1

TECHNICAL INFORMATION
about the organisation of the symposium

ARRIVAL

The participants meet in Christiania on FRIDAY, 20th MAY in the afternoon.
From the Town Hall Square (near Central Station) you take bus 8 (direction: Bodenhoffs Plads or Refshaleøen) to the church with the spiral tower (see map 1). From here you walk 50 metres to the main entrance of Christiania.

CHECK IN

Check in will take place in The Rainbow House (the house with the fabulous wall painting that you see on the post-card) from noon till 7 p.m.
If you are late call us by telephone (number below).

FEE

At the reception desk you pay your fee (as mentioned on application form) and get registered. At the same time you get

SLEEPING-PLACE

information about your sleeping-place in Christiania during the symposium.
In The Rainbow House you can have coffee or tea.

DINNER FRIDAY

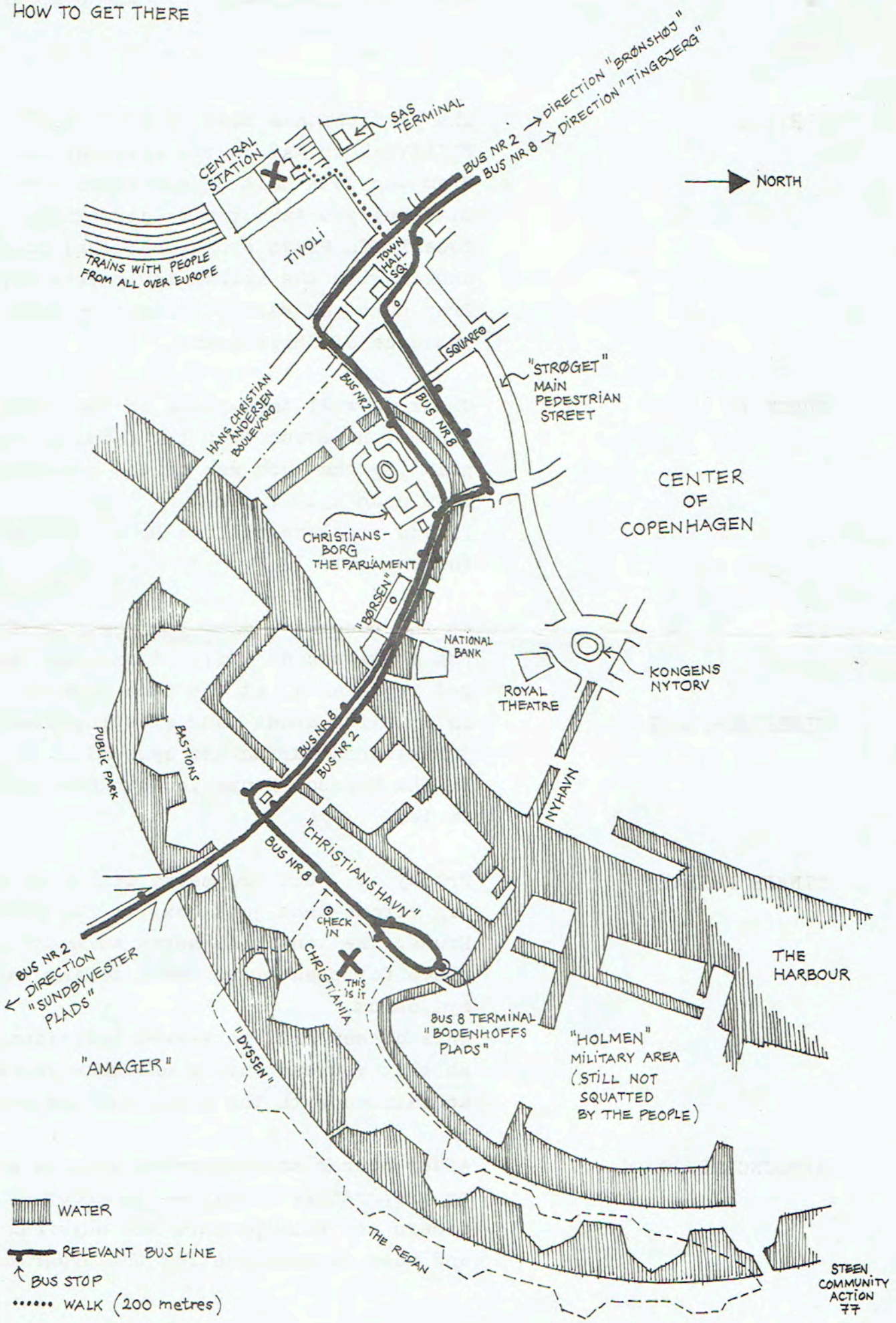
Friday at 7 p.m. we serve dinner in the big circus-tent just next to The Rainbow House. The tent will serve as meeting-place for plenary sessions during the symposium.
This dinner will be served individually so that you can rotate and make yourself acquainted with the place and the people.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

