

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

S.D.S

3rd day of January 1979

SUBJECT

1. The following information concerning the newly formed Waltham Forest District of the Socialist Workers Party has been received from a reliable source:-

2. "At the beginning of last year the above mentioned was part of the Outer East London District of the SWP, which then consisted of the following branches:-

- Walthamstow
- Leytonstone
- Ilford
- Newham
- Newham Teachers
- Docks
- Fords

At the time, Phil MARFLEET was the full-time Organiser of this District, as well as of the Inner East London District.

/because of

3. However, the SWP policy of creating a new branch every time an existing branch had sufficient regular members (normally about 6), this structure has now completely changed. The Walthamstow and Leytonstone Branches have amalgamated to form a new District, known as the Waltham Forest District, and the Newham Branch has been divided to make the East Ham, West Ham and Barking Branches. At this point, MARFLEET resigned his position, with the intention of writing a book on the political history of the Middle East (this project was later postponed when he was put in charge of the SWP intervention in the recent Ford's dispute). [Privacy] the militant and aggressive homosexual, was eventually appointed to replace [Privacy] as Organiser for [Privacy]. However, with regard to the new Waltham Forest District and the remainder of the original Outer East London District, the selection of a new Organiser to have responsibility for both these areas caused considerable internal dissension. [Privacy] who in the end emerged victorious, had to face opposition from the comrades in Newham, led by [Privacy] who all preferred [Privacy] for the post. They considered [Privacy] to be still a relatively new and very inexperienced member, whose work since coming to London from Canterbury, had only been within the confines of Waltham Forest. The Central Committee decided, however, that STROTTHOUS needed political education in the industrial field, being far too student orientated, and consequently they moved him to Newcastle-upon-Tyne as District Organiser there.

Reference to Papers

Socialist Workers Party

400/78/157

BOX 500

11 JAN 1979

P.A. IN

4. When MARFLEET originally took over from Paul HOLBOROW as District Organiser for the Outer East London area (in the Autumn of 1977) the emphasis on the type of party work in the District shifted. HOLBOROW was primarily concerned with anti-Nazi politics, whereas MARFLEET, following a successful campaign in the North London District, was far more industrially orientated. [Privacy] his successor, currently finds every issue 'really important', whether this be a minor picket or a major carnival, and it is difficult to assess on which political field he will eventually concentrate.

5. [Privacy] has now been elected Secretary of the Waltham Forest District. He is efficient and persuasive but has made little positive impression; for example, he is rarely keen to go 'fly-posting' or to take part in other active methods of announcing Party activities. The District itself is split into the following groups, which generally meet on alternate weeks, with normal branch meetings being held in between:-

- a) Anti-Nazi League (ANL)
- b) Industrial
- c) Agitprop
- d) Womens Voice
- e) SKAN (School Kids Against the Nazis)
- f) REBEL (SWP Youth Movement)
- g) FLAME (SWP coloured section)
- h) Right to Work Campaign

They may be summarised as under:-

a) Anti-Nazi League

Support for the ANL in this area has decreased over the last few months. The main reason for this lessening of activity is that, without an actual "Nazi" presence on the streets, little interest is shown by the uncommitted public in taking action on behalf of the League; this together with [Privacy] withdrawal from a local organisational role, has led the group to search deeply within its ranks to find a person with sufficiently strong a personality to maintain the necessary initiative. At present this responsibility is being shared between [Privacy]

[Privacy]

The group's current activities consist of slogan painting, 'fly-posting', elimination of 'Nazi' based graffiti and trying to recruit persons who have expressed sympathy with the policies of the League. However, in recent weeks the National [Privacy]

[REDACTED]

Front has started to regularly attend Walthamstow Market in order to sell their newspaper. Their presence is starting to re-create interest in the ANL and has temporarily put the sectarian differences between the ANL and the Waltham Forest Campaign Against Racism (the Communist Party based organisation) into the background. Undoubtedly, a continued paper sale by the NF in this area will boost the League after its period "in the doldrums".

The ANL group remains numerically the strongest and the most sociable of the cadres. Both the two public meetings held to date have been successful in attracting non-affiliated persons to the cause, although as yet few of these have actually joined the League or the Party.

b) Industrial

Convened by Pete WEARDON (specifically moved into Waltham Forest by MARPLEET for the purpose), this active and politically aware group is concentrating on building its contacts within the local factories, mainly based on the 'Staffa Road Industrial Estate'. Sales of the Party's newspaper 'Socialist Worker' are on the increase, but not in factories where the work force is predominantly Asian, as these workers have stated that they have been threatened with either violence or the sack if they were to persist in their support.

The Industrial group publish a bulletin based on the above mentioned estate and have held two public meetings, one on the Ford dispute and another on the restrictions and cuts in local hospital services.

The group is also making good progress within National Plastics and Phonodisc - two adjacent factories situated on the North Circular Road at Chingford - and are currently achieving a combined 'Socialist Worker' paper sale of 50 copies per week.

There is little doubt that, in the next few months, the Industrial group will prove to be the most effective in increasing the membership of the Party. It has had a boost from the current bakers' strike, benefitting, in particular, from the presence of Nevilles on the Staffa Road estate, the largest bakery in the area. The SWP now feel they have gained considerable favourable publicity as the only political party to have successfully intervened on behalf of the local strikers.

[REDACTED]

c) Agitprop

This group has not been active and most of its functions have been taken on by the other groups, as necessary. The organiser is [Privacy]

d) womens Voice

This is enthusiastically led by [Privacy] girlfriend, [Privacy] in the absence of any good local dispute, she is meeting with little success. Her position is made more difficult by the fact that several female members of the SWP are openly hostile to Womens Voice, even though such opposition is against the Party line. The group has a moderate number of contacts amongst local housewives and may well receive a boost when, eventually, some documents - which are reputedly authentic and supposedly secret - are published concerning proposed Area Health Authority cuts. These documents are currently in the possession of [Privacy] and have apparently been obtained from a sympathetic contact within the Health Authority.

/but

e) SKAN (School Kids Against the Nazis)

SKAN has been very successful. Set up initially by [Privacy] and now almost entirely run by [Privacy] the group can, with short notice, get large numbers of school students onto the streets, should the need arise (for example, to heckle an impromptu National Front meeting). The group started about a year ago when the National Front held a public meeting at [Privacy] school in Walthamstow. At that time an anti-NF picket of about 200 persons was organised; following the inevitable confrontation with police, 18 arrests were made and of these all but one were black. This gave good impetus to the formation of SKAN as a youth anti-Nazi group and it has since been adopted and promoted nationally. Indeed, it is largely through these student activities that the ANL in Waltham Forest has been able to earn any success.

f) REBEL (SWP Youth Movement)

The REBEL group was set up not long ago to recruit members into the SWP from SKAN and has proved quite successful. Recently, five members of SKAN, led by the very keen [Privacy] joined the Party.

g) FLAME (SWP coloured section)

This group has attracted little support. [Privacy] [Privacy] one of the persons entrusted to create

[Privacy]

[REDACTED]

black caucus, has returned to his studies and has not been actively concerned with SWP matters since. One of the other active members, [REDACTED] Privacy has been too concerned with the recent Ford's dispute, [REDACTED] Privacy to devote much time to developing this section of the SWP.

h) Right to Work Campaign

The Right to Work Campaign has been organised by [REDACTED] Privacy The group's main pre-occupation at present is to sell the Party's paper amongst the unemployed at DHSS offices and it only becomes really active if a Right to Work march is called."

6. References to persons and organisations mentioned in this report and of other persons who are active in the Waltham Forest District of the SWP are shown on the attached Appendix.

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

[REDACTED]

Appendix to Special Branch Report dated 3rd January 1979  
concerning the Waltham Forest District of the Socialist  
Workers Party

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[REDACTED]

Privacy

Paul KOLBOROW

RF 405/

Privacy

[REDACTED]

Privacy

'Madeleine'

RF 402/70/70

[REDACTED]

Privacy

Phil MAFFLETT

RF 405/

Privacy

[REDACTED]

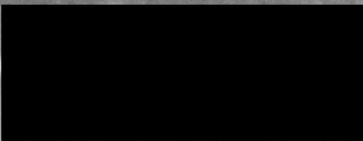
Privacy

Vince MILLER

RF 402/78/643

[REDACTED]

Privacy



Privacy

Julia POYNTER

RF 402/77/760



Privacy

Pete WEARDON

RF 402/

Privacy

Privacy

Andy STROUTHOUS - now posted to Newcastle-upon-Tyne as the District Organiser-is the subject of RF 402/

Privacy



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Organisations

School Kids Against The Nazis (SKAN)	400/78/102
Rebel (SWP Youth Movement)	400/78/154
Anti-Nazi League	400/78/188
National Front	400/78/180
Waltham Forest Campaign Against Racism	400/78/190

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