

SF 703

S.B. No. 1 (Filmy)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Special Report

ENCL 1 page

SPECIAL BRANCH

12 AUG 1974

TO 8th August 1974
REF. SF 703-20

SUBJECT

International
Socialists

Reference to Papers

NA 7/25

S-425-0122-1

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

2. On Thursday 1 August 1974 at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1, a meeting was held by 'Socialist Worker' to protest against the alleged "imperialist" policies in Cyprus of Greece, Turkey and Britain. The speakers, as advertised in the 27.7.74 issue of Socialist Worker, were Petros SAVIDIS (Socialist Revolution, Greece) and Duncan HALLAS (International Socialists executive). It commenced at 7.45 pm and finished at 9.10 pm. Ninety people attended of which a quarter were of either Greek or Turkish Cypriot extraction.

3. The chairman who was a man of Pakistani appearance aged about 25 years with a London accent opened the meeting by thanking the speakers for attending. He then introduced Duncan HALLAS who was to talk on the reasons why Greece, Turkey and Britain wished to secure power bases on the island. Petros SAVIDIS was to talk on the growing strength of the Left in Cyprus and how the British working class movement could help to bring about a better solution to Cyprus's problems.

4. Duncan HALLAS commenced by saying that it was not for altruistic reasons that the British Foreign Secretary 'Big Jim' Callaghan had interceded on behalf of the people of Cyprus. His action was primarily an imperialist move together with that of Turkey and Greece. The latter's corrupt right wing governments were more interested in securing economic advantages from Cyprus's growing agricultural and industrial wealth than in preventing inter-communal strife. He considered that Britain was acting as the 'cat's paw' of the United States whose main concern was for securing the stability of the Southern Flank of NATO. He believed that peace would only come to the small island when the occupational forces with their 'nationalist drum beating' leave, and the workers in the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities link together to form a truly socialist future for themselves.

5. Petros SAVIDIS then rose and began by speaking enthusiastically about the high level of support that the



Greek communist party AKEL receives from the population. No sooner had he said that 42% of the Greek community on the Island were prepared to vote for them, than he was interrupted by a Greek Cypriot in the audience aged about 60 years who complained that he and his friends could not understand English. He then spoke for twenty minutes in his native tongue leaving the bulk of the audience who were mainly of West European origin to wonder and hope for a resumé of his speech. Unfortunately because of the lack of time, all they were to receive was a summary in which he stressed that the only hope for the salvation of Cyprus in its fight against capitalism and imperialism was for the working class of this country to link with the workers of Cyprus in their common struggle to overthrow imperialism.

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6. The only contribution from the audience of interest to Special Branch though not wholly relevant to the meeting was when someone called for mass mobilisation against the National Front's intended marches in Leicester on 21 August and in London on 7 September. The chairman endorsed the remark and asked those present to watch the notices in the 'Socialist Worker' for details. It was mentioned after the meeting that a number of coaches would be hired for the journey to Leicester and that some IS supporters were considering taking pepper, marbles and flour.

7. Amongst those present were the following persons:



Privacy

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

HN351
Detective Constable

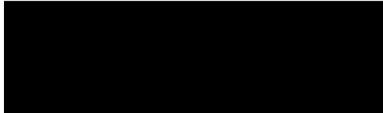
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Submitted:

[Signature]
Chief Inspector

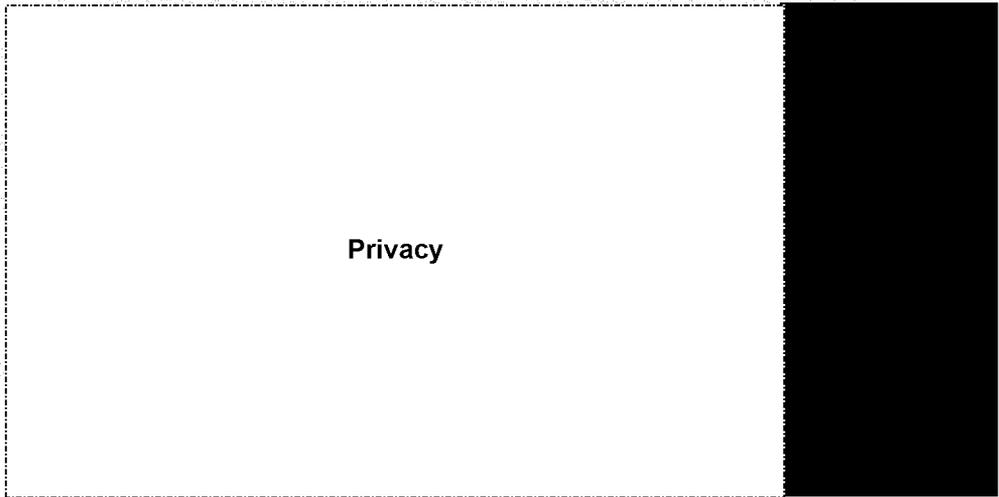
TN0038
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

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APPENDIX to Special Branch report of 8th August 1974



Privacy

