

SB No. 1

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

Date : 31-10-95

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

Resistance

1. "On Saturday 28th October at the Halkevi Centre, Stoke Newington the Colin Roach Centre (CRC) held a conference to launch a new organisation called 'Resistance'. The main idea behind Resistance was to draw all areas of work done by the CRC under one umbrella organisation with a constitution and a set of agreed policies.

References:

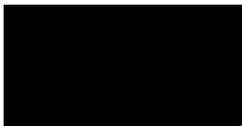
on
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2. The conference had originally been planned for two days but in the event Mark METCALF, **Privacy** and **Privacy** managed to find areas of agreement in their respective proposals for a constitution for the new group. This had been an area which had had a distinct anarchist / Marxist divide among CRC members. The constitution drawn up by **Privacy** and amended by **Privacy** was eventually voted for by a narrow margin much to the disappointment of Mark METCALF, **Privacy** and **Privacy**. The policy discussion was far less contentious with a fairly united agreement on the draft proposals drawn up by METCALF.

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3. The conference itself lasted a full eight hours with an average attendance of 30 people which included representatives and observers from the Haringey Solidarity Group, and ex-SWP members from Gravesend including **Privacy**.

4. Before the conference there was a great deal of uncertainty among the membership as to the future of the centre with its diverse range of political opinions and activists. METCALF had threatened to walk away from 'Resistance' if he did not get his own way with the constitution and the issue of employing a full-time worker. This does not now appear to be the case. METCALF is awaiting the result of a job interview with Islington Council for a full time post as a care worker which will restrict his activities if he is successful. In terms of presenting a united front, Resistance would appear to have got to a good start. Constitutionally, Resistance maintains a distinctive anarchist flavour in terms of how it will relate to other groups and co-ordinate its work; in other words there is little change in practical terms from the old CRC. It is hoped that the policies of Resistance will attract new members, especially disgruntled left-wingers who are still interested in politics, but who dislike Marxist hierarchy. This has some potential, because Resistance will draw upon the influence and respect gained from the HCDA and the community involvement which attracts the anarchist/crusty element under a political umbrella. In theory Resistance has the potential to grow (even if only in Hackney) into a credible anti-establishment political organisation."



5. Special Branch references of activists identified:

Privacy

Mark METCALF

RF 405/87/132

Privacy

Celia STUBBS

RF 402/74/481

Privacy



Superintendent

