

'Nazi tapes' man in hiding after death threat

by BILL LUDFORD

A BIRMINGHAM man, whose secret tapes on alleged Nazi-style activities in Britain are being studied by the Special Branch, went into hiding today.

He said: "My life was threatened in prison and I was told that the only way I would live would be to leave the country. I can make no comment on my future plans."

Richard David Roberts, aged 26, of Ashmore Road, Kings Norton says he has been on a "spying" mission for several months, and claims to have collected information on groups involved in anti-Jewish, anti-coloured and neo Nazi activities.

His information was sent back to Mr. Maurice Ludmer managing editor of Searchlight, a magazine printed in Birmingham to 'expose the racists and extremists."

But Mr. Roberts' undercover investigations landed him at Birmingham Crown Court where he was given a suspended 12 months prison

sentence for conspiring to assault.

In court it was said that Mr. Roberts had infiltrated the National Front to get information.

The judge told him: "In pursuance of your activities as a sort of private detective, you got yourself into this outrageous proposition. Rather than lose the chance of scoring off your political enemies you were prepared to go in with them up to a point."

Chain-smoking, Mr. Roberts said after the case: "Some of the things I saw would frighten people in Britain. I only hope that what I found out will be of use.

"I saw young men aged between 18 and 25 dressed up in Nazi combat uniforms. I am not prepared to comment on whether this happened in Birmingham.

"I know of people who correspond with the Ku Klux Klan in America. I managed to get this sort of informa-

tion from extreme Right Wing organisations."

Mr. Roberts, who was a member of the Communist Party until 1973, added: "Now all I want is a bit of peace and quiet. It was quite frightening sometimes.

Mr. Roberts claimed that he went to several National Front meetings above public houses in Birmingham.

"They would hold them at short notice as part of their security. Between 30 to 80 people would attend."

He added: "On my tapes I have interesting information from various sources including talk of explosives. I don't want to go into any further detail."

Mr. Ludmer said: "I think Mr. Roberts was a brave man and I hope that the information he got will alert people to the dangers of these groups in this country.

"Tape recordings from Mr. Roberts' phone at home have been handed over to the authorities."