

Home Affairs
2 -

PRIME MINISTER

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BRIXTON

Elsewhere in the Box is a report on Monday night's disturbances in Brixton which the police handled very effectively. These disturbances were of course the subject of discussion at the Brixton Police Community Liaison Committee which met on Tuesday night. This meeting proved to be most encouraging despite attempts at disruption by a Trotskyite rent-a-mob. The more responsible black leaders supported the police action which is a new and most welcome development.

Tf. ms

3 November 1982



HOME OFFICE
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LONDON SW1H 9AT

2 November 1982

Prime Minister:

Clearly a successful
police operation, nipping
trouble in the bud before it
developed into major
disorder.

Dear Tim

JH
MK
2/11

BRIXTON

I attach a summary of the initial written report from the Metropolitan Police on the facts of the disorder in Brixton yesterday.

The police operation was clearly necessary and successful.

Discussion of the events and issues will no doubt dominate the meeting this evening of the Community/Police Consultative Group for Lambeth. It is not easy to assess in advance the course and outcome of the meeting, which is public and likely to attract considerable media coverage. But the police and leading figures in the community, including local M.Ps., have made considerable efforts today to make responsible people aware of the need and opportunity for their views to be well represented at the meeting, which may serve to counter attempts by others to use it as a platform for promoting dissension and anti-police feeling. If that happens, it may be seen publicly that relations between the police and the community generally have not been impaired by yesterday's events. The police in the area will in any event be ready to respond to any attempts at further disorder tonight, whether or not that were to focus on the meeting.

I will let you have an account of the meeting tomorrow.

Tim
Fletcher

Tim Flesher, Esq.

E.R.

DISTURBANCES IN BRIXTON
MONDAY 1 NOVEMBER 1982

On Monday 1 November 1982 at 5.30 am police officers assisted the Under Sheriff of Greater London in the execution of a Writ of Possession in respect of nine properties in Railton Road, Brixton. This operation was completed by 6.55 am, without incident. There was a light police presence in the area throughout the morning.

2. At 12.37 pm about 80 people gathered in Railton Road and decided to march to Lambeth Town Hall in protest at the evictions. The group moved off at 1 pm, calling first at Brixton Police Station, where they stayed for only 3 minutes and where there were no incidents. The group then went to Lambeth Town Hall, accompanied by a small number of police officers, where they were refused entry to the building but were seen by the Leader of the Council. Mobile police units arrived and the crowd dispersed at 1.50 pm, most of them going to Railton Road.

3. The area was relatively quiet until about 3 pm when a number of youths entered a semi-derelict property at number 56 Mayall Road. It appears that the property had previously been used as a club and the youths were demanding that the local authority should reconnect the electricity supply. As tension appeared to be increasing, the Community Liaison Officer and other senior police officers attempted to make contact with local community leaders, but none was available.

4. The youths eventually left the building and, whilst they remained in Railton Road and showed signs of hostility, none was violent.

5. At about 5.30 pm bricks and three petrol bombs were thrown at police officers in Railton Road and additional units were brought in to disperse the crowd. A little later, two portacabins and some diesel fuel in a council yard in Railton Road were set alight.

6. During the evening a group of youths went into the "Atlantic" public house on the junction of Coldharbour Lane and Atlantic Road. They assaulted the licensee, Mr Leon, who is a local councillor and a member of the Community/Police consultative group of Lambeth. His injuries were slight. He had supported the decision to possess the properties in Railton Road.

7. Later in the evening people who have yet to be identified set fire to a derelict property at number 58 ~~May~~ Rail Road. The building was gutted. Near by in Railton Road the windows of a second-hand furniture shop were broken and a mattress was set alight. The fire was quickly put out.

8. At about 6.30 pm a barricade was erected across Railton Road and more bricks and petrol bombs were thrown at police officers. At the directions of the senior officer the barricade was cleared and the crowd were dispersed into the side roads.

9. The major and last confrontation occurred at 7.45 pm when 100 youths gathered at the junction of Atlantic Road and Coldharbour Lane. They were quickly dispersed by police officers.

10. At the end of the day a total of 8 arrests had been made in connection with the disorder.

11. One police officer was slightly injured, as were three members of the public, including a reporter who was stabbed in the hand. A number of press cameramen were robbed.

12. Apart from the fires, the only damage caused was to equipment of a BBC news team and slight damage to police vehicles.

13. The police believe that the local community supported them in their actions and that the disorder was attributable to a relatively small number of trouble-makers who are eager to confront them.

12 NOV 1982

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CB