

A preview of

Tarnac, a preparatory act, by Jean-Marie Gleize

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Immobile here between courtyard and garden, I continue to see. The wall is white, it holds me (I mean that the angle it forms with the table is like the fold of a sheet, and I stay for hours contemplating this calm bed, this bend where nothing moves).

...*watching absolutely*, with an inner, open laughter, the childhood-landscape

...to the point of pain in the eyes, to the point of trembling hands

Something then, from room to room, before and beneath the terraces, among the trees, among the furniture, on the stone steps of the staircase, in the hallway, something then, words, some pages—I was no doubt reading, or I must have been sleeping and I was dreaming this book and these words of the book and the noise they must have made at the moment of bursting, a grenade sound, or this intense and rapid light, a bolt of lightning, something like a *preparatory act*—

a preparatory act...

successive laws has constructed a system
of emergency powers which renews the *lois scélérates*

the charge of “criminal conspiracy
to commit a terrorist act”

it takes only two people to constitute a
“terrorist group” and it takes only a *preparatory*

act for the infraction to be so defined.

This preparatory act is not specified

relation — even tenuous or remote, even
love or friendship — with any of the

opposed to common law which criminalizes the *acts*,
the antiterrorist approach

implicated in a terrorist activity without having to
establish a link between this activity and

books to become an incriminating factor, because they
are said to constitute evidence of opinions;

terrorist for the police to receive
investigative powers: search-warrant

48 hours in common law to 96 hours, even 144 in
antiterrorist proceedings. The

awaiting potential trial the presumed innocent might
spend as many as four years

with the intelligence service. Juryless Assize Courts
were equally to be

parallel system is thus empowered with examining magistrates,
prosecutors, judges

that antiterrorism is now a technique of government, a
mode for managing populations.

contaminates the common law: the antiterrorist
legislation served as a model

generalizing the notion of the “organized gang,” expanding the
powers of the investigative bureaus.

*It would be illusory to demand that this procedural regime be applied in
matters less broad or less brutal: it is designed to be
applied precisely as it is.*

**AN ASSOCIATION WHEREIN THE FREE DEVELOPMENT
OF EACH IS THE CONDITION FOR THE FREE
DEVELOPMENT OF ALL**

Letting thus the time accelerate:

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To fall in holes, to butt against tufts,
to push oneself in,

here the earth is damp. To speak of the thickness of hedgerows. To say
that the forest is “closed.” A vast and covered hall. Sheet metal roofs. Walls
collapsed in places. A shed.