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(COPY)

S.B. No. 1 (Flimsy)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

[redacted]

SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report

[redacted]

23 day of November 19 71

SUBJECT Women's Liberation Front

Reference to Papers

400/69/172

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

2. "At 7.30pm on Thursday 18 November 1971, the Women's Liberation Front held its weekly meeting at Privacy the home of Privacy. There were 15 persons present of whom the following were known:-

Privacy [redacted]

3. The meeting was opened by Privacy who chaired the meeting. She announced that the evening would be devoted to a talk from Leila HASSAN of the Black Unity and Freedom Party (B.U.F.P.), Women's Action Group, on the oppression of Black Women.

4. HASSAN spoke for approximately an hour and outlined the early history and basis of black oppression, laying particular emphasis on the slave trade in America. The woman's role then was purely to breed children to be used as future slaves. Strong coloured men were encouraged to copulate with strong black women so that super slaves could be produced. This explained how it was still perpetuated by whites that coloured men and women were super sex objects.

5. She next attacked the fashion industry for the way in which it oppressed all women and in particular how it made such complete fools of black women. She felt that nothing more degraded a black girl than partially straightened hair, green eye shadow, red lipstick and white stockings. This was just an attempt to conceal her blackness with a white mask. On the current 'Afro' fashion trend which encouraged the bush hair style even for non coloureds, she thought black people were being drawn into a subtle trap by saying black was beautiful, thereby losing sight of the real racialism which prevailed.

6. She felt that black peoples's problems, whether political, social, cultural or sexual could only be dealt with and solved by black people.

M.P./71-8C348/36M (2)

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Even after the revolution racialism would still exist and there would be a need for a black peoples party. Nevertheless to put one's blackness first and foremost could detract from the road to revolution. The first decision was to come to terms with one's place in society as a black person and choose the role to play [redacted]

7. On the recently formed Women's section of the B.U.F.P. she explained that the majority of the women had really been recruited through the sexual activities of the men. Despite this she felt that the women's section were far more militant than the men's group. They held meetings in Peckham once weekly; men were not admitted at this stage. They were as yet content to discuss their own personal problems, particularly their double abuse by their own men, who were playing them off against white women, especially since it was socially 'in' for white girls to be with black men. They had also discussed contraception nurseries and abortion and intended starting a nurseries campaign shortly and would welcome unity with other white women's groups on this issue. As the WLF had just started its own compaign for nurseries on the North London area, this could lead to discussion on future combined activities, but no specific arrangements were made.

8. Her speech was followed by general discussion on racialism and questions were put to the speaker. In the main Leila was unable to agree with the WLF analysis of racialism, but there was a great deal of agreement on socialism." [redacted]

9. Special Branch references are given in the attached Appendix. [redacted]

1 HN348
WDC

Submitted:

2 [redacted] HN332
Chief Inspector

3 [redacted]
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

[redacted]

[redacted]

APPENDIX to Special Branch report on a W.L.F. meeting held on 18.11.71

Mentions re. W.L.F.

Privacy

Privacy

[redacted]

Leila HASSAN

MP 405 Privacy

Privacy

Privacy

S.U.F.P.

400/70/258

[redacted]

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