

MONUMENTAL LAWLESSNESS AT THE SOLSTICE, NO DOUBT — BUT WHOSE?

THE LEGALITY of the underlying police strategy at Stonehenge last Saturday (1 June), as well as the tactical behaviour towards those who were heading for the monument despite the High Court ban on a pop festival there, will be fiercely questioned as the arrested go through the courts. **TIM MALYON** reports

DESPITE comments attributed to the police on Saturday that they wished to take into custody the entire population of the field into which travellers were penned by a police road-block, the gravest charges to date have been one of attempted GBH against police officers by drivers of vehicles after police entered the field. It's reported that firearms, but not rubber bullets, were carried in the police's own vehicles.

The majority of defendants so far released who have come to the attention of lawyers and welfare bodies are alleging they were refused access to a lawyer before their hearing, and denied all basic rights such as pencil and paper or a phone call. The bail condition most commonly imposed of staying 25 miles from Stonehenge is lending the operation an atmosphere similar to the miners' strike.

'I cannot see what legal justification there can have been for the police action, particularly in view of the charges people face', says Jane Goodsir, one of Release's legal advisors. Release and Festival Welfare Services have compiled a depressing dossier of Saturday's events, including police smashing of vehicles which were peoples' homes; and an incident in which a woman and child are alleged to have been dragged through a broken vehicle windshield. 'Open season on hippies' is Goodsir's impression of the police tactics.

Political protest is growing. Local Labour district councillor Phil Mayhew is 'appalled at the violence that went on. I've protested during a recent council meeting that the policies being pursued would lead to conflict. They did lead to conflict. The National Trust, the county council, English Heritage and police haven't dealt with the situation with any imagination at all. They didn't think through the consequences of their decision to ban this festival.'

Mayhew calls for an end to violence on both sides, and provision of an alternative, properly organised site. Wiltshire police committee chair,



The sort of sight that horrified local resident Lord Cardigan

councillor John Church (Liberal), is concerned both at the violence and at escalating police costs — estimated by him at £1 million to local rate payers.

What the hell next?

After Saturday, the outstanding question is: what next? Festival Welfare Services chair Don Aitken thinks 'What we've seen so far is only preliminary skirmishes. Many more people are now moving in the direction of Stonehenge.'

Festival-goers are of course famously now congregating on a small site in Savernake Forest, two miles south of Marlborough. Police have asked Lord Cardigan, who manages the estate for his father, if they may enter the land and clear it — with what possible legal justification it's hard to see. Savernake is some sixteen miles from Stonehenge and covered by no court injunction. So far, Lord Cardigan has resisted police pressure.

Labour home affairs spokesperson Alf Dubs, as already widely quoted, is fiercely critical both of Saturday's operation, on which — especially concerning the firearms — he'll be questioning Leon Brittan, and apprehensive about future police intentions: 'I think just clearing the site on which the owner has given people permission to go will spread the problem over a wider area'. He and Clive Soley MP aim to visit the Stonehenge area as soon as possible.

One possible way out of the impasse was swiftly blocked. Green CND made a detailed proposal to the National Trust, but it was turned down this Tuesday after a whole day's deliberations by the Trust

Council, including chair Lord Gibson.

Green CND suggested the festival be permitted to take place on Trust land near Stonehenge, and offered to take responsibility for toilets, rubbish collections, protection of areas of archaeological importance and general organisation. Councillor Mayhew comments on the dismissal of this scheme: 'anyone offering a sensible solution should be listened

Newham 7

Light breaks on police practices

ONE OF the key prosecution witnesses in the trial of the 'Newham 7', Maria Isen, a part-time waitress at the Wimpy Bar, Upton Park, last week admitted at the Old Bailey that she'd been a police 'informer' in the period before and after 7 April 1984, the day of the incidents outside the Duke of Edinburgh pub which led to the arrest of seven Asians and three white youths. (NS 31 May).

Isen told the jury — composed of nine whites, three blacks and one Asian — that she'd become a Muslim, dyed her blonde hair black, and changed her name to Mariam. However she swore on the Bible in court. Cross-examination by defence counsel Ian Macdonald, appearing for two of the 'Newham 7' defendants, that her 'contact officers' Pc Steven Knight and Pc Ray Wood, (whom she addressed in court as 'Steve' and 'Ray') were, she said, only interested in collection information

ON MONDAY 3 June two Greenham women, Heidi Jones and Rhonda Field, bailed to appear in Devizes on charges of trespass on military land drove towards Stonehenge in the lunchtime recess. They failed to return in time for trial and were found guilty and fined in their absence.

Later they appeared and told magistrates they'd been stopped by civil police on suspicion of going to the festival and taken to a local garage, where they state they were strip-searched and sprayed with water. The magistrates refused to accept this as an excuse for not being in court and the sentence stood.

Other people in court (involved in trespasses when the recent cruise convoy was on Salisbury Plain) were fined £30 for each offence and given a life-time ban on returning there. Local people, who have also been warned off the Plain by police, were extremely worried that this ban may apply to them.

Polly Woolley

See also Polly Woolley p16

to. It seems typical of the Trust's attitude, which has been one of not being prepared to negotiate.'

Having personally witnessed the violent events of Saturday, unless somebody finds a compromise solution it seems clear that next time people may die.

Release request that all witnesses and photographers at Saturday's events get in touch on 01 603 8654.

on Asian youths.

She said she was shown photographs of the events of 7 April 1984 on the evening of that day by the two officers, and told that her identification of Asians could lead to more arrests. The following day, 8 April, 'Newham 7' defendants Zaffer and Pervais Khan (two brothers) were arrested.

● The 'Newham 7' — Asians — are charged with offences ranging from criminal damage, affray, conspiracy to commit criminal damage and possessing offensive weapons, and are Bahadur Khan (22), Jothi Rajappan (17), Amjad Ali (21), Zaffar Khan (17), Parvaiz Khan (17), Athar Chaudhri (19), and Muhammed Hanif (18). With them in the dock are three white youths. Roy Lellow (26), Robert Lellow (21) and Stuart Young (21) of whom all are charged with common assault and the Lellow brothers also with affray. All defendants deny charges. The case continues.

Zubaida Motala

All London rally in support of the Newham 7, East Ham Town Hall, High Street on 13 June. Speakers are Ron Leighton, Tony Banks, Ann Scargill and Rudy Narayan.