

S.B. No. 1 (Plain)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report }

Noted
1 12/71

1

INDEXED

Date 11/8/70

2 day of April 19 70

SUBJECT

NICRA

Reference to Papers

400/69/156

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

2. On Saturday, 21 March 1970 between 7.30 pm and 1 am at the Dominions Hotel, Lancaster Gate, W2, Hammersmith Branch of Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association held a dinner dance. Approximately 100 persons attended. The guest speakers were John RYAN MP, Kevin AGNEW, Chairman of NICRA (Northern Ireland) and Sean McDERMOTT, Chairman of NICRA (London Region).

3. AGNEW outlined the history of the civil rights movement in Northern Ireland. He was critical of the "Ulster Defence Regiment" which he saw as "B Specials under another name". He said that some catholics had joined in order that they might learn how to use firearms, but he and his colleagues in the civil rights movement could teach them all they wished to know in this field. Without actually saying so he implied that the civil rights movements in Northern Ireland were now in possession of firearms which they did not have at the commencement of the disturbances last year, and that they would use them if necessary to defend themselves against attack. AGNEW stated that he was resigning as Chairman of NICRA at the end of the year.

4. John RYAN MP also attacked the setting up of the "Ulster Defence Regiment". He was particularly critical of Sir Arthur YOUNG whom he described as being engaged in a 'white-washing exercise'. Most of his speech was directed against the Conservative and Unionist Party.

5. Sean McDERMOTT spoke briefly and appealed for support for the NICRA march from Speakers' Corner, Hyde Park, to Wandsworth Prison on Sunday, 22 March 1970.

6. Amongst those present the following were identified:-

- Kevin AGNEW
- Sean McDERMOTT
- John RYAN MP

Privacy

Privacy

Privacy

Privacy

Privacy (phonetic)
Chairman Hammersmith Branch
NICRA

Privacy

7. Special Branch references to the persons mentioned are contained in an appendix to this report.

3 [redacted] HN68
Constable

Submitted:

J. J. J.
Chief Inspector

[Signature]
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

[REDACTED]

A P P E N D I X

to Special Branch report dated 2 April 1970 re Dinner
Dance of NICRA held on 21.3.70

Kevin AGNEW ✓

Privacy

Sean McDERMOTT ✓

Privacy

John RYAN MP

Privacy

Privacy (phonetic)
Chairman Hammersmith Branch ✓
NICRA

Privacy

335/ Privacy

Privacy

335/ Privacy

Privacy

Privacy

Unable to identify

Privacy

Unable to identify

Unable to identify

Unable to identify

Privacy

No trace

No trace

Mentions

