

# Cover Sheet

18) XS 52) 49

No. 728 (Unruled)

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METROPOLITAN POLICE

Reference to papers { C.O. Southall STATION 'XS' DIVN.  
Divnl. 18/x20/79

Registry Folio No. 14th April, 1979

PROPOSED PUBLIC MEETING OF

Re. NATIONAL FRONT PARTY

- 1 -

Chief Superintendent,

1. Information has been received from the Chief Executive of the London Borough of Ealing that application has been made by the National Front of Great Britain to hold a public meeting in Southall Town Hall on Monday 23rd April, 1979, at 7.30 p.m.
2. Subject to agreement by the National Front to the usual conditions imposed in all applications of this nature by the London Borough of Ealing, the application will be approved.
3. The purpose of the meeting is to allow Martin WEBSTER and Privacy, both prominent members of the organisation, an opportunity to speak in support of John FAIRHURST, the National Front candidate for Southall in the forthcoming General Election.
4. Although the capacity of the hall is only 150, the strategy of the National Front in bringing such a meeting to this area, with its high Indian immigrant population, must, despite its lawful purpose, be considered likely to provoke serious disorder. The Anti-Nazi league are understood to have stated their intention of summoning their supporters to prevent the meeting taking place, and a militant element of the Indian Workers' Association are expected to make some active form of protest in addition to the march planned for Sunday 22nd April, and which is the subject of a separate report.

5. VENUE OF MEETING

A plan of Southall Town Hall and the vicinity is being prepared and will be available well before the event. It is suggested that the building should be searched by specially trained dogs prior to the meeting.

6. POLICE STRENGTH AND DEPLOYMENT

Aid is sought at the discretion of A.8. Branch for this event. It is proposed to supplement XS operational strength from District resources for the three days preceding the meeting to maintain the confidence of the local community. The following are regarded as priorities for the meeting.

CORDONS

Sufficient police to cordon off the four corners of the town centre junction immediately outside the Town Hall for fifty yards in each direction.

PROTECTION OF PROPERTY

The local Chamber of Commerce is advising shopkeepers and property-owners within the immediate vicinity of the Town Hall to board up their windows for the day. Additionally, the responsible leaders of the Indian community are advising shopkeepers to close their shops at 1.00 p.m. It is nevertheless suggested that there should be a strong police presence from 10.00 a.m., in the following vulnerable areas :

Southall High Street.

Southall Broadway, particularly in vicinity  
of Asian Banks.

6. (Continued)

Residential streets immediately to North and South of Southall Broadway. These are virtually 100% Asian occupied.

Sikh temples located in Oswald Road and Havelock Road.

Dominion Cinema, The Green. (A cultural and focal meeting place for the Sikh community).

Coach parking place.

Within Southall Town Hall.

RESERVES

It is suggested that mobile reserves might be held at the following locations :

Southall Police Station.

Boyd Avenue.

North Road, vicinity of Shackleton Road.

Dominion Cinema car park.

T.A. Centre, Hayes Bridge, Southall.

SECTORS

The geography and population distribution divides the town into four natural sectors for the purposes of policing this event, viz:

1. Immediate vicinity of the Town Hall and the High Street.
2. The area North of Southall Broadway to the West of Lady Margaret Road.
3. The area South of Southall Broadway to the West of of South Road.
4. Norwood Green section.

7. TRAFFIC

COMMISSIONER'S REGULATIONS

May Commissioner's Regulations be sought to apply to the whole of the Southall and Norwood Green areas please.

DIVERSIONS

It is suggested that general traffic be diverted or prevented from entering the town centre from 5.00 p.m., or according to prevailing circumstances. Diversions for normal through traffic could be effected on a ring route via Green Drive, Park Avenue, Beaconsfield Road, Hambrough Road, Broadway, Dane Road, Carlyle Avenue, Burns Avenue and Dormers Wells Lane.

To implement this route would necessitate the provision of at least 300 'No Waiting' cones, appropriate diversion signs and the assistance of Traffic Division.

The greater part of the diversion route would be unsuitable for L.T. buses and consideration may have to be given to advising the L.T.E. that buses may, according to circumstances, be diverted at the discretion of police or prevented from passing the Town Hall.

VEHICLE REMOVALS

Two removal units will be essential, regardless of diversions.

COACH PARKING

Support for the opposing factions is likely to arrive from various parts of the country, probably throughout the day, by hired coach. It is suggested that the drivers be directed to take their vehicles after unloading to The Straight and that they remain there under police protection until required.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

OPERATIONS ROOM

May arrangements be made to open the classroom at XS, which is already equipped with suitable aerials, as an Operations Room staffed by B.6. and A.8. officers with local assistance.

CONTROL VANS

From previous experience, a control van would be beneficial in the vicinity of the Town Hall. Fairlawn Hall car park, adjacent to the Town Hall, is suggested as a suitable location. Other control vans might be usefully situated at Southall Broadway junction with Saxon Road and at the Dominion Cinema.

Channel 65 sets are considered necessary for this operation.

9. CHARGE CENTRES

May consideration be given to opening and staffing charge centres from 3.00 p.m., until the conclusion of the operation. Ealing (XD), Hayes (XY), Harrow (QA) and Wembley (QD) are suggested as suitable centres.

10. CATERING

Operational catering will be necessary for this event.

Suggested feeding centres are :

1. M.R.D. Northolt.
2. The T.A. Centre, Hayes Bridge, Southall.
3. Community Centre, Bridge Road, Southall.
4. M.O.D. Establishment, Feltham.

11. Submitted for the information of A.8. Branch, thro' Commander 'X' please.

Copies are attached for the benefit of Special Branch, B.2. (Special Events) and B.6.

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Chief Inspector

Commander 'X',

The publicity given to this event, has clearly caused great concern generally, and some disorder can be anticipated.

Whilst the measure of police commitment must be judged following the three preceding meetings held by the National Front elsewhere, this is the first time that such activity has taken place in Southall. The local residents are concerned, and a march of considerable proportion is being organised for Sunday 22nd April from Southall to Ealing in protest - This forms the subject of a separate report.

Arrangements are in hand to have not only additional Police patrols in the Town during the weekend prior to the meeting, but a permanent presence in the Town Hall from Friday to Monday to prevent occupation. This will be a Divisional commitment.

I have asked in the report covering the March of 22nd April, that the Communications Centre at Southall be given priority in its implementation. May I endorse that request here.

This report has been prepared to cover the main requirements, leaving the question of aid to be determined closer to the day. I would expect that 'X' District would supply six serials.

May I also venture, that having regard to the particular sensitivity existing in my Division, that as many Senior Officers who have had knowledge of Southall and its demands, be employed in Command of the various Sectors/Serials.

A briefing on Friday 20th April at Southall Police Station is appropriate.

X.S.

16.4.79.

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Chief Superintendent

( B.T.DEE )