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METROPOLITAN POLICE

SB No. 1

SPECIAL BRANCH

25th day of July 1995

Subject:-
Justice for
David Ewin
Campaign

Reference:-

1. This report deals with a public meeting organised by the Colin Roach Centre (CRC) which was held on Monday 24th July 1995 at the Emerald Centre, 263 Hammersmith Road, W6. Forty five people attended, there was no disorder and no arrests were made. The purpose of the meeting was to launch the "Justice for David Ewin Campaign" (JDEC). David EWIN was a white male shot by police in Barnes on 28th February 1995 whilst attempting to escape from police in a stolen car. He died seventeen days later in hospital.

2. The meeting commenced at 7.45pm when the chairperson, Celia STUBBS of the Colin Roach Centre (CRC) invited those present to watch a short television news report outlining the events of 28th February. The film showed a police spokesperson explaining that police shot EWIN in self defence because he was driving the car towards a narrow gap with a police officer hanging onto the outside of the car. The police officer feared he would be crushed and when EWIN failed to stop, shot him. EWIN's wife, Sarah, and three eye witnesses were then interviewed by the reporter and stated that the stolen car was not moving towards a gap as it was blocked in by four other vehicles and the police officer was in no danger at all.

3. STUBBS then introduced Sarah EWIN to the meeting. She spoke nervously about the need for justice for her husband, who she believed had been executed in cold blood by an unnamed police killer. She hoped the campaign would organise pickets outside Barnes and Hammersmith police stations as well outside the coroners court when the inquest took place. Sarah EWIN spoke for less than a minute before breaking down in tears and spent the remainder of the meeting looking after her two week old baby at the back of the hall.

4. The next speaker was Joe MCLOUGHLIN of the Free Malcolm Kennedy Justice for Patrick Quinn Campaign. MCLOUGHLIN, a member of the Hammersmith and Fulham Irish Forum, told the meeting that KENNEDY was waiting to have his appeal heard against a nine year sentence for the manslaughter of Patrick QUINN in a Hammersmith police cell on 23rd December 1990. After two retrials KENNEDY is confident that his conviction will be quashed and MCLOUGHLIN appealed for continuing local support for the campaign.

5. MCLOUGHLIN was followed by Deborah COLES of INQUEST, a group which monitors deaths in police custody and campaigns on behalf of families in cases of alleged police malpractice. She said that in this particular case the police had not contacted Sarah EWIN after the death, there was no date fixed for the inquest nor had the police officer responsible been named or suspended. COLES strongly criticised the police complaints procedure and received a warm round of applause from the audience.

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1

6. The final speaker of the evening was Graham SMITH of the Hackney Community Defence Association (HCDA). He spoke at some length about the role of the HCDA which was formed as a self-help group for the alleged victims of police brutality. He argued it was necessary at the present time to target the Police Federation as this organisation had recently proved to be "at odds with both the establishment and police culture". He explained this statement in the following way: firstly the Federation had opposed the Government's Sheehy proposals; secondly it had been grossly inaccurate in its prediction that a majority of its members would support the routine arming of police (in fact 79% voted against in the Federation survey). Unfortunately SMITH did not suggest how those present might target the Police Federation and his speech received a lukewarm reception from the rather confused audience.

7. STUBBS then invited the floor to contribute to the meeting. The majority of those present were the female friends and family of Sarah EWIN. It was apparent that they had no experience of political meetings and very few questions were put to the panel. One young black female, not identified at this time, asked why all the "Justice Campaigns" could not combine to form one large group which would surely be more effective. Mark METCALFE, of the CRC, who stood at the back of the hall throughout the evening, informed her that a meeting was to take place on Tuesday 25th July at 7.30pm in the Conway Hall which would address that very issue. He believed that the meeting had been called by the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) but that the Justice for Brian Douglas Campaign (JBDC) "haven't yet decided whether to go or not". STUBBS told the meeting she personally thought it was important for campaigns such as these to maintain a strong, local base.

8. The date of Monday 7th August 1995 was proposed for the first picket outside Hammersmith Police Station from 6pm. This was agreed enthusiastically by all present. Joe MCLOUGHLIN commented that the Hammersmith and Fulham Irish Forum already picketed outside Hammersmith Police Station on the first Monday of each month and the JDEC would be welcome to join in. The meeting concluded at 9pm when STUBBS asked everyone present to contribute to campaign funds, sign the petition drawn up by Sarah EWIN and attend the picket and any future local events. No date was given for a picket outside Barnes Police Station and no mention was made of the forthcoming Justice for Joy Gardner demonstration in central London on 5th August.

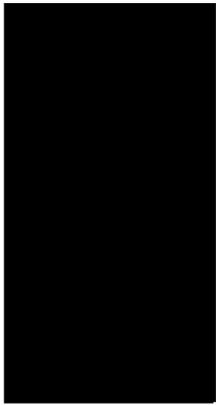
9. Submitted with this report is a notice handed out at this meeting by Mark METCALFE concerning the Colin Roach Centre and the proposed formation of a new group, "Resistance".

10. Special Branch references

Deborah COLES	Privacy
David EWIN	No Trace
Sarah EWIN	Privacy
Joe MCLOUGHLIN	
Mark METCALFE	RF 405/87/52
Graham SMITH	RF 405/90/62
Celia STUBBS	RF 402/74/481

1

CRC	Mentions re HCDA
Free Malcolm Kennedy Justice for Patrick Quinn	No Trace
HCDA	400/92/34
Hammersmith and Fulham Irish Forum	No Trace
JBDC	400/95/67
JDEC	No Trace
SWP	400/95/73



DC



Detective Constable

