

# Cover Sheet

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

20th day of April 1979

SUBJECT

Reference to Papers

National Front Election Meeting

1. This report deals with a National Front proposal to hold a public meeting as part of their election campaign at Southall Town Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 23 April 1979. It is thought that both John TYNDALL and Martin WEBSTER will address the meeting in support of the Front's Parliamentary candidate for Southall John FAIRHURST. Support for the meeting is likely to be locally based and to come mainly from the Ealing and Hounslow branches of the NF who are extremely active and are supported by a youthful element well disposed towards violence and disorder. Present indications are that the strength of NF supporters will be in the region of about 100. Southall Town Hall has a capacity for 150.

2. Opposition to this meeting is being organised by the Indian Workers Association (Southall) in conjunction with a number of other political, religious and community groups, the whole multifarious gathering being known as the Co-ordinating Committee of Southall Organisations. They are using the address of the IWA at 16/18 Featherstone Road, Southall. Additional support will be coming from 'white' left and extreme left organisations.

3. The actual opposition will be in two parts - (a) on Sunday 22 April at 2pm a protest march from the car park of the Dominion Cinema to Ealing Town Hall (dealt with by way of a separate report), and (b) on Monday 23 April a closure of all shops and businesses in the area from 1pm, followed by a "peaceful sit down protest" in the road outside the Town Hall starting at 5pm.

4. The intention to hold a "peaceful sit down protest" must be viewed with great caution. There is little doubt that this is indeed the intention of the more responsible leaders of the IWA and the other religious and cultural organisations involved. However, it is not the intention of the extremist 'white' organisations such as the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), Anti-Nazi League (ANL) and the Socialist Unity group (an election front for the IMG) led by Tariq ALI, who is himself a Parliamentary candidate for Southall. Elements of these groupings will not be content with merely protesting at the holding of a NF meeting. They wish to stop the meeting taking place and are likely to try and achieve this by violent means. The current issue of the SWP newspaper 'Socialist Worker', in an article entitled "Keep the Nazis Out", states "We will not be intimidated by police. We will use any means necessary to stop the meeting." In another article in the same edition of

the paper dealing with ANL activities and intentions, Paul HOLBOROW, Secretary of the ANL, is quoted as saying "For the Nazis to appear in Southall is an act of blatant and criminal incitement. Our reaction needs to be overwhelming and decisive. The Nazis must not be allowed to get anywhere near Southall Town Hall." This is the usual form of rhetoric for these occasions; however, it cannot be totally disregarded.

5. In addition to the extreme left groups referred to above, additional support will come from the more orthodox left groups of the local Labour Parties and their Young Socialists, and the West Middlesex District Communist Party. Such groups need to be seen publically demonstrating their support for the Asian community.

6. Reliable informed sources tend to suggest that the events on Sunday may constitute the main Asian protest and on Monday the bulk of them will protest by closing up their shops and staying away, thus leaving the streets, in the main, to the white extremist groups and the more militant Asian groups who have a propensity for violent behaviour such as the Indian Workers Front and the Naxalite (Marxist Leninist) factions of the IWA. It is known that the IWA will not tolerate any interference in the direct organisation of events on Monday from 'white' extremist groups.

[1]

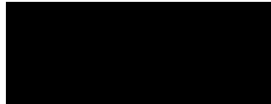
7. [REDACTED] the IMG has called upon all its London membership to make Southall a target this weekend in preference to attending the Leicester counter demonstration which will be dealt with by branches outside London. If its members comply then about 160 persons from this particular group are likely to be present.

8. This report is being written in advance of the anti-NF events being organised at Islington on Friday 20 April, at Leicester on Saturday 21 April and at Southall on Sunday 22 April; therefore the outcome of these might well affect the conduct and the numbers taking part in the demonstration on Monday evening. As far as can be ascertained at present the total numbers likely to attend on Monday are thought to be in the region of 1,000 - 1,200. Any additional information coming to hand will be reported immediately.

9. It should be borne in mind that an attempt may be made over the weekend to occupy the Southall Town Hall in order to deny its use to the NF. Also NF supporters attending the meeting will, if recognised as such, run a serious risk of

physical harm whilst making their way to and from the Town Hall.

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Detective Inspector

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A Dickinson

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

