

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Special Report }

SPECIAL BRANCH

19 day of April 19 72

SUBJECT

Northern
Minority Defence
Force

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

2. "On Thursday 13 April 1972 a general meeting of the Northern Minority Defence Force took place at the Irish Centre, Camden Town. The meeting, which was chaired by Privacy commenced at 8.30 pm and finished at 10.30 pm. There were 40 persons present.

Reference to Papers

588/UNREG/1014

3. The whole of the meeting, apart from a short resume of the Irish situation given by Privacy for the benefit of new members, was devoted to discussion on "Billy CRAIG's Vanguard Rally" which, it said, would be held in Hyde Park on Saturday 29 April 1972. Privacy 'Irish Post' reporter, who appeared to be taking a very close interest in the proposed rally, asked several questions about the NMDF's plans to oppose the rally. He was particularly interested in any plans for a violent counter-demonstration and suggested that violence was the only way in which they could be effective. Privacy said that it was proposed to hold a counter-rally as near to CRAIG's rally as possible and said that he hoped to receive the support of all Irish Republican and Civil Rights groups in this country. Already, he said, the Irish Republican Party had given him the promise of complete support; the Anti-Internment League had "the situation under review" and he hoped that those members of the Irish Solidarity Campaign who were not attending their Annual General Meeting in Oxford on that day, would help swell the numbers at the counter-rally. Privacy then suggested several ways in which the NMDF could protect their own platform from attack and recommended that they ensure that women and children could be evacuated when trouble started. Privacy said that the Section Commanders would organise their sections to ensure the safety of women, children and speakers. He also said that the police would undoubtedly be in attendance in large numbers but suspected that when the confrontation took place the police would probably allow the larger rally (Vanguard's) to "wipe out" the counter rally and then the police would deal with Vanguard. The meeting then came to a close.

4. Following the meeting certain volunteers who had been previously appointed "Headquarters Staff" were asked to remain behind for a separate meeting. Privacy told this meeting that it had been decided by the Trustee Committee to reform and streamline the Command structure of the NMDF. He said that the Trustee Committee, consisting of Privacy and Privacy would be supplemented by four members of two new

committees. These two new committees were (a) Associate Committee consisting of the former Womens Section/Auxiliary Section combined and (b) Officers' Committee made up of five members of the military wing of the NMDF. The military wing would elect an o/c and would be completely separate from the political wing which would be under the charge of [Privacy] Members of the Associate Section would have to make up their own minds as to whether they wished to support the political wing or the military wing of the movement.

5. The military wing of the NMDF was then elected. The following were elected to office:

[Privacy]
Ian CAMERON
[Privacy]

6. A meeting was then convened of the Officers' Committee of the Military Wing. At this meeting the following members were elected to specific offices:

[Privacy] - [Privacy]
Ian CAMERON - Secretary
[Privacy] - Transport Officer

7. There would be three sections comprising the Military Wing. The Commanding Officers of these Sections would be as follows:

'A' Section - [Privacy] 2 i/c
'B' Section - Ian CAMERON 1/c
[Privacy] 2 i/c
'C' Section - [Privacy] i/c
i/c

Volunteers would be appointed to Sections following their acceptance into the Military Wing.

8. Methods of electing volunteers into the Military Wing were then discussed and the following conclusion was reached:

After the attendance of a new member to three consecutive meetings of the political wing he would be given a form which he would have to fill in giving details of his present address, occupation, previous military experience



and specialised interests. This application form would then be considered at the next meeting of the Officers' Committee. Providing the applicant had satisfactorily filled in this form he would be interviewed by at least one member of the Committee who would question him on his motives for wishing to join the military wing. Assuming he was then cleared for acceptance he would be invited to the next training evening of his respective Section.

9. This meeting then came to a close with a further meeting being arranged to take place at the Headquarters of the NMDP - Privacy NW2 on Wednesday 19 April 1972".

10. A list of those persons identified as having attended these meetings and/or mentioned in this report are given in the attached Appendix.

Submitted: [2] [1] HN294
Detective Inspector
HN294
Chief Inspector

J. J. J.
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT



APPENDIX to Special Branch report dated 19 April 1972 concerning a meeting of the Northern Minority Defence Force:

Privacy

Ian CAMERON ✓

Privacy

Vanguard ✓

Mentions re NMDF

Mentions re NMDF

RF Privacy

Mentions re NMDF

RF Privacy

Mentions re NMDF (588/UNREG/1006,15A,30
" " " - 2A

Mentions re NMDF

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RF 402/69/875

Mentioned in SB report of 12.4.72 re a committee meeting of NMDF

One mention re attendance at NMDF meeting on 6.4.72.

One mention re attendance at NMDF meeting on 6.4.1972.

One mention re attendance at NMDF meeting on 6.4.1972.

RF Privacy

No trace

No trace

No trace

No trace

Mentions re NMDF

RF Privacy

400/72/30