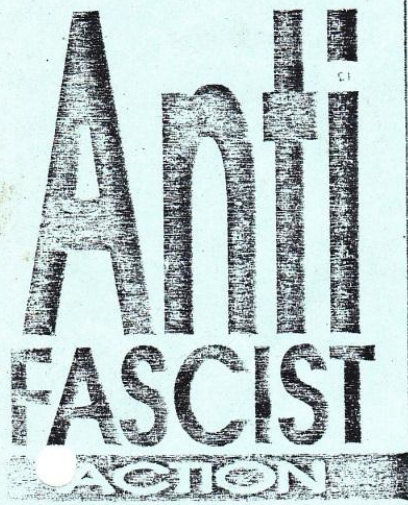


ANTI-FASCIST ACTION



Anti-Fascist Action has produced a booklet producing potential members to the organisation. Priced £1, it is attractively and professionally designed. It is available from *Searchlight* or from AFA, M 1734, London WC1N 3XX.

AFA is also planning to publish a regular magazine. It is intended to incorporate *Cable Street Beat*, which has stopped production. We have said to AFA that we do not see this publication as conflicting with *Searchlight*, because *Searchlight* is non-sectarian while AFA may wish to promote a political line. We have offered some practical help and would certainly welcome the return of *Cable Street Beat*.

AFA have asked us to make clear that while we were happy to co-operate with them at Thamesmead and share the editorial sentiments we expressed last month over the question of betrayals on the day, they do not agree with our view that the government should ban fascist and racist marches. It is in areas like this that we have honest differences with AFA but this does not or will not stop our co-operation with them.

SEARCHLIGHT - JULY 1991

Militant - 5/7/91

Fascism

In the last year YRC members have been taking on the fascists and beating them all over the country. With unemployment rising, the fascists think they stand a chance of winning working-class youth. The YRC will take them on politically and organisationally wherever they rear their ugly heads.

This course isn't just on the fascists today. There's a session on how they came to power in Germany and a session on the Spanish Revolution, the defeat of which resulted in the coming to power of Franco. To finish off with there's a discussion on how to fight fascism today.

March bid by fascists sets policy problem

A REQUEST for a fascist march in Edinburgh is set to create a policy problem for the ruling Labour administration on Lothian region. The police have asked for a ban on the event.

The British National Party, which plans to contest seats in central Edinburgh, has applied for permission to march along Princes Street on August 3. Local organisers hope the event will attract some 200 supporters from all over Britain.

However, the application appears doomed to failure. The chief constable's report, which will go before Lothian Region's transport committee next week, says: "It is my opinion that there will be serious public disturbance involving marchers and demonstrators but, more importantly, it will also endanger ordinary members of the public who could be caught up in any disturbance."

The police report adds: "It will also arouse fear and tension within the local community, particularly ethnic groups."

The region's convener, Councillor Eric Milligan, said they had come up against the problem of permission for marches only recently, when they had given the go-ahead for a controversial Orange walk at Haddington in East Lothian. They felt that a liberal view on the issue meant allowing demonstrations of opinions which they did not necessarily share.

However, he drew the line at permitting events to which others attributed opinions, while the BNP boasted of its racist policies. "We are not prepared to allow our halls, or our streets, to be used by neo-fascists," he said.

GLASGOW HERALD 15/7/91



Police fear violence if extremists march

By Marcello Moga

THE extreme right-wing British National Party is likely to be banned from marching in Edinburgh next month after the police and local politicians expressed the belief that it would lead to violence.

The BNP had sought permission to demonstrate opposition to the Irish Republican Army and the Republican movement on 3 August.

A report by the chief constable of Lothian and Borders, Sir William Sutherland, says: "It is my opinion that there will be serious public disturbance involving marchers and demonstrators but, more importantly, it will also endanger ordinary members of the public who could be caught up in any disturbance."

His report will be considered by Lothian's transport committee on Monday.

The BNP, which expected 200 members from throughout the United Kingdom to march along Regent Road, Waterloo Place, Princes Street and Lothian Road to King's Stables Road, expressed its disgust at the news yesterday.

A spokesman said: "We don't expect much from the police, as they just want an easy life. But these politicians will not be happy until they have banned every political persuasion in this country which is not mainstream. They are denying people their freedom."

He said there would be no trouble from BNP members if the march were allowed to go ahead. Any trouble would come from "left-wing mobs expressing violent opposition to members' beliefs".

The march was billed as a protest against the decision by Lothian Regional Council to allow the march in Edinburgh on 8 June to commemorate the Republican James Connolly. The spokesman said: "These are enemies of the British people. Yet they were allowed to demonstrate, to collect money and to boast of how they have helped to murder the innocent. Now that was disgusting."

Ken Harrold, vice chairman of the transport committee, said: "Sir William's comments about the risk of serious public disorder should be enough for us to say no."

HO HUM! SWP

Dear Editor,

As a bisexual socialist, I was horrified by the letter on the Socialist Workers' Party in May's APN, and by the editorial comment on it.

The letter states the SWP will pretend to align themselves with any organisation that can provide them with a platform, whilst the editorial comment says there is no place for 'extreme politics' be they of the 'left or right' in the lesbian and gay community.

If the SWP is looking only for 'platforms' on, for example, gay pride or anti-racist marches, just what ideas do they want to put across and why would they do so with these sets of people if they weren't genuinely anti-homophobic and anti-racist? Clearly the letter is absurd. If its members didn't turn up on these protests, it would be accused of failing to take issues seriously.

Worse than the letter itself however was the editorial comment, comparing 'extremists' of the left with the far-right. Clearly the relationship of

homosexuals and bisexuals to revolutionary socialist-organisation and to Nazi groups is diametrically different. Gay and bi Nazis, such those in the National Front or the British National Party, join out of feeling of powerlessness. Oppress people often kick down, and so gays and bisexuals can be empowered by attacking other oppressed people.

Those who join far-right organisations, like the SWP, do so out of a sense of their own power unity with others.

In Glasgow, when the Nazi BNP attempted to organise its annual rally in the city, using slogans such as 'Save Us From Aids, Out! Homosexuality', with was the Tory Campaign for Homosexual Equality or its Labour counterpart which organised against the Fascist it was the SWP. The SWP covered the city with pictures from the Holocaust, in which thousands of thousands of socialists and gays died alongside the Jews, with the slogan

'Never Again'.
Yours sincerely
Mark Brown
Glasgow 20

FROM JULY'S ISSUE OF

