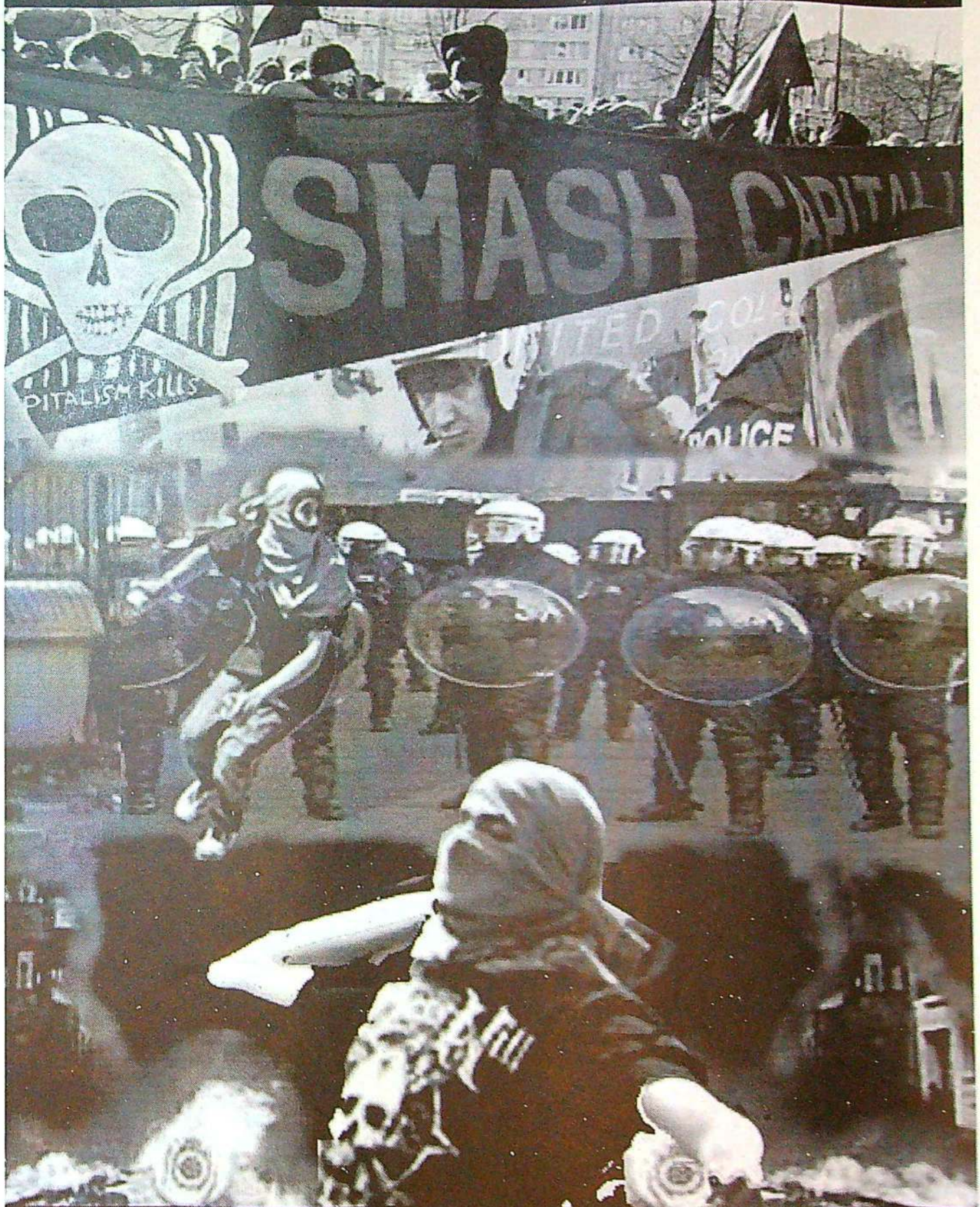


Abolishing the Borders from Below

issue #2

bi-monthly newsletter

February 2002



Anarchist courier from Eastern Europe



An anarchist courier: a bi-monthly bulletin with information on different political and cultural anarchist/autonomous activities in Eastern Europe.

Editorial collective: an international anarchist collective based around east-european activists living in Berlin. As well as this publication the collective also organises an ABC support group, a libertarian library, organises various solidarity actions and cultural events, and supports local and global struggle against all kinds of oppression...

Correspondents: our great idea is to set up a network of correspondents from different regions of east-europe to cover the most current, important and interesting issues. Our correspondent team for today: Pavel (Prague - CS), Saszka (Grodno - Bielarus), Alex (Minsk - Belarus), Domas & Ninja (Vilnius - Lithuania), Maya (Ljubljana - Slovenia), Tomek (Gliwice - Poland), Soja & Marcin (Białystok - Poland), Pawel & Rafal (Trojmiasto - Poland), Kuba (Wrocław - Poland). More correspondents needed!

Other sources of info: "alter ee" internet discussion list, "Warhead" - internet up dates of @-activities in Poland, ABC Poland - info bulletin, "A-zine" - anarchist bulletin.

Co-operation: if you operate in Eastern Europe you can send to us info about protests, manifestations and other actions going on in your region ... you can present activities of groups, collectives and projects working in your neighbourhood ... you can inform us about up-coming political and cultural events ... you can present statements of your group on local or global issues ... you can express your ideas, opinions or criticisms ... everything from anarchist perspective. You can join our redaction-collective as a correspondent sending regular reports covering different forms of activities in your region. All materials (incl. graphics & photos) send to: abolishingBB@hotmail.com

If you operate in other parts of world you can help with distribution (see below). You can spread information about this publication or just make the most of the information here as effectively as possible.

Distribution: we are looking for people/collectives ready to distribute this publication on a regular basis in their regions (especially south Europe, UK, France, Belgium ...). Contact for distribution: aldi@rocknriot.zzn.com

Free copies: will go to all infoshops and libertarian libraries in Eastern Europe as well as to our correspondents who supply a postal addresses.

Print-Run: 1100 copies (limited because of "lame" distribution and financial reasons).

Sponsored: by Sunday-Vegan-Folk-Breakfast-Benefits presented in AKZ, KÖP/Berlin. Other sponsors wanted!

Deadlines: for #3 - 15.03.2002, for #4 - 15.05.2002, for #5 - 15.07.2002.

There is a justifiable need to abolish the borders between nations, societies, cultures and whatever else separates and defines us. In order that the process of their abolition does not lead to the formation of new borders or other types of segregation it has to be done from below, by the people not by elitist institutions such as The European Union, NATO or United Nations.

There is an enduring need to instantly abolish all states, governments and authoritarian institutions so that communities based on common values such as freedom, respect, collaboration and solidarity can be formed. These communities in turn can lead to the transformation of the world order into one based on the above mentioned values.

In an attempt to push forward both of these goals with support for development from the anarchist movement above the borders we have created ...

"Abolishing the Borders from Below" an anarchist courier from Eastern Europe

There are many reasons why it is necessary to put out this type of publication on a regular basis. There are a large number of anarchist groups in Eastern Europe who could operate much more effectively with a continual exchange of ideas, tactics, experiences and materials with similarly minded groups from all over Europe and the World. It is clear that many western activists are also interested in the ideas and actions of the "eastern anarchists". We believe it to be necessary to tighten the collaboration between east and west in resisting Fortress Europe, the globalization of the world economy, and above all capitalism and it's effects on our life. A mutual exchange of inspirations, motivations, and cooperation from anarchist communities all over Europe is needed on a day to day basis not only in times of international protests like the ones in Prague, Gothenburg and Genua. The intent of this paper is to set up a better network of communication between groups and individuals from different parts of this continent. The process of creating an editorial team for "ABfB" was a great step toward this so we appeal to everyone to make the most of the information here as effectively as possible."

Here we are bringing you another portion of news from east european regions. There are some short news stories, some reports, calls for solidarity and articles. Different forms of information about what is going on in the anarchist movement in the STILL NOT UNIONISED, BARBARIAN EUROPE.

The process of setting up both networks of correspondents and distributors for "AbolishingBB" (which are for the moment the most important for the development of our project) is going slowly forward. Although, as it is still just the beginning, capacity and accessibility for our courier so far are of course distinctly limited.

Well, for a good beginning we would like to remind you that we started this project at the end of 2001 as a collective consisting mostly of Polish and Lithuanian activists so don't be surprised if the first issues are dominated by information from these regions. However there is a strong enthusiasm for contributions coming already from different regions of Poland, Czech Rep, Belarus and

Slovenia. Hopefully some activists from Latvia, Russia and Ukraine will join us as well in the near future. As "an anarchist courier from Eastern Europe" every perspective from Zagreb to St.Petersburg is important to this newsletter. We hope this paper will develop into a permanent publication and that following issues can contain more info on anarchist activities in such places as Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Romania or Bulgaria. To not let this project rise above our editorial and organizational capabilities we have chosen to develop it slowly, step by step. We believe it will take still about 6-8 months more until we can talk about stable network of correspondents from all those regions.

We are still building up the most effective network of distribution possible to make "AbolishingBB" available everywhere where there are people interesting in it, so if you think you could help us with this in anyway please let us know. The next two issues come out at the end of March and the end of May so get in touch before then if you wish to distribu-

te it in your region.

Like almost every voluntary/non-profit project we are straight away facing financial problems and this is the third thing which has to be solved in our coming months. Actually we should ask here for benefits but as this issue includes already many benefit-calls for great projects ("RRR", "FreeDom", "A-Kontra") we suggest to first support them and then if you are still looking for more directions... then you can think about our project.

It may be interesting to some people why "AbolishingBB" is written in a simple form of english. Firstly this is the english that most of the activists from eastern-countries usually use and secondly we want to make this paper as accessible as possible so it is as easy to understand for the english hunt sabers as for a spanish squatter, a russian objector or a bulgarian antifascist activist. So don't bother criticizing the primitive or non-intellectual type of language because most of us are happy to be able to communicate in english at all ... your Abolishers.

Call for solidarity help making of RADICAL RESOURCE ROOM (RRR)

in Kraljevo, Serbia.

Dear friends. My name is Aco Popadic - Pop, and I have been involved in the anarchist / activist / diy underground movement / scene in FRY (and some projects in ex-YU area as well) for more than ten years now. During that time I participated in various actions, with variable success, just to name few: Anti-War Campaign (against war in Kosovo), Anti-McDonald's campaign, publishing of anarchist brochures, organizing critical mass bike rides, starting of a "Kontrapunkt" zine... Nowadays I'm involved in several initiatives, but my priorities are "Kontrapunkt" (which is nowadays a radical webzine & news service in Serbo-Croat language, hosted by Tao, done by a group of people and moderated by myself) and this *Radical Resource Room (RRR)*, which is physically part of the DRK's (Culture Development Society) premises, but conceptually a totally independent space. I like to call it "anarchist living room". DRK + Me = Cafe, B92's Bookstore and Radical Resource Room. DRK, or "Društvo za razvoj kulture" is a non-profit youth NGO mainly concerned about alternative culture that I'm member of. Since we never figured out what does that mean for us as a group, we ended up with quite different definitions of who we are and what we are doing. We agreed to split the space according to our affinities still (formally) remaining in DRK. The group itself is based on 3 people (I'm one) + 5-6 others who are occasional participants. Since I decided not to interfere in ground level, the only remaining room left in the house, that is upstairs, is left for Radical Resource Room.

What would we like to do with it? Well, I think that this room should have two computers (the space is limited) linked to Internet (one of which could be the server for future fmc, or at least Kontrapunkt), book shelves for material ranging from anarchism to human and animal rights, from feminism to gay & lesbian studies, from counter-culture to engaged art, from the anti globalization movement to biotechnology and genetic engineering, from theory to practice... you get the picture, one TV set + video recorder and an activist video archive, CD, record player and tape recorder with an audio archive too (of underground music), with possibility for all kids to come, listen and record whatever they like. Yet, there still should be enough place left for small workshops, meetings and discussions.

Where the hell is Kraljevo and why is it important to have RRR in that area? Here's an excerpt from DRK's documentation: Kraljevo is settled in the central part of Serbia. The Municipality of Kraljevo is largest in the Republic of Serbia, inhabited by 127,000 people (with 70,000 in the town itself), of whom are refugees from Croatia, Bosnia and Kosovo (officially 23,000). There are currently 11,000 unemployed persons and 10,000 on forced leaves (receiving 10 DM monthly). Most of the working people are employed in public owned enterprises, the so called giants, such as Magnohrom Refractors, Railway Car Factory, Kablar Constructional Enterprise, etc. all of whom were struck by UN sanctions and bad governmental politics of previous regime. Kraljevo dont have any youth cultural center. And, it seems that there is no interest in governmental structures for that problem, but

considering the variety of socio-economic problems, which municipal authorities are facing each day, one could say that it has its explanation. Growing up in such social circumstances, where children and youth are frequently left to themselves, causes permanent increase of minors delinquency, consuming and dealing narcotics and alcohol abuse. Refugees are one of the biggest problems in the municipality. On one hand, refugees face the problems of their very existence. On the other, the flow of refugees struck again already collapsing municipal economy. In combination with different lifestyles of new comers, it gave a fertile ground for xenophobia and culture-racism. Even local politicians are in that bandwagon: just recently new municipal law was passed: it forbids everybody who doesn't have the proof of residence in Kraljevo for last 10 years, to open a store. There was no public reaction. Just to add to all this, police presence is huge, there is a lot of army too (now that Kosovo is UNMIK's and KFOR's hands, Kraljevo is (in this part of Serbia) last bigger town on the road to Kosovo). Just recently Kraljevo got (along with Belgrade and



Nis) Gendarmerie - special police unit that have more power than regular police and army, and that main purpose is anti-terrorist and anti-demonstration activity. On the other hand, clericalization of our society is getting harder every day, and Kraljevo is no better than the rest of the country. On contrary, I think that we are even worse. Worshipping well known anti-Semite and nazi collaborator bishop Nikolaj Velimirovic got out of the hand and it hurts to see how many youngsters joined the band wagon of conservative religious bigots. I think that it is of crucial importance to provide an alternative choice to young people, but not only to them, but to everybody else as well. *Be it punk music, or Chomsky's new lecture, whatever. Important thing is to show the people that there are other ways, and that we are able to offer a positive alternative. To agitate, emancipate, educate! To be a source of inspiration.*

So, how can you help? By sending your material, by putting RRR on Your mailing list, giving RRR a subscription, by donations in money, (used) equipment, or just by spreading the word about my initiative. At the moment there are no funds to support RRR and I am relying on your generosity and kindness to help me start. Thank you in advance. In solidarity, Pop. Contact address: Aco Popadic, Rada Vilotjevic 1/6, 36000 Kraljevo, Yugoslavia; email: kontra@ptt.yu

Conference on Globalization

held in Kraljevo, Serbia.

Culture Development Society from Kraljevo, Serbia and Initiative for Economic Democracy Belgrade/Novi Sad, Serbia organized a conference entitled "Globalization and the Balkans". The conference was held in Kraljevo from 21st to the 23rd December in the space provided by the Culture Development Society. In addition to the members of the Culture Development Society and the Initiative for Economic Democracy, representatives of grassroots initiatives from Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina, Romania, Macedonia, Montenegro and Italy attended the gathering. The objective of the conference was to assess the impact of neoliberal globalization on the region, to examine world experience in combating the negative aspects of neoliberal economics, and, finally, to formulate methods for regional groups to organize against these negative aspects. Emilio Molinari, the vice president of the global ecological initiative "Water for All", the president of the Italian branch of the international association ATTAC, and a member of the Italian Social Forum, gave a noted presentation on the dangers of neoliberal programs for water privatization. He also outlined a global strategy for fighting concentration of control of public resources in the corporate sector. Aleksander Dajkovic from the University of Kansas spoke on the problems of democracy in neoliberal economics and emphasized the complexities of globalization, stressing that positive aspects of globalization have to be nurtured and developed so that negative ones could be overcome. Fabrizio Betini talked about pacifism and the new global social movement, and Andrej Grubachic, a historian from Belgrade, presented Balkan conflicts: history, modernity and the challenges of future. Participants from all countries shared their experiences during the conference. They concluded the conference by adopting a program for cooperation between regional groups. The conference ended in resolving to:

1. Create "South East Europe Social Forum" and send a delegation to the World Social Forum meeting to be held in Porto Allegre, Brazil in January 2002.
2. Support a joint project, the internet magazine and news service "Kontrapunkt" (www.kontrapunkt-online.org), in order to bring in closer collaboration the different regional groups fighting neoliberal globalization.
3. Organize an initiative within the Yugoslav Initiative for Economic Democracy, which would attach itself to the international association "Water for All," presided by Daniel Miterand.

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Poland

"D2 - March for Capitalism" and actions against it. As capitalist clowns decided to make actions to promote their crimes more and even called it D2, anarchists all over Poland decided to take action against it. In **Warsaw**, groups of anarchists dressed as yuppies, managed to infiltrate the capitalist demonstration, shouting slogans which made all the people around laugh, such as "Death to all poor" etc. Until the end of demo the capitalist scum didn't realise that they had been fooled and even let anarchists make a speech, which was even more comic. Also some pathetic trots and socialists with a few anarchist from Leftist Alternative tried to organise a counter event. In **Lublin** capitalists were directly assaulted by a group of anarchists. In **Poznan** only few anarchists appeared and distributed their leaflets. In **Torun** anarchists came in greater number so the capitalist scum didn't manage to hold any kind of action at all. A similar situation was in **Gdansk**, where anarchists were far more visible. Counter demonstrators were giving capitalists toilet paper "since they are giving us shit". The actions were signed in a few places by "KIBEL" (toilet), acronym for Club of Business Intelligentsia "Elite Lobby" (Klub Inteligencji Biznesowej "Elitarne Lobby").

The **Krakow** section of FA has protested on **December 4** against president **Kwasniewski** during his visit to this town. Leaflets were spread about the planned savings on ticket reductions for students and other benefits that will be cut at the same time as the army prepares to spend billions on sending soldiers to Afghanistan and buy more military equipment for Nato's rogue operations.

On the **12th of Dezember** in **Krakow** and **Bialystok** there were demos against the changes in train ticket reductions for students. The state wants to save money by changing the reductions from 50% to 37%. The demos were organised by the rightist NZZ student union, but were infiltrated by anarchist activists who contributed to radicalise the protest and the demands. A demo on the same topic was held by FA in **Warsaw** on **Monday**. According to reports, about 1000 people were present in **Krakow**. This is about tickets for national trains as well as local transport in the city. For the moment the campaign consists of riding for free and

giving the name and address of the minister of finance to the inspectors when asked for identity.

The traditional banquet which was supposed to take place on 9th february in **Krakow** was cancelled by the authorities. All the papers blame the anarchists who were getting ready to trash the upper class party as on the 9 preceding years. A happening and an anticapitalist demo will take place anyway on the main square in **Krakow**.

Anarchist formation "Czarna Wigilia" ("Black Christmas") showed up and took active part of D14 actions in **Brussels**. "Black Christmas" was formed by several polish activists from different groups and cities. With the black flags, red/black painted faces, self made noisily-instruments and some banners ("Stop the Eulitarian Show - Abolish the Borders of Below !") they joined the anarchist black bloc during the so called coalition-march on the 14th of December. Unfortunately directly after demo half of the formation was surrounded by cops and were brutally arrested. They spent 46 hours under arrest in **Belgium** in freezing cells without anything even to drink. The cops threw in fire-crackers in response to their demand for water. One passport was damaged and another stolen. Four people were deported to **Poland**, one to **Germany**. Back in **Warsaw**, two persons were held under arrest. Their names are known to Polish ABC. Two weeks after D14 at the after-meeting of "Black Christmas" activists decided to provoke the polish anarchist movement into deeper discussion about forms of street agitation nowadays - the first attempts have already been made. There were also some solidarity actions in **Poland** during D14. On 14th of December about 30 anarchists demonstrated against the EU in **Warsaw** and activists in **Bialystok** distributed 2000 leaflets during Food Not Bombs etc and also put up a lot of posters and stickers against the EU. There are serious plans for a countrywide campaign against the EU by the Anarchist Federation.

In the **Warsaw-Infoshop** there was an interesting discussion/workshop on cooperatives. The housing cooperatives are sort of the most disgusting thing that you can think of. The authentic housing cooperatives started as a very successful project in the 20's-30's as a cooperation between

socialists, architects and workers for whom the housing was designed. The houses still exist now in the **Zoliborz** district of **Warsaw**, and are one of the most integrated local communities to this day. A lot of oppositionists in the 80's came from this community. In the late 50's the state took over the cooperatives and placed party officials in command. Now the housing cooperatives are the symbol of being forced to give money away and receiving nothing - no houses, no standard of living - in return and while the corruption goes on. Activists discussed if the idea of cooperativism has any future today (although certainly under a different name - the one used up until now, "spoldzielnie", is dead). Whilst the entrenched corruption and the old guard of the secret police and apparatchiks who still hold control of the cooperatives makes any thought of reform almost impossible - the legal regulations on creating new cooperatives have to be analysed. Mostly these laws were used by different "businessmen" to rob people of their money, it remains to be seen if they can be used for any good purpose. They also talked about the existing and successful examples of mutual savings organisations which are somewhat popular in **Poland**, and about the mutual insurance against state repression "ABC-Life" created by anarchists. As small as those things may seem now (about 1000 persons) some form of cooperativism has good perspectives to develop. Nothing else is really possible for the part of population which is not taken into account anymore, neither as producers or consumers, by the new economy.

A 9 year old child was burned at a religion lesson in **Frombork**, **Poland**, when the sister teaching religion told him to put his hand in the fire, to show him what will wait for him in hell. The sister was thrown out from school.

In **December**, three young punks from **Warsaw** have each been sentenced to 3,5 years prison for a fight with skinheads in a bus. One of the skinheads was allegedly robbed of the equivalent of US\$2. An appeal and petitions to the higher court are prepared. The case had some publicity in the media, and was the start of a debate about whether prisoners should be allowed to study. (One of the accused is studying law and wasn't held in jail.)

Actions against budget cuts. With the new government elected nothing is getting

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better in our country (surprise, surprise) and parasites in parliament seats have already forgot tenabout their promises. The first thing which they offered were budget cuts in many social services. This caused a wave of unrest among students as their benefits (ticket price reductions) were seriously cut. At the same time the polish government is sending troops to Afghanistan and this operation will cost people a lot of money. The right wing student union organised some reformist protests all over Poland to show that they are "against" it. Anarchists in few cities decided to show our own opinion about those events. In **Warsaw, Torun and Bialystok** student protests were joined by activists with red and black flags and leaflets explaining our view. Of course leaders of student unions were angry as they tried to pose as "delegates" of all students whilst they sit at one table with ruling scum. Actions will continue!

Situation of squatting-scene in Poland.

The squatting situation in Poland is getting better and better, although there are of course some neverending serious problems. Recently the Wagenburg squat in Wroclaw was attacked with molotov cocktails by group of a few nazis. Luckily no one was injured, but one of the buildings near the squat was destroyed and police accused the squatters of arson (!). One nazi was caught by squatters and was beaten mercilessly. In **Bialystok's "De ZEN-TRUM"** there were again some pathetic attempts by nazis to attack the place, but they were quickly chased off by squatters. Police also recently left the place alone (lets see for how long?). The only problem there is really the harsh winter. "**KRZYK**" squat in **Gliwice** is still going despite the continuous threat of eviction and demolition. In **Warsaw** a new squat appeared, set up by ex-expatriates who decided to come back from Barcelona and do something here. The squat is named "**BLACK FROG**". This is the second squated house in Warsaw at the moment.

Actions against the war. There were many actions against US imperial policy and the war in Afghanistan recently. In **Bialystok** activists during Food Not Bombs actions distributed leaflets against the war and put up posters and signs. In **Krakow** there were two actions, one outside the US consulate (after a few minutes the participants were attacked without reason by riot police. They were beaten and

then 9 people were detained and charged with "Active resistance to police". Activists have sued the police for unlawful arrest etc.) and the second during the Polish president's visit to Krakow. There were also actions in **Poznan** (also disrupted by police), **Warsaw** and a few other cities. There is also a web site in Polish and lots of propaganda on the streets. As the Polish government has decided to send troops to Afghanistan in January there will be more actions.

Actions in Szczecin Shipyard. In Szczecin there was a demonstration to commemorate the workers rebellion which inflamed the whole Polish coast (including Szczecin) in 1970 and led to many days of street battles with the army and security forces. This time anarchists wanted to show that the present government is in no way different from the one which ruled then and that the workers in the shipyards should rebel again. There were up to 200 people present on action, mostly from Poland plus a small delegation from FAU/Germany. During the march there were small scuffles with police all the time, although no people got arrested or injured. The protesters didn't manage to get into shipyard due to high number of police but received good support from the people who took part in the 1970 rebellion or were witnesses to it. The slogans were against the corruption of government, for selforganisation of society and against the passivity of the existing trade-unions. The demonstrators gave away food and marched to the Szczecin shipyard where one of the workers was repressed for publishing an anarcho-syndicalist paper. Once there, the anarchists honored the memory of the workers killed during the strikes in 1970 and the guests from FAU performed some anarchist songs. Also the "Makhnovshchina" was sung.

Anti-Fascist meeting in Bialystok. At the beginning of December there was an anti-fascist meeting between anti-fascists from the Bialystok area and from **Hrodna in Belarus**. It was supposed to be a larger event but unfortunately there was a poor turnout. However the meeting was very successful and there is now closer co-operation between anti-fascists from those two areas and an antifa web site in Russian and Polish will appear soon.

Nazi-gathering in Bialystok and actions against it. In the first days of

November there was a big nazi mobilization in Bialystok, as their group "North-Eastern Land" decided to organize a big event. They invited bands from Slovakia, Ukraine and (in)famous nazi bands from Poland. About 200 nazis came to our city. Unfortunately this time the nazis surprised us with good organization and managed to keep information about the exact place of the show secret until the last day. Police panicked heavily and three times officers visited the squat trying to obtain information about the nazi gathering and pretending to be friendly. Squatters didn't buy this trick and refused any co-operation with the cops. On the day of the show a strong police presence showed up to guard the place for the show. Of course they didn't try to stop the nazi event. Instead they tried to prevent any opposition from coming near. Small groups of antifas were in the city looking for nazis. In one incident two nazi boneheads going to the show were hassled and humiliated. Unfortunately a bus driver prevented this action from getting more serious. Also there was an arson attack during the show, as anonymous activists burned part of the club which hosted the nazi event. As a partial response to this show, local anti-fascists increased their activities to stop the nazis from organizing themselves more and the city is being patrolled by antifa groups very often with nazis being attacked all the time. In the latest event, a group of over 20 nazis was attacked by an antifa patrol near a charity show which took part on the 14th of January. 8 nazis were seriously injured and one taken to hospital.

Direct Actions for animal rights. There were some direct actions for animal rights during the last few months all over Poland. In the area around Bialystok at least 5 hunting platforms were destroyed and many more were damaged and painted with slogans. Also the window of a hunting shop was broken: In Wroclaw there were a few attacks on butcher shops in commemoration of Barry Horne, the animal rights activist from UK who died recently after a hunger strike.

Commemoration of Kristal-nacht. As every year anarchists in Torun commemorated Kristallnacht, the pogrom of Jewish people in Nazi Germany, with street performance and by distributing anti-fascists leaflets.

Riots in Krakow. This is the latest infor-

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mation about the riots in Krakow between police and participants of a charity punk show. According to the initial police version some drunken punks tried to rob one volunteer of his collection box and when security tried to intervene they were attacked by more angry and drunken punks. During the next day they changed this version and said that it was "mistake" as two guys were fighting and they thought that someone was being robbed. This resulted in a full scale attack by riot police, who shot dozens of rubber bullets from close range, wounding at least 5 people. There were clashes as punks bombarded police with bottles, rocks and trash cans. 4 cops were injured, including the officer leading the action. 44 people were arrested and 9 were charged with "assault on police officer". 7 of them the court decided to hold in custody for 3 months until the trials will take place. This is another example of police brutality and hugely exaggerated use of force. Polish ABC will be trying to obtain information about the arrested punks.

Putin in Poland. The polish organisation "Wolny Kaukaz" (Free Caucas) did not get the permission to demonstrate against russian aggression in Tchetchenia. They wanted to demonstrate during the visit of Putin to Poznan, and finally their demo was 22 seconds long, then they went to prison for about 10 hours, where they were beaten up and not given any food or water. The police were so desperate, that they also arrested a journalist, who was finally freed a bit faster. The court in Poznan decided that keeping the protesters from Poznan in prison was not justified. Amnesty International did not get the permission to demonstrate either and there were many protests from the human rights organisations about that, and also about the repression against Wolny Kaukaz. There was also a demo in Krakow, and there it lasted longer, because the protesters could prove that they cannot control their fire (the russian flag was "accidentally" burnt) they will soon have court cases and the prosecutor will probably demand 1-3 years for them for the bad things they did.

Czech Rep.

Anarchists against war. On December 10 about 70-80 anarchists gathered on a demonstration against the war in Afghanistan, called by Czechoslovak Anarchist Federation, A-kontra collective and Revolution against America group. Two speeches were read and a

spontaneous march to the US embassy followed, where people held candles as a memorial for war victims. Also nazis came to visit the demo, but they left without incident.

Happening against violence on women. November 25 was proclaimed as the International day of a struggle against violence on women. Czech NGOs organised "16 action days against violence on women", but all actions were for politicians and journalists only. It also included action called "food and eat against violence on women" for insatiable politicians...

13 anarcho-feminist from the **Feminist Alliance of March 8** took action in the form of a happening on November 26. Wearing traditional clothes of Afghani women, which cover even the face, they leafleted during their way through the city centre.

Antifascist demonstration in Prague. About 100 anarchists gathered for a demonstration against fascist violence on December 1. This demonstration was called in only two weeks and was a reaction to three fascist attacks which happened on November 16. A group of nazis attacked a group of "alternative youth" and then a 40 year old homeless person who was hospitalised. This part of Prague called "Eastern city" is well-known as a centre of nazi activity and such attacks are part of every day reality there. 23 nazis led by self-proclaimed leader of Czech **Anti-antifa** waited in the place of demonstration. When antifa gathered, police anti-riot squad came to protect the nazis, but no incident took place (as the police were waiting for it). Antifa didn't attack nazis (we know well when is the time for it) and went on with the march through "Eastern city" under red-black flags and with anarchist banners. One of the nazis leaders present told journalists that "many of the people who gathered there are violent themselves and frequently attack young patriots, who then end up in hospital..." Oh we never do such dirty things my dear...

Distribution of Czech anarchist books, pamphlets, magazines etc. on-line. On January 1, the on-line anarchist distribution starts on URL <http://apdistribuce.unas.cz>. So far it offers 35 books, brochures and pamphlets and several magazines. It also offers copies of numerous titles which have already sold out. As a part of this web pages there is also an archive of anarchist

texts and even whole pamphlets and brochures in HTML format, some of them also in .RTF for downloading. All pages are in Czech only (this info is only for information purposes).

Romania

The 17th and 18th coordination meetings took place at which activists decided about their priorities and about the ways to coordinate the actions between groups from different towns. "We were also able to know *who's the one we can trust between the anarchists from a town*"

The first result was the December 1st action. December 1st is Romania's so called "national day" which was celebrated by putting up anti-fascist posters during the night before. The area which was covered with posters was downtown Bucharest, which is where the headquarters of the "great romania" party is. Posters covered a police station, the army's main cultural center and similar objects. Simultaneously, the same thing was done in cities of Craiova, Timisoara and Cluj.

In Timisoara an anarchist action called "food not bombs" took place. It was a good opportunity for anarchists from other towns to meet and plan their activities for the next months. Comrades from Yugoslavia came too. People made posters and wrote graffiti, made food and gave it for free to the poorest people in Timisoara with a short propaganda message attached to each plate (like "one NATO plane = 1 million cans with beans"). After the action there was a punkrock gig.

Lithuania

On 1-2nd of December there was a "global day for capitalism" around the globe and in the lithuanian capital Vilnius as well, liberal youth were marching in the center of the city and putting blue ribbons on symbols of "success" such as posh restaurants, bussiness centers, mcdonalds and banks. But there were 20-30 individuals as well who tried to disturb it with some noise, banners, and flyers with criticisms of capitalism and the world's inequality. Some small actions in front of mcdonald's and a famous fur shop took place. The media didn't show much interest in this event so there was no discussions in public about it either. Regardless of this local anarchists think the whole action as more or less successful.

TROJMIASTO

anarchist activity up-date

Trojmiasto is situated in northern Poland by the Baltic Sea. As its name suggests (Trojmiasto means a Triple City) it's not a single city but a group of different ones: Gdansk, Gdynia and Sopot. After more than a year of deep hibernation the anarcho-punk scene in our city is getting back to life. Still lots of things need to be organized, but we're experiencing a surge of fresh energy and new people are getting involved in our activities. The main organizations existing in our city are: OLE (Citizens' Ecological League), FA (Anarchist Federation) and BAT (Anti - Militarist Brethren - which is basically a legal, registered version of FA - the people are quite the same in both groups). In the following report I'd like to describe the actions that those groups have organized in the past three months. The revival of anarchist social activity started with a demonstration against the US bombing of Afghanistan organized by BAT soon after the air-raids had begun. There were only about 20 of us and the demonstration wasn't too long or well-prepared but we caught the attention of the journalists. We managed to present our words of criticism towards US imperialism generally and the intervention in particular in the local media. The second demo, concerning the same problem, was much better. We organized it two weeks later in a different place and it attracted as much as 100 people. It started with a happening during which a few people were riding bikes that were disguised as US bombers and were throwing bananas (imitating bombs) at people around. At the same time we were throwing fireworks causing lots of noise. In addition a band of drummers was playing their instruments increasing the general chaos. After the bombers have run out of bananas there was a "traditional" part: slogan-chanting, anti-war speeches, distributing leaflets etc. Also this time the media noticed our protest. One of the finest actions of the recent

times took place on the 2nd of December, when we joined the Walk for Capitalism. It was organized in most of the big cities in Poland by some right-wing organizations. Just like anarchists in other cities, we decided to join their party and improve it a bit. We wanted to show that it's idiotic to promote capitalism in times of great poverty, unemployment (ca 20%) and lack of money in the budget. We joined their walk pretending that we're big fans of capitalism and pulled out our placards with absurd "pro-capitalist" slogans like "we demand 25-hours workday", "jobless - get a job", "more banks, less hospitals", "down with trade unions", "more work, less pay" and so on. Some of the more stupid capitalists didn't even get a joke and joined our chants demanding liquidating workers' rights (!). Some of them were mad and tried to harass us - showing their understanding of freedom of speech (in the inviting leaflet they wrote the Walk was a party open for everyone...). The journalists were laughing all the time and in some newspapers they wrote more about us and our views than about the real capitalists (who must have been furious!). On the 15th of December there was a students' demonstration against the expected raise of train ticket prices. Some of the anarchists joined it but we were only a small group in the crowd of about 1000 people so we didn't manage to push through with our ideas. The whole protest was organized by Students Parliament (or something) and it seemed that they just wanted to channel the students' disaffection. The demonstration was very soft and looked more like a show than a real protest and of course it didn't change a shit because two days later the Polish Parliament voted for the ticket price raises (or actual reduction of the student's - and other groups, like disabled people's - price reductions - now they have to pay 63% of the normal price instead of 50%). Another action was an anti-fur happening organized on December 16th. The furs are

unfortunately still popular in our streets. We organized a happening with hunters spitting fire and butchers skinning a person disguised as an animal (there was a lot of howling and fake blood). Meanwhile another person was having a speech explaining to the audience and to the media why fur is such a shitty thing to wear. The latest action was on January 12th - it was organized to "celebrate" sending Polish troops to Afghanistan. While the country is slipping into poverty and there's no money for basic social needs the authorities are spending 30 millions zlotys in order to join the "war on terrorism" to ass-kiss of our "NATO-allies". We just wanted to make fun of such fucked up policy so we dressed in mixed-up soldiers' uniforms and formed a group of patriotic volunteers claiming that they wanted to die for their country. We also had a small horse (it belongs to one of anarchists who is working as a hippotherapist of the disabled children) which showed a very patriotic attitude and walked with us. We marched down the main street chanting soldiers song that we have to find bin Laden, we want to go to Afghanistan to rape, loot and burn, we gonna defend our country's pride and so on. We were giving away leaflets that encouraged all repatriots to join us and help the US army in their efforts. The people were looking curiously at us, most of them surprised, they didn't know what's up, but they liked our patriotic horse. We were shouting "where is Osama?", "attack Kabul!" and were having fun all the time. The march ended by the sea where it turned out that we had been betrayed - the ship that was to take us to Afghanistan didn't show up... Right now we are preparing for the visit of Russian president, V. Putin who's coming to Poland today. We are gonna show our "support", for his great job of murdering defenceless people of Tschetschenya, in front of the Russian consulate in Gdansk..

FOOD NOT BOMBS in Gdansk

In late November 2001 a group of people from the anarchist community in Trojmiasto (Gdansk, Sopot and Gdynia), in northern Poland, began to think about starting the Food Not Bombs collective in Gdansk. The idea seemed to be important especially in this time of Poland's - ass-licking of our government idols - the U.S. and NATO, resulting in our obedient, blind support of their "war on terrorism" and the plan of wasting 30.000.000 PLN (more than 8.000.000 euros) on sending Polish troops to Afghanistan (despite the fact that the country is facing really heavy problems with its budget and is cutting more and more social benefits, of course harming mostly the ones who are already in the worst situations). We wanted not only to help people in need, but also to stress the fact that hunger is not the result of a lack of food or money, but the result of its wrong, unjust distribution. After discussing the idea for some time (used mostly for thinking over the question of if we felt ready to start such a long-term project demanding so much responsibility), on December 9th we prepared the first meal and since then, every Sunday at 12 o'clock we give out ca. 60 warm, vegan meals (plus bread and sometimes hot tea) in front of the main train station in Gdansk. Our core crew consists of ca. 20 persons, but there is way more people helping us in different ways. Of course we are not connected with any state institution, political party, nor religious group. We get a big part of the products for free from the salesmen at the vegetable marketplace and small, local shops and for the rest of things we need we pay out of our own pockets. Recently we also collected donations at the movie - evening (described in Trojmiasto report) and want to do it at other events (e.g. punk - shows) as well. We cook at our own houses, trying to change both houses and cooking crews as much as possible to avoid getting bored and/or tired. We would like to thank anyone who helped us so far. Hopefully you'll stay with us allowing our action to be kept going for years. We can be contacted at: FNB P.O.Box 118 80-470 Gdansk 45, Poland.

Third International Conference of Critical Geography Bekescsaba, Hungary, 25th- 30th June 2002

This is a call for participation for one of the eight conference themes!

Borders, Migrations and Displacement

Co-ordinators: Anke Struever (a.struever@nsm.kun.nl), Uli Best (u.best@plymouth.ac.uk) The theme will focus on borders, migration and displacement, including the place of minorities and majorities in Europe, as well as questions of control, images and practices. We would like to invite contributions related to the theme. Some might be inspired by the following topics, but the call is open for any suggestion.

Regional constellations of border regimes and migration.

European Union and its borders.

Migration to and within the European Union. Border controls and practices (e.g., channel tunnel, extended eastern borders, Mediterranean borders, internal borders?). The (im)possible ways for refugees to move into and within the EU. Technological and discursive efforts to control borders and people. Sites and practices of resistance.

New right-wing governments in Europe, immigration policies and the "security" debate.

Discriminatory regimes, practices and imagery at the national, regional and urban scale

The role of the attacks on the WTC/pentagon in the legitimisation of these politics. Critical positions towards these processes.

Migration, control, empire and NGOs

The significance of migration and borders on a global scale and at a conceptual level. The role of (humanitarian) NGOs in the control of migration movements. The linkages between local, national and global modulations of control, discrimination and racism.

Resistant politics and 'critical' academic research.

Researching movement from a fixed point. The role of free-floating academic practice in a world that is strictly segmented and bordered. The relation of the fixed researcher to the mobile subjects of research. The involvement of research in techniques of control.

Following the conference's general format.....

- most sessions will be panel debates, roundtable discussions, workshops and other 'participatory' activities.
- if written papers are presented they should be short (no more than four-five pages), written in plain, clear English or French, and circulated in advance.
- formal spoken presentations will be limited to 10 minutes.
- it will also be possible to table a paper (that is, to present a paper in written form only, without a spoken presentation). The organisers will also be able to provide written confirmation of participation if required.

Please consult the ICGG web page for more information and useful links at: <http://econgog.misc.hit-u.ac.jp/icgg>;

For this session, please contact Anke Struever (a.struever@nsm.kun.nl) and Uli Best (u.best@plymouth.ac.uk) Deadline for normal registration is Dec 15th

"A-kontra" seeks financial help

WHAT IS A-KONTRA?

A-kontra was a Czech anarchist magazine which first appeared in 1991. The last issue was published in 1995. But four years later a group of young anarchists decided to make the A-kontra live again. Since then it is frequently published, recently every six weeks. So far 23 issues of the "new" A-kontra have been published, which makes it the most frequently published anarchist magazine in Czechia. Together in the anarchist revue the Existence has the highest circulation within Czech anarchist papers. The A-kontra usually has 16 or 20 pages of A4 format.

WHAT IS A-KONTRA ABOUT?

The A-kontra is a non-sectarian magazine open to all kinds of anarchist and another non-authoritarian revolutionaries. During its "second" existence it has published articles by members of most (and I think I could write all) Czech anarchist organisations and a lot of individuals and about all kinds of themes ranging from anarchy feminism and social ecology to anarcho-communism and tactics of the "antiglobalisation" movement. We have published home news, international news, interviews, polemics, translations, anarchist theory and history. Our main goal is to publish home news, analyses, information about upcoming events and our own comments and articles about the situation in Czechia. But we also consider anarchist theory as an important part of A-kontra. For example, in the last five issues we published (of course this is just a partial list!) What is social ecology by M.Bookchin, Biocentrism and deep ecology by Judi Bari, Polemics to the Platform by Volin, Sobol, Schwartz etc., Marxism: the negation of communism by Jeff Stain, Anarchocommunism by Alain Pengan, History of anarchist philosophy from Lao Tse to Kropotkin by Rudolph Rocker, Interview on September 11 with N. Chomsky, Interview on libertarian municipalism by Janet Biehl, four articles on Anarchism and Ecology translated from the Organize! magazine, The history of British Reclaim the streets!, a long article about the history of Mayday etc. In every issue there is also an issue of an ABC bulletin. Last year we published eight issues, so we met our goal of six week intervals. We also published one special issue in sextuple circulation about NATO, which should mobilise for actions against the NATO summit in Prague this autumn. This special issue is free of charge or for voluntary donation.

WHY WE NEED MONEY?

We have a constant lack of money, but this year we would like to duplicate our circulation and become an "official magazine." This makes it possible to be sold in every bookshop etc. We think it will help to bring alternative information to a wider variety of people, as now A-kontra is being sold only by our own dealers so usually only people involved in the anarchist movement have access to it. To meet this aim we need about 20,000 Kc. We so far managed to save 8,000 Kc, but still need at least 12,000 Kc, which is about US\$300. And we are afraid we are not able to collect so much. Even a small amount of money will help us very much. What is more, we still don't have our own printer and our editorial computer is more than 10 years old with a black-and-white screen. But it doesn't matter, as we have managed to publish 23 issues under these conditions... So we decided to ask you for support for our magazine. If you could donate to us or make a benefit show etc., please contact us.

A-kontra collective

For more information please contact:
apf@seznam.cz

HOW BORDERS HELP SLAVE TRADERS

Text spread among folk by polish anarchists during last Mayday in Warsaw, "Anarchist Bulletin", May 1, 2001.

Nationalist, protectionist politicians are always crying that we need to strengthen national borders to protect our people and their jobs from foreign workers who will come and undermine us, work for less money and eventually force wages down for everybody.

But we don't see it that way. It is true that there is a big problem when people in a neighbouring country can earn far less than in another. More often than not, it is not so much a problem of any lack of development, any backward nature of the people but it is a problem of international business and politics. International businesses and world financial institutions, politicians local and international often create the worst situations for people, driving them off the land or forcing them to abandon their traditional work, doing everything to keep wages down, usually in the name of encouraging "development" and "attracting investors". World business thrives on the fact that they can pay someone less for the same work if they just do their business in another country which is desperate or willing enough to sell their resources cheaply - and that is something which drives down wages and also threatens the position of the working class internationally. Just ask the millions of US factory workers who have lost their jobs when their companies went to Mexico and the millions of more who are working for much lower wages than they were 10 years ago and they will tell you that there's not even any sense to having a border to keep out illegal immigrants if their factories can move to Mexico and wind up making far more money.

We are on the side of the workers. We feel that anytime a human being is in a place where he or she cannot make a living, or is forced to work in miserable conditions or if a human is in place devastated by war, ecological disasters or politics, they should

be able to move from that place as every human being has certain rights to dignity and survival. As Poles, we should remember how many of our people have had to go abroad, how many people now sit unemployed and miserable who could be doing useful work for society, if not here, than elsewhere. Of course our real aims include working towards a situation where people do not need to migrate in search of work or a decent existence; people so inhumanely show hostility to foreigners who come to look for work, just making things worse for them when in the most cases they have to leave their home, county, family and friends because they had few choices and they are struggling in a new environment where they may not have many



friends, may not know the language, may be in constant fear of police and not doubt work harder and in worse conditions than any of the local people. Society's hatred usually fall on workers that cross the borders, but not on businesses that cross them, on all the political and economic forces in the world that use them for extreme economic profit. For big business, tighter borders mean more control over people, it means fencing the world's poor into the national cage from which they cannot escape, it means more control over international trade and, in short, it means mega-money.

That's why we're against border regimes; they are very beneficial to business and political leaders but they just tend to increase the misery of the poor people who are most likely to be victims

of them. The protectionists and nationalists who call for tighter borders have missed the point entirely; we live in a world dominated by big business now and they think globally, not locally - they take advantage of world economic trends and they are bound to any one place or any one people. Tighter borders will not guarantee that workers' wages will not be undermined or that business will create jobs for them. The only thing that will help workers is an understanding of what's going on, international awareness, a rejection of a system which values profit over people and an international struggle to change direction.

There is something else which appalls every decent human being on the planet and which thrives on the existence of tight border regimes: the growing slave trade. The existence of tight borders which prevent people from moving freely when they need to mean that many tens of thousands of truly desperate souls are forced to seek of help of the lowest forms of profiteers who will transport themover the border but at a very high price. Most times this price is their very life: many people have to sell themselves into slavery, or indenture themselves for years to pay for this service. The worst types of human beings profit tremendously from this; they make fortunes on the free or extremely cheap labour and fortunes on this human smuggling. They care nothing if they enslave children or if their cargo dies in transport or dies a slave, never having managed to work off their debts. The more people who have to resort to this in desperation, the more this trade flourishes; it would be much better to invite all these workers to work legally in any place than to encourage the growth of slave labor anywhere; remember, the people who create slave labour conditions also have some chains ready for you if you ever become desperate enough!

ABC ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS

INFO FROM POLAND

ANARCHISTS WIN WITH (IN)JUSTICE

By decision of the District Court from Kraków Marek Milewski, an anarchist previously charged with throwing a Molotov cocktail at a police officer and later found not guilty, received 8 thousand zł of compensation for being unjustly arrested. In 1996 Marek took part in an illegal demonstration in Kraków during which a Molotov cocktail hit a police officer. Marek was arrested on the spot, allegedly recognized by two policemen as the one who threw the cocktail and was held under arrest for a month. In court he was found not guilty as a video tape showed that the cocktail was thrown from a different place than Marek was standing. After the trial, Marek demanded 10 thousand zł of compensation for stress he was subjected to under arrest and a year of studies he lost in the result. Now, after a campaign in Marek's case in which Polish ABC and many other organizations took part and after five years of appeals the court finally granted Marek 8 thousand zł.

BIALYSTOK - ANOTHER ANTIFASCIST ACCUSED

There is another anti-fascist activist is facing serious charges after participating in fight in Bialystok, when nazis attacked antifa crew on one of the bus station and were massacred. 18 years old Slawomir "Lapa" Lapinski is charged with assault with dangerous item and grievous body harm (throwing brick in the head what damaged an eye). Whole case refers to the repelled attack of nazi fighting group on local antifa at the bus stop in Bialystok. As "Lapa" has previous sentence on probation for assault on nazi, he is facing serious threat of serving few years in prison. This opportunity was used by nazis to make trouble for activists with very bad reputation among them, as with previous case of Rufik who is another fighter, which is facing serious consequences for his involvement in antifascist struggle.

Short appeal by antifascist groups from Bialystok:

"Hello comrades! We can't leave "Lapa" alone! Things which you can do to help: 1. Send messages of support - although Lapa wasn't arrested he is still very stressed so all letter will help him. You can send messages to e-mail: soja2@poczta.onet.pl and they will be translated as he doesn't know English. 2. Collect money - we will need a lot of money for the lawyer to defend his case. Although we have our own resources they are not sufficient. We still need about 450 dollars to pay for defense. 3. Do you job- fight nazis everywhere and everytime to make sure, that people like Lapa are not wasting their energy and freedom on lost case."

SOSNOWIEC - THE ARMY BREAKS THE LAW AGAIN.

Sebastian Chmiel from Sosnowiec was called up to the army in spite of being seriously ill (Sebastian has heart disease, hernia and post-surgery scars). In the army he has been both physically and mentally persecuted as the one who wants to avoid the army. After several attempts of escape Sebastian was sentenced to serving six months in a penal company. Sebastian fears that he may not survive it as he was threatened that he'll get his ass kicked there. As little can be done from legal point of view we can only make his case widely known and spread it in media to find Sebastian some help.

BIALYSTOK - RUFIK RELEASED.

Rafal Rusilowski - "Rufik", who defended himself against nazis (his case was described in the previous newsletter), was released from arrest and placed under surveillance as his trial in July was postponed owing to the mess in documents. Now first hearings in court are taking place. The judge is constantly throwing Rufik's friends away from the court; however, there is a chance of a positive ending of the case.

WROCLAW - SRUBA IS FREE.

Jarek "Srubka" Izykowski and other persons wrongfully convicted for allegedly assaulting a police officer are already free.

PAJMON WILL BE FREE WITHIN 2 WEEKS

Klaudiusz "Pajmon" Gliklich, whose lengthy case was described in previous newsletters, will finally leave the prison on 22th of December..

WROCLAW - ANOTHER SUCCESS.

