

INTERNATIONAL INFORMATION

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Anti-Racist work in Europe. Report of Ghent

Meeting by LC.

For the Attention of all European Sections (copies to all sections for information).

YOUTH AGAINST RACISM IN EUROPE

Proposals for an All-Europe Youth Campaign

This report contains a number of concrete organisational proposals. We need to get agreement on the main proposals quickly in order to prepare the public launch of the campaign. The leading bodies should arrange a discussion on this report as soon as possible and communicate their views to the International centre by 18.5.92 at the latest. As the proposed campaign is an unprecedented organisational step for the International, many new problems are sure to arise and will need further discussion. Comrades in every section should be encouraged to come forward with ideas and suggestions to develop the campaign.

On April 23rd and 24th, representatives of six sections and the International centre met to discuss our anti-racist campaigns and the possibility of launching an All-Europe initiative. Sections were invited to send one representative with experience in this field of work. The following attended:

NM (Northern Ireland)

CDF and AE (Britain)

EM (Sweden)

FvR (Holland)

DN, EB, FB, JDN (Belgium)

MB (Austria)

LC (International)

Political background

The race question has again become a critical issue for the Marxists in Europe and internationally. The electoral successes of the extreme right, an upsurge in brutal racist attacks and increasing state racism (police raids, propaganda against 'bogus' refugees etc.) has forced this issue to the top of the agenda within the labour movement. In reaction to

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gains by the extreme right, we have seen an enormous medicalisation especially among the racial minorities and the youth, and a desire to 'go back'.

Faced with recession or economic slowdown and a growing army of surplus labour, the West European

capitalists no longer require mass immigration of cheap labour from eastern Europe or the ex-colonial countries.

Throughout Europe, even in the formally 'liberal' Scandinavian countries, immigration laws are being

tightened. As the crisis develops, the capitalist class will attempt to play the race card to divide and weaken the proletariat. Europe's main bourgeois parties are increasingly echoing the poisonous anti-immigrant propaganda of the racist and fascist fringe. Meanwhile, reflecting the deep

disillusionment that exists with all the established parties, racist and semi-fascist parties have made significant gains. In Germany, the Republicans won 10.9 per cent of the vote (in Baden-Württemberg) and the neo-fascist DVU won 6.3 per cent (in Schleswig-Holstein). In Belgium the Vlaams Blok received half a million votes (10 per cent) in Flanders. In Austria the anti-immigrant Freedom Party became the second largest party in elections in the Vienna region.

The collapse of Stalinism in the East, accompanied by an uncontrollable explosion of the national question, bringing war and economic fragmentation in its wake, raises the prospect of an unstoppable flood of refugees moving into Western Europe. The war in Bosnia has already produced the largest number of refugees since the end of World War II. This prospect, and fear of the consequences of further upheavals in

the former Soviet Union, has forced the capitalists to step up aid to the CIS states, though the \$24 billion agreed by the G7 is wholly insufficient for the establishment of stability and viable capitalist economies in the East

#### Political Instability

The electoral successes of the far right are just one aspect of political crisis developing throughout Europe. Recent elections show a degree of political instability which is unprecedented in the post war period. As the Guardian commented, 'from Barcelona to Brussels, the rejection of mainstream parties signals a breakdown of the post-war consensus'. The clear features of this process are enormous volatility in the moods of the classes, and a massive vote of no confidence in all the established parties - conservative and social democratic. The role of the leadership of the workers' organisations throughout the 1980s, has had a critical effect.

The shift to the right and abandonment of any trace of a reformist programme, has undermined support for the workers parties. This has been the case where they are in government as in France; in bourgeois dominated coalitions as in the case of Holland, Belgium, and the Italian Socialists; or where they have been an utterly ineffectual opposition as in Britain, Germany and the Italian PdS (ex- Stalinists). The shattering of illusions in the established parties, among workers and the middle classes, has seen a dramatic growth in electoral support for fringe parties of the left and right. Election results from Germany, France and Italy showed that between 20 and 25 per cent of the electorate are now prepared to vote for minor parties.

In Italy the general election was a crushing blow to the dominant Christian Democrats whose vote fell below 30 per cent for the first time since 1945. The regional elections in France saw a massive rejection of the Socialist Party whose vote fell to 18 per cent. But the combined vote of the two main bourgeois parties also fell from 38 to 33 per cent. In Germany, both Kohl's CDU and the SPD suffered big losses in two state elections while the extreme right made gains. However, it would be entirely one-sided to portray these developments as a general shift to the right in society as the sects, including the ex-Minority, have done. The election results show a confused searching for more extreme or radical solutions, in opposition to the largely discredited leaders of the main parties. The extreme right have not been the only, or even the major beneficiaries of this process. In France, the combined vote for the two Green parties (14 per cent) exceeded the vote for the National Front (13 per cent). In Italy the CP-split RC confounded the bourgeois journalists and the ex-Minority to take 5.6 per cent of the vote, up to 10 per cent in some cities. Meanwhile the neo-fascist MSI saw its vote decline from 5.9 to 5.4 per cent. The magnificent vote for the Marxists in Britain shows what is possible when a proletarian and socialist alternative is offered. In the three seats of Coventry, Liverpool and Glasgow, the Marxists received 22,700 votes compared to 42,100 for the official labour candidates i.e. more than one-third of Labour voters supported Marxist candidates against right wing official candidates. The votes for other Labour independents while not as impressive as the Marxists', nevertheless shows the desire of a significant section of workers for a radical and socialist alternative.

Where the extreme right have gained, it has largely been as a protest against the established parties, including the workers' parties which are seen as no longer a just part of the bourgeois establishment. They have found an echo because of the historically high levels of unemployment which persisted even during the 1980s boom. In every European society the class gulf has widened during the past decade. The rightward shift of the leadership means that a layer of the most downtrodden white workers feel abandoned by the leaders of the labour movement. This explains why these far right or semi-fascist organisations have drawn a high proportion of their vote in traditional Socialist or Communist strongholds: the DVU in the traditional red areas of Bremerhaven; Le Pen's FN in former strongholds of the French CP; in Italy the northern chauvinist Leagues have made inroads into the former PCI vote.

This support therefore, rather than a firm base for fascism or extreme reaction in the literature, represents a bitter protest vote by the most downtrodden and disillusioned sections of the white working class during a particular conjuncture: the absence of big class battles. Up until now these parties have been able to portray themselves as respectable and democratic organisations, their electoral successes reinforcing the parliamentarist wing at the expense of the openly fascist elements within their ranks. In this sense, up until now, none of these parties are fascist in the classical sense of mainly extra-parliamentary, combat organisations,

seeking the physical destruction of the organisations of the working class. However, there are tendencies within all these organisations that can develop in this direction in the future. The explosion of the class struggle evident in the massive strike wave in Germany, and developing elsewhere in Europe, can cut across the development of these organisations, where up until now, the threat they pose to workers' democratic rights has not been understood. Our tendency can play a critical role in this process.

#### The Marxists' Intervention

The accompanying reports make clear that where the Marxists have initiated campaigns against racism and fascism, or against religious sectarianism as in Northern Ireland, spectacular gains have been made. Because of the failure of the leadership of the workers' organisations to take this up, and the disorientation of the sects, the Marxists have been handed an unprecedented opportunity to fill this vacuum, mobilising a big layer of radicalised workers and youth around this question. Even where the official leaders have been pressurised to make a partial stand against the racists, as in Belgium where they succeeded in mobilising 100,000; Holland where 80,000 responded; or Sweden where the DO (trade unions) backed a national demonstration against racist attacks but refused to organise a strike; they have taken a non-political, popular frontist approach, lining up with the bourgeois parties. This approach, while confusing for the mass, actually repels the most conscious workers, immigrants and youth. Here again, where the Marxists have intervened to put a clear proletarian and socialist alternative, they have got the best reception.

