

METROPOLITAN POLICE

(COPY)

Special Report

SPECIAL BRANCH

9 day of February 19 73

SUBJECT

Indo-China

Solidarity Conference

Reference to Papers

347/71/1A

1. The following information has been received from a reliable source:-

2. On Tuesday, 6 February 1973 at Glare Market Building, Houghton Street, W1, a meeting of the Indo-China Solidarity Conference was held from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm. The meeting was attended by about 60 persons and the chair was taken jointly by John GITTINGS, Jalna HANMA and an unidentified woman.

3. A copy of the agenda of the meeting is attached to this report. It contained twelve items for discussion in just two hours. As a result each item had to be rushed through and there was no time to discuss any future demonstrations. At every opportunity MAN CHANDA attempted to discuss a mass demonstration but on each occasion he was told to stop interrupting as the only business to be discussed was on the agenda.

4. The main points of interest to emerge was a suggestion by Privacy that small constant demonstrations should be held outside the Saigon Government Embassy in Victoria Road (?) and at their other residence somewhere in Wimbledon. She said that she would undertake to organise these demonstrations and arrange for a bombardment of the embassy by protest letters. She said that she would arrange to collect all the letters, and "dump them in sacks on the door-step".

Privacy

Privacy

5. Jalna HANMA appealed for help in finding suitable permanent offices for the ISC as the stage had been reached when it was imperative that people should be able to contact them at any time, either personally or on the telephone. At present this was not possible.

Privacy

Privacy

6. John GITTINGS reported that £500 had been given to the North Vietnamese on Saturday, 3 February 1973. The ISC had received about £80 per month from regular sources, but more money was required and he asked people to pledge a regular weekly sum to the organisation.

7. A report was also given on research being done on British complicity in Vietnam and that this would be published in due course, naming companies and individuals. Much was made of the fact there was believed to be five police advisers in

/it was stated

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Saigon helping to train local police. This would be investigated and any facts that came to light on who these advisers were would be published.

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8. On the question of Material Aid, collections were being made of books (educational, technological and medical) for transmission to North Vietnam.

SUBJECT

9. A talk was also given by Fritz SEGAL (?) on the work being done by the Union of American Exiles in Britain, and propaganda directed towards US Servicemen in this country. The points he covered are given in "Factsheet on the American Military and Exile Community in Britain" (see copy attached).

Solidarity Conference

10. The meeting terminated promptly at 9.30 pm when it was decided that the next meeting should take place on Tuesday, 13 February 1973, again at Clare Market Building, Houghton Street, W1.

Reference to Papers

11. It is clear that the factions which make up the ISC do not agree on very many points and for the organisation to become strong a clear leadership will have to emerge. The two main opposing factions are the IMG on one hand and Maoists on the other. MANCHANDA has become the self-appointed leader of the Maoists and, as previously stated, vainly tried to get the question of a mass demonstration dealt with but he was utterly unsuccessful. This may possibly be discussed at the next meeting as MANCHANDA hopes to place it on the next agenda.

12. The following persons were present at the meeting:

A. MANCHANDA

Privacy

Diane LANGFORD

John GITTINGS

Ethel

Privacy

Jalna HANNA

Privacy

Pat JORDAN

Privacy

Privacy

13. Special Branch references are given in the attached Appendix.

1

HN45

Constable.

2

HN294

J. Mosdell, WDC.

Submitted:

Chief Inspector

3

APPENDIX to Special Branch report of 9 February 1973 concerning  
an Indo-China Solidarity Conference meeting held on 6.2.73:

Privacy	-	No trace.
Privacy	-	No trace.
Privacy	-	Privacy
Ethel Privacy	-	No trace.
Privacy	-	Privacy
John GITTINGS	-	RF.402 Privacy
Jalna HANNA	-	1 mention re
Privacy	-	Privacy
Pat JORDAN	-	RF.402/60/182
Privacy	-	Privacy
Diane LANGFORD	-	RF.402/69/250
A. MANCHANDA	-	RF.402/53/274
Privacy	-	Privacy

INDOCHINA SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE, AGENDA, FEBRUARY 6, 1973

1. Secretarial Announcements.
  2. Prisoners Campaign.
  3. Material Aid.
  4. Trade Union Group.
  5. Regional Support Groups.
  6. Technology Group.
  7. British Complicity.
  8. U.S. Bases.
  9. Speakers List.
  10. Special Meeting on Agreement.
  11. A.O.B.
  12. Date, Time, Place of Next Meeting.
-

## Proposals for Concrete Action

### I. The Exiles

1. Pressure must be brought to bear on the British government to amend the visiting forces act so as to allow deserters to remain in this country, in line with the policies of the Swedish and Canadian governments.
2. The exiles' demand for unconditional amnesty must be supported.
3. An effort should be made to help exiles to find jobs which will enable them to retain their visas.

### II. The Airmen

1. Set up one or more GI coffee houses which provide good entertainment and interesting people to talk to.
2. Sponsor films and speakers of special interest to GI's. E.g., Winter Soldier, the FTA Show, members of VVAW.
3. Encourage GI's to organise on base by providing active support for their actions and maximum publicity for incidents of victimisation. Make GI newspapers from the U.S. and Germany available to them.
4. Women can play an important role in contacting GI's. Because GI's live in a repressive all-male environment, women are often allowed on bases for special occasions.
5. Be prepared to realise that work done now will often bear fruit only after GI's have returned to the U.S., but that it is no less important.
6. Study the activities of GI movements in other countries, especially Japan, Germany, and the U.S., and find creative ways to apply the lessons of these movements in Britain.

### III. The British

1. Break down the isolation imposed on GI's by offering them personal contact with the British people.
2. Educate the British public about the special problems faced by GI's and exiles.
3. Avoid opportunism, paternalism, and language which will alienate GI's.
4. Involve trade union members and community groups in GI work; not simply students.
5. Above all, learn to distinguish between the Air Force and the airmen. A willingness to sympathise with the GI in his struggle with the common enemy is one of the secrets of how the Vietnamese got the bulk of the Americans out of their country.

### CONTACT ADDRESSES:

Union of American Exiles in Britain  
3 Caledonian Road  
London N.1

PEACE  
27 Newmarket Road

UCPI0000016247/5

Factsheet on the American Military and  
Exile Community in Britain

I. Opposition to the Indochina war by young Americans has taken four main forms: 1) refusing military induction and otherwise disobeying the selective service act; 2) desertion from U.S. forces; 3) the GI movement inside the armed forces; and 4) opposition by Vietnam veterans.

The difference between men in these four categories is largely a matter of what stage they were at when they first acted in opposition to the government, and to some extent this reflects social class. Politically, they are in complete solidarity with each other and with the Indochinese although legally they are in different situations -- some under military law, some not; some free to enter the U.S., some not, etc.

II. There are about 100,000 exiles around the world who face five year prison terms should they return. Roughly half of these are deserters, and half draft resisters. Most are in Canada, although there are about 400 in Sweden, a few hundred (the exact number is not known) in Britain, and some in France and elsewhere. Demands for an amnesty to repatriate these men is currently a hotly-debated issue in the U.S.

One aspect of British complicity is that the U.K. alone among NATO countries collaborates with the U.S. military in returning all deserters from U.S. forces. Thus there are no (legal) deserters in Britain.

III. U.S. forces posted in the U.K. include 30,000 Air Force personnel at five or six major bases in England, a few thousand Naval personnel in Scotland, and a small number of Marines and Army. Also, U.S. Navy headquarters in Europe is located in London, and a Naval depot is located in Ulster.

The six major bases in England are near the towns of York, Ipswich, Cambridge (Newmarket), Huntingdon, Bedford, and Oxford. There is also a small base at Ruislip that is being phased out.

IV. Airmen in England are kept isolated from civilians, and have varying degrees of political consciousness, ranging from those who simply want to get through as quickly as possible to those who hate the military for politically conscious or unconscious reasons. The main division is between lifers (career officers) and enlisted men, although the added factor of racism means that black airmen have special problems which must be understood separately.

V. A GI movement existed in Britain between 1970 and 1971. The brass were able to decimate the movement by discharging and re-stationing the men involved. Also, British support for the movement was never very broadly based. The movement was a partial victory for men who simply wanted out of the Air Force. A similar movement now would probably have the same fate, but the same factors which gave rise to it in 1970 still exist in 1973.