

AFTEK 15.10.84 Black Flag

## VENICE OBSERVED

The Pinelli Centre for Social Studies in Milan organised a week-long conference at Venice during the last week of September. A huge marquee in one square housed an exhibition on Anarchist movements and showed videos while another square was taken over by the gathering of some 3000 anarchists from all over the world. There was a bookstall overflowing with international libertarian literature; information and meeting tents and a street theatre. The BBC TV turned up the first day but when they found there was nothing sensational

to film they left - despite the frantic attempts of the French and Italian press to describe punks sleeping and making love in the squares.

The Black Flag/DAM contingent of four had many emotional reunions or first time meetings with friends of many struggles from the Spanish War to the First of May Solidarity Movement; or ex-prisoners for whose release we worked; and there were many animated discussions with comrades everywhere.

But the conference (in the Continental sense - it was not a 'congress') was

not an unqualified success. As predicted the lectures (one could hardly call them discussions) at the School of Architecture (taken over for the occasion) revealed a clear-cut division between live anarchism and a putrid, largely academic, libertarianism (whether 'capitalist' or 'communist').

A more comprehensive analysis will subsequently be published in a future issue. The need for a definite break between the anarchists and the 'libertarian' ringers is apparent.

A.M.

Black Flag Page Five