After dinner announcements will be given by preparatory committee (a group of organisers who will prepare the physical frame and make suggestions for the programme).

MAP 1

HOW TO GET THERE



PARTY

The announcements will be followed up by an improvised party (bring your own instruments).

GUIDES

Participants who have not yet been able to find their sleeping places (Christiania is sometimes complicated) will be guided to there - whenever they feel like.

HOSTS

The participants will be installed in houses in Christiania. This will give you the opportunity to take part in Christianias daily-life in your time-off.

MEALS

All meals will be provided by the organisers (including you) but you can choose to have breakfast with your home-group.

SATURDAY MORNING

The opening session will take place in the tent on Saturday at 10 a.m.
Details about breakfast will be included in Friday's announcements.

SELF-HELP

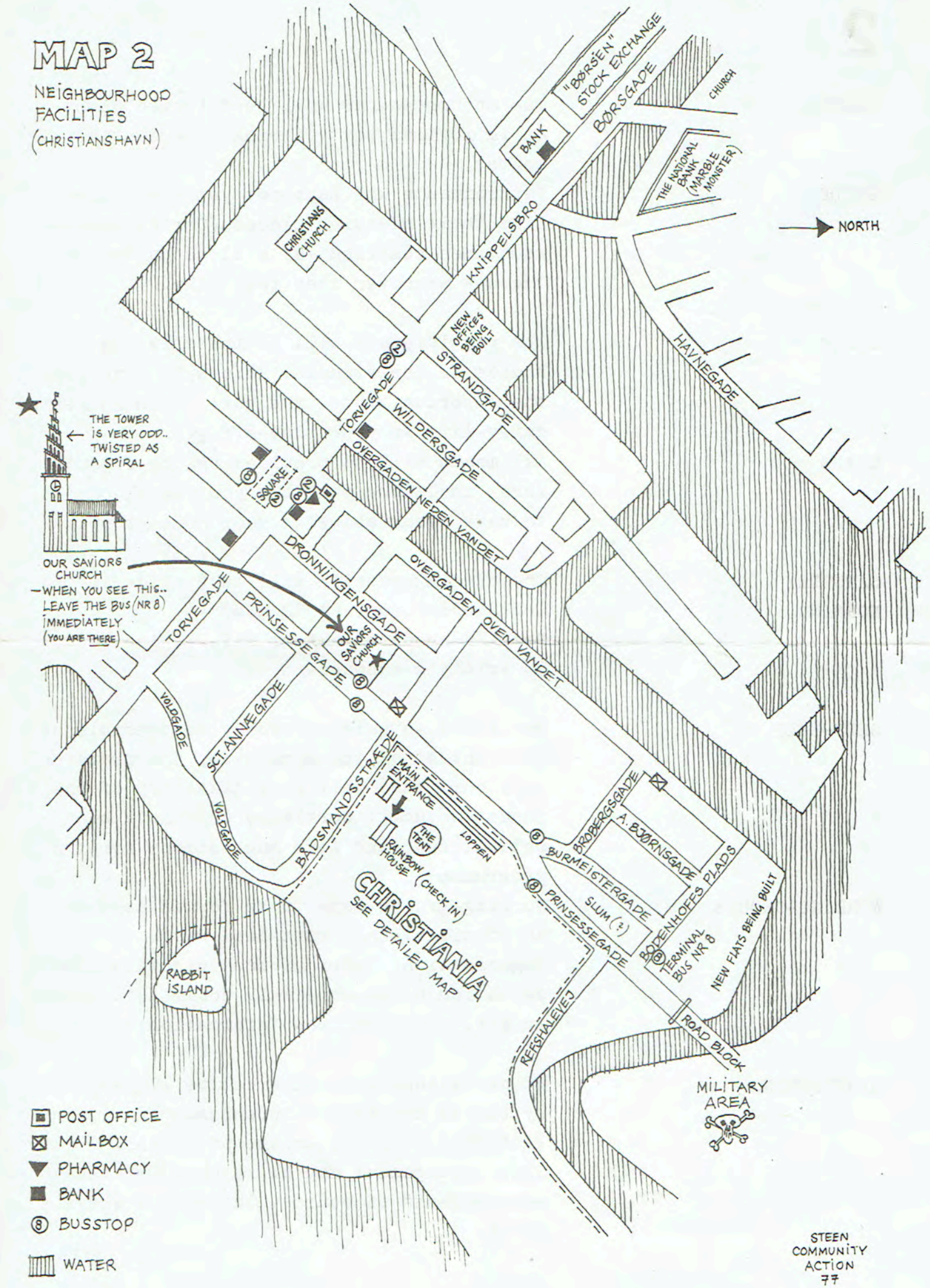
We intend to hold everybody responsible of the content of the symposium. The preparatory committee will only take care of basic functions until working-groups have been established (and give suggestions for the programme).

WORKING-GROUPS

Working-groups have to be formed as soon as possible. They must deal with:
Organisation, internal communication, presentation of AV-material, cooking, cleaning up etc. (See: Rainbow Information).

SIGHTSEEING

We are planning an alternative sightseeing by bus in and around Copenhagen on WEDNESDAY 25th MAY in the afternoon.
This arrangement may be rejected by the participants of course, but we are working on it.


MAP 2
NEIGHBOURHOOD FACILITIES (CHRISTIANSHAVN)
"BØRSEN" STOCK EXCHANGE
BØRSGADE
CHURCH
BANK
THE NATIONAL BANK (MARBLE MONSTER)
NORTH
CHRISTIANS CHURCH
KNIPPELSBRO
NEW OFFICES BEING BUILT
HAVNEGADE
STRANDGADE
TORVEGADE
WILDERSGADE
OVERGADEN NEDEN VANDET
THE TOWER IS VERY ODD.. TWISTED AS A SPIRAL
SQUARE
DRONNINGENSGADE
OUR SAVIORS CHURCH
—WHEN YOU SEE THIS.. LEAVE THE BUS (NR 8) IMMEDIATELY (YOU ARE THERE)
OUR SAVIORS CHURCH
TORVEGADE
PRINSESSEGADE
OVERGADEN OVEN VANDET
VOLDGADE
SCT. ANNÆGADE
BÅDSMANDSSTRÆDE
MAIN ENTRANCE
THE TENT
RAINBOW HOUSE (CHECK IN)
LOPPEN
CHRISTIANIA
SEE DETAILED MAP
RABBIT ISLAND
BRØBERGSGADE
A. BJØRNSGADE
BURMEISTERGADE
SLUM (:)
PRINSESSEGADE
BODENHOFFS PLADS
TERMINAL BUS NR 8
NEW FLATS BEING BUILT
REFSHALEVEJ
ROAD BLOCK
MILITARY AREA
POST OFFICE
MAILBOX
PHARMACY
BANK
BUSSTOP
WATER
STEEN COMMUNITY ACTION
77

3

LANGUAGE

The main language of the symposium is English. Interpretation can be provided among friends if necessary.

WHAT TO BRING

Remember to bring along:
Sleeping-bag
Working-clothes
Warm clothes (might be useful)
Slides, photos, tapes, books, posters...
Music instruments

MAILING ADDRESS

The mailing address is still:
COMMUNITY ACTION
Dronningensgade 14
DK 1420 Copenhagen

TELEPHONES (INPUT)

Two telephones will receive messages during the symposium. Dont expect to have questions answered on these telephones.
Input messages will be written on scraps of paper and brought to participants as soon as possible.
From noon till 6 p.m.: 546598 (Rainbow H.)
6 p.m. till 10 p.m.: 572228 (Blue House)
If you call from outside Denmark
dial 451 before the number
("45" for Denmark and "1" for Copenhagen).

QUESTIONS

If you have important questions about the technical organisation you can get in touch with people from the preparatory committee on the mailing address or
by telephone (451) 579357
from noon till 1 p.m. every weekday up to the start of the symposium.

SUMMERTIME

Denmark has no time-correction during the summer (as in some other European countries).

MAIN ENTRANCE
PRINSESSEGADE
"LOPPEN" (FLEE-MARKET)
BÅDSMANDSSTRÆDE
SHOP FOR MANUFACTURE
HERE YOU CHECK IN:
RAINBOW HOUSE "INFO"
NEWS-STAND
BOOKSHOP INFORMATION CAFE TELEPHONE
THE TENT MEETING PLACE PLENARY SESSIONS
THE DISTRICTS WITHIN CHRISTIANIA
"DYSSEN"
THE BRIDGE
WATER
MAIN ENTRANCE
MAIL BOX
DETAIL
SHOP
EXIT
CHECK IN: RAINBOW HOUSE
"INFO"
TELEPHONE
THE TENT HEADQUARTER FOR COMMUNITY ACTION 77
MUSIC
"OPTIMISTEN"
"ROSENHAVEN"
TELEPHONE BOX
NORTH
"FREDENS ARK"
"BARAK"
LAWN ("FREDENS ENG")
BAKERY
"TINGHUS"
RESTAURANT "FELLESKØKKEN"
PSYAK BUILD.
TOILET
BAR OPERA
GARDENS
"PSYAK"
BUS STOP
EXIT
SQUARE OF THE RED SUN
WATERFRONT
"HOTEL"
ENERGY WORKSHOP
"WOOD-STOCK"
BAR
LAWN
"DEN GRÅ HAL" THEATRE
STORE
MUSIC
"GLASHUSET"
"LADYLAND"
"NOVA"
VEGETABLES TO BUY
"THE MILKY WAY"
"SOLVOGN"
"KARLSVOGN"
TOILET
"FABRIKKEN"
BAR
CINEMA
"BLÅ HUS"
REFSHALEVEJ
"GRØNNE HAL" WORKSHOPS
"NISSEHUS"
"KRUDT-HUS"
GREENHOUSE
INFIRMARY
"LØVE-HUS"
CERAMICS
DOME
BATH
MAIN STREET
"M-HOUSE"
WOODEN SHOES AND REPAIR
GENERAL STORE
TELEPHONE
"JOKKELUND"
BREAKFAST RESTAURANT
MULTINEDIEHUS
PARKING
EXIT
WATER
FENCE
WATERFRONT
THIS WAY TO SWIMMING
MAP 3
SOUTHERN DISTRICTS INFRASTRUCTURE
MAP OF MOST URBANIZED PART OF CHRISTIANIA SHOWING SOME FACILITIES AND ACTIVITIES
STEEN COMMUNITY ACTION 77

INTRODUCTION

Since the mid-sixties various action groups have sprung up to introduce a counterculture as a protest against environmental and social degradation of our living conditions. If they were Provos, or later Kabouters, in Amsterdam, a new move of family squatters in London or general revolt against a hypocritic value system in the streets of Paris during May 1968, all of them expressed a basic alienation: a spontaneous reaction against an irresponsible profit-making machinery using a sophisticated technology and a centralised planning bureaucracy to the detriment of humankind's creative development and the wellbeing of the individual.

Fortunately the several actions of protest that mushroomed during the last decade have changed their tactics from the defensive to a more innovative approach. A few try to influence public authorities by lobbying or by participating in local elections. Others believe in a more direct approach such as occupation of empty offices or housing blocks, sit-ins at factories, alternative services by advocacy lawyers, doctors, architects, planners.., self-help management of land use and services in the neighbourhood. A third group believes in an even more independant society: a counterculture that develops its own appropriate technology and social structure. Christiania is certainly one of them and hopefully participants of this years community action meeting will enjoy the free town and disseminate their experience back home.

