

S.B. No. 1 (Fimsy)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

(COPY)

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

18 November
day of

74
19

SUBJECT
Tottenham I.S.

Reference to Papers
100/71/170

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

2. "On Thursday 7 November 1974 a public meeting was held by the Tottenham Branch of the International Socialists at the Y.M.C.A. Hostel, 628 High Road, Tottenham, N.17., on the subject "Can Labour deliver the Goods". Ossie LEWIS of Croydon IS and an executive member of the C.P.S.A. was the guest speaker. The proceedings commenced at 8 pm and finished prematurely at 9.15 pm, some thirty people attended.

3. Dave BASH chaired the meeting and gave a warm introduction to Ossie LEWIS who immediately launched into a playful denigration of Labour's record since their return to power on October 10. He considered the only things these 'so called socialists' had delivered so far had been Nicky TUMLINSON and Des WARREN, the Shrewbury two, into jail, and more government money into the hands of big business by way of a top and the promise to these same firms that they could soon raise prices. All of these measures were an attack on the working-class. He then produced a series of cutting taken from the banner headlines of the national press to illustrate that the money was not going where it really should i.e., to the working-class. His favourite cutting was one which quoted Jack JONES as saying "Don't bleed the bosses". This, LEWIS considered, best summed up Labour's betrayal of the working-class.

4. He then dealt at length with the history of the Labour party, with the aid of an ex-member of the N.U.R. Herbert SMITH, who claimed to have been around since the Boer war and who appeared to be LEWIS's comical 'straight-man' in the audience. Between them they kept the audience amused with various historical anecdotes on the left-wing leaders and Labour politicians. However, in time, LEWIS appeared to be on the verge of 'drying-up' and BASH saved his embarrassment by asking if I.S. could supply a credible alternative to Labour's web of illusions. LEWIS warned to this and said he envied the young members of I.S. because he thought a revolutionary situation was now in the offing and in the words of Marx "the world was theirs for the taking". The last time such an opportunity had existed had been in 1920, but it had failed because the then T.U.C. had sold the unions "down the river." In conclusion he said the Labour party had never honoured its constitutional or manifesto pledges and had never been a truly socialist party, due to its

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reformist nature.

5. The next speaker, Mel NORMIS, was introduced to the audience as a member of the IS print shop who had been invited to talk on the need for distributing of the 'Socialist Worker' to the mass of the working-class to introduce them to IS politics. He considered that recent events, especially in Scotland had shown that the working-class was finding a new confidence and buoyancy and the ruling class was losing its confidence trying to fight inflation. It has been seen that the ruling class was prepared to use any method to protect its interests whether through the courts, as in the case of Paul ROY, or the Army as in Northern Ireland. Everyone on the left had to be prepared to seize opportunities when they presented themselves, for there was now a strong possibility that history could be changed.

6. Privacy then asked LEWIS what he thought of the left-wing of the Labour party. LEWIS likened them to the monetarist theorists of the Tory party. Only when they nationalised the whole of the private sector - whether 'lame-duck' or not, could they be considered socialists.

7. Privacy then made an appeal on behalf of the Socialist Worker's Fighting Fund and Privacy collected the contributions. Privacy then announced the next meeting of the Tottenham Branch of IS at the same venue on Wednesday 13 November 1974, when Jim CRONIN would give an educational talk on the 'Origins of the Communist Party and its zig-zags today'. The meeting then concluded, with the majority adjourning to the nearby 'Red Lion' public house.

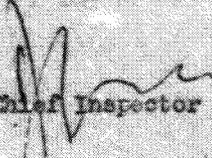
8. Amongst those present were:-

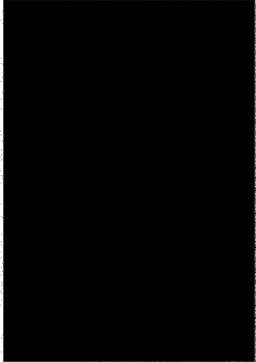
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9. Special Branch references are given in the attached Appendix.


Chief Inspector



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CHIEF SUPERVISOR





APPENDIX TO SPECIAL BRANCH REPORT OF 18 NOVEMBER 1974 CONCERNING A
TOTTENHAM INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST MEETING HELD ON 7 NOVEMBER 1974.

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Dave BASH	RF 402, Privacy	
Privacy		
Jim CHORIN	RF 402, Privacy	
Privacy		
Ossie LEWIS	RF 402, Privacy	
Neil NORRIS		
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[Faint, mostly illegible text from the main body of the report, possibly describing the meeting details.]

