

METROPOLITAN POLICE

Reference to papers { 80 Notting Hill Station 101 1045

Registry File No. 25th May 1966 P. V S.O. Sec. 49, para. 95.

DEMONSTRATION - POWIS SQUARE, W. 11. VIETNAM SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

-1-

Chief Superintendent,

On Saturday 25th May, 1966 between the hours of 2.30pm. and 4.30pm., the organisation known as the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign held a demonstration on the north side of Powis Square, W. 11 at the junction with Talbot Road, approximately 100 demonstrators took part.

The demonstration was held as a protest against the owner of the gardens situated in the square who has consistently refused in the past to open the gardens to the general public, particularly to allow children to play. This particular matter has been a local controversy for some time, and has been a subject of campaign by the Notting Hill Social Council and also the Notting Hill Peoples Association (the George Clarke), in the past.

The gardens in the square are owned by [Privacy] [Privacy] [Privacy] [Privacy] business address, and is fenced off to the general public by a six foot wire mesh fence. The object of the demonstration was for the demonstrators to gain access to the gardens by breaking open the fence surrounding the gardens and thus allowing the local children into the gardens to play.

Information was first received by police that the 'Black Power' organisation would be holding the demonstration, until it was discovered that the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign were distributing leaflets in the Portobello Road market prior to the demonstration, inviting people to join the demonstration under the guise that a free party was being held in the gardens (leaflet attached).

The demonstrators formed up in Talbot Road near the junction with Portobello Road and marched in a column of three eastward to the northern end of Powis Square where they were met by a cordon of police blocking their entry into the square. I refused entry to the square for the purpose of protecting property i.e. the fence surrounding the gardens, knowing it was the intention of the demonstrators to break the fence. A few of the demonstrators bore placards which read "Squares must be made public", "Join us in a square opening party".

Having been refused entry into the square the demonstrators formed up on the north side of Talbot Road chanting slogans.

All minutes to be numbered in consecutive order. Continue on other side if necessary.

1 HN330 2 TN0039/63 53.27.18

At this point police took action to ensure that the roadway and footway were kept clear for traffic and passers-by, and those demonstrators who refused to cooperate were arrested (for details of charges see attached schedule). No one person would admit to organising the demonstration, but I consider that those persons who were in fact arrested could be considered to be the principal participants.

During the demonstration, a [Privacy] the organiser of the Notting Hill Peoples Association (formerly the Notting Hill Summer Project) of [Privacy] attended the area and organized the local children into playing games on the highway in Powis Square, and also in forming the children into a small procession holding banners asking for the gardens to be opened for children to play. This procession was confined to Powis Square itself and was kept away from the main demonstration. [Privacy] was in no way connected with the main demonstration.

After the arrest of the main participants, the demonstration gradually dispersed until at 4.30pm. most of the police were withdrawn. At the back of the demonstration were a number of coloured men who, although not taking part in the demonstration, appeared to be taking interest in the proceedings. Two of these men are known to be connected with the 'Black Power' organization. They are [Privacy] and [Privacy].

[Privacy]

As this was an unexpected demonstration all police on duty were employed on the normal 2pm. to 10pm. relief and were summoned from the whole of 'B' and 'D' Divisions.

The following is a summary required under the above quoted G.O. reference:-

- (i) See above.
- (ii) 1 Superintendent, 1 Chief Inspector, 3 Inspectors, 1 S.P.S., 2 P.S.s, 40 P.C.s, Time of parade - 1.45pm. (Normal relief)
Reserves:- 1 P.S., and 15 P.C.s Time of parade - 1.45pm. (Normal relief)
- (iii) Nil
- (iv) No
- (v) Eight persons arrested and charged with offences of assault on police, obstructing the highway, threatening and insulting words and behaviour, obstructing police and damaging police clothing (see attached schedule)
- (vi) (a) Five P.C.s sustained slight injuries - none were placed sick. (b) Nil.
- (vii) No damage to private property. One police helmet damaged, one pair of beat duty gloves lost belonging to [redacted]
- (viii) 2.30pm. to 4.30pm.

After the demonstration a reserve of 1 P.S. and 10 P.C.s of this Division were kept on reserve at 'HM' until 10pm. and two P.C.s patrolled the vicinity of Powis Square. This patrol of two P.C.s will be maintained throughout the week-end and steps are being taken to ensure that walk-ers are kept at maximum strength.

3 [Privacy] N330 of Special Branch was in attendance at the scene of the demonstration.

continued..

Forwarded for information of A.S, with copies to Special Branch and Solicitor. In the event of these charges being contested a remand will be asked for in order that police may be legally represented.

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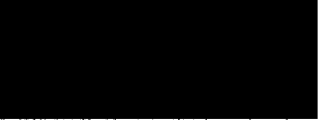


A/Superintendent

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Special Branch.

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26.5.68.

A/Chief Superintendent 'B