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SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report

29/6/71 9 day of June 1971 1

SUBJECT Irish Solidarity Campaign

Reference to Papers 400/70/204

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

"A meeting of the London Branch of the Irish Solidarity Campaign was held at the 'Earl Russell' Public House, Pancras Road, N1, on Thursday, 3 June 1971, and was attended by 20 persons. The Chairman was Gery LAWLESS.

Privacy gave an account of the financial situation of the Branch. There was about £12 in cash held by him. This was separate from the money connected with the 'Irish Citizen' which was showing a profit of about £7 on the first issue - expenses having been £25 and £32 had been received from sales.

There was a short discussion on the next issue which LAWLESS said should be produced in the next few weeks. It had not yet been decided whether there would be eight pages or the price would be reduced to 3p. Privacy was asked to assist the editorial board but he was declined.

It was agreed that the meeting for 10.6.71 be cancelled and all comrades attend the Black Defence Committee meeting at Conway Hall.

Privacy made a suggestion that regular Sunday meetings be held at Sneakers Corner, Hyde Park. Privacy LAWLESS and Privacy all spoke against the idea, therefore no action was taken although the subject would be brought up again at a later date.

The last item discussed was the reply by LAWLESS to the leaflet distributed outside the ISC meeting in Conway Hall on 20.5.71 condemning him for accusing Privacy of being a British Intelligence agent and being involved with Ian PURDIE and Stuart CHRISTIE in the explosion at the home of Mr CARR in January. LAWLESS read a statement which briefly said that, after the explosions, the 'Evening News' and 'Evening Standard' carried stories which he later established had come from the Police which gave such vivid descriptions of the persons believed to be involved that it was impossible for anyone involved in left wing politics not to identify Ian PURDIE and Stuart CHRISTIE. He went on to say that subsequently he met a French journalist and gave him information regarding recent activities in London, and when asked about the 'Carr Bombing' he repeated only what any person with knowledge of the personalities on the 'left' in Britain could have deduced for themselves from newspaper articles. He said that at the time he had believed the French man to be a 'comrade' but had since been 'warned'.

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against him, although he still did not wish to reveal his name.

After his explanation he was strongly criticised by **Privacy** who accused him of having in the past made a habit of denouncing people as police spies and agents without any proof to support such accusations.

**Privacy** especially was very bitter both because he himself had been the target of such denunciation and also because he said he believed wholeheartedly that anyone who was a police spy should be shot, therefore it was absolutely necessary that such statements were substantiated.

**Privacy** spoke briefly in support of what **Privacy** and **Privacy** had said. The only person present to speak in support of LAWLESS was Bob PURDIE who had in fact tried to stop the subject being discussed from the outset.

**Privacy** then moved a proposal which was rather long winded but basically it condemned LAWLESS for having given the article to the French journalist and called on him to be more circumspect in his future utterances especially those likely to become public. A vote was taken of the 12 or so persons who were still there. The motion was passed with 6 voting for and the remainder all abstaining.

The following were among those present:

Gery LAWLESS  
Bob PURDIE  
**Privacy**

**Privacy**

2. Special Branch references to the persons mentioned in this report are contained in the attached appendix.

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Sergeant

Submitted:

*J. J. ...*  
Chief Inspector

*[Signature]*  
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT



APPENDIX

Gery LAWLESS	-	RF.335/57/430
Bob PURDIE	-	RF.405/67/82

Privacy

Stuart CHRISTIE	-	RF.402	Privacy
Ian PURDIE	-	RF.405	

Privacy