

1 Friday, 13 November 2020

2 (10.00 am)

3 MS PURSER: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the third
4 day of evidential hearings in Tranche 1, Phase 1 of
5 the Undercover Policing Inquiry.

6 My name is Jacqueline Purser and I'm the hearings
7 manager. As a reminder to those of you in the virtual
8 hearing room, please turn off both your camera and
9 microphone unless you are invited to speak by
10 the Chairman.

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

13 Chairman.

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. This morning's proceedings are
15 going to begin by the summarising by Ms Monahan of
16 the evidence of three undercover officers who've
17 provided witness statements and by her indicating in
18 the case of two deceased officers where the relevant
19 material can be found.

20 We will then adjourn for a short period and resume
21 with live evidence. The first part of the proceedings
22 will be live-streamed, the second, the live evidence
23 period, won't.

24 Ms Monahan.

25

1 Summary of witness statement of HN330, HN321 and HN322 by MS

2 MONAHAN

3 MS MONAHAN: Thank you. Good morning, sir.

4 HN330. 330's reporting shows that he served briefly
5 in the SDS between at least 26 September 1968 and
6 29th October 1968, and this is confirmed by his witness
7 statement. He infiltrated the Havering branch of
8 the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign using the cover name
9 "Don de Freitas". Publication of his real name is
10 restricted.

11 330 served in Special Branch both before and after
12 his posting to the SDS. He recalls using false names
13 and occupations casually and habitually whilst working
14 in Special Branch, and contrasts this with his use of
15 a fixed false identity in the SDS.

16 Before his posting, he reported on Tariq Ali and
17 a demonstration on 25 May 1968 regarding a local issue
18 in Powis Square, London, which involved the Notting Hill
19 VSC and led to arrests.

20 He knew Conrad Dixon socially and was asked to join
21 the SDS when they met by chance in the corridors of
22 Scotland Yard. At that time, 330 held the rank of
23 detective sergeant. He describes the unit
24 as "informal".

25 Save for his Special Branch experience, he had no

1 additional training and was not told what the job
2 entailed. Married at the time of joining, he recalls
3 that no managers spoke to his spouse about his new role
4 and the possible impact on his personal life.

5 He received no guidance on creating a false identity
6 and so came up with his own cover name and cover
7 employment as a driver. He dressed casually for
8 the role but did nothing to change his appearance. He
9 had no cover accommodation and operated out of Scotland
10 Yard.

11 The documents show that 330 initially attended
12 a public meeting of Havering International Socialists
13 held on 26 September 1968, which had been advertised by
14 leaflets distributed in Romford Market. At that meeting
15 a Havering VSC committee was appointed and agreed to
16 meet in private. 330 recalls that by ingratiating
17 himself with speakers and attendees at the public
18 meeting he was invited to join these private committee
19 meetings. At Conrad Dixon's suggestion, he and HN334,
20 "Margaret White", attended as a couple, to make them
21 less suspicious.

22 His remit was to find out as much as possible about
23 the group's plans for the demonstration of
24 27 October 1968 and identify its members. Accordingly,
25 he reported on the group until just after the 27 October

1 demonstration, soon after which his deployment ended.

2 His reports evidence the group's preparations for
3 the demonstration, such as the composition and
4 distribution of leaflets and flyposting, something 330
5 admits to doing during his deployment.

6 His reporting and evidence on the group suggests
7 that Havering VSC was peaceful in its aims and not
8 subversive, and he describes most of its members
9 as "unwilling to support acts of civil disobedience or
10 terrorism". He states that on 27 October 1968, he and
11 the group marched from Trafalgar Square chanting "Ho,
12 Ho, Ho Chi Min", and disbanded at Hyde Park.

13 In his final report, dated 29 October 1968, he
14 relays the general opinion of Havering VSC that
15 the demonstration was a "complete and utter disaster".

16 Two reports contain information on a Labour Party
17 official who was a member of the group, which he states
18 was because MI5 was interested in whether extremists
19 were penetrating what he describes as "legitimate
20 left-wing political organisations".

21 In addition to his reporting on Havering VSC, there
22 is a note on a telegram concerning intelligence that
23 a person was seeking to obtain ingredients to make smoke
24 bombs for use at the demonstration, which tasks 330 to
25 enquire into this and then report.

1 The Inquiry also holds a 330 report which concerns
2 the plans of anarchists from University College,
3 Swansea, to attend the 27 October demonstration, but it
4 is unclear whether he came by this information in his
5 undercover role or by other means.

6 Three documents postdate 330's service in the SDS
7 and show his involvement in monitoring public events
8 organised by the Anti-Apartheid Movement between
9 July 1969 and June 1970. All three reports were copied
10 to the security services. There is no evidence to
11 suggest that 330 engaged in sexual activity while in his
12 cover identity.

13 That concludes the summary for 330. I will now move
14 on to HN321.

15 321's real name is restricted. He is believed to
16 have used the cover name "William Bill Paul Lewis". He
17 lives abroad and has provided a witness statement to
18 the inquiry.

19 321's reporting held by the Inquiry dates from
20 the 18 September 1968 to 30 September 1969. In his
21 evidence, he states that he resigned from
22 the Metropolitan Police soon after leaving the SDS
23 because he had "tired of the work". The majority of his
24 reports relate to the International Marxist Group.

25 Prior to his recruitment, 321 worked in

1 Special Branch, B Squad. In this role he had no false
2 identity but would attend public meetings and
3 demonstrations in casual clothes, noting attendees and
4 their activities.

5 He describes how a detective inspector colleague,
6 impressed by the detail in one of HN321's reports on
7 a radical group, encouraged him to attend a meeting
8 regarding the formation of a new squad.

9 321 recalls attending an initial meeting in
10 September 1968 to set up the SDS called by Conrad Dixon
11 and attended by around 30 others, where they were told
12 that their work in the squad would be kept secret.
13 Single and in his 20s, with no responsibilities, 321
14 accepted the invitation to volunteer for the SDS. He
15 held the rank of detective constable.

16 321 received no formal training before his
17 deployment and no guidance as to how best to conduct his
18 duties beyond the set objective of gathering
19 intelligence around the October 27 demonstration. He
20 received no guidance on creating a false identity and
21 made up his own cover name and cover employment as an
22 instrumentation and control technician; something he
23 could talk about if necessary.

