

Conservative Research Department

CRD

32 Smith Square Westminster SW1P 3HH Telephone 01-222 9000

Memorandum from: ...Peter Shipley.....

To:Nicholas True.....

..... Date:24th March 1982.....

cc. Peter Cropper
Anne Bulloch
David Nicholson
Tony Hutt
Keith Britto
Peter Lilley
Mervyn Kohler

1. I spoke recently to Robin Pitt, leader of the Conservative group on Lambeth Council. He told me that there is a widespread belief in Brixton that the Easter weekend will not pass without trouble. This view is shared by the police, many councillors and community leaders. Mr. Pitt said that Ted Knight, the leader of Lambeth Council was engaging in a dangerous game of agitation among the black population, telling them their attitude needed to be more militant. Mr. Pitt also thinks that the proposed carnival in Brixton at Easter is little more than a 'set up' which will attract gangs from other parts of London and get people onto the streets without adequate preparation and organisation of events.

2. Last Friday's fighting in Hackney in which six people were stabbed appears to have been a racially motivated incident: a gang of white youths chanting NF slogans is reported to have attacked a black disco. This kind of inter-racial gang warfare was noted in the Bristol disturbance earlier in the year (see my memo of 1 February 1982). Apart from Southall and Coventry this aspect did not feature greatly in last year's disorders. I hope there is not a new development forming, which would add to the police's problem and raise the political temperature considerably.

3. Following my note last week on left-wing views and activities, a statement by the Central Committee of the Workers' Revolutionary Party has come to my notice. The WRP, who run Youth Training Centres in Brixton, Toxteth and elsewhere, said that "the public utterances by police chiefs over the past week are the early warning signals of further street provocation in the coming days and weeks. The police are filing their case in advance of the bloodshed ..."

"The WRP calls upon the trade unions and local community organisations to organise workers' defence guards to defend basic democratic rights and to stop the vicious attacks of the police-trained racist and fascist groups." (Newsline, 10 March 1982).

4. I attach a copy of Chief Constable Alderson's interview with the Communist Party journal, Marxism Today, which has received much publicity.

PS/JLS

8