



(B) e. A double delay chain detonating boobytrap should be very effective if timed right and skillfully laid. *First*, is the explosive of a minor charge laid in an upper story damaging the building only slightly. *Then*, after a curious crowd has gathered, a second heavy charge or series of charges go off, seriously damaging or destroying the building and killing or wounding many onlookers.

(C) c. *Electric Iron.*

- (1) Remove bottom plate.
- (2) Insert bulk explosive and electric blasting cap.
- (3) Attach shortened leg wires to power inlet.

These are three separate but typical extracts from the US field manual numbered FM 5-3 land entitled Boobytraps. Particularly unpleasant is the amount of deadly advice given on destabilising civilian life. Picture A and C both describe how to sabotage domestic appliances. The book, in addition explains how to boobytrap sofas, fountain pens, chocolate bars and books – 'a book with an attractive cover is sure to invite examination'. Picture C describes how to murder or maim the maximum number of innocent by-standers.

Duncan Campbell: Teaching terror to the Right

Detailed manuals for home made bombs are now being distributed in Britain by right-wing US-based mercenary groups. At least one London military bookshop is openly selling a set of five comprehensive guides to the manufacture of terrorist weapons ranging from basic Molotov cocktails to home-made napalm and armour piercing shells. The manuals, covering sniping, boobytraps, incendiaries, and improvised munitions, cost just £11 for a set. One – the *Improvised Munitions Handbook* – originally written for US Special Forces, is a miniature manual for mayhem.

Military pundits and right wing politicians endlessly denounce the growth of terrorism and call for increasing curtailment of the Left's political and civil liberties. In fact, terrorism in Britain has subsided to almost nothing – and the few incidents so far this year have been directed exclusively against the Left. Letter bombs sent to the Communist Party and elsewhere were attributed to the neo-Nazi fanatics of Column 88. The availability of military death-and-destruction manuals will provide ready recipes for horror in the hands of such terrorists. Yet Scotland Yard say that they cannot prosecute anyone advertising or openly selling such literature.

Their inability or refusal to act against such open sales contrasts poorly with the police crusade against pornography, by comparison utterly harmless.

The guerrilla manuals – all reprints of

official British or US military manuals, some originally classified – are being sold by Motor Books and Accessories Bookshop, near Trafalgar Square. They are also advertised in a notorious and revolting magazine sold at the same shop. This is *Soldier of Fortune: the Journal of Professional Adventurers* published for mercenaries, and doubtless also scores of military voyeurs. The publishers' political stance may well be guessed from the frequent long and sycophantic studies of 'front line' Rhodesian troops. Past issues have included 'replica' Rhodesian army recruiting posters, giving full details of contact addresses – another affront to decency and, in this case at least, an offence under Section 14 of the Rhodesia Sanctions Order.

Soldier of Fortune operates from a Post Office box number in Boulder, Colorado. The same box number serves as the address for two apparently independent publishers advertising in the magazine, Paladin Press (unconnected with the British Paladin Books) and Phoenix Press. Paladin Press have reproduced wholesale a British War Office publication on sniping, first issued (and classified 'restricted') in 1951. Although the techniques of sniping and assassination can have changed little since then, the Ministry of Defence says that the pamphlet is no longer classified – and that they can do little or nothing to prevent the 'technical breach of copyright' involved in its wholesale US reproduction.

Paladin Press are the suppliers of the four other manuals on sale in London, all prepared originally by the US Army. They include *Improvised Munitions*, a guide to assembling deadly weapons from 'common-place or innocuous' materials. It is dated 1969 and marked 'For Official Use Only', a nicety the publishers readily ignore. It is written and illustrated in the style of handyman magazines: a couple of kitchen items suffice to make plastic explosives; throw in an empty wine bottle, some earth and a drop of petrol and the keen enthusiast can make a 'cone charge' capable of penetrating three or four inches of armour plating. A few bits of wood and metal will make a rifle or small arm: if ordinary ammunition is unavailable, then matches and nails can serve instead. Napalm – a foul weapon invented by US military scientists – can be manufactured from petrol, eggs, animal blood or just about anything else.

It is astonishing that legislation does not prevent the open sale of such a compendium. Parliamentary questions about official inaction to the Home Office, Department of Trade, and Attorney General were tabled yesterday by Robin Cook MP. One way of stopping the sale of home-made bomb manuals would be to prevent their import from the United States. It is unlikely that the same lethargy would be exhibited by the authorities if the same manuals were being offered for sale by British Marxist or anarchist groups.