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METROPOLITAN POLICE

SPECIAL BRANCH

22nd day of January, 1969

This report attempts to identify those elements among Maoist organisations which cause disruption on mass demonstrations, and are of interest in a public order context.

These elements form a minority among Maoists, though they have their counterparts among the Anarchists and Trotskyists. The emergence of Maoist groups is a comparatively new feature on the left and the militant Maoists have characteristics by which they may be distinguished from other demonstrators.

The most obvious difference is that they almost invariably carry portraits of Mao Tse Tung, and chant elaborate slogans in imitation of the Chinese Red Guard. Such groups, by their liveliness, are an attraction to politically uncommitted youths. They also attract, and very largely depend upon, ex-Y.C.L. members who have become disillusioned with the Russian version of communism. There is little room for this near-hooligan element among the majority of Maoist organisations. Were it not for the existence of certain "leaders" who encourage them in their Maoist stance, these persons would probably not be in extremist politics at all. It is these leaders, and the organisations which they have set up, which it is the purpose of this report to identify.

The main "leader" in this context is Abimanyu MANCHANDA who is a key figure in the following organisations:-

Britain Vietnam Solidarity Front.
Friends of China.
Revolutionary Marxist Leninist League.

He is abetted by a number of close associates who belong to one or more of the above organisations and in addition control their own local branches or dominate small Maoist factions. The most important of MANCHANDA's close associates are [redacted] of the London Region of the Revolutionary Socialist Students' [redacted]

Federation. [Privacy] of the London Marxist Leninists, and [Privacy] the main outlet in London for Maoist literature. [Redacted]

In addition MANCHANDA can count upon the loyalty of the following, who hold a dominant position in their respective groups:-

Mike EARLE

[Privacy]

- Revolutionary Marxist-Leninist League.

[Privacy]

- Friends of China

Harpal Singh BRAR

- Watford Indian Workers' Association.

[Privacy]

- B.V.S.F.

[Privacy]

- "Vanguard" Group

[Privacy]

- Earl's Court B.V.S.F. and Earl's Court Marxist Leninists

[Privacy]

- Working People's Party of England.

[Privacy]

[Privacy]

- Coventry Communist Group.

It should be emphasised, however, that these small Maoist cliques represent a small fraction of the total Maoist strength, and have no standing with the better known Maoist groups such as the Society for Anglo Chinese Understanding, or the Communist Party of Britain-Marxist Leninists (Reg. BIRCH).

In order to sustain his following MANCHANDA has pretensions to organise a Marxist Leninist Party, and continually holds out to his adherents the prospects of massive support forthcoming from the English working class. By these means he induces them to attend weekly classes at which he expounds to them his own version of Maoism. This, naturally, is only for the favoured few. In other respects MANCHANDA is most indiscriminate in the kind of support he surrounds himself with, and he is incapable of exercising any form of discipline over his casual supporters.

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[REDACTED] 3.

At the present time MANCHANDA would be hard put to it to find more than a few hundred persons to support any demonstration on purely Maoist lines, and this would assume 100% support from all the groups mentioned above. He has so far avoided any show of his total strength (or weakness) but has marshalled his forces alongside V.S.C. elements and augmented them by anarchists and dissidents from other left-wing groups. He has thus been able to emerge from the obscurity of being the leader of a fragment of Indian Communists - the Hindustani Ghadar Party - to a public figure whom the press look upon as the Tariq Ali of the pro-Chinese communists.

MANCHANDA brings to his new role an overwhelming fanaticism. He commands his followers with severity and complete arbitrariness, and demands the utmost loyalty from his close associates. However, he has several weaknesses which should in the course of time, alienate many of his casual supporters. His public speeches are notoriously difficult to understand both in respect of content and diction. He is blatantly dishonest in his political manoeuvres and the only excuse he gives to his followers is that "politics is a dirty game". He enjoys no goodwill from any rival political group and appears to take a perverse delight in attacking all other brands of left-wing politics.

MANCHANDA has one significant advantage which he appears to understand and exploit to the full. His position is as far to the left as one can go without losing touch with reality, and as among youth there is a tendency to search for the most extreme political viewpoint, he is at least assured of some attention. To a casual supporter he may appear to offer the ultimate in revolutionary activity, and no-one is likely to be excluded from his groups for aggressiveness or violence on public demonstrations. At the same time he is, in public, evasive and claims not to advocate strong arm methods. His favourite political argument is to accuse others (especially the police) of violence.

Possibly because of a close study of Mao Tse Tung, MANCHANDA has developed his own cult of personality to a somewhat ridiculous degree. At the present time he cultivates a Gandhi-type image, conveniently aided by the fact that he is, in any case, in poor health. He walks with a stick, shepherded by his closest supporters, mainly Indians. He also makes a great show of his poverty, even to the extent of begging or borrowing money from his friends - not so much for the cause as for his taxi bills.

[REDACTED]

It will be understood, therefore, that MANCHANDA's followers fall into the following three categories:-

(a) Close loyal associates -

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Harnal Singh BHAR, Mike EARLE,

Privacy

(b) Disciplined political lieutenants -

Privacy

(c) Dissidents and irresponsibles -

Privacy

MANCHANDA is planning to hold two demonstrations in the near future. The first is the 1st February, 1969 Trafalgar Square rally to protest against alleged police brutality in Hong Kong - for this he cannot expect to attract anyone outside of his own supporters. The second is on 9.3.69 a march to the U.S. Embassy on an anti-Vietnam War theme, as a repeat performance of the October 27th march to Grosvenor Square. The outcome of these demonstrations should provide a useful indication of -

(a) the extent of his real support, and

(b) his ability to rally the uncommitted by an implicit call to militancy and violence.

R. CREAMER
Detective Sergeant

Submitted:

Conrad Dixon
Chief Inspector

CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT

Appendix to Special Branch report dated 22.1.69
concerning the B.V.S.F. - 400/66/120

Britain Vietnam Solidarity Front

Friends of China

Revolutionary Marxist Leninist
League

Revolutionary Socialist
Student Federation

London Marxist Leninists

Watford Indian Workers'
Association

Vanguard Group

Earle Court B.V.S.F.

Working Peoples Party of England

Coventry Communist Group

Privacy

(Mike EARLE)

Privacy

Abhinav MANCHANDA

Privacy

(Harpal Singh BRAR)