

S.B. No. 1 (Plain)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH,

Special Report }

12th day of November 1968

SUBJECT

Vietnam

Solidarity

Campaign.

Reference to Papers

346/68/15 (B)

When the demonstration of the 27th October ended in a relatively peaceful manner the organisers - and the Police - were each able to claim that their tactics had been successful. Thereafter, the chief talking point in extremist circles was whether it was possible to make further use of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign to advance the long-term revolutionary struggle.

Officers of this Branch have attended numerous local and national "report-back" meetings since 27th October, and the quintessence of extremist thinking can be summed-up in the following four points:-

1) V.S.C. is to continue in existence: it seems likely that the basis of membership is to be altered from that of mere group affiliation to personal membership on a national basis.

2) Pending the result of the peace negotiations in Paris the V.S.C. national leadership intend to make no decision as to the next large-scale demonstration. However, they are under pressure from the rank-and-file to maintain the impetus of the campaign. It is felt by some that this could best be achieved by planning forthwith for the next large-scale demonstration. The Maoists are already calling for a mass demonstration in March 1969, and unless the V.S.C. leadership make an announcement soon the initiative will pass to this faction. A decision on the question of where, and when, to hold the next large V.S.C. demonstration will probably be made within the next few weeks.

3) To keep the organisation in being V.S.C. have decided to organise interim demonstrations on issues related to the Vietnam question. The projected visit of the National Liberation Front representatives to the United Kingdom, and the understandable reluctance of the Home Office to admit them, is expected to supply the necessary

Page No. 2.

pretext for a demonstration at the port of entry. Similarly, demonstrations are anticipated on the theme of British complicity in the war, and in this context the next target for demonstrators is expected to be private industrial companies such as Shell-B.P., who are said to transport war equipment to Vietnam.

4) At a recent National Council meeting a resolution was passed calling for a national conference of V.S.C. in January 1969. By this time, no doubt, the organisers of V.S.C. will have new issues and a concrete plan of action.

Cornel Dixon
Chief Inspector.

A. Cunningham
CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT.