



*Noted
emp 29/5/68*

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

23rd day of May 1968

ROUTINE MEETING/POSTER PARADE REPORT

Organisation: BRITAIN-VIETNAM SOLIDARITY FRONT.

Ref: 400/66/120.

Date, Duration, Place/Route: 23rd day of May, 1968 from 7.45 p.m. to 10.15 p.m.

Portland Hall, Regent Street Polytechnic,
Little Titchfield Street, London, W.1.

Source of Information: 'Tribune'

Admission - Private/Public: Public on payment of 1s.6d.

Police Arrangements: None.

Subject: Birthday Celebrations for Ho Chi Minh, President of North Vietnam.

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

Chairman: Name not divulged - description 5'7", stocky build, black hair-receding at temples, brown eyes, round face,
Speakers: horn rimmed glasses, dark (Indian) complexion aged about 45 years.

See 10A
Mr. BARBARA (Phonetic) - no trace Special Branch - 6'2", well built, Indian-dark complexion, thick black wavy hair, brown eyes, full thick black beard, oval face straight nose, aged about 28 - 30 years.

ALL MIND
Dave HOPKINS - no trace Special Branch - 5'6", slim build, pale comp, long brown frizzy hair, grey eyes, glasses, round face, untidy appearance, aged about 20 years.

Nick BENSON - no trace Special Branch - 6'0", thick set, brown hair, pale complexion, glasses, well dressed, aged about 22 years.

Officials: None. *BATESON*

Attendance: i) Number: 100

ii) Groups: -

*See 10A
on 402*
Privacy

iii) Collection: None taken.

iv) Individuals Identified: None.

1
[Redacted]

INDEXED

15668

v) Vehicles: None seen.

Incidents: None.

Banners/Slogans: None.

Future Activities: B.V.S.F. no future activities announced.

Remarks:

The chairman opened the meeting by asking all present to stand and sing the song of the National Liberation Front, after which he introduced the first speaker, a fellow Indian, as Mr. BARBARA (phonetic).

BARBARA confined his remarks to giving the historical background of the Vietcong in their fight against imperialism.

The second speaker, Dave HOPKINS, a student and member of Regent Street Polytechnic Vietnam Solidarity Society, spoke briefly about the struggle of Vietnamese students in the fight against American aggression.

The third and final speaker, Nick BENSON, a student, gave the historical background of Vietnam over the past 100 years.

The chairman then announced the showing of the film "The River of Ben Hai or The Seventeenth Parallel". The spoken commentary was in Vietnamese and a cyclostyled resume in English was distributed to the audience (attached).

The Regent Street Polytechnic Vietnam Solidarity Society has not previously come to the notice of Special Branch.

Officers Present: W.D.C. HILLIER.

[2] [Redacted]
(J. Hillier) (signature)

W.D.C. (rank)

mitted

[3] [Redacted]
Chief Inspector

end copy to *Box 500* [4] [Redacted]

nd memo to

3. Supts. to see "E" *please* [5] [Redacted]

4. To note *Copy circulating to DS. Room 194.* [6] [Redacted]

5. S.B.(R)

10

96

THE RIVER OF BEN HAI:
or
THE SEVENTEENTH PARALLEL
(a film production of the Vietnam People's Army)

In 1954 a conference took place at Geneva which set a diplomatic seal on the resounding military victory won by the Vietnamese forces over the French imperialists at Dienbienphu. One of the decisions taken at this conference was that the French forces would regroup south of the 17th Parallel prior to departure from Vietnam, while the Vietnamese armed forces would regroup to the north. The country would then be temporarily divided into two zones and would be reunified following nationwide general elections in 1956. These decisions were in fact shamelessly revoked by the U.S. imperialists. When the French moved out they moved in, with the intention of turning South Vietnam into a military base and a new-type colony under the rule of their stooge Ngo Dinh Diem. As a result, the 17th Parallel, which was intended to be merely a military demarcation line, became a prison wall separating the people in the north, who were building an independent, prosperous, socialist society, from their brothers and sisters in the south, who were forced to live under the tyrannical regime of the U.S. puppets.

The 17th Parallel bisects the river Ben Hai: its northern bank is in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, its southern bank in the battle zone. The film opens with shots of the northern bank in peacetime. People are singing: "For 13 years we have been divided, but no longer, our country will be reunified!" This part of Vietnam has been damaged more heavily than any other part by the U.S. aggressors. Nonetheless we see pepper growing, rubber production (before 1954 the north produced no rubber at all) and rice (8 tons per hectare are now reaped in this area, breaking all previous records). The U.S. aggressors have destroyed schools, churches, hospitals--all buildings above ground. "They think they can terrify our people--but they cannot!" The people know that this is the front-line of the D.R.V.--a permanent battlefield by day and by night. Their slogan is: "We die so that our country may live".

We see shots of an attack on the northern bank. U.S. planes bomb the land while warships of the 7th Fleet shell it. However the concentrated antiaircraft fire prevents the bombs from landing on target. In this one encounter 11 planes and three ships are destroyed by the Vietnam People's Army.

We then see shots of life underground on the northern bank--an infants school, a kindergarten and even markets. One family is portrayed in their home underground. This family has twice received awards from the government because of the heroic actions of their sons and daughters. Despite the difficulties there is no shortage of necessities in this underground community. The socialist government, aware of its duties to the people, makes ~~...~~ despite all hardships, necessary consumer

Food will be supplied. The children are supplied with teachers and textbooks so that when they leave school they can apply in production and in fighting the lessons they have learned. The people in this area do not feel alone: they know there are 17,000,000 people behind them fighting against the air aggressors and 14,000,000 in front defeating the U.S. troops on the battlefield. Meanwhile production continues. The people reason that if Dienbienphu can be converted into a paddy field to feed the people then they can make good use of bomb craters to raise ducks, for drinking water, etc. We see a tractor ploughing under camouflage, an armed fishing boat putting out to sea. The girl carrying water says that this river has witnessed everything--the U.S. aggressors destroying everything they can reach, the people fighting back with revolutionary heroism and defeating the aggressors.

The film then switches to the southern bank. We see puppet soldiers, napalm bombs falling, villages burning. The U.S. aggressors are trying to paralyze the country but they cannot succeed--"blood debts must be repaid in blood". We see puppet soldiers deserting to the NFL and bridges and roads being prepared so that supplies from the north can get through to the front. We now come to the climax of the film: the battle of Doc Mieu, fought in the summer of 1967. The U.S. aggressors had invaded the demilitarized zone intending to threaten the D.R.V. with invasion. In a co-ordinated attack the South Vietnam People's Liberation Armed Forces (they wear soft-brimmed hats) storm the U.S. positions, while the Vietnam People's Army on the north bank (identified by hard-brimmed helmets) keep up a heavy bombardment. The battle ends in victory (3000 U.S. troops killed) and the people on the north bank cheer and clap. The people in the south cross the river to congratulate the northern troops.

The film shows the heroism and the willingness for self-sacrifice of the Vietnamese. The people of north and south aid each other. All are determined to fight on till eventual victory, to liberate the south, defend the north, and advance toward the reunification of their homeland.

90

THE BRITAIN-VIETNAM SOLIDARITY FRONT

The Britain-Vietnam Solidarity Front unreservedly and resolutely supports the aims of the Vietnamese people as embodied in the 4-Point stand of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Political Programme of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation.

The Britain-Vietnam Solidarity Front campaigns to expose and oppose the dual reactionary policies of U.S. imperialism--its "peace and negotiation" fraud on the one hand, and on the other the actual intensification and escalation of its aggression not only in Vietnam, but to the whole of Indo-China and its war provocations against the People's Republic of China.

In particular, the Britain-Vietnam Solidarity Front opposes suggestions from Washington, Whitehall, Moscow or elsewhere that Vietnam's right of self-determination is negotiable.

The Britain-Vietnam Solidarity Front struggles to end the subservience of the British Government to United States imperialism and its collusion with U.S. aggression in Vietnam.

The Britain-Vietnam Solidarity Front fights to win the British people to an understanding of their common interests with the oppressed peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, headed by the United States.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I (name in capitals)

(address in capitals)

.....

agree with the aims of the Britain-Vietnam Solidarity Front and apply for membership. I enclose 10/- annual subscription fee*
5/- six-months subscription fee*

* delete as necessary

To the Secretary, B.V.S.F., 58, Lisburne Road, London, N.W.3.