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COUNTRY Belgium/International

REPORT NO

SUBJECT Jacques Grippa's Reaction to Invitation to Join Belgian Committee in Support of the International War Crimes Tribunal

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REFERENCES

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FIELD REPORT NO

SOURCE

- Jacques Grippa, leader of the dissident pro-Chinese Communist Party of Belgium (the Grippa party), said that Ralph Schoenman, Secretary for the International War Crimes Tribunal, had invited him by letter to join a Belgian committee in support of the Tribunal. Grippa said that he was under considerable pressure to lend his support to the event inasmuch as the North Vietnamese "comrades" are backing the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation (BRPF) initiative. Schoenman listed Grippa and a Baron Antoine A.G.M. Allard among the potential members of the Belgian committee which would be chaired by Ernest Mandel, a Trotskyite editor of La Gauche. Other members of the proposed committee are Ernest Glinne of the "crypto-Trotskyist wing" of the Belgian Socialist Party (PSB) and Ernest Burnelle, President of the pro-Soviet PCB.
- Grippa expressed indignation that he had been asked by Schoenman to join such a proposed Belgian committee and said it was a "provocation" adding that Ernest Glinne of the BRPF had even come to Brussels to visit Baron Allard in order to persuade him to back the Tribunal.
- Grippa said that he could not directly attack the Tribunal, but, in a reply to Schoenman's letter, he would refuse to join the proposed committee and would denounce the Trotskyites and revisionists on the committee proposed by Schoenman as not being real friends of the Vietnamese people. He planned to send the Vietnamese a copy of his letter.

1. Comment:

2. Comment: Pierre Le Greve, a Belgian left-Socialist member of parliament who was proposed by "friends" of the BRPF as a member of the first group of five delegates from the Tribunal to go to Hanoi, has been quoted as stating that he is completely opposed to the

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will not assist in it in any way. N F B I

3. Comment. [redacted] in London reported in November 1966 that Tate seemed more important in decision-making than Ralph Schoenman. Tate is a young Canadian Trotskyist who is residing in London.

Comments:

- 4. Perhaps Grippa was referring to the officials in London or Paris, but he was not clear on this point.
- 5. When informed that Grippa and his party were finding it difficult to support the Tribunal because of influences of the Trotskyites and revisionists, [redacted] remarked that the North Vietnamese Government supported Lord Russell's initiative because it was considered the most effective way of mobilizing Western public opinion against American imperialism. The North Vietnamese Government did not support Trotskyites or anarchists as such, but believed that the Russell initiative was "useful in their struggle". He said that he recognized the position of the Grippa Party, but he could neither offer any advice nor even urge it to join in a Belgian Tribunal committee.

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