24 He was also tasked with finding his own cover
25 accommodation. He recalls two cover flats: one in Earls

1 Court and one in Acton, where he lived alone during his
2 deployment. He states that he attended the SDS safe
3 house several times a week; a practice advised by
4 Conrad Dixon, in order to keep SDS officers engaged
5 during their downtime.

6 He states that while SDS officers operated alone
7 they learned through sharing their experiences. He
8 gives as an example of this an SDS officer colleague
9 working under cover who saw a real life acquaintance in
10 a pub.

11 And explained to his colleagues the way in which he
12 avoided blowing his cover.

13 321 did no preparatory work for his undercover role.

14 321 recalls that he was not assigned to a particular
15 group but attended a demonstration and later a meeting,
16 which he subsequently discovered was a meeting of
17 the IMG.

18 Conrad Dixon then instructed him to attend further
19 meetings on the basis that the IMG's activities were of
20 interest to the SDS.

21 His reports on the IMG span the entire period of his
22 deployment, and the majority postdate the 27 October
23 demonstration. His first report is on a public meeting
24 attended by core participant Ernie Tate and
25 the socialist candidate for the American presidency,

1 Fred Halstead, but his reporting thereafter covers
2 private events.

3 In addition to his reports on the IMG, there are
4 early reports on Lambeth VSC and its increasing
5 domination by the IMG and other parts of the VSC.

6 In a telegram dated 26 October 1968, 321 relays
7 suggestions made at a meeting of the south-west VSC
8 Ad Hoc Committee in Brixton that police coaches in
9 the car park on Vauxhall Bridge should be sabotaged
10 prior to the VSC demonstration the following day. In
11 his witness statement, however, he notes that he did not
12 think the IMG would have carried out this threat as
13 while "they talked a lot about revolution", they
14 were "actually quite passive and intellectual". He
15 states that he did not express this view to his SDS
16 managers, reporting only the facts of what took place at
17 the meetings he attended.

18 321 recalls an occasion when he was able to record
19 the details of around 80 members of the IMG, information
20 which was subsequently passed to the security services.
21 He also reported on discussions and planned
22 demonstrations in relation to Northern Ireland, a post
23 mortem of the October 27 demonstration, the Middle East,
24 the 9th International Congress of
25 the Fourth International, Scottish nationalism and

1 women's rights.

2 His final reports concern the IMG 1969 education
3 camp in Dunbartonshire Scotland, which he attended using
4 his cover vehicle, giving a lift to three IMG members.

5 321 states that he engaged in no criminal activity
6 while undercover, other than obstruction of the highway
7 and perhaps flyposting. He was never arrested.

8 Generally he recalls being advised not to resist arrest
9 if it happened, and that it could be "sorted out"
10 further down the line with charges probably being
11 dropped.

12 There is no evidence to suggest that 321 engaged in
13 sexual activity while in his cover identity.

14 That concludes the summary for 321.

15 HN322. 322 served in the SDS for a short period of
16 time in the early months of its existence. He was never
17 deployed undercover and so had no cover name.

18 Publication of his real name has been restricted. He
19 has provided a witness statement to the Inquiry.

20 His SDS tenure was bracketed by generic
21 Special Branch work. In his evidence, he states that
22 there was little difference between the two roles, in
23 his experience. Both involved attending meetings in
24 plain clothes and gathering intelligence. He held
25 the rank of detective constable while in the SDS. 322

1 went on to have a long career in the MPS, attaining
2 a senior rank.

3 He was first made aware of the SDS's existence when
4 Conrad Dixon approached him and personally invited him
5 to join. Married, with a young family at the time, 322
6 states in evidence that no manager spoke to his wife
7 about the possible impact of undercover work on his
8 family life, and he was told nothing about what the work
9 entailed.

10 Once he had signed up and understood the job
11 involved periods of time away from his family, he asked
12 to be taken off the squad. He received no training or
13 guidance for his SDS role. He had no cover employment
14 and no cover flat. He did not alter his appearance.

15 322 was not deployed to any particular group,
16 although, had he remained a member of the SDS for
17 a longer time period, he may have been directed to
18 the south-east London VSC. He recalls being told to
19 attend, observe and report back on a few different
20 meetings; and this is reflected in the small number of
21 his reports held by the Inquiry, which show attendance
22 at three meetings: two of the Earls Court VSC and one of
23 the south-east London Ad Hoc Committee of the VSC.

24 There is some additional reporting which post-dates
25 the demonstration and covers private meetings and

1 planned activities of the British
2 Vietnam Solidarity Front and the Revolutionary Socialist
3 Students Federation. These are reports written on
4 behalf of HN335, Mike Tyrell.

5 In his statement, he contrasts the formality of
6 Special Branch work with the lack of direction and
7 supervision in the SDS. He recalls that he was advised
8 to go to meetings but given no direction or guidance
9 about what he should do when in attendance. He
10 remembers no contact or discussion with managers and had
11 a lot of free time. He was based at New Scotland Yard,
12 where he would type up his reports. There is no
13 evidence to suggest that HN322 engaged in sexual
14 activity while in his cover identity.

15 That concludes the summaries of the three officers.

16 In addition to the witness statements and
17 the documents for those officers, which are being
18 published today, the Inquiry is also publishing
19 documents in relation to two deceased officers.

20 HN135, whose real name is Mike Ferguson, and who
21 reported on the British Vietnam Solidarity Front,
22 the Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign and Stop the
23 Seventy Tour; and this analysis can be found at pages
24 123 to 126 of appendix 2 to Counsel to the Inquiry's
25 written opening statement.

1 made a number of orders which affect what you may and
2 may not do in the hearing rooms and after you leave
3 them. Breach of any of the orders is a serious matter
4 and may have serious consequences for you.

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

14 "Evidence is going to be given live over screens in
15 the hearing rooms. It is strictly prohibited to
16 photograph or record what is shown on the screens, or to
17 record what is said by a witness or anyone else in
18 the hearing rooms. You may bring your mobile telephone
19 into the hearing rooms, but you may not use it for any
20 of those purposes. You may use it silently for any
21 other purpose. In particular, you may transmit your
22 account of what you have seen and heard in a hearing
23 room to any other person, but only once at least ten
24 minutes have elapsed since the event which you are
25 describing took place.

