

Thursday, 12 November 2020

(10.00 am)

MS PURSER: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the second day of evidential hearings in Tranche 1, Phase 1 at the Undercover Policing Inquiry.

For those of you in the virtual hearing room, please can I remind you to turn off both your camera and video unless you are invited to speak by the Chairman.

I will now hand over to our Chairman, Sir John Mitting, to formally start proceedings.

Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Good morning, everybody. As those of you who attended yesterday's hearings will know, hearings begin with a recording of just over three minutes made by me earlier this year. Could those of you listening to it for the first time, please listen carefully.

(Pause)

MS PURSER: Everybody, I am sorry about the lack of sound on the video. We will sort this out as soon as possible and play the video from the start. Thank you. Please bear with us.

(Pause)

(Video played)

"I am conducting this Inquiry under a statute,

1 the Inquiries Act 2005, which gives me the power to make
2 orders regulating the conduct of the Inquiry, including
3 its hearings. In the exercise of that power, I have
4 made a number of orders which affect what you may and
5 may not do in the hearing rooms and after you leave
6 them. Breach of any of the orders is a serious matter
7 and may have serious consequences for you.

8 "If I am satisfied that a person may have breached
9 an order, I have the power to certify the matter to
10 the High Court, which will investigate and deal with it
11 as if it had been a contempt of that court. If
12 satisfied that a breach has occurred and merits
13 the imposition of a penalty, the High Court may impose
14 a severe sanction on the person in breach, including
15 a fine, imprisonment for up to two years and
16 sequestration of their assets.

17 "Evidence is going to be given live over screens in
18 the hearing rooms. It is strictly prohibited to
19 photograph or record what is shown on the screens, or to
20 record what is said by a witness, or anyone else in
21 the hearing rooms. You may bring your mobile telephone
22 into the hearing rooms, but you may not use it for any
23 of those purposes. You may use it silently for any
24 other purpose. In particular, you may transmit your
25 account of what you have seen and heard in a hearing

1 room to any other person, but only once at least
2 10 minutes have elapsed since the event which you are
3 describing took place.

4 "This restriction has a purpose. In the course of
5 the Inquiry, I have made orders prohibiting the public
6 disclosure of information; for example, about
7 the identity of a person for a variety of reasons.
8 These orders must be upheld. It is inevitable that,
9 whether by accident or design, information which I have
10 ordered should not be publicly disclosed will sometimes
11 be disclosed in a hearing.

12 "If and when that happens, I will immediately
13 suspend the hearing and make an order prohibiting
14 further disclosure of the information outside
15 the hearings rooms. The consequence will be that no
16 further disclosure of that information may be made by
17 mobile telephone or other portal electronic device from
18 within the hearing room, or by any means outside it.

19 "I am sorry if you find this message alarming. It
20 is not intended to be. Its purpose is simply to ensure
21 that everyone knows the rules which must apply if I am
22 to hear the evidence which I need to enable me to get to
23 the truth about undercover policing. You, as members of
24 the public, are entitled to hear the same public
25 evidence as I will hear and to reach your own

1 conclusions about it. The Inquiry team will do their
2 best to ensure that you can.

3 "If you have any doubt about the terms of this
4 message or what you may or may not do, you should not
5 hesitate to ask one of them and, with my help, if
6 necessary, they will provide you with the answer."

7 THE CHAIRMAN: We are now about to hear from the former
8 undercover officer known as "HN329". Has the link been
9 established with him, and if so, may he be sworn or
10 affirmed?

11 HN329

12 MS PURSER: Good morning, HN329, can you see and hear me?

13 A. I can.

14 MS PURSER: I can see and hear you, too. I understand that
15 you would like to swear on oath?

16 A. Yes.

17 (Witness sworn)

18 MS PURSER: Thank you very much.

19 Chairman.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21 HN329, I understand that there is somebody present
22 in the room with you there to assist you with
23 the technology if you need it.

24 A. There is indeed.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Is it possible for the camera to be moved so

1 that he or she can be seen and seen throughout
2 the evidence that you are giving?

3 LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE: Sir, I will be leaving the room so
4 that HN329 can give his evidence. I cannot be
5 COVID-secure and close whilst on camera.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Very good. But you are now about to leave
7 the room. Can we see you leaving it, please, and then
8 we will revert to HN329.

9 LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE: Thank you, sir.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: And HN329, can you confirm there is no one
11 else present in the room?

12 A. He's just going through the door.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

14 A. There is no one in the room.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much.

16 Mr Barr, Counsel to the Inquiry, is now going to ask
17 you some questions.

18 Mr Barr?

19 Questions by MR BARR

20 MR BARR: Good morning, sir. Thank you.

21 HN329, you have provided two witness statements
22 which are in the hearing bundle. The first is
23 a composite witness statement dated 11 April 2019, and
24 the second is a supplementary statement dated
25 27 August 2019. Are you familiar with the contents of

1 those witness statements?

2 A. I am.

3 Q. And are the contents of those witness statements true
4 and correct to the best of your knowledge and belief?

5 A. They are indeed.

6 Q. Can I start, please, with how you came to join the --
7 what I am going to call the "SDS". Were you
8 a volunteer, or were you volunteered?

9 A. I don't recall volunteering. I was -- I think I was
10 requested to join, but I can't be a hundred per cent
11 sure.

12 Q. And when you did join the SDS, were you instructed to
13 keep the fact of the SDS's existence secret?

14 A. Not to my knowledge.

15 Q. And you tell us in your witness statement that you had
16 no formal training with the SDS but that you did visit
17 Deputy Assistant Commissioner Ferguson Smith with some
18 of your SDS colleagues. Can you help us as to when in
19 your service that happened?

20 A. Well, I -- after two years in uniform, I became
21 a Special Branch officer, and I was on naturalisation
22 enquiries, which was the usual way in to Special Branch
23 as a temporary, for just over a year, I think. I can't
24 remember the exact date when I joined the SDS, as it's
25 now known.

1 Q. We've got a document which suggests that it was in
2 August 1968, but my question really is, when you saw
3 DAC Ferguson Smith, was that whilst you were a member of
4 the SDS?

5 A. I presume so, yes.

6 Q. And can you remember whether it was early in your SDS
7 service or later on?

8 A. Oh, it was at the very beginning, within the first week
9 or so.

10 Q. And can you remember whether you went to see
11 Ferguson Smith with some or all of your SDS colleagues?

12 A. That I can't remember. I would imagine it would have
13 been some.

14 Q. You tell us in your witness statement that he made clear
15 that you were not expected to carry out any illegal
16 activity, albeit you knew that anyway. Can you recall
17 what else he advised or instructed you to do?

18 A. Basically, that we were not expected to break the law,
19 that we were to just carry on our enquiries in the same
20 way as when we were Special Branch officers.

21 Q. You also say, on the topic of Ferguson Smith that at
22 some point whilst you were serving with the SDS, he came
23 to visit the unit; and you say in your statement you
24 think it was for lunch. Can you recall what sort of
25 things were discussed with DAC Smith, when he came to

1 visit?

2 A. Not really. Just general conversation, I believe.

3 Q. Did you get the impression that DAC Smith was familiar
4 with the full extent of what the SDS was doing?

5 A. In those early days, certainly, yes.

6 Q. Can I ask you now just a little bit about your general
7 training. First of all your training to become a police
8 officer in the first place. Were you given any training
9 about your duty to keep the peace?

10 A. I'm afraid it's too far back for me to remember now.
11 I joined the police [in the late 1950s], and my training
12 would have been whatever the training was in those days.

13 Q. I see. What was -- well, if you can't remember
14 the training -- and I completely understand why that
15 might be -- what was your -- in practice, what was your
16 understanding of your obligation as a police officer in
17 relation to the Queen's Peace?

18 A. Yes, to keep the Queen's Peace and to act impartially.

19 Q. And in terms of ethics and standards, could you either
20 tell me what you were instructed to do, or, if not, if
21 you can't remember, can you tell me what your
22 understanding of the ethics and standards that you as
23 a police officer were required to uphold?

24 A. Well, to uphold the law. To -- as I say, to keep
25 the Queen's Peace and to just make sure that everybody

1 behaved themselves.

2 Q. And can you recall whether you were given any training
3 on the circumstances in which you might enter a private
4 residence?

5 A. Not to my knowledge. I can't remember anything. I know
6 that one would require a search warrant if there was
7 anything illegal to be found, but under normal
8 circumstances, the only -- as a uniformed officer, it
9 was only if you were invited in.

10 Q. Now can I move to the process of training to be
11 a Special Branch officer. Was there a selection
12 process?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And did you have to hold a vetting qualification to
15 serve within Special Branch?

16 A. Yes, we had positive vetting, but I'm not sure when in
17 my service that occurred, because, as I say, the first
18 year or so, I was only temporary in Special Branch,
19 engaged solely on naturalisation enquiries.

20 Q. And were you trained to conduct discreet observations?

21 A. Not in that time, no.

22 Q. Did you conduct discreet observations in your time with
23 Special Branch before you joined the SDS?

24 A. Only -- only in general terms, I would assume. I can't
25 remember any specific case.

1 Q. Did you attend meetings of political activists before
2 you joined the SDS?

3 A. Yes, indeed.

4 Q. Did you receive any training about how to do so?

5 A. Not as far as I can remember.

6 Q. Does it follow from that answer that you learned on
7 the job?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And by the time you joined the SDS, how experienced were
10 you in that type of work?

11 A. Again, I can't recall the length of time I spent before
12 I became an officer with the SDS.

13 Q. By the time that you joined the SDS, were you -- did you
14 have an understanding of what sort of information was of
15 interest to Special Branch?

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. And how had you come about that understanding?

18 A. Well, it was just general knowledge, really.

19 Q. And in terms of a movement such as the Vietnam
20 Solidarity Campaign, what would your prior experience in
21 Special Branch have taught you would have been of
22 interest to Special Branch?

23 A. Well, basically, it would be purely, again, going back
24 to keeping the Queen's Peace.

25 Q. Report writing. Had you had experience of writing

1 Special Branch reports before you joined the SDS?

2 A. Oh yes.

3 Q. I take it -- can I take it from that answer, plenty of
4 experience?

5 A. I would imagine so, yes.

6 Q. Were you taught how to complete intelligence reports?

7 A. Well, not so much intelligence reports, but one -- on
8 the naturalisation section, the reports were obviously
9 submitted to Home Office for the approval of
10 the applicant's application, and they were very
11 stringent as to what you included and what you left out.

12 So that experience was transferred to Special Branch
13 reports, which were then also edited by your senior
14 officer, in case you'd missed anything out or something
15 you'd included which was irrelevant.

16 Q. So, by the time you joined the SDS -- and my interest is
17 particularly in intelligence reports -- did you know
18 whether or not Special Branch would be interested in
19 people's personal details?

20 A. I would imagine so, yes.

21 Q. And would -- to what extent was Special Branch
22 interested in people's personal details?

23 A. Well, as to what they actually were interested in, when
24 you did a report, you put in everything that
25 the individual, that you thought was relevant.

1 Q. Would that include distinguishing features?

2 A. Indeed.

3 Q. Moving on from individuals, would Special Branch be
4 interested in the dynamics within a political group?

5 A. In what regard?

6 Q. Who was the leader, who were the followers, whether
7 there were any splits in the group, that sort of thing?

8 A. Oh yes, all that would go down.

9 Q. Future events that the group was planning --

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. -- or planning to support?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Is there anything else that would have been of
14 particular interest that you can recall that you would
15 be required to record?

16 A. Well, if you went to a meeting, you'd just record
17 everything that transpired that you felt was of
18 interest.

19 Q. Now, you used the word "everything". That perhaps
20 chimes with your witness statement, which says that
21 there was no filtering of information. Is that fair?

22 A. What, on behalf of the person writing the report?

23 Q. Yes. When you wrote the report, were you expected to
24 filter any information out, or were you expected to
25 record everything?

1 A. Well, you put everything down that you thought was
2 relevant and let someone else decide whether it was or
3 not.

4 Q. And how would you decide what was irrelevant?

5 A. Well, I don't know really. It's hard to say. I mean,
6 you just reported what happened at the meeting.

7 Q. Were you given any instructions not to report anything
8 specific?

9 A. Not that I recall.

10 Q. Presumably your reports were looked at by more senior
11 officers. Did you ever get any feedback about
12 the content of your reports?

13 A. I -- that I can't recall, I'm afraid, at this distance.

14 Q. Were you given any advice, or did you pick up from
15 experience, whether you were expected simply to record
16 facts, or whether you were expected also to include
17 analysis in your reports?

18 A. Well, I would -- I would have included analysis if there
19 was anything there that I thought was relevant.

20 Q. Were you given any advice about style and tone of
21 the reports that you were supposed to write?

22 A. Not that I recall. There was just a -- a sort of
23 standard Special Branch reporting style.

24 Q. So did you just pick that up from experience?

25 A. Exactly.

1 Q. We see in some of the documents the term "extremism"
2 used and "extremist groups". Were you given any
3 definition of what an "extremist group" was?

4 A. Not that I recall.

5 Q. In a number of parts of your witness statement you
6 describe Special Branch's role in relation to what might
7 be termed "state security". I'd like to call up your
8 witness statement so you can -- I can remind you of
9 precisely what you've written. Could we have, please,
10 <MPS-0738576>, first of all at page 5 <MPS-0738576/5>.
11 Thank you.

12 If you could expand that -- thank you.

13 It's paragraph 13 that we want to look at, HN329.
14 I'm -- for people who are following on the transcript,
15 I'm going to read the bottom half of that paragraph into
16 the transcript:

17 "It was common sense that demonstrators would not
18 inform a smartly dressed police officer whether they
19 intended to be violent, whether or not they revealed
20 that they were police officers. Since Special Branch
21 was responsible for providing information as to
22 the security of the State, it was plain that better
23 information was needed. How that was to be achieved was
24 decided by people more senior than me."

25 The part of that, 329, that I would like to ask you

1 about is the sentence:

2 "Since Special Branch was responsible for providing
3 information as to the security of the State, it was
4 plain that better information was needed."

5 Securing the state, is that your understanding of
6 Special Branch's role, or one of the roles?

7 A. Indeed.

8 Q. Could we now move to page <MPS-0738576/37>, and
9 paragraph 200. I'll read this into the transcript
10 first:

11 "Ultimately, any group that came to notice as
12 a result of causing trouble, for example throwing bricks
13 through shop windows and actions of that sort, would
14 have been reported on if they were anti-establishment in
15 a political sense. It may well be that a particular
16 group is completely harmless but we would be asked to
17 find out what their objectives were. A file would then
18 be opened for the reports that were prepared to be
19 collected."

20 Could I ask you in particular about the phrase
21 "anti-establishment in a political sense". Could you
22 expand on what you mean by that, please.

23 A. Well, it was people who were opposed to the current
24 political situation, or the current government, whether
25 it be Conservative, Labour or Liberal.

1 Q. In fact, if we move now to page 43, just for
2 completeness, <MPS-0738576/43>, and look at
3 paragraph 238, which I'll read into the transcript:

4 "I understood the role of Special Branch to be
5 carrying out enquiries concerning the security of
6 the State, in other words gathering intelligence on
7 activities that sought to undermine the status quo,
8 the government of the day and the political
9 establishment."

10 Which I think is effectively what you've just said,
11 isn't it?

12 A. Indeed.

13 Q. Could we take that document down now, please. Were you
14 ever formally taught a definition of "subversion"?

15 A. Not that I recall.

16 Q. Could we call up, please, <UCPI0000004459>. And could
17 we scroll down to the second page. The first page is
18 just a covering letter. <UCPI0000004459/1>.

19 329, this is a document dating from April 1970, so
20 a little bit after the time you served in the SDS. It's
21 entitled, "Terms of Reference for Special Branch". At
22 paragraph 2, which I shall read into the transcript, it
23 says:

24 "Special Branch is responsible for acquiring
25 security intelligence, both secret and overt (a) to

1 assist the Chief Officer in the preservation of public
2 order, (b) as directed by the Chief Officer to assist
3 the Security Service in its task of defending the realm
4 from attempts at espionage and sabotage and from actions
5 of persons and organisations which may be judged to be
6 subversive of the security of the State."

7 Now, obviously you can't have seen this document
8 when you were in the SDS because it is from 1970, but
9 had you ever been given this or any similar definition
10 whilst working for Special Branch?

11 A. Not that I can recall, but I wouldn't -- I couldn't have
12 put it better myself.

13 Q. In terms of how it operated on the ground, were
14 decisions as to what was subversive and what was not
15 subversive taken in accordance with the way that you
16 have defined it in your witness statement?

17 A. I'm not quite sure that I understand the question, I'm
18 afraid.

19 Q. No problem.

20 You have said that groups which were
21 anti-establishment in a political sense had a file open
22 on them. Is that because they were considered to be
23 subversive or potentially subversive?

24 A. Well, that would be a decision outside of my brief. It
25 would be decided higher up.

1 Q. I see. But from your point of view, the information
2 that you were gathering, you were gathering on the basis
3 that -- the understanding Special Branch would be
4 interested if the people concerned were trying to
5 undermine the status quo, the government of the day and
6 the political establishment?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Can we move now to your deployment itself. And you have
9 told us that you recall being deployed straight away.
10 The information that we've got on the documents is that
11 you joined the unit in the middle of August. The first
12 report that we have been able to recover which clearly
13 has your name on it dates from the 5th -- about
14 5 September.

15 From your recollection, would you say that's because
16 we may be missing something, or, on reflection,
17 was there a gap of a few weeks between you joining
18 the unit and starting to produce intelligence reports?

19 A. No. I seem to recall that the group that I was with was
20 also attended by Conrad Dixon; and so he did the reports
21 and I would have been providing additional information
22 which was fed into his report.

23 Q. And we're talking now in the period between you joining
24 in the middle of August and starting to produce
25 the reports we see your name on?

- 1 A. Indeed.
- 2 Q. You've described the work you did as being in some
3 respects exactly the same as Special Branch work and
4 effectively the same role. Could you explain what you
5 mean by that?
- 6 A. Well, on general enquiries, you often went along to
7 a meeting dressed in similar style to yourself or
8 myself, and so you could possibly be identified as
9 a police officer. Undercover, you were just dressed
10 nondescriptly and just turned up at the meetings, but
11 the reports that you were putting in were exactly
12 the same.
- 13 Q. So would it be fair to say that the reporting was
14 the same but the method by which you were obtaining
15 the information was different because you were
16 pretending to be somebody you were not?
- 17 A. I suppose -- well, not -- no, because if you went to any
18 meeting, whether you were dressed smartly or
19 indiscriminately, it would be exactly the same. You
20 just went along to the meeting. In the first instance,
21 you might be recognised and asked to leave. But if you
22 were sort of scruffy, like the majority of the people
23 you were attending with, nobody bothered to ask you who
24 you were.
- 25 Q. You've told us that you had no formal training with

1 the SDS. Before dressing up in the clothing you've
2 described, did you speak to any of the other
3 undercover officers about how it was done and what you
4 should do?

5 A. No.

6 Q. You just got on with it?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. You adopted a cover name, which we know to be
9 "John Graham". Did you do that from the outset?

10 A. I presume so, but I don't recall ever being asked for my
11 name.

12 Q. Now, we know from the reporting that you reported on
13 the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign. Can you help us --
14 I know that you say in your witness statement you were
15 having some difficulty recollecting, but can you help us
16 how it came to be that you reported on the Vietnam
17 Solidarity Campaign, as opposed to any other group?

18 A. Well, I think they were the group of principal interest
19 as the organisers of the event that we were covering.

20 Q. You say in your witness statement that you simply
21 started attending public meetings. Can you help us at
22 all as to why it was that the public meetings that you
23 attended were in the north west of London?

24 A. Well, it was just the way it was divided up. The --
25 Camden, I believe, were a fairly prominent group, as

1 they contained Geoff Richman, who was something to do
2 with the committee, I believe, of the organisers.

3 Q. You said that it was as a result of how things were
4 divided up. That suggests that somebody in authority
5 steered you in the direction of north west London. Is
6 that fair? Is that right?

7 A. It may well have been. I -- I honestly don't recall.
8 It may have just resulted in the fact that I had
9 a leaflet which referred to that particular group, or
10 that they were more prominent in those days than anybody
11 else.

12 Q. Now, as far as we can tell from the documents and from
13 your witness statement, you served for just over a year
14 in the SDS; is that right?

15 A. I presume so.

16 Q. Now, you do say that the general assumption was the unit
17 would be disbanded at the end of the October
18 demonstration, and you went on, in fact, to serve in
19 the SDS after the October demonstration. Can you help
20 us as to why it was the general assumption that the unit
21 would be disbanded after the October 1968 VSC
22 demonstration?

23 A. Well, only because we were informed that that -- that we
24 were formed to gain information on the next big
25 demonstration following the disorder of the first one.

- 1 Q. Now, were you surprised when you continued -- when
2 the unit continued to exist after that demonstration?
- 3 A. Not really, because it then transpired that
4 the demonstrations were liable to continue.
- 5 Q. And can you recall any discussion about extending
6 the life of the unit?
- 7 A. No.
- 8 Q. Can we move now, please, to the method you used once you
9 had established yourself as someone who attended VSC
10 meetings. You use, in your witness statement,
11 the phrase "great latitude", and that you were able to
12 use your initiative. Could you expand upon that,
13 please. How did that work in practice?
- 14 A. Well, if you had meetings to go to, you just went to
15 the meetings and then reported on them.
- 16 Q. In terms of what you did other than meetings, you tell
17 us in your witness statement -- and we've got a document
18 which shows that there was a street performance by
19 the VSC, and you recall going to and participating in at
20 least one street performance?
- 21 A. Yes. I believe, as far as I recall, they performed at
22 a market in north-west London somewhere, and it was just
23 a -- some kind of performance about people being killed
24 in -- by the Americans in Vietnam.
- 25 Q. If you went to a street performance, I'm quite curious

1 as to what other activities that your group might have
2 staged that you attended. Can you recall any other
3 activities?

4 A. I don't. I don't -- don't know that they -- they were
5 only a small group, actually, which fluctuated in
6 numbers. And apart from attending the various
7 demonstrations, big or small, I don't know that they did
8 very much else.

9 Q. There's some mention in your witness statement about
10 socialising in the pub. To what extent did you
11 socialise in the pub with the group you had infiltrated?

12 A. Not very much at all.

13 Q. When you say "not very much at all", that gives
14 the impression that you might have done occasionally; is
15 that fair?

16 A. Yes, after a meeting. But I don't actually recall any
17 individual time, but I'm sure we did, because
18 the meetings were sometimes held over a pub, so you
19 bought a drink when you went downstairs.

20 Q. And how well did you get to know the members of this
21 small group?

22 A. Quite well. Well, one or two of them anyway.
23 Geoff Richman. Although, at the beginning of this
24 Inquiry, when I was making my statements, I'd
25 forgotten -- forgotten his name.

- 1 Q. Yes, well, it was a long time ago.
- 2 When you say "quite well", can you give us some idea
3 at what level you were familiar -- you and he were
4 familiar?
- 5 A. I never met him socially outside. He and his wife I met
6 every time they were at the meetings. And he was --
7 I mean, he was a doctor, a very pleasant individual, and
8 so was his wife. And they both died in tragic
9 circumstances.
- 10 Q. And so, were you at the level where you might have
11 a chat with them either during or after the meetings?
- 12 A. Yes, we just -- just talked in general terms really.
13 I can't -- can't recall any specific item of discussion.
- 14 Q. Now, you've said that the meetings you attended were not
15 closed but some of them were not advertised. Can you
16 help us as to whether there was any attempt by
17 the groups you infiltrated to do anything secretly, or
18 to hide from public view their views or what they were
19 doing?
- 20 A. Not at all.
- 21 Q. Now, the reports that we've found which bear your name
22 we've sorted chronologically, and a pattern emerges when
23 one does that. The first is that the earliest reports
24 bearing your name all concern the North-West London VSC
25 Ad Hoc Committee in the period between August and --

1 September and October 1968. And then the next branch
2 that's mentioned is Hampstead, on 30 October.

3 Is there a reason why your early reports are all
4 from the Ad Hoc Committee before we see any reports from
5 a specific branch?

6 A. Again, I -- I -- I can't remember.

7 Q. And the reports from the Ad Hoc Committee from early
8 September record that at that stage, there were
9 differing opinions as to an appropriate choice of target
10 for the October demonstration. Can you recall there
11 being debate about what the target of the October
12 demonstration should be?

13 A. Well, that was common throughout the various groups that
14 were involved. I know other groups were more militant,
15 and -- I think the idea of our group was that we were
16 going to, again, march -- try to march to the American
17 Embassy.

18 Q. There came a point in time when the National Committee
19 decided that that wasn't going to be the official route;
20 and there's a report from the Ad Hoc Committee that you
21 were attending that says there was a vote to follow
22 the official route. Can you recall that?

23 A. Not really, no.

24 Q. Can you recall whether or not, once the National
25 Committee had decided that the VSC's route was going to

1 be to Hyde Park and not Grosvenor Square, whether or not
2 that was settled from the point of view of your local
3 group?

4 A. Oh, definitely, yes. They were very respondent to
5 the views. As I say, Geoff Richman was involved in --
6 in setting the route. So of course, the committee --
7 the local group that he belonged to in Camden which
8 I was at naturally agreed with what he said.

9 Q. Now, the documents show that you attended a number of
10 the North-West London Ad Hoc Committees with
11 Conrad Dixon. Can you help us as to why, as the chief
12 inspector of the SDS, he attended VSC meetings?

13 A. Well, I suppose to keep himself informed as to what was
14 going on, as that was the primary object of -- of the --
15 the SDS at the time.

16 Q. It seems to suggest a hands-on person who led from
17 the front. Is that a fair assessment?

18 A. Yes, indeed.

19 Q. We've got a report from the end of October, just after
20 the October demonstration, from the Hampstead VSC. It's
21 the only report we've found with your name that refers
22 to the Hampstead VSC. Can you recall whether or not you
23 went to any more than that single meeting?

