

23/8/69

(COPY)

S.E. No. 1 (Filmy)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report

SUBJECT

The International Marxist Group.

Reference to Papers RF.400/69/135

TO [REDACTED] SF 746

19th day of August, 1969.

1. With reference to Special Branch report dated 6th August, 1969, regarding the International Marxist Group summer camp during which the whole of the Monday was devoted to lectures and discussions about Irish problems.

2. Pete GOWAN started the debate with a lecture on the history of Ireland from the mid 17th Century to about 1900. He spoke in general terms covering the economic difficulties and social problems culminating in the 'Great Migration' of people from Ireland in the late 19th Century.

3. During the afternoon, Privacy gave a lecture about the events which led up to the current political unrest in Northern Ireland. He said that there could be civil war in Ireland in the near future, which could spread to London, Clydeside and Liverpool.

4. In the debate that followed it was widely agreed that the situation in Ireland should be seen as an aspect of British imperialism and that the civil rights movement was a national liberation movement. On those grounds all Marxists should support the civil rights movement. If its adherents chose to achieve armed self-defence against the Police 'B' Specials, or to blow up water installations, that had to be accepted. It was up to the Irish to choose their own means of fighting imperialism.

5. It was argued that, in England, Marxists should join together to stop the British Government sending troops to Northern Ireland. They should take part in preaching to the Irish community in Britain the socialist view of Irish problems and eliminate as far as possible the religious aspects.

6. It seemed that the I.M.G. intended to differ from other left-wing groups in its opposition to the suggestion that the British Government should take over the internal control of Northern Ireland. The chief line of argument to be used by the I.M.G. was to vilify the Paisleyites, the Royal Ulster Constabulary and the 'B' Specials and it intended to use the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign as a platform for its propaganda.

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7. Pete GOWAN is the subject of mentions on R.F. 400/67/71 (69A), where it was reported he was on the National Committee of the R.S.S.F.

8. **Privacy** is the subject of mentions on **Privacy** where he was reported to be the Glasgow contact for the R.S.S.F.

9. C.R.S.C. is the subject of 400/67/136.

1 **HN321**

2 **HN321**

Detective Constable

Submitted:

Lutten
Chief Inspector

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT