

# **cover sheet**

File No. [1]

[Redacted]

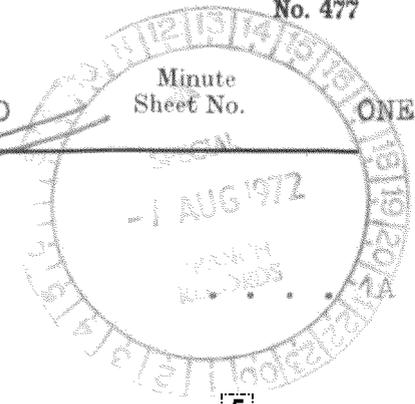
400

72

100

Minute Sheef No.

ONE



1.

Special Branch report

[2]

1. Send copy to Box 500

2. Ch. Supt. "A" Squad to see, please re para. 9 (DC [5] to note [6])

3. Ch. Supt. "C" Squad to see, please

4. DI [8] TN0036 [9] }  
[1] DI [11] } to see  
Room [892]

5. PA

SB  
21.7.72

[12] HN332 [Redacted]

A/Chief Superintendent

SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report

INDEXED  
Date 7/11/72 Initials. [redacted]

14 21 day of July 19 72

SUBJECT Anti-Internment League

Reference to Papers 400/71/100

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

1. "On Sunday, 16 July 1972 at the Workers Music Association 234 Westbourne Park Road, W11, a delegate conference was held under the auspices of the Anti-Internment League (AIL). It had been organised by the AIL Central Committee. About 90 persons were present. The conference had been planned originally to discuss the future role of the AIL in the light of the recent 'cease-fire'.

2. Each branch and affiliated organisation of the AIL had been asked to send one delegate (save for Clann na h'Eireann - 4 delegates and for the Sinn Fein - 6 delegates). (A list of the organisations and branches represented is given in Appendix 'B').

3. The conference began at 3 pm with an opening address from the Chairman, Privacy. He proposed that in view of the resurgence of military activity in Northern Ireland, and the possibility of an outbreak of civil war, the conference should confine itself to a discussion and an exchange of views concerning the present crisis. He pointed out that the major AIL conference was less than 3 months away and felt it would be ill-advised to make any policy changes at this meeting. This proposal was agreed to by the majority.

4. The discussion period opened at 3.45 pm with addresses from the floor, each of 5 minutes duration. Privacy declared his full support for both 'Official' and 'Provisional' wings of the IRA and urged the AIL to do likewise and take a firmer stand on this question.

5. Gery LAWLESS outlined a new programme of activity for the AIL in the months to come. He maintained that if the British troops were to leave Northern Ireland, then the problem would be virtually solved. He forwarded 3 points to achieve this objective. Firstly to mount as many offensives as possible against the troops in Ireland. Secondly to instil into each soldier's mind the futility of his presence in Ulster; and finally to start an 'anti-war movement' in this country, similar to that in the United States of America concerning the Vietnam war. He explained that the first two points could not be achieved by any mass movement in this country, but the third point was well within the scope of the AIL.

6. [Privacy] immediately took up the points made by LAWLESS, and outlined ways in which an 'anti-war movement' could operate in this country. He suggested the regular picketing of Army Recruitment Offices and military establishments, and the organisation of mass demonstrations. These ideas were received with approval by the conference, and will no doubt form the basis of future activity of the AIL.

7. Following this, several delegates called for a solidarity campaign within the AIL, encompassing all left wing organisations. Only with such a movement could a concerted effort be made to achieve the means for the 'self-determination of the Irish people'. Among the contributors were [Privacy] [Privacy], Bob PURDIE, [Privacy] and [Privacy].

8. The conference then became a political platform for the various organisations represented and the discussion was brought to a close at 5 pm.

9. [Privacy] next outlined the future activities of the AIL in the light of their discussions. The main AIL conference would be held on 7 and 8 October 1972 - a venue had yet to be decided. He proposed that an 'Irish Week' which would commence on 7.8.72 would include 9.8.72, the anniversary of internment. There would probably be a mass demonstration in London on 12 or 13 of August 1972, and that there would be picketing of military establishments on 9.8.72. He explained however that these arrangements were only provisional but that this would be verified within a week.

10. [Privacy] the new treasurer of the AIL, gave a breakdown of AIL finances. Apparently the organisation was in debt to the sum of £300. This was due primarily to the publishing costs of the 'Anti-Internment League Bulletin', which had not been selling well. Consequently all branches and affiliated organisations of the AIL would be levied, but the amount had not yet been decided.

11. The conference closed at 6.30 pm."

12. A list of persons present together with Special Branch references is shown at Appendix 'A'.

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HN301

Constable

Submitted

16

HN294

Chief Inspector

HN332

17

DET SUPERINTENDENT



Persons present at the conference

Privacy

Gery LAWLESS

RF 335/57/430

Privacy

Bob PURDIE

RF 405/67/82

Privacy



Noted  
13/75  
18

Organisations represented at the conference

National Union of Students	400/72/82
<del>ASTMS</del>	400/68/48
<del>Chartists</del>	405/62/727 (5a)
<del>International Socialists</del>	400/72/56
<del>Irish Solidarity Campaign</del>	400/72/85
Young Liberals	400/72/84
<del>Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (London)</del>	400/72/123
<del>Glann na h'Eireann</del> }	335/72/82
<del>Sinn Fein (London)</del> }	
Anti-Internment League: Brighton, Bristol, Belling, Hayes East London, South London, Kilburn, Edlham and Hammersmith Kensington and Paddington Newcastle, Reading, Slough, Swansea, Leicester, Liverpool	Dealt with on 400/72/100