#### An all-Europe Campaign

As this work has assumed such importance in the last period, the International decided to consult the European sections about launching an all-European anti racist campaign. By co-ordinating this work, the campaigns of each national section can be enormously strengthened. Even in areas where the Marxists are weak, they can approach youth, workplaces and trade union organisations with the authority of a campaign based in ten or more countries. A European campaign corresponds to the consciousness of the layer of workers and youth we want to reach, who see this threat as a European rather than purely national phenomenon. The idea of an international campaign will get a tremendous echo among the best youth. In the build up to a European demonstration (see below), each national campaign can organise a speaking tour for a representative from another

section These activists can speak at schools, to student organisations and trade union meetings. Each section will obviously map out their own plans and calendar of events, selecting key areas, workplaces, schools etc. to concentrate on. New events will provide us with fresh issues to take up. The campaign will not be confined to exposing and combatting the fascists and the far right, but to taking up the question of democratic rights for immigrant workers, treatment of asylum seekers, police harassment of racial minorities, discrimination etc. The central campaign will present a common political platform dealing with the fight against racism, and the need for a socialist alternative. A draft is attached and we hope to get the comments of all the sections. In addition the central campaign will provide a common logo for campaign material, a series of co-ordinated events (ie. pickets in a number of European cities), a list of sponsors (political figures, celebrities, organisations), and some campaign material (possibly a poster in several languages, a bulletin, a badge).

#### The Demonstration

An all-Europe youth demonstration is being proposed as the focal point of the campaign. It is not so much the demonstration, but the campaign to build for it, which will open up new areas of work and a new periphery for the Marxists. Such a demonstration could attract support from a number of labour movement, immigrant and youth organisations. It can't be excluded that, by capturing the mood on this issue, the Marxists could lead a huge mobilisation. On the other hand we should be prepared for an orchestrated campaign by the bureaucracy of the labour movement and the sectarian dominated anti-racist organisations to sabotage our campaign. However, comrades at the Ghent meeting felt that even under such conditions, by relying only on our own forces and those youth we can mobilise, a sizeable demonstration of between 3,000 to 4,000 can be organised. Marchers would be elected by their youth or student organisation, trade union, or by the local group of the campaign in their school or workplace. This will be an essential part of raising money to cover transport costs, and will be explained to show that the demonstrators represent a much bigger number (a list of organisations taking part with their full membership will be published). Targets for attendance at the demonstration were discussed. Sections which did not take part in the Ghent meeting should discuss a target and inform the International centre. The following proposals were agreed, which should be discussed in the sections. This list does not cover every aspect of the organisational problems involved and obviously other issues will need to be discussed as the campaign develops:

Name: Youth Against Racism in Europe.

Venue for Demonstration: Brussels.

Date of Demonstration: The sections must decide on this quickly. The meeting recommended three possible dates (all Saturdays) 24th October, 31st October and 7th November. The latter is now unlikely because the British section's congress has been organised for that weekend.

Targets: The meeting suggested the following targets:

Belgium 2,000

Britain 500

Ireland 30

Austria 100

Sweden ' 150

Holland 200

Total 2,930

In addition, of course, we can expect a sizeable contingent from Germany, smaller contingents from France, Czechoslovakia and Norway, and hopefully some representation from Greece, Spain, Hungary and even Russia.

Finance and Transport: This is clearly the major problem in organising such an event. Each national campaign needs to work out its transport plans and cost them in order to approach

trade union bodies, student organisations etc. with a precise cost for each place on the demonstration. Transport should be chosen which maximises our opportunities for contact work and recruitment to and from Brussels. Individuals or groups should therefore be discouraged from travelling separately. Apart from anything else, we can explain that problems of organisation, translation during the event, and security, mean that each national contingent should travel and remain together throughout the event. In addition to transport costs, finance will obviously be necessary for producing material etc. The central campaign will need to levy a certain amount from each national campaign in order to finance its campaign material, for the hire of equipment etc. in Brussels. The meeting discussed various ways of raising finance. An appeal should be sent to trade union organisations, student bodies etc. at an early stage to allow for the long periods between meetings. Finance can be raised by a petitions against racism, which enabled Swedish comrades to raise 2,000 krone (Â£200) in one day, and by bucket collections in the streets. Collections should also be organised at workplaces, especially those with a high proportion of workers from racial minorities. Through a similar collection on the question of South Africa, Â£700 was raised from a Ford factory in Britain. A certain amount of finance for the central campaign can be raised through sales of a YRE membership card.

Passports: All local campaign material for the demonstration should stress the need for a passport (and visas in some countries) and explain the procedure and costs involved. This is especially important if we expect to bring a sizeable contingent of school-age youth and immigrants, many of whom may have special problems travelling outside their country of residence.

Bulletin: The meeting agreed that an English language bulletin should be produced to accompany the launch of the campaign. This should then be translated by each national campaign. The bulletin will explain the launch of the campaign, the platform of demands and contain some national reports. It will include a feature on the demonstration in Brussels and contact addresses throughout Europe. Work on this bulletin should start soon and therefore any reports which comrades want included should be sent immediately.

Launching The Campaign: The centre will consult the sections about a date in May/June for the public launch of the campaign. This could involve public meetings organised on the same night in several European cities, press conferences etc. The campaign could also organise a public rally and press conference to coincide with the start or close of this year's international school. This would enable us to present speakers from a number of European countries on the same platform. This could get considerable publicity, at least in the Belgian press.

Accommodation: It was felt at the meeting that it would not be necessary for any contingent to stay overnight in Brussels. Transport should be organised to arrive on the Saturday morning and leave in the evening. If this isn't possible, it should be raised as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made. A concert may be organised in the evening to follow the rally.

Security: Will be very important because of the possibility of a fascist presence. Each contingent must be well stewarded. Stewards should be selected on the buses or trains, one for every ten marchers, with a head steward (who preferably should speak some English) for the whole contingent. It may be necessary to organise a meeting of head stewards before hand. Other security precautions were dealt with in the recent circular from the International centre. This campaign will inevitably attract the attention of all the fascist groupings, some of whom have well documented terrorist links. The leading comrades involved in this work therefore need to ensure that all aspects of this problem are considered and acted upon.

Resources for the Central Campaign: To achieve the above an enormous amount of preparatory organisation must be done. This cannot be borne by the International centre or by the Belgian organisation alone, as in both cases there are insufficient staff. Therefore we agreed to approach the bigger sections (Britain, Ireland, Germany and Sweden) to release comrades to work on this campaign at the European level. These could be youth full-timers or unemployed comrades with a certain experience of organisation. We are proposing that one comrade be released immediately to work from the International centre producing the initial campaign material (bulletin etc.) and making preparations for the demonstration, establishing a campaign fund etc. This could be for a period of 1 to 2 months. We then propose that 3 or 4 comrades are released from the beginning of September until the demonstration. This team would be based in Belgium to organise the demonstration itself (Publicity, finance, communications with the sections, speakers and translation etc.) If this is to be realised, the larger sections need to consider candidates now.

#### Summary

These are the initial proposals outlined at the Ghent meeting. We believe this initiative will capture the imagination of the best proletarian youth and can lead to a new influx of young fighters into the ranks of the International. It will also enormously raise the authority of our sections and the International among the working class. We would repeat the request for a speedy response so that the necessary organisational tasks can be started. We welcome further suggestions to develop the campaign.

#### BELGIUM - REPORT ON YOUTH WORK

During the Gulf War we set up some anti-war committees. Afterwards we were urged to set up another campaign to be able to work with the periphery that we had. It was only in May that the CC agreed on a campaign against racism. The campaign was called Blokkbuster (referring to Ghostbusters), being a specific campaign against the Vlaams Blok, the extreme right-wing party in Flanders. The reason for this direct attack on these fascists was that most of the activity would be towards the national elections. But more importantly it had

to i-\2011l in the needs of young people who were very aggressive after the Gulf War, who actively wanted to fight discrimination and who had no alternatives to turn to. The Anti-Fascist Front 3 national organisation, was dying away (â\200\234If we donâ\200\231t speak about them, they wonâ\200\231t gain votesâ\200\235). For

these reasons we chose to setup a broad campaign on a small platform to organise as many youth as possrhle. It would give us oppomitties to recmit through action, but also to discuss about the confusions and doubts in their minds ( the Stalinist states, colonial revolution, anarchism, were the main items). We worked as follows:

In May we had 9,000 stickers produced to sell at the concerts during the summer period. By the end of June the youth committee had organised a youth day. It was started internally. We explained what sort of campaign, how to build it up, emphasising the role of every comrade. In the afternoon we had our i-\201rst sticker sale and we had a Mahmoud Benei-\201t party in the evening. By mid July we already had 300 names and addresses. We therefore took extra measures. We decided thatthelastday ofour summer campwouldbeusedto staxtup the campaign ofi-\201cially. All the â\200\234namesâ\200\235 would be invited There the platform would be discussed and a national steering committee was to be elected The badge, being part of the membership card was only to be distributed by the National Steering Committee members. In that way we would try to keep the sects out. Besides our own comrades, new recruits and close contacts could be taken up. For that day 500 people were invited; 6 showed up.

Up to the elections (24/11) we set up about 25 committees. We could have reached a higher number if the Minority (which had only a majority at EC and CC level) hadnâ\200\231t tried to stop it They claimed that the youth i-\201lill-timer did faetional work for months, together with the youth committee. In other words the Blokbuster campaign was actually the â\200\234Belgian Open Tumâ\200\235...Anyway, by our i-\201rst national Blokbuster meeting a week alter the election campaign we had about 300 members. The Vlaams Blok had won an enormous lot of votes. In the city of Antwerp they became the biggest party with 24%. They have now got 12 MPâ\200\231s, plus another 4 in the Senate.

Activities throughout the campaign were local demonstrations, picket lines at Vlaams Blok meetings,



posting, sticker sales, leafletting, street activities, etc. After every public activity we held a small meeting to recruit for BB.

Now we have reached more than 1,000 members. The committees are mostly run by comrades. But, because it is impossible to cover more than 50 committees, we set up regional steering committees, with comrades, new recruits, and the best organisers. The committees work independently, that is they have to raise their own money which they can use for every purpose against racism, as long as it is according to the platform.

We recruited 17 new comrades (we are now at 54) and there is still a lot of contact work to be done. During the campaign the radicalisation of school students (14-17 year olds) broadened to young workers. We have already had some workers' movements. We expect more strikes to take place in the future. We therefore used May Day activities after more discussions on our orientation towards the organised workers movement. We are also facing new, severe cuts by the Christian Democrat-Social Democrat government. The cuts will be very hard on young workers, part-time workers, unemployed, etc. We are discussing broadening the campaign more towards these issues. The strike movement in Germany as well as the events in LA have had an enormous effect on young people here. The issues are taken up within the Blockbuster committees. The members are also very enthused by the international initiative.

Our summer camp this year (10-16 August) will again have a Blockbuster weekend. We hope to have more than 2,000 members by then. The target is to have 100 comrades by our NC at the end of September.

#### REPORT FROM THE AUSTRIAN ANTI-FASCIST COMMITTEE.

In the last months and year there has been an increase of right-wing ideas and a polarisation of, on the one hand right-wing youth (neo-fascists, hooligans and skinheads), and left-wing and foreign youth on the other hand. The foreign youth have formed street gangs, calling themselves Red Brothers, Street Brothers, etc.

In some areas of Vienna leftward looking youth and foreign youth are forced to wear gas-masks because they get attacked by nazi gangs. The reason is an increasing rate of unemployment, a need for housing and no answers to these problems.

Especially in the election campaign in Vienna (October-November 1991) there was a radicalisation. Haider, chairman of the liberals, spoke a lot about the bad effects of foreign workers on the employment rate, and this led to a stronger mood against foreigners.

There are also other initiatives and committees from left, moralistic groups and also from the sects. The YS speaks about their great anti-fascist work but in reality they do not do anything. The other groups have no influence and no base among the youth.

On the 6th of February the Anti-fascist committee of the school students and apprentices of Vienna was founded. The situation in the YS groups (which are our main recruitment field) showed us before that our anti-fascist campaigns were the most successful. Especially school students from 14-18 years old were interested. At the founding conference there were about 250 youth, mainly school students, but also young workers. At the moment there is a necessity for radical anti-fascist work. Especially left-wing youth have the feeling that the right-wing is getting stronger. The anti-fascist committee is organised in school groups. The school groups elect their representatives who have their own meetings. There is an elected speakers committee, which co-ordinates the work and plans central actions. Beside the meetings of the speakers committee there will be meetings of all active people. The AC has altogether 200 members in 50 schools. In 4 schools there are active school groups. In the speakers committee we have the

majority.

At a demonstration against the new asylum law we were able, together with our YS groups, to organise about 400 people. The AC is just at the beginning. In the future we will orientate most on foreign and working youth. At the last anti-fascist demo - Hitler's birthday - were about 200 foreign youth from street gangs. At the moment in the AC there are mostly school students who are active, who have a more intellectual understanding of anti-fascist work. These people we want to bring together with the radical youth to build up a strong, fighting anti-fascist organisation with a proletarian character. The anti-fascist work led to the recruitment of a new layer of youth. The European campaign will help us. We hope to bring 70-100 people to Brussels in October.

Until now the AC is more chaotic than well organised. Most of the people who are active in the AC at the moment are comrades or YS members. We try to get in more other people. The AC can become a really good thing, but there is still a lot to do and to organise. We didn't do enough about the AC in the last few weeks because of the expulsions and May Day (which is a big thing in Austria).

But, we are trying to build up a group of comrades responsible for the AC work. The AC has its own material, budgets, membership cards, and a pamphlet. We plan to hold monthly activists meetings, to intervene in schools, and to make a demonstration in July. Our material (paper, T-shirts, badges) is well known and often bought by the members and activists of the AC.

Report on British anti racist work

The rise of racist fascist and far right activity in Britain has not yet reached the scale of other countries in Europe.

However there has been a marked increase in fascist activity and also a rise in fascist attacks. The government's own figures admit that a racist attack now takes place every 30 minutes. In 1991 there were 70 000 reported racist attacks, a lot more have gone unreported. Racist murders are also on the increase, these have been most noticeable in areas that fascist groups

like the British National Party (BNP) and the National Front (NF) have targeted

It is not just fascist groups that have been active in whipping up racism in the past period. The general election campaign effectively began with the Tories putting the race card on the agenda through their Asylum Bill. The bill called for the tightening of laws on refugees, compulsory fingerprinting, denial of council housing etc, backed up by the tabloid press with headlines such as 'Out of AM - and onto our doom' and '80% cheat their way into Britain and the good life'.

Before the general election the BNP and NF threatened to stand in over 50 seats, eventually due to campaigns against them and splits in their own organisations they were able to stand in less than 20. They polled under 10 000 votes combined.

The rise in racism across Europe has prompted anti racist groups in Britain into activity. This year we saw the launch of the Anti Racist Alliance (ARA) a black led organisation formed to fight racism in Britain. Also relaunched this year was the Anti Nazi League, dominated by the SWP, living off its reputation from the 1970s. It is able to draw layers around it. However, since the groups have spent their time attacking each other in the press they are to a lot of people not seen as tackling the real issues.

Our attitude to both these groups up to now has been friendly; intervening in their demos, concerts etc. but also calling for the democratisation of both organisations (neither have constituted branches or regular meetings) and unity around a programme to fight racism.

In most areas we have been intervening into activity as the 'Mâ'235. Especially in areas where we are established and have roots in the local communities, for example in Scotland due to our anti poll tax work, we have been able on a number of occasions to organise to drive the fascists out of the streets. In Bermondsey, an area with a strong fascist presence, where comrades have done continuous work and where we once had the prospective parliamentary candidate, we are leading the Bermondsey Campaign against Racism and Fascism. Our Youth Organisation has launched a Youth Against Racism and Fascism campaign. Although we have merely scratched the surface so far, every area that has taken it up has had noticeable successes. We have been able to use this banner to get into schools and colleges. One region organised an anti racist conference in the name of this campaign. Our plan over the next period is to get every area to take up the YARF campaign. All indicators are that racism is the biggest issue amongst young people - especially school students. We will be organising schools, conferences and meetings in every area possible. Also we will take the campaigns to the workplaces. We are confident that this campaign will lead directly to recruitment to the tendency as the arguments for a socialist change in society are so clear.

#### Swedish Report

Sweden has been relatively soft during the 80s. The question of racism and immigration is one of the political factors which have contributed mostly to breaking up this softness.

13 December 1989 marked a turning point. Then the Social Democratic government drastically sharpened the asylum rules. The police got more free hands to immediately send immigrants back, etc. After this decision the attitude towards immigration considerably worsened in the opinion polls.

The Swedish election in September confirms this. The right wing populist and immigrant-hostile New Democracy was elected into parliament. They have raised among other demands a total stop of all immigration for one year. Later they retreated on this. They cannot yet be characterised as a genuine racist or fascist party.

Today there are no real preconditions to establish anything on a mass scale like Le Pen's movement or Vlaams Blok. The

mood and in 2011 ten racist shootings of immigrants in less than a year proves this. The 1st of February was launched by 20 immigrant organisations as a strike, later changed to a demonstration against racist violence. This idea received enormous support in opinion. The only reason blocking a total success was the incompetence in the bourgeois leaderships of these organisations. Among other things, they said no to support from Swedish workers. This sharply contrasted to them receiving support from the employers' federation to limit the action to a few minutes. One section of the extreme right in Sweden have misunderstood the problems in organising a bigger movement. These lunatics have instead almost terrorist conclusions. Heavily armed groups like 'White Aryan Resistance' have been established. These have for example been involved in bank robberies. Racism is a big question, always present and sometimes exploding, for example when the racists make their attacks. Youth especially have been willing to fight them with militant methods. Alongside the economic crisis and the bourgeois government the objective and subjective preconditions are maturing for a wholly racist party to be established. Prognosis shows that Swedish GDP by 1992 has been stagnant or negative for four years. Sweden is close to European unemployment levels; in autumn it was 6%. The Swedish Marxists have in the last year been able to take the leadership in the anti-fascist struggle through a number of successful initiatives. On the 30th of November 1991, we pulled around 30 immigrant organisations, unions and youth organisations to a demo of 7,000 in Stockholm. This demo was successful in blocking a fascist demo from marching. On the same date we organised demos in two other towns with a couple of thousand combined on them. In Stockholm we sold more than 200 copies of the paper. On the 8th of February we took part in the leadership of a

demo in Stockholm of 3,000 against the racist attacks. We were successful in intervening in the so-called immigrant strike on the 1st of February. In two days we mobilised 500 school students, through our school students campaign (BK), for a Stockholm demo. At the end of the demo it was 1,000 strong, with non-school students among them as well. 100 new youth were interested in joining EK. Our trade union comrades in the council workers' union were the only ones in the whole trade union movement organising activities. One hour's meeting of 70 workers took place. In the mid north we organised a school students demo of 500. Our youth movement, EK, became even more well known when Robert Faurisson, the French nazi history professor came to Sweden. We organised 300 and were successful in driving him and his fascist friends away and blocking their public meeting. At the same time as we have taken the lead, old leaders have retreated. That is mainly 'Stop Racism',

led by the Mandelists. Worth noticing is the tremendous support a clearly outspoken socialist profile has received. Our speakers are always getting the best response. We have clearly distanced ourselves from petty bourgeois and bourgeois trends with our class based position. This has not isolated us, but strengthened our authority in large layers of workers and above all among fighting youth. We have always done our best in orientating to the unions. Still this is our weak point.

#### Conclusions:

Take audacious initiatives. The possibilities of mobilising on these questions are central. We must feel the pulse and be the first. Breaking with sectarian or bourgeois initiatives is often necessary and good. On the 30th of November there were already two other demos, but ours became the biggest.

If we have a section of the class and the youth on our side, we should not hesitate in physical confrontation if the relationship of forces is to our advantage.

A high political profile is necessary to guarantee our quality. The effects of the collapse of Stalinism are now beginning to decrease. Many youth are radicalised and looking for alternatives.