

S.I. o. 1 (Plain)

Special Report }

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

1

26th day of January 1971.

SUBJECT Central London Branch of

I.S.C.

Reference to Papers

400/70/204

Rog 22/1

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

"A meeting of the Central London Branch of the Irish Solidarity Campaign was held at the 'Earl Russell' P.H., Pancras Road, N1, from 9 pm to 10.30 pm on 21.1.71. The Chairman was [Privacy] [Privacy] and the secretary [Privacy], there were 16 persons present.

Gerry LAWLESS gave a brief account of the Executive Committee meeting held in Birmingham on 17.1.71. The main topic discussed there was the demonstration arranged for March 14. It had been suggested that as that date was very near St. Patrick's Day much of the effect of a demonstration would be lost, however, no alternative date had yet been agreed on. The subject of membership cards had been discussed and had been referred to the Central London Branch for arrangements to be made regarding production, etc.

[Privacy] then put forward his proposal that a five man committee be formed to discuss all administrative matters prior to the start of the meeting proper. [Privacy] led the opposition to this because he thought that members would not be fully aware of what was happening. [Privacy] was also against the proposal and put forward a counter-proposal that the committee should consist of 3 persons - the secretary, the treasurer and the Chairman - this he thought, would be more democratic. After further discussion, during which the only two who spoke in favour of the proposal were LAWLESS and [Privacy], [Privacy] withdrew his motion with the comment that he had not expected so much opposition and had only wanted to try to make the branch more efficient. [Privacy] also withdrew his proposal.

LAWLESS next gave a report of a meeting held on Tuesday 19.1.71., at the 'Roebuck' P.H., to which most Irish organisations in London had sent representatives. The meeting had been called by NICRA to co-ordinate activities relating to demonstrations in connection with the trial of 'Butch' ROACH and Bowes EGAN in February. It had been decided that the meeting arranged for 5.2.71, at Conway Hall would be a joint operation and there would be speakers from the various organisations involved. The Chairman would be [Privacy] and the speakers who had accepted were Bowes EGAN, [Privacy], Gerry LAWLESS and [Privacy] (provided he could afford the fare to London). Bernadette DEVLIN MP will not be able to speak as she will be in America at the time.

The pickets outside the Old Bailey would be from 11 am to 4 pm on the first and last days of the trial and from 2 - 4 pm on the other days.

Both LAWLESS and [REDACTED] Privacy thought that the signs were good for a possible permanent link-up with NICRA. They said the fact that the leadership of NICRA which had previously opposed the old ICRSC was now out of favour within NICRA itself and this was likely to help towards such a merger.

LAWLESS announced that there would be another meeting on Wednesday 27.1.71, at the 'Roebuck' P.H., [REDACTED] Privacy and [REDACTED] Privacy were elected as official representatives from Central London ISC; LAWLESS and [REDACTED] Privacy will also attend as members of the Executive Committee.

There then followed a long abortive discussion on the posters to be prepared for the pickets at the Old Bailey.

The following were among those present:-

[REDACTED]
Privacy

Gerry LAWLESS

[REDACTED]
Privacy

[REDACTED] **HN340** [REDACTED] [2]
Sergeant

Submitted:

Jamie
Chief Inspector

[REDACTED] **TN0035** [REDACTED]

[3]

for CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

APPENDIX

Appendix to Special Branch report on a meeting of the Central Branch of the ISC held on 21.1.71.

Privacy

Gery LAWLESS

335/57/430

Privacy

'Butch' ROCHE

405/69/715

Bowes EGAN

335/ Privacy

Privacy