



S.B. No. 1 (Filmsy)

METROPOLITAN POLICE



Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

9th day of March 1976

SUBJECT

IS

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

Reference to Papers

2/176/6

2. On Saturday 28th February 1976 at Coventry, a march and meeting was organised by Coventry and Chrysler Right to Work Committee, and supported by the International Socialists. The purpose of the march was to protest against the National Front, who were holding a demonstration on the same day in the city, and whose slogans were 'A Right to work for Whites only' and 'Stop Immigration'. The National Front and the National Party were putting forward candidates for the Coventry North West by-election on Thursday 11th March 1976.



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3. The marchers, escorted by uniformed police, left the assembly point at 1.30 pm and made their way peacefully to the Cathedral Square where a meeting was addressed by speakers from local trade union branches and immigrant organisations. There were no apparent untoward incidents during the march and meeting.



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4. During the meeting, guarded messages circulated through the IS ranks that their contingent, which numbered about 250 persons, would leave the Square at the conclusion of the meeting, and, in groups of about 20, make for the assembly point of the National Front march.



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5. When the meeting ended at about 3 pm, the first group of 20, mostly members of IS branches in London, left the Square, and made for the London Road area of Coventry, the location of the National Front election offices. This group arrived at the offices about 5 minutes before the remainder of the IS contingent.



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6. About six National Front supporters, including **Privacy** and **Privacy** were standing outside their offices when they were attacked by stones and bricks. The National Front members retaliated with the same violence as shown by their adversaries and at least one person had to be taken to hospital. A window of the election offices was broken also.



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7. After police had restored order the IS members formed a column and marched in unruly ranks of ten to the city centre.





a distance of about one mile, and finally arrived at a shopping precinct where members of the National Party were holding a street meeting. Watched by a crowd of some 400 shoppers, the National Party was chased away by the IS and the precinct was taken over and used for a short anti-fascist rally. The rally ended at about 4.30 pm with members returning to their various coaches.

8. During the past two or three years, aggression shown by London members of IS on demonstrations in the provinces has definitely increased, but has met with only limited success."

9. References of persons identified as having taken part in the demonstrations:

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Duncan HALLAS - 102/68/863

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Chief Inspector

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

