

S.B. No. 1 (Filmsy)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

(COPY)

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

22 day of March 72 19

SUBJECT Anti-Internment League

Reference to Papers 5/72/42

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

2. On Tuesday, 21.3.72, a delegate meeting of the Anti-Internment League was held at the 'Dublin Castle' public house, NW1. The meeting, which began at 9 pm and ended at 11 pm, was attended by 98 persons of whom 42 were delegates with voting rights.

3. The chairman was Privacy assisted by John GRAY. Privacy acquainted the meeting with the Ministry of Environment ban on the use of Trafalgar Square and asked it to decide what action should be taken. He then handed out copies of proposals (attached) made by the March Committee on the routes to be taken by the five marches. Fundamentally, each march would commence from the already agreed starting points and converge on Trafalgar Square, but that now they would march around the Square and not occupy it and afterwards march along the Strand towards the Aldwych, eventually arriving at the Temple area of the Embankment, where a public meeting would be held.

4. This prompted violent reaction from some sections of the audience, notably the Trotskyist elements, who considered the ban was a basic infringement of the right of free speech and an attempt at intimidation by the Government. They argued it was a question of principle and that the ban represented the thin end of the wedge insofar as it would lead to a more general ban on demonstrations. From the bedlam, two alternative notions emerged:

- a. That everyone should link arms on arrival at Trafalgar Square and charge the police cordon and hold a meeting in defiance of the ban.
b. That a meeting should be held in the roadway at the nearest possible point to Trafalgar Square (in front of the police cordon).

5. Counter proposals were then made by the Irish sections condemning both of the foregoing proposals stating that this would inevitably result in a direct and violent confrontation with police who would be 'fighting on their own ground' and would simply lead to numerous arrests.

6. At this point a representative of East London AIL moved that the March Committee's proposals be accepted. This was seconded by [Privacy]. This initiated further chaos, but eventually the matter was voted upon and carried, with 30 votes for, 4 against and 10 abstentions.

7. Discussion then took place on briefing of stewards (see copy attached). In essence, the instructions by the March Committee were directed at ensuring that the stewards, of whom there would be 30, realized their responsibilities in keeping the march orderly.

8. After this a further motion was put that as the meeting had agreed to follow the March Committee's proposals, that the Committee should receive the full support of all concerned. This was carried unanimously.

9. [Privacy] intimated that another March Committee meeting (see details) would be held to co-ordinate the five marches to ensure their simultaneous arrival at Trafalgar Square. To achieve this the stewards would need to slow down or speed up their respective columns accordingly.

10. Despite the apparent acquiescence of the Trotskyist and student groups it was evident that they viewed the simultaneous arrival of the columns at Trafalgar Square as an ideal situation to exploit. From the tenor of the meeting it was clear the Irish groups were generally in favour of a peaceful demonstration whereas the 'English' groups (ILO, IS, students and others) were anxious to have a confrontation and since they will form a good proportion of the participants some degree of disorder is likely.

11. Among those present were:

[Privacy]

[Privacy]

[Privacy]

[Privacy]

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

1

HN294

2

HN294

Chief Inspector

[Signature]
[Redacted]



APPENDIX to Special Branch report re an AIL meeting held on 21.3.72
at the 'Dublin Castle' public house, NW1.

Privacy

John GRAY

BY

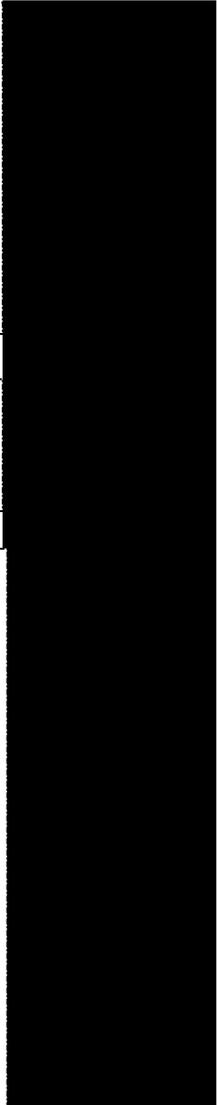
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SP.355/571/430

