

S.B. No. 1 (Plain)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

18th day of April 1977

SUBJECT

International
Marxist Group

- The following information has been received from a secret and reliable source:

Reference to Papers

400/76/178

" As part of their GLC election campaign, the IMG held a public meeting at Southall Town Hall on Thursday 14th April between 8 and 10.30pm. The Chairman was Bob SINGH, an AUEW member and thought to work at the Trico factory, Brentford. The speakers were Tariq ALI of the IMG Political Committee, Gerry HEDLEY the IMG candidate for Ealing and Southall, who is well known in West London ultra-left circles, he works as a lecturer at the Courtaulds Institute, and Ahmed SHUJA described as editor of 'Jio-o-Jehad'. About 50 persons attended the meeting, of whom about 16 were Asians. The impression was gained that the majority of the white persons present were not from the immediate vicinity of Southall.

The basis of the IMG election campaign is opposition to the social contract, and cuts in public services, a fight against the Tory policies of the Labour Government, and working class unity against racialism - which as far as IMG is concerned means active opposition to the National Front. Little was said by the speakers that has not already been fully covered in recent issues of the 'Red Weekly' and in their Socialist Manifesto that was published for the start of the election campaign. Tariq ALI tended to concentrate on the anti-racial aspects, such as a spirited attack on the careerist blacks and Asians within the race relations industry, and the presence of strong National Front groups in almost all areas surrounding Southall. HEDLEY kept to more or less local issues, such as the cuts in the budget of the King Edward Memorial Hospital in the Uxbridge Road; the bussing of Asian and West Indian children by Ealing Council rather than the provision of more schools; harrasment by local police of young Indians and West Indians; the 'all white' policy of the Southall Labour Club. Apart from attacking the Labour Party in general, the speakers made particular attacks on Sidney Bidwell, the local Labour M.P., Yvonne Sieve the present Labour GLC member for Southall, and the so-called leaders of the Asian community in Southall, for their complacency and attempts to maintain the status quo.

BOX 500

TO [REDACTED]
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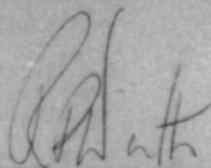
M.P. 71. 64/9520M. (2)

Calls were made for support for the anti-racist demonstration against the National Front in North London on 23.4.77; the NUPE demonstration against the cuts on 11th May, and the engineers on strike at Heathrow Airport.

The only questions or statements from the floor of the meeting which were of any direct interest, were made by a young Indian of about 18/20 years of age. He referred to the spontaneous upsurge of anti-racist feelings that had arisen last year amongst young Indians in the wake of the Chaggar murder and which manifested themselves in direct action on the streets of Southall. This awareness and propensity for action he said, had been betrayed and crushed by the 'establishment' leaders of the Indian community. He also blamed the white left (and by implication the IMG) for not doing more to assist the militant youth of Southall and for not following up the initial interest they displayed at the time of the murder. It is felt that this youth was probably connected to the Southall Youth Movement.

Although several people left the meeting before the end, a collection was taken and the amount realized was £8-50p or £18-50p. Other persons seen at the meeting were [REDACTED] of the Workers League and Ealing Trades Council, and [REDACTED] one of the leaders of the Students Union at Ealing Technical College."

2. Special French references to the persons and organizations mentioned in this report are shown on the attached appendix.


DEPUTY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

APPENDIX

to Special Branch report dated 18th April 1977 concerning a
meeting of the International Marxist Group at Southall Town
Hall on Thursday 14th April 1977

Tariq ALI - [REDACTED]
Sidney BIDWELL - [REDACTED]
Gerry HEDLEY - [REDACTED]
Yvonne SIEVE - [REDACTED]
Bob SINGH - [REDACTED]
Ahmed SHUJA - [REDACTED]

Ealing Trades Council - [REDACTED]
'Jio-o-Jehad' - [REDACTED]

'Red Weekly' - [REDACTED]
Southall Youth Movement - [REDACTED]
Workers League - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]