

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report

23rd day of September 1981

SUBJECT

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

2. "On Tuesday 22nd of September, 1981, between 1.30pm and 5.00pm, at the National Office of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), Reading Lane, London, E8, the organisers of the "1981 Right to Work March" held a meeting to finalise some of the arrangements for accommodation, catering and transport for the march itself and to discuss initial tactics for the "mass picket of the Conservative Party Conference" which will take place on the final day of the march (Friday 16th October) in Blackpool. There were 7 people present and the chairperson for the afternoon was John DEASON, the National Secretary of the Right to Work Campaign and member of the Central Committee of the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) with a specific responsibility for industrial matters.

3. DEASON opened the meeting by outlining his hopes that at least 1,000 persons, predominantly unemployed youths, would participate in the march and that these persons would be stewarded closely by leading experienced comrades from the Party who would be capable of giving excellent political guidance. He impressed upon those present that it was imperative that the march should be a success politically and that at least 800 people take part. He then went on to outline the numbers of marchers which he had already obtained by telephoning party contacts throughout the country (details of these are given in Appendix 1). He continued by giving detailed instructions to [redacted] regarding the registration of marchers and the issuing of credentials by local Socialist Workers Party organisers. He made it clear that on this march discipline will be extremely strict, and in view of this felt that it was important that no persons were permitted to register for the march if it was known that they were members of political sects such as the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) or the Workers Socialist League (WSL).

4. It is interesting to note that during the build up to the march the SWP, under the guise of the Right to Work Campaign, has attempted to build a "united front policy" around the march principally to obtain support "politically and financially from the trade union movement". However, when it actually comes to the decision of selecting marchers there is no doubt that the party will only register those who either agree with their politics or at least who are not opposed to them. DEASON insisted that there were to be no registrations of persons in the category of "nose-sniffers", "mohican punks",

Reference to Papers

1981 Right to Work March

346/81/12

BOX 500

TO

30 SEP 1981

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"wild skin-head types" and "head-bangers", emphasising that the march must be based solely on political ideals and be orderly so that there should be no trouble with the authorities prior to the arrival of the march in Blackpool, which would result in adverse publicity for the Right to Work Campaign.

5. DEASON then asked for a report on the state of accommodation for the marchers from the representatives who had visited the route during the previous week. It soon became apparent that for the greater part of the route there is at present only sufficient accommodation for approximately 700 to 800 marchers, with particular problems in Liverpool, on Wednesday the 7th October 1981 (the night before the commencement of the march) and in Warrington on Friday 9th October. In both cases difficulty is being experienced in booking suitable halls and finding catering facilities. Despite the fact that the apparent lack of accommodation will create difficulties, DEASON insisted that the target total for marchers must remain at 1,000 and urged those responsible for accommodation to find more halls.

6. Having dealt with the more mundane organisation matters the meeting then discussed the actual route itself; the need for local organisers in the area to increase their work rate in factories and dole queues with a view to obtaining support, enrolling marchers and gaining more financial assistance. It was decided that [redacted] from Glasgow should take responsibility during the week prior to the commencement of the march for organising paper sales along the route and drawing up a programme of delegations and visits to factories in the vicinity of the march. With regard to liaison with police along the route, Gerry FITZPATRICK informed the meeting that he would be meeting Inspector [redacted] of the Greater Manchester Police on the afternoon of Friday 25th September 1981 and at that meeting would confirm details of the route as already worked out by the march organisers. It is interesting to note that FITZPATRICK is also responsible for providing most of the entertainment for the marchers at venues along the route. In the main this will take the form of discos or live "gigs" booked through "Rock Against Racism".

7. The meeting then moved on to deal briefly with the arrangements for the mass picket of the Conservative Party Conference on Friday 16th October 1981 and whilst it was decided that there would be a further meeting to discuss the finer points of the picket and details of the tactics to be adopted, it was clear from the discussion that took place that the Party are expecting an attendance of at least 4,000 of their own members, supporters and contacts, in addition to those taking part in the Right to Work March itself. DEASON was of the opinion that although the Trade Union Movement and Labour Party had not made any significant movement towards backing the picket (the belief being that both [redacted] own problems at the present time [redacted] "inn" issue).

it was considered highly likely that a considerable amount of support would be mobilised by these organisations before the picket took place.

7. Attached to this report at Appendix 2 is an up-to-date list of accommodation and entertainment booked for the Right to Work March.

8. The following persons were present at the meeting:-

Privacy	Privacy	
John DEASON	RF 405	Privacy
Gerry FITZPATRICK	RF 402	Privacy
Privacy		Privacy
Colin CLARK	RF 402/77/790	
Privacy	mentions	
	Privacy	

9. References of other persons and organisations mentioned:-

Privacy	Privacy	
Socialist Workers Party	400/81/116	
Revolutionary Communist Party	400/81/42	
Workers Socialist League	400/75/10	
Right to Work Campaign	400/81/46	
Rock Against Racism	400/78/131	

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Appendix 1 to Special Branch report dated 23rd September 1981

Numbers of Marchers recruited as at 22nd September 1981

London	200
Glasgow	50 - 100
Newcastle	30
Liverpool	50 - 100
Leeds	15
Sheffield	25 - 30
Manchester	40
Birmingham	50
Wolverhampton	30
Nottingham/Derby	15
Leicester	12
Coventry	10
Norwich	10
Lowestoft	5
Brighton	10
South Wales	75

Appendix 2 to Special Branch report dated 23rd September 1981

Details of accommodation and entertainment

Wednesday 7th October 1981

St Agnes Church Hall
Buckingham Avenue
Liverpool 17
(Toxteth).

Thursday 8th October 1981

YWCA
Nunn Street
Par, St Helens
Sutton High Sports Centre
Eltonhead Road
St Helens

Disco and drink provided
by march organisers.

Friday 9th October 1981

Centre Sport
Palmyre Square South
Warrington

Meeting with Privacy
as speaker followed by a
disco.

YMCA
Winmarleigh Street
Warrington

Warrington baths
Bath Street
Warrington

GMWU Hall
Warrington

Saturday 10th October 1981

Salford College of Technology
(not yet finalised - organisers
will meet principal on Monday
28th September 1981)

Rally at Manchester
Polytechnic followed by
"large gig" featuring
"Aawad", "Harlem spirit",
"Distractions".

Sunday 11th October 1981

University of Manchester
Institute of Science and
Technology
Sackville Street
Manchester

Afternoon - football match
between marchers and the
strikers at Laurence Scott's
factory.

Evening - Rally with guest
speakers Privacy and
Privacy followed by
"cabaret" provided by party
members.

Monday 12th October 1981

AUEW Halls
AUEW House
77 St Georges Road
Bolton
Lancashire

Bolton Institute of Technology
Students Union
Dear Road
Bolton
Lancashire

Rally with speakers from the
Indian workers association
followed by disco at the
Bolton Institute of
Technology

Tuesday 13th October 1981

Bangor Street Community Centre
Bangor Street
Blackburn
Lancashire

Rally at the King Georges
Hall Blakey Moor, Blackburn
with guest speakers Ernie
ROBERTS MP, Privacy
and John DEASUN followed
by a disco.

Wednesday 14th October 1981

Central Methodist Church
Lune Street
Preston

Preston Polytechnic
Preston

Another church hall to be
arranged.

Meeting and gig at Preston
Polytechnic. Possibility
of a second punk disco at
"The Warehouse".

Thursday 15th October 1981

Palatine High School
St Annes Road
Blackpool

Raikes Parade
Methodist Hall
Raikes Parade
Blackpool

Short meeting at Squires Club
Blackpool followed by a
concert in the same premises.

Friday 16th October 1981

Raikes Parade
Methodist Hall
Raikes Parade
Blackpool

It is currently the intention
of the organisers to march
from Palatine High School
leaving at 5am, to Raikes
Parade, Methodist Hall, where
the marchers will be fed and
at 11.15am leave for Blackpool
North Railway Station
the train bringing par
members from London.