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S.B. No. 1 (Plain)

METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH,

Special Report }

22nd day of October 1968

SUBJECT

V.S.C. "Autumn Offensive"

Reference to Papers

346/68/15B

This report is the final weekly assessment of information in relation to the demonstration of the 27th October, 1968: further information coming to hand will be reported on a day-to-day basis.

New "targets" mentioned during the past week are as follows:

Leconfield House, corner of South Audley Street and Curzon Street, the headquarters of M.I.5.

South African Tourist office, 70 Piccadilly, W.1.

South African Airways office, 251 Regent Street, W.1.

Lots Road Power Station

The private residence of the Australian High Commissioner at 45, Hyde Park Gate, S.W.7.

The private residence of the New Zealand High Commissioner at 1 Cornwall Terrace, N.W.1.

The Mexican Embassy

Pan-American offices, 193 Piccadilly, W.1.

Information as to provincial participation is amassing; to date we have noted that over 3,000 persons from outside London are expected to attend. Details are as follows: these contingents are additional to those mentioned in the report of 16-10-68.

Brighton: An unknown number. Coaches leave from St. Peter's Church at 11am on the 27th October.

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Southampton:	20 persons
Bradford:	4 coaches (previously 1 coach)
Coventry:	4 coaches due to leave Coventry at 11am on the 27th October.
Preston:	3 coaches
Nottingham:	3 coaches. 1 leaves Nottingham University at 9am on the 27th October.
Bristol:	An unknown number. Coaches leave from Burke's Statue at 9am on the 27th October.
Glasgow:	At least 2 42-seater coaches will leave from George Square, Glasgow at 8pm on the 25th October. (others are being booked)
Newcastle:	80 persons in 2 coaches leaving Newcastle at 10pm on the 25th and 10am on the 26th October, respectively.
Birmingham:	6 coaches.
South Wales:	2 52-seater coaches leave Pontypridd at 8am on the 27th October, and will pick up some passengers enroute.
Belfast:	Aircraft containing 60 students.
Aberdeen:	1 41-seater coach, index number Privacy, is due to leave Aberdeen at 8pm on the 25th October.
Edinburgh:	An unknown number in coaches leaving from The Mound at 11pm on the 25th October.
Manchester:	7 coaches containing about 350 persons.
Leicester:	2 Dormobiles, index numbers Privacy and Privacy, containing about 20 students.

The coaches from Havering are now due to leave Harold Hill at 12 noon and Romford Market at 12.30pm on the 27th October taking about 100 persons to the demonstration.

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A group of about 50 Italian supporters of the V.S.C. will gather in Soho Square at 1pm on the 27th October and march to join the main body on the Embankment.

As the day of the demonstration approaches there are indications that not all the participants are motivated by political considerations alone. There has been much wild talk of looting shop premises in the West End, and the anarchists are saying that they intend to damage shops, restaurants and travel agencies along Oxford Street and Regent Street. It was observed at a recent demonstration that the anarchist element reserved much of their venom for expensive motor vehicles parked in these streets, and the threat ... "just wait till the 27th ..." was uttered openly.

The Maoists are saying that they would prefer to march to the American Embassy by way of Cockspur Street, Lower Regent Street, Piccadilly Circus, Regent Street, Oxford Circus, Oxford Street and Duke Street. If they are required to follow another route, such as that going up Charing Cross Road to St. Giles Circus and Oxford Street, it is anticipated that they will refuse to follow Police directions.

Conrad Dixon.
Chief Inspector.

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[redacted] Chief Superintendent.

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22nd October, 1968.

Dear Mr. Clift,

Please find attached a copy of our final weekly report on the demonstration of the 27th October, 1968.

Yours sincerely,

Commander.

J. M. Clift, Esq.,
F.4 Division,
Home Office,
Horseferry House,
Dean Ryle Street,
London, S.W.1.

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