

Cover Sheet

SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report

23rd day of April 1979

SUBJECT

1. This report deals with the proposed National Front election meeting at Newham Town Hall, High Street South, E6 on Wednesday 25 April 1979 and the possibility of left-wing opposition to it.

Reference to Papers

400/74/40

2. The National Front meeting is scheduled to commence at 8pm and end 10.30pm. The purpose of the gathering is to introduce the Party's candidates for the three Newham Borough constituencies in the forthcoming General Election and is likely to attract around 200 of its supporters; the capacity of the hall is 600. The event will be heavily stewarded by members of the National Front who are likely to over react to any heckling by using excessive physical violence.

NATIONAL FRONT
ELECTION MEETING

3. Opposition to the meeting will come from local branches of the Anti-Nazi League, the Socialist Workers Party and the International Marxist Group/Socialist Unity. Current information suggests that the number supporting this action will be approximately 400 and that given the opportunity these individuals will attempt to occupy the hall and/or stop the meeting physically. It is also known that members of the SWP still hold a limited number of coloured flares, similar to those used against the National Front in Leicester last Saturday.

4. However, it should be borne in mind that the Anti-Nazi League is scheduled to hold a meeting on Wednesday at Trinity School, Barking Road, E16 (1 to 1½ miles from the Town Hall) which is expected to attract an audience of about 150, and it is feasible that this will affect the turn-out at Newham Town Hall. Other election meetings are being held in the location that evening by the Conservative Association in the Lister Room, Newham Town Hall, from 8pm to 11pm, and the Workers Revolutionary Party at Vicarage School, Vicarage Lane, E6, from 8pm to 10pm. This latter group's policy is one of non-confrontation with the National Front.

5. East Ham Technical College, which is directly opposite Newham Town Hall, is due to re-open tomorrow after the Easter break and care must therefore be taken that access is not gained by the anti-racist factions to a building site at the southern end of the College. Another

convenient building site for the opposition forces is situated at the rear of the Town Hall in Barking Road, E6.

6. Informed sources have indicated that there will not be any mass mobilisation of local Asians, *except that spontaneous action or demonstration cannot be ruled out.*

7. Any further information coming to hand will be reported immediately.

L Willingale
Detective Inspector

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CHEF SUPERINTENDENT

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