

T of E Ref: 59

Statement concerning the events of 7th May 1968.

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In the early afternoon of May 7th, Dr. Bowden requested that as many 2nd. year chemistry students as possible go to his office at 4 p.m.. When about 8 of us were there he explained that the Department had been warned that a demonstration was intended for that afternoon, to prevent Dr. Inch from delivering his lecture, and to question him on the moral aspects of CBW research. The Department had therefore decided, he said, out of courtesy to the speaker and to enable those who wished to do so to hear the lecture, to move the location of the lecture, and told us to meet just before 4.30 by the teaching labs., so that we could be taken to the lecture room. Just as he was finishing, Pete Carrigan and Sue Plowman entered the room, and Dr. Bowden just told them that the place of the lecture had been changed, but did not give any reason. Sue and Pete then went down to the Valley to inform other demonstrators of the change. Dr. Bowden subsequently told us that the meeting would be held in the Committee Room.

I was a few minutes late getting to the meeting, and entered the room with a crowd of other students. Dr. Tillett introduced Dr. Inch, apparently for the second time, and immediately David Triesmann announced that "we", presumably the demonstrators, had no intention of letting Dr. Inch speak, but intended to hold a "war tribunal", and proceeded to read an "indictment" from a sheaf of paper. As he finished speaking Anna Mendelsohn continued reading the "indictment", and she in turn was replaced by Colin Rogers. As Rogers began to speak it was announced that Dr. Inch intended to leave. The students at the front immediately surged forward, chanting "Close Porton Down", and Peter Archard suddenly screamed "Mustard Gas" and threw a yellow powder over Dr. Inch and those people immediately close to him. At this Dr. Inch turned towards Archard, who identified himself, at which point Dr. Inch turned away again and began to leave. Some scuffling broke out at this point, and Brian Reeves attempted to reach Dr. Inch, but was restrained from behind by Dr. Stephens. While thus held Reeves was kicking and swinging with his arms at Martin Shaw, who was restrained from retaliating by Bill Rennie.

I was originally seated about three rows from the front, and could see all this quite clearly.

The group then moved into small room containing the cigarette machines, where Dr. Inch was cornered by the garden door, where the reading of the "indictment" continued, by Triesmann, Mendelsohn, and Archard.

At the end of the reading, Triesmann announced that they intended to put questions to Dr. Inch, which they wanted him to answer. Dr. Inch, looking agitated and rather frightened, agreed. While this rather one-way discussion was proceeding, Dr. Bowden appeared with about half-a-dozen police officers. The crowd was sitting down at this point, forcing the police to tread between them, which they did very carefully, avoiding treading on anyone. Chris Ratcliffe, who was standing next to me on my left, shouted



"Link Arms", and this was done by the two rows nearest to Dr. Inch. As the police worked towards the corner Ratcliffe began arguing with, with, and then assaulting PC39I. When this constable warned him, the demonstrators nearest began chanting his number. During this time there was considerable swaying and jostling, and I saw Ratcliffe assault another police officer, whose number I could not see, but who was fairly short with a small moustache. Ratcliffe was then restrained by two other demonstrators, whose names I do not know.

Dr. Bowden then shouted to Dr. Roberts, who was next to me on my right hand side, and me, to clear a way through to the bar, so that Dr. Inch could get out; and this we eventually did against some strong but passive resistance. Dr. Inch then left by the kitchen

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This evidence is true and factual to the best of my knowledge, and contains no hearsay.

*G. Morris*

(G. Morris, Second Year Chemistry).