

Editorial

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THE HIJACKERS have all been killed bar one, who is seriously wounded. The tones of rejoicing in the capitalist press of Western Europe are understandable, but disgusting nevertheless. Unit 9 of the German Federal Border Protection Troops has carried out a useful operation for German imperialism. Its name should now be altered as Mogadishu, the Somalian capital, is not yet on the borders of German territory.

As revolutionary marxists we have made it clear on many occasions that we are totally opposed to terrorism as a strategy for the socialist revolution. We would strongly urge readers to read the article by Günter Minnerup on Page 13 of this newspaper. In it he spells out in detail the consequences of such actions. His article, written several weeks ago, has unfortunately become prophetic. Its lessons need to be absorbed by all revolutionaries.

There can be little doubt that the West German state is the most undemocratic of the West European bourgeois-democratic states. The laws on the statute books deny democratic rights to political minorities. The conditions for political prisoners in West German prisons are atrocious. Prisoners are at the receiving end of psychological torture. Now they have also been denied the right to communicate with their lawyers. There are functioning Nazi cells inside the West German army and there are numerous state functionaries and business-people who have in the past been active Nazis. The creation of a proper bourgeois-democratic state was hindered because the 'democrats' regarded the USSR and East Germany as a more serious threat.

The appalling conditions inside the prisons led to the death of Ulrike Meinhof. Her comrades say she was raped and killed by prison guards. The German Judges, no doubt following Nazi 'legal' precedents, refused a post-mortem by independent doctors. Now her friends and collaborators Andreas Baader and Gudrun Ensslin are reported to have committed 'suicide'. Two other political prisoners attempted 'suicide'. We refuse to call this 'suicide'. It is deliberate and cold-blooded murder. The social-democrats who hold power in West Germany today are the guilty ones. Having learned no lessons from history they are paving the way to their own removal and the victory of the most reactionary and backward political groupings in German politics.

We can understand the frustration and despair of many, many young students and intellectuals. We can understand their anger. But we must insist that their methods are wrong. They are nothing else but an extreme version of liberal pressure politics, which, in reality, betray illusions in the ruling classes. Because they believe that an act of terror can pressure the latter into making lasting concessions. This is wrong. It leaves the masses out of the picture. It panders to the absurd view that social revolutions are made by acts of individual heroism or at best by conspiracies and not by the movement of social classes. However angry supporters of the Baader-Meinhof grouping are, they must re-assess their whole operation.

Their actions have only further isolated the entire socialist left from the masses. The portrayal of those who carry out such actions as communists, Marxists and even left-social-democrats is not accidental. It is designed to keep the German working class insulated from the breezes of revolution and socialism which are blowing in France, Spain, Italy and Portugal.

On a more sinister level we have to note another fact. This is the first military operation carried out outside its borders by West German imperialism since the War. It will no doubt give joy to all those who want the West German army [considered to be the most reliable European relay of world imperialist interests] to act as the gendarme of counter-revolution in the West. Mogadishu could well turn out to be a much more significant episode than it appears to be at the moment.