

Special Report

2nd day of June 1982

SUBJECT

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

2. "During the last three or four days a drastic change of policy has occurred in the Socialist Workers Party's (SWP) approach and tactics towards President REAGAN's forthcoming visit to this country.

3. Following a split in the Central Committee, the SWP, under the guise of the Reagan Reception Committee (RRC), have decided to scale down its planned demonstration outside the American Embassy in Grosvenor Square on Monday 7th June 1982. The more senior members of the Central Committee including Tony CLIFF, Duncan HALLAS and Pete CLARK, are extremely concerned about the recent developments in the Falkland Islands war. They are of the opinion that the majority of Trades Unionists and the working class in this country, although supporting the Government in its stand against aggression by Argentina, are against the use of military force in ousting Argentinian forces from the Falklands and look upon REAGAN as being a peace-maker in that he endeavoured to bring about a peaceful settlement.

Reference to Papers

Reagan reception Committee

400/82/45

4. The following is the text of a special letter sent from the SWP National Office to SWP District Organisers during the latter half of last week:-

"With the escalation of the war, it is clearly necessary to adjust our activity over the June 6th CND demonstration, and the Reagan Picket, June 7th. The main emphasis now needs to go on the CND demonstration and our attempt to turn it into as large an anti-war demonstration as possible. The Reagan picket will still go ahead but it is obviously less important. The Falklands has changed the situation by not only overshadowing all other events, but also by making REAGAN seem much less of the aggressor than he did a few months ago, when US intervention in El Salvador was much more in the headlines.

In practical terms this means that every branch must mobilise to intervene on the CND demonstration, concerning the trains and coaches with paper sales and arguing against the Falklands war. A special placard and leaflets will be produced. For the Reagan picket we are asking London branches only to support. There will no longer be an arrangement

for overnight accommodation at colleges. Although we are scaling down the Reagan picket, it is important that all London members attend as the visit will receive wide publicity. If the situation around the war changes significantly we will send out a special mailing to all branches."

5. There is strong resentment to this decision by full time SWP workers such as [redacted] Privacy and more militant figures within the Central Committee and this split will inevitably take some time to heal. Because the SWP 'mobilisation' has been changed from a national to a London level the number of demonstrators outside the American Embassy can be expected to be fewer in number, and only some two thousand are now likely to attend.

6. [redacted] Privacy is no longer recruiting students to the RRC demonstration, concentrating instead on the CND demonstration as directed by the Central Committee policy.

7. There is little likelihood of an SWP organised splinter march breaking away from the mai. CND march and rally to demonstrate in Grosvenor Square on the 6th June, 1982."

8. References:-

Tony CLIFF RF 408/56/38 [redacted]

Peter CLARK RF 402/[redacted] Privacy

[redacted] Privacy

Duncan HALLAS RF 402/68/863

[redacted] Privacy

Socialist Workers Party 400/82/52

CND 6th June Demonstration 346/82/5

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N. D. Short [redacted]

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT