

# ANTI-FASCIST ACTION

BM BOX 1734, LONDON, WC1N 3XX

Tel: **0966 195 670** or AFA office on: **0976 406 870**

PRESS RELEASE 18 SEPTEMBER 1997

## Militant Anti-Fascist 'Call To Arms'

A **FORMER EAST** German border guard will address a militant anti-fascist conference in London from 2-5 October at which anti-fascist groups from around the world will discuss effective tactics, including direct action, against the far-right. The conference is hosted by Anti-Fascist Action, one of the principle targets of a recent C18 letter-bomb campaign for which three Danish Nazis were sentenced to a total of 14 years.

Representatives from Autonomes Antifa (m), also from Germany, who recently faced charges of "raising a private army," and, "being a front for the ['terrorist'] Red Army Faction," will also address this international conference. The conference will be the culmination of preliminary discussions that have been going on since 1996 involving 36 organisations from as far afield as Latvia to Australia, Canada to Sweden, most of whom are expected to attend.

The conference has been called in response to the marked influence of the far-right in the political mainstream, most noticeably in Europe. For the first time since the 1930s the far-right has surfaced nationally and simultaneously in many countries across the continent. Since the mid-80s the far-right has set the agenda in France, changed the German constitution, been a partner in Government in Italy and secured 27% of the vote in national elections in Austria.

An AFA spokesperson said: "The function of the conference is to separate those who want to fight fascism from those who do not. Once that distinction has been achieved, a unified and comprehensive strategy that can put the rightward drive into reverse is our objective. We are discussing with working class militants internationally because the reality is the middle class left do not want to fight. They lost the habit of fighting long ago. The struggle frightens them."

He continued: "The far-right, the establishment and the liberal left is organised internationally. The central aim of this conference is to ensure that from here on working class militant anti-fascists will also be organised internationally."

Eamonn Kent

ENDS

**Note to Editors: For more information and interviews with representatives of organisations attending conference, please tel: 0966 195 670 or if unavailable please telephone the AFA office on: 0976 406 870.**

Events open to the public include:

INTERNATIONAL ANTI-FASCIST RALLY

SUNDAY 5th OCTOBER - 4pm - Admission Free

Camden Irish Centre, 52 Camden Square, London, NW1

Speakers from the leading militant anti-fascist organisations in Europe and North America