

S.B. Form M/1

METROPOLITAN POLICE
SPECIAL BRANCH

4th day of April 1968.

ROUTINE MEETING/POSTER PARADE REPORT

Organisation: Vietnam Solidarity Campaign Ref: 400/68/66.
Date, Duration, Place/Route: 4th day of April 1968 from 7.40 p.m to 10.15 p.m.
Toynbee Hall, Commercial Street, London, E.1.

Source of Information: Informant.

Admission - Private/Public: Public.

Police Arrangements: No uniformed police present.

Subject: Discussion on the International Solidarity Demonstration held on 17th March 1968 and future policy and activities of the V.S.C.

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

- Chairman: Mike MARTIN ✓ Unable to identify,
- Speakers: John PALMER ✓ Unable to identify,
- Terig ALI ✓ RF 402/65/440
- Pat JORDAN ✓ RF 402/60/182.

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Officials: ----

Attendance: i) Number: about 110

ii) Groups: none

iii) Collection: collection taken - amount received announced as £7 10s.

iv) Individuals Identified:

Ernie T/S/R ✓ RF 402/66/151

Privacy

v) Witnesses:

Incidents: None.

Banners/Slogans: None displayed.

Literature: Several Left-Wing Booklets on sale.

(P.T.O.)

Future Activities:

See below.

Remarks:

Mike MARTIN opened the meeting by giving details of the following future V.S.C. activities:

Sunday, 28th April 1968, a march from Harrow to the U.S.A.F. base at Ruislip.

Saturday, 18th and Sunday, 19th May 1968, V.S.C. conference to be held in Caxton Hall, Caxton Street, London, S.W.1.

MARTIN then introduced the first speaker, John PALMER.

PALMER said that the International Solidarity Demonstration held in Grosvenor Square on 17th March was a great success as it showed that a large section of opinion in Britain desires victory for the National Liberation Front in Vietnam and condemns the support given to the U.S. by Wilson's government in opposition to Labour Party and T.U.C. policy. He said that nevertheless, V.S.C. members could not now afford to sit back on their laurels. They should not be content until every U.S. soldier had left Vietnam.

PALMER stated that the press, television and certain sections of the general public expressed disapproval of the violence used by the demonstrators, but he said that the police also used violence and that the British government itself only managed to exist by using violence. He believed that no major political changes could take place in this country by using entirely pacifist means.

The second speaker, Tariq ALI, more or less elaborated on what PALMER had already said. ALI added that although there was now a likelihood of peace talks over Vietnam, and even in the event of peace in that country, the organisation would still have to go on fighting until world socialism had been achieved.

The final speaker, Pat JORDAN, continued in a similar vein to the two previous speakers.

The evening then gave way to discussion between members of the audience and the speakers on suggestions and improvements for any further demonstrations and activities. During the discussion period Tariq ALI mentioned that a V.S.C. contingent would take part in the Easter Monday march to Trafalgar Square under their own banners.

The meeting was then closed by Mike MARTIN at 10.15 pm.

Officers Present:

HN342/HN299

W.D.C. Hillier.

HN342/HN299

Joan Hillier

Constable

Submitted

(Signature) Chief Inspector

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

M.P.(X)

(Signature) Chief Superintendent