

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Special Report }

SUBJECT IMG,
IS, SLL Public
Meeting

Reference to Papers

SPECIAL BRANCH

16 day of April 1973

The following information has been received from a reliable source:

1. On Monday 16 April 1973 at 7.30 pm, at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1, a public meeting was held under the auspices of the INTERNATIONAL MARXIST GROUP (IMG), INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS (IS) and the SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE (SLL). The meeting was called by the IMG to discuss the subject of 'Police oppression and victimisation' in consequence of the recent raids carried out by Police on Irish addresses in Coventry and the Home Counties. The meeting began at 7.30 pm and ended at 10 pm and was attended by approximately 600 persons.

2. The proceedings were chaired by Gerry LAWLESS, and addressed by Gerry HEALY (SLL), Duncan HALLAS (IS), and Tariq ALI (IMG). LAWLESS opened by saying that the time had at last come for the three chief revolutionary 'Left' organisations to stand together on a common platform against imperialist corruption. He welcomed all those present and introduced the first speaker.

3. HEALY, speaking vehemently but at times almost inaudibly, opened his speech by stating that he welcomed this opportunity to speak on a platform in joint solidarity with the IS and IMG against the recent examples of blatant police oppression. He knew there were great differences of opinion amongst the three organisations but it was now time to forget these differences and for the three organisations to work together in the fight for the freedom of the working class. He stated that all three organisations had suffered in the past from police oppression in one way or another but in the present stage of the struggle this oppression was becoming far more open and blatant. The early morning raids were only the most recent of a series of examples of authoritarian oppression. He quoted a recent High Court Judgement against a trade union member found guilty of obstruction on a picket line where he had stood in front of a lorry. Attempting a little humour, HEALY pointed out that it was the union member who had been intimidated by the presence of the five ton lorry, and it would now appear that the only means of picketing available was to stand at some distance and wave pleasantly to the blacklegs. He claimed that it was now time for all revolutionaries to stand together as the intimidation of one member of an organisation meant that the whole revolutionary left was being attacked. He concluded by saying that it was unusual for the SLL to be willing to participate in such a joint undertaking but he nevertheless welcomed the opportunity to do so.

[REDACTED]

showing that solidarity did exist amongst the left organisations, particularly those that were of Trotskyist affiliations, and for such a large turn out by all organisations at such short notice.

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6. LAWLESS then made a short appeal for money towards the cost of organising the meeting. He made a determined endeavour to get people to donate more than coppers to the collection which after the cost of organising the meeting had been deducted would be divided equally amongst the three participating organisations. The collection realised £64. 8p. LAWLESS then went on to say that he intended to open the meeting to a general discussion from the floor. He intended to limit each speaker to three minutes each and at the end allow ten minutes each for each of the three main speakers to answer any points or questions which had been raised from the floor. He said that he intended to allot speaking time to the floor more or less in the order which persons caught his eye. The contributions from the floor were of little interest to Special Branch, consisting mainly of persons allegedly giving their own experience of police oppression but most of which appeared to be second hand.

7. The meeting was on the surface a step towards solidarity for the revolutionary left, but, it is difficult to imagine a close working relationship between the SLL and the IS/IMG lasting, despite the laudatory eloquence of HALLAS and ALI when describing HEALY's speech.

8. The following persons were identified as having attended the meeting:

Tariq ALI

[REDACTED]

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Gerry HEALY

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Pat JORDAN
Gerry LAWLESS

Privacy

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Privacy

Charlie VAN GELDEREN

[REDACTED]

Privacy

9. a. Special Branch references are given in the attached
appendix.

HN338

Det Constable

HN301

Det Constable

Submitted:

HN294

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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3 CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

APPENDIX to Special Branch report dated 18 April 1973 concerning
the joint I.S., I.M.G., S.L.L. meeting on 16 April 1973.

Tariq ALI

RF 402/65/440

[REDACTED]

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Gerry HEALY

RF 402/41/455

[REDACTED]

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Pat JORDAN

RF 402/60/182

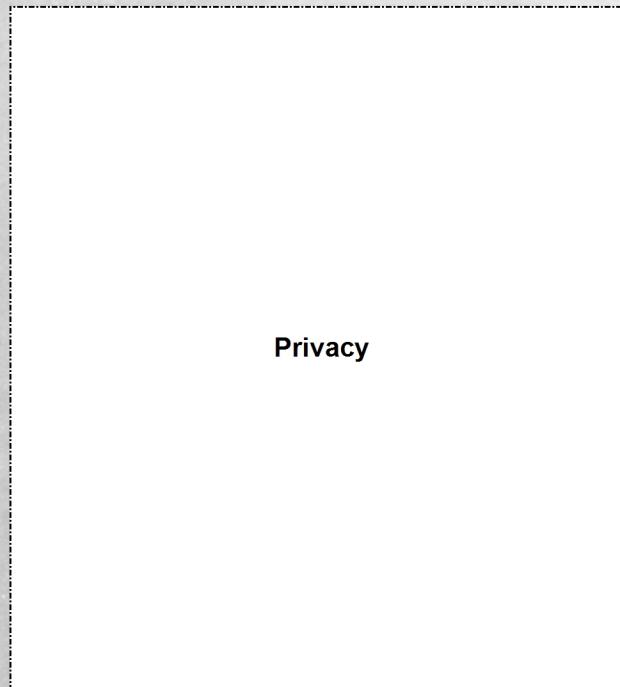
Gerry LAWLESS

RF 335/57/430

[REDACTED]

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UCPI0000015700



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Charlie VAN GELDEREN RF 301/MP/4935



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