

SIR BURKE TREND*Mr Heaton**Thank you**31.1.69*

Meeting of the Official Committee on Subversion at Home
Friday 31st January 1969, at 3 p.m.

I expect the meeting to be attended by -

FCO	Mr. Peck Mr. Tyrer
DEP	Mr. Kerr
Home Office	Mr. Waddell
DES	Mr. Guppy
Security Service	Mr. Simkins (who has expressed interest and a wish to come)
	Mr. Thistlethwaite
	Mr. Elliot

This is of course the first meeting of the new Committee, whose terms of reference are -

"To focus intelligence about communist and other subversive activities in the United Kingdom, to advise Ministers on appropriate measures (other than those in relation to the public service, which are within the purview of the Official Committee on Security) to counter these activities, and to coordinate such counter-measures".

The paper circulated (SH(69)2 - Subversion in the United Kingdom) briefly outlines the pattern of subversion in 1968, and attempts (paragraphs 10 and 11) a forecast for 1969. It's author is Mr. Thistlethwaite who will be ready to introduce it. He has recently attended a meeting in Paris of his European colleagues, and has this week met Hugh Trevor-Roper (an old contact of his) who, he says, is very worried about the situation in Oxford. Almost certainly, student activities will be the chief item for discussion, and a point for decision will be the question of a successor to Jack Wolfenden as an occasional channel for passing information to Vice Chancellors and for informing the Committee of their views. I am not sure whether you know the new Chairman of the UGC (Berrill), but Mr. Thistlethwaite may have a view on his suitability, and I have asked Mr. Guppy to ascertain Sir Herbert Andrew's views in advance of the meeting.

Demonstrations organised by Trotskyist groups seem likely to be less of a preoccupation this year than trouble by students in universities and colleges, but these groups (see paragraph 6) are planning a new series to

start next March. Apparently Manchanda has booked Trafalgar Square for 9th March, and Tariq Ali for 16th March.

There is still no indication of any support in the trades unions for anarchist and student activists, and only in one white-collar union (DATA - see paragraph 7) is there a danger of it. The state of the unions and the general subversive picture are described in more detail in the latest Security Service Quarterly Survey of Subversive Activities (attached).

It may be well to reserve for the end of the meeting some consideration of possible counter-measures. Clearly, almost any publicity is likely to do more harm than good. Among students, the problem is the old one of bolstering moderate opinion, presumably through the National Union of Students. You may like to ask whether anyone has any new ideas on how to help the NUS leadership. On the purely political front there is the proposal, which I reported to you earlier, to publicise the opposition within the CPGB to the leadership's anti-Russian line over Czechoslovakia. Mr. Peck might be asked how this stands.



29th January 1969