It seems so very long ago when I first came to a Resurgents meeting one Thursday last November, with some portable video equipment and not much idea of what or who I'd find. I came back to the debate that Saturday. Since then I've paid many visits and look forward to many more. I find it hard to say much bout this. I'm sort of suspicious of people who visit jails (eternally cynical, I am) and all I know is now I have a whole bunch or new friends who are great to talk to, write terrific latters and get into some really interesting projects — in a situation where i imagine despair apathy and self-destructive bitterness would be too easy. I had fun assisting in some video work and attending plays and debates and I think Contact is absolutely ace.

I have read through several past issues of Contact and have been absorbed in the power and immediacy of much of the writing there. Those issues opened my eyes to a greater insight of a strange world that \_ still only partly understand. It's no good having strong opinions (as I do) about the kind of society we live in that makes it possible that some men lock up other men (oh yes and women too but pardon me if i see all this looking up as definitely a male trip) and its no good being endlessly repeatedly blown-out by a world which professes that "criminals" are made and not born and that it is the conditions that make people do desparate/illegal things that should be condemneder and not the people who do them; that everyone knows XXXXXX **MRACARAMATIONXEMANGERGRAPHERSXIUXHIRUXAIREE**FXX that the higher the level of corruption and crockedness the less likely you are to ever be locked up..... a society which aknowledges these things and acts as if the very opposite wee true. You all know a lot more about all that than I do. Past issues of Contact have given me some insight into the very acute understanding had by victims of this hypocrisy.

Blake's Proverhs of Hell are among the writings I choose to mould my world-view and there he says "Prisons are built with stones of Laws / Brothels with bricks of Religion." Still only a Utopian anarchist could keep a constant ideal of a world free of rules judgements and moralism where all choices would be equally allowed and respected and therefore where there'd be no exploitation of one person by another. Most people direct

their concern in a more reformist and undoubtedly more realistic \*x way, given that there will always be the rulers and the ruled. So one's alarm is for the endless horror stories of abuses of a system that exists --doesn't it? \*\* to help guide those who haven't conformed: to teach them through discomfort that it is more comfortable to conform and through instruction that it is morally better also. Some of us feel it's hard to find any convincing case for conformity except maybe on the grounds of comfort; who takes seriously the feeble claims for the "rehabilitating" effect of locks and bars.....I saw Premier Lewis on the bos the other night apparently quite smug about the claimed reduction in recidivism in one section of one prison somewhere...what did he think that proved?

What do I think this rave of mine proves? Only that I'm writing toyou. I have nothing to say that warrants an "article" with the implications of a thesis, a point of view, a specific subject. That's why I'm making this more of a letter. I am spending a non-typical Saturday nights in a way that I hope will become typical, in a little cottage just over the mountains, surrounded by hills trees sheep and a stunning amazing silence; the smell of a vegetable soup on the fuel stove which is giving the room some much needed warmth, and the yeasty smell of bread rising (Ihope it's rising! -I'm still an amateur bread-making and don't want to be discouraged). I've begun to learn always thought I couldn't do - crochet, embroidery, gardening, chopping wood.... No longer engaged in playing at Careers, no income but the government's not-very-generous Unemployment relief and owning very little, I'm going back to Sydney to pack, go to the Womens Film Festival and then return here and get into whatever this choice will bring ame. I guess the basic question is always how do you live your life, par I have to reconcile my determined hedonesm and taste for the extremes of decadence which depend on their existence on capitalism, with my nostalgic craving for a simpler existence....

People like you who offer so much by way of friendship sharing and concern in a situation I imagine would drive me to despair are important. I hope "Contact" will continue to be just that -- and keep us in touch. I figure we're all trying to work out how to live in what seems to be a crazy ugly hopeless world that sometimes startles you with inexpressible beauty. Who would dare live by what Alan Watts once said... "The natural state of [Wo]man is ecstatic wonder. Why should we settle for less?"