

SPECIAL BRANCH
ANNUAL REPORT
1970

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Commissioner

I have the honour to submit my report on the work of Special Branch during 1970.

Two matters dominated the extremist scene in London during the year - the campaign against apartheid centred around the South African rugby and cricket teams; and the activities of the IRA.

The first of these provided just the catalyst the forces of the protest movement were seeking to bring on to the streets and to rugby and cricket grounds all over the country large numbers of people dedicated to demonstrate their opposition to the apartheid policies of the South African Government. Although only one demonstration took place in the Metropolitan Police District - at Twickenham on 31 January - the agitation around the cricket tour developed strongly and a considerable effort was mounted by the Branch to ascertain the plans of the militants. In this situation the value of the Special Operations Squad was once again emphatically illustrated.

Despite the success of the countrywide agitation which resulted in the cancellation of the cricket tour, the extremists (anarchists, maoists, trotskyists) were never able to transform the manifestations of protest they had created into anything faintly approaching a revolutionary situation, the ultimate purpose of their participation in all such militant activities. This is indicative of the isolation in which these elements find themselves, for it became obvious that a significant number of those engaged in the protests were not prepared to resort to violence but preferred to make their point in a constitutional and legal way. The backlash of public opinion against the militancy associated with Anti-Vietnam War demonstrations which was evident in 1968 and 1969 clearly continued into 1970. Had it been otherwise we could have

expected an immediate forceful campaign to oppose the Conservative Government's policy on arms sales to South Africa. The 1970 protest over this matter did not produce any sustained or significant demonstration though this situation may well alter in 1971 should the Government decide to go ahead with its declared intentions on the matter.

The extremist scene in the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland was influenced by the split in the IRA and the steady progress made by the Government in Stormont to implement a programme of civil rights in the North. The latter produced a situation in this country where for most of the year there was really no major continuing emotional issue strong enough to draw Irishmen on to the streets of London or other large cities in massive demonstrations. On one occasion only was there violence, when about 1,000 turned out to protest at the Ulster Office against the arrest of Bernadette Devlin in June, and that was well contained.

The division of the IRA into the GOULDING and BRADY Groups was also reflected here. A British Branch of the IRA (BRADY Group) was formed in May and at once it began to select various targets for attack. These plans received a set-back in August with the arrest of the Officer Commanding the British Branch and several others for offences against the Explosive Substances Act, but information was received

1 [redacted] that a campaign of violence was being planned for [redacted] I consider this has to be taken seriously, [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] The campaign is not likely to be on the scale of 1939-40, but [redacted]

[redacted] it could still be disruptive.

There is also the danger that small commando groups may be sent over from the Republic to carry out operations here without reference to or contact with our Britain-based extremists, a far more serious threat than the other. The situation is receiving close attention.

When I addressed my Annual Report to you last year I wrote that the feature of the 1969 extremist scene in London which gave me most concern was the use of the bomb to further political ends. This continued in 1970 but did not in fact increase; 10 explosions occurred and 13 petrol bombs were thrown. Very little damage was caused to property and fortunately nobody was injured. Because of the context in which several of the bombs were exploded, responsibility was attributed to Anarchists displaying their opposition to the policies of the Spanish and Italian Governments. However, a pattern also developed of explosions at places having no connection with these countries, eg, the BBC Television Van at the 'Miss World Contest', the bomb at the Department of Employment, and bombs at the addresses of the Attorney General and yourself. As a result the need to have a team of specialist officers examine all past bomb explosions and deal with future ones was recognised. In early December a Bomb Squad was formed as a combined unit linking the intelligence contained in and obtainable by this Branch with the investigative experience of officers of Central CID. It was rather abruptly blooded on 12 January 1971 when two bombs were exploded outside the home of the Minister of Employment.

Highly disturbing as the use of the bomb is, there is no current indication that it has as yet become widely accepted by extremists in this country as an effective political weapon to bring down the establishment and change the system. At the moment it is confined to the Irish and the Anarchists, ironically the two groups with which this Branch was primarily concerned over 80-90 years ago, in the first decade of its existence, when bomb explosions were occurring in different parts of London.

I attach great importance to the new training courses which are joint efforts on the part of the Security Service

and ourselves. Two levels of instruction obtain - a general or junior course of 6 weeks duration and a senior course of 2. The general course is designed for officers with about 6 months to a year's service in a force Special Branch and the senior one is for experienced officers and those with supervisory duties. As a result of a close and critical analysis of the 1970 courses and adjustments to the syllabuses arising therefrom we now consider both to be pitched at about the correct level of instruction. On that basis we are going forward with 4 general and 2 senior courses in 1971. Officers from all over the country attend, including Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales while our own officers likewise participate. A considerable amount of Branch time and effort is devoted to the running of the courses, but in my view it is very much worthwhile.

(II) THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT IN LONDONGENERAL

As already indicated, the extremist scene in Northern Ireland during 1970 was largely dominated by the Republican Movement and most of the public disorder which occurred stemmed from anti-British feelings or bitter sectarian hostility. This situation, allied to the general progress of the Government's reform programme, meant that the civil rights movement as such became largely an irrelevance and the majority of those who retained an interest in it were left-wing Republicans, communists, trotskysts and anarchists who were merely intent upon furthering their revolutionary ambitions. A similar picture was evident in London during the year.

The influence of left-wing extremists in the civil rights movement in London was reflected in the very nature of the protest activities which were undertaken. Emphasis was given to emotional issues which were potentially capable of fomenting public disorder, such as the presence of British troops in Northern Ireland, the imprisonment of Bernadette DEVLIN, MP, the detention of Frank KEANE and the fate of the "political prisoners". The various demonstrations were generally poorly attended, however, and easily contained by uniformed police. The only real violence which occurred during the year took place on 28 June when about 1,000 demonstrators, drawn principally from the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign and the Irish National Liberation Solidarity Front, attempted to storm the Ulster Office as a protest against DEVLIN's arrest. They hurled milk bottles, pennies and banner poles at police lines, but they were effectively repulsed and 32 arrests were made for such offences as threatening behaviour, assault on police and possessing offensive weapons.

The campaign against the detention of the "political prisoners" occasionally took on a sinister aspect, for about mid-year attempts were made to force their release through a series of anonymous threats against prominent

persons, including HM The Queen, the Irish Ambassador and two of the Prime Minister's relatives. Appropriate security precautions were taken, but no effort was made to implement the threats and enquiries failed to establish either their authenticity or origin.

The most spectacular incident staged by civil rights activists in this country during the year took place on 23 July when two CS gas grenades were thrown from the Stranger's Gallery at the House of Commons onto the floor of the Chamber, necessitating its hasty evacuation and causing discomfort to several members. The culprit, James Anthony @ Frank ROCHE, was immediately apprehended and handed into police custody. He was duly charged with the unlawful possession of the two grenades, contrary to Section 5, Firearms Act, 1968. ROCHE, who had been an active member of the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign prior to returning to his native Eire in August 1969, claimed that he had thrown the grenades "as an exercise in participatory democracy" which was entirely self-conceived. Subsequent investigations, however, indicated that at least two other persons were involved and on 28 July Bowes EGAN, an ubiquitous Irish extremist, was arrested in Northern Ireland and charged at Bow Street Magistrates' Court the following day with conspiring with ROCHE, and other persons unknown, to contravene the Firearms Act, 1968. No further arrests were made and at the end of the year ROCHE and EGAN had been committed for trial to the Central Criminal Court, the former in custody and the latter on bail. The original charge against EGAN was dropped

Privacy

CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANISATIONS

The following organisations took part in the civil rights movement in London during the year -

Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign (ICRSC)

Until October, when it was formally dissolved and incorporated in the newly established Irish Solidarity Campaign, this trotskyist-dominated organisation had about 200 members in the London area. They were distributed in seven branches, the largest and most active being West London and Islington. There were also branches in Glasgow, Liverpool, Birmingham, Coventry, Newcastle and Oxford.

The ICRSC, generally in concert with Clann na h'Eireann, figured prominently in most of the civil rights activities staged in London during the year and its members were usually associated with any public disorder which occurred. It took a particularly active part in the campaign on behalf of the "political prisoners" and it was also identified with efforts to raise funds for both Frank KEANE and Frank ROCHE.

The Campaign was never really able to realise its full potential, for it was constantly beset by friction between supporters of the International Marxist Group (IMG) and the International Socialism Group (IS), its two constituent trotskyist factions which were led by Gery LAWLESS and John PALMER respectively. The rivalry between LAWLESS and PALMER was often bitter and personal and invariably paralysed most of the private meetings of the ICRSC. It was also carried over into the new Irish Solidarity Campaign.

Irish Solidarity Campaign (ISC)

This organisation was launched at a conference in Birmingham on 10-11 October which was attended by some 75 delegates, the majority of whom represented IMG, IS and Clann na h'Eireann. It has since taken over the national structure of the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign and, like that body, its basic aim is to unite the civil rights movement on conventional trotskyist lines. It is unlikely to succeed, for it suffers from all the defects of its

predecessor. Both Gary LAWLESS and John PALMER, for example, were elected to the Campaign's executive committee and each has established independent branches of the new body in London.

The Birmingham conference elected the following officers to represent the ISC at national level:-

Joint Hon. Presidents	-	Bernadette DEVLIN, MP Frank ROCHE
National Treasurer	-	
Joint National Secretaries	-	Privacy

Since its formation, the Irish Solidarity Campaign has undertaken little public activity of any significance in the London area.

Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (London)

At the beginning of the year London NICRA had twelve branches, a nominal membership of about 650 and it was actively engaged in various civil rights protests under the direction of Brendan MAGILL, its organiser. During the later part of 1970, however, public indifference to the civil rights issue and the preoccupation of MAGILL and his Republican colleagues with more sinister pursuits took their toll and the organisation was virtually moribund. It had rallied to some extent by November, but it had lost more than half its accredited membership and the influence of the traditional Republicans from Sinn Fein had been diluted by more moderate elements. Its leading officials at the end of the year were as follows:-

Chairman	-	Dermot KELLY
Vice-Chairman	-	Sean McDERMOTT
Secretary	-	
Treasurer	-	Privacy

Irish National Liberation Solidarity Front (INLSF)

This maoist-dominated organisation, which is led by Edward DAVOREN, has a basic membership of some 20 stalwarts. It publishes its own paper, the "Irish Liberation Press".

During the year the INLSF was particularly involved in the various civil rights protests and its influence was largely directed towards extreme militancy. DAVOREN also spent a considerable time attacking the policies of his immediate rivals and trying to establish contacts with fellow maoists from the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and the "Black Power" movement. He was patently more interested in the doctrine of pro-Chinese communism than the civil rights issue and, in consequence, he was largely ostracised by the other Irish-orientated organisations. This was clearly demonstrated in October when the INLSF was excluded from the founding conference of the Irish Solidarity Campaign.

The officers of the INLSF during the year were limited to:-

- | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Chairman | - | <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Privacy</div> |
| General Secretary | - | Edward DAVOREN |
| Treasurer | - | <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Privacy</div> |

Connolly Association

This body is a communist front organisation and its activities during the year were by no means confined to the civil rights scene. Under the direction of its general secretary, Sean REDMOND, it did, however, stage several well attended and peaceful demonstrations in London on the theme of civil rights in Northern Ireland. The Association's particular concern is to see the introduction of a "Bill of

Rights" in the Province and to this end it has circulated a petition on the issue for eventual presentation to the Prime Minister.

The most significant development in the maoist scene in London during the year was the emergence of a small, virulent group of young activists who, in their fanatical devotion to the "Thoughts of Chairman Mao" and their general, mindless histrionics, bore a remarkable resemblance to the so-called Red Guards of the recent Cultural Revolution in China.

The group in question is officially styled the English Communist Movement (Marxist-Leninist). It owes its original inspiration to similar bodies in Canada and at Trinity College, Dublin, and together they form the Internationalists, which is the most common of the many names used by the group. It was first formed in this country at Brighton in 1967 and moved to London towards the end of 1969. The group is currently run from 569 Old Kent Road, SE1, premises which also serve as a commune for leading members and a bookshop for the sale of pro-Chinese communist literature, which includes the Movement's own publications, "Advance" and "Communist England".

Privacy

Privacy a 23-year old former student of Trinity College, Dublin, who is presently unemployed, is the dominant figure in the organisation which has about 100 active members and a similar number of sympathisers. The membership is essentially made up of young, highly intelligent, middle class students, the majority of whom have been recruited from London University and Trinity College, Dublin. A significant proportion of them are coloured and most of them pursue their pro-Chinese activities in clear defiance of their parents. Several have renounced lucrative occupations to preach their political creed.

Of the various maoist groups in existence in this country at the present time the Internationalists is without doubt the most dedicated, idealistic and militant. Its followers display a degree of fervour and adherence to their beliefs which almost amounts to masochism and which is certainly unusual, even amongst revolutionary organisations. Their zeal was principally manifest during the year in a constant series of aggressive and provocative campaigns in public houses during which they

attempted to force their literature on members of the public whilst simultaneously abusing them as fascist reactionaries. Such tactics naturally produced considerable sales resistance and gave rise to several disorderly incidents which resulted in the arrest of at least 13 members of the Internationalists at various times during the year. The group's blind fanaticism was also vividly displayed on 25 October when about 60 of its supporters, intent upon demonstrating their solidarity with the Quebec Liberation Front (FLQ), attacked a police cordon outside Canada House with reckless abandon. Some nine police officers were injured in the fracas and 35 maoists were taken into custody for such offences as assault on police, threatening behaviour and obstruction. The majority were subsequently heavily fined, while two of them received prison sentences and a third was committed in custody to the Inner London Sessions. Court appearances, however, do little to deter members of the Internationalists; on the contrary, they seem to welcome them as an opportunity to declaim their maoist doctrines to the police and judiciary. Like most members of the ultra left, they are bitterly hostile to police and several are known to have taken photographs of individual officers during the year, possibly with a view to discrediting them at some future date.

In spite of their small numbers, therefore, the Internationalists undoubtedly constitute a considerable public order problem. Fortuitously, they came to prominence during a year in which other maoist groups in London were relatively docile.

The Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), which still operates from 155 Fortess Road, NW5, under the guidance of Reg BIRCH, made some progress with recruiting in 1970 and it now claims almost 300 supporters. BIRCH's main field of interest lies in the AEF and apart from the production and sale of the monthly newspaper, "The Worker", his organisation made few open incursions into the general extremist scene. It therefore poses a long-range security problem rather than any immediate challenge to public order.

Edward DAVOREN's Irish National Liberation Solidarity Front, as was noted in Part I of this report, was responsible for some disorder during protests on the civil rights issue, but its efforts were generally too poorly supported to make any real impact. The same was true of the activities of the Revolutionary Co-ordinating Committee for Oppressed Minorities, an organisation which DAVOREN launched during the year in an attempt to extend his influence to coloured maoists.

The Revolutionary Marxist-Leninist League, the Britain-Vietnam Solidarity Front and the Friends of China, all groups subject to the control of Abhimanyu MANCHANDA, the well-known Asian maoist, undertook little significant public activity during 1970. MANCHANDA, like DAVOREN, is a megalomaniac who insists on strict personal loyalty and in consequence he now commands the support of no more than 50 persons.

During the year trotskyists continued their search for a suitably explosive medium for their revolutionary ambitions and were therefore once again the most ubiquitous public demonstrators in the London area. They were closely involved in protest campaigns on all the popular themes adopted by the extreme left and, as indicated elsewhere in this report, they were largely responsible for most of the limited disorder which occurred on such issues as Vietnam and Irish civil rights. As usual, however, their efforts were thwarted by factional differences and in consequence they failed to arouse any sustained public interest or mount any significant challenge to authority.

The largest trotskyist group in the country is still the Socialist Labour League (SLL), which shares a membership of about 2,000 with its youth section, the Young Socialists. It operates from 186a Clapham High Street, SW4, and remains subject to the strong personality of national secretary Gerry HEALY, despite his ill health. The League is essentially a working class organisation, although it attracts some students and intellectuals. Its interpretation of trotskyism is arrogant and highly personal and as it is also bitterly hostile to orthodox communists, it enjoys little working accord with other groups on the extreme left.

This isolation did not appear to affect the League during the year under review for morale was high, public activities well attended and orderly and it seemed to have few financial problems. The success of its official newspaper, "Workers Press", bore vivid testimony to this well-being; from 18 October it was regularly published six times per week instead of the original five and its average daily circulation rose to the vicinity of 20,000 copies. The Young Socialists also continued to make progress and it is now clearly the most influential extreme left-wing youth group outside the Young Communist League. Some 1,500 persons, including 105 young socialists from France, were attracted to the 10th Annual Conference at Scarborough in April, while the average monthly sales of "Keep

"Left" in 1970 were reputed to have exceeded 20,000 copies. In addition, a new branch was established in Londonderry during the year and it provided a focal point for HEALY's increasingly active interest in Northern Ireland.

Although the League took part in the brief campaign against alleged British involvement in the Vietnam War at the beginning of the year, its main activity in London was in the propaganda field. It used the "Workers Press" and a series of indoor meetings to propound its virulent theories on a variety of topics and, in particular, to call for a general strike against the forthcoming Industrial Relations Bill. The All Trades Union Alliance, the League's industrial offspring, was used for the same purpose. The Alliance is based in Coventry and it is in the Midlands and on Merseyside where HEALY pursues his principal aim of extending his influence amongst rank and file trade unionists and unofficial shop stewards.

The League's chief rival is the International Socialism Group (IS), which is administered from 6 Cottons Gardens, E2, by a ten-man executive committee under the guidance of Tony CLIFF. It has about 880 members throughout the country, but a wider field of general support is indicated by the relative success of "Socialist Worker", its weekly publication, which has a circulation of some 9,000 copies. The Group also owns a thriving printing business and during the year it acquired additional premises adjoining the existing print-shop in Cottons Gardens and laid ambitious plans to extend its influence through an expanded propaganda output.

The principal strength of IS has always been in the student field and in the early months of 1970 it consolidated this to some extent by supporting demonstrations at Warwick and other Universities in the provinces. At the same time, it withdrew from the Revolutionary Socialist Student Federation and its strategy during the rest of the year was to establish its own identifiable groups in universities and colleges and to co-operate with Socialist Societies rather than work within them.

The Group's major preoccupation throughout the year, however, was to cultivate a following amongst industrial workers. Much of the internal education of its members was devoted to trade union matters; CLIFF published a handbook criticising productivity bargaining which was well received by militant shop stewards, while branches were encouraged to develop contacts with rank and file workers in local factories. The Group also appointed a full-time industrial organiser who is to commence his duties early in 1971. These endeavours produced no obvious results in terms of recruitment, but individual members were actively concerned in at least two prolonged industrial disputes outside London.

As mentioned in Part I, the Irish civil rights movement was another sphere in which IS was active during the year. Its ability to influence the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign was much reduced, however, and when that body regrouped as the Irish Solidarity Campaign in October effective control had passed to the International Marxist Group (IMG), a trotskyist organisation led by Pat JORDAN.

This new stature in the Irish civil rights movement was by no means the only success achieved by JORDAN's Group in 1970. It increased its membership from 100 to 200; moved into larger premises at 182 Pentonville Road, N1, and launched the Spartacus League which, although nominally autonomous, is virtually the youth section of the IMG.

The League was created in January and since then it has moved into the office in Pentonville Road; acquired some 200 young supporters and produced its own monthly paper, the "Red Mole". More significantly, it has been used as a cover for a variety of the Group's activities, and in particular for an attempt to exploit the alleged grievances of "Black Power" militants in the London area. In this context, the League established the Black Defence Committee in October with the ostensible purpose of raising money for the legal expenses of members of the Black Panther Movement and other coloured extremists currently facing serious charges as a result of a demonstration on 9 August - see under "Racialism". In reality,

the Committee did little but echo "Black Power" propaganda about "police brutality" and it is clear that IMG views it merely as an instrument with which to embarrass authority and foment discord.

The Group's only other significant activity in the London area was expressed through the Vietnam Solidarity Committee, a body which it now completely controls. As indicated later under "Pacifism", however, efforts to re-awaken interest in the Vietnam issue met with little response and the Committee was largely moribund at the end of the year.

Other trotskyist groups such as the Revolutionary Socialist League, the Revolutionary Workers' Party and the Socialist Current Group continued to exist during the year, but they make no effective impact on the extremist scene in London.

Anarchists are essentially so individualistic in outlook and their philosophy is capable of so many diverse interpretations that they offer little threat to political stability in this country. By the same token, however, any type of anti-authoritarian activity, from passive resistance to extreme violence, can be reconciled with anarchism and in consequence its adherents continue to pose a public order problem, despite their small numbers.

This was clearly illustrated during the year by the exploits of Privacy and Privacy the sole members of the so-called Ninth of May Movement. These two young anarchists, apparently motivated by resentment at the official attitude to squatting and by opposition to the presence of British troops in Northern Ireland, were responsible, between 9 May and their arrest on 30 September, for petrol bomb attacks on Clerkenwell County Court; Army premises in Wandsworth, Norbury and Holborn; the offices of Wandsworth Conservative Association and a private house in College Crescent, NW3, which was mistaken for the adjoining Hampstead Conservative Association. No personal injury was caused by the attacks and the damage in each case was slight. After appearances at Hampstead Magistrates' Court, Privacy were on bail at the end of the year awaiting trial at the Central Criminal Court on nine counts of arson.

London was also the scene of four other anarchist-inspired bomb incidents in 1970. No arrests were made, but three of them were undoubtedly the work of the Spanish First of May Group, while the other had Italian connotations; they are therefore dealt with in the "Aliens" section of this report.

For most of the year, the London Squatters Campaign conducted operations in the London Boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Southwark and Lewisham under the general direction of its full-time organiser, Ron BAILBY. They were not marked by the same rancour and disorder which occurred at Ilford in 1969 and relations generally between the squatters and the

local councils were relatively calm. Isolated incidents involving police intervention did occur, however, and it is clear that squatting remains a field in which anarchists can make a nuisance of themselves and at the same time win considerable public sympathy.

Small anarchist contingents were present during the year at most of the larger public demonstrations in London, particularly on such issues as racialism, Irish civil rights and Vietnam. They inevitably attempted to indulge their usual disruptive antics, but their efforts were generally well contained by uniformed police.

Anarchists are largely incapable of staying in any group which has a rigid form and their organisations therefore tend to be ill-defined and of a loose, umbrella type. This is particularly the case with the Anarchist Federation of Britain and the London Federation of Anarchists, both of which restrict their activities in the main to the dissemination of information through the weekly "Freedom" and the monthly "Anarchy". They are based at 85b Whitechapel High Street, E1, premises which also house Freedom Press.

Dr. Christopher PALLIS continued to run the London Solidarity Group from his home address at Privacy W5, during the year. It has about 50 members, although there are over 200 subscribers to "Solidarity", its monthly journal. The Group is now almost trotskyist in outlook and its main interest lies in trying to gain a foothold amongst industrial workers. Its activities in this respect came under close police scrutiny towards the end of the year and at least one member is suspected of involvement in a disastrous series of fires which have recently occurred at factories of Metal Box Company Limited in both London and the provinces.

The Anarchist Black Cross still operates from an office at 10 Gilbert Place, W1, under the guidance of Stuart CHRISTIE and Albert MELTZER. Its avowed purpose is to collect funds for anarchist prisoners in Spain and Italy, but it is clearly

little more than a cover for CHRISTIE's contacts with the First of May Group (q.v.). A monthly bulletin is produced and circulated to some 20-30 subscribers; it deals for the most part with the alleged ill-treatment of anarchists abroad.

The only other recognisable anarchist group in the London area is the Syndicalist Workers' Federation. It was in the throes of a financial crisis for most of the year, however, and engaged in no significant activity.

The increasing appeal of the protest against apartheid and the gradual run-down of American involvement in the actual fighting meant that the anti-Vietnam War campaign made little impression on the extremist scene in London during the early part of the year. Several demonstrations were held between January and April by both the communist-controlled British Campaign for Peace in Vietnam and the larger trotskyist organisations, but they were poorly supported and presented no general threat to public order.

The entry of American troops into Cambodia on 30 April, however, was responsible for a dramatic change in this situation and London witnessed a whole series of anti-American protests during the opening days of May. Initially, the demonstrations were largely communist-inspired, with the "Morning Star" playing a predictable role, but the death of four students at Kent State University in Ohio on 4 May at the hands of the National Guard served to broaden the dissent to include most of the organisations on the extreme left. The American Embassy once again became the focal point for the activities of the "peace movement". Although these activities were generally orderly and easily contained by uniformed police, events of an extremely violent nature occurred on 6 and 9 May and cast doubts on the real motives of the whole protest.

The incident on 6 May took place shortly after 1 am and involved the throwing of three crude petrol bombs at a window of the American Embassy. Two of the bombs fell back into the area outside the Embassy, but the third entered the building causing damage to the value of about £500. No one was injured. Not long after the devices had been discovered, an anonymous telephone call was received at "The Times" newspaper claiming that they had been thrown by members of the "Third World Liberation Front", a militant student organisation based upon San Francisco State College in America. Subsequent enquiries amongst both British and American extremists failed to identify the culprits.

The violence on 9 May followed a more familiar pattern. It took place in Grosvenor Square and its immediate vicinity and was engineered by some 4,000 ultra-left extremists, led by the Vietnam Solidarity Committee (VSC), who took over control of a demonstration organised by the British Campaign for Peace in Vietnam and transformed it into a concerted assault on the American Embassy. Their efforts were effectively rebuffed by uniformed police and in the process 58 demonstrators were arrested for such offences as assault on police, possessing offensive weapons, threatening behaviour, malicious damage and, in one case, causing grievous bodily harm. The vehemence and fury of the participants was most marked, however, and resulted in the injury of 65 police officers; the damaging of a considerable number of vehicles, both police and private, and the breaking of several windows, including those of the Indonesian Embassy.

