

CONSERVATIVE RESEARCH DEPARTMENT

32 SMITH SQUARE · SW1

MEMORANDUM

<p>From Peter Shipley</p>	<p>To Nick True</p> <p>c.c. see below</p> <p>17th March, 1982.</p>
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As the spring approaches, the following statements from various extreme left-wing sources about the inner cities are worth noting.

From the 'The Next Step' the newspaper of the Revolutionary Communist Party : "The scene is already set for major confrontations with the police in 1982. And the police are gearing up for it....

"Renewed conflict, on an even larger scale, is inevitable. The CRE recently quoted what 'The Next Step' said about the riots last time round, that 'organised class violence is the only answer to the violence of the fascists and the state'. As the going gets even rougher in 1982, that statement, so objectionable to Whitelaw's Liberal critics, rings truer every day".

The RCP runs the East London Workers Against Racism group (ELWAR) and similar groups in Coventry, Manchester, Leeds, and South London where the group has a telephone in Brixton manned 24 hours a day to respond to racial incidents and provide vigilant patrols.

Support for ELWAR vigilantes has come from Labour's prospective candidate for Lewisham borough, Chris Knight. After going out with an ELWAR patrol he wrote in the March issue of 'London Labour Briefing':

"The police are at best irrelevant and incompetent and at worst simply part of the same problem of harrassment and criminality we are fighting against...

"A black and white vigilante force could stamp out such crimes with immeasurably more effect than the police have achieved or could ever hope to... And this is really the point: if the police are ultimately incompetent and impotent to perform any useful function whatsoever, they compel us - whether they like it or not - to take matters into our own hands. For the Labour Party, the implications are extremely serious. It may be that we'll have to take over the policing of London ourselves..." (some of you will have received the full text of this article).

And the views of two smaller organisations: in 'Class Struggle', the paper of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain - "... people are finding out that if you scratch a community policeman you find a racist thing... A new wave of uprisings is inevitable, progressive, revolutionary and just".

From Red Action, a single sheet produced by former members of the Socialist Workers' Party in Islington:

"And there will be more riots this year, as the dole queues lengthen,

and more people get fed up with being picked on by the police.

So come July or August, and you watch the flames of Liverpool or Brixton light up the night sky, you will be able to tell anyone who asks you - there's three million reasons why!"

No doubt these people will have been doing all they can to ensure that their expectations are not disappointed.

B

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