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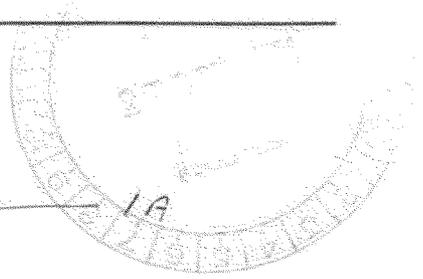
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13/72
400 / 71 / 208

Minute Sheet No.

ONE

Special Branch report



Commander ops to see please:

1. Send copy to Box 500
2. Room 892 to see. ✓
3. Seen by D.I. Wilson
4. P.A.

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26/10

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SB
25.10.71.

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A. Ch. Supt.

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

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INDEXED
Date 18/8/71 Initial [redacted]

20 day of October 19 71

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SUBJECT

International Socialists

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

Reference to Papers

400/71/208

"On Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 October 1971, at the Derbyshire Miners Holiday Camp, Skegness, the International Socialists held their Annual Autumn Rally. It was attended throughout by about 600 persons, who each paid £4.50p for accommodation and food.

The atmosphere was one of informality, and it was as much a social gathering as a political one. There were three main debates, occupying Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. The remainder of the time was spent drinking, watching films and holding impromptu discussions.

The first debate, on Saturday morning, which began at 10.30 am and lasted until 12.30 pm was introduced by Privacy Privacy who spoke for about an hour on 'The Crisis facing Capitalism'. He gave his by now usual speech blaming the whole world crisis on the 'Permanent Arms Economy' and added nothing new to his previous utterances.

The debate that followed was as bland as the speech that had preceded it and made for a rather depressing start to the rally.

The second debate, on Saturday afternoon, from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm was introduced by Duncan HALLAS, now National Secretary, who spoke for about 45 minutes on 'Building the Revolutionary Party'. Once again he re-iterated the usual IS line. However, he did mention the existence within IS of a faction called the 'Trotskyist Tendency', the leader of which is thought to be Privacy. This faction is comprised of some 40 persons who, although basically in agreement with the majority of the group's beliefs, disagree most strongly on one or two particular lines taken by the leadership of IS. At the Annual Conference held in April 1971, a decision of abstentionism was taken on whether or not Britain should join the Common Market. This decision was later reversed by the National Committee who justified their actions by claiming that circumstances had since changed. The Trotskyist Tendency apparently

claimed the decision to have been an undemocratic action and, as the group believes in democratic centralism, contrary to their basic beliefs. They had also accused the group of being centralist and had called for a special conference to reconsider that decision. The National Committee had refused. There had already been some resignations from the National Committee on this matter. HALLAS stated that the 'Trotskyist Tendency' should either step down from their position or be expelled from the group. At this point there was uproar in the audience, of whom about 30-40% are thought to have been opposed to HALLAS's leadership. In due course order was restored, although it was clear a serious rift might well develop within the group, for it is known that if the Trotskyist Tendency were expelled, then that expulsion would be followed by a considerable number of resignations by sympathetic supporters. It is unlikely that the Trotskyist Tendency will withdraw from their position.

The third debate, on Sunday morning, from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm was introduced by Tony CLIFF, who dealt with the 'International Movement'. He delivered a very passionate although factual speech, and attempted to lift morale which had slumped somewhat the previous afternoon. To some extent he achieved this although more by dulling the senses rather than by cogent argument. His speech was succeeded by a debate which was unsensational in the extreme. This was followed by the singing of the Internationale; at the end of which many members were seen to be openly in tears; such was their total involvement.

Although the rally was intended as an informal gathering and as such cannot be taken too seriously, the implications of the apparent rift in the group should not be underestimated. They are real and the conversations following the rally showed them to be more than just euphoric ramblings. Quite how the matter will resolve itself however can only be pure conjecture.

Amongst those present at the rally were:-

Privacy

Tony CLIFF

Privacy

Duncan HALLAS

Privacy
Chris HARMAN

Privacy



Privacy

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

HN339 7
Detective Sergeant

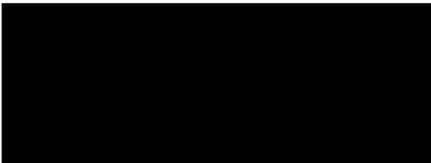
Submitted:

HN332 8

Chief Inspector

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A/ CHIEF SUPER INTENDENT



APPENDIX to Special Branch report concerning the International
Socialists Autumn Rally held at Skegness on 16/17 October 1971:

Privacy

Duncan HALLAS

Chris HARMAN

Privacy