



Special Branch,

New Scotland Yard,

Broadway,

LONDON, S.W.1



11 March 1976

Box 500

Dear 

1. Attached is a Special Branch report concerning the WRP Education Centre at "White Meadows", Parwich, Derbyshire and the extraordinary measures undertaken by the Warden and members of the staff to ensure complete fool-proof security, particularly whilst students are attending courses there.

2. The source, as you will appreciate, is a particularly delicate one and I would be grateful if you would treat the report as being 'For Information Only', as agreed between us in the past. With certain regrets I have to say that this report is the 'swan song' from our source, who is now withdrawing from this area of extremist activity.



Yours sincerely

Matt. Rodger



Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

4th day of February 1976

SUBJ: CT

W.R.P.

Reference to Papers

400/75/218

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

2. "White Meadows, the Workers Revolutionary Party Education Centre at Parwich, Derbyshire, designated by the Party as a Drama, History and Literature Study Centre, has accommodated about 900 students since its opening in the summer of 1975.

3. The house, set in three acres of countryside within the Peak District National Park, was purchased by the WRP for £24,000. Since then, £37,000 has been spent on renovation, furnishings and extensions bringing its current insurance value to £135,000. The building is fitted with the most up-to-date fire fighting equipment, including smoke detectors and magnetic contact fire doors which close automatically when the alarm is operated; the control panel for which is situated in the warden's office. Emergency lighting, on glimmer, is on at all times in strategic places and comes to full brightness whenever the normal power supply fails.

4. Roy BATTERSBY (Central Committee member and warden at the centre), his wife Liz, their two youngest children and a chef (currently Privacy) are the only permanent residents there. Normally three lecturers are involved in any one week's course and their combinations vary according to their availability. Among those who have been known to take on responsibilities for teaching at the school are Gary HEALY, the General Secretary of the WRP (normally attends Thursdays and Fridays), Privacy Mike BANDA Privacy Roy BATTERSBY and Privacy From time to time, workmen (all Party members) stay there for varying periods to carry out repairs or other work which might be required. Although up to sixty students can be accommodated at the school at any one time the initial maximum flow has naturally been reduced with the passing months and classes have recently been averaging out at thirty per week and, more recently still, have dropped to as low as twelve. However, when one considers that re-registration of members in to the Party since January 1976 is in the region of 3,000 and bearing in mind that most people had completed their summer holidays by the time the school had opened, you can understand why the leaders of the Party are discussing the possibility of opening two further educational centres. The probability of this happening is emphasised by the advances planned in the near future for the production of the WRP daily newspaper (the subject of a separate report).

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5. In order to maximise the centre's use, a series of weekend courses has been initiated, specifically directed at the MRP Young Socialists. It was one such weekend school that recently attracted so much adverse press publicity.

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6. On arriving at the school students were served with a hot meal if they required it, regardless of the lateness of the hour, before being assembled for an address by Roy BATTERSEY.

7. BATTERSEY pointed out that there were certain rules which had to be obeyed to ensure the survival of the school and a number of duties that should be scrupulously carried out in true revolutionary fashion. Students were reminded that the Education Centre had previously been raided by the police and was likely to be again. On that occasion the police had 'found' a number of bullets on the premises. They had taken away a considerable amount of personal correspondence and lists of names and addresses. They had not expected to find any guns or bullets and barely went through the motions of looking for the cache of arms allegedly hidden in the grounds. This was the first of the political raids on the Party and the start of police intimidation. He said that the Party was not completely unprotected nor unprepared. The organisation had a few surprises for them when the time came.

8. BATTERSEY explained that it was necessary for him to search each student to protect the Party and other comrades present. All items which could be construed as offensive weapons, cameras, tape-recorders and any names, addresses or telephone numbers would be put in a safe place and returned to the owners at the end of the course.

9. Each student was taken individually to the Library cum Lecture room where a thorough search of clothing and luggage was personally carried out by BATTERSEY. Students were then re-assembled.

10. BATTERSEY said that the house was bugged during the police raid while the residents had been locked in the office for two and a half hours. A number of methods could have been employed but the simplest method, and the one most likely used, was to attach a sensor to the two and a half miles of copper piping in the house. This worked by picking up vibrations in the room and transmitting them across the fields to a relay station where it was picked up and sent on. Students were warned to be careful what they said anywhere in the house. They were told not to refer to anyone by their surname and that there was no need for them to know each other's surnames if they were not already known. BATTERSEY said that there was a public telephone in the building which was bugged so that when a number was dialled it was just like giving the police a name and address from their files. If anyone needed to use the telephone they had to ask for permission

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12. It was important to maintain the good relationships that had been built up with neighbours and any contact with them, or for that matter any visitors, should be referred to RAFFERTY. The centre held a very successful Christmas party, to which everyone for miles around was invited. More than 100 local residents attended the party and were reassured about the UFF's intentions.

14. Finally, HATTINGSHAY said that it would be necessary for the class to elect a three man committee to preside over the preparation of a rote for various duties which had to be carried out each day.

Privacy  
 Privacy  
 provision of drivers to  
 collection of food and other occasional  
 [illegible] duties for which

[REDACTED]

purely a nocturnal exercise on which two comrades were alternately actively employed between midnight and 7 am; each carrying out an internal patrol of the building and other duties for two hours before awakening the other comrade who would sleep on a camp bed in the dining area.

17. The guards' first task was to sign themselves on duty in the duty book (first names only); lock the porch and side door and return the keys to the cupboard adjoining the warden's office; turn on the night light to the courtyard area enclosed by a wall, BATTERSBY's office, storerooms/laundryroom and the double-glazed side of the dining area; and the bar door inset in the courtyard wall. The door connecting the courtyard area with the dining area was kept unlocked throughout the night but of course at least one of the guards was close to the door at all times.

18. At fifteen minute intervals, the guard patrolled the ground floor armed with a torch and, as instructed, paused for five minutes at different points just to listen, because the visibility from the windows, particularly from those on the side adjoining the gardens, was very poor. At two hourly intervals, commencing at midnight, the central heating boiler in the cellar was checked. When the guard was not patrolling he positioned himself in the ante-room leading to the cellar and adjoining the kitchen and dining area. From this vantage point he was able to look through the double glazing on to the courtyard and the facing wall.

19. If there were any visitors late at night, the guards were instructed to awaken their sleeping comrade who would immediately inform BATTERSBY. The guard would not open the barred gate but would inform the visitor that he was only a student there and would arouse the warden of the school. If there were intruders on the premises, or it was suspected that a police raid was imminent, the second of the guards would telephone the Clapham headquarters of the Party without delay. Comrades were instructed to leave a coin in the telephone mechanism ready for such an emergency. The possibility of a raid or petrol bomb attack by such organisations as the National Front had been considered and in such an event a pile of innocent looking bannister rails was readily available.

20. The course lectures started soon after the cleaning and other duties had been satisfactorily completed, generally by 10 am, and were continued throughout the day and evening, with the usual breaks for meals and light refreshments, until about 11 pm. The subjects for discussion were quite straightforward and innocuous and included dialectical and historical materialism, capital and philosophy. The principal work on these subjects was carried out in conjunction with readings from Marx's Capital

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Volume 1, Engel's Anti-Duhring, Engel's Ludwig Feuerbach and The End of Classical German Philosophy, Lenin's Philosophical Notes Volume 38 and Wages, Prices and Profit. Other pamphlets were briefly referred to. As an evening's relaxation, a film, previously shown on BBC2 entitled 'The General Strike' was shown (this film was produced by a member of the Party who was allegedly informed by the BBC subsequent to the furor which followed its screening, that he would never do television work again).

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21. Insofar as the introduction in to White Meadows of electronic receiving devices is concerned, it seems quite possible that some such equipment has been found. This conclusion is prompted by the assertion on several occasions that the WRP would welcome police action with regard to the discovery of bullets at the Education Centre simply because the Party's case against the Observer newspaper would supposedly be elevated to criminal libel and in consequence come before a court sooner. The WRP expects the authorities to carry out bugging operations against it and in the light of the Communist Party of Great Britain experience (following such a device being discovered at its headquarters), the Party knows that without choosing the right moment to reveal any discoveries - i.e. during the court action against the Observer, its publicity value would be dissipated by the adverse news coverage the national press would print alongside the WRP's revelations. This approach also has the advantage of not warning the authorities that their devices have been discovered because, even if all of the listening devices have been located, the WRP would probably have left some of them intact as a means of channeling lectures, chit-chat and other useless information to those listening in. Likewise, any of the assertions or inferences made by BATTERSBY during his introductory lecture to students could have been intended exactly for that purpose."

22. References of persons mentioned in this report:

Mike BANDA	405/52/11	[REDACTED]
Liz BATTERSBY	)	
Roy BATTERSBY	)	405/71/753
Gery HEALY	402/41/455A	[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Privacy

[REDACTED]

Privacy

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G.T.M. Craft

Chief Inspector

  
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT