



METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report }



8th day of May 19 69

SUBJECT

Britain Vietnam
Solidarity Front
Open Conference
Reference to Papers
400/66/120

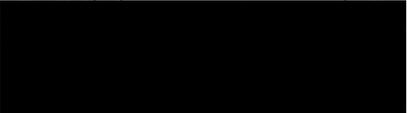
An Open Conference of the Britain Vietnam Solidarity Campaign took place on 26th/27th April, 1969. The first session was held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on 26.4.69 at Fyvie Hall, Regent Street Polytechnic, W.1. and the second session from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on 27.4.69 at Hampstead Town Hall. I was present with D.C. HN336

The Conference was attended by some 50 persons who were almost exclusively Maoist. A list of those identified is attached at Appendix A.

The Chairman of the Conference was Henderson BROOKS, and the main speaker from the platform was Albert MANCHANDA, the secretary of B.V.S.F. It became clear that these two intended the Conference to be an occasion for members of B.V.S.F. to be instructed in the ideas of Mao Tse Tung. This was not to the liking of an important faction of Maoists led by Nick BATESON who had envisaged that the Conference would give an opportunity to rank-and-file members of B.V.S.F. to decide upon future policies. This factional dispute showed itself from the beginning when Fawzi IBRAHIM, a member of the B.V.S.F. National Executive and an adherent of BATESON, almost came to blows with Privacy, a MANCHANDA supporter, as to which one of them should have the task of registering the names of those attending. The dispute continued throughout the Conference and hindered serious discussion of B.V.S.F. policy. The result was that important items on the agenda such as a proposed demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy were not raised.

The agenda, as announced by Henderson BROOKS, was:-

- (1) Political report Part 1 to be read by General Secretary (MANCHANDA)
- (2) Discussion of political report.
- (3) Political report Part 2 to be read by General Secretary.
- (4) Discussion of political report.



- (5) General discussion of aims of B.V.S.F.
- (6) Discussion of a possible demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy.

Attempts were made by Fayzi IBRAHIM, Privacy, and Privacy, all National Executive members, to raise objections to the agenda, but these were all dealt with very peremptorily by BROOKS who said that he would allow no points of order to be raised on this matter, nor on the political reports. MANCHANDA then read political report Part 1. This was heard without any show of enthusiasm and received some perfunctory applause at the end. A copy of his speech is given at Appendix B.

It is interesting to note that MANCHANDA features opposition to imperialism as the uniting factor between proletarian struggles in Europe and the colonial revolution in the East. This is the central theme of B.V.S.F. thinking, and its supporters are expected to believe as an article of faith that the North Vietnamese, in fighting the Americans, are not just metaphorically on the same side as revolutionary Marxists in Europe but are actually fighting in the same war. He emphasises that both are aspects of a world proletarian revolution, and claims that the proletariat as a class have no business to look to anyone other than Chairman Mao for guidance in their struggles. Only Chairman Mao holds the true vision of an eventual dictatorship by the proletariat. The Russians are false exponents of the Marxist tradition and permit bourgeois elements to hold power in their so-called socialist society. Considerable ruthlessness would be required of the proletariat before it could achieve power. "Before coming to power, the proletariat and other revolutionary people should adhere to the principle of making revolution by violence, smashing the old state machine and seizing political power by armed force." (See Appendix B Page 10). MANCHANDA did not appear to hold out any immediate prospects of this uncomfortable eventuality taking place in England, but invited members of B.V.S.F. to view the world situation, especially events in Asia, Africa and Latin America, as part of a massive anti-Imperialist movement inspired by Chairman Mao.

During the afternoon of the first day the themes laid down by MANCHANDA were taken up and expounded by Harpal BRAR, Privacy and Privacy. Privacy, Critics of the report and of B.V.S.F. were Privacy who said that the movement had failed to attract the working class, Privacy, who deplored the omission of the Irish question, and Privacy, who

felt that areas which were "right for revolution" were not dealt with sufficiently.

On the second day at Hampstead Town Hall, BROOKS further exasperated BATESON's followers by refusing to allow points of order to be raised. MANCHANDA then read a second political report which had been hastily prepared the previous night. This is given at Appendix C.

In his second report MANCHANDA deals with matters of closer concern to people in the United Kingdom. He makes the usual left-wing noises against the Labour Government, subservience of British to American interests, and deals with Ireland, students and other topics of current interest. He is particularly scathing of other left-wing groups, revisionists, Trotskyists and pacifists, whom he identifies as enemies of the proletariat. He describes the Solidarity and Peace groups as fraudulent. At one point he makes a veiled threat against the BATESON faction viz. "The growing prestige of the B.V.S.F. has attracted many opportunists into its ranks. While waging struggle against the enemies outside, we should remain ever-vigilant against these counter-revolutionary elements who are nestling among us, who should be rooted out".

Ed DAVOREN then spoke at length on the working class in relation to the student movement. He endorsed the attacks on opportunists within B.V.S.F.

The remainder of the Conference was then taken up by personal attacks on the BATESONS, Privacy and Fawzi IBRAHIM. They in turn attacked MANCHANDA and BROOKS. For MANCHANDA were Privacy were Privacy and Harpal BEAR. For BATESON were Privacy and Fawzi IBRAHIM, Privacy, Privacy, and Privacy spoke in opposition to MANCHANDA but they did not appear to be BATESON supporters.

The Conference ended with the singing of the "Internationale" and the "East is Red". There was a general sense of disappointment with the outcome of the proceedings, which served mainly to highlight the serious disagreements between some of the more prominent members of the B.V.S.F.

Submitted:

Conrad Dixon
Chief Inspector

M. P. Ferguson
Sergeant

CHIEF SUPERIN MPS-0736446/3

Appendix 'A'

Names of those identified as having attended the Britain Vietnam Solidarity Front Open Conference on 26th and 27th April, 1969.

✓	Privacy		
✓	Nick BATESON	402/	Privacy
	Privacy		
✓	Gajawan BIJUR	402/	
✓	Harpal BRAR	402/	Privacy
✓	Privacy		
✓	Henderson BROOKS	402/	
	Privacy	No trace	
	Privacy	No trace	Privacy
✓	Ed DAVOREN		"
	Privacy		
✓	Fawzi IBRAHIM	408/	Privacy
✓	Privacy (phonetic - Indian)		Unable to identify
✓	Privacy		Unable to identify

Privacy

Mentioned re B.V.F.S.

✓ Diane LANGFORD

Mentions
400/66/120

Privacy

✓ Albert MANCHANDA

402/53/274

Privacy

✓ Privacy

No trace

Privacy

✓ Sosea SEEDO

402/64/475

✓ Privacy

✓ Alexander Tudor HART

301/MP/2270

✓ Privacy

Privacy

(phonetic - African) Unable to identify.