ATTACK!

Found together with the next text "Thousand Pinpricks" in Feuer den Knästen!, a paper evoked by the arrest of an anarchist in Zürich, published in spring 2019

The ringing of the alarm clock in the morning beats me from my sleep. First act: I turn on my cell phone. Through satellites, relay antennas and so on my phone synchronizes with those of everyone else. At the same time we're living the same life. Connected with the internet, something invisible is swirling through me, my phone is sending and receiving permanently. Another rhythm is ruling, when the nightly rhythm is ringed to death, when I have synchronized myself with the interconnected world. The staccato of live broadcast, of uninterrupted availability, of permanent accessibility, of time tables and appointments, of schedules and deadlines.

Second Act: I disconnect my cell phone from the electricity grid. Without it my phone would be nothing, just plastic and metal waste, with a few parts made of rare earth elements. Thanks to energy production, dependent on nuclear power and coal, a global network, this critical infrastructure, which guarantees our life, each and every day, and which can only function protected by army and police and specialists. After using multiple devices, which also assume a network – without which they would be completely useless – I set foot on the streets. I walk under the streetlights – in the city, darkness doesn't exist anymore, no places dodge visibility – along the distribution boxes for energy and telephones, the electric advertising panels, the shops with securing devices – and out of blatancy a thought appears: electricity serves the existing property relations – more than a thousand kilometers of glass fiber- and copper cables, just half a meter under my feet.

I pass the gully covers which give access to shafts, in which the veins of the modern world are running. Taking the train, also the covering concrete slabs along the rails attract attention, under which again cables are wiggling and after every few meters the set of signals: without that nothing will go on anymore and the human capital and the dead goods will no longer arrive where they shall be consumed or produce surplus value. Leaving the ant's view, I take a look upward and see the antennas for radio, Internet, telephone, radios on the roofs... police radio. The maintenance of daily misery is based on certain channels – if these collapse, people have to change their daily routine. The communication of those who defend property relations on the streets – cops and military – runs through antennas, under which we are walking from morning until night. If a radio mast breaks down, if a cable harness burns, if an accurate cut is made through the glass fiber cable or through the copper one of the streetlights, suddenly a space of darkness opens up, a moment of confusion for some, who didn't learn to act and think autonomously and didn't want to, who always wait for instructions and orders and obey them and a possibility for others to do something, which often seems impossible. As our world is becoming more and more a huge machine, as the veins of domination are getting more filigree, covering the whole territory with a net, then – if we want to attack – we have to be able to detach our glances from the most obvious and to try to include in our analysis of the ongoing developments the possibilities which we want to give ourselves. The more complex the world, the more vulnerable it is to disorders. These hubs and the connections between them, that we find nearly everywhere exposed, are the raw points to be cut. In a moment when even the air is burning it doesn't make sense to set a fire where the flames are dancing already and where all eyes are focused. The radio silence, the breakdown of communication, the interrupting of command chains, these – and even much more – are the possibilities which we can find, if we are searching for points to attack with a creative and analytical look.

A THOUSAND PINPRICKS
ABOUT THE ARSON OF AN ANTENNA IN ZURICH AND INDIVIDUAL ACTION

Article found in anarchist street newspaper 'Fernweh' from Munich, edtion 26, June 2017

Of course the world, how it is today, is shit, but what should I as a single person do against it?", a popular exclamation, especially from people, that afterwards let themselves fall back on the couch, or – flicking away their cigarette – go back in to the bar to order the next beer.

This argument builds on the idea that innumerable amounts of people are necessary to change something, that we (whoever that is) must first become the majority to be able to do something. That is the illusion of politics, that is the pretense many people use to justify their passivity. It is about recognizing that what is in our power are our individual acts. We can only influence that which we do ourselves. What the others are up to, what the masses do, is not our concern. What one person can do can seem like very little, but at the same time it is all we have and in it exists the biggest possible potential of our existence. Each of our acts has an impact on our social surrounding (the not-acting is also an act and favors the not-acting of others). The individual action, about which I will speak in a bit, may perhaps sound like something drastic, but it is not about saying that some actions are more important than others because they cause more damage. Of course it is true that there are differences, some acts concern thousands of people, others maybe only a few, but that doesn't make the one better than the other, they are just different acts with different effects that in that situation can be exactly the right decision – at least the one of acting, instead of not acting.

Mid July 2016 the cables at the feet of an antenna belonging to Zürich police got torched. The cables burned down and besides some hundred thousands Francs of damage, the antenna was out of service for some days. This antenna was an emergency antenna of the city police. [...] The antenna that was set ablaze was part of the critical infrastructure of the police and shows how vulnerable and attackable these seemingly omnipotent institutions like the police are. Or, like anarchist comrades from Zürich express: "the numerical superiority, like those in terms of weapons, doesn't count as much against the intelligence and practical ability of people. A few cables, which at the right place and in the right moment can be torched from a single person, have the potential to bring a entire army into chaos". This shows how much a individual action can accomplish when it is thoughtfully prepared and planned. But it is not about doing only such – in relation to other actions – elaborate actions. But exactly the combination of different acts from different persons, which are active against dominion and oppression in their daily lives, is what is interesting. Thousands of smaller and bigger pinpricks – whether it is tearing down election posters or burning down antennas of the police - that is what really hurts dominion. I want to close with a few words from the anarchist comrade in clandestinity: "Obviously it is important to put grains of sand in this machine, but the questions of when, where, how, with whom and which effect is desired are equally pertinent."With this in mind, all the strength in the world to the comrade on the run, wherever he might be!