Dominik, a squatter from Wrocław, who was arrested and charged with assaulting a police officer during the eviction of Kromera Squat in spring, presented proofs of his innocence and investigation against him was discontinued. Moreover, 2 thousand zł bail on which Dominik had been released was returned to him.

However, thugs in uniforms who attacked the squat are still unpunished. The investigation against the police for their outrageous behaviour during their raid on Kromera squat was suspended.

OLSZTYN - KAMIL TRIALLED.

Kamil Olejnik, who was arrested during the S26 anti-summit in Prague is to stand in court charged with participation in a demonstration whose participants violently assaulted police officers. In September 2000, Kamil was arrested by the Czech police and held under arrest for several weeks. The Czech court sentenced him to a year imprisonment for violating public order and assaulting a police officer. His case has been transferred to Poland and the trial is about to begin. There are no proofs, however, that Kamil assaulted a policeman.

BIALYSTOK - POLICE ATTACKS ON "DE CENTRUM" SQUAT.

During last few months "De Centrum" squat in Bialystok was attacked by the police for several times. In August, ten policemen broke inside, destroyed and confiscated a lot of property belonging to the squatters. Two persons were arrested. In October, the police raided the squat on its first anniversary. Fire squad had to be called for to break down three barricades built in the doorway. The policemen entered the squat in bulletproof jackets and with drawn out guns. 39 persons present in the building got arrested. They were released after a few hours. One person, who was beaten up, gassed and handcuffed, was presented a standard charge: assault on a police officer. After appearance of the case in media, negotiations with the owner and occupation of the squat the situation is calm again. Other squatters from Poland helped

De Centrum in occupation. A demonstration also took place in Warsaw in front of the Interior Ministry building. However, the police from Bialystok are likely to repeat their actions as the police head officer said in a local TV that: "there won't be any anarchists in Bialystok."

SZCZECIN - FREEDOM OF SPEECH VIOLATED.

Dominik Sawicki, an Anarchist Federation activist, was charged with fomenting sabotage for editing an anarcho-syndicalist newspaper and distributing it in the Szczecin Shipyard, where he works. His newspaper, "Stoczniovec", which is a radical newspaper for workers must have gained too much influence and the shipyard owners began to fear rebellion and decided to get rid of it. The case documents have already been sent to court. This example shows how owners fight with independent workers' movements - by denying them freedom of speech. We encourage you to protest against such example of breaking worker laws - Dominik is likely to be fired for his activity. You can send your protests against violating freedom of speech to court: Sad Rejonowy; VI Wydział Karny; ul. Kaszubska 42; 70-952 Szczecin.

POZNAN - FINES FOR PROTESTERS.

Six people, who gathered in May in front of the police headquarters in Poznan to lodge a protest against the brutality of the police during the M1 demonstration in Warsaw, will have to pay fines of 300 zł and 200 zł. Such is the reality today: do not complain unless you want to be fined.

KRAKÓW - ARRESTED FOR LIGHTING CANDLES.

Ten people, who gathered in November in front of the consulate of the USA in Kraków in anti-war protest, were attacked and arrested by massive police forces. The protesters wanted to manifest in a peaceful way against the ongoing war in Afghanistan. However, after 2 minutes, as they attempted to light some candles arranged in Coca Cola cans, they all got arrested. They were held in custody for dozen or so hours. The detained girls were beaten and were denied medical care. All they were charged with obstructing police work. Moreover, one of the detained, Marek Kurzyniec, was conveyed to Warsaw and released after 48 hours. His arrest was connected with Marek being previously charged with allegedly assaulting a police officer during the M1 demonstration in Warsaw. It looks as though as the police have already labeled Marek as a public enemy to use all means of repression against him.

SZCZECIN - REPRESSIONS AGAINST DEMONSTRATORS.

The police from Szczecin are very active in actions against anarchists. In summer demonstrations "Against European Fortress" were taking place. On one occasion the police tried to threaten the organizers already before the demonstration began. As 100 people gathered in a town square massive police forces were lurking in nearby streets. They finally attacked when the European Union's flag was being burned and arrested a dozen or so demonstrators. The brutal intervention of the police, however, evoked reaction of the citizens who helped the demonstrators to defend. Let's hope that such examples will arouse greater solidarity of the society.

LUBLIN - EGG-THROWERS FOUND INNOCENT.

The court in Lublin decided that two anarchists who throw eggs at Prodi are innocent. They are accused of an assault on the European Commission president, Romano Prodi. On 9 March they threw eggs at a car that Prodi was getting in. One egg hit the car. During the interrogation the students said that they wanted to protest against the policy of the EU. They were both under police surveillance. A disciplinary action against them was also undertaken at the university, which thanks to the support of various groups (also foreign) ended only in their being reprimanded. The court acknowledged that "attack" was only "manifestation of political views". Social noxiousness of such act was found "low", however the judge imposed the 2 year probation for both anarchists.

KOSZALIN - TEENAGERS ARRESTED FOR ANTIWAR POSTERS

Two teenagers were arrested in Koszalin for 'anti-American provocation'. A 16- and a 17-year olds were stopped by a police patrol while sticking anti-war, anti-American and anti-state posters in town. The posters were confiscated and their homes were searched. During interrogation the boys were threatened with being charged with spreading hate and insulting Polish government (this can result in sending down for up to 3 years). In the end they were charged with sticking posters in forbidden places and "publicly showing contempt for Polish nation, Polish state and its constitutional bodies". For the latter charge one may be sentenced to a month imprisonment and 5 thousand zł fine. The boys are currently held under arrest. The 16-year old is held in custody for under age persons.

WRITE LETTERS TO PRISONERS:

TOMASZ WILKOSZEWSKI; Zakład Karny; Orzechowa 5; 98-200 Sieradz; POLAND.

In 1997 Tomek Wilkoszewski was sentenced to 15 years in prison for taking part in a fight, in which a nazi skinhead died. It is an extremely severe punishment for a person that has never broken the law before and who had been earlier terrorised for a long time by the local nazis without any reaction of the police. Now Tomek has still 10 years of his sentence left. It means for him spending about 3500 identical days with hard work being the only variety. He has only one hour for a walk during a day and three hours for a meeting with his family or friends a month. In order to avoid a nervous breakdown and apathy Tomek took up education. In prison he finished secondary school and successfully passed his matriculation exam. He wants to take up extramural studies, however it is likely that the administration of the prison will turn down his request as nowadays there is a tendency to apply more severe conditions of serving one's sentence. Thanks to help from people supporting him, Tomek received a computer and is learning how to work on it. For five years Tomek has seen the world from behind the bars. It is not known when he may receive a pass to pay short visit to the world outside prison. Courts of all levels ignored the extenuating circumstances of Tomek's deed. Petitions of above two thousand signatures, demonstrations, support and guarantees from politicians, a TV commentary which was positive for Tomek - all these proved to be of no help. There isn't any possibility to change Tomek's sentence in legal proceeding. The only chance for Tomek is the president's pardon. Letters of support for Tomek are being sent to president Kwasniewski from many countries. However, the court has already presented its negative opinion in that case. Next year Tomek is going to ask for earlier release.

If you publish or distribute a zine, CDs or T-shirts, send one to Tomek by mail on the prison's address. You may also write

to Tomek; he is happy to receive every letter, though he may not be able to respond quickly. You may also visit the website: www.wilkoszewski.w.pl

DAWID HASS, WŁODZIMIERZ MATUSZEWSKI, JANUSZ SZEWCZYK ARESZT SLEDCZY; UL. CIUPAGI 1; 03-016 WARSZAWA; POLAND.

Dawid, Jakub, Wlodek and Janusz on 27 December 2000 were detained and arrested for three months after having a fight with neo-nazis. They were charged with beating of one of the nazis. Their stay under arrest has been lengthened and the trial has been postponed for several times. It is to take place in December. While being under arrest one of them was severely beaten by other prisoners. Three of them are still under arrest. Jakub was released until the day of the trial in order to take his matriculation exam.

The principles of the Libertarian Mutual Insurance Association "ABC-LIFE"

The activity of "ABC-LIFE" is based on trust, responsibility and solidarity of its participants. This initiative is

directed not only to those directly involved in libertarian, antifascist, social, ecological, animal rights, squatting, or artistic activity, but also to those who are not involved in this kind of activity themselves, but wish to support it. ABC-LIFE can be also considered as a solidarity fund with activists being under threat of state repressions because of their activity. The insurance includes costs of legal support and legal liabilities resulting from libertarian, antifascist, social, ecological, animal rights, squatting, or artistic activity. The rules of functioning of ABC-LIFE are simple and easy: Financial help (for lawyers or fines) goes for those who were insured on the day of the action for which they are being prosecuted.

ABC-LIFE pays the fines ordered by courts only after all the legal possibilities and appeals have been exhausted. The support of ABC-LIFE ends when the membership fee is not paid by the deadline. Renewed insurance doesn't take into account the period when the insurance fees were not paid. ABC-LIFE supports cases which took place at least 2 weeks after the first insurance fee was paid. The fee is equal to 2.8\$ per 6 months. It is absolutely required to respect the payment deadlines. When paying the first insurance fee, the insured gets a special ABC-LIFE insurance card with insured ID no., address, contact telephone and payment schedule. The individual ID no. will be used during further contact with ABC-LIFE. ABC-LIFE guarantees secrecy and protection of the personal information of the insured. It is also possible to become insured just by providing the first name and the initial letter of the last name plus the nickname. The activity of ABC-LIFE is supervised by a 5 person board made of representatives of the ABC network from at least 3 city groups in the country. Elections of the board membership are made on regular country ABC Anarchist Black Cross meetings when necessary. Every 6 months, the supervising board publishes a financial report on the condition of the insurance association (since January 1999). Membership fees can be transferred by money order or directly to ABC-LIFE insurance agents active in your city. Look for specially marked stands on alternative concerts, meetings and festivals. In a mutual insurance association, the financial base consists of membership fees and individual contributions. The "scale effect" is very important. It is in the interest of everyone insured to bring as many people as possible to support ABC-LIFE. It's time to grow up. Make the move! Get insured in ABC-LIFE today!

ACK (ABC) Poland; PO BOX 5; 60-966 Poznan 31; Poland; e-mail: pomierz@poczta.onet.pl

INFO FROM CZECH REP.

ABC benefit show dedicated to Mumia Abu-Jamal.

A traditional ABC benefit show "Against the flow" no.8 took place in the little village in the eastern Czechia. About 200 people came and enjoy 13 hardcore and punk bands. Show included also speech against the war in Afghanistan. A whole action was dedicated to Mumia Abu-Jamal because of 20th anniversary of his arrest. One of the organizers also talked about his case during the show.

ANARCHIST BLACK CRESCENT - ANKARA

ANARCHIST PRISONERS IN F-TYPE! On December 1 2001, two anarchists were taken by the police in Usak (a city in Mid-West Anatolia) with the claim of distributing illegal leaflets in a meeting organized by trade-unions. Later on, 3 other were taken, and all (5) of them were arrested with the claim of "being members of an illegal terrorist organization" namely Usak Anarchist Autonom. Although they did nothing more than distributing their own materials/leaflets, for this terrorist state it was enough to judge them with the claim of organizing in such a way "to destroy or to divide" it. They did not even find any (in their own words) "violent" or "terrorist" clues related with the group. The trial will be held in Izmir DGM (SSC-State Security Court) on 13th of February. At the moment they are in Usak Prison; each of them in separate cells. This week they'll be sent to Izmir F-type prison. They were beaten badly and tortured by Usak police and refused the lawyers offered by the state. For the first time Turkish anarchists will be judged by Turkish State as an "illegal organization" and this trial will show the attitude of the state against anarchists and anarchist organizations. AnarchistBlackCrescent - Ankara

Since 30th of November, a terrible pogrom on caucasian immigrants in Moscow, many people are looking for more information about the state of nazi structures in Russia. It seems like a job for us - *Abolishers* - to make it easier for you. We're begining with the publication of two texts about one of the strongest russian nazi organizations - *National Bolshevik Party (NBP)*. The first one is a fragment of the letter from a russian anarchist written to international comrades not such a long time ago. The second is an article from "Russia Journal" (1996) - it's pretty old but still current and interesting. This second one discovered even more links between extreme national tendencies in this country. We are going to bring you more on that topic in up coming issues. Here we go with ...

NAZI SCUM IN RUSSIA

National Bolshevik Party

"Someone can ask what is the National Bolshevik Party (NBP), and why I assume they are fascist. One can get best idea by one look to their flag, which has white circle in red background, and black sickle and hammer in the circle, thus mixing nazi and bolshevik symbols. One may check their flag in <http://atlasgeo.span.ch/fotw/flags/ru/naz.html> or <http://atlasgeo.span.ch/fotw/flags/keyrowrdn.html#national>

Basically one may see them to continue legacy of Rohm and other left-wing nazis putched from NSDAP in long knives night of 1938, but NBP likes to talk more about Stalin than about Hitler. They are famous for their immortal shout "Stalin, Gulag, Beria" which one can hear around Russia in 1st of may and october revolution day of commemoration (Beria was leader of KGB in Stalin's time, he was executed soon after Stalin's death for crimes against humanity). When anarchists in Poznan, Poland threw some paint to Russian embassy to protest Chechen war, NBP raided Polish embassy in Moscow with slogan ... "renew the Ribbentrop-Molotov pact". NBP's charismatic leader is Edward Limonov, popular writer who is now jailed for an attempt to buy a cruise missile from China.

