

of construction lorries. We are and have been in solidarity with them, but feel their forms of struggle to be ineffective because they are carried out by a minority which remains estranged from the local population, which considers them to be outside agitators.

3. The Self-Managed Leagues Against the Construction of the Missile Base at Comiso place themselves beyond these two organizations. We have been working on generating discussion on the negative effects of the base and carrying on the discourse of self-management of the struggle begun by the comrades of Catania and Ragusa anarchist groups. We have reached virtually the entire population of Ragusa via over fifty outdoor meetings, tens of thousands of leaflets, and discussions with housewives in their homes, people in the ghetto quarters and village squares, and workers in the factories. We have succeeded in mobilising all the students in Vittorio to attend the trial of three students and six comrades of the Coordinamento, with the result that the repression was defeated and they were all acquitted of the charge of organizing an illegal meeting. All this has taken place over the course of a year of constant and exhausting work, carried out with great effort.

The result has been the formation of Self-Managed Leagues Against the Base in Ragusa, Catania, Palermo, and many of the villages surrounding Comiso. These Leagues have identified the only strategy really capable of preventing the construction of the base -- the peaceful occupation of the Magliocco Airport.

The autonomous, self-managed structure of the Leagues is in the tradition of the struggle of the Sicilian people, and excludes all parties, trade unions, and other organisms of power. As autonomous organisms, the Leagues are of course the points of reference for the masses who will move towards the occupation. We want no more symbolic action, but real deeds -- definitive occupation which will be carried out by the women, the workers, the pensioners, the unemployed, the children, the students, and all those who suffer in first person, beyond the very real nuclear danger, the more immediate consequences of the presence of the base itself.

The Sicilian people have suffered, have been exploited, but they have always had the courage to lift their heads and say ENOUGH! as they did when they occupied the land of wealthy landowners and when in 1945 they faced army and police to say "We are not going to the front!", or when in 1980 they burned the town hall and all the party premises in Palagonia, or when recently, at Gram-michele, they destroyed the village town hall -- direct action without "strategic directions" or political titles.

'All these soldiers in Comiso!'



Our task is to support them and to struggle with them to reach the peaceful occupation of the Magliocco Airport. For this reason it is necessary to support this struggle at all levels. There is urgent need for money to cover the cost of leaflets, a van, and petrol, for making use of donated radio equipment, to print a local bulletin, and anything else that will bring us nearer to the peaceful occupation of the Magliocco Airport and the defeat of the American invaders and their servants.

The AAA received this letter just before its quarterly regional meeting held at the Heathcote Center June 18-19. A collection was taken and has been dispatched to:

Coordinamento della Leghe Autogestite
contra la base missilistica di Comiso,
via Conte di Torino, 1,
Comiso, Italy

The Emancipation Collective has edited this letter for reasons of space.



ANARCHIST ASSOCIATION OF THE AMERICAS

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