

(COPY)

S. No. 1 (Flimsy)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report

3 day of March 72

Irish

OBJECT
Solidarity
Campaign

reference to Papers

400/70/204

1. The following information has been received from a reliable source:-
2. "A meeting of the Irish Solidarity Campaign was held at the 'General Picton', PE, Killick Street, NI on 25.2.72 from 8.30 to 10.30pm. The chairman was Privacy and there were about 30 persons present.
3. The first item was the Anti-Internment League meeting held on 22.2.72 at which it had been announced that John GRAY would be moving from his present flat into another larger one which would be paid for by the AIL as the premises would double as AIL offices. GRAY had also said he could not deal with the volume of work and therefore wanted an assistant. It was suggested that a Privacy who was at present living in the same house as GRAY and his wife and who was unemployed should be given the job of assistant to GRAY. The only problem was salary in view of the AIL's unsteady financial position. Privacy raised the question of the AIL Defence Fund. He said he had heard that the money which had been collected had been paid directly into the AIL account. This was confirmed by several other people. If such was the case Privacy felt it would be wrong of the AIL to use any part of money so collected for purposes other than the defence of persons arrested on demonstrations etc. This met with general agreement.
4. Privacy said that the AIL were considering sending a letter of protest to the LYONCE Government in view of recent actions taken against Republican leaders. Privacy called for ISC opposition to such a proposal as it would be outside the AIL's stated aims. It was also announced that the National Union of Students was going to be re-admitted to the AIL.
5. The next item was the St Patrick's Day Parades. Privacy was apparently trying to get support for organizing a militant political demonstration to follow some 100 yards behind the traditional parade. There did not appear to be much immediate support for the idea and it was therefore shelved for at least another week after which it would receive further consideration.
6. Privacy said the new issue of the 'Irish Citizen' had been delayed, principally because the editor, LAWLESS, was abroad and was not likely to return for at least two days. However, the issue would probably be ready in about a week.
7. Privacy then informed the meeting that he was having a certain amount of success in obtaining contacts within Trade Unions. He had been given the name of someone working in the TUC who had access to the names of all T B militants and those

likely to be sympathetic to ISC.

4 Exh 12-103

8. There then ensued a fairly long debate on the bomb explosion at Aldershot. Most of the contributions supported the action taken by the IRA and the ISC slogan 'Victory to the IRA' was repeated several times as "the only correct line to be taken by revolutionaries". However Privacy called for better stewarding and tighter security at demonstrations in the immediate future so as to guard against any possible right-wing or police reaction. Privacy was very enthusiastic about the incident and was somewhat annoyed at IS comments in the current issue of 'Socialist Worker' which showed a change of attitude towards the IRA from that given a fortnight earlier and from that which Privacy had given at an ISC meeting on 18.2.72 (previously reported). After further discussion it was agreed that a letter should be sent to IS from the ISC complaining of their change of attitude towards the IRA. (Apparently the article referred to was cool if not actually critical of the IRA's action at Aldershot).

9. Privacy raised the subject of an ISC social by the ISC to gain funds for the ISC Defence Fund. It was eventually agreed Privacy would make the arrangements.

10. Privacy said a meeting had been arranged between ISC and Jim Finn. The object of the meeting would be to discuss methods of co-ordinating action in London (no further details given).

11. The final item was membership of the ISC and the issuing of either a card or badge, but as time was short the matter was left to a later date, although it was decided that badges and not cards would be used.

12. The following were among those present:-

Andy BILLY

Privacy

Privacy

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

HN294

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Inspector