Privacy



ANTI-INTERNMENT LEAGUE RALLY, MARCH 26TH, 1972

Instructions for Stewards

- 1 The purpose of the Rally is to demonstrate, in orderly and peaceful fashion, against the holding of prisoners in Northern Ireland concentration camps, and against the presence and activities of British troops in that area.
- 2 Each steward appointed by local branches of the A.I.L. shall wear the armband assigned. Each steward appointed by an affiliated organisation will wear the armband of his organisation and an A.I.L. armband.
- 3 Every body appointing stewards must provide a chief steward who must be made known to the individual stewards of his contingent.
- 4 All stewards, whether appointed by branches or by other bodies are to adhere to the decisions of the march committee which will be conveyed through the chief stewards of each contingent.
- 5 Persons taking photographs of events for or on behalf of the A.I.L. will wear stewards armbands and will be facilitated in moving through the processions.
- 6 A primary duty of all stewards will be to prevent any confrontation between marchers and people who may express hostility from the sidewalks. There must be no retaliation.
- 7 When the march committee tells that the time has come for the meeting to disperse, stewards will assist in rapid and peaceful conclusion of the meeting by abdication and example.
- 8 In event of any argument between marchers and policemen stewards shall seek the immediate intervention of the appropriate chief steward and also emphasise that negotiations must take place between the stewards and the police only.

Signed:

Privacy
(March Committee); John Gray (Organiser); Privacy
Privacy Jerry LAWRENCE (MARCH COMMITTEE).

ANTI-INTERNMENT LEAGUE

Plenary Meeting, March 21st, 1972

- 1 The Department of the Environment has confirmed its original decision to refuse access to Trafalgar Square for the meeting of next Sunday.
- 2 Having considered all the surrounding circumstances the March Committee recommends:
 - (a) That the Kilburn march commences from Crickewood Broadway and proceeds along Shoot Up Hill, Kilburn High Road, Maida Vale, Edgware Road, Marble Arch, Oxford Street, Old Cavendish Street, Cavendish Square, Margaret Street, Regent Street, Oxford Circus, Regent Street, Piccadilly Circus, Haymarket, passes along the North and East sides of Trafalgar Square, turns left into the Strand, and moves towards Aldwych.
 - (b) That the West London March commences from Hammersmith Broadway, along Shepherds Bush Road, Shepherds Bush Green, Uxbridge Road, Holland Park Avenue, Notting Hill Gate, Bayswater Road, Marble Arch, Oxford Street, Old Cavendish Street, Cavendish Square, Margaret Street, Regent Street, Oxford Circus, Regent Street, Piccadilly Circus, Haymarket, Pall Mall East, and moves through Trafalgar Square North and East sides, then turn left into the Strand and move towards Aldwych.
 - (c) That the North London march starts from Archway, passes along Junction Road, Fortess Road, Kentish Town Road, Camden Street, Crowndale, Hampstead Road, Gower Street, Bloomsbury Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, Princess Circus, Monmouth Street, Upper St. Martin's Lane, St. Martin's Lane, St. Martin's Place. It will then come along the East side of Trafalgar Square and turn left into the Strand and move towards Aldwych.
 - (d) That the South London March will start from Clapham High Street and progress along Clapham Road, Kennington Park Road, Kennington Road, Westminster Bridge Road, Westminster Bridge, from there into Bridge Street, Parliament Square, up Whitehall, into the South side of Trafalgar Square, and turn right into the Strand and move towards Aldwych.
 - (e) That the East London march will start from Tower Hill and progress from there along Upper Thames Street, Lambeth Hill, Queen Victoria Street, New Bridge Street, Victoria Embankment turning right into Northumberland Avenue, reaching the South East corner of Trafalgar Square and turning right into the Strand to move in the direction of the Aldwych.
 - (f) That A.I.L. speakers will be present at Hyde Park and that any grouping there will move to join the first march coming past - whichever that may be.
 - (g) That A.I.L. Stewards with megaphones will be present at Trafalgar Square, and that these will bring people accumulated there to join with the first march to pass.
 - (h) That all five marches will form up in the Strand. In order to prevent confusion they will maintain the order in which they arrive there. From that point the march will progress along the remainder of the Strand, into Fleet Street, to Ludgate Circus, down New Bridge Street into Victoria Embankment.

- (i) That the scheduled meeting will take place on the Embankment in the Temple area.
- (j) That, following the conclusion of this meeting the rally will disperse in accordance with the instructions being circulated to constituent organisations for the guidance of Stewards.
- (k) That each branch of the march will be led by a member of the March Committee and four Chief Stewards appointed from the areas. The March Committee member will leave the procession when satisfactorily established and move to join his fellows at Trafalgar Square and the Strand.
- (l) That all organisations take steps to ensure that instructions to stewards are maintained.

3 The March Committee reminds that the order of each procession will be: A.I.L. Banner followed by Chief Stewards and A.I.L. contingent; Irish organisations; other organisations.