

# A ROUGH GUIDE TO POLICE TACTICS

THE POLICE DO NOT LIKE EFFECTIVE ACTIONS. IT MAKES THEM LOOK SILLY, AND TOP COPS GET TICKINGS OFF FROM THE HOME SECRETARY. IT IS THEIR JOB TO PREVENT ACTIONS SUCH AS THE FIESTA. TO THIS END THEY WILL USE ANY MEANS THEY DEEM NECESSARY.

**THE FOLLOWING ADVICE** is not meant to be scary, but to make people aware that there is more to the police than the smiling postcard bobby giving tourists directions. The point of the Fiesta is playfully serious (or seriously playful) - the disruption of the DSEi arms fair. To achieve this, we need to be aware of the police and their actions.

## THEY WILL HAVE 5 MAIN AIMS WHEN FACED WITH A MASS ACTION:

- To break the crowd up into manageable portions, which they will either keep moving then disperse, or increasingly likely, contain then slowly disperse.
- Provoke violence to justify their actions and flush out 'ringleaders' for the morning papers.
- To contain the crowd and stop the 'trouble' spreading.
- To intimidate and break the spirit of the crowd.
- To gather evidence for later.

Clearly what we have to do is stop them achieving their objectives. The aims of people faced by police violence on a large mass action should be:

- Getting yourself and your mates away safely, rather than fighting
- Taking effective action, rather than fighting,
- Helping others in trouble by administering first aid and de-arresting, rather than fighting.

## STICKING TOGETHER

Always try to form an affinity group before setting out, and at the very least have a buddy system in place, whereby everyone has one person to look out

for them and to act with when a situation arises.

Affinity groups are just a handful of people who work together as a unit, as and when circumstances arise. They can meet beforehand to discuss issues and possible reactions, practice or role play scenarios. The more your group meets, the quicker your reaction times will get and your effectiveness will improve. Water, D-locks, paint, first aid, food, banners and spare clothes is a lot for one person to carry, but divided up between 5 people it's nothing.

Dozens of static and handheld still and video cameras now focus on any large (and many small) demonstrations. Given the demonisation of dissent and the big brother implications of this surveillance many people will choose to wear some form of mask. Please respect people's desire not to be filed and classified by the police. The cut off sleeve of a long sleeved t-shirt makes a good mask, and can be worn casually round the neck. Hooded tops cover much of the face, and baseball caps and sunglasses will give some protection.

The Wombles have received a large amount of attention recently, but their use of padded body protection, helmets and their own bodies to protect the crowd from police attack is intended as a tactic rather than the preserve of a particular group. It needs careful forethought and a strong affinity group.

## DEFENDING EACH OTHER

■ **Keep looking outwards. Be aware of the police at all times**

■ **Form cordons around anything or anyone the police may want to attack or snatch. This means simply linking arms or holding hands.**

An effective way of doing this and leaving one hand free is for everyone to place

one hand down the back of the trousers of the person in front.

Get consent and make a new friend. Snatch squads may be seen being briefed on their target by senior officers or evidence gatherers.

■ **Sitting down can stop the police from charging, but it needs to be done in large numbers by a confident crowd. If the shout goes**

**out to sit down, do it - the more people down straight away, the more people overall will do it. Once down, if all looks good link arms with people around you.**

■ **THE BEST DEFENCE IS CHAOS!** A complicated hierarchy (ie the police) needs orders to act on; it takes time for these orders to filter down to the cops on the ground. They cannot cope with constantly changing situations. Keep moving, utilise mad props, change your appearance, weave in and out of the crowd.

## BASIC POLICE CHOREOGRAPHY

The police plan is to control, contain and disperse. Their latest trick is 'the Kettle', keeping people contained in an area for several hours before letting them go one by one. They try to search, photograph and take the details of everyone as they let them out. You do not have to give them your details unless you are under arrest.

Avoiding the use of this tactic means constantly keeping moving, not allowing police lines to encircle the crowd. It is possible through weight of numbers to push through police lines (people outside the cordon can help by surrounding them or pushing from the outside), but a better solution is to avoid the lines forming in the first place.

They'll try to divide the crowd up into 'actors' and 'viewers'. Small groups of cops will move into the crowd, encouraging those who'll listen to move onto the pavement or similarly out of the way. Once some people start doing this these groups of cops will get bigger until they form a dividing line, eventually penning two groups in.