It is also fact that NBP and other fascist groups are much more stronger in Russia and Baltic countries than any radical left groups. For example NBP and some small fascist groups are only groups who have demonstrated against Afghan war in Moscow. Now some people probably ask why anarchists are not doing the same - it is because we have had our own Afghanistan, Chechen war 2.5 years already, and the issues are so interconnected that organising more useless pickets than we have done already makes no sense. NBP has not such a problem since ... they support Chechen war.

NBP is not the most dangerous nazi group in Russia, but their hate propaganda against jews and caucasians is as vile as that of any other nazi groups, and they are as full of hate.

30th of November 2001, 300 nazis organised a pogrom in Moscow, smashing brains of three immigrants with iron bars and wounding 20 others. NBP was not behind this action, but that is exactly what they would be doing some day if they had a choice. Now in Moscow a 17 year old nazi is charged for a homicide after been caught on the spot after the above mentioned pogrom, and another 19 year old nazi is charged of having produced 150 iron bars for the pogrom. Moscow city mayor Luzhkov tries to pose as anti-nazi now, so he ordered pigs to do some more arrests, so 4 members of Brigada 88 have been arrested and their store "Berserk" has been closed. I do not know for which crime they are accused. Nazi supporter club of football club TsSKA announced that they are not nazi anymore, obviously shit scared of pigs now (...).

Once-Exiled Writer Assumes New Persona as Extremist Politician

"The National Bolshevik Party's headquarters are in a dank basement of a central Moscow building. This "recruitment center" is replete with hand-painted self-styled propaganda posters of Beria, among others, and a portrait of Stalin together with hand-painted red armbands for sale with the party's symbol: a white circle reminiscent of Nazi flags with a black hammer and sickle inside. Several barbells stand on the floor. The city gave the party's founder, writer-turned-extremist nationalist politician Edward Limonov, offices for his headquarters. But due to failure to pay rent, the organization is always under threat of eviction. "They don't kick us out because we're in public view," Limonov said in a recent interview. A crowd of easy-going young men and women laugh over crosswords inside. In a threatening, corrupted city, dominated by croo-

ked cops, Mafia and a public that pushes and shoves and spits and regards fellow citizens with disdain, Limonov's world of revolutionary nostalgia creates a certain comradeship. "Limonov is connected not to the creation of a Russian national idea, but to the creation of a personal literary myth," Moscow Duma deputy Yevgeny Bunimovic, a poet, says. "That's correct because an artistic type like Limonov for whom personal life is a sort of artistic research, that is natural. His party is not a party, but a collection of young partiers who determinedly accept those kinds of extremist rhetoric and views." Although it exudes a studied idealism, in fact the organization advocates xenophobic nationalism and violent change, copying the symbolism of regimes that murdered tens of millions of its own citizens. It is clear that Russia's collective consciousness has fundamen-

tally changed over the past two years. Call it tiredness at looking to the West for economic, political, and technological models. Or impatience with growing massive corruption and disparity between wealthy and poor after expecting some kind of transformation to the better. Nonetheless, there is a growing acceptance that Russian society will not "progress" in the way Western observers had been hoping. Limonov's is an extreme example, but representative of an inward-looking trend. Russia's current sociological movement isn't one forward, or backward (to a socialist state), but rather toward a new system that is still in many fundamental ways similar to what it has been for centuries. "What has really changed is that [two years ago] there really was a sense of the future, that we live in difficulty today, but tomorrow we'll take one step, then another and a

third and things will be better," art gallery owner Marat Gelman says. "It was of course tied to democratization. Today there's a feeling that that's it. It won't get better." One of Russia's calls to resurrect an interpretation of its past-while at the same time to topple the current system-comes from Limonov's basement. In 1992, the exiled Russia writer returned to Russia after almost 20 years abroad to join Vladimir Zhirinovskiy's ultranationalist Liberal Democratic Party. Limonov soon split and formed his own party. One of his first actions was to try to initiate a boycott on all foreign goods. The party also calls for a revolution to revive pre-Communist Russian culture, create a true socialist economy and expand Russia's borders. Limonov's newspaper, *Limonka*-which means "hand-grenade"-currently spews racial and anti-Semitic nationalist hatred and organizes nationalist demonstrations and protests. "We are living in a period immediately following a great historical collapse," Limonov says. "So for us, nationalism is very painful and a very necessary process. We should look at our identity to understand who we are and what we want. And it's absolutely natural. Actually, we are starting a new state." But in attempting to forge a new Russia, Limonov looks backward, emphasizing a return to a mythical promised land. In doing so, Limonov does not acknowledge that a mythical place changes and that people themselves are not the same as they were in the past. That type of non-self-reflective nostalgia tries to repair a temporal gap. Nationalism utilizes individual memories and proposes a collective plan for the rebuilding of the lost myth. Limonov bases his highly problematic myth of nationality on the power of an imagined community of Slavs. But whereas the attempt to mythologize is self-conscious in Limonov's early books such as his "ficti-

tionalized" autobiography *Eto ia-Edichka*-which scandalized both Westerners and Russian emigrants-and in which the past is presented as hazy fragments, there is no implicit self-reflection in his writing after his return to Russia. To appeal to potential supporters of his party, Limonov uses any and all strains of cultural myth available to him. Limonov himself says Russia has three general types of emerging nationalism.

The first is that of the Russian National Unity (RNE) extremist nationalist paramilitary movement. 1st notorious leader, Alexander Barkashov, is running for the lower house of the state legislature, the Duma, this year. "The nationalism of Barkashov, of Russian National Unity is very narrow, very, I guess, racist, very hateful toward everybody," Limonov says. Another form is Moscow Mayor Yury Luzhkov's. "The nationalism of Mr. Luzhkov is a nationalist capitalism. That is an honest-answer face that is smiling, but in reality, it's a very harsh life-it's a social oppression, social exclusion, if not racial," Limonov says. "And then there is the National Bol-shevik Party." "It's based on an allegiance toward a state. If a person wants to share his blood for our country, we don't care. We are much brighter and we understand that we will never win if we exclude people." Although he speaks convincingly, Limonov's writing is transparently manipulative, and his political ideology by definition exclusive. In one article, Limonov combines his individual "destiny" with the fate of his imagined community. It is, he writes, "perfectly clear to me that Dec. 17, 1995, will not bring any significant changes in the country's fate. I will participate in the elections in Moscow's single-seat District No. 194 only because my personal political destiny obligates me to try to get into the Duma." That desti-

ny is couched in the rhetoric of Russian history. Limonov calls for the resurrection of an "oprichnina," invoking the name of a second court set up in the 16th century by Ivan IV (The Terrible). He couches his image of the medieval court in myth, particularly one that Stalin invoked. It is of a reign of terror, of an elite group of warriors loyal to the mad tsar terrorizing the Russian countryside. Before his return to Russia, most literary critics separated Limonov from his fictionalized autobiographical persona. But Limonov says he always wanted to enter politics. "My political actions are a continuation of my writing. If one reads more carefully, even in my first novel, one can find a lot of politics and political thinking and also ideas about what I always believed and what I believe now," Limonov says. Limonov refuses to pierce the surface of his persona, refusing to talk about literature. "Postmodernism is not a political term, I don't understand it," he says in response to a question, adding, "I'm a politician." But, using literary tactics, he cunningly appeals to individuals by molding individual nostalgia into a common myth with language of all strains of the collective popular culture. Limonov's own myth, couched as "destiny," has ascendancy. It becomes an authoritarian ideology. And it is an ideology he plans to continue pushing. "We obviously don't live in the 18th century, but we are deciding a lot of similar problems, and if the world thinks that we are absolutely like them and that we want the same things, it's not reasonable to think so," Limonov says. "We are living through a different period of our history. We are searching for our new identity and nationalism is necessary. The next 50 years of Russian history will be a time of nationalism. The question is which nationalism will win in Russia."

Russia Journal

EU ENLARGEMENT ? - NO THANK !

Why Poland doesn't need the EU

Poland is at the door of Fortress Europe. We guess everyone knows the choice of the polish economical/political elites - Lets jump into the EU as fast as possible regardless of what price will be paid (paid by the rest of polish society of course). The last illusions disappeared during D14, the EU summit in Brussels where a "delegation of citizens of Poland" sold out almost 40 mln human beings to the multinational corporate mafia. But what probably not everyone knows about is what polish anarchists and more and more people from around the region are thinking. Here is an important part of their criticism, the voice from below. (We are really sorry if for some of you this text will be hard to understand because of many specific words in translation. We hope you will find a way to get the most important views from it)

EU ENLARGEMENT ? NO THANK !

The European Union has a slick, liberal publicity campaign. It presents itself as a Community of Europeans, each with a unique cultural heritage which, when joined together, complement each other and make each other stronger. The ideological image of the EU is one of togetherness, of multiculturalism, of tolerance, of prosperity and modernity. This is its pernicious facade. Behind its benevolent mask, we can see the real nature of this benevolence, uncover its contradictions and hypocrisy and challenge the very nature of its assumptions.

DEVELOPMENT AND THE MYTH OF INVESTMENT

At the heart of the EU's assumptions are the economic myths of development and investment. Poland (like

every "underdeveloped" country) will supposedly benefit most from development and investment, meaning an influx of capital, new industries, streamlined industries, new economic thinking geared towards attracting investment. We understand that in order to attract investment, we should offer value, meaning that all investment should provide a more attractive return than that which investors may get elsewhere. We see that the clearest way to achieve this is through wage differentials and through various methods of streamlining which include not only the implementation of technologies but also the overworking of the workforce.

Profit made from investment is not the only thing that thrills investors. Consumer spending is a big priority. A small trickle down effect may occur

with the creation of a few well-paid jobs and these people will spend some money. More active marketplaces mean profits for producers and exporters, lax for state coffers. In this area, the needs of businessmen and common people seemingly converge, but the economic potential of ordinary people is rather questionable. While cars sales (at high credit rates !) may have at one time soared in Poland, the ability of the average person to buy a flat or land has fallen dramatically and a significant portion of the population live in poverty.

The investment made to Poland presents itself as something of a Trojan Horse. The local economy is threatened by competition and, although proponents of a free market will hail competition and blast any protectionist measures, we see that the

competitive advantage belongs to not the best company, but to the one with the most capital. Local firms which are in any way doing well are taken over and told they can maximize profits with better systems, with scientific management and streamlining; others are threatened with virtual ruin by international concerns should they fail to see that this is in their own best interests. (Ironically, while international observers lament how backward things are in Poland, they fail to ask why in certain sectors /i.e. banking/, where foreign companies have already taken over years ago, insufficient investment have been made to bring them up to speed and they may even trail behind Polish competitors in terms of investment.)

In general, investment is motivated by greed, not altruism. The more that people accept this investment, accept a new, streamlined, profit-oriented form of work, the more that we find ourselves truly enslaved.

The altruistic pretenses of the EU and its programs are alluring but the true nature of the plans are becoming more evident to the public. The nature of foreign investment and development plans is mostly to help people make profits. This supposedly stimulates the economy. Around the world, economists have been in decades-long denials about the ill-effects of development schemes and just offer new medicine which invariably compounds the problem. We can clearly see that PHARE programs have benefitted huge corporations but not the average person.

We are looking for a different type of development. Rather than Community from above, we seek to create community from below. Rather than huge investments we can't afford to pay back, rather than jobs creation on the worst terms for workers, we encourage small-scale, human economies, development through altruistic cooperation and mutual aid, the promotion of human rather than materialistic goals for society.

OPEN BORDERS FOR TRADE, NOT FOR PEOPLE

The EU would function as something of a free trade zone, and although this would allow goods to pass more easily through borders (and with fewer taxes), boundaries would still exist for people. Poles may not be able to work freely in the EU for up to seven years after its accession. In addition, the EU sees itself as a fortress with a mission to stop migration from non-member states. One of Poland's functions will be to act as gatekeeper on the eastern front, keeping undesirable Ukrainians and Belarussians, not to mention Roma from entering the union. The PHARE program gave Poland \$9 million euros to improve border management last year and Poland is coming under increased pressure to tighten its borders and step up deportation.

At the same time as the EU encourages swifter

action against illegal migrants, it publishes arrogant human rights reports claiming that Poles do not treat the Roma population well and supposedly sympathizing with the plight of migrant Ukrainian farm workers. The hypocrisy is obvious. Furthermore, if Poles accept this role, they will merely be helping relieve Germans of this function, thus helping to improve their image while causing tension with eastern neighbours and ethnic minorities inside the country.

AGAINST FACTORY FARMING

One of the main concerns about Poland's accession to the EU is its agricultural sector. Most farmers have tiny family farms; it is there where a large portion of Poland's produce is grown. This is not acceptable for the EU. They speak about "ecological standards" and find pretexts to complain that the sector is a massive problem when in reality they are concerned about Polish exports which are not controlled by foreign capital. The export of Polish food will not be tolerated if profits go into the hands of small farmers instead of large corporations.

Despite the pretext of "ecological standards", we find the overall ecological benefits of organically grown products far outweigh any ecological standards the EU could produce. There are no public health crises connected with Polish agriculture, no BSE or anything, relatively no adverse effects produced by the sector.

Furthermore, we see clear social advantage to small scale farming done by people who own the land and products of their labor as opposed to large-scale farming systems where most farmers are wage laborers. In addition, we prefer the market to be controlled by thousands of small producers rather than a handful of big producers.

We firmly reject this drive towards "efficiency" in the agricultural sector and insist on focusing on public health and the well-being of the farming community rather than the profits of large chemical companies and food producers.

HYPOCRISY TOWARDS WORKERS

The EU sheds crocodile tears over the poverty of the workforce but always proposed alternatives that would just compound their misery. The first step they always say is to "stimulate" the economy, because without new investment, there will be no new jobs. But despite a high level of foreign investment, unemployment is at an all time low. Say the Eurocrats, this is because Polish minimum wages of less than \$150US are far too high! And the social security payments !!! How one earth is someone supposed to make a profit? And if nobody makes money, they won't hire people.

The fact of the matter is that employers, particularly large corporations, take advantage of their workers offering them outrageously low wages and often getting them to work 20-30% extra in unpaid overtime. Poland actually is an exceptional value in

terms of labour, as all the investment brochures will tell you.

The biggest allure for average Poles towards the EU was the illusion that wages would have to increase, that investment would increase, that employment opportunities abroad would be readily available. We see however a totally different attitude towards the Polish worker: xenophobia from the EU states, constant complaints about the level of education and industriousness, recommendations to liberalize the labour code and lower wages. No wonder more and more people are waking up and seeing that the EU is not about partnership, not about improving the lot of the average person.

It may be that after years of exploiting Polish workers, the Europeans will promote Poles from cheap workers to average consumers. But by that time, a whole generation of people will have wasted their youth slaving for survival wages. The EU is holding out a carrot and counting on good old Catholic suffering which may get acknowledged in the afterlife. But some of us want to enjoy the here and now and eurobusiness as usual is just getting in our way.

EDUCATION

The EU's Trojan Horse includes education programs to help Polish people improve their lot. The Polish people are already amongst the most educated in Europe. Scores of educated professionals are forced out of their jobs as the salaries cannot even provide for a poverty-level existence. While much of the development world looks for qualified nurses, nurses in Poland try to change careers and few people want to become nurses or teachers due to the dreadful salaries. The result will be an acute shortage of people in these areas. And, even though a shortage is already evident, there are no "market forces" to drive up salaries.

The result of the new economy: young people jam into the same fields which are already oversaturated but are the only ones with hopes of obtaining a decent-paying job. The result: human resource managers with ever-increasing pools of candidates choose the most desperate, companies depress wages.

Yet the education gurus, in their infintive wisdom, claim that there aren't enough people in certain jobs or simply think it's necessary to train even more people in these areas. They may even have good intentions, but the main problem is that the quality of jobs offered is worse and worse and that there aren't enough for all the graduates. With such the case, money could be better spent. Why not just give money to people to invest as they please? People could be rather creative if given some resources.

EUROCRACY

More government? No thanks!

from "A-zine" - Warsaw, Poland.

Campaign for the Autonomist Center "FreeDom"

The history of "Freedom" began when a group of friends, with the support of the owner, occupied "Rejon69" a house near the center of Wrocław, Poland. At this time it was one of only two squats that existed in Poland, and from this house many events were organized like: Open discussions, a cinema, Information office for military objectors, alternative library, meeting rooms for Anarchist Federation Wrocław and other groups, concerts, two punks picnics (a three day festival with food, theater, concerts and of course punks from all over Europe.) there were rooms for bands to practice and a convergence center/meeting place for actions and demos. As well it was the birth place of Food not Bombs; a weekly action to give food to homeless people in Wrocław. Because squatting, at this time, was completely new for Poland there were many, illegal, attacks by police who came in the night and broke the doors two different times in attempts to evict the squatters who had the support from the owner. There are still court processes which are not finished to this day! Even with all these problems "Rejon69" existed for three and a half years. After "Rejon69" was lost two new houses were squatted in February, 2000. One of the houses "Kromera" after a brutal illegal eviction in March, 2001 was re-occupied after one month, and because of a large campaign by wrocław squatters and neighbors it now still exists.

The second house "Włodkowice" after only two weeks of existence was evicted, but not without the squatters organising an eviction party for the last day of the houses existence with, anti-repression events and spectacles, games for the children, and reenactments and performances. After a few other tries to open a new house there was no luck and there were still homeless squatters living on the streets of Wrocław. The conditions of empty houses in Poland is usually particularly bad, and the bigger the house, normally, the worse condition it is in; broken windows, electric cables and water pipes broken or stolen, no fixtures for heat, mushrooms on the walls etc., or



there is hired security which makes them impossible to squat. This is why for the creation of a base of social and cultural activities the squatters decided to try a different way to get a house. An association was created (Association of Animation of Alternative Culture). The city government decided to keep the squatters quiet, and because they had so much support from people of the city and community an old factory which was owned by the state was given to the association. The house is a two level house with an attic, which the association thought they could use any way they liked the only thing is to pay for electric and water. Because the house was in

bad condition when the state gave it to the association the decision was made to repair the house by fixing the holes in the roof, put in electricity and water, build individual rooms in the attic, and put in a heating system. All with money raised by the association or lend by the Kofi (a cultural house in Berlin) which we would like to take this time to thank the Kofi for all their help. The activities in the house began in the spring of 2001 with a new alternative library, space for the anarchist black cross, and cinema and concert rooms with acts like; Citizen Fish, Catharsis, Sin Dios, Tragedy, and many many others.

There is now a info cafe, dark room, serography space, art gallery exhibitions and every Sunday there is Food not Bombs which gives squatters a chance to give food and eat together with local homeless people and speak to the community people.

Everything the association does is to have contact with the local people it is a cultural "community" center after all with the purpose of taking care of the local issues. There are plans to start a Local newspaper to give out "correct" information as well as promote anti-capitalist ideas and alternatives to capitalism, and give more possibilities for community involvement. Also recently there have been activities with the city kids who have started to become part of the house. Together with the parents of these children the association held parties and a childrens day with games and painting. Also in the plan is to begin an after school program where they can get help with homework, and spend their time with some creative activities like, juggling, theater and photography workshops etc.

The idea and function of the Cultural center as a place where people can come, and without money realise non profit projects, ideas, or just have a place to meet. This house is the only place like this in the city. The house is also a base for many squatters movements. In the spring of 2001 a new wagenburg was occupied, and in the beginning of 2002 a new house was occupied which will become also a base for social and political activities, street actions and a theater. In November a rally of Autonomic and Anarchist groups happened at the "Freedom". We think this meeting has very much influenced the progress of the Libertarian Movements in Poland. The Problems began when the burrocracy took an interest in what was happening in the "Freedom". Lead by the conservative local government, the Police, and U.O.P (Polish secret Police like CIA or MI6) Who began to make phone calls threatening and menacing the association with closing the house, because of the childrens activities and FNB. After an action where cake was thrown in the face of the Polish Premiers and the chief of the big neo-liberal party this was over the limit for the local government. Theresponse for these actions was that the Local government began the process to close the house, by sending Fire and building code inspectors to the house and saying if all activity is not stopped now the house will be closed. Also Legal action will be taken, and people from the house could have to pay large amounts of money and/or up to one year in prison maximum.

On the 29 of January, There will be a

second inspection who will check the progress of the first inspection and there has already been a legal process started against the fact that the Association made improvements to the house without following the proper procedure!

The local government wants us out of the neighborhood!

From our experience with state burrocracy this is just political pushing and shoving and we don't intend to be pushed back into the streets. We have decided to start a propaganda



campaign which will show the importance of this house, and that our existence is necessary for the community. Much support is needed from Poland and especially from abroad because of the influence and prestige this creates in the small minds of government, they believe everything coming from the west has more importance for their decisions and are afraid to make decisions against the support from west europe. We ask for your support by doing anything you can but first by letters and e-mail of support form associations like ours groups or individuals to dealy or block the system as much as possible before the 29 of January to addresses:

doivon@um.wroc.pl- city government
sekret@um.wroc.pl- president of the city
architek@um.wroc.pl-building inspectors
freedom69@go2.pl- we...

Fire Inspection:
Fax: +48 71 329 21 88
City Government (Wrocław)
Fax: +48 71 344 78 29

The second thing we ask for is, of course, finance money for lawyers processes fixes and repairs, and preparing the solidarity campaign. We hope that we can count on your support, especially because we are one of the only few groups in that country which offer an alternative to the capitalism that is eating Poland and the rest of the world. Please help us be before by offering your solidarity. If you would like to invite us, or get more information please write to:

"FreeDom"
ul.Jagiellonczyka 10 d
50-240 Wrocław (Poland)
freedom69@go2.pl

Please give this information to as many people as possible by paper not only by internet. And please don't put this on, for example, squat.net in this version because journalists following everything and could use this against us (better if they don't know all our strategy).

ANARCHIST SOLIDARITY GROUP

Grupa Anarchistyczna Solidarnosc (GAS)

We live in the epoch of produced reality, so maybe we'd better learn to create it ourselves, because it could happen that someone will do it for us better. Maybe it is already so? It's good to check every morning if there isn't a bell ringing around your neck... I take my freedom everyday with me as a sign of the way out from totalitarian pluralism of schemes. Anarchist solidarity group (gas) came into being in May 2000. We joined together in it all our experiences taken from activity in the Polish anarchist movement. That's why we try to act in as far reaching way as possible. **We don't give ourselves long-distance goals, on the contrary - we are conscious of our own limitations, also in the area of influence of anarchist ideas in Poland. From this results our formula of acting - we want to create a group based on friendship, solidarity, brotherhood and equality to prove by our own example that anarchism is not utopia.** The system is ready to take us over in spite of the loudest revolutionary screams. We were shaped in the nuclear families, in the system's schools, treated in its factories and the liberation from its embrace is our most important aim - otherwise it will leave us acting on the margin of alternative contraculture illusions of freedom, which is all that's left for us. From the hopes we had, we've drawn conclusions that before we write manifestos and build barricades we've got to start on the development from a human basis. We issue our own papers ("Kurier Anarchistyczny" and a free paper for high schools' students "Uczen i Uczennica"), we also run a publishing house, propagating our ideas. We co-created the Anarchist Library in Poznan. In the frame of the Antimilitary Service "Szejwk" we give advice on how to avoid the military service. We also have an anarchist black cross group (abc at gas) which currently helps imprisoned antifascists: Tomek Wilkoszewski and Klaudiusz Gilklich. We also organise meetings of a discussion club. We react to current socio-political events and try to show our own alternative to the regime of democracy. We also organise and co-create many cultural events in our city.

We are interested in exchanging papers, books and brochures. We'll be happy to take a subscription to your publication to enrich the resources of the Anarchist Library (among others we have a co-operation with Freedom and La Combat Syndicaliste). We are interested also in exchanging information, ideas and experiences. In the era of oppression from global capitalism we think that only co-operation and international solidarity can lead us to victory.

gas, Poznan - Poland.

The history and a current situation of anarchist movement in Belarus.

