

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report

6th day of May 19 82

SUBJECT

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

Reference to Papers

2. "On Thursday 29th April 1982 between 8pm and 10pm at Hackney Trades Club, Dalston Lane, E8, the Hackney Trades Council held a public meeting to discuss the Nationality Act and the means of mobilising support to oppose it's introduction. The meeting was attended by approximately 20 persons.

Hackney Trades Council

400/50/212

3. Chairperson for the meeting was 'Dermot', secretary of the 'race' sub-committee of Hackney Trades Council, who introduced the first speaker, Cathy WARNOCK, of the Hackney Council NALGO branch. WARNOCK spoke briefly about the record of Hackney Council in employing black people stating that although the local population was made up of many blacks only 8% of council officers and only 12% of council manual workers were non-white. She concluded by saying that Hackney Council could not claim that its 'equal-opportunity' policy was working in practice.

4. Bernie GRANT, a full-time NUPE official in East London, was the next speaker. He told of the implications for coloured people if the new Nationality Act were to be implemented and emphasised the financial obstacles being placed in the way of immigrants applying for registration or naturalisation in accordance with the new legislation. Alterations to be made in the 'Representation of the People Act' were an insidious attack on the rights of coloured people in the United Kingdom. The failure of trades unions to adequately defend blacks against job losses and discrimination had disillusioned many about the willingness of unions to defend them in preference to white workers. Consequently GRANT and other black workers had formed a group within the unions called the 'Black Trades Unionists Solidarity Movement' which exclude all white activists from the leadership.

5. The last speaker was Cathy BOYLAN, a member of the Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) but on this occasion she spoke in her capacity as the NUPE representative on the Trades Council. BOYLAN emphasised the systematic nature of Government actions to reduce the rights of black people in an

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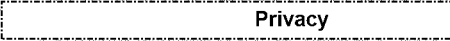
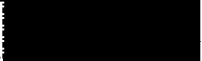








attempt to turn them into the nature of 'guest-workers' as practiced in countries such as West Germany. To support this she drew attention not only to the Nationality Act and the Representation of the People Act, but also to the checks on status being undertaken in hospitals and dole queues. The frequent unwillingness of police to protect black people against racist attacks was also cited as evidence that the ruling class wished to undermine the confidence and determination of blacks to stay in this country. She concluded her contribution by mentioning the workers march to be held in September and suggested that the Trades Council should give it the fullest support.

6. Discussion from the floor was then invited. Privacy
Privacy from the Hackney Law Centre, drew attention to the fact that the centre was printing and distributing leaflets in six languages to ensure that local people fully understood the effect of the new legislation. A grant of £3,000 had been given by Hackney Council to finance the costs of production. Much of the rest of the debate revolved around the importance of opposing nationality checks in hospitals and dole queues and the failure of union leadership to give full backing to staff refusing to co-operate with these checks.

7. The meeting was then concluded by Berni GRANT who briefly summarised the main points raised during the proceedings but this added nothing new to the previous debate.

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

- Cathy BOYLAN RF 402/ Privacy 
-  Privacy
- Berni GRANT RF 402/ Privacy 
-  Privacy
-  Privacy
-  Privacy
-  Privacy
-  Privacy
-  Privacy



-  Cathy WARNOCK RF 405/ Privacy 
- 'Dermot' Unable to identify 

9. Special Branch references to the organisations mentioned in this report:-

A.S.T.M.S.	L00/78/143
N.A.L.G.O.	L00/80/175
N.U.P.E.	L00/81/49
R.P.P.	L00/82/18
Hackney Law Centre	Mentions
Black Trades Unionists Solidarity Movement	No trace

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Mike Waller

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT