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5.12.68 Initials [redacted]

12th day of November 1968

METROPOLITAN POLICE
SPECIAL BRANCH

ROUTINE MEETING/POSTER PARADE REPORT

Organisation: Vietnam Solidarity Campaign Ref: 346/68/15 (5)

Date, Duration, Place/Route: 11th day of November 1968 from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
Conway Hall Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

Source of Information: -

Admission - Private/Public:

Police Arrangements: Nil.

Subject: 'Report back' on 27th October, demonstration.

Chairman, Speakers, Officials, References: new pars. obtained; descriptions if necessary):

Chairman: **Privacy**

Speakers: Marie ALL ✓

Idents.

Privacy

Ernie TATE ✓

Privacy

Pat JORDAN ✓
Gery LAWLESS ✓

Officials:

Attendance: i) Number: 100

ii) Groups:

iii) Collection: Amount not announced.

iv) Individuals Identified: (contd.)

Privacy

v) Vehs:

Incidents:

Banners/Slogans: -

Literature: -

(P.T.O.)

1. Demonstration at 15, West Smithfield E.C.1 between 12 noon and 2 p.m. on 14.11.68 by ANZAVW supporters protesting at the treatment of aborigines in Australia.

Future Activities: 2. Picket at Brixton Prison by Black Power supporters between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. on 16.11.68 in relation to the forthcoming trial of Obi BOBUNA.

Remarks: 3. An International Marxist Group meeting will take place at Kingsway Hall at 7.30 p.m. on 16.11.68.

Tariq ALI introduced [Privacy] who took the line that the State had 'backed down' from a confrontation with militant revolutionaries, and that the demonstration had been an enormous success. He was followed by [Privacy] who gave a historical account of the Vietnam war and attempted to link Vietnam with racism. Tariq ALI then said that complacency was to be deplored, and that if the engineering strike had taken place a more militant demonstration could have occurred and revolution was a real possibility. [Privacy] suggested smaller demonstrations on issues such as the admission of National Liberation Front representatives to this country, and urged the creation of a new ad-hoc committee. [Privacy] wanted to link Vietnam with the 'squeeze and freeze' policies of the Labour government, and Ernie TATE said that the British left was small and fragmented, and that a demonstration was all that they could manage in the way of revolutionary activity at the present time. [Privacy] said that this had been the largest demonstration in history; the V.S.C. had taken over the streets, but that they now had to wait the result of the Paris talks before planning further demonstrations.

[Privacy] claimed the whole affair had been a complete disaster; there had been no fighting in the streets, and the man who was photographed kicking a policeman was a hero. [Privacy] stressed that sheer numbers alone had been a symbol of latent violence which did not need further expression in the present context, while an unidentified Indian urged students present to forge stronger links with the working class. An unidentified man who took a survey on the day said that only 26,700 persons had taken part; He was howled down by the audience, and Gerry LAWLESS said that the correct number was 115,000. [Privacy] wound up the meeting by saying that in future they must concentrate on organising, defending the marchers and occupying the streets. If National Liberation Front representatives were refused admission to this country V.S.C. members should go to London Airport and hold an immediate 'spontaneous' demonstration.

Officers Present:

C. I. [2]
 D. S. TN0034
 D. C. HN329 [3]
 D. C. HN326 [4]
 D. C. HN321 [5]

Howard Dixon (signature)
 CH. INSPECTOR (rank)

Submitted

Chief Inspector

1. Send copy to
2. Send memo to
3. Supts. to see
4. To note
5. S.B.(R)

M.P.(X)

A. Cunningham
 Chief Superintendent