

Cover Page

S.B. No. 1 (Plain)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Noted
28/12

Special Report }

SPECIAL BRANCH

INDEXED
Date 3.1.1. 22 Initials. [redacted]

8 day of December 19 71.

SUBJECT

Sinn Fein
(London Region)

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

Reference to Papers

335/71/84

"A meeting of the 'Comhairle Ceantair', Sinn Fein (Provisionals) London Region, took place between 8.30 pm and 11.0 pm on Thursday 2 December 1971, at [redacted] Privacy. The meeting was chaired by [redacted] Privacy. Thirteen other persons were present.

In opening [redacted] Privacy stated he felt the recent 'Manchester Martyrs' Commemoration Service held at Manchester on Sunday 28 November 1971 had been "a disgrace". Although some 600 to 700 persons had attended, there had been a complete lack of organisation. Three different cumainn had been invited to act as the 'colour party', no-one had taken effective control of the ceremonies, the speakers were "hopeless", and during the parade the flag-bearer had dragged the flag along the ground whilst smoking a cigarette. It was obvious from discussions that the Republican Movement in Manchester was in a very bad state. For this he blamed Mrs [redacted] Privacy and a "clique of oldish men who are years behind the times". Derek HIGHSTEAD, whilst agreeing in principle with [redacted] Privacy sentiments, pointed out there should have been a much bigger contingent from London. If the London Organiser [redacted] Privacy had known his job he would have maintained a closer liaison with Manchester and would have been aware of the lack of organisation there. He could then have taken effective steps to assist with the arrangements. [redacted] Privacy made no reply.

The question of 'An Cumann Cabhrach' was then raised by [redacted] Privacy. He suggested that the Comhairle Ceantair should pass a resolution that monies collected on behalf of 'An Cumann Cabhrach' normally sent to Dublin for distribution, should still be sent to Dublin, save for an unspecified amount which should be retained in London. A committee from the Comhairle Ceantair would be set-up having the authority to decide how much and to whom such payments should be made in London. After lengthy discussion it was agreed that the committee would be HIGHSTEAD and [redacted] Privacy with [redacted] Privacy as treasurer, who would decide the weekly sum to be paid to the following Republican prisoners' dependants:- Mrs [redacted] Privacy Mrs [redacted] Privacy and Mrs [redacted] Privacy. Although no sum was mentioned it appeared this sum would be in the order of £3-£4 per week, according to need. However, it was agreed the committee would not divulge the precise amounts so as to avoid dispute.

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It was hoped to bring out a 'Broadsheet' in the immediate future which would give information on items of local interest on cumainn activities. It would also attempt to answer "some of the lies regarding Sinn Fein and the situation in Ulster which the British Press publishes daily". It would be produced by [Privacy] from the 'Roger CASEMENT' cumann, Kilburn. However, before it could be published it would be vetted by a three-man committee from the Comhairle Ceantair headed by Sean LYNCH, to ensure that nothing appeared in it contrary to the general policy of Sinn Fein.

*believed
11/1/72*

Sinn Fein Headquarters, Dublin had produced a Xmas Card in the Gaelic language, and it was agreed 10,000 of these would be purchased as previously suggested by [Privacy] [Privacy] to be sold at a profit and to be sent to detainees in Ulster.

It was agreed that with the advent of Christmas, efforts should be made to boost collections in London. [Privacy] suggested that London should be divided into areas for this purpose, proportionate to the size of the various cumainn. This suggestion was carried.

The following persons are known to have attended the meeting:-

[Privacy]	[Derak HIGHSTRAID]	[Privacy]
[Privacy]	Sean LYNCH,	[Privacy]
[Privacy]		

2. Special Branch references are given in the attached Appendix.

HN332

Chief Inspector

TN0035

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

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or

A P P E N D I X

Appendix to Special Branch report on a Comhairle Ceantair meeting held on 2.12.71.

Privacy

Derek HIGHSTEAD ✓

Privacy

Sean LYNCH ✓

Privacy

