

**METROPOLITAN POLICE**

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Special Report

**SPECIAL BRANCH**

10 day of August 19 77

**SUBJECT**

Lewisham 21

Defence

Committee

**Reference to Papers**

346/77/14

1. With further reference to the forthcoming National Front demonstration which will be held in the New Cross and Lewisham areas of London on Saturday 13 August 1977, and which has already attracted much publicity.

2. Various left-wing elements propose to express their opposition to the event and this report is intended to predict the likely support that they will attract on the day.

3. Two large assemblies are planned in opposition to the right-wing. The first will be held under the auspices of the All Lewisham Campaign Against Racism and Fascism (ALCARAF), an umbrella organisation comprising "political, religious, trades union, community and immigrant groups". The second is to be mounted by the Socialist Workers Party and supported by other Trotskyist, revolutionary and extremist groups.

4. The ALCARAF demonstration will assemble at Ladywell Fields, Lewisham, at 11am and will march subsequently by way of a route already agreed with the police, through Lewisham shopping centre before returning to Ladywell Fields for dispersal. The march will be headed by the Mayor of Lewisham and other local notables and the intention is that it should be a peaceful, non-provocative expression of concern against the National Front assembly to be held later in the day, which is the subject of a separate Special Branch assessment report. Notwithstanding that this march is intended to be a peaceful turnout, it will undoubtedly attract the presence of elements from the Trotskyist groups who will wish to use it as a recruiting ground for their own protest (see below).

5. The second anti-National Front assembly, primarily organised by the Socialist Workers Party has the aim of stopping the National Front march. Precedents for such a gathering exist and most particularly the notorious Red Lion Square demonstration and more recently the Ducketts Common confrontation of 23 April 1977 to which this is said to be a retaliatory protest. In the past twelve months, two other anti-National Front conflicts in the provinces have attracted a good deal of publicity.

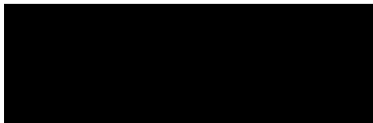
6. On Saturday 13 August 1977, the National Front have planned to start their march at Clifton Rise, New Cross, London. This intention is well known to their opponents who intend to counter by occupying Clifton Rise at 1300hrs to prevent the National Front assembly in that road at 1400hrs. Little doubt exists that conflict will ensue in this area of New Cross if an opportunity presents itself. The Socialist Workers Party's tactics are as yet unknown but they will be intent on preventing the National Front from forming up and moving off and too, they would hope, stopping the right-wing march outright.

7. Should the National Front march move off, it is to be expected that the counter demonstrators will resort to tactics of ambush and harrying along the route to be taken. As yet it is believed that the SWP are unaware of that route but by the day it is probable that they will have discovered it. It is known that the revolutionaries, in addition to occupying Clifton Rise, have taken steps to procure vantage points in nearby buildings from which to attack their opponents. A secret source which requires to be protected has already intimated that "smoke bombs, bags of flour and paint and eggs" will be utilised.

8. An unconfirmed report, also from a secret source has intimated that some Trotskyist groups intend to assemble in the sanctuary offered by the forecourt of Goldsmith's College, New Cross, before deploying themselves against the NF when they hope to know the strategy of the NF and police.

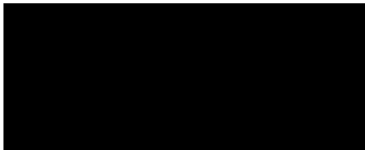
9. Although the Workers Revolutionary Party have not made known their intentions for the day, it is not thought that they would plan to be present in sizeable numbers, except to observe and to sell papers. Nor need it be feared that should they appear, they would resort to violence. According to secret reports, the WRP have acquired facilities to monitor police transmissions and suggestions that demonstrators on the Grunwick dispute used such equipment gives rise to the possibility that it could be brought into play again on Saturday.

10. In assessing the likely numbers to be expected on Saturday from the opponents of the NF, it is thought probable that the 11am Ladywell Fields assembly and march will attract no more than 2000 persons, but probably rather less. The level of militancy is not expected to be high but Trotskyists will be present and violence, although not anticipated, cannot be entirely ruled out. Of greater moment will be the SWP call-out to Clifton Rise. From their own resources and those of their brother revolutionaries, the counter demonstrators could summon 2000 people to support them. It is known that they are not optimistic of having as large a crowd as they would wish and are now pushing very hard to increase their numbers.



11. The ✓ S.W.P must be seen as the strategists of the far-left for the day. Tactics to be used are still unclear, even to themselves. Clifton Rise will be the ground upon which emotions will be focused. They are known to be organising strongly for the confrontation and as they do so their plans may become more apparent to Special Branch. A good deal of the Trotskyists' endeavours will be concentrated upon reacting to situations upon the ground, with violence. Therefore, it is felt, they will retain as much flexibility as they can allow themselves without diminishing from the blockade of Clifton Rise where the greatest strength, from their viewpoint, will have to be concentrated initially. They will wish to be able to use alternative routes to reach the National Fronts objective and will be unlikely to fail to notice that the National Front will take a course towards Lewisham upon which, on either side, two major roads converge.

12. Information will be submitted by this Department as a matter of urgency as it becomes available during the week.



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Detective Inspector

A. Dickinson

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CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT 'C' SQUAD