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

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

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

1 a rest.

2 Mr Warner.

3 Questions by MR WARNER

4 MR WARNER: Thank you, sir.

5 Can you confirm please that your name is
6 Joan Hillier and that you have also been referred to by
7 the cipher HN328 by this Inquiry?

8 A. Yes, I can confirm that.

9 Q. Now, Ms Hillier, I think it's right that you've made two
10 statements to this Inquiry. Before I ask you about
11 the truth of their contents, can I take you to
12 the second one of those statements, please. It will be
13 brought up on the screen. Please can we have
14 <MPS-0746302>. And can we go to page 3, please, and
15 page 5.

16 Now, Ms Hillier, this is a statement that you made
17 listing identifications of those within a photograph.
18 It may help if we have the photograph open and I'll read
19 out paragraph 5 and then ask you a question or two
20 about it. Please can we replace the image with
21 <MPS-0735439>.

22 If we could just zoom in a little. Thank you.

23 Now, Ms Hillier, I will read out paragraph 5 of
24 the statement that I just showed you, and if you have
25 this image in front of you, it may help.

1 A. Yeah.

2 Q. Paragraph 5 reads as follows:

3 "Looking at the first picture (MPS-0735439) on
4 the front row moving from the right of the picture, is
5 HN332, HN334, Conrad Dixon, me, Phil Saunders and HN331.
6 On the second row from the right is HN330, Mike Tyrell,
7 HN321. The person just visible behind HN321 I cannot
8 identify. To the right of that person is HN334, then
9 Riby Wilson and lastly Roy Creamer. On the back row
10 from the right, just visible, Bill Furner, then HN68,
11 HN329 (in the hat) and Dave Fisher."

12 That's the end of paragraph 5.

13 Now, Ms Hillier, you have listed in that paragraph
14 HN334 twice. Was that deliberate or an error?

15 A. That was an error.

16 Q. Which mention of HN334 was an error? Was it the one in
17 the first row or the second row?

18 A. I think this is a different picture. I'm not -- I'm not
19 -- I'm not very clear about this.

20 Q. Well, if we just take it stage by stage. The first list
21 of people you have given is HN332, and then along one
22 from HN332 we can see in the picture as number 6?

23 A. Yeah, and then the next one is Helen Crampton.

24 Q. Ah, right. So you have said in your statement HN334.
25 That's incorrect, is it?

- 1 A. Sorry, I got confused. Yes, that's Helen Crampton.
- 2 Q. Right. So that's Helen Crampton on the front row, not
3 HN334?
- 4 A. That's right, yes.
- 5 Q. Thank you. Could that photo be taken down, please.
- 6 Now, Ms Hillier, other than that correction that
7 you've just made, are both of the statements that you've
8 provided to the Inquiry true to the best of your
9 knowledge and belief?
- 10 A. To the best of my knowledge, yes.
- 11 Q. Thank you very much.
- 12 Now, Ms Hillier, you've told us in your first
13 statement, dated 6 November 2018, that you joined
14 the Metropolitan Police on 17 November 1958, so over
15 60 years ago. I'd like to ask you a couple of
16 questions, please, if you can assist us, with
17 the training that you had when you joined the police.
18 Can you remember attending police training?
- 19 A. Oh yes. Certainly, yes.
- 20 Q. And how much training were you given, just generally
21 speaking -- (overspeaking) --
- 22 A. -- (overspeaking) -- training school, which was at Peel
23 House in -- I think it was ten weeks. I can't honestly
24 remember. It was either ten weeks or 13 weeks.
- 25 Q. Thank you.

1 And generally speaking, in this introductory
2 training when you joined the police, were issues such as
3 the police's duty to keep the peace and ethics and
4 standards included in that training?

5 A. Oh yes, certainly.

6 Q. And once you had finished that training and joined
7 the police in full, were you on a probation period?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And are you able to say whether you were given
10 supervision during that probation period?

11 A. Oh yes, certainly.

12 Q. Are you able to remember roughly the length of that
13 probation period and training?

14 A. I think it was two years.

15 Q. Thank you.

16 Ms Hillier, moving on. You've told us that you
17 joined Special Branch in March 1968, so nearly ten years
18 after you had been in the police; is that correct?

19 A. That's correct, yes.

20 Q. And are you able to remember generally the application
21 and selection process that was undertaken for you to
22 join Special Branch?

23 A. For me, there was a -- we had police orders. I don't
24 know if you're familiar with that? Police orders came
25 out every week or so. And there was a -- in -- in

1 the orders, there was an -- applications were requested
2 for Special Branch; if you wanted to join, you were --
3 you were asked to apply if you were interested.

4 Q. And so, "police orders", just so we're clear, that's
5 announcements of some kind; is that right?

6 A. It gives -- it gives the number of officers that have
7 joined, officers that have left, have died, have retired
8 on pension, and all other general information. I don't
9 know if it still exists.

10 Q. Are you able to remember whether there was a level of
11 competition to join Special Branch back then?

12 A. Yes, you -- you -- you had to complete a -- a written
13 exam and then there was a selection board.

14 Q. And the selection board, could you just tell us a little
15 about that. How involved was that process?

16 A. I think there was three or four senior officers. There
17 was -- there was -- the head of the women police at the
18 time was a woman called Shirley Beck ^, she was on
19 the selection -- at the selection board, and other --
20 other senior officers, plus a senior officer from
21 Special Branch I know was there, and -- and as I say,
22 a written examination.

23 Q. Were you subject to any vetting checks when you joined
24 Special Branch?

25 A. Yes, we were all positively vetted.

1 Q. Once you joined Special Branch, do you remember any
2 training you were given as a means to induction?

3 A. We were just assigned to another officer and we were
4 trained by -- by experienced officers mainly.

5 Q. Was this a formal training course or given on the job?

6 A. Not really. You learnt on the job.

7 Q. Was there any mentoring process you can remember when
8 you joined Special Branch?

9 A. Not really, no.

10 Q. Now, Ms Hillier, you've told us in your first witness
11 statement that you joined Special Branch the day after
12 the March 1968 demonstration in Grosvenor Square.

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Was that just coincidence?

15 A. Totally coincidence, yes.

16 Q. Were you present at the March demonstration?

17 A. No. No. I wasn't actually in Special Branch then, it
18 was before I joined -- the day before I joined.

19 Q. Were you at the time aware of what had happened in
20 London that day?

21 A. Yes, it was very newsworthy event.

22 Q. Was it something that was discussed within
23 Special Branch after you'd joined it?

24 A. Oh yes, certainly, yes.

25 Q. And how -- how was the events of March 1968 in London

1 viewed within Special Branch?

2 A. Well, they were very unhappy with the result of
3 the march and the demonstration, because the American
4 Embassy had nearly been breached, and they -- they
5 failed to keep order really. And so it -- there was
6 great concern among everybody.

7 Q. Moving on to a different topic, Ms Hillier. You've told
8 us in your witness statement that the Home Secretary
9 placed pressure on the police to come up with a solution
10 to stop the March disorder happening again. Where did
11 this understanding that you had come from?

12 A. I don't think "place pressure" is -- is the right
13 phrase. But I -- I was just given to understand. It
14 was general knowledge that the police were very unhappy
15 with the results of the policing of the March
16 demonstration, and they wanted to get it right in -- for
17 the October demonstration. So presumably discuss --
18 I mean, far, far above my pay grade, discussions were
19 had, and it was decided to form the Special
20 Demonstration Squad.

21 Q. Right.

22 Could we just bring up a copy of your witness
23 statement. It's <MPS-0740760>, and it's page 4, please,
24 <MPS-0740760/4>, paragraph 9. And I'll just read to you
25 what the relevant part of paragraph 9 that you've said

1 there:

2 "I don't know who set up the SDS, but I was given to
3 understand it was the Home Secretary, not that he said
4 'let's form "the Hairies"', as we called the SDS, but
5 that he put pressure on the police to come up with
6 a solution to stop what happened in March 1968 happening
7 again."

8 Is that your view now, Ms Hillier?

9 A. Yes. I suppose it was the word "pressure". It sounded
10 as though we were all being pressurised; it didn't feel
11 like that at the time. But perhaps it's the choice of
12 words. I -- more or less that is exactly what I said
13 and it is -- it is what I would say now.

14 Q. Is it fair to say that that is a view that was commonly
15 held within Special Branch after the March '68
16 demonstration?

17 A. What, that pressure was put on?

18 Q. Well, that the Special Demonstration Squad came from
19 the circumstance that you've explained, the police being
20 worried not for it to happen again?

21 A. Yes, that is -- that is correct, yes.

22 Q. Thank you.

23 A. I think that was everybody's inference from that.

24 Q. Thank you very much.

25 Now, a little later in that same witness

1 statement -- we don't need to go to it -- you've told us
2 that the Special Demonstration Squad came from a series
3 of meetings that you remember attending with
4 Conrad Dixon; is that right?

5 A. That's right, yes.

6 Q. Now, we know that you joined the squad in March of that
7 year. Can you remember, roughly speaking, when these
8 meetings took place?

9 A. I joined Special Branch in March of that year.

10 Q. Yes.

11 A. The Special Demonstration Squad was formed some time
12 later. I've got a -- I think round about July they
13 actually -- they actually formed the Special
14 Demonstration Squad. And that was when we were all
15 brought together. And those particular meetings was
16 that -- was to discuss what we should do and how we
17 should do it and what was the best way of getting
18 the information.

19 Q. So, assuming that these meetings happened some time
20 before July, or close to July --

21 A. Well, they -- the squad was formed round about July.
22 And once the squad was formed, then we all got together
23 after that to discuss what we should do and what should
24 be done and which groups to infiltrate. But there was
25 no discussion until it was formed; and it wasn't formed

1 until, as I say, July -- I think. I'm not totally sure.

2 Q. So are you suggesting that the squad -- the tactics that
3 the squad used to obtain evidence -- relevant
4 intelligence, rather, came from those meetings but not
5 the squad itself?

6 A. No, I think we're at cross-purposes.

7 The Special Demonstration Squad was formed round
8 about July, so it was formed with Special Branch
9 officers from different squads around Special Branch.
10 So it -- it wasn't made a squad until -- until July,
11 round about July time.

12 Q. Yes.

13 A. And once it was made into a squad, which was the Special
14 Demonstration Squad, is what they called it, then we
15 were all together, and that is when we -- we took it
16 from there.

17 Q. Right. So you took the tactics from there; is that what
18 you're saying?

19 A. Once the -- once the squad was formed, then they discuss
20 what -- what should be done to -- to achieve what they
21 wanted us to achieve.

22 Q. Right.

23 Going, then, to the meetings, were you more junior
24 or more senior than the other people there, or was it
25 a mix of seniorities?

1 A. I -- I was -- it was a mix of seniorities. There was
2 Conrad Dixon, who was the chief inspector, there were
3 some inspectors, sergeants and then DCs, of which I was
4 one. And as well as that I was also very new to
5 Special Branch, so I was quite inexperienced.

6 Q. Was Conrad Dixon, to your memory, the most senior
7 officer present?

8 A. Yes, he was.

9 Q. Did you contribute at all to the discussions in these
10 meetings -- these early meetings?

11 A. Not really no. I didn't personally.

12 Q. The tactic that we're discussing is the use of police
13 officers posing as members of groups to obtain
14 intelligence from them. Was there any opposition within
15 these meetings to the idea of using that tactic?

16 A. I don't think so, no. I think it was decided that that
17 was the only way to do the job. It had never -- it
18 wasn't Special Branch policy to do that; it hadn't been
19 done before. But this particular time, they felt -- if
20 we had -- if we -- we weren't to have a repetition of
21 what happened in March, then that was the only way to
22 police the demonstration.

23 Q. You've told us in your witness statement that the risks
24 of becoming an agent provocateur were discussed at these
25 meetings.

1 A. Yes, that's correct.

2 Q. Can you remember any other possible downsides of using
3 this tactic being discussed at the meetings?

4 A. No, I don't think so, no.

5 Q. Was the risks of becoming involved in criminal activity,
6 for instance, discussed at all?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Any concerns mentioned about developing relationships,
9 whether they be personal or sexual, with those being
10 reported on?

11 A. No, never.

12 Q. Were the -- were any concerns about the types of groups
13 being reported on discussed?

14 A. No, not to my knowledge.

15 Q. Thank you.

16 Were, to your memory, any other possible police
17 tactics discussed as a means to obtain the intelligence
18 that were required?

19 A. As far as I remember, it was only undercover officers
20 that were -- it was discussed and decided upon. I don't
21 remember -- it -- a lot of it was very casual anyway.
22 It -- it wasn't sort of sitting down in groups; we would
23 talk casually among yourselves. And that is what was
24 decided upon: the only way to find out what was going to
25 happen was to send officers undercover.

1 Q. Thank you.

2 Now, I don't want you to necessarily name anybody,
3 but is it fair to say that most of the people in these
4 meetings ended up on the Special Demonstration Squad, as
5 it later became known?

6 A. You mean officers?

7 Q. Yes, officers, sorry.

8 A. Yeah.

9 Well, they were already on the Special Demonstration
10 Squad. It had been formed by that time. So when --
11 after it was formed and we were told what it was formed
12 for, then that's when the discussions came up as to what
13 we could do about it. And I should say, there wasn't
14 a lot of time in which to do it, really.

15 Q. Ms Hillier, you've told us, I think, in your witness
16 statement that you were told to attend this meeting, or
17 these meetings, and thereby become a member of
18 the squad. To your knowledge, did anyone volunteer for
19 this role?

20 A. Not to my knowledge, no.

21 Q. Right.

22 Moving on slightly, are you aware whether there was
23 any criteria used by officers when selecting who should
24 become a member of the squad?

25 A. No, I wasn't. None at all.

1 Q. Now, in your statement -- if we could bring it up,
2 please, that's <MPS-0740760>, and it's page 4, please
3 <MPS-0740760/4>, paragraph 8.

4 You've said this:

5 "I believe the [unit] was set up to try and
6 infiltrate groups so as to better understand what would
7 happen at the planned demonstration in London in
8 October 1968."

9 Ms Hillier, did you understand that the unit's role
10 was limited to intelligence in relation to public order
11 issues only?

12 A. Yes, I think so. I think that's about right.

13 Q. Did you understand that the unit should have any role --
14 play any role in countering subversion?

15 A. No, it was set up purely for the demonstration, to
16 police the demonstration.

17 Q. It's right, isn't it, Ms Hillier, that many of
18 the unit's reports were sent to the Security Service?

19 A. Yes, they were.

20 Q. Did you understand them to have a role in public order
21 policing?

22 A. No, not at all. I don't think so.

23 Q. Thank you.

24 If we could take that down, please, and instead put
25 up document <MPS-0724119>. Thank you.

1 Now, Ms Hillier, this is a paper which was authored
2 by Conrad Dixon in November of 1968, entitled
3 "Penetration of Extremist Groups". It's a document
4 which I think you've seen before, I hope.

5 Can you just help us, if you can, please. When this
6 document refers to "extremist groups", what would that
7 have been understood to have encompassed back in 1968?

8 A. First, I should say, I don't think I've seen this
9 document before.

10 Extremist people who would use extreme means to gain
11 what -- to gain what they wanted. Would use violence,
12 would use disorder. That's all I would say to that.

13 Q. Okay.

14 Could we go to page 5 of this document, please
15 <MPS-0724119/5>. Thank you.

16 Now, this is a document, as I say, which sets out
17 a template for a unit such as the SDS going forwards
18 after the demonstration, and explains as follows within
19 the first paragraph on this page -- and I will read it
20 out for the transcript:

21 "When we are in a position to obtain evidence about
22 a serious offence arrangements have to be made so that
23 it is obtained by an 'uncommitted' officer, and thus
24 avoid compromising the undercover man. An 'uncommitted'
25 officer is an essential part of the unit; women officers

1 fill the role extremely well and can be taken to public
2 or private gatherings where the evidence is obtainable
3 with little risk of denunciation."

4 And if we can turn to page 9 of this document,
5 please <MPS-0724119/9> and right at the bottom of that
6 page you can see -- thank you -- Ms Hillier, your name
7 is listed along with a number of others.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. And in terms of the role, although it's faint and
10 slightly difficult to read, it says:

11 "Liaison with HQ flat and 'uncommitted' officer ..."

12 Now, Ms Hillier, you've explained in your witness
13 statement that you don't recognise this role. Are you
14 able to help us with why it is that you have been
15 ascribed it within this document?

16 A. I have absolutely no idea. "Uncommitted officer" is
17 something I have never seen or heard of before. It was
18 -- it was -- I have seen this document and it was
19 totally new to me. I can't help you at all, I'm sorry.

20 Q. Thank you.

21 Can we take it from that that you were not aware of
22 Helen Crampton, a fellow female -- early female officer
23 within the unit, ever fulfilling this role?

24 A. No, I don't think she ever did.

25 Q. Right.

1 Well, Ms Hillier, are you aware that she gave
2 evidence, or potentially assisted with a prosecution
3 against someone she had reported on from
4 the Notting Hill VSC in 1969?

5 A. No, not at all.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. No idea.

8 Q. This related to an incident on 9 October 1968, which was
9 alleged to have taken place at a Notting Hill VSC
10 meeting.

11 Could we please bring up the document <MPS-0739187>.
12 Thank you.

13 Now, Ms Hillier, this is a report dated the same
14 day, 9 October of 1968. And as I say, it is of
15 the meeting which took place at the Essex Church Hall,
16 Palace Gardens, West 8.

17 And if we could turn, please, to the second page of
18 this report, <MPS-0739187/2>, right at the bottom --
19 thank you -- we can see that this report is signed by
20 Helen Crampton on the right, and you are listed as one
21 of the officers who attended the meeting in question.

22 Do you have any memory of an incident whereby
23 somebody handed Ms Hillier [sic] a leaflet for which he
24 was later produced?

