



NEW SCOTLAND YARD
BROADWAY, LONDON, SW1H 0BG

24 April 1979

AC'A'

DEMONSTRATION WITH DISORDER AND DEATH - SOUTHALL -
MONDAY 23 APRIL 1979

In support of the Parliamentary Elections in Southall the National Front candidate, Mr John FAIRHURST arranged for a meeting in the Southall Town Hall for Monday 23 April 1979 at 7.30pm.

There was considerable opposition to this meeting, in particular by the Indian Workers Association and the Southall Youth Movement, who considered that a meeting in this area by the National Front was particularly provocative.

In addition to all the publicity given to their cause the Indian Workers Association and others arranged a March on Sunday 22 April 1979. The march started in Southall and past Southall Town Hall, finishing just past Ealing Town Hall. Because of the potential of violence 1,200 police officers were employed. This was a very unruly march, and in particular there were a large number of young Asians who were very difficult and unruly. On two or three occasions the march stopped and the demonstrators sat down in the road. Police were very patient, and throughout the long march of about 5 miles only 19 people were arrested. Tariq Ali was one of the prime movers of the disorder and civil disobedience, and this is the subject of another report.

Information was received that although the National Front Meeting at Southall Town Hall was timed for 7.30pm on Monday 23 April there would be some kind of demonstration at about 1pm. Accordingly, police officers were deployed to the area from 11.30am. As expected, from 1pm onwards there were small groups of demonstrators in the area of the Town Hall. They were very militant, and in fact there were 2 or 3 arrests at this particular time. Between 2.30pm and 3.15pm there was some disorder in South Road and The Broadway and it was necessary to put in cordons to contain demonstrators. At about this time a number of Asians took lengths of wood off a nearby lorry and

smashed the windows of a London Transport bus. More police were deployed to the area and were greeted with a hail of missiles, injuring a number of police officers and at the same time shop windows were broken by the demonstrators. Shield serials were deployed, and the demonstrators were contained.

There was a gradual build up of demonstrators and the area was cordoned to make a sterile area around the Town Hall, with the exception of certain demonstrators who were allowed to remain in the High Street. Cordons were placed in Lady Margaret Road, The Broadway, High Street and South Road, and there was a gradual build up of demonstrators at each of these cordons. Before 5.00pm there was a build up of demonstrators south of South Road on the railway bridge. A group of about 3/400 eventually blocked the whole road and sat down in the street. When the police cordon moved towards this group they retreated and were keeping a distance between themselves and the police cordon. This was a worrying situation as it gave them the opportunity of throwing missiles. At about 5.30pm a bottle was thrown at the police cordon and further stoning. Announcements were made that unless the demonstrators went away they would be arrested. There was considerable peaceful persuasion used but to no avail, and police selectively arrested a number of those who were sitting in the roadway. This has a good effect and eventually this crowd dispersed.

At about the same time considerable pressure built up on the cordon in the High Street, near Southall Police Station, and missiles were being thrown. Because of this disorder mounted officers were used to disperse this particular crowd. While this was happening a group of mainly rustafarians, squatting in a house in Park View Road, threw stones and smoke canisters at police. There were a number of police injuries and it was necessary for police to enter the building. There was considerable violence from those in occupation. Truncheons were used and there were injuries to the occupants and police - including 2 police officers who were stabbed. A variety of missiles were used, including paint which was thrown over police. Curry Pow was thrown into policemen's faces.

The violence in the Broadway continued throughout, with sporadic throwing of missiles and smashing of shop windows, and it was necessary for police to go into the demonstrators with shields to save further injury. The demonstrators were continually trying to find a way round the back of the police cordon and the Indian youths were particularly extremely violent.

The National Front Meeting took place. The Local Council had put a ceiling of 60 on the number to be admitted. In fact 59 entered the Town Hall and it was alleged that 20 of these were members of the public and non members of the National Front. They included 8 Asians. A number of groups of National Front arrived in the area, but as the Hall was full they were not allowed into the area at all, but contained or dispersed by police on the grounds of Public Order.

It was understood that Martin WEBSTER asked the Local Councillor B S DEOL, General Secretary of India Social Welfare Society, if he was satisfied that this was a bona fide meeting and the Councillor said that he was so satisfied. Police allowed a group of about 50 Asians on the opposite side of the road to the Town Hall, who were constantly chanting anti-National Front slogans, aided by a public address system in a shop.

When the meeting ended at about 10.00pm the National Front members were escorted by police out of the area.

It is reported the Blair PEACH, a member of the Anti-Nazi League, was taken to New Ealing Hospital by ambulance at 8.12pm suffering from a head injury, from which he subsequently died. The circumstances of this death are not fully known, but a senior Detective Officer is heading an enquiry to discover the full circumstances and a further report will be prepared in due course.

A man, believed to be a National Front sympathiser, named Privacy was set upon by Asian youths and suffered serious injuries. He also has a heart condition and he must be considered as very seriously ill.

This was a particularly violent demonstration and the violence was mainly from the Asian youths, who appeared quite often to lose complete control of their emotions. 20 police officers were treated for injuries in hospital - 3 are still detained with serious injuries - and, of course, there were scores who received treatment at the time and will, in all probability, report sick at a later date. There were 340 or more arrests for various offences and there was considerable damage caused to property, mainly shops in the area of the Broadway. It is estimated that the number of demonstrators in the area was in excess of 3,000.

The full details of the injuries, arrests and damage will be forwarded in due course.

From my experience of demonstrations I am convinced that the violent attacks on police and property were pre-planned.

However, it was very noticeable that there were very few white left extremists in the area on Monday, but some who were there were organising the demonstrators. They were in evidence on the March on the previous day. The most violent group certainly came from the Asian youths of the Southall Youth Movement, and this was also obvious on the Sunday March.

POLICE DEPLOYED

1	Deputy Assistant Commissioner
4	Commanders
15	Chief Superintendents
4	Superintendents
23	Chief Inspectors
120	Inspectors
291	Police Sergeants
2373	Police Constables
45	Women Police Constables

RESERVES (included in the above total)

1	Chief Superintendent
28	Inspectors
78	Police Sergeants
570	Police Constables

MOUNTED RESERVE (included in the above total)

1	Superintendent
1	Chief Inspector
4	Inspectors
8	Police Sergeants
80	Police Constables

All engaged between 3.30pm and 10pm on Monday 23 April 1979.

TRUNCHEONS - drawn

PROTECTIVE SHIELDS - used

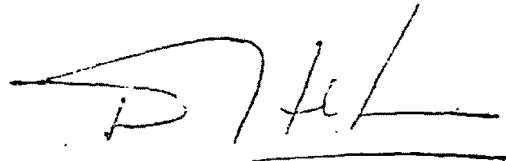
NUMBER OF ARRESTS - 342

INJURIES TO POLICE - 120

INJURIES TO PRISONERS - 83

<u>INJURIES TO PUBLIC</u>	- 10 (1 FATAL)
<u>DAMAGE TO POLICE PROPERTY</u>	- 127
<u>LOSS OF POLICE PROPERTY</u>	- 161
<u>POLICE HORSES INJURED</u>	- 2
<u>DAMAGE TO PRIVATE PROPERTY</u>	- 29 (to date)
<u>LOSS OF PRIVATE PROPERTY</u>	- None reported (to date)

Copies of this report have been sent to the Under Secretary of State, Home Office, Director of Information, DAC No 1 Area, Commanders A8, B8, 'C', 'X' and Airport Districts, Solicitors Branch and G9 (Accident Claims Branch).



D Helm
Deputy Assistant Commissioner 'A'
(Operations)