

Corres. No.

Minute Sheet No.

1.

S.B. memorandum and attachment 1 A-B

Chief Superintendent Ops.

To see please. There is considerable concern at government level about the October demonstration, but as you know we have taken firm preliminary steps to obtain as much information as possible about it.

Our tactics for the day will, of course, largely depend on the programme of events which has not yet been settled by the organisers. Every effort must be made to identify those groups most likely to cause trouble and have as many officers as possible among them.

A

At the meeting mention was made of the fact that the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary were seeking a situation report during the first week in September. Responsibility for producing this will rest with Box 500 but we ourselves should have something prepared by 31st August. This can be done by C.I. Dixon.

With regard to A of 1A we can take this up with the Security Service nearer the day.

S.B.
21.8.68.

[Signature]
Commander.

2. 1

Chief Inspector Dixon to note ✓ [REDACTED] 1 A-B
and for action as at A of 1 as discussed.

S.B.
21.8.68.

A. Cunningham
Chief Supt.

A meeting was held in room 832 on Friday, 16th August, 1968, to discuss policy on demonstrations. The Commissioner was in the Chair and also present were A.C.'A', Messrs. Waddell and James of Home Office, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of Box 500.

Mr. Waddell outlined the general view of the Home Secretary on how police should approach the question of handling demonstrations. He stressed the use of traditional methods of crowd control in preference to such foreign importations as water cannon, clubs and shields.

The Commissioner said he was in full agreement with this point of view.

A.C.'A' outlined the steps taken by Uniform Branch to improve training of all ranks in the handling of demonstrations.

[REDACTED] informed the meeting of the state of confusion existing among the various elements trying to organise the October demonstration. Mention was made of the fact that the Ad Hoc Committee had not been able to book Trafalgar Square for the 27th October (they had booked it for the 26th) because it had already been taken by a group of youth clubs.

This means that for the Sunday they could march from Hyde Park or from other points in London, such as Victoria Park, and that it might be less easy to control the crowds than if they were all focused in Trafalgar Square. The Commissioner's view was that it would be better from the point of view of crowd control for the Committee to have the Square on the 27th and he asked A.C.'A' to see if anything could be done to require the present holders of the booking to postpone their meeting to another day. A.C.'A' said he would take steps to try to effect this.

Mention was made of communications and the need to improve them. A.C.'A' said it was hoped to have about 400 personal radios for use by police on the day and that every effort would be made to keep in contact with groups of demonstrators who might break off to attack secondary targets.

A. |
The Security Service would explore how any information it received could be passed to Special Branch and it was agreed to talk further on this.

reference was made to the "gating" of foreign demonstrators. Mr. Waddell said it was the H.O. view that it was not desirable to prevent individuals coming here. He cited the case of COHN-BENDIT where the Home Secretary's action in allowing him to enter the U.K. had been fully justified by events. Even in the case of groups arriving the H.O. took the view that it was not desirable to "gate" them en masse. Mr. Waddell suggested instead that such groups could well be "delayed" by the Immigration Branch long enough for them to miss the demonstration.

[REDACTED] undertook to try to find out what plans were being made by foreign demonstrators to come to the U.K. for this particular event.

I briefly outlined the action we were taking in this Branch to collect information prior to the demonstration and to keep in touch with groups of demonstrators on the day.

S.B.
20.8.68.

S. Smith
Command

[REDACTED]
16th

August

8

Commander,
Special Branch.

A.C 'A'

I have learned [REDACTED] that when the organisers of the October demonstration applied to the Ministry of Works for the use of Trafalgar Square for 27th October, they were told that it had been booked on that day by the London Union of Youth Clubs. They were also told that if for any reason this booking was cancelled, the Ministry would inform them.

Therefore, communication to the organisers of any cancellation should present no problem as it can be done quite openly by the Ministry.

81
Commander.