24 A. No.

25 Q. And at that meeting, one of the things that's been

1 recorded is that the Kilburn and Willesden VSC was to be
2 reformed. And after that, we do see a number of reports
3 from the Kilburn and Willesden VSC branch. Can you
4 recall anything about the reformation of that branch and
5 how you came to attend its meetings?

6 A. Not really. They were very fluid. And to -- to gain
7 support for the particular meeting, they obviously tried
8 to recruit from other groups, just by letting them know
9 that there was going to be a meeting of a different
10 group.

11 Q. The reports that we've got from the Kilburn and
12 Willesden VSC bearing your name appear to be reports
13 where you are the only SDS officer in attendance, which
14 contrasts with your reports on the Camden VSC, where you
15 are usually, but not always, alone, and your reports
16 from the Ad Hoc Committee, where sometimes you're with
17 Conrad Dixon. Is there any reason why you attended
18 the Kilburn and Willesden meetings such that you were
19 the only SDS officer there?

20 A. Maybe other people were busy elsewhere. I -- I don't
21 know, quite honestly.

22 Q. When you were at a meeting with another SDS officer, did
23 you go literally together, or were you both at the same
24 meeting but not acknowledging one another?

25 A. Oh, both.

1 Q. When you say "both", did it just depend on
2 the circumstances?

3 A. And the officer. I mean, I obviously knew Conrad, but
4 if anybody else turned up for whatever reason, you
5 didn't acknowledge them unless they were -- happened to
6 be in the group that you were talking to at the time.

7 Q. Now, in -- you moved on, then, to the Camden VSC; and,
8 by volume, most of your reports are from the Camden VSC.
9 There comes a time when you write an article for
10 the publication "Red Camden". I'm just going to ask for
11 that to be called up, please. Could we have
12 <UCPI0000007701>. Could we go to page 9, please,
13 <UCPI0000007701/9>. Yes, if we could blow that up.
14 The article I want is the one on the bottom of the page,
15 please. Thank you.

16 Now, can you help us, first of all, before I start
17 reading into the transcript, 329, what was
18 the publication "Red Camden"?

19 A. I have absolutely no idea and I had no recollection of
20 the article until it was brought to my attention.

21 Q. Have you had an opportunity to look at the article now?

22 A. Only what's on the screen now.

23 Q. Right.

24 It bears your cover name in the top right-hand
25 corner. I'll give you a moment, if you want to look at

1 it again, to absorb the contents, but the question I'm
2 going to ask you is, did you write this article?

3 (Pause)

4 A. I don't recall it, and the wording is not the sort of --
5 it looks quite eloquent, actually. It doesn't look
6 anything like if I was writing an article, I must admit.

7 Q. It does bear your cover name, doesn't it?

8 A. Apparently, yes.

9 Q. I appreciate I'm asking you to recall something actually
10 slightly more than half a century ago, but it does look
11 like this article was attributed to you, doesn't it?

12 A. Yes. The thing that I find -- this might be sort of
13 diverting, but it quotes money, and I have never been
14 used to, when I attend personal meetings of clubs
15 I belong to, when the treasurer is reading out sums of
16 money, I never bother taking them down. And I just --
17 it sounds silly, but I don't -- I just don't recall why
18 it was put down to me, but I honestly don't think that
19 I had anything to do with this article.

20 Q. I see.

21 Were you given any -- any steer, one way or
22 the other, as to whether or not you should get involved
23 in something like writing an article for a group's
24 publication?

25 A. We weren't -- as far as I recall, we weren't given any

- 1 instructions either way.
- 2 Q. Would there have been anything to prevent you writing an
3 article for "Red Camden" in order to show that you were
4 a member -- an active member of that organisation and
5 maintain your cover?
- 6 A. If I'd been asked to do something, I probably would have
7 done, if I'd been asked by the chairman of the group
8 that I belonged to; in this case Geoff Richman,
9 I suppose. But I don't know that I ever was.
- 10 Q. And were you given any instructions as to whether or not
11 you should try and influence the thinking or the actions
12 of the group that you were reporting on?
- 13 A. I don't know that I was ever given an instruction to
14 that effect, but I certainly wouldn't have tried to
15 influence them either way.
- 16 Q. I think in those circumstances, 329, I won't in fact go
17 any further with this article.
- 18 A. If -- if I can just say that I -- I would feel that with
19 me being away from the office, that this may well have
20 been written by Conrad Dixon, and just put my name on it
21 because I may have been at the meeting where this was
22 all spoken about. But I can honestly say that from
23 the wording, the way it's written, it's not my style, is
24 all I can say.
- 25 Q. Do you know whether or not Conrad Dixon would have had

1 a view as to whether writing an article for "Red Camden"
2 was for the purposes of maintaining your cover, or in
3 order to influence the trajectory of the group, or both?

4 A. I have absolutely no idea. I don't even know
5 the publication that it was printed in. I -- I've no
6 knowledge of it at all.

7 Q. I see.

8 It's quite a long article, so I won't read it all
9 into the transcript, but people following the Inquiry
10 will be able to read it for themselves, because it will
11 be published very shortly.

12 A. I would say, I think it's very well written, whoever
13 did it.

14 Q. Thank you.

15 You describe Conrad Dixon as having been remembered
16 by the Camden branch, and that he'd attended in
17 the cover of wearing a yachtsman's outfit. Can you help
18 us any further with what might have been said about
19 Conrad Dixon by the Camden branch?

20 A. I know that he was very well liked, is all I can say,
21 really. I don't know that anyone ever thought that he
22 was anything other than a -- a good member.

23 Q. You describe the Camden VSC in terms which suggest they
24 were revolutionary but they were not going to use
25 violence to try and achieve their ends. Could you

1 describe in what sense you understood them to be
2 revolutionary?

3 A. Well, they -- they wanted to change the government.

4 Q. And if they were not going to use violence, how
5 were they going to seek a change of government?

6 A. To try and persuade people to their point of view.

7 Q. In addition to the branch meetings that you attended and
8 reported on, there are some reports about -- which
9 suggest you attended large VSC meetings, one of which is
10 the meeting on 17 September 1968. Can you recall going
11 to a large VSC meeting on 17 September 1968?

12 A. Well, I can't recall individual meetings at this
13 distance, but I know we went to meetings at Conway Hall.

14 Q. Could we have up, please, <MPS-0738583>.

15 This is -- the report itself is dated 18 September.
16 It's a VSC campaign October 27 Ad Hoc Committee meeting
17 of the day before, 17 September. It doesn't actually
18 say at the top of the page where it was held, but it was
19 on the subject of "Why do we demonstrate?" Geoff Richman
20 was there, amongst others.

21 Could you scroll down to the second half of
22 the page, please.

23 You'll see there, 329, that 250 people are recorded
24 as having attended.

25 And could we go over the page, please,

1 <MPS-0738583/2>. Thank you.

2 First of all, could we look at the bottom,
3 counter-intuitively.

4 According to the report there were a number of
5 police officers present. There was Chief
6 Inspector Dixon, HN33, Detective Inspector Saunders,
7 Detective Sergeant Wilson, Detective Sergeant Creamer,
8 Detective Sergeant Fisher, Detective Constable Moss and
9 yourself.

10 That is a lot of police officers to be attending
11 a single meeting, and as I understand it, mainly SDS --
12 members of the SDS. Can you help us as to why so many
13 members of SDS attended this meeting?

14 A. I can only imagine -- I mean, there were quite a lot of
15 people there. It may have been a question of -- that
16 there was nothing else on, so people felt that they
17 ought to be doing something.

18 And secondly, of course, that if major decisions
19 were being made as to future action, the more people
20 that had memories of it -- because you couldn't be
21 making notes at the time, the more people there,
22 the more people you had remembering things and
23 identifying people present.

24 Q. Could we go to the top of the page, please. Under
25 the heading "Remarks", it reads:

1 "Set speeches were made by persons listed overleaf
2 in the order given. Most of them promoted the official
3 line on the demonstrations as given at Sheffield, but
4 Chris Harman suggested that Downing Street and
5 the Foreign Office should be the objectives, while
6 Barney Davies said that the YCL would not object to
7 the march passing through Grosvenor Square.

8 "There then followed numerous contributions from
9 the floor, accompanied by much heckling and
10 interruption. The Maoists eventually forced a vote on
11 the issue of having a demonstration on the 26th October
12 directed at Downing Street, followed by one on the 27th
13 October directed at Grosvenor Square. By 108 votes to
14 70, this resolution was defeated and the meeting ended
15 with no firm decision being taken."

16 Can you recall the Maoists being outvoted?

17 A. I can't remember details of the meetings. But any large
18 meeting -- that that you've just read out, the last
19 paragraph, would -- you could have put in any of
20 the meetings of a large group, because there were so
21 many different opinions from different groups.

22 Q. You say at paragraph 180 of your witness statement
23 <MPS-0738576/33>:

24 "I do not remember whether or not I voted in
25 the ballot. I would imagine that I did if I attended

1 the meeting with my group as it would have risked
2 compromising my cover and would have appeared odd if
3 I sat there and did not vote with them."

4 Is that right?

5 A. I would imagine so, yes.

6 Q. Do you know whether or not that was also a practice that
7 your colleagues would have followed?

8 A. I have no idea.

9 Q. Can you recall whether there was ever any risk that you
10 might be involved in a vote where your vote could
11 influence the outcome of events?

12 A. I doubt it.

13 Q. I think it's fair to say on the arithmetic of the vote
14 we have just looked at, there is no prospect that your
15 vote or that -- or any that your colleagues might have
16 cast could have made a difference.

17 Would it have been a matter on your mind if voting
18 in a group's ballot that you might be influencing
19 the course of events?

20 A. No, I wouldn't have thought so, because it would only be
21 at large meetings like that that votes were taken; and
22 it's just a question of sticking your hand up with
23 the majority once you knew which way the vote was going
24 to go anyway.

25 Q. Can we take that document down, please, and can we go

1 back to the meeting of the report, the September report,
2 which is <MPS-0738583/2>. Thank you very much. Could
3 we go to the bottom of the page, please.

4 I just want to correct something I said. Apparently
5 there is a mistake in one of the redactions. The second
6 name in the list of officers present should be HN332,
7 who was a detective inspector in the SDS. I'm just
8 correcting that for the record, 329.

9 Can we now take that document down, please, and go
10 to <MPS-0730768>. Thank you.

11 This is a report on a VSC meeting at Conway Hall on
12 11 November 1968, reporting back on the October
13 demonstration. You'll see from the top of the page
14 there that Tariq Ali and Ernest Tate are both recorded
15 as present.

16 Could you scroll down to the bottom of the page,
17 please.

18 You'll see this was a large meeting, 100 people are
19 recorded as being present.

20 And if we could go to page 2, please,
21 <MPS-0730768/2> and first of all the bottom the page.

22 Again, this is a meeting at which there were
23 a number of police officers present,
24 Chief Inspector Dixon, TN34, yourself, HN326 and HN321.

25 Could you go to the top of page 2, please.

1 I'm going to read some sections from the "Remarks"
2 box. It says:

3 "Tariq Ali introduced [privacy], who took the line
4 that the State had 'backed down' from a confrontation
5 with militant revolutionaries, and that
6 the demonstration had been an enormous success. He was
7 followed by [privacy] who gave a historical account of
8 the Vietnam War and attempted to link Vietnam with
9 racism. Tariq Ali then said that complacency was to be
10 deplored, and that if the engineering strike had taken
11 place a more militant demonstration could have occurred
12 and revolution was a real possibility."

13 Can you recall Tariq Ali speaking at that meeting?

14 A. Not really.

15 Q. At this remove in time, are you able to help us as to
16 whether or not this is likely to be an accurate account
17 of what Tariq Ali said?

18 A. I would imagine so. Tariq Ali was always talking in
19 those terms. And I think even today.

20 Q. When you write reports -- and I appreciate you may not
21 have personally written this one --

22 A. I didn't, no.

23 Q. -- when you write reports, presumably you are having to
24 paraphrase because you are writing them up some time
25 after the event?

1 A. Indeed.

2 Q. We heard yesterday from Mr Ali, who denies speaking in
3 the terms recorded in this report. Might he be right
4 about that?

5 A. I shouldn't think so.

6 Q. Can we go now to a single report on the Anti Imperialist
7 Solidarity Movement. It's at <MPS-0730765>.

8 Thank you.

9 This is the only report that we've found with your
10 name on it that refers to this organisation. It's
11 a report dated 4 November 1968 on the action committee
12 of the Anti Imperialist Solidarity Movement, said to
13 have taken place on 3 November 1968 at the Friars Hall,
14 Blackfriars Road. And the subject of the meeting was
15 the "Foundation of an Action Council for
16 Anti-Imperialist Solidarity".

17 Could we scroll down, please.

18 You'll see there were 40 people recorded as
19 initially attending, reducing to 20 by the close of
20 the meeting, and the groups recorded are the Indian
21 Workers Association.

22 Could we go over to the next page, please,
23 <MPS-0730765/2>, and down to -- I'd like to see
24 the penultimate paragraph, please.

25 The penultimate paragraph at the end of the report

1 of what happened at the meeting says:

2 "Baker had circulated all Leftist organisations with
3 details of the meeting. Only the Indian Workers
4 Association and Black Power sent representatives.
5 (One-third of the people present were coloured. All
6 left before the end)."

7 Why did you record the ethnic origin of the people
8 attending the meeting?

9 A. Because that was the fact. I can't recall any other
10 particular reason.

11 Q. And you've used the word "coloured". Why did you use
12 that word?

13 A. We're talking about 50-odd years ago. It was probably
14 a common phrase at the time.

15 Q. 329, that takes us to 11.15.

16 Sir, would now be a convenient time for a break?

17 A. I'm at your disposal.

18 MR BARR: 329, I'm afraid in this case when I use
19 the word "sir" I'm actually referring to the Chairman of
20 the Inquiry.

21 A. Oh, I see! Sorry.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: Forgive me. We have to have a break of about
23 15 minutes after about an hour and a quarter, so that
24 the shorthand writers, who are taking down everything
25 that is said, can recover their strength.

1 I have every expectation, Mr Barr, that HN329 will
2 be finished before we break at 1 o'clock. Am I right?

3 MR BARR: Yes, you're absolutely right about that.

4 MS PURSER: Thank you very much, everyone. We will now take
5 a break until 11.30.

6 HN329, you may now move into your break-out room.

7 Thank you.

8 (11.16 am)

9 (A short break)

10 (11.30 am)

11 MS PURSER: Welcome back, everyone. I will now hand over to
12 the Chairman to continue proceedings.

13 Chairman.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

15 Mr Barr, may I first ensure that there is no one
16 else in the room with HN329?

17 LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE: Sir, I'm leaving again.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

19 A. He's gone, sir.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you, then please continue.

21 MR BARR: 329, I'd like to move now to the reports on
22 the VSC's working committee that come right at the end
23 of your deployment. One of those meetings took place in
24 a private residence. It was a small meeting of
25 the working committee. Was there any formality that you

- 1 needed to go through before attending a meeting at
2 a private residence?
- 3 A. Not to my knowledge.
- 4 Q. Was that something that management spoke to you about at
5 all?
- 6 A. Not as I can recall.
- 7 Q. The working committee itself was making decisions about
8 forthcoming activities of the VSC. How did you obtain
9 access to the working committee?
- 10 A. I can only presume I was invited.
- 11 Q. Can you recall whether or not the fact that you had, by
12 that stage, been attending VSC activities for
13 approximately one year helped you to gain access to
14 the working committee?
- 15 A. I presume so.
- 16 Q. And can you recall to what extent you participated in
17 the activities and decisions of the working committee?
- 18 A. I can't recall ever having said anything that would be
19 construed as influencing the meeting.
- 20 Q. But presumably, in a small meeting of a working
21 committee, you would have had to say something?
- 22 A. Oh yes. I would imagine I probably agreed with
23 the majority, which is the sensible, safest tactic.
- 24 Q. And what happens when you get to an issue where
25 the division of opinion is finely defined?

1 A. I've absolutely no idea. I can't recall of an occasion
2 where that happened, but I would find one -- some way
3 out by saying, "You make up your own minds".

4 Q. There's a single meeting from a VSC gathering in the --
5 in Sheffield in May 1969 which, according to your
6 witness statement, you recall attending?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Was there any particular formality that had to be gone
9 through in order to work outside the Metropolitan Police
10 district?

11 A. Not that I can recall.

12 Q. And was it common for SDS officers to work outside
13 London?

14 A. I have absolutely no idea in those days. Everybody was
15 working separately in their groups.

16 Q. Could I now ask for <MPS-0722099> to be brought up,
17 please. And could we go to page 216, <MPS-0722099/216>.

18 This is a telegram from -- taken from the VSC file
19 which, as you will see from the top left, was from you.
20 It's dated 20 December 1968. It's addressed to
21 the chief superintendent of Special Branch, and it says:

22 "During conversation following the meeting held at
23 Conway Hall to celebrate the anniversary of the NLF,
24 the following points came to light.

25 "1. On a Christmas Eve torchlight demonstration,

1 organised by the Action Council for Anti Imperialist
2 Solidarity, will assemble on the Victoria Embankment
3 outside Charing Cross underground station at 1830.
4 The demonstrators will follow the following route:
5 Northumberland Avenue; Trafalgar Square; Charing Cross
6 Road; Oxford Street; North Audley Street; US Embassy;
7 Hilton Hotel, where a poster parade will take place."

8 Did you attend this event?

9 A. What, the actual torchlight procession?

10 Q. Yes?

11 A. No, I don't think so.

12 Q. Can you help --

13 A. I don't remember anyway.

14 Q. Can you help us with what a "poster parade" means?

15 A. Well, it just means that some of the individuals will be
16 carrying a poster stating their aims; like, you know,
17 "US Out of Vietnam", or something of that sort.

