[redacted]

1 (Flimsy)

Special Report }

SUBJECT Joint Communist Committee

Reference to Papers 400/68/230

Copied to [redacted]

ENCL. 1/29

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METROPOLITAN POLIC[redacted]

SPECIAL BRANCH

2/11

13th day of December, 1968

With the assistance of D.C. Tyrrell the following picture has been built up of current developments among those Maoist groups associated with Albert MANCHANDA.

MANCHANDA is a key figure within several pro-Chinese groups, including Friends of China, Britain Vietnam Solidarity Front, and the now defunct Oct.27th Committee for Solidarity with Vietnam. He regards himself as the leading authority in this country of the Peking version of Marxist-Leninism, and in this capacity has attracted to himself a number of adherents (from 100 to 200). However, for reasons best known to himself, he has been against the formation of his own Marxist-Leninist party. Some of his supporters have been impatient on this score and over the past year there have been pressures to form such a party.

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Oct 27th 69.

The nearest substitute for a Peking authorised Marxist-Leninist Party has been the Joint Communist Committee. This has been a loose organisation enabling discussion to take place between local groups committed to Maoist ideas. Most of these groups exist in the provinces - Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool and Glasgow - and are made up of persons who have left or who have been expelled from Y.C.L. branches. In London the Camden Communist Movement has been the main group supporting the J.C.C.

Individuals within the Joint Communist Committee have not been unanimous in their interpretation of Maoist doctrines. With regard to political action on Vietnam, for example, some individuals have favoured co-operation with V.S.C. as opposed to the MANCHANDA line of the march to Grosvenor Square. Some of these individuals were members of the Britain Vietnam Solidarity Front. MANCHANDA, of course, had no sympathy with their views, and one of his chief supporters, Nick BATESON, was so far opposed to them that he campaigned for and secured the setting up of an organisation to temporarily supercede B.V.S.F., namely the Oct. 27th Committee for Solidarity with Vietnam.

Since the Oct. 27th demonstration discussion on the J.C.C. has once again turned to the formation of a national Marxist-Leninist Party. Personal rivalry between BATESON and MANCHANDA has coloured such [redacted]

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developments as have taken place in this direction. BATESON has wished to see several of the provincial comrades discarded from the national party on doctrinal grounds. MANCHANDA, ever conscious of the paucity of his supporters, and resentful of any attempt to oust himself from a position of dominance, has not been in agreement with BATESON's ambitions.

Matters came to a head at a meeting of the J.C.C. at Ed. DAVOREN's home during the week-end 16th/17th November, 1968. A faction led by Nick BATESON, and including [Privacy] and [Privacy] [Privacy], openly accused some J.C.C. members of revisionism and advised them to return to the Y.C.L. branches whence they came. MANCHANDA, who retained the loyalty of several prominent Maoists, DAVOREN, [Privacy], [Privacy] [Privacy] [Privacy] - was prepared to go some way along with this, but became alarmed when he appreciated that BATESON really intended to instigate some kind of purge in preparation for a new Marxist-Leninist Party. The immediate effect was that several individuals left the J.C.C. particularly a large section of the Camden Communist Movement.

BATESON then began to insist on the setting up of a national party. MANCHANDA rallied his supporters, but was not powerful enough to defeat the BATESON faction. Recently a compromise was reached. Two Marxist-Leninists organisations are to be set up as follows:-

1) REVOLUTIONARY MARXIST LENINIST LEAGUE

This includes MANCHANDA, Privacy and DAVOREN, and will be responsible for recruiting Marxist-Leninists from Britain at large - chiefly from the provincial groups within J.C.C.

2) LONDON MARXIST-LENINISTS

This is BATESON's own group and will recruit Marxist-Leninists in London and co-ordinate the work of London based Maoist groups.

It is too early to judge whether the formation of these groups is evidence of a serious breach between BATESON and MANCHANDA. It may develop along the lines of MANCHANDA's break with Privacy or it may well be the case that BATESON, in order to avoid complete isolation, will work along parallel lines to MANCHANDA and avoid any serious split. 1 [redacted]

(R. Creamer)
Sergeant.

omitted: James
Chief Inspector

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

[redacted]

APPENDIX

Albert MANCHANDA	RF.402/53/274	
Nick BATESON	RF.402	Privacy
Privacy		
Ed. DAVOREN	RF.405	Privacy
Privacy		

Camden Communist Movement	mentions.
Friends of China	400/64/153
B.V.S.F.	400/66/120
Oct. 27th Committee for Solidarity with Vietnam	400/68/229

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