Anarchism in Belarus does not have a long history. Anarchist ideas appeared here in beginning of the XX century, especially in Bialystok (today Bialystok belongs to Poland) but unfortunately it was interrupted during the "October revolution" and because of everything that was happening here afterwards. Of course in the Soviet Union anarchist ideas and publications were forbidden and unavailable so only after "Perestrojka" anarchism was remembered in Russia and mostly as theory. This means that more people now have access to anarchist literature and they are starting to take an interest in it and make something concrete. At the moment in Russia there are mostly theoretical anarchists and in Belarus it is similar - there are more and more people having strong anarchist ideas from books. Only now is DIY anarchism beginning to appear and mostly among the young people including many punks. There is FAB - Anarchist Federation Belarus, which consists half young and half older activists and is growing up slowly as many young people coming basically out of the punk scene become more and more political. At the first meeting of FAB which happened in summer 1999 only 3 persons took part (all of them are still involved) but in the last meeting in 2001

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we had about 30 people - delegates from different parts of Belarus. The strongest groups exist in Minsk, Grodno and Homel. In Homel people are more into theory like for example, the group called "Working People Union" which put out good anti-capitalistic ideas. In Minsk there is also an Antifa Center and there is constantly fights against nazi skins taking place. There used to be, in Minsk, a fucking good zine called "Anarchia" which was distributed among the proletariat but now it is gone. Another newspaper in the city is "Navinki". Recently they are not so active, but this is common for the whole community in Belarus. What is looking optimistic in Minsk is that we now see more and more DIY anarcho-punk activity. In Grodno is a little bit of a different situation then elsewhere. This is because we have many contacts with Polish anarchists which influenced our activities from the beginning of the 90-s. This cooperation evolved with the years and now we are organizing many actions and punk gigs together. In Grodno we are publishing an anarcho-zine called "Together" which is a source of information and agitation for people in other regions of Belarus. The biggest problem of the anarchist movement here is the lack of active people. That is one of the reasons why we, Grodno's anarchists, are working nowadays together with the anti-Lukashenko opposition on many levels. But we also do a lot of other things ourselves like an anti-army service campaign, pro-ecological actions, lesbian and gay support and neverending actions against the war in Chechnya. We are also making efforts to support the DIY punk scene as well as supporting independent and autonomous ways of life. We are trying to get together people to build in Belarus a new base for an autonomous and alternative society. But as we see this as a long way ahead of us we are trying already to have an influence on the daily reality around us. You can contact Belarusian anarchists under: Minsk: antyfa@smail.ru Grodno: kds-razam@stud.by
report by Suska La Contra

"We decided on Black Blok because we wanted to show to the public that being the BB doesn't mean making chaos and mindless violence"

**YOUNG ANARCHO-PUNK MOVEMENT IN SLOVENIA
raport.**

The country lies between Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia. It has just about 2 million inhabitants. Living conditions are quite good in the capital Ljubljana, but in the smaller cities and rural areas the unemployment is very high and surviving is difficult. The countryside is very beautiful, especially the mountains in the north and sea in the south. Thus, there are ecological problems, which are usually well hidden and are not shown though the national media.

Since 1918 it was a part of Jugoslavija and fought with comunists in the 2nd world war. In 1991 it became independent and there were 10 days of war, which spread out to Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia. Slovenija has always been the border between rich western countries and the poorer south. In 2004 the state will probably become a part of the EU and maybe get membership in NATO.

Between the war in Bosnia, Slovenia offered shelter for refugees, but they have usually been staying

in really bad conditions and have suffered intolerance from authorities and local inhabitants. Today, the same things are happening to emigrants who are looking for better life in western countries and are often caught in Slovenija. They are really badly treated and hardly get any outside support. Last year, we made a demonstration in their support with the help of the YA BASTA! group from Italy. There were about 2000 people which is quite a big number for our situation. This summer came also Volx-theatre Karawane from Austria, who were on the way to Genova, and we made a small protest in front of an emigration prison. They had been in Lendava (north east of Slovenija) on a border camp before that and that was the first border camp in Slovenija.

SQUATTING & ANARCHO-PUNK MOVEMENT

The punk movement came to Slovenija at the beginning of the 80's, but was not really political or anarchists and most of the bands which were famous at that time are now commercialized.

There was a big ex-military complex which was squatted in Ljubljana, called Metelkova, but it was evicted a few years ago. There were no signs of resistance while the place was being evicted and now Metelkova is a kind of social centre with some concerts halls, anarchist library, gay-lesbian centre, left wing organisations and a place for artists. A lot of these organizations/individuals are commercialized and only a few of them live there. Most of the anarchists activities are moving out of Metelkova (also because of increased number of junkies hanging out there) and also out of Ljubljana. In last few years we've squatted a few houses

and made some small actions and demonstrations. At this moment we are looking for a new building to squat in Ljubljana, because the one we have now is too small for all the people living in it. All of these buildings are occupied by local punx, because there is no squatting history in Slovenija and there are not many people who want to live alternative way of life.

One month ago we started doing Food Not Bombs in Ljubljana delivering warm food every week in the centre of the city. We get food from the big shops containers, but we have to ask first and sometimes have to buy (from donations and our money).

The last demo we made was November 9 (Internacionale Day Against Fascism and Antisemitism) it was like an anti-war street party. With support from our croatian comrades, we formed a Black Blok and blocked the main street. We made some performances there and spread A-propaganda. We decided on BB (actually we named it A-block) because we wanted to show to the public that being a BB doesn't mean making chaos

and mindless violence. That was the public opinion after the riots in Genova and we made some leaflets and interviews about this subject. The response was really positive, even if Slo-media is corrupted by western ones and we are not co-operating with it.

A few years ago we also had a lot of problems with nazi-skinheads, but they were usually just young boys trying to be strong and most of them stopped the madness. The ones left are making trouble for non-white people. Last time, when they beat a black man, police rejected the fact that it was nazi-attack and they placed blame on the black man because he fought back and beat up the nazi-attackers.

There are some good bands in Slovenija and most of them are becoming more and more political. We have some distributions and zines but there is a lack of unity and collaboration between different groups.

We would be very happy to get some new contacts (and also for bands who want to play here). You can visit us or write us in Ljubljana on these addresses:
Vila Mara (squat), Smoletova 4, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenija
C_squat@hotmail.com, barricade13@hotmail.com

SMRT KAPITALIZMU, SVOBODA NARODOM!!!

raport by Maja

The never complete list of anarchist groups, projects and collectives from Eastern Europe.

ABC Czech Rep.

ABC-CSAF - c/o P.H., po box 41, 565-01 Chocen, Czech Rep., abc@csaf.cz

ABC (ACK) Poland - www.ack.most.org.pl

ACK Warszawa - po box 30, 02-741 Warszawa 121, biuletyn@ack.w.pl

ACK Poznan - po box 5, 60-966 Poznan 31, sanch@poczta.wp.pl

ACK Slupsk - po box 65, 76-200 Slupsk 12, bifa@polbox.com

ACK Trojmiasto - Bartek Pomierski, ul.Wiewiorcza 72, 80-126 Gdansk, pomierz@friko2.onet.pl

ACK Wroclaw - S.A.K.A. ul.Jagielonczyka 10D, 50-240 Wroclaw, pbn@poprostu.pl

ACK Lublin - Piotr Hiller, ul.Cwiklinskiego 2\30, 20-067 Lublin, cqkier@poczta.onet.pl

ACK Lodz - Lukasz Picczara, ul.Switezianki 23/7, 91-496 Lodz 88, lukaszpicczara@box43.pl

"A-Kontra" - anarchist magazine from Czech Rep.; apf@sezam.cz

"Abolishing the Borders from Below" - international anarchist collective made of east-european activists (based in Berlin) & anarchist magazine; abolishingBB@hotmail.com

Anarchist Library - ul.Pulaskiego 21a, Poznan, Poland.

Anarchist Library - ul. Jagielonczyka 10D, Wroclaw, Poland.

"A-zine" - anarchist publication in english contains articles of polish anarchist groups; M.Barton, po box 66, 00-956 Warszawa, Poland; cube@zigzag.pl

BARBIE WAR - anarcho-feminist group; Karolina Borkowska, ul.Nowowiejska 6/45, 11-500 Gizycko, Poland

C-4 - alternative culture centre in Lodz (ul.Weglowa 4), Poland.

CSAF (Czech-Slovenian Anarchist Federation), *po box 223, 111 23 Prague 1, Czech Rep.; intersec@csaf.cz

*Poste Restante, 851 06 Bratislava 57, Slovakia; csaf_sk_vychod@hotmail.com

CZARNE PONCZOCHY (Black Tights) - anarcho-feminist group; po box 17, 78-100 Torun 2, Poland.

CZARNE SIOSTRY (Black Sisters) - anarcho-feminist group; Pietruszka, po box 47, Miedzyszczec Podlaski, Poland.

"Czarny Blok" ("Black Bloc") - anarchist publication in polish; po box 43, 15-662 Bialystok 26, Poland.

DISCO ANGELS - female independent art group; po box 145, 02-792 Warszawa 78, Poland.

EKO FEMINA - Anna Pietruszka, ul.Kalenkiewicza 15/13, 82-300 Elblag, Poland.

EMANCYPUNX - anarcho-punk feminist group; po

box 145, 02-792 Warszawa 78, Poland.

FEMINA FRONT - anarcho-feminist group, Alina Synakiewicz, ul.Parkowa 84b/16, Grudziac, Poland.

Food Not Bombs - Gdansk, Poland - po box 118; 80-470 Gdansk 45; Poland.

Food Not Politics - "S.E.K.W. Krzyk", po box 2, 44-101 Gliwice, Poland; jedzeniezamiastpolityki@poczta.onet.pl

"FreeDom" Centre of Animation an Alternative Culture/Anarchist Collective in Wroclaw (ul.Jagielonczyka 10D) Poland; freedom69@go2.pl

INFOSZOP - infoshop/anarchist & feminist library/info cafe; ul.Lotewska 11, Saska Kepa, Warszawa, Poland. Open: Mo-Sa 16⁰⁰-19⁰⁰ (tel. +48 503676482).

Inicjatywa Pracownicza - federation of groups focusing on organizing workers for revolutionary social changes - Domink Sawicki po box 53, 70-474 Szczecin 34, Poland.

KONSOLA - anarcho-feminist group, Marta Maciejewska, ul.Ncwtona 12a/35, 60-161 Poznan, Poland.

K.U.R.W.A. Anarchist Revolutionary Libertarian Co-education Union; k.u.r.w.a@ahoj.pl

"KROMERA" - squat/independent culture centre in Wroclaw (ul.Kromera 6a), Poland.

LETS - Local Economy Trade System in Krakow, Poland - testcyf-kr.edu.pl

LETS - Local Economy Trade System in Poznan, Poland - lets@poland.com

"Mac Pariadka" - monthly anarchist magazine in polish; pariadka@polbox.com

RAAF (Radical Anti-Fascist Action) - po box 43, 15-662 Bialystok 26, Poland; pkropotkin@wp.pl

"Radical Cheer Leaders" - anarchist female cheer leaders team based in Warszawa, Poland. Contact through Emancypunx.

RRR (Radical Resource Room) - polit/cultural project in Kraljevo, Serbia/Yugoslavia. kontra@ptt.yu

REVOLUCNY KOLEKTIV 9 NOVEMBRA - Poste Restante 851 06 Bratislava 57, Slovakia;

"ROZBRAT" - squat/anarchist centre in Poznan (ul.Pulaskiego 21a), Poland.

S.E.K.W."Krzyk" - squat/anarchist centre in Gliwice (ul.Sienkiewicza 25, po box 2, 44-101 Gliwice; tel.+48 504878370) Poland.

STRZYGA - anarcho-feminist group; Rozbrat, po box 5, 60-966 Poznan 31, Poland.

"Vila Mara" - squat in Ljubljana. Adresse Smoletova 4; 1000 Ljubljana; Slovenija. e_squat@hotmail.com barricade13@hotmail.com

YA BANDA - samba band/anarchist street orchestra from Milanowek/Warszawa, Poland; ojsa23@go2.pl

ELITES/WAR MAKERS
ARE GOING BACK TO PRAGUE...
WHAT ABOUT US ?

NATO-SUMMIT

Prague, Czechia, November 21-22, 2002

The NATO summit is taking place in Prague. It is the first time a NATO summit has taken place in the former East Block and the political elite take it as a symbol of a global domination of the New World Order. At least 43 heads of state are expected, including Mr. Bush himself, and about 20.000 ministers and other servants, VIPs, officials and businessmen. Meanwhile several countries (which are, by the way, the same ones that play leading roles in NATO) continue in their "crusade", in the words of Mr. Bush, against one of the poorest countries in the world. Tens of thousands people die every day because of starvation and the global elite is coming to Prague to discuss other wars, wars for the profit of a few. But wars bring only death for common people and their children.

Let's tell them NO. NO to their wars, NO to their profit. Abolish the NATO alliance of the rich war-makers who profit from the death of the poor! The summit is taking place in the Congress Centre, the same place where the IMF/WB meeting took place two years ago. At that time we managed to shut down their meeting. This time, we want to show our resistance to war and to capitalism, as well as present our alternative. Our aim is to avoid violence as a way of protest. We want to demonstrate peacefully, as we don't want to measure up to expectations of corporate journalists and especially the police (this of course doesn't exclude militant actions of affinity groups etc.) In Czechia, this summit is the number one action for politicians. President Havel, who was well-known for his pacifist attitude and who advocated abolishing NATO ten years ago is now one of the most ardent promoters of the summit. The Minister of the interior announced that 2.000 FBI agents will help to "guarantee security" for the summit and that the same amount of police forces will be available as two years ago (it means about 11.000, 3.000 of them with anti-riot equipment).

This is just basic information, in preparation for actions against this summit are just starting. For more information you can write to:

intersec@csaf.cz