One of the main objectives of the community action symposium as was the case at past meetings held at Alnarp and at Dalarö (Sweden) is to exchange valuable information among grass-root action groups in Europe. In an era where political decision-making, comerce and developments are being carried out in a transnational context, local groups find it increasingly difficult to get hold of objective data for their action campaigns. Groups opposing for example land use speculation by foreign developers will certainly benefit from an information exchange from other European action groups on the whereabouts and interests of that developer. Further, many action groups can learn a great deal about the experiences abroad and these examples can certainly be used back home to demonstrate how a concrete problem has been satisfactory solved. Apart from this information exchange, participants at Christiania will certainly find a welcome stimulance from fellow groups to continue their activities at the local level. This will not only develop into a solid solidarity with the Christianites but hopefully also in a mutual backing up of our philosophies and activities.

Due to the comprehensive scope of current community actions and because of the different national peculiarities wherein these actions take place, contributing groups will at least have the following in common: they will be groups that do grass root level work and that are responsible for the consequences of their policy. These groups are involved in a continuous action rather than an issue-orientated temporary activity and work outside the context of existing political parties and trade unions. They also aim at a radical change of today's society and by means of concrete day-to-day action.

Contributors should concentrate on following problems:

- Which goals have the groups set to themselves, which strategy have they adopted and which methods have they used to achieve their aims?
- How have the groups involved and activated the people concerned?

Presentations will also focus on the internal organisation of the group, the continuity and growth of the group and to what degree relationships have been established with local or national authorities, trade unions and political parties. The overall evaluation of the action undertaken will include a check up of the achievement of the direct ends seen in a local and a national context.

These guidelines are intended to streamline the diverse interests and to prepare meaningful discussions.

We wish you an enjoyable journey to Christiania and we look forward to welcome you on Friday 20th May.

Xaver

A short introduction to
THE FREE TOWN OF CHRISTIANIA

Christiania is situated on an old military fortification from the end of the 17th century east of central Copenhagen. The ramparts never served their purpose since the enemy came from another direction. From the middle of the 19th century the area was used as a military camp and arms factory. Although situated only 1 kilometer from the center of town the place is of great scenic beauty but had not been open to the public until the start of Christiania.
About 1970 the military left these 160.000 m^2 of land uninhabited. A few watchmen guarded the fence. Later that year a number of neighbours from Christianshavn decided to force an entrance into the territory. They removed part of the fence and began exploring the new land. Here they found the parks, the playgrounds, the sommerhouses they had been without in their slum-like environment.
A few months later an underground-paper spread the rumor of the new land and encouraged people to "emigrate by bus 8". By the end of 1971 a couple of hundred people of many different sorts had followed this appeal. Several were homeless, partly squatters, while others came because the place seemed to offer opportunities they didnt have in their past environment.

Most of the buildings were factories, laboratories and magazines - all in good shape except for broken windows and stolen brass-fittings. The southern part was the first to be inhabited but step by step the frontier was pushed north and across the moat to "Dyssen". A free town was proclaimed under the name of Christiania.

The government having no plans ready for the future use agreed to a provisional legitimation of the settlement. This was later formalized in a written agreement: the dwellers were to pay 50 kroner pr month each for supply of water and electricity. People could stay pending the result of a planning competition on the future use of the area. The government expected this to take three years. After that the area was supposed to be sold by the Ministry of Defense to the Town of Copenhagen for an implementation of the plans.
But the municipal authorities were eager to start building and to avoid the problems that Christiania did expose. The succeeding governments were not willing

to take the responsibility imposed upon them by the written agreement. Together these attitudes resulted in an offensive move against Christianias existence. The authorities stopped keeping their part of the agreement, the planning competition was never arranged, negotiations were broken off etc. Instead the Ministry of Defense decided to demolish half of the houses in Christiania without warning.

