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SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report

12 day of August 1977

SUBJECT

National Front march in Lewisham on 13.8.77.

Reference to Papers

346/77/14

1. Concerning the National Front march due to be held in New Cross and Lewisham on 13.8.77. This report is intended to consolidate Special Branch information as at 12 noon on Friday, 12.8.77 and which should be read in conjunction with our assessment reports of 10.8.77 and a subsidiary report of 11.8.77 which gave information on tactics to be employed by elements of the left-wing on that day.

2. The Socialist Workers Party feel that the All Lewisham Campaign Against Racism and Fascism (ALCARAF) march should be supported but that "it will provide no substitute for confronting the fascists directly". Accordingly, it is estimated that up to 250 of their members will be meeting at the advertised point, Ladywell British Railway Station, at 11 am to go to Ladywell Recreation Ground.

3. The majority of the SWP supporters are asked to assemble and demonstrate at Clifton Rise, SE14, at 1300 hours. It has already been reported, though, the main contingent of left-wing demonstrators plan to assemble in Railway Grove, SE14, between 11 am and noon before making their attempt to completely block Clifton Rise. As soon as that objective has been reached, others will occupy the footways of New Cross Road between Goodwood Road and Railway Grove on the North Side, and St James' Road and Lewisham Way on the South.

4. Communist Party of England (Marxist-Leninist) members, numbering about 70, will assemble in Railway Grove. This far-left group is especially virulent and has been known to turn violently on police for no apparent reason.

5. The International Marxist Group, if prevented by police from proceeding up Loampit Vale past Algernon Road (presumably after the ALCARAF march) are considering:

- 1. to strike off right towards Deptford, via St John's or Lewisham Road and Blackheath Road;
- OR 2. to go left down Algernon Road and then go to Hilly Fields, assemble there and send out scouts on motorcycles to report upon police positions. Armed with this information, contingents would then take various routes to New Cross.

3. To form a barrier at Loampit Vale and force the NF back up the hill at that point.
6. Ted PARKER, one of the organisers of the SWP effort, is reported to be hiring two sets of public address equipment, one for a lorry and one stationary. He suspects that there exists a possibility that police actions will be provocative.
7. The National Front will meet at Surrey Docks and proceed to New Cross gate by Underground. They will be divided into large groups. John TYNDALL and Andrew FOUNTAIN, leading members of the NF will arrive by Underground at New Cross Gate between 2.15 pm and 2.30 pm. They will be strongly escorted by 50 supporters.
8. In the light of the High Court's refusal to press for a ban of the NF march, it must now be anticipated that the ALCARAF march will be larger than originally forecast. The political committee of the Communist Party, unusually, has called for "All Labour movement and progressive organisations to turn out on the demonstration being organised by ALCARAF; the National Front march of racial incitement should have been banned". Thus it would be reasonable to expect that as many as 5,000 marchers could support ALCARAF. The emphasis will be on a "peaceful" turnout, but Trotskyist elements as has been shown, will also be present.
9. Stewards meetings will be taking place this evening and information will hopefully continue to arrive in Special Branch up to the morning of 13.8.77, when it will be relayed to A8 Department as a matter of urgency.
10. It is stressed that much of the information in this report has been culled from secret sources which need to be protected.

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Detective Inspector

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A. Dickinson

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT 'C' SQUAD

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