

BRIEFING NOTES

PUBLIC ORDER EVENTS AT SOUTHWALL - 22ND AND 23RD APRIL 1979

Order of Briefing

D. Helm, Esq., QPM General Introduction

I.W.A. March on 22nd April 1979

G. B. Richardson, Esq., QPM Strategy and
deployments

Chief Inspector C. Pollard (A8 Branch) Administrative matters

(AFTER WHICH ANY OFFICER NOT INVOLVED ON MONDAY MAY LEAVE)

N.F. Meeting on 23rd April 1979

G. B. Richardson, Esq., QPM Strategy and
deployments (Inner area)

G. W. Rushbrook, Esq. Strategy and
deployments (Outer area)

Chief Inspector C. Pollard (A8 Branch) Administrative matters
not covered earlier

General Introduction - D.A.C. 'A' (Operations)

You will all be aware that the National Front are putting forward a large number of candidates in the General Election.

In pursuance of this they are holding a series of meetings in London on a regional basis at various Halls. They state that the purpose of these meetings is to introduce their candidates to the public. In reality what they are doing is using the election period - all political parties have a right to use public halls for meetings - to ...

hold/

provocative meetings wherever they think they will have the most effect.

Last Wednesday the meeting was at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, and 2 nights ago it was at Battersea Town Hall. Tonight it is at Islington Town Hall. At Battersea about 500 left wing and 450 right wing turned up, and a confrontation was only prevented by a strong and firm police presence. Tonight at Islington we are expecting even more of each side to attend and thus the problem is likely to be even greater.

You will see, therefore, that the temperature is gradually rising and it looks as if there could be a major confrontation at Southall. Southall is, of course, a well-known immigrant area of London, and this is the very reason the National Front have chosen it for one of their major meetings on Monday evening. This in turn has activated the local Indian community who are organising opposition to it under the umbrella of the Indian Workers Association.

The opposition to the meeting will be in two forms:

- (1) The march on Sunday going past Southall Town Hall and Ealing Town Hall.
- (2) A picket of the N.F. meeting on Monday by the I.W.A. and many members of the extreme left.

MARCH ON SUNDAY

This is being organised by the I.W.A. (Indian Workers Association) and will take the form of a meeting at the Dominion Cinema, Southall, followed at 2.00 p.m. by a march past Southall Town Hall and Ealing Town Hall to Haven Green, Ealing, where it will disperse.

Numbers

Although the organisers are hoping for 10,000, we anticipate between 3,000 and 5,000.

Mood

This number will be predominantly Asian but with some of the extreme left, particularly the I.M.G. It is thought that the main bulk of people will be orderly and well disciplined, but the ultra-left will clearly be trying to ferment trouble.

Strategy

We must act firmly and actively from the start. It is only firm policing which has prevented disorder at several recent public order events and we want to ensure this trend continues.

MEETING ON MONDAY

The meeting is due to start at 7.30 p.m. It is thought that it will be addressed by John TYNDALL, Martin WEBSTER and others. Under election law Councils are under a legal obligation to hire halls to political parties holding PUBLIC meetings. It is only because of this that Ealing Council are allowing the N.F. to use Southall Town Hall at all. Because it is supposed to be public, persons other than N.F. members must be allowed in. The hall holds about 150, and it is anticipated that there will be up to 50 seats available after all the N.F. have arrived. Some or all of these seats will be available to others, and it is inevitable that it will be the left-wing who will take them. Regardless of what happens outside, there may well be difficulties inside the Town Hall as well.

The Opposition

We are expecting about 1,000 - 1,200 of the opposition to attend. It is thought that most of the Indians on the march on Sunday will not attend. Most of the Indian premises in the vicinity of the Town Hall are closing at lunch time in protest against the meeting. The 1,000 - 1,200 will probably be made up of the more militant members of the I.M.A. and the usual extreme left groups such as

Socialist Workers Party

Anti-Nazi League

Socialist Unity Group (led by Tariq Ali) and others

Some of these groups have pledged to take every possible step to prevent the N.F. meeting taking place. Others have threatened to hold a "peaceful sit-down" in front of the Town Hall. Whatever they say, the likelihood of attempted disorder is great.

It is thought that some militants will try to occupy the hall before the meeting takes place. Tariq Ali, who is a Parliamentary Candidate for the Socialist Unity Group, is holding his own meeting in Southall Town Hall tonight and we may find that he and his followers will then try and have a sit-in over the weekend until Monday.

It is also likely that some left-wing members will bring with them smoke canisters, fruit etc. on Monday.

SPECIAL BRANCH - ANY FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE ?

Police Strategy

There are 4 danger areas

- (a) Arrival of N.F.
- (b) Outside Town Hall. The left will be "penned-in" by police cordons to keep them away from the Hall.
- (c) The meeting itself
- (d) Departure of N.F.

Our strategy is based on 2 principles

- (i) We must act firmly and actively from the start. It is essential that everyone briefs their men thoroughly and that everyone is on their toes at all times. It is only because of firm policing from the start that disorder was prevented at Battersea. We want it to be the same here.

(ii) As regards the meeting, it is for the National Front - the organisers of the meeting - to decide who goes in and who does not. It will be no part of police duty to search people as they enter the hall (unless there is strong evidence of an offensive weapon, or other offence) or in any way vet them, including the press. The conduct of the meeting will in the first instance be controlled by the N.F. stewards. The duty of police will only be to prevent any breaches of the peace.

MARCH ON SUNDAY 22 APRIL

STRATEGY AND DEPLOYMENTS - COMMANDER 'X'

1. Describe Area

OVERHEAD - SOUTHALL AND EALING AREA SHOWING
ROUTE OF MARCH

Point out: Dominion Cinema
Southall Town Hall
Ealing Town Hall
Haven Green
Any sensitive points e.g. "Battle of ^{Southall}~~Southall~~"

SLIDES - Dominion Cinema
The Southall Town Hall
Haven Green

2. General Strategy

General strategy of policing march.

3. Deployments

Run through telegram showing deployments, using OVERHEAD as
necessary.

Points

All serials to be on ground assigned 1 hour after parading for meal.

March - Method of forming it up, and feed-on of serials.

Where to park police coaches.

Where police coaches to go to after serials de-bused.

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Dominion Cinema |) | |
| Haven Green |) | |
| Southall Town Hall |) | Use of serials |
| Ealing Town Hall |) | Where coaches to park |
| Reserves | - | Where to be deployed |
| Mounted Reserves | - | Where to be deployed |
| Mobile Reserves | - | Function |

Any other Matters

Admin Matters - Chief Inspector C POLLARD

Transport Linked coaches

Take A - Zs

Communications Control Room at Southall Police Station (X-Ray) from
11.30 am.

Control Van 'TANGO' at Dominion Cinema at 12 noon.

No GT except monitoring.

Channels 65 and 8

Issue - Time/place of parade except 49-54 from
Southall Police Station.

Hand in radios and AS performers to TANGO

Catering Main meals first.

Snacks as directed at Villiers High School, Boyd Avenue,
Southall, AS DIRECTED.

Performers Charge Centres at Hayes and Wembley.

Left wing - Wembley

Right wing - Hayes

Police
Information
Centre Open.

St Johns
Ambulance Villiers High School, Boyd Avenue

Out Out

MEETING ON MONDAY

Comments AD.

Comments X.

Admin Matters - Chief Inspector C. POLLARD

Communications

Channels 8 and 65.

'X' RAY at 10.45 am

TANGO (Town Hall) at ~~10.45~~ 3pm.

Radios - Feltla all.

Hand c radios + AB performs to TANGO.

Transport

Rush to get on GA on time - leave plenty ahead.

Catering

Main meals fork. - GA is again 1 hour after meal.

Snacks as directed at Villiers High School,
Boyd Avenue.

Prisons

Harrow	1pm	L/W
Ealing	4pm	L/W
Wembley	"	R/W
Harrow	"	R/W

4 police vans for isolated prisons. 1Ps + 1
Contact 'X' RAY CONTROL for allocation of charge centre.

Police Info Centre

Open.

St Johns Amb

Villiers High School.

B12

Out.

QUERIES - ROOM 705