In its fight for survival the free town has been forced to cover many fronts: negotiation, law, politics, public relations.. Attempts at getting support from the general public have at times been very succesful. Nevertheless the parliament (Folketinget) in early 1976 stated that Christiania should be evacuated by April 1st. On that day 30.000 people in a demonstration supported the continuation of the free town, and by suing the Ministry of Defence Christiania succeeded to delay the evacuation until after a judgment. In February 1977 the High Court for East Denmark pronounced a judgment allowing immediate evacuation. This judgment has been appealed to the Supreme Court whereby a further delay of at least half a year is obtained. The real issue, however, is not merely a question of law. Christiania is a hot potatoe in Danish politics that cannot be swallowed by juridical paragraphs only. Little by little Christiania has become an integrated part of Danish society. For more than five years about 700 people have developped a selfgrown community. Many organizational forms have been practized, but sofar any centralized leadership has been succesfully avoided. The many sudden threats from outside have mainly been averted by means of ad hoc mobilisations and cultural counter-offensives.

The Christianites have many different lifestyles and the community doesnt pose many demands on the individual. The material standard of living is low - compared to Danish standards.

During the winter much activity is directed at keeping warm and cosy indoors (heating is provided by woodburning stoves) and the visitor will find the activity level pretty low. When spring comes life unfolds between the houses.

The month of May is traditionally a "strong" period in Christiania.

We are looking forward to see you in the free town.

Steen & Jens.

RAINBOW INFORMATION

To organise everybody involved in the massive mobilisation around April 1st Christiania needed an army without generals. An army of non violent "warriors" not necessarily required to do anything else than their usual activities. The Rainbow Army came into existence.

Each colour symbolizes a field of work and a temperamental type. Each person chooses to wear the colour she prefers "to be" at the moment (You can wear two or more colours and change whenever you want). By your colour you show the others in which field you want to apply yourself. Together we form the whole rainbow, securing equal development of all aspects of our life, collectively and individually.

RED Organizing, planning, activating.
ORANGE Communicating, creating expression, propagating.
YELLOW Maintaining, creating beauty in daily life, building.
GREEN Growing crops, providing food and other necessities.
BLUE Visioning, creating consciousness and ideas.
PURPLE Transforming, recycling, cleaning.

When all rainbow colours mingle we obtain white:
WHITE Healing, preventing illness, nursing.
When light is shadowed the result is black:
BLACK Preventing violence, protecting, defending.

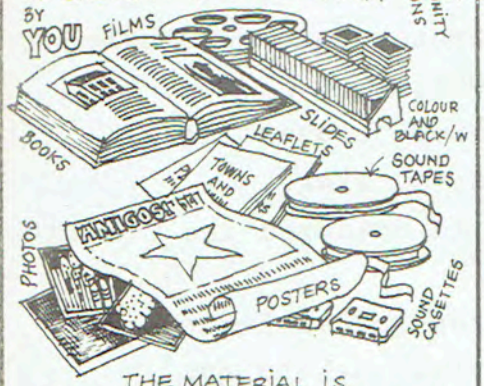
At the Community Action 77 symposium we will propose the setting up following colour working groups:

RED Programme committee to plan and coordinate meetings, internal communication group.
ORANGE AV-group, festival group.
YELLOW Practical group (heating, lighting, sanity etc.), cooking-group.
GREEN Shopping group for food and other purchasing, economy group.
BLUE Theoretical workshop.
PURPLE Cleaning group.
(WHITE function at Christianias infirmary, see map 3).
(BLACK function only relevant in critical situations).

Steen & Jens

AV AUDIO VISUAL INFORMATION

ALL KINDS OF AV-MATERIAL ABOUT COMMUNITY ACTIONS IS BROUGHT TO CHRISTIANIA BY YOU



THE MATERIAL IS COLLECTED (AND REGISTERED) IN AN AV-LIBRARY IN "THE BLUE HOUSE" WHERE THE AV-WORKSHOP WILL BE..

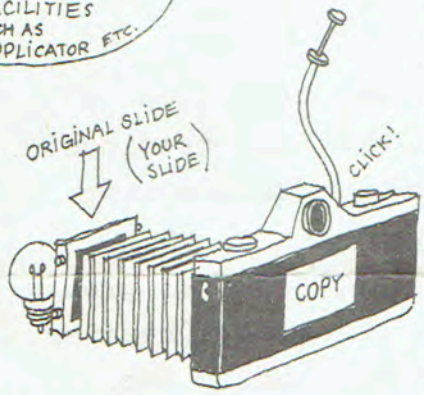
IN "THE BLUE HOUSE":

PICTURES FROM ALL PARTS OF EUROPE ARE SELECTED, PHOTOGRAPHED AND MADE INTO SLIDES..

