

cover sheet

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

S.B. No. 1 (Plain)

Special Report

INDEXED

Date: 3.12.72 Initials: [REDACTED]

8 day of November 1972

SUBJECT Anti-Internment League

Reference to Papers 400/72/187

1. The following information has been received from a reliable source:-
2. "On Tuesday, 7 November 1972 at 8.30 pm at the Metropolitan Tavern, Farringdon Road, EC2, the Anti Internment League held a delegate meeting to discuss arrangements for the AIL demonstration and march to be held on 12.11.72. Thirteen persons were present.
3. Bob PURDIE, the National Organiser of the AIL, informed the assembly that he had not found it possible to book a hall for a rally after the march. This being so he had arranged that the meeting would be held at The Temple on the Embankment. He had also experienced difficulty in hiring a public address system so hand megaphones might have to be used.
4. The subject of a chairman for the rally was discussed at some length, and it was apparent that the AIL did not wish to offend the Provisional or the Official Republican Movement in their choice of chairman. It was eventually decided that both Privacy and Privacy should be approached for this appointment.
5. Gery LAWLESS, a member of the AIL central committee, said he was not prepared to speak at the rally and suggested that other members of the AIL executive should refrain from taking an active part in the physical organisation of the march and rally. He reminded the meeting of the actions taken against the organisers of the 'Bloody Sunday' march in Whitehall earlier in the year, and said that providence should not be tempted again. This suggestion met with approval and it was decided that even the collection buckets should be handled by rank and file members only.
6. On the subject of support for the march, LAWLESS said that if 1,000 people were present this would be considered a success by the AIL in the struggle to rebuild the organisation. The consensus was that some 500 persons would support the rally.
7. The meeting finished at 11 pm. The following persons were amongst those present:-

Privacy

Gery LAWLESS ✓

Privacy

Privacy

Bob PURDIE ✓

8. Special Branch references are given in the attached Appendix.

1

HN301

Detective Constable

Submitted:

2

David Smith

Chief Inspector

3

A Dickinson

for CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

[REDACTED]

Appendix to Special Branch report of 8 November 1972 concerning
a delegate meeting of the Anti-Internment League which was held
on 7.11.72.

[REDACTED]

Privacy

Gery LAWLESS

RF.335/57/430A

Privacy

Bob PURDIE

RF.405/67/82