

SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report

11th day of March 19 83

SUBJECT

Subject: Revolutionary Communist Party

Reference to Papers

400/52/80

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

2. "The Revolutionary Communist Party (RCP) has re-organised its London operations in the hope of making more of an impression in revolutionary political circles. Although full details are not yet known, those that have emerged tend to confirm, at least in part, information already received from other sources.

3. Instead of operating three fairly autonomous branches, viz: East, South, and North London, activities will in future be conducted more on an 'all-London' basis, especially for such events as paper sales, meetings etc. During the course of the past week as many as 20 people have been engaged on a particular paper-sale, as opposed to the 4 or 5 on such branch paper-sales in the past. Indeed recently 3 members, all from the East London branch, were arrested at a paper-sale in Hamamersmith. Certain members have expressed reservations about the increased financial commitment involved in the paying for greater travelling expenses to attend activities in distant areas from their normal branch.

4. Although in practice activities will be combined for the time being at least it is intended that the division of members and contacts into particular branches will continue, primarily for administration purposes and thus East London personnel will continue to receive their weekly instructions from the East London office and use that office for day to day affairs. Clearly too it is intended that on demonstrations separate banners will be carried by each branch rather than a single 'London RCP' banner.

5. So far as East London is concerned the abject failure of the branch to obtain a position of even minimum influence in the area means that much more work will be done by that branch in the Holloway and Camden areas and the importance of the East London workers Against Racism (ELWAR) will be downgraded. The RCP considers that to drop activities entirely in East London would cause them to "lose face" but "defence work" will be undertaken when an express request for assistance is made to the organisation and activities will be engaged in where a specific issue, such as the Colin BOACH Family Support Group looks likely to attract publicity.

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6. A new attempt is to be made by the RCP to make gains within the women's movement. Virtually all the female members of the RCP in London have been placed in a 'women's caucus' to attend 'women only' meetings organised by feminists, for example in mobilizing for the International Women's Day Rally 'Women Against Imperialism' meeting held on Tuesday 8th March. The tactical thinking here is not at all clear. The feminist movement has repeatedly rejected attempts by political groups to gain influence in it and it is not clear why the RCP feels capable of succeeding where others have failed. The main hope, according to RCP members, is that RCP politics will convince those women on the fringe of feminist politics who have not been totally won over to the argument of feminist autonomy. The more likely explanation is that having shot its bolt on racism and Ireland little else remains for the RCP to aim for.

7. It is not yet clear what practical effect the re-organisation of branches will have apropos specific demonstrations in the London area. Whether 'all-London' turn-outs will become a regular event or be primarily attended on a geographical basis will probably continue to be determined by the importance of the demonstration in question.

8. Finally, it appears that the organisation is undergoing at least a minor cash-crisis. At the present time no opportunity is lost to hold street-collections. In fact the extra demands being made on members by the increased cost of travelling is compounded by the fact that after evening paper sales most comrades are now expected to attend a collection at a cinema or theatre or other locations. For example street collections/public house collections under the auspices of Workers Against Racism (WAR) are undertaken twice a week in North, South and East London areas by groups of 5 or 6 collectors. Each individual collects, on average, £5.00 in an evening and on this basis it is estimated that a normal weeks collection would amount to £120/£150 most of which is handed to the organisation.

9. References:-

ELWAR }
WAR } - 400/82/173
Colin ROACH Family Support Group - 348/83/2

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