

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH THREAT ASSESSMENT

re

NATIONAL FRONT DEMONSTRATION AND ANTI NAZI LEAGUE

COUNTER-DEMONSTRATION IN FULHAM ON 30TH AUGUST, 1981

INTRODUCTION

1. This report updates the earlier Special Branch assessment, dated 11.8.81 concerning the proposed National Front demonstration due to take place in Fulham on 30.8.81 under the theme, "Defend Rights for Whites".
2. The projected public order situation in respect of 30.8.81 has changed considerably from that outlined in the initial Special Branch assessment. Reliable intelligence now available shows that there is a real possibility of serious confrontation between, on the one hand, the National Front, and on the other, the Anti-Nazi League/Socialist Workers Party supported by other anti-racist groups.
3. The public order situation is further complicated by the prospect of thousands of West Indians travelling to and from Notting Hill (only two miles from Fulham) to participate in the second day's celebrations of the annual three-day Notting Hill Carnival. Although some West Indians are aware of the planned NF demonstration, their overwhelming attitude would appear to be that so long as the Front does not venture into the Carnival area they will largely ignore the racist activity.
4. The National Front continues to plan for a march and rally in Fulham on this date but, in the event of a Public Order ban, it is determined to hold an open-air rally. Supporters, who are expected to number approximately 800, have been instructed to arrive at 2 pm at Fulham Broadway from where they will be directed to the main assembly area.
5. The Anti Nazi League/Socialist Workers Party and supporting groups plan to meet at Fulham Broadway but, in their case, at the earlier time of 11 am. They will then occupy Eelbrook Common which they mistakenly believe to be the site for the NF rally. It is their intention to hold their own rally on this site on the theme, "Stop the National Front - Support the Carnival". Support for the ANL/SWP activity is anticipated to be about 800-1,000 of whom roughly half will be extreme left-wing adherents.

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BACKGROUND

- (A) The National Front's main objective in holding this activity would appear to be to publicise its declared opposition to the multi-racial society while, at the same time, drawing attention to the recent coloured immigrant-dominated disorders which have occurred throughout the country.
- (B) A secondary objective for this audacious event would also appear to be an attempt to regain credibility with the far right masses through whom the NF hopes to recover some of the support it has lost in recent years to other ultra-right wing groups.
- (C) The National Front has rarely given quite so much publicity to a demonstration with two of its most popular newspapers, 'NF News' and 'Bulldog', the Young National Front publication giving front page headlines to this activity. This does tend to show that its strategy is designed to extract the maximum propaganda benefits from this event.
- (D) The anti-Carnival march will therefore be seen as a crude attempt to propagate the NF's own brand of racial nationalism while, at the same time, enhancing its claim to be the most creditable extreme right-wing opponents of multi-racialism.

7.

NATIONAL FRONT DEMONSTRATION

- (a) The announcement that the National Front intended to hold a march and rally in Fulham on 30.8.81 was first made by Martin WEBSTER, the NF's National Activities Organiser, in a letter dated 30.6.81 which was delivered to A8 Department. Subsequently, he and [redacted] Privacy, the NF Solicitor, attended a meeting with senior uniformed officers on 10.8.81 at New Scotland Yard.

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- (b) While at this meeting, WEBSTER did indicate that he expects support for the demonstration to be in the region of 2,000, in fact the NF has not achieved such a figure for a political demonstration for several years and it has no realistic prospect of doing so on this occasion. Its attendance is more likely to be in the region of 800 and this figure may only be reached if the Front's planned leafletting campaign at Chelsea and Fulham football grounds on 29.8.81 attracts a worthwhile response from the skinhead fraternity. Special Branch officers will monitor these activities and developments of interest coming to light will be subsequently reported.
- (c) WEBSTER also referred to the possibility of an alternative right-wing march at Fulham on 30.8.81. This was to have been held by the Council of Nationalist Action Groups (CONAG), a recently formed ultra right-wing alliance which has now abandoned all hopes of organising such a venture. Since this new movement will no longer threaten the NF activity, it is anticipated that some of its supporters who may wish to take part in the Front's event, will be allowed to do so, provided they abide by the directions of its stewards. On the other hand members of the CONAG organising committee and any well-known former members of the NF will naturally be turned away by the NF stewards.
- (d) At the same meeting, it was established that NF supporters will be instructed to arrive at the entrance to Fulham Broadway Underground Station at 2 pm on 30.8.81. Some eight to ten NF stewards will be present at this location from 12.30 pm onwards and will re-direct supporters to the main assembly area at Ifield Road, SW10. They will then line up and move off in formation at 2.45 pm along the following route:-

Finborough Road
Old Brompton Road
Lillie Road
North End Road
Daves Road
Lillie Road
Fulham Palace Road
Distillery Lane

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- (e) On reaching Distillery Lane, the column will head for a nearby undeveloped area shown on the map as "Open Space" where the march will conclude. A rally will then be held between 4.30 and 5.30 pm which will be chaired by Andrew BRONS, the NF Chairman, and addressed by Richard VERRALL, the NF Deputy Chairman, Joe PEARCE, the National Activities Organiser of the YNF and Martin WEBSTER.
- (f) In the event of a public order ban, the NF rally will be held in Vanston Place which is in close proximity to Fulham Broadway Underground Station.

8. OPPOSITION

- (i) The main opposition to the National Front demonstration will be provided by the Anti Nazi League/Socialist Workers Party which is likely to be supported by local trade unionists and Labour Party activists.
- (ii) The opposition strategy would appear to be based upon the misapprehension that the National Front intends to hold a rally during Sunday afternoon at Eelbrook Common, SW6. It is the ANL/SWP's intention to forstall the NF by occupying this location some three hours before the arrival in the area of the main Front contingents.
- (iii) The combined opposition, itself, intends to hold a rally at Eelbrook Common which it hopes will be addressed by such leading personalities as Joan LESTOR, MP, Ken LIVINGSTONE, Labour Leader of the GLC and a representative from the Notting Hill Carnival Development Committee. It is also planned that a number of other attractions including theatre workshops and West Indian bands will be present on the Common.
- (iv) In line with previous practice, the ANL/SWP will undoubtedly try to monitor the movement of NF personnel in the Fulham Broadway area possibly with the aid of radios.

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9. CONCLUSION

The National Front is clearly determined to extract whatever propaganda it can from the highly volatile public order situation which undoubtedly will prevail in Fulham on 30.8.81. Equally the combined left-wing opposition is just as determined to prevent the National Front from achieving this objective. Indeed, certain elements within the left-wing are sufficiently militant to take on police in their endeavours to frustrate the National Front. In such circumstances it would be only too easy for police to be portrayed as the villains of the peace.



CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT