

MAR 22 1984

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RE -COMMUNIST PARTY OF CANADA POLICY AND ACTIVITY RE - LABOUR

INTRODUCTION

The following is an update, synopsis on subversive involvement in the B.C. labour dispute, of Fall 1983, prepared for the O I/C "D-1" Ops. It is placed on file for info purposes only. Msgs referred to are available on [REDACTED]

INFORMATION

Attached on this file are messages sent and received from BCASS on the subversive involvement in the current labour strife in B.C. The intent is to provide a cursory update on our investigative interests. We are proposing that investigative efforts be centered on specific individuals within the CP of C, whom we believe are likely to play a role in furthering the Party's interests in this dispute.

INDEX OF MESSAGE CONTENT.

1. SS(D)4872/489, of 83 11 02. Original HQ analysis of the influence of our target groups on the Operation Solidarity coalition organized by the British Columbia Federation of Labour (BCFL)
[REDACTED] Assessment indicated minimal role being played and requested that information of any subversive involvement be forwarded on a priority basis to respective desks.
2. BCSS(D)1270/27, of 83 11 14. BC area Labour Coordinator's response to HQ assessment (#1). Agrees with assessment but states that there are some questions remaining about the role of certain radical elements. Specifically mentions the BCGEU, Chief Negotiator, Cliff ANDSTEIN and leftists within the Social Workers local who had tried to overthrow the current union executive.

Refers to the lack of any hard intelligence identifying the positions of any file subjects within the committees of Operation Solidarity, the decision making process within etc. States that Operation Solidarity has assumed a political role as the chief opposition to government restraint legislation. *Note - this msg sent prior to the current tentative lull in the strikes, but warns

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of potential picket line confrontation if the dispute continues and expands.

3. BCSS(D)1247/24, of 83 11 07. Party moving offices temporarily during strike. BCGEU moving into facilities of the Union of Unemployed Workers, which has significant input from CP of C. (BC Fed withdrew support for the UYW because of the Party influence.) Note - Move means a loss of source coverage for us.

Inv. Comments gives outline of issues in dispute.

4. Message detailing the Party resolution submitted by the CP of C for the Solidarity Coalition. No info on who will introduce it for the Party, within the Coalition. No info available on composition or membership in the Coalition. It is however known that Party member HEWISON is on the Steering Committee.
5. Report on a private meeting in a restaurant between CP of C labour secretary Fred WILSON and Teachers Federation, President Larry KUEHN.
6. Party meeting to coordinate "flying pickets" by Party members to ensure that school shutdown is as complete as possible.
7. HQ request to have "surveillance" placed on WILSON to ascertain through whom the Party will attempt to influence the stand of the unions and or Solidarity Coalition, with respect to demands upon the Socred government. *No direct response recieved as yet. (83 11 14) Information held on file () which indicates there may be an "active left caucus" within the Teachers Federation is reiterated for BCAC, to indicate the areas which should be delved into when investigating the degree of subversive influence.

HQ PROPOSALS FOR INVESTIGATION.

Discussions have been held with the Dwight DOWBIGGIN of the HQ Party Desk on the possibility of recommending a narrower focus of investigation in Vancouver. Specifically, we have suggested that the main thrust of the CP of C in the labour field is through the Action Caucus (AC), which has been organized and in place for approximately two years. While geared specifically to influence a more leftist stance at the organizational level of major unions and conventions, it is also dedicated, according to Party Central Committee documents, to directing the thrust of the trade union movement from "economic issues" (bread and butter trade unionism) to "political issues".

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The trend in the BC situation has taken on a decidedly political flavor, that is; the initial BCGEU walkout was prompted by opposition to "seniority rights" and proposed dismissals. As the strike escalated however, the issue evolved into opposition to the whole legislative restraint package (26 Bills) tabled by the provincial government.

While the government responded to the "union issues" (seniority) they have not specifically addressed the "political issues" such as dissolution of the Human Rights Commission, Provincial Gov't control over local school boards, dissolution of the Rentalsman etc. These issues are the target of the Operation Solidarity group and the Solidarity Coalition. To back their political demands that the legislation be scrapped, they have threatened future "political strikes".

It is this aspect which is likely to have been influenced by the Party's Action Caucus. We suggest that BCAC be requested to concentrate coverage on Party members most likely involved in the influencing of this Left - Action Caucus.

Fred Wilson [redacted] Provincial Labour Secretary, CP of C.

George HEWISON [redacted] Secretary Treasurer of the United Fisherman and Allied Workers Union (UFAW) [redacted] possible provincial coordinator of the AC.

Dunc SHIELDS [redacted] organizer for the UFAW, believed to be the Secretary of the B.C. Provincial Trade Union Action Caucus.

M Johnson, B526-A
HQ 'D-1' Ops
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Cover

RCMP GRC

TRANSIT SLIP

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Classification
SECRET

File No. - N° du dossier

• (WRITE - ÉCRIRE À LA MAIN)

TO - A O/C D ops	FROM - DE O/C D-1	Date 83-11-02
DDG ops (for info)	O/C D ops	83-11-04
O/C "D" ops	83-11-02	
	NOV 15 1983	83-11-07

<input type="checkbox"/> Comments Commentaires	<input type="checkbox"/> Prepare Brief Préparer un exposé	<input type="checkbox"/> Return with Current File Retourner avec le dossier actuel
<input type="checkbox"/> Perusal and P.A. Lire et classer	<input type="checkbox"/> Make File(s) Ouvrir un dossier	<input type="checkbox"/> Check Records Vérifier les dossiers

SUBJECT - SUJET

Subversive Involvement in the Current B.C. Labour Dispute

REMARKS (Use same A-5 for Reply when space permits) - REMARQUES (Si l'espace le permet, répondre sur cette formule)

As mentioned earlier, today please find two copies of a brief prepared by Cpl. H.E. Johnson of "D" ops Research Briefing Unit on the C.N. subject.

