

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

25/11/70



16th day of December, 19 70

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SUBJECT

Irish Solidarity

Campaign

Reference to Papers

400/70/204

1. The following information has been received from a reliable source:-
2. "The Executive Committee of the Irish Solidarity Campaign met on Sunday 6.12.70 at Trinity College, Oxford.
3. "The following attended:-

Privacy

Joint National Secretary ISC

National Treasurer ISC

✓ Gery LAWLESS

Executive Committee

✓ Bob PURDIE

" "

Privacy

" "

West London Branch delegate

Oxford Branch delegate and IS

National Chairman ISC

Privacy did not arrive until the meeting was almost over and in his absence LAWLESS was elected Chairman.

4. Apologies for non-attendance were received from Privacy (sick), Privacy (financial), and Privacy (Glasgow - travelling difficulties).

5. The first item was Branch Reports. Reporting on the Birmingham Branch Privacy said membership had dropped to about 4, but nevertheless they had been fairly active. In particular, pickets had been held outside the Army Recruiting Office and a top security prison in Leicestershire. The prison picket had been considered very successful as it had later been learned the prisoners had heard the shouted slogans and caused a near riot. As a result Eamon SMULLEN was now considered to be something of a hero by the inmates. In all activities, however, there had been a noticeable absence of International Socialist members. The financial position was fair, with some £35 in hand, but the principal concern was to boost membership. Although meetings had been weekly Privacy felt they should be held 4 weekly, but no decision had been taken on this.

6. Privacy gave the report from West London, and said that there was normally about 12 persons at the weekly meetings. Although there had not been much activity of late, he considered the march on 30.11.70 from Shepherds Bush Green to Wormwood Scrubs had been a success, although he himself did not attend. Financially they were insolvent.

7. Following this [Privacy] on Oxford's activities briefly reported there had been no meetings since the National Conference in October.

8. [Privacy] next gave the Central London report. He stated that regular weekly meetings were attended by 12 - 30 members and that several activities had been organised. He quoted the pickets of 29.11.70 and the Rally and March held on 30.11.70. He felt the rally had been disappointing, especially the low turn out from West London.

9. [Privacy] said that she had not seen the written branch reports but as far as she knew Glasgow were holding regular meetings and activities; Bristol and Nottingham were also active, but there did not seem to be much activity elsewhere.

10. [Privacy] then put forward a Central London resolution that the accounts should be sent to branches quarterly. This was duly accepted. [Privacy] gave the current bank balance as £16.5 s. and added that several letters had been received from [Privacy] asking for £23 expenses incurred when he attended the National Conference.

11. Continuing Gery LAWLESS said he understood that West London had passed a motion at their last meeting censuring the Executive Committee for not preparing a National Leaflet on activity held on December 8. [Privacy] confirmed this. LAWLESS pointed out that at the time of the last Executive Committee meeting the date had yet to be fixed and thus it had been impossible for any such action to have been taken. However, if his own suggestion of a small working committee formed from within the EC to cover such events had been adopted, then some National action could have co-ordinated. He pointed out that the Central London branch had begun to prepare a leaflet on 26.11.70, several days before West London had given any hint of action. Replying [Privacy] agreed with some of LAWLESS's remarks but said he was not in a position to answer all of them.

12. There then ensued a long discussion between LAWLESS, [Privacy] and Bob PURDIE on the value of attracting Trade Union militants to the ISC. The result of this was that [Privacy] asked for a resolution to be sent to the next National Conference from the EC requesting that Trade Union branches be allowed to affiliate nationally to the ISC instead of only locally as at present. This was seconded by [Privacy]. The voting was two for - [Privacy] and [Privacy], none against and five abstentions - Gery LAWLESS, Bob PURDIE, [Privacy] [Privacy] and [Privacy].

13. LAWLESS then gave a report from the 'Moratorium Committee' (this had been set up from the last EC meeting to organise a big national event next year), which had met the previous evening. March 14 1971 had been set as the day and it would take the form of a meeting at Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, followed by a march to Whitehall. If it appeared that the event was going to be large then efforts would be made to book

Trafalgar Square. The speakers to be invited were: Tom BARRY, Bernadette DEVLIN, MP, Cathal GOULDING and Tom MCGURK. On the week-end of 6/7.2.71 branches in all parts of the country would be asked to hold some form of activity to publicise March 14.

14. [Privacy] said the Birmingham branch was helping Clann na h'Eireann who were organising an exhibition in Birmingham at the end of January or early February. It would be appreciated if all ISC branches sent contributions. In this connection LAWLESS said that he and Bob PURDIE would prepare information (leaflets, press cuttings, photos etc) on CS Gas. [Privacy] agreed to ask West London to prepare information on the Trade Unions. It was agreed that all other branches be informed and asked to co-operate. If any initial assistance was required then they should contact LAWLESS or PURDIE.

/a letter

15. The next item was from [Privacy] which expressed his disappointment with the ISC and made a few suggestions for more effective and efficient operation in the future. Unfortunately he would probably be too busy in the near future to assist in ISC activities. Regret was expressed at his decision to leave, although his reasons were not thought to be convincing.

16. [Privacy] then introduced a Central London branch proposal that a weekend school be organised. [Privacy] mentioned that this idea had also been suggested by [Privacy] (on behalf of Bristol) and [Privacy]. After discussion, during which the idea of a Clann na h'Eireann, IMG, ISC joint operation was considered, the proposal was put back to the next EC meeting.

17. PURDIE reported that he had almost finished a book list which would be available in the New Year giving details of suitable reading for members which could be obtained from 'Red Books' or through International Socialists.

18. LAWLESS next gave the latest position on the newspaper. During the coming week there would be an editorial board meeting. At present the price of the paper was unsettled. If it was 6d, then unless about 2,000 copies were sold a loss would be made. At 9d a copy, however, it was considered too expensive. If branches gave an indication of the number required, it would assist greatly in this matter. So far only Birmingham and Central London had done this. The first edition would probably be issued at the end of January. Several contributions had already been received.

19. On the proposed tour by Bernadette DEVLIN MP, Bob PURDIE reported that [Privacy] had made an appointment to see her but she had cancelled it at the last moment. PURDIE said he would write to her in the next few days and would also try to bring the subject up on 10.12.70 when he hoped to see her. There then followed a bitter exchange between LAWLESS and [Privacy] on the venue or venues of a London meeting. [Privacy] insisted that if she did not speak in West London, then the West London branch would make independent arrangements for her to speak there.

20. The meeting was closed after deciding that the next EC meeting

would be held on 17.1.71. Arrangements would be made to give financial assistance to ensure the attendance of a Glasgow delegate.

Privacy

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Privacy

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Sergeant

Submitted

Scumans
Chief Inspector

Privacy

[Signature]
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

Privacy

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Privacy

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Privacy





APPENDIX

To Special Branch report on an Executive Committee meeting of the ISC
held on 6.12.70.

Privacy

Gery LAWLESS 335/57/430A

Bob FURDIE 405/67/82

Privacy



ISC 400/70/204

International Socialists 400/70/192

