

S.S. No. 1 (Filmsy)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

S.D.S.

SUBJECT

27 day of April 1977

Islington 18

Defence Committee
Campaign

Reference to Papers

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

2. "The North London District of the Socialist workers Party is continuing to involve itself in the activities of the Islington 18 Defence Campaign. Through the efforts of Jim CROMIE, the convener of the Islington Branch of the SWP, its members are trying to increase their control within the campaign's organising committee.

3. However, CROMIE has experienced considerable opposition from coloured followers of the campaign for his 'interfering tactics', to the extent that the few black members of the SWP in North London are now endeavouring to take his place in an effort to retain their diminishing credibility.

4. This internal friction can best be seen in the disagreements which took place about tactics to use during the Islington 18 Defence Campaign demonstration of 23 April, 1977. Some SWP members wished to reduce the proposed visits to the police stations involved in the 18 cases, so that enough time would be available for participation in the anti-National Front demonstration in Haringey during the same afternoon. Although they supported their plans by arguing that the fight against fascism was equally the fight against 'the racist police', the black members of the campaign disagreed with them.

5. No firm decisions have yet been made on the campaign's future strategy but some form of action to attract widespread publicity for the 18 defendants is envisaged."

6. Jim CROMIE is the subject of HP 402/66/105 [redacted] The Islington 18 Defence Committee/ Campaign has been previously mentioned in connection with the SWP.

G.T.M. Craft

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT