

S.B. No. 1 (Plain)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

22nd day of April 1982

SUBJECT

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

2. "On Thursday 15th April 1982, between 7.30pm and 10.30pm a meeting of the May 8th Demonstration Organising Committee was held at [redacted] attended by the following persons:-

Reference to Papers

May 8th Demonstration Organising Committee

[redacted] Privacy

Mike JAMES

[redacted] Privacy

3. The meeting was taken up with discussion on what route the march should take through the centre of London. Two routes were eventually decided upon, the first one, shown below, being the desired route and the second, also shown below, chosen as an alternative, in case of strong opposition by police to the first:-

1. Speakers Corner
 - Oxford Street
 - Piccadilly Circus
 - Trafalgar Square
 - Whitehall
 - Westminster Bridge
 - County Hall
 - (Zally in Jubilee Gardens, York Road, SE1)

.../...

BOX 500

TO [redacted]
27 APR 82
P.A. IN

2. Speakers Corner
- Park Lane
- Piccadilly
- Piccadilly Circus
- Trafalgar Square
- Whitehall
- Westminster Bridge
- County Hall (Jubilee Gardens)

The committee agreed that representations to the police the subject of the route should be made by some-one with sufficient strength of character or public standing" so that desired route could be obtained in the face of any official objections. Privacy, Privacy, (a barrister) and the ROBERTS, MP, were suggested as being suitable and they be approached in due course and asked to assist.

Privacy the march convenor, reported that Privacy of 'Race Today' was sponsoring the march and had offered speak. She also reported that a speaker from the South West of England Peoples Organisation (SWAPO) might address the rally."

Submitted with this report is a copy of the minutes of the May 8th Committee dated 1.4.82 together with copies of leaflets advertising the demonstration which are in general circulation.

Special Branch references to the persons and organisations mentioned in this report are attached at Appendix 'A'.

1

Nigel D.
Short

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

APPENDIX 'A'

Privacy

Mike JAMES

RF 402/79/764

Privacy

Ernie ROBERTS

MP

May 8th Demonstration
Organising Committee

Mentions

Troops Out Movement

400/81/123

'Race Today'

347/79/4

Minutes May 8th. Committee 1-4-82.

Minutes

Letter to sponsors outlined, Privacy to complete mailing.

Poster

Idea of using wall-mural found to be technically unworkable. Armagh group have discussed producing a poster and will bring ideas next week. Looked at images that relay the two aspects of withdrawal/commemoration. Anyone with photo's should bring them forward. Agreed to leave a blank space for details of coaches etc. As three colours will cost about £200 will produce a limited run of good quality and a bulk for fly-posting. Size agreed is A2 with logo. Final decision is next week.

Leaflets

Welsh leaflet to be type-set after phoning a committee to change slogans. No room for graphics. Irish leaflet ready will have break Thatchers back image. 5000 thousand to be printed. General leaflet new image of youth and assembly point to be added. 5000 to be printed.

Correspondence

Letter to Irish Post out-lined.

Finance

A/C will be operating in two weeks. £93 in cheques, £60 in bills. E. London TOM pledged £200.

Reports

Pressure to be put on individual SWP'ers. Letter to be written to their paper. Letter also to Socialist Challenge. LCI are involved in elections.

People of No Property Gigs arranged.

Speaker/sponsors to be chased, Privacy and Privacy.

Brixton Town Hall

£ 160 to book meeting on Wednesday Islington and Cast. Sub - group convened. Traditional music available at £80. Speakers at the beginning. Anti-imperialist/cultural theme decided.

Regional Co-ordination.

Role out-lined Islington TOM will help.

Pre-March.

1 main speaker an ex-soldier at 10 to 2

All other groups asked to give messages.

Evening Event

Privacy - Ken Livingstone to speak. Irish theme to be maintained.

Bands

Welsh and Scottish to be approached.

March

Rally at Hyde Park if banned. Speakers: E. Roberts to Chair, Owen Carron, Two relatives *1 a woman other Tony O' Hara, Dafydd Elis Thomas, Joan Maynard, IWA.

Stewarding

All groups to steward own contingents. Armagh Group to produce list of slogans. Need a group to liase with police, suggested Lawyers, MF. members of organising committee.

Suggestion we contact Irish journalist to help press liason.

Left Group Meeting

Set for two weeks time Privacy to send out letter and book room.

NEXT MEETING 7.30pm. Thursday 8-4-82. AT 543(D) Liverpool Road, Holloway N.7. i Holloway tube.



May 8th Demonstration Organising Committee



BRITAIN OUT OF IRELAND SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE

DEMONSTRATION SPONSORED BY:

Owen Carron MP, Dafydd Elis Thomas MP, Dafydd Wigley MP, Ernie Roberts MP,
GLC Councillors Steve Buhddred, Valerie Wise and Andy Harris, Barnes & Richmond CLP, Tunbridge Wells CLP,
Brixton Black Women's Group, Armagh Women's Group, Mick Martin (Chair Hammersmith Trades Council, in personal capacity),
Coventry Workers' Group, Walsley YS, Red Action, S. London Anti-Apartheid, Release (Drugs Action Grp),
London College of Printing Students' Union
(U.S.A.) Paul O'Dwyer, Rev. Daniel Berrigan, Black United Front, The Many Races Foundation, Frank Derkin
(Canada:) Quebec-Irelande Committee

Northern Ireland is an artificial state created by Britain and maintained by British troops. The withdrawal of British troops is a precondition for the ending of partition, and can only help Irish women in their fight for liberation. For the last 800 years that Britain has ruled Ireland women have been active in the fight for their country's freedom. In 1914, when Cumann na mBan was formed and became the main women's movement, women of all different political perspectives joined together in a recognition of colonialism as their oppressor. In 1923, Partition destroyed this unity.

While women in the North of Ireland have a better legal position than those in the South, this is a hollow gain given how repressive the British occupation is to women. Over the last 13 years the community in the North opposing British rule has faced permanent so-called "emergency" laws, the systematic erosion of civil liberties, internment without trial and the special legal system of juryless courts set up to try political offences. Within this community women have been extremely active in the resistance; often this has been forced on them by the absence of jailed husbands and sons. Women are often in direct confrontations with armed soldiers, and have to cope alone with childcare and extreme financial hardship, often living for much of their lives on Social Security. Unemployment in Nationalist (Catholic) districts such as Strabane and Newry runs at 60%, three times the Northern Ireland rate! And under the Payment for Debt Act (a UK law applying at present only to Northern Ireland), debts such as rent arrears and electricity bills are deducted at source, even further lowering the standard of living.

The hunger strikes last year caused a massive crisis in British rule. Three women in Armagh Jail went on hunger strike and ten men prisoners died in the H-Blocks. Women have been very active in the



prison protests and the "Relatives Action Committees" are organized by women to support families whose members are arrested and serving sentences. It is they who have won international publicity for the suffering of the Armagh women, and who have publicised the beatings, brutality and psychological torture that prisoners are subject to.

Increasingly people are asking why this situation has to continue. The hunger strike won massive support in Ireland, and unprecedented worldwide criticism of British policy. Nationalist women in the Six Counties know that childcare, free and safe contraception and the right to abortion are important issues, but they formulate their demands from their everyday experience of British occupation, which they define as the main obstacle to their liberation. This leaflet is to ask you to support the May 8th demonstration for Britain Out of Ireland and Self-Determination for the Irish People. You can show support for these sisters in the North of Ireland by asking your women's group or other organisation to sponsor the march, to send a donation, and/or to come - with a banner!

BRITAIN OUT OF IRELAND - SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE DEMONSTRATE ON MAY 8th IN LONDON

Called by the Labour Committee on Ireland, the Indian Workers' Association,
the Troops Out Movement, the Armagh Women's Group, Veterans Against the War.

SPONSORSHIP FORM

Name or Name of Organisation

Address

Tel. I/We enclose a donation for £

I/We wish to sponsor the march on May 8th.

(Cheques and PO's should be made payable to the May 8th Organising Committee.)

PLEASE SEND TO THE MAY 8TH ORGANISING COMMITTEE, c/o ROBERT JONES, BOX 353, LONDON N.W. 5 4NH.

DEMONSTRATE IN LONDON

MAY
8th

BRITAIN OUT OF IRELAND
SELF DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE

MAY
8th



ASSEMBLE HYDE PARK 1pm



May 8th Demonstration Organising Committee



BRITAIN OUT OF IRELAND SELF DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE

DEMONSTRATION SPONSORED BY:

