

S.D.S.

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

Privacy

SUBJECT

Socialist Workers Party

day of November 1977

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

2. On Tuesday, 25 November, 1977, between 12.00 and 12.30 pm, at [redacted] 17, the South London District of the Socialist Workers Party held its regular weekly meeting. Eight persons attended.

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Reference to Papers

W/10/11

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3. [redacted] the chairman, opened proceedings by saying that, in her opinion, the most important items to be discussed was the firmen's dispute. She added that the District had done well in its endeavours to cover all the Fire Stations in the area but, at the same time, drew attention to the fact that, although SWP members had been welcomed on the picket lines, they had found little support for the Party line in attending hospitals.

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4. [redacted] then changed the subject by stating that his own branch of the Party (i.e. Teachers Branch) was having difficulty in getting its membership together on a regular basis and that only three of its eight members were genuinely committed to Party work. Paper sales had all but ceased, while the disunity of the Rank and File faction within the National Union of Teachers was beginning to have serious consequences. [redacted] said that he was currently dealing with these problems but, if necessary, he would ask the District Committee to expel any comrades who were not prepared to make the necessary commitments.

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5. [redacted] the newly appointed District Socialist Worker's organizer, said that the sales of the paper in the District had dropped from around 65 per cent to just over 50 per cent. For this reason, he insisted each branch must look again at its sales and improve its outlets. He disclosed that the District was, in fact, committed to taking 700 copies of the paper a week and must therefore ensure that an increasing proportion of this number were sold to offset the increasing cost of production.

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6. Following [Privacy] example, [Privacy] commented on the [Privacy] faction of the Islington 'geographical' Branch of the Party and claimed that it was slowly recovering from its problems. It had had two successful joint meetings since amalgamation and was now concentrating on recruiting new members in the work place, in the hope that an independent branch could again be formed in the future. He mentioned that the four members of the faction were currently selling an average of 65 copies of 'Socialist Worker' a week and that several of the individuals who had bought the paper regularly seemed interested in the politics of the SWP.

7. [Privacy] (phonetic) said that the Rorney 'geographical' Branch was doing quite well with a membership of eighteen, plus three contacts who might soon join the Party. In addition, Branch paper sales were increasing.

8. Similarly, it was mentioned that the Finbury Park 'geographical' Branch was taking good progress, despite the fact that six members had been lost to the Rorney Branch. Weekly meetings were said to attract fifteen to twenty comrades, while general activities within the Branch were keeping members busy.

9. [Privacy] the District treasurer, stated that the funds in the District account would soon be very low, due to the fact that the District was having to give [Privacy] £15 to help pay a fine. In addition, [Privacy] was to receive £20 to help her pay a telephone bill incurred on District business and this, together with other outgoings, would mean that the account would be overdrawn within a week, unless another emergency levy was taken. It was therefore agreed that more money should be collected during the next few days. [Privacy] then disclosed that, in case of difficulty with the bank account in the name of the 'Socialist Workers Party', he had opened another in the name of the 'Islington Record Club'.

10. After a period of general discussion on all the above topics, the meeting eventually came to a close.

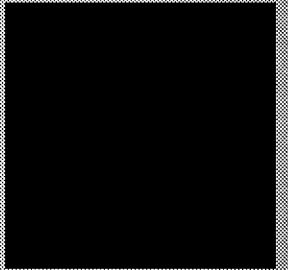
11. Persons identified as being present:-

[Privacy]





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[Handwritten Signature]
CRISTO SUPPLEMENTARY

