

S.B. No. 1 (Plain)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

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Special Report }

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SPECIAL BRANCH

19th day of September, 1968

SUBJECT V.S.C.

"Autumn
Offensive"

Reference to Papers
346/68/15(2)

With further reference to the Vietnam
Solidarity Campaign's "Autumn Offensive":

During the past week V.S.C. supporters
throughout the country have been hotly debating
the decisions reached by the National Council of
the organisation in Sheffield on 7.9.68. There
has been strong reaction to the choice of "targets"
for attack, and one result has been that a number
of factions are now calling for a return to the
American Embassy in Grosvenor Square. The Maoists
have suggested that the Indonesian Embassy - also
in Grosvenor Square - is a valid objective because
many Chinese communists have been killed in that
country in recent times.

At a V.S.C. meeting on 17.9.68 at Conway Hall
it emerged that the Maoists, anarchists and Young
Communist League supporters favoured a march to
Grosvenor Square on 27.10.68. A resolution that
demonstrators should go to 10, Downing Street on
the 26th October and to the American Embassy the
following day was defeated by 108 votes to 70.
Many leading V.S.C. members who are committed
publicly to the Sheffield decisions are, neverthe-
less, saying privately that the march should pass
through Grosvenor Square, and the Earls Court and
Notting Hill Gate branches of V.S.C. have decided
that the American Embassy is their "final objective".

A new South-East London ad-hoc Committee
(which is Maoist-dominated) has been formed: this
group intend to gather at Camberwell Green at
12 noon on the 27th October and then decide whether
to join the main march or go direct to Grosvenor
Square.

The anarchists held a meeting on 15.9.68 and
agreed (a) to have one contingent of about 1,000



anarchists under a banner reading "United Libertarian Groups" and (b) to block the streets wherever possible.

At a lower level the anti-Police aspect of the demonstration seems to have most appeal. It is widely believed among the demonstrators that Police morale will be low on the day. Reasons given for this by Trotskyists are:-

1. The relatively light sentences given to persons who assault Police officers.
2. The growing sense of isolation from the public if "Police brutality" is given prominence on television and in the press.
3. Fatigue and indifference arising from cancellation of rest days to cover demonstrations.
4. The recent pronouncement of a Liberal politician that appears to condone violence.

It is reasonable to expect, therefore, that extremists, left-wing writers and personalities who sympathise with the aims of the demonstrators will attempt to stir up public opinion against the Police during the next few weeks. Information received suggests that by careful propaganda these individuals hope to show that incidents, whether in London, Chicago or Paris, are the responsibility of Police, who will be depicted in a brutal and corrupt role.

2 [REDACTED]

Conrad Dixon
Chief Inspector

K CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]