To counter this, don't spectate. Move around. Fill gaps that could be used by the police. Use strong banners to block routes the police may use to form lines. Keeping together increases everyone's safety.

Sometimes police lines have to be moved back to allow other exits to be opened up. This means moving our lines into theirs, slowly, with linked arms. Tough tarp banners or crowd control barriers can be used to contain the police.

Our greatest 'weapon' (irony fully intended) is our creativity and humour. Remember, the police are trained, equipped and psyched up for public order situations. The best way to beat them is to outwit them.

**Let's face it, they're rarely the sharpest tools in the box, so how hard can that be?**

*Heavily nicked from a fuller guide published by Manchester Earth First!, Dept 29, 22a Beswick Street, Manchester, M4 7HS, send a bunch of stamps.*

# THE ONLY ARMS WE NEED

# A GUIDE TO THE fiesta



11 SEPTEMBER 2001 DSEi ARMS FAIR, DOCKLANDS, LONDON

## ABOUT THIS BOOKLET

On September 11-14th 2001 the Defence Systems and Equipment international (DSEi) arms fair will be held at the newly built Excel centre in Docklands, London. It's the largest arms fair in Europe. In response a group of activists - Disarm DSEi - have called for a Fiesta for Life against Death on the first day.

The Fiesta is just one of many actions planned against DSEi, from Campaign Against Arms Trade(CAAT)'s march and vigil, to 'affinity group'\* actions.

This booklet has been produced to explain the reasons behind the Fiesta, and why the struggle against the arms trade should not be seen as a single issue. Further to that, it is a tool for action. The point is not to wait around for an organisation or party to arrange things for you, but to take control over your own life.

*\*affinity groups are small groups built on trust and face to face relationships. Their history is often traced to the Spanish civil war, and they have been a key part of successful Direct Action campaigns for years.*

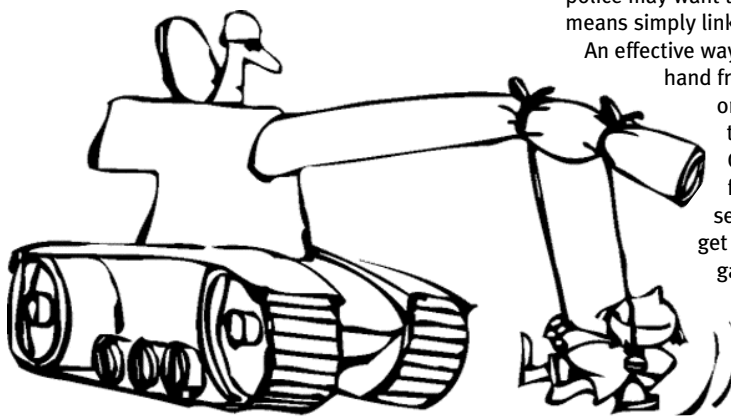
## THE ARMS TRADE

THE MORAL CASE against the arms trade is a pretty strong one. Weapons kill people. Britain exports £5 billion of military equipment each year. 2000 children are killed, maimed or psychologically affected every day by weaponry.

According to the UN Human Development Report, in 1999 the world's governments spent an estimated \$719 billion of our money to run their military machines - of which more than two-thirds (\$520 billion) was spent by Europe and North America alone. This is 14 times more than is needed to eradicate the very worst - 'absolute' - poverty from the world. In the same year the UN spent less than \$1 billion on peacekeeping.

To give some idea of the type of item on offer at arms fairs such as DSEi, a favourite toy of any well to do military is the cluster bomb. When dropped a cluster bomb disperses scores of smaller bombs - 'bomblets' over its target. The bomblets scatter before exploding, allowing a large area to be devastated - Cluster bomb CBU-87/B has an overall blast radius size of 3 football pitches.

There is a variety of bomblets; anti-personnel that kill or maim by fragmentation - in effect, nail bombs. Anti-tank bomblets are designed to be used against armour or vehicles. So-called 'combined effect munitions' contain both anti-armour weapons with an incendiary capacity. Cluster



## CONTACTS

### CAMPAIGN AGAINST ARMS TRADE

Main NGO in this field  
11 Goodwin Street, Finsbury Park, London, N4 3HQ  
Tel: 020 7281 0297  
Email: enquiries@caat.demon.co.uk  
www.caat.org.uk

### WOMBLES

White Overall Movement Building Libertarian Effective Struggle. Much cuddlier than their press coverage would lead you to believe.  
Email: wombles@hushmail.com  
www.wombleaction.mrnice.net

### RECLAIM THE STREETS

Direct action for social and environmental justice  
PO Box 9656, London, N4 4JY  
Tel: 020 7281 4621  
Email: rts@gn.apc.org  
www.reclaimthestreets.net

### INDYMEDIA

For a clearer picture of what's happening on the day check out...  
www.uk.indymedia.org

### LOCAL GROUPS

www.schnews.org.uk has a database of groups  
Write to RTS for a list of local Earth First! groups.

### DISARM DSEi

PO Box 9656, London, N4 4JY  
Tel:020 7281 4621  
Email: disarm@hushmail.com  
www.disarm-trade.org

bombs can also drop various kinds of landmines. Many bomblets do not explode, creating a hazard for those civilians who escape the blast.

But while the twisted inventiveness of arms manufacturers never fails to appal, 90% of civilian casualties of conflict are caused by small and light weaponry. In 1999 the British government issued nearly 1000 export licenses for consignments of small arms. The number of weapons in each consignment have not been revealed.

To make matters worse, these deals are underwritten by the tax-payer. The Export Credit Guarantee Department coughs up cash for arms dealers when countries default on payments. Heaven forbid defenceless arms companies should have to face the consequences of free market capitalism.

## TRANSPORT LINKS

**THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS THOSE ATTENDING DSEi CAN GET IN; ROAD, RAIL, DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAILWAY AND THE LONDON CITY AIRPORT.**

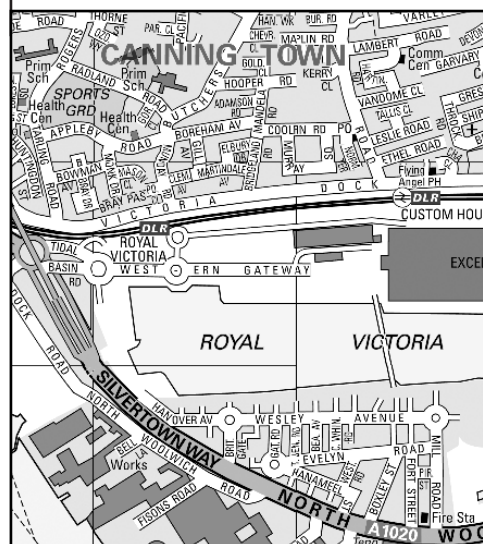
**TUBE:** Unlikely, as they'd have to walk past at least the CAAT protestors, although I guess most would catch a cab for the 10 minute walk. Jubilee line, Canning Town station.

**DOCKLANDS LIGHT RAILWAY:** Royal Victoria, Customs House and Prince Regent stations on the Becton line of DLR all serve Excel, Customs House being closest, with a bridge and walkway leading directly to the main entrance to the building.

**RAIL:** Canning Town, Customs House and City Airport are all on the Silverlink rail line. The line skirts the centre of London, from Richmond, through Hampstead, Camden, Hackney, Stratford to North Woolwich.

**ROAD:** There are two road entrances to Excel, at the east and west sides. The barriers formed by the rail lines and the dock make it impossible for them to create temporary entrances elsewhere in event of the two roadways being blocked.

**LONDON CITY AIRPORT:** Basically a business airport, right next door to Excel. There is road access to Excel, via Connaught Bridge, but it only leads to the east entrance.



# MILITARISM AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**THE IMPACT THAT militarism has on people is obvious. But it also an environmental issue. Things that are designed to rip apart human flesh are no less damaging to the planet.**

Sometimes the environment is the main target. Huge areas of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia were devastated by American herbicides. Right now the same tactic is being used in Colombia. As part of the 'Plan Colombia', a US conceived plan to make the country safe for corporations, toxic weed-killers are being dropped over indigenous communities. This is already having a marked effect on human health, killing livestock, destroying food crops and threatening the diversity and sustainability of the local ecosystem. About the only thing it doesn't kill off is the coca it is supposed to affect.

Depleted uranium from western shells will pollute Iraq and Kosovo for many years to come. In 1991, the UK Atomic Energy Authority warned that, if particles from merely 8 per cent of the DU used in the Gulf were inhaled, there could be

"300,000 potential deaths". UN statistics, published in the British Medical Journal, showing a sevenfold increase in cancer in southern Iraq between 1989 and 1994.

