

SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report

21st day of January 1981

SUBJECT

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

2. "On Wednesday, 14th January, 1981 between 7.30pm and 10pm at the Lower Hall, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Hill, the Smash the Prevention of Terrorism Act Campaign (SPTAC) held a public meeting to mobilize support for the forthcoming 'Bloody Sunday' demonstration to be held in Cardiff on Sunday 25th January, 1981. Approximately sixty people were present.

3. The chairman, Sabine NORTON, introduced the first speaker Maureen MAGUIRE, who was representing Provisional Sinn Fein. MAGUIRE got proceedings off to an interesting start by stating that she had attended many such meetings and they were all a complete waste of time, as it was a case of preaching to the converted. She then went on to give an assessment of where the Republican movement was, following the calling off of the 'H' Block hunger strike. There was, she felt, a mood of demoralisation that the strike had been so poorly supported by the British 'left', apart from a few small processions - usually through deserted parks and building sites. The hunger strike had been opposed from the beginning by the leaders of Sinn Fein and the Irish Republican Army, but the inmates of the Maze had considered their chances of victory sufficiently good to insist that they went ahead with it. The 'concessions' wrung from the British Government had never appeared to be that significant and a cool look at them made them seem even less worthwhile. No action to gain further ground could be expected until a review of the situation was undertaken at a conference of Sinn Fein and the I.R.A. to be held in Dublin during February.

4. The next speaker was Mike FREEMAN of SPTAC and the Revolutionary Communist Tendency, who added little to the speech of MAGUIRE, apart from calling for support for the Cardiff demonstration.

5. James WOOD then announced that 'The Next Step', (publication of the R.C.T.) was to be printed monthly and requested financial support. The subsequent collection raised over £50. The meeting was then opened to contributions from the floor. Little of interest emerged from this period other than the fact that [redacted] of the Revolutionary Marxist Tendency criticized the RCT for its tactics on the question of Ireland and Racism, to which James WOOD replied.

Reference to Papers

Smash the Prevention of Terrorism Act Campaign.

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TO [redacted] 20 JAN 81 PA IN

BOX 100

6. The meeting was closed by Sabine NORTON who announced that the SPTAC had booked three coaches for the trip to Cardiff and stressed the importance of supporting the event."

7. Persons and groups represented who were identified as being present:-

Privacy	
Mike FREEMAN	mentions
Privacy	
Maureen MAGUIRE	RF 402, Privacy
Sabine NORTON	mentions
Privacy	
James WOOD	RF 405, Privacy
Privacy	

Spartacist League 400/78/107

Provisional Sinn Fein 335/80/204

Revolutionary Marxist Tendency 400/80/11

1 [Redacted] Trevor Butler [Redacted] *RL*

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT