

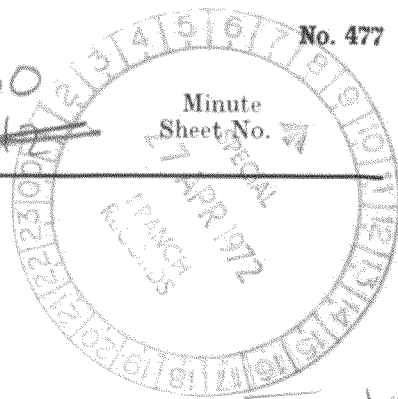
Cover Page

File in Action

21A

No. 477

Minute
Sheet No.



400 / 72 / 60

To.

1
Special bench report

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2 Send copy to Box 500

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TN0036

Room 892

to see

2 PA

SB

22-4-72

James
Chief Supt

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Special Report }

SPECIAL BRANCH

INDEXED

21

day of April

19 72

SUBJECT Anti-
Internment League

Reference to Papers

400/72/42

1. The following information has been received from a reliable source:
2. "On Saturday 15 April 1972, the Bristol Branch of the Anti-Internment League, supported by AIL branches and affiliated organisations from the South of England, mounted a demonstration against the Gloucestershire Regiment's march through the City of Bristol on Thursday 13 April 1972 following their completion of duty in Northern Ireland.
3. At 2.30 pm on Saturday 15 April 1972, the march, about 300 demonstrators, of whom about half were from Irish organisations, left from the Downs on the outskirts of Bristol. They marched through the centre of Bristol to the Methodist Central Hall, where a meeting was held. During the march, the participants were greeted with varying forms of hostility from the watching public, ranging from scuffles to being showered with eggs, water, sugar etc from buildings overlooking the route of the march. The shopping area of Bristol was brought to a standstill with hundreds of shoppers watching from the pavements.
4. The indoor meeting commenced at 4 pm with the chairman introducing Gezy LAWLESS as the first speaker. LAWLESS said that he was privileged to be taking part in this demonstration and that although the participants had been shouted at, the point of the demonstration, that the Anti-Internment League deplored the right given to the 'Gloucesters' to march through Bristol, had been made. In fact, he continued, it was surprising that there had not been more violence on the march after the amount of publicity which had been given to the 'Gloucesters' march and the counter-demonstration throughout the previous week. He then briefly spoke of the chain of events in Northern Ireland from 1969 to the present day.
5. Following LAWLESS, Don BATEMAN, who was introduced as the chairman of the South-West England Trades Council extended to the marchers a welcome from the working peoples of Bristol, who he said, supported the Anti-Internment League in its demonstration. He said that the working classes also supported the struggle being carried on in Northern Ireland by the people against the oppressive might of England.
6. The last speaker was John GRAY who thanked the participants and said that he thought that this would be the start of many demonstrations which would gain national support. He also re-iterated the reasons for the demonstration and why, despite its hostile reception, it had been successful.

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7. The speeches, which were all kept very short, were followed by a few questions from the floor. These were dealt with briefly and the proceedings were brought to a close at 5.15 pm."

8. A list of those persons identified as having participated in the demonstration is given on the attached appendix.

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HN294

Detective Inspector

Submitted:

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HN294

Chief Inspector

Jamane
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT



A P P E N D I X

Appendix to Special Branch report concerning an Anti-Internment League demonstration which took place in Bristol on Saturday 15 April 1972.

Privacy		
/ Don BATEMAN	RF 405/	Privacy
/ Gery LAWLESS	RF 335/57/430	
Privacy		
/ John GRAY	RF 405/	Privacy
Privacy		