25 A. No, I have no idea -- recollection of that at all.

1 Q. Were you -- do I take it from that that you were not
2 involved in any way in the prosecution arising from this
3 report?

4 A. No. No, not to my recollection, no.

5 Q. Thank you.

6 Please could we go back to <MPS-0724119>. If we
7 could turn to page 8, please, <MPS-0724119/8>. Thank
8 you.

9 This, Ms Hillier, is the structure within
10 the appendix to this document. And you can see that
11 the structure as envisaged is that a chief inspector
12 sits in charge of the unit with three detective
13 inspectors sitting underneath them with different roles
14 given to them.

15 The detective inspector on the right of the three
16 branches is given the role of "press and liaison". Is
17 that a role that you recognise?

18 A. No, I don't.

19 Q. Can you help us at all, then, with what that means, what
20 that relates to?

21 A. I have never seen this document. I don't know what it
22 means, frankly. It was obviously sent upwards rather
23 than down to me, or people at my level.

24 Q. Does it broadly fit with your understanding of how
25 the unit was structured from the end of 1968 onwards?

1 A. Not really, no. Not at all, no.

2 Q. Could we go to page 6 of this document, please,
3 <MPS-0724119/6>. Thank you. If we could just scroll
4 down to the middle of the page. Thank you.

5 Now, Ms Hillier, I will read out a section of text
6 here, just for the transcript. Under the heading "Scope
7 of Activities", the following is written:

8 "The incompetence of the British left is notorious,
9 and officers must take care not to get into a position
10 where they achieve prominence in an organisation through
11 natural ability. A firm line must be drawn between
12 activity as a follower and a leader, and members of
13 the squad should be told in no uncertain terms that they
14 must not take office in a group, chair meetings, draft
15 leaflets, speak in public or initiate activity."

16 Ms Hillier, does that section fit with your
17 understanding of what officers should and shouldn't do
18 when reporting on groups?

19 A. This was never brought to my attention, certainly. All
20 I can say is that after the October '68 demonstration,
21 I was -- only did admin duties. I was in the general
22 office, and all my duties were admin. I didn't go to
23 meetings, so perhaps it wasn't brought to my attention.
24 But that, no, I don't remember.

25 Q. Before the October demonstration when you did go to some

1 meetings, which we'll come on to, were you aware as
2 a Special Branch SDS officer that you shouldn't attain
3 positions of leadership within groups?

4 A. It wasn't brought to my attention, no.

5 Q. Did you ever hear of such things happening during your
6 time in the SDS?

7 A. No.

8 Q. Thank you.

9 Now, moving on to a slightly different topic. In
10 your witness statement, you've said that officers didn't
11 really need training as it was all experience -- as you
12 were all experienced officers and knew what you should
13 and should not do.

14 Now, you've told us that you weren't that
15 experienced at that point in time, but were you working
16 with people who were more experienced than you?

17 A. Well, I was an experienced police officer at that
18 particular -- I had ten years' service as a police
19 officer. So I feel that it would -- it would be -- your
20 common sense would tell you there were certain things
21 you -- you should not do. And if -- if it was anything
22 in addition to that, then probably we -- we would have
23 been instructed. But most of it we would have known --
24 we would know anyway. Instinct would tell you what you
25 shouldn't do and what you should do.

1 Q. Do you, looking back on that time, think that instinct
2 would tell you not to become too involved in people's
3 personal lives that they were reporting on?

4 A. Most certainly, yes.

5 Q. Would that extend to becoming involved in a sexual
6 relationship with someone they were reporting on?

7 A. Certainly, yes.

8 Q. How about becoming involved in criminal activity whilst
9 reporting on a group?

10 A. No, we wouldn't do that.

11 Q. How about attending court in a cover identity? Was that
12 something you would have thought you should or shouldn't
13 do?

14 A. You shouldn't do that, no.

15 Q. On this topic, Ms Hillier, were you aware of colleagues
16 at the time of yours within the unit taking people from
17 the groups that they were reporting on, often women, out
18 on a date?

19 A. No, I wasn't aware of that.

20 Q. Thank you.

21 Now, Ms Hillier, moving on to a slightly separate
22 issue. What was your understanding about what should
23 and shouldn't be reported in Special Branch reports
24 about people, individuals? How much detail should
25 reports have gone into?

1 A. You would go into detail, I presume, that you thought
2 was necessary, on the reasoning you -- if you were
3 writing a report or reporting on what their activities
4 were, then you would go into as much detail as you
5 thought was necessary and needed.

6 Q. Were you given any training on what level of detail
7 should be included in reports?

8 A. Not really. You -- you -- you were given guidance by --
9 by other officers, especially if you were new in
10 Special Branch, you were told what to do, what not to do
11 and why you were doing it, and you -- you just had to
12 sort of follow your instincts.

13 Q. Were you, to your memory, given any feedback on
14 the contents of the reports that you were involved in
15 submitting?

16 A. I don't remember any feedback, no.

17 Q. Right.

18 Do you remember being instructed, either by your
19 colleagues or your superiors, to filter in any way what
20 was being put into reports?

21 A. No. I don't remember that.

22 Q. Could we please turn to document number <MPS-0732699>.

23 Now, Ms Hillier, this is a report dated 9 April
24 which has been submitted by you on behalf of another
25 officer, and within this report you have detailed, in

1 paragraph 1, an address of somebody and the fact that
2 they are a regular and enthusiastic supporter of
3 the British Vietnam Solidarity Front activities.

4 In paragraph 2 you've explained -- and I'll quote:

5 "She is invariably in the company of [privacy],
6 the chairman of the BVSF, and has made a number of
7 visits to London with him in recent weeks to take part
8 in BVSF demonstrations and meetings."

9 You then go on to provide a description of
10 the person in question.

11 If the document goes down, please.

12 We can see, after the description it says:

13 "She is known to me."

14 And then, on the final line:

15 "[privacy] cannot be identified in Special Branch
16 records on the particulars available."

17 Now, Ms Hillier, why were details such as this
18 included within Special Branch reports?

19 A. Well, firstly, may I say, that I probably wrote this --
20 or typed it, for somebody else. This isn't my report.
21 Often they -- they gave a rough copy and I -- I would --
22 I would type it up. In fact, I -- I'm presuming this is
23 1969.

24 Q. It is, yes.

25 A. Yes. So at that particular time, I would have been in

1 the office and doing admin work, and the officer
2 concerned would have asked me to type this up and put it
3 in on his behalf. So he obviously thought that this --
4 what he was putting in was necessary, was useful and it
5 would be -- to somebody. And so he -- he put in
6 the information.

7 Q. Well, Ms Hillier, we can go to another example that you
8 have authored. Please could we bring up <MPS-0722098>,
9 page 186, please <MPS-0722098/186>.

10 Ms Hillier, this is a report from August of 1968
11 that is authored by you. I don't propose to read it
12 out. It identifies a number of people who have been
13 redacted for privacy reasons, and a number of them have
14 dates of birth, addresses and other particulars
15 contained within it.

16 Why would you have included such detail within
17 the report that you submitted?

18 A. Well, I don't recognise the report, and I don't know
19 where the information came from, but it was obviously
20 given to me to -- to do the report. Presumably these
21 were people that were of interest to Special Branch, so
22 they -- it would be added to their file -- dates of
23 birth, addresses, etc -- in case it was needed in
24 the future.

25 But I don't -- I don't recognise the report and

1 I had -- I had no dealings with Highgate and Holloway
2 VSC, so I can only assume the information came from
3 somebody else and I -- I just typed it.

4 Q. Thank you.

5 Ms Hillier, is it -- going to your deployment with
6 the SDS, or your involvement with it in the runup to
7 the October 1968 demonstration, before the unit was set
8 up in your time in Special Branch, so we're talking
9 about March to around July 1968, is it right that you
10 tended to attend large public meetings to report -- to
11 provide reporting?

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Could we go to an example of that, please, at
14 <MPS-0732692>. Thank you.

15 Now, this is a report of 4 April 1968, so not long
16 after you joined Special Branch.

17 A. Yeah.

18 Q. And we can see that by attendance the number is given as
19 "about 110" people. And we can see that Tariq Ali, who
20 is a core participant in this Inquiry, is mentioned as
21 a speaker.

22 And if we could just scroll down to the second half
23 of this page, please, we can see that Ernie Tate, who is
24 also a core participant, is mentioned as someone being
25 identify.

1 Now, if we could scroll to the bottom of the page,
2 please, <MPS-0732692/2>, we can see that you attended
3 this meeting with another officer who has the cipher
4 HN342/299.

5 Now, are you able to remember, Ms Hillier, why
6 people such as Tariq Ali or Ernie Tate were of interest
7 to Special Branch?

8 A. They were of interest to Special Branch because they
9 were big names in the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, and
10 it -- it just -- it made -- made a picture of -- of --
11 of where they were. They attended this meeting where
12 they would be expected to attend at that meeting.

13 Q. Can we take it from that that your object, as you
14 understood it, was to try and obtain a picture of what
15 was going on in organisations such as this at the time?

16 A. Well, we were trying to get a picture, yes, of what was
17 going on within the VSC, who was -- who was active, who
18 was prominent, who was -- who was making the decisions.

19 Q. You've told us, moving forward in time a little, that
20 once you started working on the SDS, as it later became
21 known, your work didn't really differ much from your
22 work a Special Branch which had immediately preceded it.
23 To your knowledge, did the work that other officers
24 undertook differ significantly?

25 A. I don't think so. The SDS was another squad within

1 Special Branch.

2 Q. That being the case, what was thought to be
3 the advantage to reporting on groups in an undercover
4 identity?

5 A. Well, if you were undercover, then they didn't -- you --
6 you became a member, you -- you got in with the group,
7 you attended private meetings as opposed to public
8 meetings, and you -- you got to know what was -- what
9 was actually being planned. Information that you would
10 never have -- get at a public meeting.

11 Q. It's right, I think, that the reports that we have
12 obtained that you were involved in detail accounts of
13 what happened at public meetings, both before and after
14 your involvement in the SDS; is that right?

15 A. That's right, yes.

16 Q. To your memory, were the groups that you were reporting
17 on, specifically the Notting Hill VSC, which we'll come
18 to, doing things secretly, out of public view?

19 A. I think they were, yes. I mean, I don't know
20 personally, but I think, yes. They were planning --
21 they were making plans for the demonstration that --
22 that weren't generally known. You know, the general
23 public weren't made privy to.

24 Q. In your view, before I turn to some specific examples,
25 was the SDS able to obtain intelligence which would have

- 1 been otherwise unavailable to Special Branch?
- 2 A. Oh, I think so, yes.
- 3 Q. Turning, then, to your specific involvement reporting on
- 4 the SDS, you've told us, as I've said, that your role
- 5 didn't change very much between before and after you
- 6 reported on the SDS, or rather before and during. Would
- 7 you have given a cover name, for instance, if you had
- 8 been asked at a meeting what your name was?
- 9 A. I wouldn't have given my real name, no.
- 10 Q. So you would have given a ...?
- 11 A. I would have given a cover name, yes.
- 12 Q. Would you have given a cover job if you had been so
- 13 asked at a meeting?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And would that have differed from what you would have
- 16 done before you started reporting with the SDS?
- 17 A. No, it would be exactly the same.
- 18 Q. Now, turning to, then, the SDS and your involvement in
- 19 it from the start, you've told us in your statement that
- 20 you were involved in -- with Helen Crampton in setting
- 21 up a cover -- a flat for the SDS. At this location, did
- 22 you become aware that others within the unit were
- 23 reporting on the VSC?
- 24 A. I'm sorry, I don't quite understand the question.
- 25 Q. I'll -- my mistake. I'll ask it another way.

1 Did you become aware that other people within
2 the unit were reporting on the VSC as well as those you
3 were attending meetings with?

4 A. Oh yes.

5 Q. Was it discussed?

6 A. Within the -- within the SDS?

7 Q. Yes.

8 A. Probably, yes. In fact -- you mean
9 the undercover officers, do you, in particular?

10 Q. Yes, I do.

11 A. Yes, it would be discussed, because they wouldn't do
12 a report, so they would let us -- Helen Crampton and
13 myself, they would tell us who was there and fill in --
14 fill in the blanks that we didn't know.