Owen Carron MP; Dafydd Wigley MP; Ernie Roberts MP; Richard Balfe MEP; Joan Maynard MP; Connolly Association; Plaid Cymru
Desmond Greaves; Ken Livingstone; Billy Taylor; ADO; AUEW, North London District; AUEW, Park Royal No. 2 Branch; Dafydd Iwan Thomas MP
Mike Martin Chairperson Hammersmith Trades Council (in personal capacity); Barnes and Richmond CLP; Hackney North CLP; Tunbridge Wells CLP
Willesley LPYS; GLC Councillors Andy Harris, Valerie Wise, Steve Bundred; Harry Coughs (ACTT Executive member)
Brixton Black Women's Group; Armagh Women's Group; Coventry Workers' Group; Release (Drug Action Grp)
South London Anti-Apartheid; London College of Printing SU; London Students Organisation; Modern Students Society; Paul O'Dwyer
(former Pres. of New York Council); John Maclean Association; Rev. Daniel Berrigan; Black United Front USA; Frank Derkin (Chair, Irish American
Unity Committee); The Many Races Foundation of America; Washington and Saskatchewan H-Block & Armagh Cities;
Veterans Against the War; Labour Committee on Inisid; Indian Workers' Association; Irish Republican Socialist Party; Sinn Fein (Ireland);
Rev. Kirkpatrick USA; Kenneth Griffiths; Editor, Irish Democrat; Azania Society; Red Action; Socialist Organiser; St. Mary's College Socialist Society;
London College of Printing Students Union; Tidsakritcentret (Danish Support Cttee); Hounslow Trades Council; Christy Moore; Irish Mist;
The Passions; AUEW, Dagenham No. 1 Foundry Section; Big Flame; Democrazia Proletaria; Nyemegen Irelande Committee;
Brighton Anti-Nazi League; Lord Gifford; Lord Fenner Brockway; Irlandafrenten; Norway; Comite Irelande, Paris; Quebec-Irelande Cttee (Canada);
Cttee to Support Irish Political Prisoners (Detroit); Revolutionary Communist Group; Revolutionary Communist Party

On May 5th last year Bobby Sands, the 27-year-old MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, died after 66 agonising days on hunger strike in the H-Blocks. Over the next six months nine other young men met the same fate while Thatcher and the other hypocrites in the British government cruelly ignored appeals from political and religious leaders throughout the world to come to an agreement with the prisoners. Their deaths, the massive support in Ireland for the prisoners and unprecedented worldwide criticism of Britain has fostered a growing awareness here that Britain has no place ruling any part of Ireland.

"Northern Ireland" is an artificial state created by the British Government and maintained by British troops against the wishes of the majority of Irish people. The British state has answered opposition to its rule over the last 13 years with repressive laws in the Six Counties, the systematic erosion of civil liberties, internment and the special legal system of juryless courts set up to try political offences. We have also seen the refinement of techniques of control and repression — torture and sensory deprivation techniques, plastic and rubber bullets (27,000 were fired last year, killing 7 people), intensive surveillance of the population, computer records containing detailed information and so on.

The repressive techniques that are used in Northern Ireland, and which were intensified during the Hunger Strike, are not reserved for the Six Counties. During last year's riots, the police force went over to learn from the Royal Ulster Constabulary, a para-military police force, about the use of plastic bullets, CS gas and how to use armoured cars for crowd control. This has been the main Government response to the unemployment and deprivation that is causing unrest here, just as it is the response to the problems in Ireland. Furthermore, repressive laws passed in Ireland have had an effect over here. The Prevention of Terrorism Act, which was first passed in 1974, has been used to detain over 5,000 people (the vast majority Irish), out of whom 80% or more were innocent and never charged.

Millions of pounds are spent by Britain in Northern Ireland on the Army, police, courts, prisons and repressive technology — expenditure that leaves Northern Ireland with the worst unemployment and housing in Europe, which shores up the undemocratic Unionist regime, and which poisons political life over here, encouraging the unemployed youth of England, Scotland and Wales to join the British Army and become part of an anti-working class force.

Increasingly, people are asking why this has to continue. World opinion has long recognised that there can be no peace in Ireland until Britain leaves and Ireland is reunited. The Labour-Tory bipartisan policy has been undermined and there is beginning to be growing support for withdrawal inside the Labour Party. By supporting the May 8th demonstration you can add your voice to those that say *Britain has no right to be there*. Get your Trade Union or other organisation to sponsor the march and send a donation.

DEMONSTRATE ON MAY 8th IN LONDON

Called by Labour Committee on Ireland, the Indian Workers' Association,
Irish Republican Socialist Party, Troops Out Movement, Veterans Against the War, Armagh Co-ordinating Cttee.

ASSEMBLE HYDE PARK 1pm. MARCH TO RALLY AT G.L.C. COUNTY HALL.
Speakers include Owen Carron.
FOLLOWED BY CULTURAL EVENING AT BRIXTON TOWN HALL, 7pm to 11pm.
Irish, African, Iranian & Latin American music.

SPONSORSHIP FORM Name or Name of Organisation

Address

SEND TO THE MAY 8TH ORGANISING COM

BOX 883, LONDON N W 6 4NH