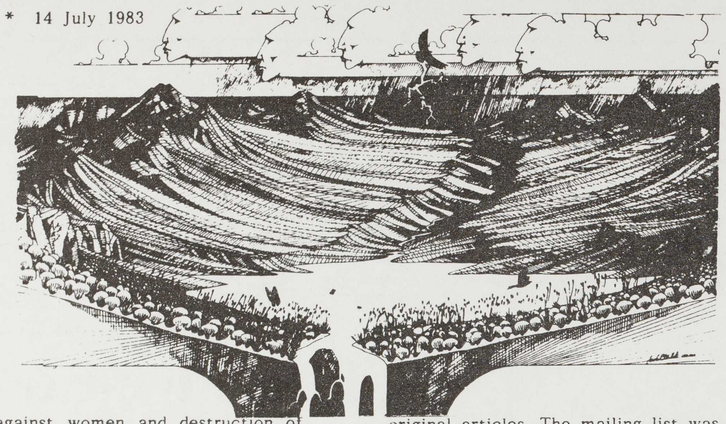

charges, like violence against women and destruction of the environment, are largely being ignored by the media. But not by the State. Surveillances, searches, and interrogation are being used by police across Canada to intimidate and discredit those who speak out openly against the status quo.

In Vancouver, police have harassed people and raided some of the homes of those who have come to the defense of the five, and in Toronto, peace groups have been harassed. The office of a pacifist group, the Cruise Missile Conversion Project, was occupied for two days by the Toronto Metro Police so that they could search through the files. This is a massive police campaign, aided and abetted by the media, to severely restrict open political discussion.

A recent incident in the continuing campaign of political harassment occurred in Toronto on June 13. Armed with a warrant referring to "seditious libel" (a statute that hasn't been invoked for more than 30 years), police raided the home of members of the Toronto Free the Five Group, who are also members of the "Bulldozer" collective. Police seized the newest "Bulldozer" layout, several bags of other materials, and items of personal correspondence.

Following is part of a press release from the Bulldozer collective:

On Monday, June 13th, 1983, the Metropolitan Toronto Police raided our house on Cambridge Ave. as part of the ongoing investigation into the bombing of the Litton Systems Plant outside the city last October. On one level, this is just one of a series of raids which have taken place in Toronto. Unfortunately, there are many indications that this is a definite escalation of the harassment that has been directed against members of the left and activists within the peace movement.

First off, the raid was directly linked to the fact that the local support work for the Five people arrested in Vancouver and charged with the Litton bombing amongst many other charges has been essentially centered in our house. Much of the initiative has come from some of the people living here; we are connected to them politically and personally. We have not tried to deny these links. We support them as friends. And we support them politically because we believe that it is imperative to support political people facing charges stemming from political activity virtually regardless of the charges involved.

The raid also seems to be a direct attack against **Bulldozer.** (For anyone not familiar with **Bulldozer,** it is a magazine written by and for political prisoners, with production and distribution being done by some of the people living here.) We were in the midst of production for issue #6 which was shaping up to be the best issue yet. Seizure of the copy for the new issue was specified in the search warrant. The typeset galleys were taken along with the original articles. The mailing list was also seized.

It was rather a mistake to have the mailing list in our possession. Partially, this was because the mailing list was in shambles and needed a lot of work. It is rather difficult to work on material without possessing it. But more important, after months of precaution since the arrests of the Five last January, we had become less security-conscious than we should have been. Without direct experience in dealing with repression, mistakes will be made because knowledge of counter tactics remain on an intellectual rather than an emotional level. That is, precautions have not yet become second nature. There is also a problem in understanding the relationship between resistance and repression. It is imperative to clearly distinguish between the ego-oriented, over-flowing paranoia that comes from thinking that one is a threat to the state when actually one is of no consequence. And, the other extreme, the false sense of security that comes from thinking that the state will attack only when it has a "legal right to act."

The political offenses listed on the warrant -- and it is important to note that NO charges have been laid along these lines -- are: 1) Seditious libel; 2) Sabotage of Litton. These remain over our heads as potential charges. They could be laid at any time or held off indefinitely.

Needless to say, we had nothing to do with the Litton bombing. We were as surprised as anyone to see the headlines about that action in the morning paper of October fifteenth. What has separated us from many people is that we haven't tried to put as much distance as possible between ourselves and that action. We are neither pacifists nor guerillas. We recognise that armed struggle will be chosen as an option by elements of the resistance; that such militancy is not the result of some pathological or egotistical motives on the part of the revolutionaries is but a reflection of the intransigence of the corporate state.

Having spent some time studying the "Seditious Libel" laws, we remain as confused as ever as to what such a charge would actually mean. Supposedly it is an advocation of the use of force to overthrow the government without proper authority. Now, that hardly clarifies anything at all. If we are guilty then we share that guilt with tens of thousands of other Canadians. The state will be hard-pressed to come up with any written documentation where we have actually called for an armed uprising. This completely reduces and trivializes our politics. Besides, we try to avoid such pointless rhetoric.

One can hardly expect the cops to understand the complexities of anti-authoritarian politics. The bureaucratic malaise within which they operate prevents even the few intelligent cops from understanding the difference between the armed overthrow of the government -- which would accomplish very little -- and the total social transformation of society. The former is a specific series of acts controlled by a small cadre of leaders who seek to substitute themselves for the previous rulers. The latter is a complicated and lengthy process in which all social relations are challenged and transformed by the active participation and creativity of everyone continued over a very long period of time. The political overthrow of the government would be a diversion from an authentic social revolution.

One direct result of the surveillance on us was the laying of four criminal charges on a woman who had no direct participation in the political activities for which the surveillance was supposedly legally justified. The charges are very serious; procuring an abortion, procuring instruments for an abortion, and two theft charges. We protest these charges and are totally outraged by them. The person charged is innocent of any wrongdoing. At the time the charge was laid it was used as leverage to try to gain information on the political activities of others.

In spite of the tensions that have percolated through all of us from the trauma of the raid and its aftermath, we are gaining strength and experience. We are prepared for whatever comes and we will fight on both the political and legal fronts. Financial support is needed to challenge the legitimacy of the search warrants, but especially for the abortion charges. Remember that this woman is suffering persecution because she chose to live with "enemies of the state."

Please send any contributions to Bulldozer, P.O.B. 5052, Station A, Toronto, Ont., Canada M5W 1W4. And remember the Vancouver Five need your support now more than ever.

* * * * *

We need to be aware that when people become politically active, they can be singled out as a source of information and as a scapegoat and warning to others politically involved. As **Bulldozer** explains above, without becoming paranoid, we should learn from these recent harassments of Canadian activists to develop a sensible security consciousness.

Also our most important security should reside in the knowledge that we are not alone, that we are part of a world-wide movement. The support that we give the Five, the Bulldozer collective, and the Self Managed Leagues at Comiso in Sicily (See "Letter from Italy" elsewhere in this issue) increases solidarity and security for us all. To quote from a newsletter of the Free the Five Defense Group, "Many people don't know these individuals or about what has been happening to them, but there are many of us who do. We would like somehow to strike a spark of recognition in all of us that their fate is ours too. We are not separate."

Open Road Spring 1983. Special Report: Trial by Media. Statement from the Five.
Box 6135, Station G.
Vancouver, B.C. U6R 4G5.

Newsletters of Free the Five Defense Group.
P.O. Box 48296, Bentall Station
Vancouver, B.C., Canada. V7X 1A1

Strike February 25, 1983: B.C. Arrests
P.O. Box 284, Main Station
Saint Katherines, Ontario, Canada L2R 6T7

Fifth Estate Spring 1983: Free the Five, Protect the Earth.
4403 2nd Ave., Detroit, Mich. 45201

The Guardian June 8, 1983:
Press Finds Radicals "Guilty" of Bombings
33 West 17th St.,
New York, N.Y. 10011

Letter from Italy

The struggle taking place in Comiso is the acid test for the whole of Europe. On its outcome depends the possibility of carrying out a more general offensive against nuclear arms and militarism in general.

The decision to build a nuclear missile base in Italy was made in December 1970, but the news only began to leak out in the spring of 1981. In August 1981 it was officially announced that a base housing 112 Cruise missiles would be installed at the Magliocco airport at Comiso, in the southeastern Sicilian province of Ragusa.

This nuclear missile base is one of the final links in the chain of American military installations which have over the past few years led to the almost complete militarization of the island. There are at least 22 bases in Sicily. The largest one, at Sigonella, is a support base for the NATO Sixth Fleet based in the Mediterranean, and houses 1000 American soldiers' families in addition to radar posts, arms depots, firing ranges, etc. Fifteen thousand additional American military personnel are now due to arrive in Comiso. Since many of them will bring their families, the total will be at least 20,000, a true invasion.

The significance of a missile base, an army of occupation, and the militarisation of the island is now painfully obvious. Not quite as obvious, perhaps, to those not living this experience directly is the Mafia connection.

The cornering of contracts for the construction of the infrastructure of the base and housing for the army of occupation has brought the largest and best-known Sicilian contractors -- all mafioso -- into action in the area. Already the first mafioso bombings have taken place. These bombings are but the opening of a series which will wind up, as in Palermo and Catania, with extortion rackets and corpses buried in the concrete.

Ragusa has remained, so far, relatively uncontaminated by the Mafia and related phenomena. But already the Mafia is organizing "services" for the invading army: a hard drug market and prostitution.

The Iblea mountains, until now safe from building speculation, are being invaded by the bulldozers beginning construction of bunker apartments for the mafioso "commandants" and the American army bigshots.

This is only a superficial glance at the problems linked to the construction of the missile base at Comiso.

We have said NO to this logic of Mafia, terror, and militarization. There are three forms of struggle going on in Comiso against the construction of the base:

1. The CUDIP (expression of the Italian Communist Party), which seeks the suspension of work until the results of the Geneva conference are decided.

Apart from our insistence on the prevention of the construction of the base, we disagree with this group's dependence on a party and see the ineffectiveness of its tactics.

2. The International Peace Camp is a group of well-meaning people including Catholics, Buddhists, German Greens, pacifists, and non-violent people in general, and the League for Unilateral Disarmament.

While we have not participated in any of their marches, we struggled with them when they went inside the Magliocco Airport, and were alongside the pacifist women in their blockade outside the gates to prevent the passage