

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

2nd day of February 1983

SUBJECT

East London
Workers Against
Racism

Reference to Papers
600/82/33

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

2. "On Wednesday 26th January 1983 between 7.45pm and 9.30pm at Dalston Trades Club, Dalston Lane, E8 the East London Workers Against Racism (ELWAR) held a public meeting to discuss 'Hackney, an equal opportunities Borough?' and the case of Colin ROACH. 26 people attended, all but six of whom were members or contacts of the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) and only one black person who had no previous contact with the group was present.

3. Chairperson for the evening was Farenk AFZAL and the speaker was Judith HARRISSON. HARRISSON's speech was almost exclusively aimed at castigating the employment, housing and education record of Hackney Council in relation to the black community. She touched upon the case of Colin ROACH only briefly. She said that as Hackney Council had failed blacks all along the line, she had no confidence in local bureaucrats to pursue the case of ROACH.

4. All subsequent contributions, except one, during the discussion period came from RCP members who had clearly been primed, as usual, as to what points to highlight. Inevitably these points criticised Hackney Council, drew analogies between Hackney and Brixton, and ridiculed the idea of any meaningful dialogue with the police through liaison committees. The single contribution from an 'outsider' came from the sole new black (and he was, in fact half-caste) in the audience who related the tale of his arrest at the demonstration in Stoke Newington on 22.1.1983.

5. Following her summing-up HARRISSON announced the holding of a picket of a meeting of the Hackney Police Committee at Hackney Town Hall at 6.30pm on Monday 7th February 1983. (Previously reported by Telephone Message).

TO

4 FEB 1983

6. A list of the persons identified as being present at the meeting, together with their Special Branch references where applicable, is shown in the appendix to this report.

7. Special Branch references to other persons and organizations mentioned in this report are as follows:-

Colin ROACH	Dealt with on 348/83/2
Hackney Council	400/49/618
Hackney Police Committee	Dealt with on 400/82/112
RCP	400/82/20

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Nigel Short

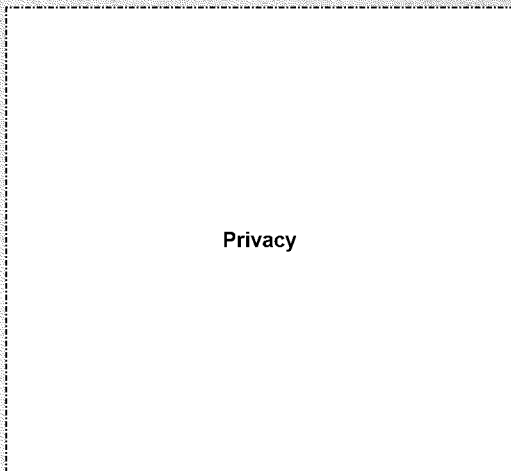
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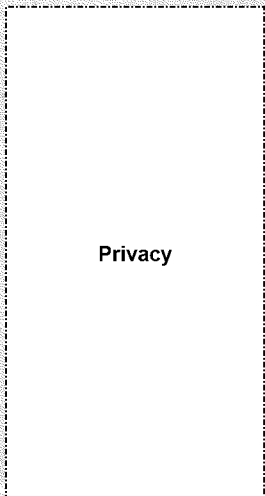
APPENDIX

to Special Branch report dated 2.2.1983 concerning a meeting of
ELWAN on 26.1.1983

Farek AFZAL



Judith HARRISON



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