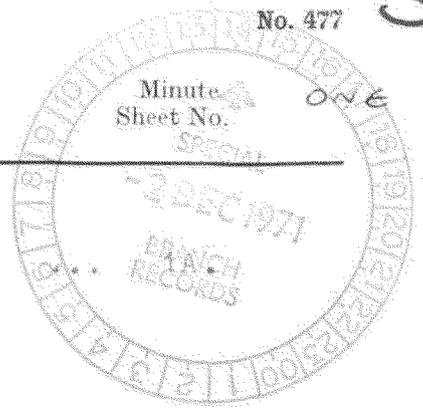


Cover sheet

File No. 335 / 71 / 84

Minute Sheet No. ONE



Special Branch report ... 1. ...

Commander 'OPS' to see, please.

This detailed and factual report gives us a good picture of the organisation at present; the officer responsible for it is doing a good job.

1 [redacted]

2 TN0036

D/I [redacted] to see.

3 D/I Imbert

2. P.A.

5 TN0035

for Chief Supt

S.B. 1.12.71

METROPOLITAN POLICE

1a

28/11/71
6

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

INDEXED
Date 28.11.71 Initial [redacted]

30 day of November 1971

SUBJECT
Sinn Fein

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

2. "On Thursday 25th November 1971, between 9.00 pm and 11.00 pm the Annual General Meeting of the Comhairle Ceantair (District Committee) of the London Region of Sinn Fein (Provisionals) was held at [redacted] Privacy. Prior to the election of the new committee, the meeting was chaired by [redacted] Privacy. Sixteen other persons were present.

Reference to Papers
335/71/84

3. The meeting commenced with the outgoing Secretary [redacted] Privacy presenting the secretary's and treasurer's report for the year. He said that during the year [redacted] Privacy had been appointed Treasurer, but as he had been unacceptable to Headquarters in Dublin there had been no permanent Treasurer which had been a most unsatisfactory state of affairs. He did not elaborate as to why [redacted] Privacy was unacceptable to Dublin, save to say it has arisen out of the result of the explosives case involving [redacted] Privacy and others in which [redacted] Privacy had been acquitted. Although unacceptable as an Officer in Sinn Fein, [redacted] Privacy was acceptable as an ordinary rank and file member. Later on during the meeting [redacted] Privacy name came up in discussion. It seemed that the prisoners in Brixton prison had complained that certain monies which [redacted] Privacy was supposed to have paid to them had not been received. [redacted] Privacy stated he had personally investigated the matter and he was convinced that [redacted] Privacy had paid the money.

4. Continuing his report [redacted] Privacy said that during the period 1 October 1970 to the present date, London Sinn Fein had collected £2,294 gross. This included 'An Phoblacht' sales receipts of which the only outstanding money was that for the November issue.

5. [redacted] Privacy said that 'An Cumann Cabhrach' (Irish Republican Prisoners' Dependents' Fund) had sent £250 to Dublin during the year. He added he was a member of a 'London Committee' which had been set up to collect monies for this purpose and to forward monies and other items, such as clothing, to Dublin for distribution. At this point [redacted] Privacy interjected to say he had received complaints from prisoners' dependents in England of little or no aid from 'An Cumann Cabhrach'. He felt that monies collected in England should be used primarily to aid prisoners' dependents in England. [redacted] Privacy would not accept this, and asserted that the money should go to Dublin for distribution. At this point [redacted] Privacy stated she had only received £30 since her husband had been imprisoned. [redacted] Privacy pointed out to the meeting that Mrs [redacted] Privacy was not suffering as much as many others, in particular, Mrs [redacted] Privacy who was suffering great hardship. It was decided eventually that Dublin should be contacted and asked to look into the matter.

6. The election of Officers to the Comhairle Ceantair then took place. The following were elected:-

Chairman:	[Privacy]	Organiser:	[Privacy]
Vice Chairman:		Treasurer:	
Secretary:		Finance Officer:	Sean LYNCH ✓
	Press Officer:	[Privacy]	

7. With the election completed [Privacy] took the chairmanship of the meeting. [Privacy] then told the meeting that a new cumann of Sinn Fein had been formed in Oxford and [Privacy] said that an advertisement in the 'Irish Post' asking for new members had resulted in replies having been received from all over England. In consequence it was hoped that cumainn would be set up at various provincial centres in the near future. Apart from a reference to Sittingbourne, Kent, in this context, none of these centres were mentioned.

8. Reports on the state of the different cumainn in London were then given by delegates and the following picture emerged:-

North London: Membership 23 (10 activists) Money in fund £25

South London: Membership 34 (15 activists) Money in fund £60

Kilburn: Membership 40 (25 activists) £20 in fund, excluding £150 which had been allocated to be paid directly to the Irish Republican Army as distinct from Sinn Fein. The Comhairle Ceantair consented to this. At this point [Privacy] asked that the Kilburn Branch should give that money to the Treasurer for payment direct to the IRA Finance Officer in London. In the interests of security he was permitted to give the name of the IRA Finance Officer to the Treasurer privately. Nevertheless [Privacy] was overheard to say to [Privacy] that [Privacy] was the Officer in question.

West London: Membership 13 (7 activists) Cash in fund £50

East London: Membership 35 (did not report number of activists) Money in fund £35

In concluding these reports the Chairman directed as there now existed a permanent Treasurer, who was above suspicion, all monies held by the various cumainn should be paid to him immediately.

9. [Privacy] said that the Kilburn cumann had organised a 41 seater coach to travel from London to Manchester on Sunday 28 November 1971 to enable a London contingent to take part in the 'Manchester Martyrs' commemoration ceremonies being held in that city commencing at 2.00 pm that day. The Kilburn cumann would provide the 'colour party' at that march (previously reported)

10. [Privacy] outgoing secretary, then advised the new secretary [Privacy] not to send any document or money directly to Dublin Headquarters at Kevin Street but to send it to a private person for passing on. [Privacy] advised that all names and addresses of members should be destroyed and not "left lying about where they might get into the wrong hands".

11. [Privacy] announced there had been some concern in Dublin that the 'Anti-Internment League' in London might "use" Sinn Fein here. He had attended the Annual General Meeting of the A.I.L. on Tuesday 25.11.71. at the 'Irish Centre' at which 40 persons had been present and a new committee of 14 had been elected including:-

- [Privacy] Chairman
- [Privacy] Sinn Fein
- Two unnamed women from the S. London cumann
- [Privacy] Clann na h'Eireann
- Another
- [Privacy]

[Privacy] took great delight in telling the meeting that Gery LAWLESS had been nominated for the committee but had not been elected as he had only received 4 votes. It had also been decided the Communist Party of Great Britain would no longer take part in the A.I.L. He felt the strong Sinn Fein representation on the committee would ensure that there would be no undue swing to the extreme left in the A.I.L.

12. [Privacy] next proposed that Sinn Fein in London should buy 10,000 Sinn Fein Christmas cards for sale to members of the public in London who should be asked to sign them and post them to internees in Northern Ireland. It would be a morale booster for the detainees and Sinn Fein would also raise funds by charging a good price for them. However, one of the delegates pointed out that on Christmas day a demonstration had been arranged in Ulster in which Republican sympathisers would march to Long Kesh Camp to deliver all Christmas mail by hand, as a boycott of "posting mail" had been arranged. Another delegate advised that if Dublin sent the cards to Sinn Fein London through the post a prohibitive customs duty would be incurred. The whole matter was then referred to the next meeting to be held on Thursday 2 December 1971, at the same venue.

13. [Privacy] sold copies of "Republican News" at the meeting. (See copies attached). He claimed he was selling 20 dozen copies of this publication weekly in London.

14. The following persons are known to have attended the meeting:

Privacy

Sean LYNCH ✓

Privacy

15. Special Branch references are given in the attached appendix.

8
HN332

Chief Inspector

9
TN0036

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

[Redacted]

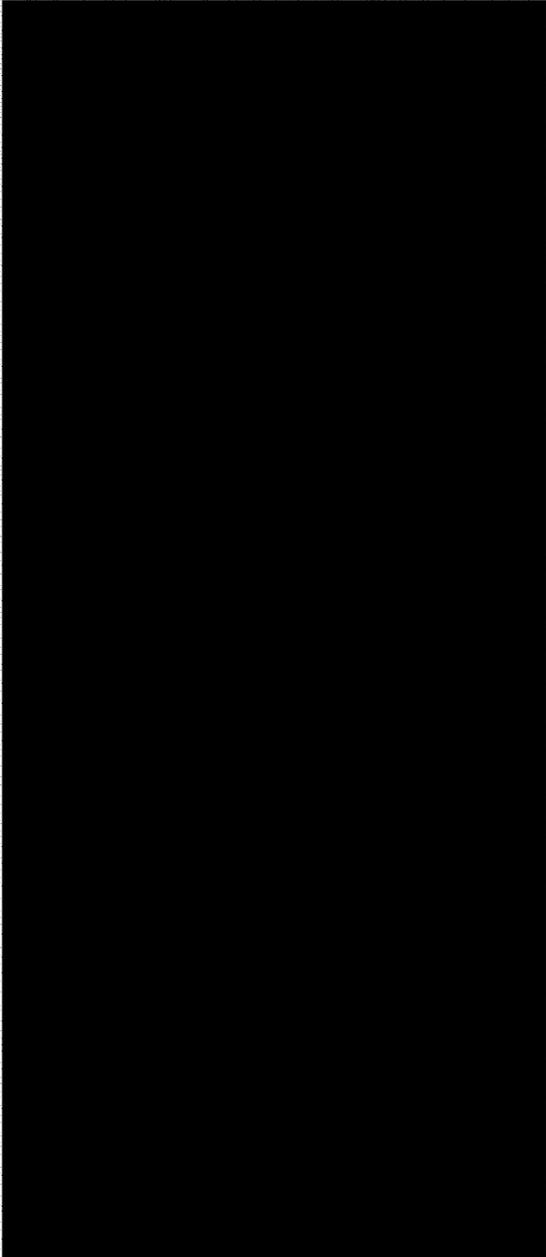
APPENDIX to Special Branch report on a Comhairle Ceantair meeting held
on 25.11.71.

Privacy

Gery LAWLESS

Sean LYNCH ✓

Privacy ✓



'An Phoblacht'

347/70/7

An Cumann Cabhrach

400/62/11

Anti-Internment League

400/71/220

