

BE SILENT ABOUT (THE) TERRORISTS - LIVE AS IF THEY DON'T EXIST

1. This paper is about terrorists. Terrorism as such doesn't exist. This is the first step we have to do, to be able to cope with the phenomenon. This paper is about something which happens between human beings. When we forget that, when we speak about terrorism, not seeing the humans behind it, we are already coping with an insolvable problem.
2. Terrorists try to provoke terror in other people, in us. They have their rationalisations why they do it. They fight for an united, socialist Ireland. They fight that Northern Ireland stays British. But these are always rationalisations. The goal of terrorists is to provoke terror in others making them without an own will, without the possibility to make decisions, to make them manipulable for the goals of the terrorists.
3. In culture rites time and again ended in a total chaos, out of which the new society, the renewal of the old one, was born. By provoking terror, terrorists are provoking this chaos. There is knowledge in all of us, as old as culture itself, that a new world is only possible when the old one disappears exactly in this chaos. This knowledge, in the end, is driving terrorists forward. In fact they don't know what they are seeking. Eventually they agree that the rationalisations are not the real goals. They are reaching out for a new world, a new earth, a new heaven.
4. Terrorists bring a relationship between them and their victims, the persons in which they wish to infuse terror. Terror as such does not really exist. It is an abstraction. Terrorists bring themselves in a relationship with other people, in which these others are totally dependent on the terrorists. They are absolutely "down", the terrorists absolutely "up".
5. As soon as we are in this down-position, we become extremely frightful. We are panicking. These are very strong emotions. Because we are always in the mimesis with each other, the more so when the emotions are less rational, when we are less able to cope with them, terror, which is in fact possessing us, is very contagious. We, becoming afraid of the terrorists, because we are so down are the best propagandists of terrorists. They need not do, as soon as terror is there, anything more. We individual people, public agencies, the media, are doing their work.

When we use the formula: the force of the mimesis = the mass, divided through the square of the distance, then too it is clear that the impact of terrorists upon us is enormous. The mass, which means the emotions, is very, very strong. Because of the media, the distance is zero. So we are all immerged in our emotions, in our fears, when we don't do anything, when we simply are the victims, being passively manipulated.

6. Terrorists can't be terrorists without people who agree to be terrorised. If we all refuse to be terrorized, if we don't react on their actions, there is no terrorism and terrorists very quickly will stop their actions.
7. To say the same in another manner: When terrorists threat, with words and actions, they only succeed when we give them an entrance into our person, our being. When

we deny them this, when we only stay with ourselves in our own world, outside of the world of the terrorists, they can't be terrorists any longer.

8. Of course it is very difficult indeed to stay free of terrorists when you meet them and their actions, when you are alone. Their "mass" is very big. The mass of one person mostly very small. And nevertheless, even one person can shut out all terrorists and so all fear, when he has a security, with which he lives, which makes him independent of all threat. But, of course, it is very important to increase the "mass" of all those, who decide not to give into the terrorists, who decide to stay free of the fears, of the chaos in their surroundings, to exclude the chaos out of their lives.
9. So it is of paramount interest that very many persons, private persons and persons responsible for institutions decide to go together, to deny the terrorists their results, in fact to ignore them.
10. Certainly this has to be learnt. We are so accustomed to react on terrorists, it has become our normal habitués. Time and again we will have to remember.
11. To give some examples of what has to be done if we really wish to be impressed by terrorists, not to become their victims and so their weapons against our own society and culture:
 - 11.1 We all live as if terrorists don't exist. Not out of opportunism, as so many people in Northern Ireland do, but in an inner certainty. When we are certain, all of us, that terrorists don't exist, in fact they don't exist. They only exist as long as we accept that they exist. We only exist in each other. For us there is no existence outside of the other human beings. This is true too for terrorists.
 - 11.2 We stop to be curious about terrorists. We don't wish any longer to get information about what is happening in that "scene".
 - 11.3 The media stop to mention anything about terrorists. Their rationalization is, time and again, that people have a right to be informed. I am rather sure that even if it is meant, it is a rationalization to, to act out, at the cost of everybody and culture, their own fascination, in which terrorism brings the media-people. They are fascinated by everything new. They are fascinated in the square by news from terrorists. Instead of, they bring the really interesting news about Northern Ireland, about life in the province, economical developments. Growing peace between groups and so on.
 - 11.4 The R.U.C. stops totally to give interviews after acts of terrorists and to publish communiqués. The R.U.C. at last becomes again what it was and should be, the unseen and unremarked defenders of persons and culture, without any humbug, without making itself important at the cost of its real task. (And, of course, the R.U.C. doesn't exist either. It is about people serving in the R.U.C.
 - 11.5 The government, and all lower authorities as far as they have a task, does it work regarding terrorists and terrorist organizations (trying to prevent that weapons come into the country, draining the finances and so on) without ever publicizing about hunts, achievements and so on. Of course measures, which have to go through parliament, are public, but not what is actually done and results. Of course the same

applies to the R.U.C. Terrorists who are murderers, burglars should as such, if possible, be arrested. But no publicity. No howls of victory.

12. It is clear: Much thinking has still to be done. And yet I suppose here are very important possibilities to get rid of terrorists. To give terrorists the possibility to become normal people again, normal as far as we are normal ourselves.