In the days following the demonstration, the behaviour of the trotskyist, anarchist and maoist contingents was bitterly denounced by both the "Morning Star" and "Peace News". The extremist publication "Black Dwarf" also attacked the participants for their lack of organisation and sense of purpose in Grosvenor Square, while members of the Vietnam Solidarity Committee began to voice doubts once more about the validity and purpose of mass demonstrations. The net result was disunity and frustration, and although protests on the Cambodian issue continued throughout the rest of May, they lacked cohesion and spirit and never again involved any serious threat to public order. The long dormant "peace movement" had missed an ideal opportunity for permanent resurrection. Such an opportunity was not to recur during the remainder of the year, for public interest in South East Asia flagged with the American withdrawal from Cambodia, and attempts to revive it by both the Vietnam Solidarity Committee and the British Campaign for Peace in Vietnam proved abortive. This apathy had a particularly adverse effect on the future of the VSC and at the end of the year it comprised little more than a list of contacts maintained by the International Marxist Group.

Another well known organisation which suffered from public indifference during the year was the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. In spite of the active support of the Communist Party, fewer than 800 supporters took part in its Easter March from Crawley New Town to Trafalgar Square and although a subsequent rally in Victoria Park, Hackney, was more popular, it took the form of a gimmick-ridden "Festival of Life" which was completely devoid of political meaning. Other activities undertaken by the Campaign were equally ineffectual and at the end of 1970 its difficulties were reflected by the fact that it had a national membership of no more than 2,000 and faced debts of some £3,000.

General

At various times during the year concentrated and wide-spread publicity was given to three aspects of the extremist scene in London: a campaign against apartheid waged principally by the Stop the Seventy Tour Committee (STST); the anti-police activities of the so-called "Black Power" movement; and the reaction of certain sections of the Pakistani community to a series of "Paki-bashing" incidents perpetrated by white hooligans. The result was that the emotive question of race appeared to become almost a national issue, impinging upon the country's political life as a whole. In this situation it was remarkable that the National Front and Union Movement were comparatively restrained in their attitude to the coloured section of the population; that such organisations as the Immigration Control Association and the Racial Preservation Society, which had conducted scurrilous anti-coloured campaigns in the past, virtually died of inactivity in 1970; and that no right-wing extremists were known to have infringed the Race Relations Act in London during the year. [Privacy] member of the British National Party, [Privacy] was found guilty at the Inner London Quarter Sessions on 6 July on six counts under the Act and conditionally discharged for two years, but it will be recalled that his offence of distributing anti-coloured pamphlets took place early in 1969.

The Anti-Apartheid Campaign

On 31 January about 2,000 supporters of the Stop the Seventy Tour Committee marched from Twickenham Railway Station to the nearby rugby ground; some 440 entered the ground, and their subsequent well-publicised attempts to disrupt the final game of the Springbok Tour produced many disorderly scenes during which 28 arrests were made and 47 persons were ejected from the stadium. The Committee then directed the considerable wave of emotion which it had generated during the previous three months towards the realisation of its primary objective of stopping the projected visit of the South African Cricket

Team. On 12 February the Cricket Council announced that the South African Tour, which had been scheduled to include a full programme of county games and the usual five Test Matches, would be restricted to twelve matches and that they would be played on only eight grounds. Peter HAIN, the chairman of STST, described this move as "a declaration of war" and promised a sustained and militant campaign against the tourists. On 7 March, after the first national conference of the Committee, it became apparent that this campaign would include four nationally co-ordinated demonstrations, including an initial one at Heathrow Airport to mark the arrival of the South African cricketers, as well as attempts to organise a trade union boycott of all services to the visitors. On 22 May the Cricket Council, obviously conscious of pressure from many quarters, announced the cancellation of the Tour. Such is the stark outline of events which completely dominated the extremist scene in this country during the first part of 1970.

The correlation of these events, of course, involved a massive potential threat to public order and on 2 March it was decided by the Home Office that this Branch would act as a national clearing-house for information concerning the tactics and intentions of the anti-Tour protest. From then until the Cricket Council's final decision, therefore, intelligence regarding the STST and its associated organisations was collected, assessed and regularly disseminated to those Forces in whose areas the actual matches were to be played. An album of photographs of the leading activists within the Committee was also prepared and distributed. In discharging this responsibility, of course, the Branch was able to compile a comprehensive national picture of the STST.

At its height, the Committee had the estimated support of some 50,000 persons throughout the country. A large proportion of them were students and the hard-core of those who were actively involved in planning demonstrations were drawn from some eleven member organisations, whose numbers included the Anti-Apartheid Movement, the Movement for

Colonial Freedom (now renamed Liberation), the National Union of Students, the Young Communist League, the Young Liberals, the International Socialism Group and the United Nations Students Association. The Communist Party was affiliated to the Committee, while it also had the support of the West Indian Campaign Against Apartheid Cricket, an ad-hoc body run by the well-known coloured extremist, Jeff CRAWFORD; the Indian Workers' Association (GB) and the Working People's Party of England.

It was administered from HAIN's house at 21A Gwendolen Avenue, Putney, SW15, by a 20-member national committee, the secretary of which was Hugh GEACH, a student from Reading University. The national committee was responsible for providing ideas, propaganda material and speakers, and for general liaison with seven regional committees which were located in centres where the cricket matches were to be played, namely, London, South London, Leeds/Sheffield, Manchester, Birmingham, Nottingham and Swansea. Innumerable local groups, many of which were based on universities, colleges and schools, worked under the direction of the regional committees.

In view of the obvious prospect of the national committee being confronted with conspiracy charges, it was generally left to the local groups to plan demonstrations in their own localities during the actual games. The STST itself, however, assumed responsibility for four demonstrations - at Heathrow Airport on 2 June; at Lord's, during the first game, on 6 June; at Swansea on 25 July; and at the Oval on 13 August. The question of tactics was also the responsibility of local groups. A countless number of ideas are known to have been discussed in this context, but few definite tactical plans were adopted.

It was this aspect of the Committee's machinations which seized the imagination of the National Press and alarmist

rumours that plans had been laid to use firearms, to kidnap Test Match umpires and to employ the most bizarre forms of protest were circulated and given credence. This publicity was perhaps partly responsible for the spate of anonymous letters and telephone calls which were received in the final stages of the anti-Tour campaign, threatening violence against members of the Royal Family, the South African Ambassador, the organisers of the Tour and both the English and South African Teams. Peter HAIN was also subject to similar threats. The resultant atmosphere of intimidation and sense of foreboding was undoubtedly a key factor in the Cricket Council's ultimate decision to call off the Tour.

Opposition to the visit of the South African Cricket Team, however, was by no means confined to the STST and its extremist supporters. The Fair Cricket Campaign, for example, was a moderate group which campaigned for the peaceful cancellation of the Tour under the leadership of the Rev. David SHEPPARD, while members of the Labour Party, the Liberal Party and many other organisations, secular and religious, were also against the idea of the Tour taking place. A large but less vocal body of opinion was, of course, in favour of the South Africans' visit. Extremists in this category included members of the National Front and Union Movement.

The overt reaction of the STST to the Cricket Council's change of heart was deliberately restrained, for it clearly sought to maintain public esteem in preparation for a future protest against some other aspect of apartheid. Its initial attempts to do this proved unsuccessful and it was forced to disband. In July, however, HAIN formed the Action Committee Against Racialism (ACAR) to campaign against the possible resumption of the sale of arms to South Africa. Although this organisation is closely modelled on the STST and has received pledges of support from the same groups which took part in the protest against the Tour, it undertook little significant activity before the end of the year.

The same was generally true of the communist-influenced Anti-Apartheid Movement which also took up the arms issue. The Movement did, however, attract some 8,000 left-wing extremists to a rally in Trafalgar Square on 25 October. The proceedings in the Square itself were orderly throughout, but when the meeting ended some 2,000 of the participants, including a contingent of anarchists, made their way to St. James Square, SW1, where they conducted an unruly demonstration outside the offices of the Hawker Siddeley Company Limited. They clashed violently with police and 30 arrests were necessary before the whole area was restored to calm. With this exception, it was apparent in 1970 that the question of arms sales lacked the heady emotional appeal of the anti-Tour campaign, a fact which was clearly connected with the Government's protracted silence on the issue. Other activities of the anti-apartheid lobby in this country, such as attempts to organise a boycott of South African goods and to harass firms with financial interests in Southern Africa, were equally ineffectual.