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METROPOLITAN POLICE

(COPY)

SPECIAL BRANCH

24 day of October 19 75

p. 1 (Flimsy)

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

2. *On Monday 13 October 1975 from 8pm to 10.15pm at the Montague and Park Road, Coram Street, WGL (The Bloomsbury Centre), a public meeting to 'Protest against police raids and in defence of democratic rights' was held by the Workers Revolutionary Party under the auspices of the All Trade Union Alliance. About 800 people attended.

3. The meeting was chaired by Tony MOORE and the speakers were Alex MITCHELL (Editor of Workers Press), Chris CHILTERN, Alfie WATERS and Gary HE'LLY (General Secretary of the WRF).

4. In his introductory speech MOORE said that the purpose of the meeting was to sound the greatest political alarm in the Labour movement. It had to be made very clear that the attack on the Workers Revolutionary Party, under the guise of a search for firearms at its Education Centre, was an attack on the whole working class and its basic democratic rights. The role of the WRF was to give alternative leadership to a Labour government that used the state machinery to attack the working class. He said what had taken place was the beginning of a ruling class dictatorship. The Party had to be prepared to take power and lead the working class. It was class war and everyone should stand up and be counted.

5. Alex MITCHELL gave a detailed account of events during the police raid on the WRF Education Centre in Derbyshire. He said that comrades should not be under any illusions about what the raid meant. It was an act of intimidation. The firearms warrant provided a means of entry and it amounted to nothing less than an attack on ideas. The grounds of the school were searched in such a perfunctory manner by police officers with metal detectors that one had admitted that it had been a 'bloody farce'. Once in the building the police had raced around appearing to know exactly where they were going. The true reason for the raid had been to obtain names and addresses, note books and other documentation. MITCHELL claimed that the nine bullets had been planted on the premises to justify police going in.

6. Chris CHILTERN and Alfie WATERS added little to what had already been said and ended their speeches by appealing to persons who were not already members of the Party to join at the end of the meeting.

7. NEALY continued the theme, begun by MITCHELL, that the raid had been an attack on ideas and democratic rights. He likened the legal excuse for the raid with regulations used during the war to keep the working class in check. He said that his home had been raided on a number of occasions under that particular piece of legislation and that the Sunday Times had been right when it said that Party members had been around for a long time. The WIP would never betray the working class and it was upon that basis that the Party would grow from strength to strength.

8. NEALY said that the Party had been conscious for some time of the attentions of the Special Branch and MI6 and all the paraphernalia of telephone tapping, bugging and photography that went with a police state. The authorities had been keen to have a look at the WIP Education Centre.

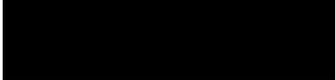
9. Sheila TORRANCE made an appeal for the 'defense fund' (to pay for legal action being taken against The Observer) and in excess of £200 was collected.

10. The persons mentioned in this report and those identified as having attended the meeting are listed together with their references in Special Branch records on the attached appendix.

Chief Inspector

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CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT



APPENDIX

Privacy

Chris CHILTERN

Privacy

Gerry HEALY

Privacy

Alex MITCHELL

Privacy

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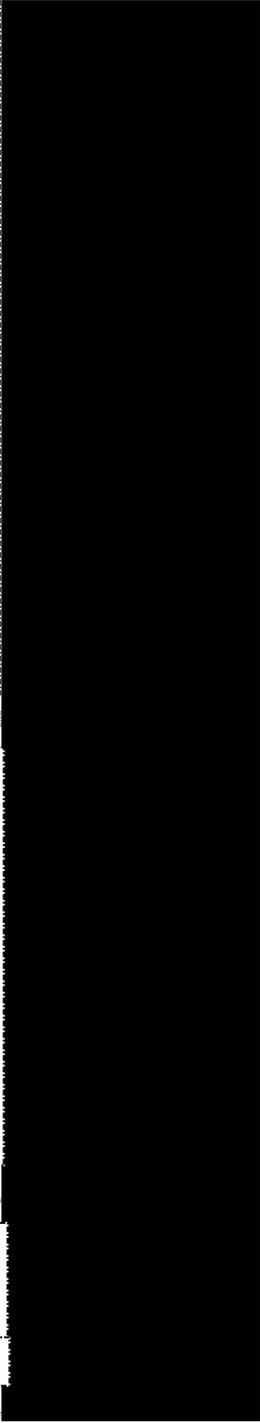
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Mentions re





Tony MOORE

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Vanesa EDGRAVE

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Sheila TORRANCE

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ALFIE WATERS

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