

FB, CARTELLA 1, 13

September 1975

"1974 Dossier",
632 Bookshop,
632 Bristol Road,
Selly Oak,
Birmingham.

Dear MR.

This letter is being sent to a number of people who, we think, may be interested in buying a publication that we have just completed. It is a Dossier of class struggle in 1974: the details follow below. The reason that we are writing to you is so that the 200 copies that we have printed do not just trickle out through the bookshops - but rather that they can go to people with whom it may be possible to develop work in the future, at either the analytic and/or the practical level.

WHAT IS THE DOSSIER?

At the start of 1974 we decided that we would start on a project of documenting developments in the class struggle in Britain. We wanted to do this, first, because many of the lessons and much of the history of the struggle usually pass and are forgotten; and second because we feel that if the revolutionary movement is to arrive at an understanding of the actual way the struggle develops, then this kind of analytic work is a necessity - alongside a revolutionary practice inside the working class.

The contents of the Dossier are a documentation of the struggles of 1974, mainly in Britain, but also abroad. About 400 pages, including other material produced during the year.

The first section (pages 1-22) is an INTRODUCTION which covers some aspects of the class situation in Britain at the start of the year. It is not a general overview of the year. The second section (pages numbered 1-139) is a detailed STRIKE CHRONOLOGY FOR BRITAIN which covers the last 6 months of 1974. Each month has a general introduction about what was happening nationally and internationally in that month, and the Chronology is indexed. This is followed by a CHRONOLOGY OF WOMEN'S STRUGGLES for Britain in 1974, together with an Introduction and general analysis: this is also indexed. Then comes a section on IMMIGRANT WORKERS IN STRUGGLE. This is a reprint of articles from "Race Today" through 1974, and it too is indexed and has an introduction.

Following these is a CHRONOLOGY OF IRELAND - 1974. It was prepared by a journalist comrade not in Big Flame in the course of his work. It has a series of 4-monthly summaries, and a "critical note", written by members of the Big Flame Ireland Commission. It also has a number of appendices on the Irish economy, North and South.

Then there are NOTES ON THE CLASS STRUGGLE IN ITALY, which were prepared by comrades who visited Italy in October 1974; and a CHRONOLOGY OF SPAIN - 1974/5 which includes a general introduction on the state of the workers' movement and the crisis of Franco's regime.

We have also included documents that were produced in the course of the year as part of our attempt to analyse the developing world crisis. These are: NOTES ON AMERICA 1964-74 which is a transcript of a lengthy discussion with a comrade from 'Radical America'; a CHRONOLOGY OF THE OIL CRISIS - a translation of an important article by an Italian comrade - Sergio Bologna, together with an introduction on petrochemicals in Britain; and NOTES ON AGRICULTURE, which is a short look at the situation of world food. All of these represent a unified aspect of the 1974 world power situation as a crisis of US domination.

[PTO.]

WHO WORKED ON IT?

The Dossier has been produced by people in and close to Big Flame, in the course of ongoing work of class analysis. It is not a Big Flame publication as such, and does not necessarily represent the views of Big Flame as a whole. Thus, the Spanish Chronology serves as a possible groundwork for future publications; the Women's Struggle Chronology comes out of the work of the Big Flame Women's Commission etc. And the Irish Chronology combines work done by a journalist comrade with contributions from the BF Ireland Commission. Our hope is that the publication of this material may lead to links and further work together with other people doing similar work.

WHERE AND HOW TO GET IT?

The Dossier has been printed in 200 copies. We shall very likely do a reprint when these are sold out - if we can muster the time, energy and resources. It can be bought direct at Collet's Bookshop, 66 Charing Cross Road, London WC2, or from Rising Free at 197 Kings Cross Road, London WC1.

It can also be ordered by post from 632 Bookshop, 632 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham. The cost of the Dossier is £2.50 (which we regret, but it's necessary, in order to cover costs, printing, mailing costs, and the bookshops' 33% cut). The £2.50 includes mailing costs both for the UK and for overseas.

Cheques for mail order should be made payable to "632 Bookshop", and should be sent with orders. We shall not be putting the Dossier into bookshops until mid-September - so any mail orders that arrive before that can be sure of getting a copy.

We regret that we have only been able to print 200, and that the cost is rather high. We would like to be able to make it more widely available to the revolutionary movement, both in Britain and throughout the world. However, one of the problems here will be money. If you happen to be someone with money, and would like to help us finance the reprint - either through a gift or a loan - please get in touch with us. We are also preparing bound copies which will be available to libraries (colleges and others) at £10 per copy.

ENCLOSED

Finally, ~~we are enclosing with this letter an offprint of the material which will be going into the Dossier, so that you can have some idea of what it's all about.~~ We would welcome discussions/criticism with anybody who is interested in developing this sort of work. We have a particular interest in continuing work on women's struggles in Britain; on the struggle in Ireland North and South; on the political economy of Spain; on the crisis of the world motor industry; and on the development of petrochemicals in Britain and Ireland. Please address any letters to "1974 Dossier" at the above address.

September 1975

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Please send me.....copy/copies of the "1974 Dossier".

I enclose a Cheque/Postal Order for..... (£2.50 per copy for individuals; £10 for the bound library edition. The price includes postage). Cheque/Postal Order made out to "632 Bookshop"

Please send the Dossier to

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