

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

Privacy

FC... WAS... 15 day of March 1978

SUBJECT

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

[Redacted]

2. "Since its inception following the Lewisham demonstration in August, 1977, the Anti-Nazi League (ANL) has settled down to the task of recruiting and signing up members and to forming a chain of command through which it can mobilise its supporters against the National Front and other extreme right-wing parties.

Reference to Papers

[Redacted]

3. The controlling committee includes Paul HOLBOROW, Nigel HARRIS, Ernie ROBERTS and Peter HAIN. HOLBOROW, the national secretary, has set up a national and district structure which in effect means that a member of a particular District of the Socialist Workers Party is appointed to organise within his District the signing up of ANL supporters (to this end, SWP branch members are being instructed 'on mass' to take membership cards and 'spread the word'). At the moment the emphasis is on getting as many people as possible to sponsor the ANL at the cost of £1.00 each and then use the contact list thus made to build loosely formed geographical groups.

Anti-Nazi League
400/77/228

TO [Redacted]
23 MAR 1978
[Redacted]

BOX 500

4. The political line of the Anti-Nazi League is much broader than that of the Socialist Workers Party. The ANL, for example, has no line with regard to immigration controls and is relatively non-sectarian in its attitude, welcoming support from many quarters. Therefore, in its recruiting drive on behalf of the ANL, Branch members of the SWP have been instructed to argue whatever political line is most convenient but that if, as a result of a contact made, they feel that the person approached would also be suitable for membership of the SWP, they should encourage him or her to join the Party.

5. The rise of Peter HAIN within the ANL has caused some consternation in SWP circles, since the latter believe that he is beginning to overshadow Paul HOLBOROW, who was supposed to retain overall control. This is believed to be specially true with regard to administration and organisation, at which HAIN has shown himself to excel.

6. On this point it is, perhaps, noteworthy that [Redacted] of the SWP, who worked for a short period at ANL headquarters at 12, Little Newport Street, WC2, between December, 1977 and January, 1978, was both surprised and angry at the way HOLBOROW had failed to pay for printing done by the Party for the [Redacted]

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League at Corbridge Crescent, E2, when there was more than sufficient ANL funds in the bank to do so. Privacy himself does not like Peter HAIN's attitude and tends to regard him as a liberal comrade could well do without. He has also indicated that certain members of the SWP Central Committee are a little afraid of losing their grip on the reins of the ANL."

7. References:-

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Peter HAIN

Ngel HARRIS

Paul HOLBOROW

Ernie ROBERTS

Chief Inspector

[Handwritten signature]

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Special Report

SUBJECT

Reference to Report

1/17/28

TO

BOX 500