

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

4 day of June 19 79

SUBJECT

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

Reference to Papers

2. "On Thursday, 31 May 1979, at 8pm, at the White Horse Public House, Church Street NW10, the North-West London District of the Socialist Workers Party held an aggregate meeting, under the chairmanship of [Privacy]. About forty-five persons attended.

Socialist Workers Party

400/79/57

3. The main speaker for the evening was Duncan HALLAS, who discussed 'the perspectives of the SWP after the General Election'. After claiming that the Labour Party had obtained less votes in this year's General Election than at any other since 1934, he said that the aims of the SWP during the next few months included the recruiting of as many as possible of the trade union delegates attending the Bank and Fife Conference in Manchester on 23 June 1979. [Privacy] and [Privacy] (a member from Warrington SWP) told how they had visited many factories within the North-West London District's area and how they had persuaded the unions concerned to send delegates to the Manchester conference. They also disclosed that, to gain entry to a large number of these factories, they had announced that they were from the 'TUC Publicity Department' or an 'American fact-finding delegation'.

4. [Privacy] and [Privacy] were then unanimously elected to represent the District at the next SWP Party Council at the end of June.

5. Before the close of the meeting, [Privacy] a teacher from Acton, asked for as much support as possible for the funeral of Blair PEACH on 13 June 1979 (a leaflet issued by 'The Friends of Blair Peach Committee' is attached)."

6. Persons identified as being present:-

[Privacy]

Privacy

Bob COX

RF 102/79/161

Privacy

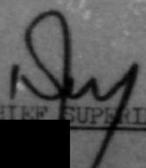
Privacy

Duncan HALLAS

RF 102/68/863

Privacy

7. The Friends of Blair Peach Committee has previously been mentioned in connection with the Socialist Workers Party. Blair PEACH is the subject of RF 102/78/251


CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

THE FRIENDS OF BLAIR PEACH COMMITTEE

***** YOUR HELP REQUIRED NOW *****

It was on April 23rd that Blair Peach died from head wounds received during a police charge on demonstrators walking home from an anti-National Front demonstration in Southall.

The press appears to have forgotten the whole incident. At the second meeting of the inquest on May 24th, the police applied for another adjournment - again successfully. Until July 17th, Friends of Blair Peach reject these delaying tactics, which are designed, not only to obstruct the establishing of the real circumstances of Blair's death, but also to allow the whole issue to pass out of everyone's thoughts. Police enquiries seem to be taking a long time to bear fruit despite the hundreds of statements collected in Southall, all of which testify to the violence of the police there on the day of Blair's death, and many of which state clearly that Blair was viciously attacked by the police in Orchard Avenue.

Furthermore, there has been no progress on the setting up of a public enquiry, despite calls from Blair's own union, the National Union of Teachers and the TUC. Already, in the House of Commons it has been stated quite clearly that the whole question of a public enquiry will have to wait until after the police enquiry. But, 151 MPs have so far backed the call for a public enquiry.

Everyone has the right to know the answers to three crucial questions :

- * Who killed Blair Peach and why ?
- * What were the activities of the police, especially the Special Patrol Group, in Southall, on April 23rd ?
- * What orders were given and by whom ?

The FRIENDS OF BLAIR PEACH COMMITTEE asks YOU to help get the answers to these questions and to help keep the whole matter in the public eye.

This bulletin suggests some courses of action that you can take. They may seem trivial - they will not be if thousands of people get cracking on them. This is not an exhaustive list - feel free to improvise.

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING HAVE YOU DONE SO FAR ?

* Put a motion through your union branch. Here is a suggested form of words :

"This branch expresses its deepest condolences to the family & friends of Blair Peach, former president of the East London Teachers Association of the National Union of Teachers, who was killed in Southall on 23rd April, and resolves to make a donation to the Blair Peach Memorial Fund.

We endorse the decision of the NUT Executive to call for a full public enquiry into the circumstances of Mr Peach's death and welcome the initiative of the Southall Community and the National Council for Civil Liberties in establishing an independent committee of enquiry. We call on all our members to :

- a. organise collections in their workplaces for the Blair Peach Memorial Fund
- b. circulate the petition calling for a full public enquiry
- c. secure the maximum attendance at the funeral ceremony

Further we call on the National Executive of our union to :

- a. make a substantial donation to the Blair Peach Memorial Fund
- b. affiliate to the Anti Nazi League
- c. give full support to the calls to disband the Special Patrol Group and to bring to justice those responsible for Blair Peach's death.

* Phone your local radio station. Give the facts. Demand answers to the questions above

TO _____
13 JUN 1979
P.A. IN _____

- * Write to your local papers
- * Arrange a street meeting
- * Get copies of the petition and collection sheet and distribute them widely -
Both available by writing to :
The Blair Peach Memorial Fund,
c/o Langdon Park School,
Byron Street,
London E14
- * Get copies of the fact sheet sponsored by the East London Teachers Assco. of the NUT and use them to further your arguments. Available from P.O.Box 151, London WC2 or from the Blair Peach Memorial Fund as above. Please send stamps to cover postage and packing and a donation towards production if at all possible.
- * Write to your MP demanding his/her support for a public enquiry
- * Arrange pickets of suitable places - in London there have already been pickets of Scotland Yard, the Home Office and the Coroners Court and elsewhere in the country of local police stations
- * arrange for a speaker from the campaign to come to your union/tenants assoc. etc. Speakers available from Friends Cttee by phoning 01-767 0796 or by writing to PO Box 151, London WC2
- * duplicate this sheet and spread the campaign
- * always take the petition and other materials out with you - to the pub, to work etc
- * get a stall at any trade union functions or community functions in your area to get the petition signed and to collect money etc.
- * Contact your local Rock against Racism group to organise a fund raiser with them

THE FUNERAL

Blair's funeral will be on June 13th. Please try and get everyone who supports our campaign to attend. This is the first occasion we will have had to make a massive statement to the authorities that we are determined to bring Blair's murderers to justice.

Full details are still to be announced but these are the crucial ones :
Agsemble Phoenix School, Bow Road, London E3 at 2pm
 Procession to East London Cemetery
 No banners

You should aim to get everyone in your workplace to come out, but if that just seems absurd, then please concentrate on getting as many as you can. The authorities are obviously hoping the long delay will have made people forget. We must show them that we haven't forgotten and that we have no intention of forgetting.

IF YOU NEED HELP TO ORGANISE OR further information or you can be of any assistance, however limited it may seem to you, then please contact

THE FRIENDS OF BLAIR PEACH COMMITTEE by writing to :
 Friends, 12a Upper Tooting Road, SW 17 or phoning 01-767 0796

THE TIME TO ACT IS NOW

Blair Peach was an active anti-racist, a trade unionist and a socialist. That is why he was killed. His friends will not forget this.