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Sacramento, CA 95813

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"REBELLION" IN FOLSOM HOLE

On the evening of April 17, Officer J.C. Duenas skipped one man's cell as he passed out coffee in Folsom Prison's "Security Housing Unit" (hole). When the brother, William Michael (Tank) Noah, requested a cup of coffee, he was repeatedly ignored by Duenas until he commented that apparently Duenas "just has me on the dummy." At that, the guard slammed a cup of coffee on the food slot, splashing coffee on Noah and the letter he was writing. Noah, thinking Duenas was going to push the cup in on him, hit it back out the food slot, whereupon Duenas refilled it and dashed Noah with the hot coffee through the bars.

This was far from the first instance of Duenas's harassment of the men locked up in the SHU. (For instance, Duenas was also one of the guards involved in the incident on October 20, 1973, when comrades in the SHU tore up plumbing in protest of medical treatment being denied to two brothers severely in need of it.) As a result, several comrades decided to hold their dinner trays until their request to talk to "someone with authority" about Duenas was met.

This request was, of course, never met, as the prison "authorities" have no interest in curbing guards' sadism. Quite the contrary; "authorities" encourage abuse of convicts through both words and example -- as witness Associate Warden Huel Morphis's participation in the following results of this request:

When it became clear that the prisoners were going to hold their trays until their demand was met, six to ten guards, heavily armed with batons and bean-bag "stun-guns" entered the cell of each of four men holding their trays. All four brothers were beaten

into unconsciousness. When they came to, guards would beat or choke them unconscious again. This happened to each of them three times. Morphis participated in the beatings of two of the men, Robert Galloway and Ronald Botelho.

Noah required about twenty stitches in his head. Botelho was admitted to the hospital with an injured hip. Mervin (Moose) Forbes had eye inflammation from teargas and was admitted to the hospital with an injured arm. Balloway had an injured ear and arm.

Noah and Galloway were thrown in the "quiet cells" -- strip cells.

How did the media report this incident? The Sacramento Bee, Sacramento Union and San Francisco Chronicle all printed Huel Morphis's accounts of an attempt to "take over the building and kill the staff" by "the Aryan Brotherhood, a white supremacy group."

Morphis stated that no reason was given for refusing to return the trays.

Tank Noah sent letters explaining the reality of the incident, and pointing out the "authorities" desire to play up the incident to justify tax spending for two new "maxi-maxi" prisons, to the Bee, the Union, and the Chronicle. The Bee responded by ignoring the point of the letter--the propagandizing for new prisons--and printing Morphis's denial of the beatings, which he personally participated in! The other newspapers did not respond at all.

Analysis:

Why was this incident played up in the press as it was? The California Department of Corrections has been trying for some time now to have tax money budgeted for the building of two new "maxi-maxi" security prisons, as well as the expansion of the Adjustment

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FOLSOM "REBELLION" Continued....

Centers (holes) in existing prisons. These new prisons would offer the mad scientists of Behavior Modification (psychosurgery, drug "therapy", sensory deprivation, etc.) a virtually unlimited playground in which to practice their heinous experiments on human guinea pigs---out of view of the public. So far, the CDC has been unsuccessful due to opposition from the people. But they continue to play up and distort incidents inside, in hopes of creating hysteria among the people about those "wild animals" in there who the CDC benevolently wants to protect "us" from, so as to get their funding.

Why do they need these new prisons so badly? The ruling class in this country realizes that we are on the verge of a depression--an inevitable occurrence in a capitalist country due to overproduction caused by competition for profits. As unemployment rises, the bourgeoisie knows we will become less and less happy with our lot--having our blood sucked by the wealthy. People will increasingly see revolution as the only course of action. The fascists will have to increase repression in a desperate attempt to hold their power against the stronger will of the people. They will need more and tougher prisons in this last, desperate attempt.

Why is the press lately playing up prison gangs such as the Aryan Brotherhood, Nuestra Familia, the Black Guerrilla Family, the Mexican Mafia, etc? (e.g. the Sacramento Union ran a week-long series entitled "Walls of Terror," "The Blood-Drenched Jungle," etc.) Comrades inside prison come largely from the lumpen proletariat class--that segment of the working class which is not permitted by capitalism's need for unemployment to earn a "legal" or "acceptable" living. Those who do not come directly from the lumpen tend to identify with the lumpen, if only by nature of their being in prison. As the union is the organization through the employed workers derives a measure of power in his/her life, the gang is the organization through which a lumpen person can acquire a certain amount of power. The gang is at this time probably the most progressive form of organization among the lumpen. As such it is a very serious threat to the ruling class. Therefore, the ruling class needs to work up as much fear of "gangs" as possible among workers, in order to prevent workers and lumpen realizing that we have the same goals and common oppressor and forming corresponding alliances, and to justify increased repressive measures (e.g. to outlaw gang membership in and of itself).

What can we do to counter these attempts? The only way to combat the efforts of the rul-

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ing class to poison our minds with their propaganda is to work constantly at educating ourselves and each other about the realities and how and why the bourgeoisie tries to distort and conceal them. We must continue to stress the CDC's attempts to build new prisons whenever and however we can. We must bring the facts about groups the press tries to sensationalize--prison gangs, etc.--to the people, in order to rally support for progressive elements, and work against the hysteria the media tries to create.

Criticism:

Since its beginning in the mid-sixties, the Aryan Brotherhood has been characterized by prison "authorities" as "white supremacists," "Nazis," etc. This account of the AB has gone virtually undisputed--at least publicly--by the AB itself. This silence on the part of the AB is apparently due to several factors: first, a reluctance to "show their hand" and explain what the group is about, possibly thus giving the prison "authorities" new information; second, an attitude that actions speak louder than words--"judge us by our actions"; third, bitterness toward a "movement" which they felt ignored the struggles of white prisoners to deal exclusively with the struggles of Third World prisoners, offering only close-minded condemnation of the AB and unquestioning acceptance of "Nazi-white supremacist" brands.

This silent acceptance of such a label by the AB has serious effects. It plays perfectly into the ruling class plan to work up fear and apprehension about prison gangs among the people outside. It deprives the AB of the support which it needs and deserves from the people if it is in fact a progressive group. It deprives progressive actions by AB members of much educational/propaganda value, due to lack of explanation of such actions. It leaves the door wide open for people with Nazi/racist mentalities to identify themselves as AB members and act irresponsibly in the name of the AB--e.g. the recent fatal stabbing in Susanville which was allegedly motivated by racism. (Our AB contacts inform us that the men who did the stabbing were in no way affiliated with the AB.)

Our contacts with the AB would indicate that the AB is definitely a progressive group with at least some very aware comrades among its membership. However, their failure to clarify their position in the face of such accusations as "white supremacist" and "Nazi" creates little basis for documentation of such a statement. We can ask questions--such as, "Why do police protect uniformed Nazis at a school board meeting in San Francisco, yet

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AMERICAN NAZI MOVEMENT

Discussions on whether or not the United States of America is fascist are at best academic. While the US may not show its true face to the American people, the rest of the world from Chile to Vietnam can give direct and factual testimony to the heavy-handed methods the US uses. These methods, in their sophistication and terrorism, have far surpassed the Nazis in criminal acts against humanity.

It is true that the US government cannot afford to expose its total face to the American people for fear they might smell the flesh burning in the ovens. But the moment is rapidly approaching when the government's involvement with the swastika must surface. In the revolutionary struggle for power, control of the streets is of prime importance. When the police can no longer control the streets, and the government does not want to directly involve the military in day-to-day repression of the people, the government turns to street goons and thugs to control the people's movement.

From Canada to San Francisco and Miami, the swastika is being painted on the walls and nazism is on the rise. This is no accident. The US government is directly involved in this degenerate movement and with good reason and deadly earnestness. With the economic crisis worsening and an increasingly alienated middle class, the government is attempting to create "Nazi tolerance" in order to openly carry out the destruction of rising worker and lumpen movements in this country. Nazism and racism go hand in hand to smokescreen the people. By creating the proper objective and subjective conditions the government hopes to purge the country of consciousness and divide the people by race irrevocably. Their plan of attack is basically simple:

- 1) Foment the "race war" idea by creating hysteria between black and white by such issues as the "Zebra" killings.
- 2) Legitimize the concept of genetic inferiority by teaching "race superiority" as a science. The nationwide crusade by the "free speech" racists Shockley and Jensen (et al) have the clear backing of the ruling class. At every campus they are protected by the police in the name of "academic freedom." The latest issue of Challenge (Progressive Labor Party) reports that Shockley is being paid \$500,000 to publish his next racist book by the Carnegie Foundation.
- 3) The creation of the "working man's" president, George Wallace. The clearcut racist nature of this man is meant to appeal to the frightened and alienated lower middle class

workers. The Wallace campaign is being built on racism, anti-communism, and anti-eastern money. It is clear that they are trying to build him into the FDR of the 70s to counter a growing demand for socialism by the people.

- 4) Media attempt to portray the German Nazis as basically "good guys" with a bad leader. Television, movies, papers, etc. are working overtime to condition the American people not to cringe at the words "fascism" and "Nazi." It was all Hitler's fault--just as it's all Nixon's fault!
- 5) Nationwide campaign to "Free Rudolf Hess," backed by the government and agencies like the American Legion, this campaign is being treated as if it were a "grass roots" movement to free this world criminal. Hess, Nazi war criminal sentenced to life imprisonment for his crimes against humanity, is being held in Spandau. The "free world" countries--the US, Britain, and France--want him released on his 80th birthday, but Russia won't release him, telling "the worshipers of the swastika" to learn from his example. Almost daily, the capitalist papers carry articles pleading his case to the American people. But this movement does not originate from the people, it is a government plan to create public support for this pig.
- 6) Create the image of the American Nazi party as an actively anti-communist and racist organization willing to openly fight for white superiority. The government is creating the needed street goons to control the people's movement. GOP money financed the Nazis in the last presidential election. At the Miami Convention in 1972, Nazis took over the speakers' platform at the encampment of anti-Nixon, anti-war demonstrators until they were physically thrown out. In San Francisco, the Nazis fight for racist education, the police protect them by arresting progressive people. The S.F. police department has an openly Nazi member woman working at the front desk. The Nazis held a "Free Hess" rally and were protected by the police. All of this adds up to a growing confrontation between the Nazis and the people. It is clear that the Nazi movement has surfaced, is active and growing and that the government has a direct hand in this dangerous movement.
- 7) Mobilize the secret, underground and paramilitary right wing (Secret Army Organization)

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BLACK PRISONERS' COMMUNIQUE #2

(This communique was received by the Sacramento Solidarity Committee. It is in response to an article in The Black Panther, Volume XI, Number 17.)

May 7, 1974

AN OPEN LETTER

To the Oakland Based Black Panther Party:

We have just read the editorial and the article under the heading, "Huey P. Newton on SIA Hit List," in the 4/20/74 edition of your newspaper. Since experience teaches us that your capacity for telling the truth is equal to the counterrevolutionary character of your organization, we refuse to dignify such trivia with a direct reply, and choose to respond in this manner.

In your editorial you refer to yourselves as "The Vanguard," and offered in evidence some aspects of that farce you call "The Inter-Communal Survival Program," which in the main consists in the distribution of surplus and sample commodities extorted from local businessmen. If we were to accept this as a criterion for vanguard leadership, then it is certain that the Red Cross, Salvation Army, Social Welfare Department and all similar agencies have a greater revolutionary potential than your party.

It is not our wish to continue a non-productive analysis of that which is obvious to every knowledgeable person that has a vested interest in serious social change. However, in this our final statement in reference to your party (before addressing ourselves to more relevant matters), we would like to clearly state our position in relation to your recent attacks upon the intelligence of the oppressed peoples.

Your contention that the truly revolutionary elements who have denounced your party are conspiring to physically eliminate Huey P. Newton or any other member of your gang is absurd. No proper thinking revolutionist would eliminate such a classic example of reactionary opportunism and subterfuge at this stage in the development of our struggle. It is true that Newton has wreaked more havoc in the leftist camp than Nixon has in the Republican Party, but his death at this time (when the masses are still somewhat confused), would serve no useful purpose.

The party is caught up in the contradictions of its own treachery and every move you make, every work you write, every speech you make only serves to reinforce our position, reveal your true nature, and place you in further

isolation from the masses. You pose no serious threat on a mass level anymore. The hungry people will accept your token donations and yell "RIGHT ON", but there isn't a soul outside the party that would follow you across the street. You have alliances with no one except bourgeois politicians and government agencies; and only so long as they think you have influence over the radical elements of the Black Community. This is why you're feeding off the memory of George Jackson and other fallen comrades, desperately attempting to salvage party prestige.

When the forces of reaction discover your true relation to truly revolutionary elements and the oppressed segments of the Black Community in general, they will have no further use for your services, and you know what that could mean. So why should anybody sacrifice to destroy that which will fall from the force of its own weight. As Huey would put it: "Your gang will be consumed by the dialectical inevitability of the revolutionary process; or stated simply, by the consequences of it's own acts."

As for the acts and subsequent events attributed to the SIA (without going into great detail), we can only say that they have to be considered within the total context in which they happened. We believe the killing of Dr. Foster to have been foolhardy and devoid of political content. We believe that Patricia Hearst should be returned or forced to return to her family, for she is serving no useful purpose as an acknowledged member of the SIA. We don't believe in terrorism that inspires fear among the people. However, we repeat that all things must be considered within the context in which they happen.

We will close with an offering from the late Franz Fanon:

"Everybody will have to be compromised in the fight for the common good. No one has clean hands. There are no innocents and no on-lookers; we all have dirty hands. We are soiling them in the swamps of our country and in the terrifying emptiness of our brains. Every on-looker is a coward or a traitor."

"ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE"

Black Prisoners

The Peoples Witness is available free of charge on request from the Sacramento Solidarity Committee, PO Box 13051, Sacramento, CA 95813. Criticisms and contributions are welcomed.

FOLSOM "REBELLION" Continued

the prison "authorities" condemn and harass alleged "Nazis" in prison?" "Why was at least one member of a 'white supremacist' group recommended to us as a revolutionary comrade by the San Quentin Six--all Third World brothers?"

If the AB is in fact a revolutionary group --if they believe that change must have its roots in the struggles/mutual support of all oppressed peoples--then it is imperative that some sort of explanation be offered of what they are working for. This is even more important at a time when the Nazi movement in this country is launching a major offensive (e.g. the presence of uniformed Nazis at the San Francisco school board meeting, the campaign for the release of Rudolph Hess, a Nazi war criminal imprisoned in the Soviet Union). Lines must be most clearly drawn between Nazis and revolutionaries--especially since the ruling class will always try to equate the two, depicting revolutionaries and fascists and encouraging Nazis' racist agitation.

The AB must consider that the prison "authorities" almost certainly have a fairly clear understanding of what the AB is all about--else why would they attack them so vehemently? As far as "actions speaking louder than words" and when such incidents as the Susanville stabbing are occurring and being attributed to the AB, though incorrectly, such actions do not speak well of the AB, and a lack of words would seem to accept such actions. Also, it has become clear, especially in the last few months, that a certain amount of disillusionment with the outside "movement" is most justifiable. But it must also be clarified that in such a case the "movement" is not the people, nor representative of the people; and it is the people to whom we must speak--not the "movement".

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We will most gladly print in full any communiques and/or position statements from the Aryan Brotherhood and all other prison groups. We are most anxious to hear from comrades in the various groups.

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Self Criticism:

Throughout the history of the prison movement, there has been a marked tendency to discount the struggles of white prisoners and an attitude that the "real" struggles are those of the brown and especially black prisoners. To discount the role that people of one race play in the struggle is by no means progressive, having racism as its motivation (liberal racism--"white guilt").

This has had the result of alienating many white prisoners from the struggle against the ruling class which oppresses us all. The contributions of those who have been alienated this way are a serious loss, one which we must struggle to end. Racism in all its manifestations is one of the most destructive obstacles in the way of the solidarity which is necessary for our struggles to be successful.

Every effort must be made to encourage support and solidarity with the struggles of oppressed people of all races, recognizing that we all play an important part in the struggle for liberation.

SMASH RACISM!

ALL POWER TO THE PEOPLE!!!

NAZIS continued

tion, Minutemen and KKK types) to actively terrorize the progressive movement (e.g. Death Squads). A sure way to mobilize the Right is by giving them money and leadership people from the FBI, CIA, etc. and creating a police force that is "hogtied" by liberal courts from getting the commies, crooks and whoever "ain't white."

The contradiction between the ruling class and the lower classes is increasing daily and the ruling class is gearing up to use "whatever means necessary" to maintain its position. The people's movement cannot be stopped this time, but we must guard ourselves against their tactics and be prepared to deal with them effectively. The neo-Nazi movement cannot be written off by the left as an isolated and insignificant force in the struggle. Nothing happens out of chance in the course of the historic movement of social forces and we must not be caught off-guard and unprepared.

SMASH THE NAZIS!

THE STREETS BELONG TO THE PEOPLE!!!

ALONE LIKE A DOG IN THE STREET

The man in white comes around the ghetto!!!
 Putting his rope around my black dog neck
 placing him into the back of the wagon
 a menace to society I heard the driver say
 The man in blue comes around the ghetto!!!
 Putting his foot around my neck just to keep
 me in check
 Placing me into the back of the wagon
 And if you see my mother tell her I'm gone
 to the dogs.

--A Brother in Tracy

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