

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

SUBJECT

15 day of July 1977

Socialist
Workers Party

Reference to Papers

100/77/67

BOX 500

TO
25 JUL 77
RA IN

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

2. On Friday 8 July 1977, between 8pm and 10.15pm, on the first floor of the Oxford Arms Public House, Deptford Church Street, SE14, a meeting was held by the Deptford Branch of the Socialist Workers Party to discuss methods by which Flame, Right to Work and SWP public meetings could be protected from attacks by the National Front and the police. [Redacted] chaired the meeting which was attended by 18 members from various SWP districts.

3. [Redacted] said that the meeting had been called at short notice due to the fact that a Right to Work public meeting was due to be held in Lewisham on Saturday 9 July 1977 between 10am and 12.30pm. He stated that he had received certain information from an agent the Central Committee had planted in the South London National Front. It seemed that the South East District of the National Front was planning to mobilise around seventy supporters to attack the Saturday meeting. Experience had shown that the Front were strong in South East London and were well able to mobilise large numbers. The last few weeks had shown quite clearly that the Front was carrying out a policy of breaking up left-wing meetings and demonstrations.

4. He went on to say that the Central Committee was currently finalising plans to organise long-term defence groups at district level which would be mobilised at short notice to defend meetings or demonstrations all over London. District organisers would be responsible for mobilising at least 20 comrades and for explaining how to defend the area, using the following tactics:-

- a) Comrades must be split up into groups of three or four around the meeting. For defence, at least 40 comrades must be used and, on larger meetings and demonstrations at least 100 comrades must be used.
- b) The groups should watch each other, as well as the meeting, and have an escape route through shops with back entrances, pedestrian precincts etc in order to escape arrest on arrival of police.

- [REDACTED]
- c) Experience had shown that incidents were over in less than a minute. Superior numbers should be used whenever possible, otherwise a longish fight could ensue when the object was to give individual members of the Front a good beating. Where necessary groups would enter pubs, coffee bars etc and attack the Front, but it should be done quickly in order to minimise the risk of arrest. All fines would be paid by the Socialist Workers Party.
 - d) The best method of street fighting was for a group to give one fascist a good kicking, which was more effective than punching. If police, when outnumbered, tried to arrest members of the defence groups or comrades at the meeting, they should be attacked.
 - e) If police were in attendance at any confrontation with the Front then shouting and pushing should be used rather than actual violence. When the Front moved away from the vicinity and out of the eyesight of police, they (the Front) should be attacked again. Ten or more groups in a busy shopping area could not all be watched unless police were out in large numbers.

5. **Privac** summed up by saying that while using these tactics, between 6 and 12 local comrades would operate on their own, acting as spotters. One or two cars would also be used, probably by the organiser, to patrol the area in order to get an overall picture of police and Front activities. Instructions from members in the vehicles would override all others. All comrades used in the teams should be those prepared to initiate violence whenever necessary.

6. After these concluding comments the meeting closed."

7. The following persons were identified as having attended the meeting:

[REDACTED]

Privacy

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Privacy

[REDACTED]

1

[REDACTED]

G.T.M. Craft

Chief Inspector

Diuba

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

[REDACTED]