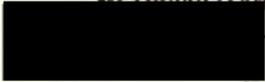


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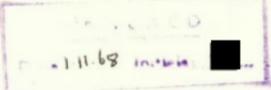
S.B. No. 1 (Plain)

METROPOLITAN POLICE



SPECIAL BRANCH

Special Report }



2nd day of October 1968.

SUBJECT V.S.C.

Autumn

Offensive -
Press
Conference.

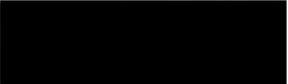
On Wednesday, 2nd October, 1968, at 10.30 a.m., the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign Autumn Offensive Ad Hoc Committee held a press conference in a small club room at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London, W.C.1, which was attended by some 30 representatives of national newspapers and the Independent Television Authority. Attached is a printed statement handed to all present.

Reference to Papers
346/68/15

The V.S.C. Ad Hoc Committee was represented by the following persons:

- Fergus NICHOLSON ✓ Communist Party
- Ernie TATE ✓ V.S.C. National Council
- William Alan HARRIS ✓ V.S.C. Ad Hoc Committee
- Tariq ALI ✓ V.S.C. National Council.
- Barney DAVIS ✓ Secretary, Young Communist League
- Henry WORTIS ✓ Stop It Committee
- Bill TURNER ✓ Independent Labour Party

These persons formed a panel to answer questions put by reporters but skilfully evaded the various issues raised and gave little information other than that contained in the official statement. The main additional points of interest are summarised below.



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[REDACTED] ge No. 2.

TATE said that there were plenty of indications that the number of persons involved on 27th October would be greatly in excess of the previous mass demonstrations of October, 1967, and March, 1968, and he considered that it was possible that 70,000 to 100,000 would take part in the march. Whereas one bus had brought people from Glasgow in March, 1968 at least four would come this time and about ten other buses would bring people from elsewhere in Scotland. Oxford V.S.C. had booked a train for their supporters.

In response to questions Tariq ALI said that letters had been sent to various European Groups inviting them to take part but to date no replies had been received. The Ad Hoc Committee had no plans to enter newspaper offices or to send breakaway groups to the U.S. Embassy. There were however numerous groups involved and the Ad Hoc Committee could not answer for the action of the individual groups.

He gave the following list of organisations involved in the demonstration:

Vietnam Solidarity Campaign
 Young Communist League
 Young Liberals
 Stop It Committee
 Australians & New Zealanders Against
 The War
 International Socialism Group
 International Marxist Group
 Independent Labour Party
 Radical Students Alliance
 Revolutionary Socialist Students
 Federation

In addition, ALI said that 9 branches of Plaid Cymru (Welsh Nationalists) had pledged support and would be sending groups to take part in the demonstration.

[REDACTED]

When the panel was asked about the extent of the V.S.C. organisation throughout the country, Tariq ALI said that there were seven Ad Hoc Committees operational at local level in the London area and that in addition there were Ad Hoc Committees in the following towns:

- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| Birmingham | Cardiff |
| Manchester | Newcastle |
| Bristol | Leeds |
| Liverpool | Sheffield |
| Glasgow | Oxford |
| Edinburgh | |

In addition to the persons who took part in the panel, [REDACTED] Privacy and [REDACTED] Privacy acted as stewards but took no other part in the proceedings.

R. Wilson
(R. Wilson)
Inspector

Submitted:

[REDACTED]

Chief Superintendent

[REDACTED]