

Documents placed on Special Branch files in November 1968 and marked for  
CI Dixon to see

A P P E N D I X "A"

PROPOSALS FOR DISCUSSION BY THE NATIONAL COUNCIL, V.S.C.

( We hope that many observers will attend so that the discussion will be more broadly based and informed )

Assesment of Demonstration

It is hardly necessary to reiterate the spectacular achievement of mobilising 100,000 people on the basis of a principled support for the I.D.F. However, the demonstration revealed possibilities which the movement has failed to realise. It was hoped that prior to the demonstration new people would be involved in the local committees and would participate in the political preparation of the demonstration. This failed to materialise in any significant degree, particularly in London. As a natural consequence our local organisation has made only marginal progress, and our aim to provide an alternative view of Oct 27th., to that disseminated by the news media, has proved largely illusory.

On the demonstration itself a latent power was manifest but never given expression. The debate on violence, which led to a simplified polarisation between Grosvenor Square and passivity, resulted in a demonstration well within the tolerance threshold of bourgeois society, for which we were duly applauded by the establishment, though not by many demonstrators.

The bureaucratic nature of the V.S.C. organisation and the gulf which separates the organisation and the mass support which it has, leads us to register our opposition to any further mobilisations such as the last, until such time as they express the real, determinable, needs and aspirations of the movement. To this end we propose the following re-organisation and Action Programme.

ORGANISATION

Abolition, within a specified time, of affiliation facilities.  
Membership to be individual, organised in local branches.  
Delegates to National Council appointed by local branches subject to recall.  
Number of delegates dependent on size of branch membership.  
Regional organisation dependent upon need decision of local groups.

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This re-organisation makes possible the incorporation of supporters into an identifiable movement. It gives us a democratic organisational framework within which we can develop the politics of participation and challenge our authoritarian heritage of bureaucratic manipulation. Local groups will be able to undertake any activities on which they can agree. Even a minority should be able to utilise the association to facilitate their own projects. The conflict between multi/single issue movement can in this way be resolved in practice, according to the manifest desire of the membership.

SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR LOCAL WORK

- 1) Each group to produce and sell consistently a bulletin dealing with any aspect of the war, propoganda, exposure of British complicity, or any topic expressing the thinking and activity of the group. On one such experiment contact with working class youth (18-30 yrs. old.) was found remarkably easy. There is a big potential for recruitment of literally hundreds in every area through readers meetings etc. The bulletin also helps to develop collective activity, in its compilation and sale, helping to educate members in facts and methods.
- 2) In London particularly there is an urgent need to contact the people who were on the demonstration. This can be done through a bulletin, surveys, audacious "adverts" for the group
- 3) Direct involvement can also be gained through the use of the "Wall Poster" discussion, simultaneous street corner meetings etc.



4) Collection of information on firms producing for the war. A policy of harassment should be conducted against these firms by propoganda, exposure on any issue to which they are sensitive, telephone calls etc. Individuals, especially politicians, businessmen, police commissioners should have their opinions and activities held up to public scrutiny.

NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS

1) National campaign of harassment by propoganda and direct action against Dow Chemicals, Elliott- Automation and Shell B.P (A campaign to "black work" on war production is unrealistic at the present)

2) Campaign against censorship by B.B.C. demanding ---  
N.L.F. spokesmen.  
Presentation of evidence of War Crimes Tribunal in a series of unadulterated programmes.  
Showing of Vietnamese films.

3) Campaign against presence of puppet representatives in Britain and for the South Vietnamese Embassy to be handed over to the N.L.F.

4) Provision of sanctuary in Britain to U.S. deserters and draft resisters.

These campaigns could lead to regional demonstrations eg. Scotland, N.E., North, Midlands and London. Their success is dependent upon knowing the demonstrators. They require only 2 to 3 weeks intensive preparation. AD-HOC committees do not lead to a broadening of the base eg. the demonstration but only to a proliferation of committees, arguing over trifles.

The advantages of these proposals can be summarised ---

- 1) They provide a continuous campaign of which demonstrations are only a part.
- 2) Demonstrations are more likely to reflect real consciousness of the movement. They will be better organised politically and tactically.
- 3) The 80% waste of time involved in the endless meetings during the summer will be avoided.
- 4) Success or failure will be determinable both on the day and in relation to a previously established audience.

The movement is at a very critical stage, It is impossible to maintain the status-quo ( and in this context 200,000 on the next demonstration represents the status-quo, though a more likely consequence would be a smaller demonstration) The decline of the movement could easily be as spectacular as its growth. If this realisable programme conflicts with established theories of the nature of an "anti-war" movement then the theories must give way. Our movement is not the creation of the factions which constitute a large proportion of its membership, but the reflection, in Britain, of the Vietnamese revolution. Socialist revolutionaries have not the power to initiate a fundamental change in consciousness but they can give it a form and expression by their audacity in theory and activity. They can ensure that the gains made are permanent only if they ally themselves with the internal dynamic of this developing consciousness. Otherwise they will destroy the movement by imposing upon it their own stagnation.

Privacy	Edwin Guiton,	Privacy
	Privacy	

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COUNCIL MEETING V.S.C. SUNDAY 10th Nov. 10-30am.  
You will be notified in time which hall the meeting is to be in. If not, please phone Privacy as the date is definite its just the location that is difficult. If noone is in the office Sunday morning try Privacy

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APPENDIX "C"VIETNAM SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN-- FINANCIAL R.  
REPORT OCT 1968

Owing to having started a recruitment campaign around the Oct 27th demonstration, we have run into a number of extra expenses, eg:

£22 for recruiting leaflets  
£24 for the hire of Conway Hall (one meeting didn't take place because it was incorrectly advertised.)

V.S.C. also pledged £100 to the AD-HOC committee which we didn't have. Part of this was paid as rent ie. £4 per week for 12 weeks -- £48. The rest we will actually have to pay as the phone bill is likely to be very heavy and hasn't yet been presented.

The next Bulletin is about to be produced and will cost £20 approx. so that with £42-9-0 in the bank we are desperately short of money. I would suggest that a simple way round this would be for everyone who receives this statement to take it upon themselves to collect just a small sum of money (say 2/6) from every member of V.S.C. that they know, and send it straightaway to the office. Also don't forget the usual plea for bankers orders however small.

The accounts can be examined in detail at the V.S.C. office by any member who wants to.

Privacy

A P

References in Special Branch Records to persons and organisations mentioned in Special Branch report of 18.11.68 concerning a National Council meeting of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign and in attachments thereto:

Privacy		
Pat JORDAN	RF 402/60/182	
Tariq ALI	RF 402/65/440	
Ed GUITON )	RF 402/65/400	
Privacy		
Gerry LAWLESS	RF 335/57/430	
Privacy		
INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISM GROUP		400/68/175
INTERNATIONAL MARXIST GROUP		400/68/182
IRISH WORKERS GROUP		400/66/25
27th Oct. AD HOC COMMITTEE		346/68/15