Box 500

1. Attached is a Special Branch report concerning the WEP Education Centre at "White Meadows", Parwich, Derbyshire and the extraordinary measures undertaken by the Warden and members of the staff to ensure complete fool-proof security, particularly whilst students are attending courses there.

2. The source, as you will appreciate, is a particularly delicate one and I would be grateful if you would treat the report as being 'For Information Only', as agreed between us in the past. With certain regrets I have to say that this report is the 'swan song' from our source, who is now withdrawing from this area of extremist activity.

Yours sincerely,

Matt Rodger

11 March 1976
1. The following information has been received from a reliable source:

2. "White Meadows, the Workers Revolutionary Party Education Centre at Parwich, Derbyshire, designated by the Party as a Drama, History and Literature Study Centre, has accommodated about 200 students since its opening in the summer of 1975.

3. The house, set in three acres of countryside within the Peak District National Park, was purchased by the WRP for £34,000. Since then, £37,000 has been spent on renovation, furnishings and extensions bringing its current insurance value to £355,000. The building is fitted with the most up-to-date fire fighting equipment, including smoke detectors and magnetic contact fire doors which close automatically when the alarm is operated; the control panel for which is situated in the warden's office. Emergency lighting, on glimmer, is on at all times in strategic places and comes to full brightness whenever the normal power supply fails.

4. [Personal information redacted]

5. [Personal information redacted]

6. [Personal information redacted]
5. In order to maximise the centre's use, a series of weekend courses has been initiated, specifically directed at the KLP young Socialists. It was one such weekend school that recently attracted so much adverse press publicity.

6. On arriving at the school students were served with a hot meal if they required it, regardless of the lateness of the hour, before being assembled for an address by Privacy.

7. Privacy pointed out that there were certain rules which had to be obeyed to ensure the survival of the school and a number of duties that should be scrupulously carried out in true revolutionary fashion. Students were reminded that the Education Centre had previously been raided by the police and was likely to be again.

8. In that occasion the police had 'found' a number of bullets on the premises. They had taken away a considerable amount of personal correspondence and lists of names and addresses. They had not expected to find any guns or bullets and barely went through the motions of looking for the cache of arms allegedly hidden in the grounds. This was the first of the political raids on the Party and the start of police intimidation. He said that the Party was not completely unprotected nor unprepared. The organisation had a few surprises for them when the time came.

9. Privacy explained that it was necessary for him to search each student to protect the Party and other comrades present. All items which could be construed as offensive weapons, cameras, tape-recorders and any names, addresses or telephone numbers would be put in a safe place and returned to the owners at the end of the course.

10. Privacy said that the house was bugged during the police raid while the residents had been locked in the office for two and a half hours. A number of methods could have been employed but the simplest method, and the one most likely used, was to attach a sensor to the two and a half miles of copper piping in the house. This worked by picking up vibrations in the room and transmitting them across the fields to a relay station where it was picked up and sent on. Students were warned to be careful what they said anywhere in the house. They were told not to refer to anyone by their surnames and that there was no need for them to know each other's surnames if they were not already known.

Privacy said that there was a public telephone in the building which was bugged so that when a number was dialled it was just like giving the police a name and address for their files. If anyone needed to use the telephone they had to ask for permission.
Privacy

11. It was important to maintain the good relationships that had been built up with neighbours and to continue with the arrangements for taking students to an outside telephone but they would not be allowed outside the garden (clearly defined by hedge and fence) without permission.

12. It was important to maintain the good relationships that had been built up with neighbours and any contact with them or, for that matter any visitor, should be referred to the centre. The centre held a very successful Christmas party, to which everyone for miles around was invited. More than 100 local residents attended the party and were reassured about the WSP's intentions.

13. It was claimed that both the local health inspector and the planning department had told him that pressure had been put on them to harass the centre. This was why standards had to be higher than would normally be required. Smoking would not be permitted anywhere in the house, except in the dining area, because of the fire risk.

14. Finally, it was said that it would be necessary for the class to elect a three-man committee to supervise over the preparation of a rota for various duties which had to be carried out each day.

15. This work proved to be considerable and included washing-up, washing and polishing floors, dusting, vacuuming all the carpeted areas, cleaning toilets, washing and polishing the tables and chairs and less frequently cleaning all the windows both inside and out. In addition, the 'Workers Press' had to be collected from Derby station (red star delivery) each morning before breakfast (return journey of 10 miles) and four deliveries of the paper made in the vicinity of Derby town centre. (These were in two bundles.) Students were responsible for the provision of drivers to carry out these tasks and for collection of food and other occasional [illegible] duties for which students were responsible.
purely a nocturnal exercise on which two comrades were
alternately actively employed between midnight and 7 am; each
carrying out an internal patrol of the building and other
duties for two hours before awakening the other comrade who would
sleep on a camp bed in the dining area.

17. The guards’ first task was to sign themselves on duty in
the duty book (first names only); lock the porch and side door
and return the keys to the cupboard adjoining the warden’s
office; turn on the right light to the courtyard area enclosed
by a wall, the warden’s office, storerooms/laundry room and the
double-glazed side of the dining area; and turn the bar door
in the courtyard wall. The door connecting the courtyard area
with the dining area was kept unlocked throughout the night
but of course at least one of the guards was close to the door
at all times.

18. At fifteen minute intervals, the guard patrolled the ground
floor armed with a torch and, as instructed, paused for
five minutes at different points just to listen, because the
visibility from the windows, particularly from those on the
side adjoining the gardens, was very poor. At two hourly
intervals, commencing at midnight, the central heating boiler
in the cellar was checked. When the guard was not patrolling
he positioned himself in the ante-room leading to the cellar and
adjoining the kitchen and dining area. From this vantage point
he was able to look through the double glazing on to the court-
yard and the facing wall.

19. If there were any visitors late at night, the guards were
instructed to awaken their sleeping comrade who would immediately
inform the visitor that he was only a student there and
would arouse the warden of the school. If there were intruders
on the premises, or it was suspected that a police raid was
imminent, the second of the guards would telephone the Olipham
headquarters of the Party without delay. Comrades were instructed
to leave a coin in the telephone mechanism ready for such an
emergency. The possibility of a raid or petrol bomb attack by
such organisations as the National Front had been considered and
in such an event a pile of innocent looking banister rails was
readily available.

20. The course lectures started soon after the cleaning and
other duties had been satisfactorily completed, generally
by 10 am, and were continued throughout the day and evening,
with the usual breaks for meals and light refreshments, until about
11 pm. The subjects for discussion were quite straightforward
and innocuous and included dialectical and historical materialism,
capital and philosophy. The principal source of these subjects
was carried out in...
Volume 1, Engel's Anti-Dühring, Engel's Ludwig Feuerbach and The End of Classical German Philosophy, Lenin's Philosophical Notes Volume 38 and Wages, Prices and Profit. Other pamphlets were briefly referred to. As an evening's relaxation, a film, previously shown on BBC2 entitled 'The General Strike' was shown (this film was produced by a member of the Party who was allegedly informed by the BBC subsequent to the furor which followed its screening, that he would never do television work again).

21. Insofar as the introduction is to White Meadows of electronic receiving devices is concerned, it seems quite possible that some such equipment has been found. This conclusion is prompted by the assertion on several occasions that the WRP would welcome police action with regard to the discovery of bullets at the Education Centre simply because the Party's case against the Observer newspaper would supposedly be elevated to criminal libel and in consequence come before a court sooner. The WRP expects the authorities to carry out bugging operations against it and in the light of the Communist Party of Great Britain experience (following such a device being discovered at its headquarters), the Party knows that without choosing the right moment to reveal any discoveries - i.e. during the court action against the Observer, its publicity value would be dissipated by the adverse news coverage the national press would print alongside the WRP's revelations. This approach also has the advantage of not warning the authorities that their devices have been discovered because, even if all of the listening devices have been located, the WRP would probably have left some of them intact as a means of channeling lectures, chit-chat and other useless information to those listening in. Likewise, any of the assertions or inferences made by Privacy during his introductory lecture to students could have been intended exactly for that purpose."

22. References of persons mentioned in this report:

Mike BANDA 405/52/11

Privacy

Gerry HEALY 402/41/145A

Privacy