



Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

28th day of May 19 82

SUBJECT

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

2. "The 'May 8th Demonstration Organising Committee' held a meeting on Thursday 13th May 1982 between 7-10pm at Privacy, a council flat occupied by Privacy and Privacy

3. This, the final meeting to the committee, was attended by seven people. It had previously been decided to dissolve the committee after the May 8th demonstration. Those attending were:-

Mike JAMES

Treasurer

Convener

Press Officer

Propaganda

I.R.S.P.

I.R.S.P.

Privacy

Representative from the Armagh Womens Group

4. The Treasurer, informed the committee that the total expenditure for the march and social evening had been approximate £1100. He said that sponsorship from individuals and organisations had been very poor, £300 only having been raised. The total income from the event was £1300, and this was due to the success of the collection at the rally and the ticket sales for the social at Brixton Town Hall. The main item of expenditure was the cost of printing posters and leaflets; other out-goings included travelling costs for some speakers and for the two drum and fife bands.

5. It appeared that a small balance would be left, and after brief discussion the committee agreed that this should be paid into the Troops Out Movement (TOM) account as it was that organisation which had put most effort into organising the demonstration.

Reference to Papers



May 8th Demonstration Organising Committee

PA 11



6. Privacy said that she would write to all the individuals and organisations who had sponsored the demonstration to thank them for their support, and to invite them to join TOM. The Press Officer intended writing to various newspapers and magazines to give an account of the May 8th demonstration. He said that he had learnt a great deal about liaison with the press and had made some useful contacts that would prove of value in future campaigns.

7. Apart from ensuring that financial matters were correctly dealt with little else was discussed at this last meeting, much time of which was taken up with mutual congratulations for organising what was considered to be a most successful demonstration.

8. It was agreed that TOM was undoubtedly the main group responsible for the organisation of the May 8th demonstration. Although many organisations had verbally sponsored the demonstration few had financially supported it, or marched on the day. Of the Republican groups in London, the Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP) had sat on the committee, worked hard and had given limited support. Provisional Sinn Fein did little to promote this event apart from occasionally sending a representative to committee meetings and were conspicuous by their absence on May 8th. Representatives from the Labour Party (in the form of the Labour Committee on Ireland (LCI)) were initially enthusiastic about the demonstration and had asked to be represented on the organising committee. However, their enthusiasm quickly dissipated and they did little to support the event. Some support had been forthcoming from a few ethnic groups, and foreign student groups. The Indian Workers Association mobilised support on a small scale, and Iranian students produced propaganda for the march. The Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) and the Revolutionary Communist Group (RCG) mobilised support on a reasonably large scale. The Socialist Workers Party (SWP) chose to totally ignore the organising committee, and did nothing to promote the demonstration amongst its own members. A few days prior to May 8th, the organising committee received a letter from the central committee of the SWP (in the guise of Privacy) saying that they would support the demonstration, and a small number of their members took part on the march.

9. The idea of the May 8th demonstration was conceived at a meeting of the Steering Committee of TOM early in January 1982. The members of that committee believed that if a successful demonstration could be organised, and that if TOM was seen to be the main mover of such an event, this would influence other organisations to believe that TOM was a broad based organisation capable of successfully campaigning in this country for British withdrawal from Northern Ireland. However,



the reality of the situation is that TOM is a relatively small organisation with little financial support, and has recently been required to vacate its 'national office' in Vicars Road, NI for less suitable accommodation, and thus finds itself in disarray.

10. References:-

Privacy

Mike JAMES RF 405/79/764

Privacy

May 8th Demonstration Organising Committee	Mentions
TOM	400/81/123
IRSP	400/79/71
Armagh Womens Group	400/81/71
SWP	400/82/52
Provisional Sinn Fein	335/80/204
LCI	400/80/11
Indian Workers Association	400/76/196
RCP	400/82/18
RCG	400/81/148

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Nigel D. Short

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT