



Police

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Letters

Police spies will not stop mass protests

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The police spy we outed last week has now been forced to apologise for infiltrating our group 25 years ago ([Undercover police](#), 24 October). He admits London Greenpeace was a peaceful campaigning group. In the mid-80s, along with our usual environmental campaigning, we supported widespread grassroots opposition to a whole range of state-sanctioned and corporate violence. This included the peace blockades of UK missile bases; the strikes in response to Thatcher's war against union rights; and the popular movement challenging profit-driven cruelty to animals in factory farms and laboratories. Our particular contribution was to try to show the links between issues by launching anti-capitalist protests in the City, and then campaigning against multinational corporations like McDonald's. These are the politics which upset the special branch, the government's political police.

As now, government policies sought to promote corporate interests over the needs of the rest of the population. The police, especially the Met, increasingly employed underhand and violent tactics to implement those policies. Any spies looking for the architects of political violence should have fingered Downing Street and Scotland Yard. In the decades since, the powers-that-be have unfortunately been allowed to continue to pursue their destructive policies, leading to the current economic and environmental crises engulfing the whole planet. The good news is that repressive tactics

will ultimately fail to prevent people seeking change. All around we see the blossoming of new and inspiring mass movements for a better, fairer, greener and more peaceful world.

Albert Beale

London Greenpeace

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