

S.B. No. 1 (Flimsy)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report

26 day of June 1972

SUBJECT 'Metro Club' Demonstration

1. Submitted herewith is a copy of leaflet produced by Piers CORBYN on behalf of Notting Hill IAC as an assessment of the Metro Youth demonstration held in Notting Hill on Saturday 3 June 1972.

2. In the assessment CORBYN urges that the next time such a demonstration/less attention (no attention) should be paid to police who 'helped' formulate the route. CORBYN otherwise blames the poor attendance on police intimidation and internal conflicts amongst the coloured groups.

3. Piers CORBYN is the subject of RP 402/69/699 Notting Hill IAC is dealt with on 400/72/91

/is held Reference to Papers 400/71/120

1 HN338 Detective Constable

2 HN294 submitted by Inspector

3 CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

BOX 500

to : various participating groups and individuals
from : Notting Hill IMG.

Objective

Firstly we must be clear what were the objective of the organisation, publicity for, and actual occurrence of the demonstration. These were:

1. To get across certain ideas about the nature of racism, the law of the capitalist State, and the need for white groups to solidarise with blacks in struggle.
2. To create a focus for political use in the court during the Metro trial, however since the demo occurred late on in the trial this was entirely secondary.

The demonstration - as a whole - (ie including all propaganda etc beforehand) must be assessed in the light of the objectives.

Organisation

The organisation was done in the name of the RED DEFENCE GROUP. It was always made clear who was the RDG (ie independents + some IMG) but this type of group was very able to easily approach other groups for co-operation, and talk about the issues involved - and not get involved in irrelevant sectarianism.

Assessment

1. Organisation, CP, IS, LPYS, and others were approached and asked to come to a meeting. None of them replied. However An INDIVIDUAL CP member worked with the RDG for the demo, the IS responded later, no other group responded but various individuals took part. The RDG approach was confirmed, in that what co-operation took place could only have been done via the RDG and various meetings attended.
2. Publicity
About 4 thousand leaflets, and 1000 posters were distributed, and certainly created discussion and got a lot of important ideas across to many people.

3. Turnout and route

The turnout was about 60 people at the rally, 40 people at the start of the march, and 30 when it reached Portobello Road after returning from Harrow Rd. The turnout was not very good but the numbers are not at all important in any crucial sense for this type of demo. The tactic of taking the demo down Portobello Rd was proved to be absolutely correct. Many leaflets were given to people ~~by~~ there, a lot of people talked about the matter - because of the focus the 30 or so marchers created - and the police completely foiled (they ~~would~~ could not follow with their van)

Next time less attention (no attention) should be paid to police who 'helped' formulate the route which in part went via empty streets (in which it is not possible to present ideas to many people !)

4. Black Groups

The lack of turnout of blacks (even though black groups 'supported' the demo) was due to (i) police intimidation.

(ii) internal conflicts in the black groups which meant they could not in fact mobilise people.

However these should not in any way deter us. The aim of the demo mainly concerned racism - in white people. Moreover lack of activity of black groups should not mean we do nothing, on the contrary it means white groups must mobilise to fight racism.

End. discussion welcome.