The new always enters into the world through struggle. For several years now, G8 summits have become points around which protest and insur- rance have crystallised. On demonstrations, in discussions in the camps, and in many of the counter-summits, hundreds of thousands of activists have exposed their collective “bid” in face of the economic and military forces waged by global capital. The size, multiplicity, inter- nationality and radicalisation of the movements is already manifest proof of a new alternative cycle of globalisation from below.

Through street protests, blockades and direct action, the “Red Zones” of imperial power have been attacked and the G8 meetings pushed from major cities to the periphery. The images have changed. The popular adulation by the masses is now a thing of the last millennium. Since the events in G8, the G8 have not in inaccessible luxury hotels far away from the metropolises, behind barbed wire, protected by anti-aircraft missiles and massive police forces. And since the last summit at Glencoe in Scot- land, we are finally sure that the police ‘invitation’ to “sit down together and talk about it” – in this case it being the gigantic propaganda stunt of voluntary debt-forgiveness – is really just a bad joke.

In them something that one could really talk to Tony Blair and George W. Bush about, other than their global wars – and the consequences thereof? Is there anything that one could really talk to the EC’s chief about, other than their racist border regimes – and their consequences? The Mediter- ranean is today Europe’s largest mass grave. Over the last few years, 35,000 people have drowned in their attempt to reach the shores of Europe. No, the World Bank representation will talk to the finance minister, the G8 leaders will consult with their security ministers, they will all discuss with the IMF President and the board members of multinational corporations. They all agree on the fundamental problem. Global command has to be deepened, the power structure strengthen- ed. No, there can’t be no real input from “outside” the sphere of power. Against this the movement of movements can only find its own concepts, publics and practices within which emancipa- tor counter-power and rationality can be articu- lated in the face of capitalist madness.

Bringing Initiatives Together, Mobilising Together

In June this year, the G8 summit will take place in what used to be the palace of the Russian Tsars in St. Petersburg, and in the early sum- mer of 2007 their travelling circus will come to Germany when the “leaders of the world” will come to the Kempinski Grand Hotel in Heiligendamm on the coast of the Baltic Sea in Mecklen- burg-Vorpommern. Is there anything that one could really talk to the “leaders of the world” – and make powerful protests and resistance possible. This is a call to participate in the international mobilisations against the 2006 and 2007 G8 summits. The mobilisation is open to all those committed to:

• A mutual recognition of diverse forms of action and resistance.
• A common front of solidarity and reliance towards others involved with the mobilisation.
• A clear and offensive distancing from both right-populist and right-wing forces.

For a Left Intervention

One of the new aspects of the movement of movements is that it exists solely and through its constituent parts. Groups and individuals constitute this movement; but not all in the same way, not through common forms of action, protest or or- ganisation, but through a common program. Of course, the essence of this movement lies not in a kind of competition – where every “Party” does its own thing and seeks to transform all the others into their four-siders, or into macro-speculators – but rather does it in mutually existing side-by-side. Its essence, rather, lies in seeing in movement a real social alternative: another world. An anti-capitalist, anti-imperialist, anti-racist, anti-authoritarian alternative. It is neither a matter of patiently negotiated common positions, nor of a politically correct fundamental statement of the alternative, nor-regional critique of capitalism. It is a matter of counter-power in movement in the “preparation”, in the mobilisation, in the moment of direct delegitimation of the imperial bloc during the G8 meeting, and of course and especially – in the time which follows, in the maximum number of plans, day by day.

Whether or not the intervention will be “left”, or even “radical left”, will depend on whether or not it will have seized the opportunity to put this counter-power into motion.
Another World is already there!

Seattle, Genoa, Heiligendamm...

There are days during which, over the course of a few hours, a rupture occurs. November 30th 1999 was precisely such a day. In Seattle, tens of thousands blocked the World Trade Organization (WTO) ministerial conference breaking the backwaters of negotiations amongst the global managerial elites. Although Seattle may at first appear as an isolated news item, what is illustrated was that, through cooperation amongst social movements, another world could be made visible - again - only symbolically and for a few hours.