ALL KINDS OF PICTURES - COLOUR AS BLACK AND WHITE - ARE TRANSFORMED INTO 24,1 x 36 mm SLIDES DURING THE SYMPOSIUM..

SOME AV-PEOPLE WILL BE AVAILABLE AS CONSULTANTS..

THE AV WORKSHOP WILL INCLUDE PRINTING FACILITIES SUCH AS DUPLICATOR ETC.



ALSO THE ORIGINAL SLIDES ARE COPIED TO THE NEW SLIDE-SET..

(SO THAT YOU CAN GET YOUR OWN SLIDES BACK WHENEVER YOU LIKE .. OK?)

THE NEW SLIDES ARE DISCUSSED AND EDITED (SELECTED) INTO A .. LET US SAY 80 PICTURES.. FINAL SLIDE SET.

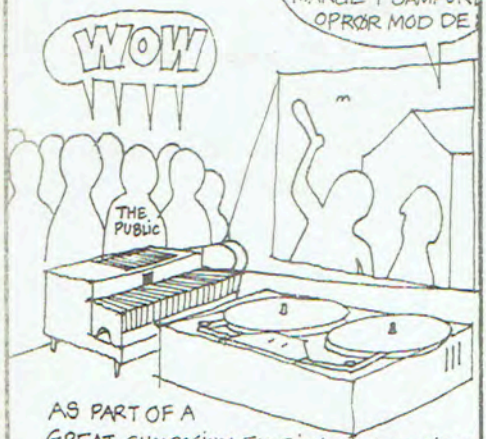
ILLUMINATED SLIDE TABLE IN "THE BLUE HOUSE"

A SPEAKER TEXT FOR THE WHOLE SET IS MADE

..AND IS TAPED IN SOME MAIN-LANGUAGES

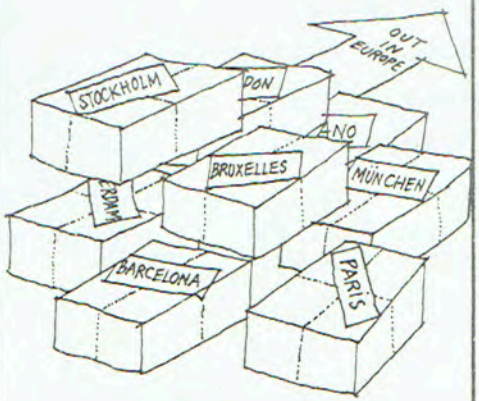
MIXED WITH THE REAL SOUND FROM DOCUMENTATION TAPES

IN CHRISTIANIA'S THEATRE HALL:

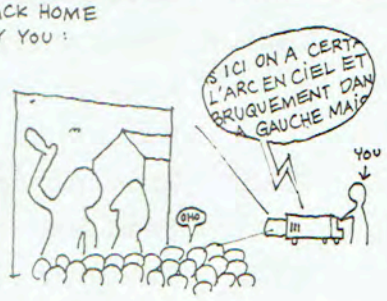


AS PART OF A GREAT SYMPOSIUM EXIBITION AND FIEST THE SET IS SHOWN IN DANISH VERSION IN CHRISTIANIA BEFORE PARTICIPANTS LEAVE..

AFTER THE SYMPOSIUM THE SET IS DUPLICATED - IN FOR INSTANCE 12 COPIES - AND SENT TO GROUPS IN MANY REGIONS..



BACK HOME BY YOU:



THE SET WILL BE SHOWN IN EACH REGION AND CIRCULATE AS A REPORT OF WHAT IS GOING ON IN EUROPE THESE YEARS AS FAR AS COMMUNITY ACTION IS CONCERNED..

THEREFORE: REMEMBER TO BRING AV-MATERIA

STEEN 77