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S.B. No. 1 (Plain)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report

.....19th.....day of.....July.....1977..

SUBJECT

1. Following the demonstration on the 2nd July 1977 in Lewisham and subsequent clashes between the supporters of the Lewisham 21 Committee (SWP) and supporters of the National Front, the latter organisation has announced "its biggest ever" rally at the same venue on Saturday 13 August 1977.

Reference to Papers

2. The theme of the rally will be "Drive the Muggers off the streets" and the National Front have issued a national call-out of their members through a special bulletin in the latest issue of their monthly publication. Information currently to hand shows that they are hoping to muster an optimistic 3,000 supporters; indeed they anticipate a far larger turnout than the recent St. George's Day march at Ducketts Common, Turnpike Lane when some 1,000 supporters of the National Front were in evidence.

3. The proposed march will commence at 3 pm after forming up half an hour earlier at Clifton Rise, New Cross Road, SE14.

4. Against a background of increasing tension between extreme factions of right and left it is known that the Trotskyists are aware of the proposal to hold a right-wing demonstration in Lewisham. As yet no plans to oppose the National Front have been formulated but it is known that the ultra-left have declared their intention to "knock the National Front off the streets". Thus initially a campaign to ban the proposed demonstration may be expected and on the day an unusually large turnout of anti right-wingers will counter demonstrate. One thinks that such a show of force could attract in the region of 2,000.

5. Violence may be anticipated and so far as the left-wing are concerned, some of that violence may be directed specifically at the police officers who are thought to show favour to the National Front.

6. The situation will be closely watched and further reports will be submitted as a matter of urgency as information comes to hand.

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Detective Sergeant

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f. chief Supt.