

S.B. No. 1 (1972)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

(COPY)

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

4 April 72  
day of

72  
19

SUBJECT Anti-  
Internment League

Reference to Papers  
400/72/42

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

2. "On Tuesday 23 March 1972 an executive meeting of the Anti-Internment League took place at the Irish Centre, Camden Town, NW1. The meeting commenced at 8.30pm and finished at 11.15pm. There were 46 persons present.

3. The meeting, which was chaired by [Privacy] assisted by John GRAY and Kate HOBY, opened with [Privacy] listing the present members of the AIL Committee. He added that owing to the failure of some Committee members to attend meetings, they had forfeited their places and therefore five places were now vacant on the Committee. These places would be filled by election at the next delegate meeting. The remainder of the Committee was:-

Privacy

John GRAY

Kate HOBY

Privacy

4. Gary LAWLER then proposed that the AIL should extend its campaign to incorporate a demand for the release of all political prisoners in Great Britain, the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. It was agreed that delegates should discuss this at their own organisational level and report back to the next delegate meeting. It was the general consensus that this would be a good extension of AIL activities.

5. A representative of the Bristol Anti-Internment League reported on the publicity given to the proposed march through Bristol City by the Gloucestershire Regiment. This parade had at first been objected to by the Town Clerk who had later withdrawn his objection. The 'Gloucesters' intended in marching through the City on Thursday 15 April. The Bristol Branch was totally opposed to the march and wanted to organise a counter demonstration to give good publicity to the AIL. He therefore asked the meeting to pass a motion giving national support to the Bristol plan of holding a counter march through Bristol on Saturday 15 April. After some discussion, the meeting carried the vote that national



support, and in particular, support from London and the South-West, should be given to the Bristol Branch. It was arranged that John GRAY would organise coaches for the London organisations wishing to go to Bristol. Coach tickets would be available in the near future. It was anticipated the AIL could count on some 2,000 persons participating in the march. A possible confrontation with the police was expected.

6. Following the denial of access to Trafalgar Square, it was suggested that a programme of protest be related to this particular issue. It was agreed that an application be made to the Department of the Environment requesting the use of Trafalgar Square sometime before the end of May. Should this application be rejected a vote would be taken on whether to organise a demonstration march to the Square against the ban. The Committee was directed to look into the possibility of sponsoring a conference on the subject of increasing police intimidation and repression. Such a conference would be open to any group which felt it had suffered under the police.

7. A brief discussion then took place on the subject of Trade Unions and the help they could be to the League (see leaflet attached).

8. The last item was a report on the student aggregate given by [redacted] Privacy. She said that as the student meetings had only been attended by a maximum of five persons, there was nothing to report. She urged more support in these meetings.

9. In closing Gery LAWLESS sponsored a resolution that the AIL should picket as many Labour Party offices as possible in an effort to enlist their support. It was decided that a meeting on this would probably be held on Tuesday 4 April. John GRAY said he would notify delegates when a venue had been arranged. The next AIL delegate meeting will be on 11.4.72.

10. Among those present were-

Gery LAWLESS

[redacted] Privacy

John GRAY

[redacted] Privacy

Kate BURY

[redacted] Privacy



[REDACTED]

Privacy

Ian CAMERON

Privacy

11. No mention was made of the proposed marches by Sinn Fein and Glann na h'Eireann in London on Sunday 2 April".

12. The Special Branch references are given in the attached appendix.

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HN294

INSPECTOR

*J. Anderson*  
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

[REDACTED]

APPENDIX

Appendix to Special Branch report dated 4 April 1972 concerning a  
meeting of the Anti-International League Delegates Committee held on 28.3.72

Privacy

Ian CAMERON

Mentions re. R

Privacy

John GRAY

RF

Kate BONY

RF

Privacy

Privacy

Gery LAWLESS

RF 335/57/490

Privacy

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



### ANTI-INTERMENT LEAGUE

A message to Trade Unionists in England - from the Trade Union Committee of the Anti-Interment League.

Letter from a Trade Unionist interned in Long Kesh

" --- It is precisely because I am a Trade Unionist, like thousands of my Trade Union comrades took part in the Civil Rights movement for a democratic society in Northern Ireland., that I find myself interned here - a hostage to British Imperialism which, through its Unionist agents in Ireland, has trampled on the rights of Trade Unionists over the years and divided the working-class on sectarian lines ...."

#### Jailing of Trade Unionists

Since August last year hundreds of Irishmen have been interned without charge or trial in Northern Ireland. This is an attempt to terrorise the Irish people and to prevent them from deciding the future of their country. The majority of the internees - like the T.G.W.U. member quoted above - are trade unionists including many shop stewards.

#### Troops used against the working class

Why are British troops in Ireland at all? - To preserve and defend the imperial interests of the same bosses the British workers fight against at home. Not to protect Catholics from Protestants or vice-versa as the mass media say.

Unemployment has driven many young British workers into the British Army. If we don't stop the troops being used against Irish workers, they will be used against British workers next.

#### Ireland today - Britain tomorrow

In Northern Ireland Trade Unionists have been jailed under the Special Powers Act.

In Britain too attacks on workers rights are increasing:-  
- Industrial Relations Act.

Banning of marches and Trafalgar Square rallies.  
Dawn raids on the homes of Irish Republican sympathisers, socialists and Trade Unionists - including seizure of Trade Union documents.

Government anti-immigration laws  
Increased phone tapping, letter opening etc.  
The entire law and order campaign

This makes it necessary to fight now for the demands of the A.I.L.

- RELEASE THE INTERNEES
- WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM IRELAND

#### How you can help as a Trade Unionist

The Irish question must be taken up within the ranks of the Trade Union movement in Britain. The A.I.L. T.U. Ctte exists to organise this work, by providing speakers, factual background material on military repression in Ireland for discussion at branches and conferences, by providing T.U. branches with the names of internees whom they can "adopt" and in the future by working for concrete action in support of the Irish working-class by workers in Britain. We urgently need contact with Trade-Unionists who agree with the two demands of the A.I.L. and are willing to work along the lines indicated.

If you can help contact:- The Secretary, A.I.L. T.U. Ctte,  
14 Tollington Pk., N.4.