In the years preceding Seattle, not much was heard about this other world – in part because people didn’t want to listen. Margaret Thatcher set the tone, declaring “There is no alternative”. Exactly 15 years before Seattle, in 1984/85, the British Conservative Party succeeded in driving a nationalistic rail strike. For a whole strike, the strikers had received their wages. The eventual defeat of the strike – brought about through violence: 20,000 miners were injured, 15,000 arrested, 200 imprisoned; 2 killed and a further 3 died gathering coal during the winter – represented the end of an epoch for the entire workers’ movement. Game which had been won through decades of struggle, from social security benefits to pension funds, was slowly whitewashed away and almost every nationalised industry was privatised bit by bit. Great Britain became Europe’s laboratory of neoliberalism.

Breakdown and Re-emergence

In the years which followed, however, it was not only the British trade union movement that was to become a thing of the past. Across the entire world, the state and parties of “really existing socialism” took a back seat. The fragile, hitherto indestructible, base the collapse of the liberation movements of the Global South, the subsequent privatisation of already in government – and, finally, of Western socialist democracies. This movement of dissolution also affects the social movements and every organisation of the left, including the groups and syndicates of the autonomous left. The resulting paradoxes appeared complete, until its eventual startling on that day in Seattle. It is here, not in the breakdown of the WTO negotiations, that the real significance of Seattle lies.

All of a sudden, it became clear to everyone that social movement – the Zapatistas in Chiapas, the landless movements in Brazil and India, the maestros and peaceful strikes which were fought out in Korea and France in the mid-1990s – had never actually ended. After Seattle came the mobilisations against the summits in Prague, Gothenburg and Genoa, followed by the social fora and other gatherings of the autonomous left, on the all continents and in many countries. On February 16th 2001, millions – more than ever before on a single day – demonstrated against the world around the US in Iraq, due to begin only a little later. Germany saw two demonstrations in which hundreds of thousands took part. The same number of people demonstrated for a whole summer against the Social Democrats/Green Party government’s neoliberal Agenda 2010. In Latin America, one neoliberal regime after another is being replaced by governments that – at least theoretically – presents themselves as “this other world”. And even in Germany, both the neoliberal party blocs suffered defeat in the 2005 general election. This other world of which we talk, however, is nothing other than this world, the world remaining nothing but that which the history of social struggles makes of it. But what is that defines this alternative cycle of globalisation? Two things were new in Seattle and in Genoa: first, the composition of the struggles and those in struggle, and second, the communication within the struggle and the communication of struggles – the immediate, global recognition and impact of local actions. Transnational and autonomous activists, maus and feminists, NGO functionaries and the Street Action Network, Via Campesina put activists from all over the world, the AVP, the new wave of collective from San Francisco, organisations of migrants from Latin America and therefore all demonstrated together in Seattle. It became a distant worldwide event, and for precisely this reason began a process that continued in Prague, Gothenburg, Genoa, Porto Alegre and many other places. Herein lies the possibility of the new world that we can count on – because it already exists. These new features, of course, are the product of transformations within the globalised capitalist mode of production, which in turn is also related to the global extension of the networks of imperial authority – a phenomenon which is also an important aspect of the post-Seattle era: September 11th, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the terror of war against Iran.

Movement of Movements

The movement of movements which became visible for the first time in Seattle is not “this” movement and is certainly not a party, even if parties can play a role within it. It is also a movement for diversity as such – in other words, for difference which, in turn, creates identity. Somewhere between total unity and total diversity, this movement has the capacity to grasp new directions through the use of new media – which of the internet is much a part as the social fora. But beyond the subversion of the old forms of communication, the cycle of movements since Seattle has also shown one thing: the localised democracies of Empire, irrespective of their forms and means, can only become loci of social counterpower if the movements go beyond maintaining their largely decentralised and spontaneous character and the protecting of their heterogeneous struggle, and move towards engaging with each other in a way which allows for effective political organisation. To reject all forms of organisation – on the basis of a false understanding of the history of the left and its defeats – and to only focus on a movement politics that cannot go beyond the individual and its isolation is as dangerous as any opposite; namely, the assumption of each political group, cell, or organization unto itself to already have the correct answer to the world they are trying to organise into. Other relations of communication and movements and struggles. This implies a different relationship between movement and organisation – they are not in contradiction, but neither can they form a unity. In turn, this constitutes a new challenge for the organisations that take part in the movement: there must never again be a Party which could claim to be its “parliamentary wing” or, even worse, its vanguard. Presuming that the movements can avoid defect from within, such attempts at capture would necessarily condemn their author and everything that succeeds, would fundamentally change the character of the movements from becoming that which they are not: a state.

Composition of the Struggles

But the movements have also inherited a workload from the time before Seattle. For the other world in which these movements are making possible, not yet based in vocabulary, with which to name and constitute its projects and its alternatives as previous movements had republican, democratic, socialism, communitarian, the race association of free individuals. The issue, however, is less whether they themselves are the conflicts, confrontations and debates about alter- native individual and collective expressions which in alternative can be told in everyday life – in which there can also be a practical break with the status quo. Such breaks can even be seen in definative struggles which, although only tem- porary, already constitute life itself and pathways and passages into another world. If such a language is to be taken into everyday life – not only in terms of the internet, but also wherever it is possible, then in the world that is not capitalist, imperialistic, patriarchal, or into a world that is radically for all that are not any more; the world that is not any more.

The story so far... …but so near the protests.

The mobilisation against the G8 summit on Germany’s Baltic Sea has begun. In diverse groups and movements – from the radical to the environmental, peace and anti-racist movements to the established NGOs and the Left Party/Party for Democratic Socialism (Linkspartei/PDS) – plans are being made.

At the end of March, the First Action Conference against the summit took place in Erfurt, in the federal state of Thuringia. The Left Party/Party for Democratic Socialism (Linkspartei/PDS) – plans are being made. Representatives from last year’s anti-G8 demonstrations announced that they would continue the protests in St. Petersburg spoken on the conference: A counter-summit movement with the aim of mobilising critical discussion during the demonstration in the plenary and in the various working groups. The Left Party/Party for Democratic Socialism (Linkspartei/PDS) – plans are being made. Representatives from last year’s anti-G8 demonstrations announced that they would continue the protests in St. Petersburg spoken on the conference: A counter-summit movement with the aim of mobilising critical discussion during the demonstration in the plenary and in the various working groups. The Left Party/Party for Democratic Socialism (Linkspartei/PDS) – plans are being made. Representatives from last year’s anti-G8 demonstrations announced that they would continue the protests in St. Petersburg spoken on the conference: A counter-summit movement with the aim of mobilising critical discussion during the demonstration in the plenary and in the various working groups. The Left Party/Party for Democratic Socialism (Linkspartei/PDS) – plans are being made. Representatives from last year’s anti-G8 demonstrations announced that they would continue the protests in St. Petersburg spoken on the conference: A counter-summit movement with the aim of mobilising critical discussion during the demonstration in the plenary and in the various working groups. The Left Party/Party for Democratic Socialism (Linkspartei/PDS) – plans are being made. Representatives from last year’s anti-G8 demonstrations announced that they would continue the protests in St. Petersburg spoken on the conference: A counter-summit movement with the aim of mobilising critical discussion during the demonstration in the plenary and in the various working groups. The Left Party/Party for Democratic Socialism (Linkspartei/PDS) – plans are being made. Representatives from last year’s anti-G8 demonstrations announced that they would continue the protests in St. Petersburg spoken on the conference: A counter-summit movement with the aim of mobilising critical

The precise date of the G8 summit at the sea resort of Heiligendamm currently remains unknown. The press are reporting that the summit, which normally takes place in summer, will be held or earlier in 2007.
The police are already preparing themselves for a huge operation in the early summer of 2007. The Head of Police in Rostock, Krist Abroumzous, has been heading the operation since January 2006. Surveillance has increased around the Kempinski Hotel, and anyone walking in the area considered to be potentially "suspicious" is being watched. Several people have already been banned from the area.

The state of Mecklenburg-Vorpommern is governed by a coalition between the Social Democratic Party (SPD) and the Left Party (PDS). On the one hand, the Left Party has passed a number of clear resolutions to actively participate in the summit protests and to form coalitions with other political groups and movements. On the other, the question of their “ability to govern” is at stake. Pomm’s residents find themselves in a situation where they are made aware of the potential for an interventionist left, which they will not be able to bank on or being little support for the protests from the local population.

Local Activity

Initiatives and coalitions—from trade unions to anti-fascist groups—are already getting active against the G8 and involved in nationwide networking processes. If the national and international mobilisation against the summit is planned and implemented whilst working closely with local activities—and if the connections between capitalist globalisation, the G8, and the police and the left are not maintained, the residents of Medelgendorf will not be able to bank on or being little support for the protests from the local population.

Genoa and Seattle were successful summit mobilisations that have long since found their way into the collective memory of the globalisation-critical movement. But both before and after these events, there have been protests and resistance when the power of the world has met. Groups and individuals who are today active in the Interventional Left (EL) network were amongst those who participated in these protests—sometimes with more, and sometimes with less success. There we speak to some of them—Podemos Shaker of the activist Coordination Committee, the authors’ collective Selbststrom who, in an earlier incarnation, were active against the World Economic Summit in Munich in 1992, Rainer Schmidt, today of the Cologne ‘Radical Left, the Anti-fascist Left Berlin (ALB), and the Pba (For a Left-Wing Current) International Solidarity Working Group—and compile some of their experiences, motivations and conclusions.

World Economic Summit Munich 1992

In the run up to the summit, quite a few people think that the only thing that can be achieved in Munich is a peaceful protest and arrest. Although the freedom to act is restricted by the approximately 20,000 participants in the run up to the summit there do exist some who remain active against the G7 and involved in nationwide networking processes. If the national and international mobilisation against the summit is planned and implemented whilst working closely with local activities—and if the connections between capitalist globalisation, the G8, and the police and the left are not maintained, the residents of Medelgendorf will not be able to bank on or being little support for the protests from the local population.
Summit Protests in Russia
The St. Petersburg Summit will not be peaceful
When, from 15th to 17th July this year, the heads of state of the eight most powerful industrialised nations come together in St. Petersburg, the conditions for protest and resistance at first seem quite unique.

First of all, despite playing host to the summit, Russia is not a full member of the G8. That Russia was granted entry into the club of the powerful all at once has to do with its economic strength than with its function as an important member of the European Union. To-date, Russia's influence on G8 policy remains modest. It is for this reason that the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, is his summer's G8 meeting not only to polish Russia's image as a supplier of raw materials, but also to give added weight to his demands for full G8 membership. Since the role of Russia in the G8 will always also be in the foreground in the meeting at St. Petersburg, the Russian elite is placing a lot of emphasis on projecting a positive image abroad.

Secondly, truly anti-summit protest is relatively rare. Russia is confronted with new combinations of state-managed protests, and forms of demonisations that have never before occurred before. The people from the VAAAG (Alternative, Anti-capitalist and Anti-war Village) in Munich, when the 11th September, were a turning point for the movement. In addition, demonstrations are planned the daily meetings and common action. We also have in Stirling, which we lovingly called “hippy-ville. ”

At the same time, we criticise the isolation of the different protest formats. For example, G8-Alternative organised a big counter-summit and parallel to this, in the same day, the discussion of the Dissent network took place. Why don't we find common points for discussion? Why were we left position or of positions of the Power & History March? And why did left anti-G8 groups organise the main day of action together? Why were there so attempts to better coordinate media work? 

Secondly, anti-summit protest in Russia against the G8 and the demonstrations against the summit in St. Petersburg will be not only a festival of political performances, but also a means of resistance against the G8. The protests, in particular, the protests against the G8 are build upon links formed during the protests in Genoa. Following the themes of the 2006 G8 summit, our net will be actions in which we are to continue the struggle in the upcoming actions. In St. Petersburg there will be a big action on July 15th.

Other protest actors expected in St. Petersburg come from the mobilising around the Russian Social Forum. In the summer of last year, almost the entire left, including members of the Communist party and anarchists, participated in the Forum. The anarchists have been mobilising for a while against this year's G8 summit and have already invited people to participate in the protests through a number of call outs and recently at an international preparatory meeting in Kiev.

During the summit, the demonstrators in Russia against the G8 and the demonstrators in Russia against the summit in St. Petersburg will be not only a festival of political performances, but also a means of resistance against the G8. The protests, in particular, the protests against the G8 are build upon links formed during the protests in Genoa. Following the themes of the 2006 G8 summit, our net will be actions in which we are to continue the struggle in the upcoming actions. In St. Petersburg there will be a big action on July 15th.

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Activities of the “Networks Against G8” in Russia, Elbaon, Estonia, Russia, UK, Poland, Germany and Great Britain participated in the Kiev meeting and planned the days of action against the summit. According to the “call-out” deployed, both the anti-autoritarian protestor will probably begin in Moscow attempting to forge links in the run-up to the days of action in St. Petersburg, and to build together the upcoming actions. In St. Petersburg there will be big action on July 15th.

On the Frontline: Resisting the 2005 G8 summit at Gleneagles in Scotland.
A new website about the mobilisation against the G8 summits in Munich has been set up by a group within the International Left (IL). It is: http://m7.strassenpott.de The site, which is developing a very rich and complex website, includes information about the different protest formats, and actions, along with interviews, background texts and all information available at: http://2006.glennagles.org/. Email contact can be made with the IL via: il7@2006.glennagles.org.

The website set up by G8-Infoportal (www.g8-infoportal.de), http://www.g8-infoportal.de, after the 2001 G8 summit, which gives information about what has been discussed at the conference – which include: the G8, the state and security; migration and colonisation; Globalisation and the Internet. For links to the anti-G8 Info-Tour can also be found here.

A variety of protest formats mentioned the last years of to different groups belonging to the radical left have already taken place in the different countries in the US and in Britain and in Leipzig in early 2006. When the mostly coming from Dissent! and People's Global Action (PAGA). People's Global Action (PAGA) (http://www.peoplesglobalaction.org/) is a network of groups focusing on different aspects of the mobilisation. It is open to anyone who wants to participate in the preparation on the protests for the coming G8 summits. The emphasis is upon Dissent!, but there is also information about the 2007 G8 summit to be held in St. Petersburg in Russia.

More about the 2006 G8 summit in St. Petersburg: the Communist party of Russia and anarchist groups.

On 14th July 2006, a Global Day of Action is planned in support of the protests in Russia. During the summer of 2007, there will definitely be some action in the countries around St. Petersburg, including a 2007 conference in St. Petersburg to look for news, facts and information for action in Mechelnburg-Vorpommern. There you can also find (in German) a map and long list of news stories about the summit and the preparations in Meck-Pomme. Check out the stories under the heading “Steffen Mittepunkt der Welt” (To be at the centre of the world’s) www.links-lang.de.0383.02.

The anti-Nato Border networks, together with local migrant and refugee groups, are planning a day of action against the 2007 summit under the motto “Freedom of Movement” and “Taped Rights.” More information can be found at http://medien铭记.de or feel free to e-mail info@camp06.org.

An international camp, “Camp-ink” (a wooden pole on top of which we can see the logo “dissentsummit.com” for information) will be held from 10th to 15th July 2005 2006 in Welteggersee near the Baltic Sea. The motto of the camp will be “For Global Social Rights and a Differently Different Europe.” More information can be found at: www.camps.org or info@camp06.org.