

# Open Road

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## ANARCHISTS RAILROADED

# Conspiracy against the unknown

By Heidi Liszt

"If we get into power our opposition will be swept away like flies" — John Tyndall, leader of the neo-Nazi National Front of Britain

The only explosions in London recently have been from the right against the Anti-Nazi League office, Peace News (an anarchist-pacifist journal) and a number of other leftist bookstores and haunts. The Anti-Terrorist Squad has ignored these bombings. Yet, on virtually no evidence, the ATS has arrested and charged six anarchists with robbery, possession of weapons and ammunition, and "conspiracy to cause explosions with person or persons unknown." Several leftists and anarchist homes have been raided, and people have had their personal belongings seized, been arrested, and stopped in the street at random and searched.

### ANTI-TERRORIST SQUAD

At a time when questions are being asked in Parliament about the role and activities of the Anti-Terrorist Squad, and in light of the forthcoming election, the ATS is increasing its activities in an attempt to justify its existence. Led by Detective Superintendent Bradbury, the ATS has concocted a series of allegations involving a "group of idealists who would take positive steps to overthrow society." Bradbury has depicted the six arrested as the nucleus of a "Baader-Meinhof type of terror gang... planning to attack establishments and targets."

The first to be arrested were Iris Mills and Ronan Bennett on May 24th. "Chemicals" (i.e. weedkiller) and "wiring" (do you have wiring in your house?) were said to be found in their flat. Dafydd Iwan was arrested a week later. His fingerprints were said to be found in Iris and Ronan's apartment and at the scene of a mysterious "explosion in East London." Nobody seems to have heard the "explosion" and the State has produced no hard evidence against Dafydd.

They were held only on conspiracy charges at first but now they're also charged

with possession of weapons. In mid June, the fourth arrest was made. Stuart Carr was picked up and held incommunicado for five days. This followed a statement by Bradbury, when pressed for evidence in court on June 8th, that he was expecting to make further arrests in connection with armed robbery and the theft of fire arms. Stuart now faces four robbery charges.

As a result of the arrests a support group called Persons Unknown has been formed. By the time of Stuart's arrest the group had begun to meet regularly. Before one meeting, two people were followed most of the afternoon, then jumped, pushed against railings, frisked, and bundled into unmarked police cars without any of the usual cautionary procedure that supposedly accompanies arrest. Vince Stevenson, one of the arrested, was kept for six days without access to a lawyer and without being charged.

The State had yet to substantiate its charges and Bradbury was being pressed by the defendants' lawyers to produce some hard evidence. On July 3, the right-wing Daily Mail printed an article claiming there were whispers of a "Baader-Meinhof type terror gang (with) nationwide links." Conveniently, the next day a North London house was raided and police claimed they found "a suitcase of weapons" and "hundreds of rounds of ammunition."

A sixth person, Trevor Dawson, a student and anti-nuke activist, was later arrested in connection with the raid. Bradbury has admitted in court that Dawson's fingerprints weren't found on the supposed weapons and ammunition. Dawson was recently released on \$20,000 bail.

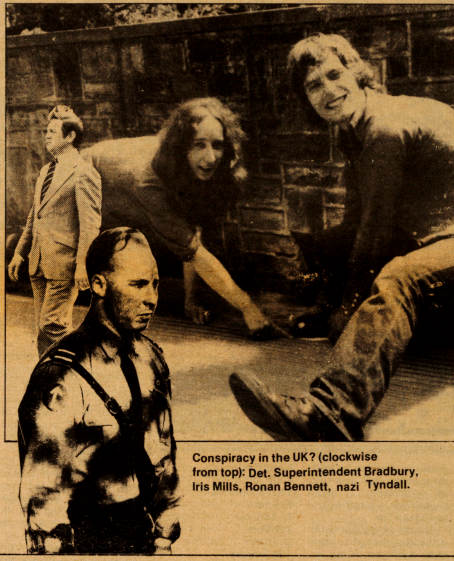
Those arrested have all been charged with high security prisoners and this means that Iris Mills, the only woman among them, has been held in virtual solitary confinement in an all-male prison for the past four months because it's claimed there isn't sufficient security for her at Holloway women's prison.

Some members of Persons Unknown have been arrested

from visiting Iris and she is stripsearched before and after visits. Also, she is allowed to meet with Ronan only fifteen minutes a week in the presence of guards. This makes it practically impossible for her to discuss her defence with the other defendants. Regular pickets at the prison by Persons Unknown and protests in court by the prisoners themselves have been virtually disregarded.

The remand hearings of the

six have been dramatic confrontations. The court, specifically chosen because it is directly opposite police headquarters, has been surrounded by armed police with snipers watching from nearby roof-tops. Members of the support group have been followed after the court hearings and, on one occasion, one was arrested and charged with obstruction because he refused to question the right of police to harass supporters outside



Conspiracy in the UK? (clockwise from top) Det. Superintendent Bradbury, Iris Mills, Ronan Bennett, nazi Tyndall.

## Screws turn at Walla Walla

The longtime struggle at Walla Walla Penitentiary in Washington State is reaching the breaking point. After an alleged "breakout" attempt, a hunger strike and an explosion all took place in rapid succession recently, authorities instituted a series of repressive measures: a new, hard-line administration was brought in, use of solitary confinement was intensified, and prisoners were locked down in their cells for weeks.

The latest round of high-profile incidents began on June 30, when a dozen guards stormed the cell of four members of the prison's Men Against Sexism group. Authorities claim they found a pistol, a bomb, hand grenades and a "breakout" communique.

The next day, guards arrested a MAS "banquet"

at the pen were greeted by guards who searched their cars. Legally purchased hand guns and two automatic carbines were allegedly discovered and five guests were arrested (four were released the same day).

### LONGTIME TENSIONS

The State claims that, after the banquet, some MAS members on clean-up detail had planned to attack the guard tower and flee to waiting cars on the outside. While authorities have claimed to hold evidence linking two members of the detail to the so-called "break-out," they threw all nine members into segregation (over half of MAS is now in segregation) and have recommended that an additional five or six be tucked on to some of their sentences.

the court. (In West Germany during the RAF arrests the State saw sympathizers as people who "have to be eliminated if the terrorist groups are to be neutralized" —Zero, Dec. 77)

Police have beaten the prisoners in full view of the court. At one court appearance, during the furor over the Soviet dissidents' trials, Ronan shouted "we are your dissidents." He was beaten by the police and all the prisoners were dragged out of court shouting. According to those who visited the prisoners the next weekend they had paid for their outburst with cuts, bruises and head injuries.

On another occasion, Vince Stevenson, after being denied bail, yelled out: "Rough fucking justice isn't it... If I was a member of the fucking Liberal Party I'd be out now." He was punched

by police and dragged out of court.

It's clear that the measures tried out by the British in Ireland are now being used in England itself. Lessons have been learned from West Germany too. In fact German speaking police have been involved in raids and harassment of Germans living in London. It seems evident that those involved in London's demonstrations against last year's Stanham Prison "upside" have been learned from West Army Faction members are being singled out for harassment.

### NEW RIOT SQUAD

Recent tactics by police at demonstrations and pickets in London have shown an increased use of the Special Patrol Group (riot squad) and new riot equipment. At a large demonstration in August '77 police used riot shields for the first time.

Perhaps one of the more insidious aspects of these terror tactics is the apparent passive acceptance by the public—whipped up by the press—of the reports put out by the police, and by the State definition of "terrorist." The label "terrorist" is being used to bait and isolate people in the 1970's much the way the word "communist" was used in the 1950's. Even the pacifist ecological group, Friends of the Earth, put out leaflets expressing fears that nuclear plants might be open to "terrorist" attack.

This attempt by the State to divert attention from rampant unemployment and rising prices just before an election is well timed. Certainly the State's tactics do not differ significantly from those proposed by the fascist National Front, a group which the police consistently supports as evidenced by their non-reaction to the bombing of the Anti-Nazi League office.

Persons Unknown is doing what it can to help out the morale of the six as they prepare for their upcoming trial, likely to take place around November. It sends letters, cards, messages of support and donations to the prisoners, C/O Persons Unknown, 182 Upper Street, Hillingdon, London, N.1. England.

and, without x-rays, he was sent up to look at a security cell. Nurse Eva Nelson claimed his cries were a play for drugs and she denied anyone access to his cell. Within hours he was dead from internal bleeding.

On July 19 prisoners in ISU went on a hunger strike. Most of their demands were met after three days when it seemed the strike might spread to the general population.

Still, guard attacks continued unabated. On August 6, Leonard Carter, after objecting to the wires screen separating himself from a visitor (the administration agreed to drop the screen after the strike), was handcuffed tightly and taken back to his cell. On August 14 his continued on p. 14