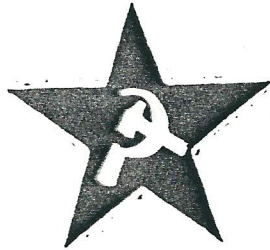


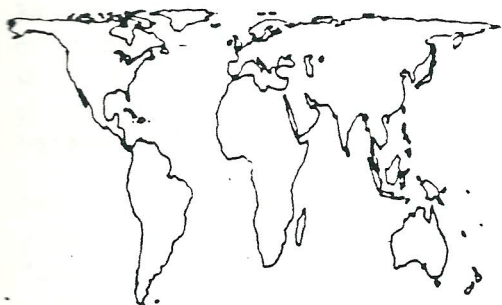
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# **INTERNATIONAL REVIEW**



occasional internal bulletin

**Revolutionary Communist League of Britain**



# INTERNATIONAL REVIEW

----- No. 11 Summer 1991 -----

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This is the eleventh issue of an occasional internal bulletin designed to circulate information on the international communist movement, and the analysis and developments within fraternal organisation.

As with previous issue of *International Review* there may be unacknowledged disagreements with positions expressed, and these articles should not be taken as representing official R.C.L. positions.

## Denmark : Robbing for the revolution ?

At the beginning of May, a Copenhagen court convicted seven former activists of the K.A.G. of offenses including robbery and possessions of arms. The seven received prison sentences of as long as ten years following an eight-month trial. In the absence of other sources of information we reproduce unedited a transcript of a report by Isabella Stasi on the Channel 4 series "Europe Express". It was first broadcast in September 1990 entitled "Robbing for the Revolution ?".

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*Isabella Stasi:* While most of their hippy friends just talked about revolution in the Sixties, seven members of an extreme Maoist group went onto to rob banks to pay for terrorism - at least that is the charge.

This week in Copenhagen they are calling it the trial of the century : seven Danes accused of armed robbery, attempted kidnapping and the murder of a policeman. On the surface they were the pillars of society : middle class men with respectable jobs like Nils (Jorgensen ?), a 36 year old social worker and Carlson (Nielson?), a 37 year old council official. Like most educated Danes that were once dedicated but harmless left-wingers. Now it is alleged the group killed and robbed to support international terrorism.

The revelations have come as a shock to the man who was once their friend and political mentor, Gottfred Appel. [As he says] " I wanted them to oppose US troops in Vietnam and repression in Africa. I didn't expect them to rob, or play soldiers."

*Isabella Stasi:* We tend to think of Copenhagen as one of Europe's most progressive and liberal cities, and the Danes as the broad-minded of Europeans. It's an image mirrored in a small corner of the city, a self-proclaimed hippy state known as *Christiana*.

Nine hundred adults, eighty children and three hundred dogs and thirty-seven horses live here, rent and tax free, but the police and government turn a blind eye. There would be an outcry if this symbol of Danish free-thinking came under threat.

In the sixties, its residents were the vanguard of the Danish Left; hundreds of small political groups were formed: feminists, peace activists, anarchists. Gottfred Appel, a prominent university lecturer at the time set up his own communist group in a house near-by.

*Gottfred Appel:* " It was a great place in its day."

*Isabella Stasi:* Do you think this is where it all began ?

*Gottfred Appel:* " I wouldn't say that, but the group's politics were founded here."

*Isabella Stasi:* Those beliefs were based on Maoism, Mao Zedong was one of the heroes of the sixties and an inspiration for left-wing activists worldwide. Appel visited China at the height of the Cultural Revolution. He returned determined to bring the revolution to Denmark.

*Gottfred Appel:* " I was in Tiananmen Square with a million others. Red Guards marched by, waving Little Red Books. It was a fantastic sight. I could see Chou En-lai, Lin Piao and Chairman Mao. I didn't recognise its political significance."

*Isabella Stasi:* " It was from here [the commune] that Appel and his group promoted left-wing causes. They organised demonstrations against the US presence in Vietnam and picketed cinema's screening American war movies. At a World Bank meeting in Copenhagen, thousands took to the street in protest at the exploitation of the Third World.

In the Seventies, Appel's group took up the Palestinian cause. A crucial turning point came when Appel was summoned to Iraq. In Baghdad, he met members of the PFLP - a radical terrorist splinter group of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation."

*Gottfred Appel:* "At the meeting they asked us a direct question: Do you want to join us in covert operations?"

*Isabella Stasi:* Appel's comrades forced him to make a choice: talk about revolution, or make one? When he rejected violence, the others formed a break-away group. A bitter and resentful Appel was left-out in the cold. The group now called the K.A.G. set up new headquarters and changed tactics.

*Gert Rasmussen, ex-KAG activist recalls:* " We were an illegal group, ready to do anything."

Everything?

*Gert Rasmussen:* "Yes. Everything."

Even Kidnapping and armed robbery?

*Gert Rasmussen:* " Yes. Anything you could possibly imagine. Our leaders gave the orders according to the what the situation demanded."

*Isabella Stasi:* Over the next ten years they allegedly carried out a series of armed robberies including the biggest in Danish history - One million pounds stolen from a Copenhagen post office. A policeman was shot dead during the getaway. The murder made criminal history in Denmark and shocked the nation.

The harmless left-wing activists had grown up into sophisticated criminals. Now it is plain that their profits was sent to the Middle East to pay for terrorism.

*Gert Rasmussen:* "They went too far. It was pure terror. Their motives weren't political at all."

*Isabella Stasi:* The Danish police were out of their depth, they were used to dealing with petty crime not armed robbery. It was not until last year [1989] they got the evidence they needed to bring the group to trial. In a small flat in suburban Copenhagen they found plans for the robberies and enough weaponry to equip a small army: anti-tank rocket launches and landmines. Surely more than would be needed to rob a bank?

*Kurt Olsen, Police Inspector :* " It was a great find. We really don't know what they were used for. Maybe we'll never know."

*Isabella Stasi:* The trial began on Monday and its revelations are astounding a country where the crime rate are among the lowest in Europe. Two of the defendants have now pleaded guilty to carrying out one of the robberies but the others are refusing to talk.

What is being billed as the most complex case in Danish legal history could drag on for up to two years. The prisoners are being held in Copenhagen's high security (Vestvet?) prison. To most Danes they are common prisoners but to some they are deluded idealists. Do you have a message for your former comrades ?

*Gottfred Appel:* " I'd tell them : you should have known better, and let politics play a bigger role. If you'd thought more about your actions, then maybe you wouldn't be in prison today. But I'm sorry you're there, even if you did behave like animals."

