

signal. (With the arm bent and held sideways it has now become the defiant formalised gesture of communist regimes.) It has become further ritualised by the addition of back-and-forth striking movements of the forearm. Fist-shaking of this kind is again visual rather than mechanical in its impact. We perform rhythmically repeated 'blows' with the fist, but still at a safe distance.

While doing this, the whole body may make short approach-intention movements, actions which repeatedly check themselves from going too far. The feet

may be stamped forcibly and loudly and the fist brought down and thumped on any near-by object.

This last action is an example of something seen frequently in other animals, where it is referred to as a redirection activity. What happens is that, because the object (the opponent) stimulating the attack is too frightening to be directly assaulted, the aggressive movements are released, but have to be re-directed towards some other, less intimidating object, such as .a

harmless bystander (we have all suffered from this at one time or another), or even an inanimate object.

If the latter is used it may be viciously pulverised or destroyed. When a wife smashes a vase to the floor, it is, of course, really her husband's head that lies there broken into small pieces. It is interesting that chimpanzees and gorillas frequently perform their own

m versions of this display, when they tear up, smash, and throw around branches and vegetation. Again, it has a powerful visual impact.

A specialised and important accompaniment to all these aggressive displays is the making of threatening facial expressions. These, along with our verbalised vocal signals, provide our most precise method of communicating our exact aggressive mood. Although our

smiling face, discussed in an earlier chapter, is unique to our species, our aggressive faces, expressive though they may be, are much the same as those of all the other higher primates. (We can tell a fierce monkey or a scared monkey at a glance, but we have to learn the friendly monkey face.) The rules are quite simple: the more the, urge to attack dominates the urge to flee, the Ynore the face pulls itself forwards. When the 141