

S.B. No. (Plain)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

INDEXED

Date 24/4/73 Initials [REDACTED]

13 day of June 19 72

SUBJECT Meeting
of persons arrested
on 12.5.72 in
England Rugby XV
demonstrations

Reference to Papers
400/72/28

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

2. "On Sunday 11.6.72 from 4.15pm to 6.35pm at [REDACTED] Privacy a meeting of some of those arrested at a demonstration against the English Rugby Tour at Richmond on 12.5.72 was held.

3. Several of those present had met Ben BIRNBERG (Solicitor) the previous day to discuss the case. ROSENHEAD reported BIRNBERG

LPP

LPP

LPP

One of the photographs obtained from the Press Association showed an Officer with his fist clenched and arm drawn back as if to strike ROSENHEAD, but ROSENHEAD did not evince enthusiasm for this line of defence insofar as his own case was concerned.

6. Several voices were raised against BIRNBERG representing them as it was alleged that he was only interested in the money; this was apparently substantiated by his demand for £20 as soon as possible.

7. There was some concern over the costs of the case and there was unanimous agreement that these should be defrayed equally regardless of individual fines and costs. RODKER suggested forming a defence fund as a means of raising a proportion of the expenses and it was decided to set up "The Richmond Defence Fund". [REDACTED] Privacy agreed to insert an appeal in 'Peace News' and ROSENHEAD added "And Christabel GURNEY can do the same with A.A.M."

8. The only fundamental difference to be resolved was, that at least three of the number, [REDACTED] Privacy

wanted to try to establish what they described as "a precedent of furthering Mackensie representation". Not only did they want, as is traditionally permitted, a layman in the court who could suggest lines of questioning for the defendant to pursue but furthermore a layman who was able to represent them in the same way that a solicitor might. They anticipated that the Magistrate would not permit this and that they would be granted a further remand of one month for their case to be presented to the Queen's Bench Division.

9. The others present were content to be represented by BIRNBERG, mainly because the other course of action would entail further court appearances which would prove awkward for the 'workers' in their midst.

10. However, RODKER volunteered to plead guilty, which was accepted by the rest, because of photographic evidence of his guilt. He said that this would emphasise the innocence of the others and illustrate his integrity as a witness.

11. The following persons were present at the meeting:

Privacy
Ernie RODKER

Jonathan ROSENHEAD

Privacy

12. The persons and organisations mentioned in the text of this report together with their references in Special Branch records are listed on the attached appendix.

HN298
Constable

Submitted: HN294
Chief Inspector

CHIEF/SUPERINTENDENT

[Redacted]