

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr Heaton

(THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT)

---

AC(H)(WG)(68) 3rd Meeting

COPY NO. 4

CABINET

OFFICIAL COMMITTEE ON COMMUNISM (HOME)

WORKING GROUP ON COUNTER MEASURES

---

MINUTES of a Meeting held in Sir Burke Trend's  
Room, Cabinet Office, S.W.1., on  
WEDNESDAY, 24th JULY 1968 at 3.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Sir Burke Trend,  
Cabinet Office (In the Chair)

Mr. J.H. Peck,  
Foreign Office

Mr. J.H. Waddell,  
Home Office

Mr. R.J. Guppy,  
Department of Education  
and Science

Mr. R. Thistlethwaite,  
Security Service

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT:

Sir John Wolfenden,  
Chairman, University  
Grants Committee

Mr. J. Tyrer,  
Foreign Office

Sir Herbert Andrew,  
Department of Education  
and Science

Mr. J.S. Elliott,  
Security Service

SECRETARY:

Mr. D. Heaton

S U B J E C T:

STUDENT PROTEST

CONFIDENTIAL

STUDENT PROTEST

CONFIDENTIAL

(Previous Reference: AC(H)(WG)(68) 2nd Meeting)

The Working Group discussed the subject of student protest, in the light of developments since their last meeting on 29th May and of likely future developments.

In discussion the following main points were made -

- (a) Universities had been unexpectedly quiet in recent weeks: in particular, there had been no disruption of degree-giving ceremonies. Technical Colleges had in general also been quiet. Recent trouble had centred in Colleges of Art, particularly Guildford and Hornsey; here there were legitimate academic grievances, which were being looked into by a group under Sir William Coldstream; meanwhile the situation at Guildford was particularly difficult, and had not been helped by the failure of the application to the High Court by the local authority and the Governors.
- (b) There had been further indications of irresponsibility by television teams. One had asked a Vice Chancellor and a student at a university whether there would be a riot at a particular ceremony and, if not, whether there would be one if the TV cameras were there; when told there would be no riot even if they came, they said they would not come.
- (c) The trouble in Park Lane on 21st July had been caused by the inability of some 2,000 well-behaved communists to control the 1,500 or so anarchists and Trotskyists, of whom perhaps 500 had been activists. The latter appeared well pleased with the results of their efforts.
- (d) Further trouble could certainly be expected in the autumn. This was the forecast of the Western European security authorities, who had recently met in Paris and were to meet again on 17th September. The summer months would provide opportunities for political contacts, and organised indoctrination of students was being given in Cuba to planeloads of students from European countries (including the United Kingdom). As yet there was no obvious spider at the centre of the web, but an increasingly important part was being played by the Fourth International, whose principal agents in this country were the UK International Marxist Group, who controlled the Vietnam Solidarity Group. These interests were making elaborate preparations for a very large scale demonstration in London on 26th-27th October. In the universities, trouble was to be expected at the freshmen's conferences immediately before the opening of the October term.

The Working Group -

- (1) Took note with approval of the Chairman's summing up.
- (2) Took note that the Department of Education and Science would examine the legal position of local authorities in relation to schools and colleges for which they were responsible, and inform the Home Office of the outcome.

Cabinet Office, S.W.1.

25th July 1968