Cover Sheet

[redacted]

FILE IN ACTION

39A

No. 477

File No. 335 / 71 / 84

Minute Sheet No. ONE

1

[redacted]

1.

SB report 1A

13/10. A/ Commander 'Ops' to see, please

2 1. CI TN0035 to see

4 [redacted] DI TN0036 3

2. ~~Room 892 to note~~

2. SB(R): Open files on Privacy [redacted] 5 and Privacy [redacted] 6 and return to Ch. Supt. "B" Squad pse. 7 N/1 [redacted]

3. PA

SB
12.10.71

8 TN0035 C/1 [redacted] 14/10/71

for Chief Superintendent 9

Place copy of 1A on files of Privacy and

10 [redacted] Privacy and return to me.

P.A.
fil. 20.10.71

11 [redacted] TN0035 C/1

for Ch Supt

M.P.

[redacted]

[P.T.O.

[redacted]

[redacted]

S.B. No. 1 (Plain)

Special Report

SUBJECT

London Sinn Fein (Provisionals)

Reference to Papers

335/71/84

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Noted 28/12

12 [redacted]

INDEXED 13

Date 28.1.72 Initials [redacted]

1a

SPECIAL BRANCH

12 day of October 1971.

1. The following information has been received from a reliable source:-

2. "On Sunday 10 October 1971, between 8.15 pm and 10.30 pm members of London Sinn Fein (Provisionals) and a number of supporters of the 'Anti-Internment League' staged a 'sit-in' at the Irish Club, Eaton Square, SW1. The object of the 'sit-in' was to force the committee of the Irish Club to retract a statement, made by a Mr Privacy a member of the Irish Club Committee, which had appeared in the Evening News of 1 October 1971. In that report Privacy had condemned the IRA for shooting at civilians in Northern Ireland.

3. Approximately 50 persons took part in the 'sit-in' the majority of whom were supporters of the 'Provisional' wing of Sinn Fein. The operation had been organised by Privacy and Privacy and the latter had taken charge of the whole exercise. At 7pm a group of twenty had met at the 'Quebec', P.H., Old Quebec Street, and were there briefed by Privacy as to the purpose of their meeting which had hitherto been unknown to them.

4. On arrival at the Irish Club, the group went to the bar and shortly afterwards Privacy stood on a table and addressed the assembled throng nearly all of whom were non-members of the Irish Club and who were part of the 'sit-in'. He explained the purpose of the 'sit-in' and said that the bar would be 'occupied' until a retraction was made by a Committee member.

5. Once Privacy had made the initial announcement he handed over to Privacy who acted as Chairman of the meeting. He too denounced the Press statement attributed to Privacy and spoke in general terms against internment. Privacy then spoke briefly and simply reiterated the remarks of Privacy and Privacy The next speaker Privacy Privacy (see end of report) complained bitterly at the lack of support being given to 'freedom fighters' in Ulster by members of the Irish Club, and other 'well-off' members of the Irish community in London. He also called for support for the Anti-Internment League demonstration, to be held on 31.10.71. He was followed by a man named Privacy who made a long incoherent speech on the lack of educational facilities in Ireland, and discrimination against Irish people in Britain who could only obtain jobs as labourers or the like.

6. Privacy then took the platform and alleged that the 'sit-in' had been infiltrated by spies who were known and who were advised to be careful. (It was later learned Privacy had been under the erroneous impression that three Special Branch officers had entered the bar during the course of the meeting).

M.P.-71-84783/20M (2)

5. 8452

[redacted]

7. At this point a Miss Privacy who claimed to be a Committee member of the Irish Club, expressed regret at the statement made by Privacy whom she described as an old man. She suggested that words had been "put into his mouth". However, her apology, although acceptable to Privacy was not in itself sufficient for him to end the 'sit-in'. He was then told that members of the Club Committee were coming to the Club to speak to him.

8. After an interval of about a half an hour during which time various members of the 'sit-in' entertained the crowd by singing Republican songs, and giving recitations, two members of the Club Committee, Doctors, Privacy and Privacy arrived. Both expressed regret that such a statement had been issued in the name of the Irish Club. They promised its retraction and said they would issue a statement condemning internment in Northern Ireland and pledging support for the 'struggle' there.

9. The declaration satisfied Privacy who asked the meeting if this was acceptable. With the exception of three persons the meeting was unanimous in its acceptance of the 'apology'. One of the three, Privacy vigorously expressed the view that the 'sit-in' should continue until Privacy made a personal appearance. This infuriated Privacy who felt the 'sit-in' had achieved its object and firmly stated that all should leave the club quietly or he would eject them. Privacy then left the club accompanied by Privacy Almost immediately Privacy returned having signified the end of the 'sit-in'. The remainder of the evening was devoted to the usual Irish heavy drinking, arguing and squabbling, but no untoward incident occurred.

10. Later Privacy and Privacy expressed their satisfaction with the proceedings which had been attended by a number of newspaper reporters at the latter end. Throughout the Irish Club management were clearly intimidated and very worried that there should be no disturbance, as they were anxious that police should not be involved.

11. The 'sit-in' had been well organised and the numbers present indicated that Sinn Fein (Provisional) leaders in London were in close contact with their supporters. Apart from those who were known to have taken part in the 'sit-in' (see next paragraph) there were some 20 to 25 young Irish men present, mostly in their early twenties, who were mostly labouring class and gave the appearance of being the 'hard men' of London Sinn Fein (Provisionals).

12. The following persons are known to have taken part in the 'sit-in':-

Privacy

[redacted]

S.B. No. 21

Page No.

Privacy	Privacy
Sean LYNCH ✓	
Privacy	

Privacy

Aged about 22 years, height 5'8", long shoulder-length brown hair, 'Viva Zopata' style moustache, slim build, educated Northern Ireland accent.

Indexed 20/12/71 14 [redacted]

This man is clearly capable of being highly dangerous. He claims to have been an Ardoyne freedom fighter, and is fanatical in his approach to Irish politics.

Privacy

Aged about 35 years, height 5'9", long dark brown hair, long black unkempt beard, medium build, Southern Irish accent - labouring type.

13. Special Branch references to persons and organisations mentioned in this report are given in the attached Appendix.

15 [redacted] HN332

16 [redacted] HN332 Chief Inspector

17 [redacted] TN0035

for CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

M.P.-68-61883/30M

[redacted]

[redacted]

A P P E N D I [redacted]

Appendix to Special Branch report on a 'sit-in' at the Irish Club on Sunday 10 October 1971.

Privacy

Sean LYNCH ✓ Mentions re Sinn Fein

Privacy

Anti-Internment League 400/71/180

[redacted]