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Special Report }

SPECIAL BRANCH

INDEXED  
Date: 3/11/72 Initials: [Redacted]

15 day of June 1972

SUBJECT

Anti-Internment

League

Reference to Papers

400/72/60

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

2. "On Tuesday, 13 June 1972 a delegate meeting of the Anti-Internment League took place at the Irish Centre, Camden Town. The meeting, which was chaired by John GRAY, commenced at 9 pm and finished at 11 pm. There were 26 delegates present.

3. GRAY opened the meeting by informing members of the transport arrangements which had been made to convey supporters to the Anti-Internment League demonstration in Slough. (Details of the demonstration have already been submitted). He said that three coaches had been booked from London. Groups from Oxford, Birmingham and Bristol had promised support.

4. He continued by saying that during the months of August and October it was hoped to bring across some speakers from Northern Ireland. These speakers would go on a tour of organisations and it was hoped that special meetings would be convened to receive them. GRAY said that there was also the possibility of ex-internees visiting London on August 9th but this had not yet been confirmed.

5. Following a request made at a previous delegate meeting, GRAY said that tentative arrangements had been made to arrange an AIL conference to take place in the Autumn. He said that it had been suggested that the weekend of 7/8 October might make a suitable date and that Aston University, Birmingham, had been proposed as a possible venue. He said that the agenda for the conference should include the following topics:

1. Discussion on structure and organisation.
2. Election of new committee.
3. Discussion on the role of AIL in Britain, with reports and debates on, development to date, trade union work, liaison with other minority groups, political prisoners, and future perspectives.
4. Section on current situation in Ireland to include contribution from speakers from Ireland.

More information would be given to delegates about arrangements for the conference at future meetings. [Redacted]

6. [Privacy] then gave a report on the workings of the "Defence Committee". He said that membership of the Committee was as follows:

[Privacy]

He gave a brief resume of the conspiracy case against [Privacy] GRAY and others resulting from the demonstration in February. He also said that the Committee were providing funds to supply [Privacy] with such things as newspapers, toilet articles, etc. He asked for details of the persons at present in prison charged with sedition.

7. [Privacy] then gave the current financial position of the organisation. She said that the organisers had had to endure a reduction in their rate of pay. To alleviate this position she said that a series of social functions had been arranged. The first of these was to take the form of a Folk Night to be held at the Irish Centre on Wednesday, 15 June 1972. She urged branches which had not yet contributed to central funds to do so as soon as possible.

8. Having reached the end of the agenda, any other business was called for. [Privacy] asked if there had been any discussion on the plight of those political prisoners who were at present on a hunger strike in prisons both north and south of the Border. When told that this had not been brought up he gave an impassioned speech on the plight of such persons as Joe CAHILL and Billy MCKEE. He asked what the organisation was intending to do about it. There then followed a long discussion on ways and means of publicising the hunger strikes. In the end the following points were resolved:

- a. Should any of the political prisoners at present on a hunger strike die or should there be any attempt to invade the 'Free Areas' of Belfast or Londonderry all members of the organisation should congregate at Downing Street at 7 pm on the day that the news was released. Should this happen on a Sunday, then members would be expected to meet at Speakers Corner, Hyde Park at 3 pm. There would then follow a spontaneous demonstration which "could be of a violent nature".
- b. On Monday 19 June members should meet at the corner of Fleet Street and Chancery Lane at 7 pm. There would follow a demonstration to publicise the hunger strike by political prisoners.

c. Privacy said that he would not give much detail but on Saturday, 17 June Sinn Fein were to hold a demonstration protesting about the plight of political prisoners in Ireland. Participants were asked to meet at Speakers Corner at 10 am. He declined to give any further details.

d. John GRAY asked where the London office of the Secretary for State for Northern Ireland was situated. When told that it was in Upper Thames Street he appeared to be pleased and said that it was a narrow street. He also mentioned that it was quite close to the venue of the demonstration planned to take place in Fleet Street on the evening of Monday 19.6.72.

10. The following persons are known to have attended:

Privacy

Jan CAMERON

Privacy

John GRAY

Privacy

Kate HOEY

Privacy

11. Special Branch references to persons and organisations mentioned in this report are given in the attached appendix:

HN294

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Det. Inspector

Submitted:

HN294

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Chief Inspector

*J. J. J.*  
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

[Redacted]