

"Revolutionary upheavals"

100 thousand march in London

LONDON, Eng. (CUPI)—Upwards to 100,000 people massed together in London last Sunday afternoon to form the largest demonstration ever held in this country against American policies in Vietnam.

The demonstration was a clear vindication for anti war groups in this country as a crowd more than three times the size expected by the police participated in a five mile march past British government offices in Whitehall, the prime minister's residence on Downing Street and into Hyde Park.

The British press has been running stories all week about

"the revolutionary upheavals on October 27."

"Certain undercover agents," they say, had uncovered plans to take over key government buildings and burn down offices. Members of parliament went so far as to ask the home minister, Mr. J. Callaghan, to evoke emergency powers and outlaw the march.

Instead of violence, however, the demonstrators turned to peaceful order. The generally young crowd, mostly students and labor union leaders, marched 30 abreast shouting "Ho Ho Chi Minh" and a rhythmic "Smash smash smash the

bourgeois".

Earlier in the day, police stopped and searched busses carrying demonstrators into the London area. They found little of a suspicious nature. Organizers, anticipating police searches, had cancelled most charter coaches—they were cashing in on previous bitter experience when police detained charter coaches bound for a demonstration last March.

At one point, a group of about 2,000 people broke away from the main march and headed towards the US embassy in Grosvenor Square. The main organizers—The Viet Nam Solidarity Committee—had decided to bypass the high embassy building, previously the site of many bloody clashes

between demonstrators and police.

The small breakaway group engaged in several hours of shoving and stick throwing, resulting in 36 arrests and about 40 injured.

The main part of the demonstration headed to Hyde Park where they heard Tariq Ali, VSC chairman, say, "This demonstration is only the beginning. We must now fight against the Wilson government economic policies and its attitude towards Greece and Rhodesia."

Another speaker, author Felix Greene, warned "there is another invasion besides the American invasion of Vietnam. It is the US commercial invasion of Britain."

The good order of the demonstrators, despite the rumormongering of the press, may strengthen public acceptance of the anti war position in Britain. Many hoped the high turnout may convince the British government to reconsider its passive support of the Americans.



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