The Worldwatch Institute estimate that the world's armies account for about six percent of total global energy use. An F-16 fighter plane uses more fuel in an hour than an average car does in a year.

Environmental degradation can often only take place with the backing of military might. The struggle of the Ogoni and other peoples of the Niger Delta against the destruction caused by oil exploration was met with massive state violence on behalf of Western companies. In West Papua and again in Colombia it is the same story. When people try to stop their land being taken and destroyed they end up looking down the wrong end of a barrel of a gun.

Increasingly over the coming century conflicts will break out over environmental factors. Climate change, desertification, intensive farming and increasing exploitation of natural resources will cause crops to fail, flood low lying areas, turn fresh water into a scarcity, make border disputes more critical.

**AS PART OF THE 'PLAN COLOMBIA', A US CONCEIVED PLAN TO MAKE THE COUNTRY SAFE FOR CORPORATIONS, TOXIC WEEDKILLERS ARE BEING DROPPED OVER INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES.**

## ESSENTIAL DSEi INFORMATION

**BRITAIN HOSTS TWO** major arms fairs, COPEX and DSEi. COPEX (Contingency Operations and Procurement Exhibition) sells equipment for eternal repression, everything a secret police officer would wish to lay their hands on. DSEi is about serious weaponry, big guns, bombs, boats and so on. Although the staging of the exhibition is in the hands of Spearhead PGI (a private company who specialise in putting on defence and aviation events), it is firmly an MOD affair.

According to the official blurb, 'DSEi attracts over 900 exhibitors from over 40 countries occupying some 250,000ft2 net exhibit space ... Over 20,000 invited defence industry visitors attend.'

One important component of the Exhibition is its conference, this year entitled 'Convergence: Technology, Globalisation and Coalition', a principle theme being the Globalisation of the Defence Industry. The Conference will

be held on 12 and 13 September 2001.

At the last DSEi in 1999 CAAT found two exhibitors openly flogging anti-personnel landmines. This was totally illegal, a fact that seemed to have passed the large number of MOD police officers present by. Mind you, the moral tone of the exhibition could have been discerned by the invite Indonesia received, just as militias armed and trained by their military were running amok in East Timor. At the time of writing the countries invited to attend are unknown, but a list of exhibitors can be found on the Disarm DSEi website.

The previous DSEi was held mainly on MOD land near Chertsey in Surrey, with some boats moored at London Docklands. This year the entire thing has been moved to Docklands, the newly built Excel Centre.. Excel is situated on the Royal Victoria Dock, snugly close to London Airport, and within sight of Canary Wharf

and the Dome. Curiously, Excel seem to have neglected to mention DSEi in their listings.

One side of Excel is protected to the north by both Docklands Light Railway and BR rail lines, and to the south by the dock. Its main entrance is to the west, but there is also a back entrance at the east end. The dock will be used to show off war ships. Access to the dock for such ships is via a swing bridge, Connaught Bridge.

The Centre is housed near some of London's most neglected housing estates, in Canning Town. Please remember that these communities have put up with enough attacks from outside. Respect the area and its residents. Bear in mind that there is a strong possibility that the police and fascist groups will attempt to infiltrate the Fiesta. If someone is trying to incite you into an action bear in mind its possible impact on the aims of the action, and on the local community.

# GLOBALISATION AND THE ARMS TRADE

**THE ARMS TRADE** is the perfect example of how modern international capitalism works. Arms manufacturers, large multinational companies, demand huge favours from their home governments. These include subsidies, export credit guarantees, huge orders from the military and aggressive marketing carried out by Foreign ministries. Yet elsewhere they demand laissez-faire capitalism and unfettered access to foreign markets, usually in the global south.

A study just published by Saferworld puts direct government subsidies at £420m a year just for arms exports. Subsidies for the entire defence industrial base total as much as £4.25bn per year. And schools, hospitals and public transport are portrayed as bottomless money pits that can only be saved by private enterprise?

Arms companies are huge multinationals wielding a great deal of power, especially over their host countries.. It comes as no surprise that the arms trade is exempt from the GATT treaty underpinning the World Trade Organisation. The WTO exists to prevent 'barriers to trade', which usually amounts to overturning measures taken by governments to prevent foreign companies siphoning off their country's wealth. Taking action to safeguard health, education or the environment is out of order, but rampant militarism is okay, it seems.

A major consequence of globalisation is an increase in inequality, both internationally and within nations. This sharpening of divisions will inevitably cause and exacerbate conflicts as people fight for resources and power.

The Peace Research Institute in Oslo looked at the 98 major conflicts (most of them civil wars) between 1990 and 1996. The conclusions they drew make for interesting reading. These conflicts mainly took place in poor countries where the major 'industry' is agriculture. Environmental factors are important, with land degradation and a lack of water being linked to civil war. The links between a country's level of debt and the likelihood of civil conflict is particularly strong.

But that's okay, as it's creating new markets for the entirely moral defence industry.

Ultimately it is force, or the threat of force that keeps power in the hands of the powerful. Amongst the loudest lobbyists for Plan Colombia (a massive package of cash for the Colombian Government, ostensibly to fight the drugs war) have been the companies after the country's oil, not to mention the arms companies that will ultimately

receive the \$1.3bn on offer. It's an open secret that the targets of the Plan aren't drugs cartels but indigenous peoples and left-wing groups.

That threat extends right down into our daily lives. When it comes down to it, the current order of things is backed up by people with big sticks. If you speak out too strongly, strike, question decisions by governments or corporations and don't shut up - the people with sticks will eventually cart you off or beat you down. We've seen it with the miner's strike, Seattle, live animal exports, the roads protests, even the protests against the Chinese premier's visit.

Standing against the violence perpetrated in far-off countries is the same struggle as fighting against the violence at home. Resistance in this country in solidarity with the day to day resistance all over the world will start the process of bringing about lasting change.

**"THE DE FACTO ROLE OF THE US ARMED FORCES WILL BE TO KEEP THE WORLD SAFE FOR OUR ECONOMY AND OPEN TO OUR CULTURAL ASSAULT. TO THOSE ENDS, WE WILL DO A FAIR AMOUNT OF KILLING."**

*Pentagon official Major Ralph Peters, responsible for 'future warfare', writing in 1997.*

# MILITARISM AND WOMEN

**DURING THE WEST** African Women's workshop on Women During and in the Aftermath of Civil War held in Dakar, Senegal between 11-13 December 1998, over and over again, women spoke of the indiscriminate violence in their experiences of wars. They spoke of how wars bring violence to their communities, of how their societies become militarised in civil war and of how the militarisation lingers on afterwards; of the multi-faceted effects of war; of how violence makes life extremely difficult and dangerous for everyone, especially with the diffusion of cheap small arms, and of how often violence is experienced differently by women and men. Ominously, they spoke of how violence against women does not necessarily stop when peace treaties are signed to end the conflict; in fact, violence escalates.

The participants outlined a typology of both explicit and implicit violence to which women are subjected during and after armed conflicts.

### EXPLICIT VIOLENCE

- systematic rape - as a way to dishonour and humiliate, not just women but the entire community of the perceived enemy group, which includes anybody and everybody from a different ethnic or religious background;
- forced pregnancy - to leave the enemy's marker;
- shooting women through the vagina - to render them infertile in order to ensure the final solution by ending the enemy's ability to reproduce;
- cutting open pregnant women and killing the foetus to achieve the same objective;
- forcing children to witness their mothers' rape in order psychologically to destroy them for life;
- gang rape, to ensure the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, as weapons of mass destruction against the enemy;
- physical, psychological and mental torture, which includes the mutilation of women's limbs; sexual slavery; and forced labour by cooking and washing for the military.

### IMPLICIT VIOLENCE, WHICH INCLUDES:

- the systematic destruction of the basic needs of life including homes, food crops, food stores, water boreholes, irrigation systems, bridges, schools and health centres;
- the abandonment of women who are left to fend for themselves and their children as their husbands are either killed or indefinitely imprisoned without charges;
- harassment and intimidation of women by the police, military and militias;
- exposure and vulnerability to opportunistic violence and death in the hands of bandits, rapists, thieves and other criminal elements who are let loose as a result of armed conflict;
- dispossession of women by civilian, military or militia looters;
- discrimination by social and government institutions (denial of access to opportunities and services controlled by government or militias);
- forced prostitution to earn a living as legitimate economic activities are either destroyed or controlled by corrupt civilian/military government or militias;
- silence and/or complicity by government or militia leaders in crimes against women;
- denial of abortion and medical services in pregnancies resulting from systematic rape; and the rejection by their society of women victims of systematic rape along with their children conceived in rape;
- the imprisonment of women of all ages, who are perceived to belong to the enemy group.