18 Q. Paragraph 2 reads:

19 "A public meeting will be held in Australia House on
20 Saturday, 11.1.69 at 11 (not known whether am or pm,
21 will clarify later), organised by the 'Australian and
22 New Zealanders Against the Vietnam War'. Following
23 which there will be a march down the Strand to the Savoy
24 Hotel where the Australian Prime Minister will be
25 staying."

1 Can you recall whether or not you attended this
2 event?

3 A. I can remember very well, because I was ejected by one
4 of their security, who took the opportunity to give me
5 a punch in the ribs.

6 Q. Now, the account you give of this event in your witness
7 statement is to the effect that you had joined others in
8 pleading for someone else who was about to be ejected to
9 be able to remain in the building. Can you expand upon
10 what you did to prompt the security people to want to
11 try to eject you?

12 A. Yes. The individual concerned -- I don't remember who
13 it was -- got up and started shouting, and he was
14 ejected, and I remember when others -- I wasn't
15 the first of the group -- when others stood up and were
16 shouting things, I also thought I'd better get to my
17 feet. And I can remember saying, "Let him speak, let
18 him speak."

19 Q. And what happened next?

20 A. Well, then I was grabbed by one of the security officers
21 and dragged out. I sort of pretended to put up a bit of
22 resistance, but not too much. And as I say, he -- he
23 got a -- the opportunity of giving me a punch in
24 the ribs.

25 Q. Why did you join in the protests and say, "Let him

1 speak"?

2 A. Well, I was part of the group, and if I had not stood up
3 with the rest of them, I can imagine they'd want to know
4 why. As to whether they found any sinister reason as to
5 why I hadn't stood up would be up to them. I -- I can't
6 say. But I didn't want to blow my cover, I suppose.

7 Q. And how disorderly was it?

8 A. Not very. Just a bit of shouting.

9 Q. Do you think the security were being heavy-handed?

10 A. With me they were.

11 I mean, some of the others, I seem to recall, left
12 voluntarily. They weren't man-handled out but they left
13 when the first one was carried out.

14 Q. I'm going to move on now to various observations in
15 reports that we've got bearing your name. You've
16 recorded on occasion anti-racist activity. Why did you
17 record that sort of material in your reports?

18 A. I've no idea. Whether it was -- I mean, was it on an
19 anti-racist demonstration, or ...?

20 Q. If you want to see it, I can pull one up.

21 If we can have <MPS-0730768>, please. And then if
22 we can go to page 2, please -- I think this is
23 a document we looked at earlier. <MPS-0730768/2>. And
24 if you just enlarge that, please.

25 You'll see, in the passage that I read earlier about

1 what Tariq Ali was saying, the speaker that followed him
2 is recorded as saying:

3 "He was followed by [privacy] who gave a historical
4 account of the Vietnam War and attempted to link Vietnam
5 with racism."

6 That's an example. Why would you have reported
7 something like that?

8 A. Well, because it's what he -- what he said.

9 Q. And we showed you the report a little earlier where
10 you'd reported on the ethnicity of those who'd attended.
11 Is this part and parcel of the no-filtering approach, or
12 was there a different reason for recording this sort of
13 information?

14 A. No, you just gave an account of -- of the breakdown of
15 the people that were attending.

16 Q. In another report you've described someone as having
17 a "withered right-hand". What would have been your
18 reason for recording something like that?

19 A. Well, because he did. It was a means of identification.
20 If he turned up at a subsequent meeting of another
21 organisation, whoever was reporting on that meeting
22 would have something to go on if ...

23 Q. You've recorded somebody's apparent sexual orientation
24 in a report, and you've expanded in your supplementary
25 witness statement on why you did that. And you

1 suggested that the fact that homosexuality had recently
2 been decriminalised at the time might have had some
3 influence on reporting people's sexual orientation,
4 actual or apparent. Is there else you want to add to
5 that?

6 A. Not really.

7 Q. You have reported information about a child in your
8 reports. Were there any restrictions or guidance about
9 reporting on children?

10 A. I don't really understand the question.

11 Q. I can show you an example.

12 Could we have up, please <UCPI0000007697>. Thank
13 you.

14 This is a report. It's got your name at the bottom.
15 It's 16 May 1969. I'm going to read from the third
16 paragraph. This appears to be about the Camden VSC:

17 "The position of Secretary will be taken by
18 [privacy] [privacy]. The post of Treasurer, at present
19 held by [privacy], will be taken by [privacy],
20 the twelve year old son of [privacy]."

21 So, that's the context in which you've referred to
22 a child in this report. Really, what I'm driving at,
23 329, is was any caution taken in reporting on children?

24 A. Not to my knowledge.

25 Q. Did anyone ever give you any feedback about the content

1 of your SDS reports?

2 A. Not to -- not as far as I remember.

3 Q. You've referred in a report to the Labour Party --

4 was there any guidance about, or any feedback about

5 reporting on political parties that most people would

6 regard as utterly mainstream?

7 A. Not as far as I recall.

8 Q. Now, you give evidence in your first witness statement

9 and then in your supplementary statement about taking

10 a female out to dinner. Did you invite the female in

11 question out to dinner?

12 A. As far as I recall, I would imagine so.

13 Q. And I'd like to ask you a little more about why you did

14 that. Was this a person who attended the same group as

15 you?

16 A. As far as I recall.

17 Q. And how long had you known her?

18 A. I've no idea. As long as I was attending the group, at

19 a guess.

20 Q. What was the purpose of inviting her to dinner?

21 A. I can't recall, except possibly to keep in touch with

22 the group.

23 Q. Were you hoping to form a relationship -- a sufficiently

24 good relationship with her to be able to obtain more

25 information about the group?

- 1 A. I would imagine so.
- 2 Q. Was there any sexual temptation involved here?
- 3 A. Not at all.
- 4 Q. Did you tell your wife about this?
- 5 A. My wife has never been interested in what I did for
6 a living, apart from the fact she knew I was a member of
7 Special Branch. I may well have done. She certainly
8 knows about, as far as this Inquiry is concerned.
- 9 Q. Was there any discussion about whether doing something
10 like taking somebody for dinner was a good way to build
11 a relationship with somebody in order to get more
12 information from them?
- 13 A. Not as I recall.
- 14 Q. Do you know whether any of your colleagues did anything
15 similar?
- 16 A. I have no idea.
- 17 Q. Can I ask you now about some of the administrative
18 processes, and in particular how these reports that
19 we've been looking at came to be written up.
- 20 You've said in your witness statement that you
21 recall there being a typewriter in the SDS flat. Did
22 you use that to type up reports?
- 23 A. I can't recall a specific occasion, but I imagine
24 I would have done.
- 25 Q. Can you recall whether your colleagues did that?

- 1 A. Again, I would imagine they did, but I have no
2 recollection.
- 3 Q. The Special Branch -- the intelligence reports typically
4 have lists at the end of them with people's identities
5 and references to files -- Special Branch files. Who
6 added the file references to the reports?
- 7 A. I've no idea, unless the person originating the report
8 did so at the time.
- 9 Q. Did you ever do that?
- 10 A. I can't recall a specific instance, but I -- I would
11 imagine that if there was a report with my signature on,
12 then I did.
- 13 Q. But did you get any assistance from the people in
14 the back office with research tasks, calling out files
15 and things like that?
- 16 A. Again, I can't recall, but I would imagine I did.
- 17 Q. What sort of volume of reporting can you recall
18 producing?
- 19 A. Again, I have no recollection. I would have reported on
20 every meeting that I attended, unless there was a senior
21 officer present who did the report, and I would then
22 feed any information that I'd gleaned to include in
23 the report.
- 24 Q. You have said in a number of places in your witness
25 statements that you only signed documents that you

1 produced?

2 A. That's correct.

3 Q. Do you know whether your colleagues also followed

4 the same practice or not?

5 A. I have absolutely no idea.

6 Q. Can you recall whether you ever telephoned intelligence

7 into the SDS office or other parts of the police?

8 A. I'm sure I did. You -- there was one just produced that

9 you put up on the screen a few minutes ago.

10 Q. How common was that practice?

11 A. I've -- in my case, or in -- generally?

12 Q. In your case, please.

13 A. In my case, if I was unable to get back to the office to

14 submit a written report before something became

15 actionable, I -- I would imagine that, you know --

16 I can't recall a particular occurrence, but it would

17 happen where something was imminent. Before I could get

18 back to put it in writing, it would be necessary to

19 phone the information in.

20 Q. Are you able to say how common this was generally?

21 A. No. No.

22 Q. Now, my next question, it's very important that you

23 don't give any details if the answer is yes. We'll take

24 this a step at a time.

25 Were there any occasions where you signed a report

1 with intelligence purporting to come from the SDS which
2 was not yours?

3 A. I can't recall, but it's quite possible.

4 Q. Thank you.

5 Was there any occasion when you signed a report that
6 was purporting to be your intelligence but was in fact
7 the intelligence of another SDS officer?

8 A. Only if I was privy to knowing that the intelligence was
9 in fact correct.

10 Q. And was that done -- would you be signing on their
11 behalf, or would the report look as if it was your
12 intelligence when it was in fact somebody else's
13 intelligence?

14 A. I -- I can't recall. Quite -- quite possibly both
15 circumstances would apply.

16 All I can say is that I wouldn't have signed
17 anything that I didn't know to be true.

18 Q. Thank you.

19 Can we now go to the squad structure within
20 Special Branch.

21 At the time that you were a member of the SDS, can
22 you remember which of the Special Branch squads, if any,
23 the SDS fell within?

24 A. Not really, no. I assumed it was completely separate.

25 Q. Again, without giving any particular details to start

- 1 with, can you remember what interaction there was
2 between the SDS and C Squad?
- 3 A. I've absolutely no idea, unless our reports, once they'd
4 gone through Conrad Dixon, were then fed through
5 C Squad.
- 6 Q. You served, I understand, on C Squad at some point in
7 time. Can you recall whether C Squad, when you were
8 working on C Squad, received SDS intelligence?
- 9 A. I've absolutely no idea.
- 10 Q. Can I ask you now generally about your experience
11 reporting on the VSC. You've described one instance
12 where you were the victim of violence yourself. Other
13 than that, did you see any violence whilst infiltrating
14 the VSC?
- 15 A. Not that I can recall.
- 16 Q. Did you witness any public disorder?
- 17 A. Again, on fringes of demonstrations there were always
18 individuals who wanted to provoke a bit of violence.
19 But not specifically.
- 20 Q. Can you give us an indication of what level of severity
21 we're talking about?
- 22 A. No, just persons resisting arrest, probably.
- 23 Q. Was the VSC as an organisation inciting disorder when
24 you were infiltrating it?
- 25 A. No.

1 Q. Were members of the VSC committing criminal offences to
2 further their political aims while you were infiltrating
3 them?

4 A. Not -- not to my knowledge.

5 Q. Did you attend the October demonstration?

6 A. Which was --

7 Q. October 1968.

8 A. Was I on -- I was on the SDS at the time?

9 Q. Yes.

10 A. Yes, then I must have done.

11 Yes, the big march, that's right. We started at
12 Charing Cross, I'm sorry.

13 Q. Don't worry.

14 What was your recollection of how that passed off?

15 A. As far as I remember, it went very smoothly and we all
16 ended up tired in Hyde Park.

17 Q. I'm going to ask you a question about one of your
18 colleagues now, a specific question. It's about HN135,
19 whose real name was Mike Ferguson. My question is
20 specific -- my first question is specifically about
21 the Stop the Seventy Tour campaign, sometimes known,
22 I understand, by the acronym "STST".

23 Do you know whether HN135 assumed any position of
24 responsibility within the STST?

25 A. I've absolutely no idea.

- 1 Q. Do you know whether HN135 assumed any position of
2 responsibility within the Anti-Apartheid Movement?
- 3 A. Again, is this Mike Ferguson you're talking about?
- 4 Q. Yes.
- 5 A. I have absolutely no idea.
- 6 Q. Moving now to a completely different topic, I want to
7 ask you about the way in which the SDS flat was used.
8 You've described in your witness statement attending it
9 daily or near daily. For what purposes were you using
10 it?
- 11 A. Well, it was just, you know, as police officers, if we
12 were supposed to be working, we had to be -- had to turn
13 up from home. And if we were in between meetings or
14 whatever that we were allocated to, it was just a --
15 a place where we could be contacted all together. This
16 was in the days before mobile phones, so ...
- 17 Q. Was it common for you then to be at the SDS flat in
18 company of other members of the SDS?
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. And were there times when the SDS managers were present
21 as well?
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. How frequently was that?
- 24 A. I don't recall, but fairly frequently.
- 25 Q. And presumably, if you were all sharing the flat

1 together and working from it, you would talk to one
2 another?

3 A. Indeed.

4 Q. And you'd talk to one another about what you were doing
5 and your work?

6 A. In broad terms.

7 Q. Was there a sharing of ideas about how to go about your
8 work?

9 A. Not that I recall.

10 Q. That if people were having a problem, that they might
11 raise it and ask for thoughts or advice?

12 A. Oh, I would assume so, but I don't recall any specific
13 instance.

14 Q. And did you socialise with your fellow members of
15 the SDS?

16 A. At the flat, or elsewhere?

17 Q. Either.

18 A. Well, at the flat, because we were all together in
19 the -- you know, someone was making a coffee, they would
20 obviously ask if anybody else wanted a coffee, and we
21 would talk together and maybe play cards.

22 Q. And what was the ethos within the unit? Were you open
23 with one another, or secretive with one another?

24 A. In the main, I suppose we were open.

25 Q. Moving to the topic of welfare, you've said that there

1 were no arrangements for monitoring welfare in your
2 witness statements. You've also said that your
3 deployment had no long-term effects on you.

4 Were you at all concerned that there were no formal
5 welfare arrangements?

6 A. No.

7 Q. Did you feel that if you had needed help, it would have
8 been available?

9 A. I would imagine so.

10 Q. Did you find pretending to be somebody else stressful?

11 A. No.

12 Q. You've told us in your witness statement that the way
13 you conducted your deployment was such that you lived at
14 home except for when you went on the one trip to
15 Sheffield. Do you think that helped you stay grounded
16 and helped with your welfare?

17 A. I don't know that it would have had any effect. I --
18 I spent some time on -- on another job within the branch
19 that took me away from home for some period of time. It
20 didn't affect me and didn't affect my wife particularly.
21 To my knowledge anyway.

22 Q. Can I ask you now about the evidence you've given in
23 your statements about HN68 and HN331 being convicted for
24 flyposting, is your recollection. The question I have
25 for you is, do you know whether the court was aware of

1 the real identities of those defendants?

2 A. That is beyond my knowledge.

3 Q. Could we now have up, please, <MPS-0724119>. Can we go
4 to page 8, please, <MPS-0724119/8>.

5 This is a discussion paper prepared by Conrad Dixon
6 in November 1968, entitled "The Penetration of Extremist
7 Groups". There are two appendices. The first one is up
8 on the screen now and has got a diagram showing
9 the proposed organisation of a unit to conduct the sort
10 of work that the SDS was conducting. It has, on
11 the right-hand side, at detective inspector level,
12 a post entitled "Press and Liaison".

13 Was there a detective inspector assigned to press
14 and liaison when you were a member of the SDS?

15 A. I have no idea.

16 Q. Can we move now to page 9, please, <MPS-0724119/9>.

17 At the top of the page you see the more senior
18 officers. The third row down is Detective Inspector
19 Wilson, who we understand to be Detective Inspector
20 Riby Wilson, under the duty "press and informants".

21 Can I ask you first of all that -- this is supposed
22 to be an appendix showing the membership of the SDS.
23 Your recollection in your witness statement is that
24 Riby Wilson wasn't a member of the SDS. Now that you
25 see this document, does that change your mind or your

- 1 recollection?
- 2 A. Not really. I mean, he -- he was -- he was at
- 3 Scotland Yard, not with us. I don't recall him being
- 4 actively involved, put it that way.
- 5 Q. Might he have been a member of the SDS but in a capacity
- 6 which meant he did not work from the SDS flat?
- 7 A. Oh yes. Quite possibly.
- 8 Q. His duty is described, as I've said, as "press and
- 9 informants". Are you able to assist us as to what his
- 10 duties were?
- 11 A. Not at all.
- 12 Q. Can I ask you one further final question. What is your
- 13 view, looking back, of the unit that you served with and
- 14 its members?
- 15 A. Can I just go back to -- to that bit about Riby Wilson?
- 16 Q. Yes, of course.
- 17 A. On the right-hand side, it does actually say "Not
- 18 involved operationally ..." And this would -- of course
- 19 would have contributed to me assuming that he wasn't
- 20 part of the SDS.
- 21 Q. Indeed.
- 22 A. Yes. Sorry.
- 23 Q. My final question was just asking you what your view,
- 24 looking back now, was of your membership of the SDS and
- 25 the people with whom you served?

1 A. The -- the original group, from Conrad Dixon down, were
2 the finest representatives of Special Branch. And they
3 were excellent officers who did exactly the proper job,
4 is what I wanted to say. They -- we were there, in this
5 particular case, to prevent the uniformed police being
6 damaged in the way they were at that original
7 demonstration when they were totally unprepared; and we
8 were to provide evidence to prevent that happening
9 again. And that, I know for a fact, is what we did in
10 that first instance.

