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Tariq Ali wants police to stay clear of march

BY OUR OWN REPORTER

The grand design for London's third major anti-Vietnam war demonstration, on October 27, was unveiled yesterday by the organisers.

It includes an estimate (by Mr Tariq Ali) that "70,000 to 100,000" people will take part; a promise of a special train to bring student sympathisers from Oxford;

and a request to the police to "stay away from the demonstration and rally so that there will be no arrests and provocations."

The plans omit Grosvenor Square, where the two earlier demonstrations outside the American Embassy erupted in March and June into violence—and leave out any protest against Russia's occupation of Czechoslovakia. This, according to Mr Alan Harris, fulltime worker for the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign is because "we didn't want to confuse the two issues together."

Ad hoc committee

Another member of the campaign said that an indictment of Russia might not have been acceptable to all the groups, which have formed an ad hoc committee to plan the march. The groups are the campaign, the Young Communist League, Young Liberals, International Socialists, International Marxists, the Stop-II Committee, the Radical Students' Alliance, the Independent Labour Party, Australians and New Zealanders against the war, and the Radical Socialist Student Federation.

The organisers' policy statement refers to "bringing into the streets the anger" felt about the British Government's support for "genocide" in Vietnam.

When questioned about the prospects of violence on the march, Mr Fergus Nicholson, of the Student Communist Committee, said: "The threat of violence comes from the people raising the question of violence, not from this committee."

Molotov cocktails

As for last month's so far unsubstantiated reports in two newspapers of "fringe" militants concocting Molotov cocktails and planning to occupy strategic buildings, Mr Ali said: "This was a conscious attempt either by the police or the press to divide us and discredit the demonstrations."

The proposed route runs from Charing Cross embankment through Blackfriars, Fleet Street, past Australia House in the Strand, to Whitehall and Victoria, ending—like earlier marches—with a rally in Hyde Park.

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