

"MORNING STAR" 22-10-68

October 27: militancy but no punch-up is aim

From PETER AVIS
NEXT Sunday's demonstration in London against the Vietnam war should be "the biggest, most militant and united action organised in Britain since the '30s," the organisers said yesterday.

The October 27 Ad-hoc Committee said it was planning a massive, colourful demonstration that would leave no doubt that large sections of the British

people were very angry about the war and ready to do something about it.

Members of the committee told a Press conference that they were absolutely committed on the side of the National Liberation Front. They wanted the defeat of American aggression and an end to the Labour Government's complicity in the war.

The organisers of the demonstration, which will begin with a march from the Embankment to

Hyde Park starting at 2 p.m., made it clear that they were not looking for a clash with the police.

They rejected "the hysterical scribbles of Fleet Street about violence."

Replying to Home Secretary James Callaghan's warning about "hooliganism" on the march, Mr. Tariq Ali said: "The hooligans in this country are those who are supporting American hooliganism in Vietnam and who are supporting racialism at home."

Mr. Ali, representing the Black Dwarf and speaking for the October 27 Committee, added: "We don't want mindless militancy, we don't want confrontation with the police."

"As far as we are concerned, we want this to be a politically militant demonstration of solidarity not only with Vietnam but with each other."

"But if somebody kicked us in the crutch we would defend ourselves."

Agreed route

Mr. Ali and Mr. Alan Harris, of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, made it clear that the organisers of the march had agreed on a route from the Embankment to Hyde Park which had been accepted in verbal discussions by the police.

They were not taking the march to Grosvenor Square because "whether you like it or not a situation can develop where a punch-up ensues."

Letters of protest are to be handed in at Australia House and 10 Downing Street.

The prospect of an end to US bombing of North Vietnam did not lessen the need for Sunday's demonstration, Mr. Ali said. "When the US stops the bombing of South Vietnam and starts withdrawing some troops, then we can begin to take American talk of peace seriously."

In support

Organisations supporting the march, which is to be followed by a rally at about 4.30 p.m. in Hyde Park, include:

CHURCH, Christian Students Movement, Communist Party National Student Committee, Independent Labour Party, International Marxist Group, International Socialists, Irish Workers Group, London May Day Manifesto Committee, Overseas Students Committee, Peru Committee, Portuguese Students Committee, Radical Students Alliance.

Revolutionary Socialist Students' Federation, SLANT, Socialist Medical Assn., Stop It, Young Communist League, Young Liberals, Vietnam Solidarity Campaign.



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