

S.B. No. 1 (Plain)

Special Report }

SUBJECT

V.S.C. "Autumn
Offensive"

Reference to Papers

346/68/15

M.P. 67-79575/20M W112 (2)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

21st day of August 1968

This report summarises the progress made to date by the organisers of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign's "Autumn Offensive".

This activity will take place during the week commencing on the 20th October 1968, and the climax will be reached at a large demonstration on Saturday 26th October. Trafalgar Square is expected to be the initial venue of this demonstration; the booking is yet to be confirmed.

The Vietnam Solidarity Campaign acts as an "umbrella" organisation embracing left-wingers of various groups, and these factions are sharply divided as to the employment of violence for political ends. The pro-Chinese Mao-ist adherents are active at present and attending every meeting held in London to attempt to persuade all participants to accept the inevitability of violence on a large scale. They are opposed by the International Socialism Group of Trotskyists and the Communist Party who are seeking a demonstration on orthodox lines, and wish to co-operate with Police. The International Marxist Group of Trotskyists is tending to side with the Mao-ists.

Consequently, there has already been a number of meetings in London to discuss the form the demonstration shall take, and several "targets" have been proposed. The International Marxist Group members are taking the line that the American Embassy, the Playboy Club and the Hilton Hotel are valid objectives, while the International Socialism Group favour a march through the East End to Parliament Square. The Mao-ists are proposing to attack either the Bank of England or the Stock

Exchange.

Exchange. Individuals have put forward the suggestion that the offices of Dow Chemicals, the South Vietnamese Embassy, Transport House, the Conservative Party offices in Smith Square and New Scotland Yard are logical "targets". The anarchists are talking about occupying government offices in Central London in imitation of the invasion of the Greek Embassy last year.

However, much of this is mere wild talk, and the persons engaged in planning the "Autumn Offensive" have not yet agreed to a concerted plan of action. Our observations have established that less than 100 persons are currently involved, and the doctrinal in-fighting that has taken place at all their meetings has prevented the organisers from even agreeing on such basic issues as the wording of banners and slogans, and the employment of marshals.

It is anticipated that rank-and-file support will be drawn chiefly from the ranks of university students who will be back at their colleges in early October. The mass of trade unionists in this country are not likely to be involved. Preliminary information suggests that about two-thirds of the demonstrators will be under the loose control of the International Socialism Group and the Communist Party, and will be orderly. The remaining third, composed of Mao-ists, anarchists and those unruly elements always ready to exploit an anti-Police and anti-establishment situation will be the chief threat to the preservation of law and order.

Further progress reports will be provided as required until the beginning of September, when a weekly report will be submitted.

Cowad Dixon
Chief Inspector.

[REDACTED]
P. Cunningham
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT