

S.B. No. 1 (Plain)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

29th day of April 1981

SUBJECT

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

2. On Thursday 16th April 1981 between 7.30pm and 9.30pm at Foyntee Hall, Commercial Street, London E1, the East London Workers Against Racism (ELWAR) held a public meeting in support of its candidate Fran EDEN in the Bethnal Green and Bow Division in the forthcoming Greater London Council elections. About 18 people attended.

3. The meeting was opened by the chairman Mike FREEMAN, who introduced the first speaker, an Asian girl whose name seemed to be Nazareth ANWAR. This speaker, related the experiences of her family in dealing with the housing department of the local council, by accusing the department of implementing racist policies. This allegation revolved around the fact that their present accommodation was sub-standard and whilst other white residents had been rehoused, her family had not.

Reference to Papers

East London
Workers Against
Racism

400/81/28

4. Rob KILLICK was then introduced to speak about the education situation in the area. He accused the council of excluding junior school pupils from certain schools on the grounds that an excessive number of the pupils in a particular school came from ethnic minorities. This, KILLICK stated, was a completely racist attitude, for parents should be given the right to select the school they wished their children to attend. ELWAR completely opposed the concept of 'bussing' children to other schools simply to maintain a suitable black/white ratio. Furthermore the council was deliberately seeking to close those schools which were attended by large numbers of minority group children. This form of racism in schools was also being manifested in the decision to 're-assess' coloured teachers in schools controlled by the Inner London Education Authority (ILEA). Many of these teachers had taught for twenty years in British schools but because it was wished to reduce the number of teachers, ILEA had decided to concentrate on getting rid of its black staff first. KILLICK claimed that he, and like-thinking teachers, had proposed in their union branches that school inspectors should be refused admittance to their schools to carry out these re-assessments, but so far the union was refusing to take any action until such time as sackings occurred and even then it was doubtful whether any effective action would be sanctioned.

TO [redacted]
- 1 MAY 1981
P.A. IN [redacted]

5. The final speaker was Fran EDEN herself who attempted to draw out the political consequences contained in the two previous speeches. Surprisingly, although this task could have been performed in a fairly lucid manner, EDEN became rather rambling in her delivery and consequently the ramifications of much of what was said previously failed to be clearly shown. EDEN commented her speech by declaring that the previous week had been one of the most exciting for many years. With the election of Bobby SANDS to Parliament and then the police getting what they had richly deserved in Brixton, the British bourgeoisie must be quaking in their boots. Whilst ELWAR fully supported the violence of the oppressed against their oppressors both in Ireland and Brixton it would be even more exciting in May if the red flag of communism were to be hoisted above the town halls of Lambeth, East London and Manchester.

6. The meeting was then opened to discussion from the floor. The local Labour candidate, [REDACTED] (phon), claimed that the case put forward by the Asian speaker could have been put forward by 80% of white residents; that many council tenants thought they should have a better home, or a different one, and that the question of racism did not enter the matter. He also accused the ELWAR of hiding the fact from people that they were part of the Revolutionary Communist Tendency. FREEMAN pointed out that this title appeared on 'the next step' and no subterfuge was employed.

7. The next speaker, [REDACTED], a journalist who clearly had a fairly long history in active left-wing politics, declared that ELWAR were carrying out essential work in a correct manner, but it was important that the control the leaders of the Asian community had over their members should be broken. These leaders were afraid of supporting ELWAR because they saw that contained within the programme being put forward were the seeds of the destruction of their own influence. Allowing their communities to support ELWAR would widen the consciousness of their people to social questions which would cause them to question traditional roles in their own races. The recent production of ELWAR election manifestos in Bengali was an important and useful action to take, although it would have been more effective if it were shorter and more easily read by the Bengali population.

8. A collection taken during the meeting raised £28.

9. In the aftermath of the meeting there has been a considerable amount of discussion within ELWAR as to the very low attendance at the meeting. This, combined with the failure of the Bangladesh Welfare Association and Bangladesh Youth Front

[REDACTED]

to give promised support for a recent march by ELWAR on 5.4.81 has caused some concern, particularly as the Bethnal Green and Bow Division is one in which ELWAR feels it may gain a respectable return on polling day. Some members consider that a 'stunt' is called for to gain more publicity. [Redacted] Privacy has suggested that an empty school should be occupied by members and handed over to workers in the area to use as a workshop/training area, although no definite decision on this or any other stunt has yet been taken."

10. The following persons were identified as being present at the meeting:-

- Mike FREEMAN RF 402
- Fran EDEN RF 402
- Rob KILLICK RF 402
- Nazareth ANWAR N/T

[Redacted]
Privacy
[Redacted]

Privacy

[Redacted]
Trevor Butler

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

[Redacted]