

S.B. No. 1 (Plain)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

26th day of February 1980

SUBJECT

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

2. "On Wednesday, 6th February 1980, at 7.30 pm, at Friend's House, Euston Road, NW1, the Workers Socialist League (WSL) held a public meeting entitled 'The Fight for Trotskyism in the Labour Party'. Approximately sixty-five persons attended.

Reference to Papers

3. After a short introduction to the meeting the chairman, who was not identified, introduced the first speaker of the evening, John PLANT, a WSL member and Labour Group councillor on Newham Council. He spoke of his work on the Council and of his attempts to turn the Council policies towards a Trotskyist programme, which had resulted in his expulsion from the Labour Group on more than one occasion. The second speaker, Ted HESLIN, an employee at Cowley, Oxford, and supporter of Socialist Press then spoke very generally on the work of the WSL in Oxford and of the need to smash moderate members of the Labour Party, replacing them and their policies with a truly revolutionary socialist programme.

SUBJECT:

Workers Socialist League

REFERENCE:

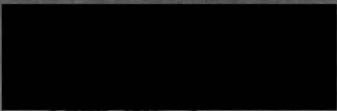
400/75/10

4. The meeting was then opened for discussion from the floor. The only topic of interest that emerged from the discussion period was of the criticism levelled at the present actions of the WSL within the Labour Party, these being described as 'reformist' rather than as a determined effort to smash the Labour Party and to replace it with a revolutionary party. This criticism was advanced not only by [redacted] of the 'Spartacist League', but by [redacted] of the 'Leninist Faction', recently expelled from the Workers Socialist League and also Comrade [redacted] another former member of the Workers Socialist League and now a founder of the Revolutionary Labour League. The level of agreement between [redacted] and [redacted] did indicate that a future fusion between the 'Leninist Faction' and the Spartacist League is very probable. In a brief summing-up of the discussion, [redacted] dismissed these criticisms as being of theoretical interest rather than of practical benefit to the struggle, at which point, due to lack of time, the meeting was closed at 9.50 pm."

TO

4 MAR 1980

P.A. IN



5. Persons identified and organisations represented at the meetings:

Privacy	Spartacist League	Privacy
	Spartacist League	
	Leninist Faction	Unable to Identify
Ted HESLIN	WSL	Mentions re WSL
Privacy	Leninist Faction	Privacy
John PLANT	WSL	piw RF 405 Privacy
Privacy	WSL	
	RLL	
	RLL	Privacy

Spartacist League	400/78/107
Leninist Faction	Mentions
Revolutionary Labour League	No Trace

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 Barry Moss
 CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

