bay Area Research Collective**, a group of anti-authoritarian, aboveground supporters of armed struggle (they formerly published **Dragon**), has asked that people send their thoughts on the subject to them. Barc, Box 4344, Sather Gate Sta., Berkeley, CA 94704, will compile the feedback, then redistribute it so as to further the discussion on this "extremely critical and necessary" topic.

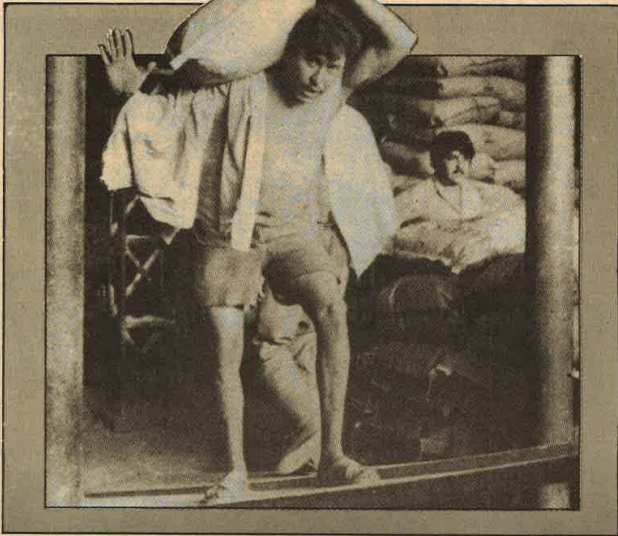
Librairie Alternative Bookshop, 2033 St. Laurent Blvd., Montreal, Quebec (844-3207), an English/French anarchist bookstore, has just opened. It has the largest selection of French language anarchist books, periodicals and posters in North America.

The second issue of **Now & After**, PO Box 1587, San Francisco, CA 94101 (\$1.50 a year), a Libertarian Socialist Newsletter, features articles on Ecology, Britain, Gay rights, and Portugal. . . **The Storm**, 227 Columbus Ave., New York, N.Y. 10023, "a journal for free spirits," is putting out a gay anarchist issue this fall (in North America 40¢ single, \$2 for six; 'rest of the planet' 55¢ single, \$2.75 for six).

Peoples News Service, 182 Upper St., London N1, a bi-weekly bulletin which emphasizes community action, prisoners and women, is published by a "non-sectarian left-wing collective." **Rising Free**, a bookstore at the same address, has a detailed "anarchist, libertarian communist, council communist, situationist booklet". . . **Black Flag**, Box A, "Over the Water", Sanday, Orkney, KW17 2BZ, Great Britain, the publication of the **Anarchist Black Cross**, is asking for books and photographs which could be used by **Flavio Costantini** in his artistic documentation of the history of the anarchist movement. . . A new anarchist/libertarian centre has opened in Melbourne, Australia, and can be contacted at PO Box 20, Parkville, 3053, Vic. Australia. . . **The Open Road**, as well as several other revolutionary periodicals, is distributed in Belgium and the Netherlands by **Bas Moreel**, Nobelweg 108, Wageningen, The Netherlands.

Organizers of the 3rd Congress of the **International Federation of Anarchists**, have issued an "urgent appeal to all anarchists of the world" to attend the conference being held in late October and early November. In step with the "rebirth" of the anarchist movement in Spain, and the general increase in international anarchist activity, they are calling for serious "organization, solidarity, coordination—active, effective, persistent." For further information contact **Secretariat de la CRIFA**; CP22; 1700 Savona; Italy

MEXICANS REGROUP Peasants close ranks



Agricultural wage laborer at American-owned feed plant in Culliacan, Mexico.

By Betty Noir

The pace of high-profile land seizures in Mexico has slackened off in the past few months as, below the surface, agricultural wage laborers and impoverished peasants intensify their efforts to build autonomous local unions.

The change of tactics corresponds to a growing realization by agricultural workers that local seizures or grants of tiny, individual plots of land will never give them the power base they need to become self-sufficient or to gain control of Mexico's faltering, foreign-dominated economy.

As well, Mexican President Lopez Portillo's hard-line administration has made it clear that resistance in the form of marches, seizures or occupations will be dealt with harshly.

For instance, authorities in the central Mexican state of Queretaro have recently introduced legislation which could put squatters behind bars for up to 40 years.

With Mexico in the midst of a severe economic crisis (the peso twice-devalued, wages held firm and the price of commodities such as bread and milk more than doubled in recent weeks), Portillo and his one-party government have been obliged by the powerful domestic landlords (latifundistas) to bring even token land reforms to a halt.

In the past, Mexican

authorities have attempted to stave off large-scale rebellions by giving out parcels of land, as when outgoing president Luis Echeverria expropriated nearly 250,000 acres of private farmland for angry peasants in late 1976. But there are good indications the State sees no danger in granting plots of land to peasants, since it is virtually impossible for the small farmer to compete with foreign-backed (usually American) agribusiness.

Campesinos (peasants) who received land distributed in Sinaloa in the north have seen the ideal of land and liberty—the cry that has spurred the Mexican revolution since 1910—turn to dust. The peasants on their small holdings cannot even eke out a living for themselves and so they have to sell their labor and their land to the agribusiness interests, who have the technology and capital to run a large-scale operation.

As the Native Indian newspaper **Akwesasne Notes** observes, "If that pattern continues, it raises doubts about the viability of redistributing land under the present system as a means of solving the problem of campesino poverty."

Death by Dehydration

As wage laborers for American-backed agribusiness, the Mexican far-

mers fare no better—living in shacks and drinking sewage-contaminated water, the peasants can expect to fall prey to intestinal diseases, or diarrhea and dehydration, from which many hundreds, mostly children, die each year.

The campesinos' and agricultural wage laborers' increasingly urgent need for effective political and economic action has spurred the federation of hundreds of peasant groups, on a regional and even a national basis.

Tiny organizations of a few campesinos and large federations of peasant and wage-laborer groups all stress independence, an emphasis learned from years of bitter experience with sell-out State unionism, called *sindicalismo blanco*.

Four examples of the many campesino/wage laborer organizations:

- The **Coordinadora Campesino Revolucionaria Independiente (CCRI)**—Independent Revolutionary Peasant Coordinating Committee, founded at a meeting in Mexico City last March, composed of regional organizations from Puebla, Veracruz, Colima, Zacatecas, Sinaloa and Morelos, and now making contact with local groups in Oaxaca, San Luis Potosi and other places to attempt to incorporate them.

- The **Partido Mexicano de los Trabajadores (PMT)**—Mexican Workers' Party is a relatively new, mass-based revolutionary party led by ex-political prisoners **Herberto Castillo** and **Demetrio Vallejo**. The PMT has targeted Sonora, Sinaloa and Baja California—three coastal states most heavily invaded by U.S. imperialist agribusiness—for the building of regional committees.

Organizing the Dispossessed

Born of the attempt to unify workers, peasants, students and intellectuals in a common revolutionary effort, the PMT hopes to build a "large, wide-range organization to encompass all of the dispossessed and exploited—all of the people who want to fight to make a better life." Part of the PMT's program is the independent unionization of agricultural workers.

Two other federations are the **General Union of Workers and Peasants (UGOCM)**, which appears to be increasingly moving under government control; and the **Independent Union of Agricultural Workers and Peasants (CIOAC)**, which had defined a program focusing on unionization of farmworkers and the unification of squatters, small farmers and the unemployed. The CIOAC, so far independent of government controlled organizations, is heavily penetrated by the Eurocommunist-oriented Mexican Communist Party.

The brutal crushing of recent workers actions, such as the Army-suppressed strike by 4000 tomato-field workers in Sinaloa state, has strengthened the conviction of the peasant-worker movement that local confrontations must be coordinated with other organizations across the country. Direct revolutionary action on a nation-wide scale—marches, armed self-defense against government and landlord attacks, walkouts and the seizure of land and water supplies—is now seen as the shortest road to winning satisfaction of the demands of the Mexican people.

For more information in English, contact the North American Congress on Latin America (NACLA), PO Box 226, Berkeley, Calif. 94701; and in Spanish, the Mexican anarchist newspaper, **Tierra Y Libertad**, Apartado Postal M-10596, Mexico 1, D.F., Mexico.

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distributes anarchist periodicals and other written materials free to prisoners. If your publishing group has such materials to spare, pass them on to **Black Market Books**, Box 306, Cambridge, Mass. 02139. Donations are also needed to pay for postage.

ZERO®

an anarchy-feminist/anarchist monthly from England. Issue no.2 (August, 77) includes articles on Italy, anti-nukes, rape and the squatting movement, plus book reviews on Spain and Poland. Lots of graphics. 60pence (about 66 cents) per issue. Write to **Zero**, c/o Rising Free, 182 Upper St., London N1, England.