You will note that the involvement of subversives in this (labour) conflict is insignificant & negligible in that they are not in a position to influence negotiations. The conflict is clearly within the realm of politics & labour.

We have no source in a position to provide "inside" privileged information on this labour conflict except normal routine coverage of subversives at the periphery of it. Should a general strike ensue, essential public services including policing will become a concern to Prov authorities. At this point in time, this possibility could have law enforcement implications and "C" Div, Contract Policing and C.O. 15" Div would perhaps appreciate being kept advised of our intelligence production. You may recall also that D.N.S. had requested last week for reading of the situation.

Pending your instructions, a copy of this brief will be forwarded to B.C. A.C. with a request of any developments involving subversives be forwarded to H.Q. on a priority basis.

Diary Date - Date d'agenda

Meeting Date - Date de réunion

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SEC - PA - AC
Date

Reviewed
JAN 17 1984
SECURITY SERVICE RECORDS

***** PID PH402 OSN 1100870
***** DATE 83-11-14 TIME 11:14:41
** PAGE 001 ECSS(D)1270/27

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ROUTINE

FROM: FID: DS241 ISN: 1100877 RECEIVED: 83-11-14 11:14:36
VANCOUVER D OPS OPERATOR: S64

TO : LIT: HQB3 OSN: 1100891
HQ AREA - D OPS

STAIRS COPY
ACCEPTED AS ENTERED

MESSAGE DESTINATIONS
NSR, HQD06, HQD25, VCRD

002281

NOV 15 1983
D06

%%CUSTODIAN OPS:

%%TO:

INFO: 'D06' HQ - ORIG
'D25' HQ - INFO COPY

ECSS(D)1270/27 (CORRECTED COPY)

RE: LABOUR CONDITIONS - CANADA

%%INTRODUCTION:

1. This is in response to HQ message, SS(D)4872/489 dated
1983 11 02.

%%INVESTIGATOR'S COMMENTS:

2. We read the above noted report with interest and found the
majority of your comments valid and accurate. We did, however, feel
that there was a degree of misconception about the power and
influence of the subversive element. Your statement that the
leadership of the ~~BRITISH COLUMBIA GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES UNION (BCGEU)~~
is void of subversive influence is essentially correct, however,
some concern has been expressed in the past about ~~Cliff ANDSTEIN~~
who has risen to the position of negotiator for
the union and the social workers local is composed of a certain
radical element who several years ago, tried to overthrow the then
current executive. Although this attempt was repelled and the group
apparently eliminated, they still exist and are ready, willing, and
able to stir the membership.

3. The issues currently causing labour unrest in the province are

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very broad ranging and involve not only the legislation that the provincial government is trying to pass, but a whole spectrum of economical problems associated with the current recession. Many labour observers feel that the provincial government has watched the union bashing that is taking place in the private sector as a result of numerous applications for decertifications and feel the time is ripe for a change to the provincial labour code. Labour feels that if the government opens the code, wholesale changes will result which will eventually make British Columbia a right to work province. This fear along with a very hardline approach by the government against not only labour but many organizations such as Human Rights, Welfare Rentalsmen, etc., have created a situation that draws many people who are diametrically opposed into a common bond. We have "left wing loonies" in concert with "right wing old pensioners" demonstrating together against legislation that is extremely broad ranging and that touches many different lifestyles. Having thus set the stage, the government now finds itself as the foe of a whole cross section of the populace which is very susceptible to subversive influence.

4. Your comment that our target groups are playing only a peripheral role and have essentially jumped on the band wagon is probably an over simplification of a very complex situation. The left wingers are, in ordinary times, fairly isolated and pigeon holed by their own unions and labour in general. However, in times with issues such as we have now, they are able to play a much more major role even though they do not hold leadership roles. We should not lose sight of the fact that most of our principals work very energetically and diligently and now that they have access to many disgruntled non-politically committed people, they can really make hay. We know, for instance, that George HEWISON has a great deal of influence in the Unemployed Groups and fairly well controls a large cash grant from the government to look after the unemployed. Numerous teachers and construction workers have stated that although their unions have made public statements that they have taken a strike vote and were given a mandate by the membership to join in an Operation Solidarity strike, they were not aware of and did not participate in a vote. This type of activity by the union hierarchy may or may not result from their politics and may or may not be considered subversive.

5. Another point which we must consider is the fact that we do not have a great deal of information about the current labour situation. We are aware that Art KUEE, President of the BC FEDERATION OF LABOUR, is the spokesperson for Solidarity, however, we do not know who heads up the various committees; who are the pressure groups from within or without to set or change policy; and most of all, who makes the final decisions within Solidarity. What we do seem to have, is the media information surrounding labour's activities but absolutely no concrete intelligence on which to base our analysis.

6. Your impressions of the probability for a general strike seems

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