

S.B. No. 1 (Plain)



METROPOLITAN POLICE

Special Report }

1

INDEXED SPECIAL BRANCH
Date 17/4/68 Initials [Redacted]

2

... day of May 1968

SUBJECT

Demonstration.

Reference to Papers

On Saturday 25th May 1968 at 11.10am a telephone message was received at Special Branch to the effect that members of the 'West London Group of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign', the 'Black Power Movement' and 'The Wednesday Group' were at 2.30pm assembling at Henekey's Public House, Portabello Road, W.11 with the intention of marching to Powis Square, W.11 to tear down the fencing surrounding it in order that the area could be used as a play space by local children.

In consequence of this message I went to Henekey's Public House at 2.00pm where demonstrators were assembling under the auspices of the West London Group of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign.

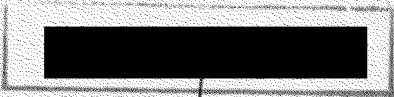
It is understood that originally a demonstration at Powis Square had been organised by [Redacted] and the Notting Hill Summer Project, which has its headquarters at 60 St Erwins Road, W.10. [Redacted] had arranged for local children to march around the private fenced green as a protest against it not being available as a playground.

The V.S.C. demonstrators left Henekey's Public House at 2.20pm and made their way along the Portabello Road to Powis Square. They were led by [Redacted] with the aid of a loud-speaker recruited 'hippies' wandering around the Portabello market to his march. He was assisted by [Redacted] and [Redacted] who were dressed up together as an ass, and [Redacted] who was dressed in a gorilla costume. They carried banners bearing the following slogans:-

- 'LIBERATE POWIS SQUARE'
- 'THE CHILDREN WANT THE SQUARE'
- 'WE WANT POWIS SQUARE'

As the march, consisting of about 100 demonstrators, approached Powis Square it was joined





by [Privacy], [Privacy], and a few members of the Black Power Movement. Throughout the demonstration [Privacy] and [Privacy] urged demonstrators to invade the square, but were very careful to avoid the notice of uniformed Police.

At 2.55pm the marchers arrived at their destination and joined [Privacy] and his group. They were prevented from entering the square by a cordon of uniformed Police Officers. A scuffle ensued, and the following person was arrested:-

[Privacy] a student born [Privacy] of [Privacy]

After this incident the demonstrators were joined by six members of an Anarchist group called 'The Hyde Park Diggers' which was lead by [Privacy]. Further scuffles took place, and at 2.50pm the following persons were arrested:-

[Privacy] a sculptor, born [Privacy] of [Privacy]
[Privacy]

[Privacy] a designer, born [Privacy] of [Privacy]
[Privacy]

[Privacy] unemployed, born [Privacy] of [Privacy]

[Privacy] student, born [Privacy] of [Privacy]

After this scuffle Police allowed [Privacy] to lead the local children around the square. A short peace ensued, but at 3.40pm demonstrators pushed forward and scuffling again broke out. The following persons were arrested:-

[Privacy] an artist, born [Privacy] of [Privacy]

[Privacy] animal technician, born [Privacy] of [Privacy]

[Privacy] teacher, born [Privacy] of [Privacy]

[Privacy] unemployed, born [Privacy] of [Privacy]





Privacy, telephonist, born
Privacy of Privacy

After these arrests I was informed that the main organisers had all been detained, and this appeared to be the case as the demonstrators lost their militant enthusiasm in spite of encouragement from Privacy

A shower of rain at 4.15pm. caused the demonstrators to disperse, and at 5pm the main body of uniformed Police withdrew.

Persons and organisations mentioned in this report who have previously come to the notice of Special Branch are shown in appendix 'A'. Details of persons arrested are shown in appendix 'B', and details of persons arrested who have previously been arrested in connection with demonstrations are shown in appendix 'C'.



HN330

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Constable.

Submitted.

TN0039
Chief Inspector

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CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT.

