

C.I. Dixon

'THE SUN' 3-10-68

59A

Impudent warning

MR. TARIQ ALI, of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, impudently declares that if the police do not want trouble they should stay away from the massive anti-Vietnam war demonstration planned for London on October 27.

Mr. Ali must know that this is foolish.

The organisers deny any intention to provoke violence.

This is all very well, but they will have no control of the situation if outside troublemakers turn up who are determined to riot.

Even if much of the alarmist talk of "extremist groups" plotting an "October revolution" is wildly exaggerated, both police and protesters are well aware that there could all too easily be an explosion like the Grosvenor Square battle of last March.

It is planned to make this the biggest protest demonstration ever held in the capital. In the words of the organising committee, it is hoped to "bring anger on to the streets" at the British Government's support for American policy in Vietnam.

OUTRAGEOUS

It is important that freedom to demonstrate peacefully should be jealously protected, however inconvenient it may be.

It is right that the outcry from some MPs and others who wanted this and other demonstrations banned has been rejected.

But the organising committee's innuendo that the police will be to blame if there is trouble is outrageous.

Of course the police must be there. No doubt they will be happy to stay discreetly in the background if the marchers merely march and demonstrate and nobody tries to create disorder.

If violence does break out, however, they must be on hand to restore peace.

Democracy certainly does not mean freedom for rioters to take over the streets of the capital.

S.B.(B)

P.A.

Em (Th. Rami)

OCT 1968