

S.B. No. 1 (Filmsy)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

(COPY)

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

26 day of April 1972

SUBJECT.

Int. National

Marxist Group

Reference to Papers

4/7/1/121

1. The following information has been received from a reliable source:-
2. A pre-conference meeting for all London members of the International Marxist Group (I M G) took place on Sunday 16 April 1972, from 1pm to 7.30pm at Foyndes Hall, Commercial Street, London, E1. The meeting was chaired by Privacy and 49 other members attended.
3. The meeting began with a very long speech from Privacy on I M G ideology and policies. An excellent and articulate speaker, having a very good command of the English language Privacy is one of I M G's leading theoreticians; on this occasion he held the complete attention of all.
4. He said the fundamental feature which divided revolutionary Marxism from Social Democratic and Stalinist reformism was the conception of the epoch. By the twentieth century, capitalism had finished its work of developing the productive forces and consequently the bourgeoisie no longer had a progressive role to play. The main social and economic content of this epoch was that capitalism was incapable of meeting even the immediate needs of the masses and that the development of the productive forces was completely held back by the boundaries of the nation state.
5. From these features flowed the theory of permanent revolution, the rejection of the Popular Front, the impossibility of Socialism in one country, and all the other basic theories of revolutionary Marxism. The economic expression of these tendencies was expressed in the theory of imperialism, and its main political content was summed up in the 'actuality of the revolution'.
6. The reformist Social Democratic and Stalinist theories that the so called national capitalist class of colonial countries would lead a struggle against imperialism, that the bourgeoisie would fight against fascism and therefore it was correct to form Popular Fronts, their failure to understand that even bourgeois democracy was being undermined and their ridiculous belief that 'we are going forward gradually' all flowed from their denial of the conception of the epoch.
7. Privacy continued expounding at length to an almost spellbound audience on Trotskyist theories and ideology despite their having heard/rear heard before.
8. The next speaker was Connie FABRIS, a fairly good speaker albeit not up to the standard of Privacy. She tended to stray from the main theme and, judging by the various interjections, some of the content of her speech did not meet with the full approval of many present.
9. She devoted much of her speech to socialist women's work and she criticised the women's groups in I M G for not having sufficiently clear cut policies on everyday women's problems such as abortion, contraception etc. I M G women's groups were completely sectarian and tended to be too obscure to have any effectiveness.

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10. She expressed her own concepts of Trotskyist ideology which obviously differed from those of many present. Although she spoke at some length such that she said was of no particular interest and eventually the chairman, with the approval of the majority, forced her to terminate her speech earlier than she had anticipated.

11. Relatively shorter speeches by [Privacy], [Privacy] and [Privacy] on the work of socialist women's groups followed but nothing of interest emerged.

12. [Privacy] then dealt with the N U S conference which had been held at Birmingham during Easter and with other student matters. He described how I M C members at the conference had tried to throw off 'the suffocating strait-jacket' which had been imposed upon the N U S for a long period by the Communist Party, although in the event these efforts by I M C were largely unsuccessful. He mentioned some of the I M C work which was being carried out at various universities and colleges such as the London School of Economics, Aston, Canterbury, Keele, and Reading and at the North London Polytechnic.

13. After this Peter GOWAN spoke on the question of Ireland and I M C's attitude towards the situation there. He said the political committee of I M C intended changing their official slogan on Ireland from 'Victory to the I R A' to 'Solidarity with the I R A'. This measure was being taken as it was felt the former slogan was ambiguous.

14. This topic was discussed at length with various members asking questions which [Privacy] and Peter GOWAN endeavoured to answer.

15. The meeting closed with a summary of the day's proceedings by [Privacy] who placed his own interpretations and answers on the various points raised by members.

The following 50 members were present:-



[REDACTED]

3

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

4

[REDACTED]

Special Branch references are given in the attached Appendix.

HN299/342

Detective Constable

Submitted

HN294

Chief Inspector

[REDACTED]

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

APP NDIX to Special Branch report on a one day INS conference held  
at Toyabee Hall on 16.4.72

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Privacy

Piero Michel COMBYN

Privacy

Peter GOWAN

Privacy

Connie HARRIS

Privacy



Privacy	
Charles VAN GELDEREN	
Privacy	

None of the remainder can be identified in Special Branch records.

