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John Lockwood

1. By letter dated 20 October 2021 from Mike Schwarz, John Lockwood applies to be designated as a core participant in Category [K]. The factual basis of his application is that he was a leading member of the Deptford branch of the Socialist Workers Party ('SWP') in 1977 and played a significant part in the events leading to and during the "Battle of Lewisham" on 13 August 1977. He disputes the contemporaneous reporting of plans for the event discussed at SWP meetings contained in the intelligence reports of undercover officers. He also wants the Inquiry to investigate his conviction for an offence arising out of these events and, if appropriate, to refer it to the Miscarriage of Justice Panel.
2. He did not apply to be designated as a core participant in 2015 when the SWP withdrew its application to be so designated. He has provided no explanation of the reason for the delay in his application. This matters, because Inquiry has already conducted its open and closed hearings about the deployment of undercover officers before and during the events described. As has repeatedly been explained, compelling reasons are required to justify late designation. There are none in this case.
3. No material or evidence which the Inquiry has thus far obtained suggests that the Deptford branch of the SWP was infiltrated in 1977. An undercover officer, who attended the founding delegate conference of the All Lewisham Campaign Against Racism and Fascism at Catford town hall, attended by 113 delegates on 21 January 1977 reported, correctly, that Mr Lockwood was elected to the standing committee, but stated, incorrectly, that he represented the Workers Revolutionary Party. The report is almost certainly that of HN353, who, at that time, was infiltrating the International Marxist Group. The mistake is one which could not have been made by an undercover officer who knew the identity of SWP members in Deptford, but would not have been surprising in a report by an officer who had infiltrated the International Marxist Group. The reporting by officers who had infiltrated the SWP in 1977 is of activities at branches other than Deptford and at its central office.
4. Thus far, the Inquiry has found nothing to suggest that the arrest and prosecution of Mr Lockwood owed anything to the activities or reporting of

Special Demonstration Squad undercover officers and it is very unlikely that further investigation would reveal anything to that effect.

5. Although Mr Lockwood has a legitimate interest in the matters which the Inquiry is investigating it is not of such a kind as to require or justify late designation as a core participant.

Clare Cowan, Simon Pirani and Elizabeth Leicester

6. By a letter from Mike Schwarz dated 25 October 2021 Clare Cowan, Simon Pirani and Elizabeth Leicester apply, on their own behalf and on behalf of or with the support of 12 other former members of the Workers Revolutionary Party ('WRP') to be designated as core participants in Category [K].
7. Their application is in part founded on a number of misconceptions. The material and evidence available to the Inquiry establishes that the WRP was infiltrated by HN303 between late 1973 and early 1976 and by HN298 between early 1975 and February 1976. There is nothing to suggest that they or any other undercover officer infiltrated the group before or after those dates. In particular, there is no material which suggests that undercover officers infiltrated the WRP at the time of its campaigns in 1985 – 1988 or at the time of the expulsion of Gerry Healy in October 1985. Nothing retrieved by the Inquiry has cast doubt on the explanation for his expulsion given in Professor Pirani's article dated 3 February 2013 or in the book published by Clare Cowan "My search for revolution and how we brought down an abusive leader" published on 28 October 2019. It is not part of the Inquiry's task to investigate speculative possibilities, for which it has no evidence.
8. The applicants are understandably concerned to know whether or not Special Demonstration Squad undercover officers provided intelligence to Derbyshire police about the WRP educational centre at White Meadows before the police raid on 28 – 29 September 1975. HN 298 did not. Authority for him to visit the centre was first sought by HN332 on 26 September 1975, following an indication given to HN298 by the WRP that he would be required to attend a course there at some future date. The invitation did not come until 7 February 1976. Nothing in his reporting or that of HN303 suggest that either attended the centre or learnt anything significant about it before either or both of them attended it in early 1976. HN303 cannot be asked anything further about his deployment and HN298 has given his evidence about it. Their intelligence reports about the WRP have been published.

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9. In paragraph 28 of the Special Demonstration Squad annual report dated 19 March 1976, Chief Inspector Kneale stated of the WRP that “since their potential for public disorder appears to have diminished, SDS coverage of their organisation will now be withdrawn”. It is likely that this decision was based upon a lengthy report dated (possibly misdated) 4 February 1976 prepared after the visit of either or both of HN303 or HN298 to White Meadows. The material and evidence obtained by the Inquiry establishes that it was acted upon.
10. All 15 of those on whose behalf this application has been made have a legitimate interest in the matters which the Inquiry is investigating, but it is not one which requires them to be designated as core participants.
11. The Inquiry may nonetheless ask Elizabeth Leicester whether the description of White Meadows and the activities conducted within it in the report of 4 February 1976 is accurate and, if not, in what respects it is not. In any event a copy of the report with her name and that of her then husband will be provided to her to enable her to provide the answers.

Designated Lawyer Officers

12. I will designate Sabrina Castiglione as the recognised legal representative of the clients of the Designated Lawyers from 1 July 2021, in place of Anna Peacock.

18 November 2021

Sir John Mitting
Chairman, Undercover Policing Inquiry