11 Beyond my time on the SDS, I have no knowledge as to
12 what happened, I wasn't involved with them at all, and
13 I was working on another extraneous job.

14 MR BARR: 329, if you could just wait there, there may be
15 some more questions for you.

16 A. Thank you.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Skelton?

18 MR BARR: Sir, before Mr Skelton, I understand that Mr Menon
19 wishes to make an application.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Very well.

21 Bear with us while Mr Menon makes an application.

22 Thank you.

23 Mr Menon.

24 Application by MR MENON

25 MR MENON: Good afternoon, sir.

1 I apply pursuant to rule 10, subsection 3,
2 alternatively subsection 4, of the permission to ask
3 questions of this witness. I will be brief, if I'm
4 given permission.

5 My questions fall into three categories: firstly,
6 topics that haven't been covered at all by
7 Counsel to the Inquiry; secondly, topics that have been
8 covered but where there are follow-up questions that
9 I would, with your permission, be allowed to ask; and,
10 thirdly, questions that arise not from matters that are
11 in the witness's statement, but from matters that he has
12 given in evidence today fresh for the first time.

13 I hope that you'll give me the permission that
14 I seek to do this. I -- I repeat, I will be brief. It
15 will be quicker and more efficient, in my submission,
16 for me to do it this way, as opposed to for us to now
17 have a break for me to have a discussion with Mr Barr
18 and to try to persuade him to ask the questions that
19 I wish to ask.

20 And in the wider context of concerns, if I can put
21 it as neutrally as I can, that have been expressed by
22 many about the effective participation of the non-state
23 core participants, I hope that you will allow me to ask
24 just a few questions of this witness.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: You have already submitted your suggested

1 topics to Mr Barr, I think, have you not?

2 MR MENON: Yes, I complied with the protocol that you put in
3 force and submitted a list of issues and topics that
4 I wish to ask this witness about. And I received, this
5 morning, a reply from the Inquiry as to its attitude to
6 the pro forma that I submitted.

7 But a number of matters that I had hoped would be
8 asked haven't been asked, and hence my oral application.

9 THE CHAIRMAN: What topics do you want to ask about?

10 MR MENON: I want to ask about the following topics:

11 Firstly, the motivations, and in particular
12 the political motivations, of the SDS in those early
13 months.

14 Secondly, further questions about the selection and
15 targeting of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, and
16 questions specifically about what HN329 was told, beyond
17 what he's already said, in relation to why the VSC was
18 being targeted, and who and what he was supposed to do
19 when he started attending these meetings.

20 Thirdly, further questions about the general
21 methodology of the SDS and what exactly happened at
22 those daily, or nearly daily, meetings that were taking
23 place at the SDS safe house before officers went into
24 the field, so to speak, to attend meetings of different
25 groups that almost certainly would have taken place in

1 the evening. So they were effectively spending most of
2 the day in this house. And HN329 has been asked
3 a little bit about it, but I'd like to ask further
4 questions in relation to that.

5 I'd like to ask further questions, if I may, about
6 what information this particular witness gathered during
7 the many -- from the many meetings that he attended,
8 that he believes resulted in the October 1968
9 demonstration not being a violent public disorder as
10 the March 1968 demonstration had been.

11 I'd like to ask questions about Box 500, which, as
12 you know, features regularly on intelligence reports
13 produced by officers during this period.

14 And one final matter in relation to one of
15 the documents that Mr Barr showed the witness in
16 relation to a meeting attended by this witness.

17 So you can see my questions cover a range of topics.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Sorry, what was the latter topic? The last
19 topic?

20 MR MENON: The last topic was, there is one further matter
21 I wanted to ask HN329 about in relation to the meeting
22 that he attended along with eight other
23 undercover police officers, where a vote was taken in
24 relation to the details of the October 1968 march.

25 And I notice that we have plenty of time before we

1 are to hear the statement of Ernie Tate read at
2 2 o'clock by Nick Stanage, and I'll be finished well
3 before that time, with plenty of time for Mr Skelton to
4 ask further questions arising from anything that I ask.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: That may be so, but I have to keep order in
6 the proceedings and to ensure not merely that this
7 witness is not troubled by questions that have already
8 adequately been covered by Mr Barr and by his statement
9 and by the documents, but also that this does not set
10 a precedent for future such requests.

11 Of the seven topics that you have given to me, one
12 and one only may give rise to a question that can
13 rightly be posed to this witness, and that is the last
14 one: the meeting where the vote was taken about
15 the route that was to be adopted on 27 October. You may
16 ask about that, but not about other topics.

17 MR MENON: But, sir, I've highlighted --

18 THE CHAIRMAN: You may ask about that but not other topics.

19 That is my ruling.

20 MR MENON: Very well, sir. Can I make it clear that

21 I cannot understand --

22 THE CHAIRMAN: No, you may not. I'm sorry. You may ask
23 your questions, or you will be silenced.

24 Questions by MR MENON

25 MR MENON: Very well.

1 Well, can I refer to you as "329"? I'm afraid
2 I don't know your real name, so are you happy with that,
3 officer?

4 Hello?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Are you happy with me to refer to you as "329"?

7 A. Of course.

8 Q. Can we have on the screen, please, <MPS-0738583>.

9 You'll recall you were taken to this document
10 before.

11 Can we go down, please, to the bottom. Sorry, can
12 we go up a bit, please. The page above, please.

13 Just a moment, please. Yes, thank you. That's
14 the page I was looking for. <MPS-0738583/2>.

15 329, you can see that you were one of nine police
16 officers who attended this meeting. Do you see that?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. And you remember you were asked about this in relation
19 to a vote being taken at this meeting?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. And you indicated that you must have voted because if
22 you hadn't voted, then you would have stood out like
23 a sore thumb?

24 A. Yes, I cannot recall whether I actually voted or not,
25 but I would have assumed that I would have put my hand

1 up with the majority.

2 Q. And I'm assuming that that -- when you returned to your
3 safe house that day or the day after, that you would
4 have discussed with the other officers who attended that
5 meeting how you had all voted on this resolution?

6 A. No.

7 Q. What, you never had a discussion about that?

8 A. I don't remember whether we ever did.

9 Q. Did you vote in favour of the Maoists at that meeting?

10 A. I've no idea. I shouldn't have thought so.

11 Q. Why do you say you shouldn't have thought so?

12 A. Well, our group was a bit anti-Maoist.

13 Q. Yes, I appreciate that, but you weren't exactly in
14 favour of the other side of the vote either, were you?

15 A. Well, I mean, as far as -- are you talking about
16 Americans in Vietnam, for instance?

17 Q. Well, I'm talking about -- well, this was a meeting of
18 the VSC where a discussion was taking place as to
19 whether the demonstration should go past
20 Grosvenor Square (inaudible) --

21 A. Sorry, you're breaking up there.

22 Q. Sorry, did you hear me?

23 A. Sorry, you're breaking up.

24 Q. Okay, can we go up one page, please, so we can just see
25 the content of the minutes. <MPS-0738583/2>. The two

1 paragraphs, the substantive paragraphs the note.

2 Just read that to yourself, 329, please.

3 Have you read it?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. The vote was as to whether the march should go to
6 Grosvenor Square or not, wasn't it?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. And so my question is, do you know how the nine officers
9 who attended that meeting voted on this resolution?

10 A. I've no idea. They were all -- (overspeaking) --

11 Q. Are you saying you never discussed it subsequently --
12 (overspeaking) --

13 A. No -- (overspeaking) --

14 Q. -- after you went to your safe house, as to how you'd
15 voted?

16 A. No, because after -- after this meeting, I should
17 imagine we all went home, went our separate ways without
18 contact with each other. And then the following day,
19 some -- you know, some of the officers may have been
20 present at the flat. I mean, one of them there --
21 what's his name? -- Saunders, would not have come to
22 the flat anyway.

23 Q. But -- (overspeaking) --

24 A. Or Roy Creamer, or even Dave Fisher.

25 Q. But when you prepared your reports after you attended

1 events like this, wouldn't you have had debriefings of
2 any kind, with your fellow officers or with your
3 superior officers?

4 A. I honestly don't remember. We would have submitted
5 individually -- the report, as you can see, was signed
6 by Conrad Dixon. And we would have assisted at some
7 stage with identifying people. But if he was present at
8 the meeting, the gist of the meeting would have been his
9 report. You know, what happened is factual to all of
10 us; so there's nothing to add, except identifying people
11 concerned.

12 MR MENON: Thank you.

13 Given that's all I'm allowed to ask, that's all
14 I ask.

15 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

16 Mr Skelton?

17 MR SKELTON: No questions. Thank you, sir.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

19 Then proceedings for this morning's session will now
20 end and we will resume at 2 o'clock.

21 MS PURSER: Thank you very much, everyone. That concludes
22 this morning's session. We will be back at 2 pm. You
23 may now go into your break-out rooms.

24 (12.20 pm)

25 (The short adjournment)