

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report

29/4/71

30 day of March 19 71

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SUBJECT

Central London

ISC

Reference to Papers

400/70/204

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

2. "A meeting of the Central London Irish Solidarity Campaign was held at the 'Earl Russell' P.H. Pancras Road, N1, from 9 pm to 10.15 pm on Thursday 25 March 1971. There were about 18 persons present. The chairman was [redacted] Privacy and the minutes secretary was [redacted] Privacy.

3. Gery LAWLESS announced that the newspaper would be ready in about a fortnight and would definitely be out before Easter. There had been several reasons for the delay but he did enumerate them.

4. LAWLESS next mentioned 'Ulster 71' (from 14.5.71 to 11.9.71) which would be opened by the Lord Mayor of London. He proposed that three or four members of the Campaign should picket outside the Lord Mayor's business premises (once it had been discovered what business interests he had in London). Such a picket would take place on Sunday 4.4.71. Afterwards Clann na h'Eireann and the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Campaign would be informed with a view to organising a joint "activity" on the same lines for subsequent weeks. Privacy felt that a meeting ought to be held with Clann na h'Eireann and NICRA first and Privacy agreed with him. Bob PURDIE sided with LAWLESS. This led to bitter exchanges, particularly between LAWLESS and Privacy. As a result Privacy vacated the 'Chair' and later left the meeting altogether and joined Privacy (who had left earlier) in the bar downstairs. LAWLESS's proposal was then accepted and arrangements were left to be announced on Thursday 1.4.71. By that time only about 9 of the original 18 persons were still at the meeting.

5. The final item discussed was Privacy's approach to a forthcoming IS meeting (believed to be an Executive Committee meeting) on 27.3.71. Privacy had expected Privacy to be present to discuss that topic, but he was absent. Privacy was obliged therefore to discuss the matter with LAWLESS, which led to further bitter exchanges during which LAWLESS gave his reason for his dislike and distrust of IS and its members. Apparently 18 months ago the ICRSC had given £50 to Peoples Democracy, through IS, for a printing press. The money had never reached PD. In due course it was agreed that Privacy would inform IS meeting that the ISC wished to work with IS in the field of Irish Politics.

6. After the meeting, when most of the members had retired to the

bar, Eamonn McCANN arrived at about 10.45 pm, accompanied by Bernadette DEVLIN, MP. They spent a considerable time in conversation with [REDACTED] Privacy, who had earlier been extremely critical of McCANN especially in respect of an article written by McCANN which had appeared in 'The Irish Times' of 22.3.71 (copy attached).

7. The following were among those present at the meeting:

Gerry LAWLESS

[REDACTED]
Privacy

Bob PURDIE

[REDACTED]
Privacy

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[REDACTED]
HN340

Detective Sergeant

Submitted:

Eamonn
Chief Inspector

M. Hodges
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

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APPENDIX to Special Branch report on a meeting of the Central London ISC held on 25.3.71.

Gerry LAWLESS

335/57/430

Privacy

Bob PURDIE

405/67/82

Privacy