15 Q. Were you given any training by those within the unit or
16 outside of it about the groups that you were reporting
17 on?

18 A. Yes, we were.

19 Q. And what did this training consist of?

20 A. Well, it -- it was general discussion. If -- you -- it
21 was all political. If you -- if you -- if you didn't
22 know what the politics were, they would -- you know,
23 there were people there who did know. And it -- it was
24 -- we didn't go to lectures and that sort of thing, but
25 it was just general conversation. We were -- we were

1 all told exactly what was going on.

2 Q. So would it be fair to say that it was informal --

3 A. Informal, yes.

4 Q. Okay.

5 And do you remember any informal training or formal
6 training by those around you on how to undertake
7 a deployment into these groups?

8 A. No, you didn't have training, but there were plenty of
9 people to ask, because -- once the SDS was formed,
10 because we were a small group of people. So I should
11 think general conversation. But I didn't go to that
12 many meetings, so it didn't really apply to me. I --
13 I went to very few meetings.

14 Q. Well, let's come on to those then. Were you aware of
15 the Notting Hill VSC before you went to some of their
16 meetings?

17 A. Not really, no. Not until I was told to go.

18 Q. So you weren't given any briefings --

19 A. No.

20 Q. -- either formal or otherwise on them?

21 A. Probably in -- probably informal. I can't say no
22 I wasn't, it was too long ago. But any briefings, they
23 would have been informal.

24 Q. What was your role in attending these meetings?

25 A. I went -- always went with Helen Crampton. The two of

1 us always went together.

2 And probably because it looked -- two women going
3 in, it was more acceptable. And we just went in,
4 listened to what was being said; any leaflets that were
5 there being distributed, we would take leaflets. And
6 that -- that would be it.

7 Q. Were you given any instruction or guidance on what to
8 look out for, what to report on?

9 A. No, not really, no.

10 Q. You've told us that you attended with Helen Crampton.
11 It's right, isn't it, that you had in fact attended,
12 before you joined the Special Demonstration Squad, some
13 meetings -- or a meeting -- at least one -- on your own?

14 A. I think there was just one. I'm not sure.

15 Q. In your view, do you have any idea why a slightly
16 different tack was taken with your involvement on
17 the SDS? Why was it that you weren't sent on your own?

18 A. I don't know. That is the short -- the only answer
19 I can give you. I don't know why I wasn't sent on my
20 own. Probably because I -- I wasn't experienced enough.

21 Q. Right.

22 Can we go, please, to an example of one of these
23 meetings at document <MPS-0730070>. Thank you.

24 This is a meeting of the 16 October of 1968 that you
25 attended, along with some others that we'll come on to.

1 Could we go, please, firstly, to page 10 of this
2 report, <MPS-0730070/10>. And if we could zoom in on
3 the bottom paragraph of the page.

4 Now, Ms Hillier, this is a document that was
5 obtained by presumably you or your colleagues from this
6 meeting, which was literature produced from it, and I'm
7 just going to read the bottom paragraph into
8 the transcript. It reads as follows:

9 "Information.

10 "The pig who framed comrades in this group is known
11 to be walking on the beat. The Ministry of the Interior
12 have begun an investigation into his methods. They will
13 conclude that they are premature, not that they are
14 wrong and we must realise that the pigs will intensify
15 their terrors if we do not constantly keep guard and
16 watch their moves at all level from their agents among
17 us to their leaders in large polished cars."

18 Now, Ms Hillier, that suggests that there was some
19 concern within the group about police becoming
20 infiltrators. Do you remember that being a concern
21 in -- certainly amongst the Notting Hill VSC?

22 A. No, I don't remember. It's just that -- I'm not saying
23 that it didn't happen, I'm just saying I don't remember.

24 Q. Do you recall the group taking any measures to
25 counteract a concern about infiltration? Did they do

1 anything to try and ... that you can remember?

2 A. Not when I was at their meetings, no.

3 Q. Can I take it from that that you don't remember being
4 challenged by the group at all?

5 A. Never. I don't remember that, and I think I would, if
6 it happened.

7 Q. Right.

8 Can we turn to page 2, please, of this report
9 <MPS-0730070/2>. Thank you.

10 I'm going, Ms Hillier, to read a passage of this and
11 then ask you a question or two about it. The second
12 paragraph down reads:

13 "After the film Ken Murray talked at some length
14 about the 27th October, and particularly about
15 the group's activities on the demonstration. He
16 repeated what had been suggested at earlier meetings,
17 that 'comrades' form into groups of five and stick
18 together, rescuing those arrested and taking part
19 together in surprise attacks and skirmishes. He also
20 suggested, that as a result of his own experiences at
21 previous demonstrations, people taking part should link
22 arms with those near them -- the objects being twofold
23 -- so that they could take over whole streets and -- as
24 there would be hundreds of plain clothes 'fuzz' in
25 the crowd, by making them link arms, the demonstrators

1 would immobilise them. Those who refused to link arms
2 would probably be 'fuzz' and were to be viewed with
3 great suspicion.

4 "Murray then went on to suggest that those taking
5 part should come armed with the following 'which could
6 easily be concealed on one's person': --

7 "One wet and one dry handkerchief for protection
8 against tear gas, banner poles made of hardwood for
9 protection against police truncheons and lastly
10 the following for use against Police horses: --

11 "Penknives for use on the soft under-belly, needles
12 and pepper on the eyes and 'Jumping Jack 'fireworks to
13 make the horses rear."

14 Ms Hillier, did you understand the information such
15 as that to be of value to Special Branch?

16 A. Yes, I did.

17 Q. And why is that?

18 A. Because knowing that, we could prevent public disorder.
19 That is what -- that is what we were there for.

20 Q. Were you looking out for information such as this?

21 A. Oh certainly, yes.

22 Q. Now, you've explained in your witness statement that
23 information such as this would have been passed to
24 the uniform branch. Are you able to say how this would
25 have been done?

1 A. Well, it -- probably -- it would be on the -- on
2 the directions of whoever signed that report, probably
3 Conrad Dixon, and it would just be probably -- he would
4 know where to send it, I wouldn't know, but he would --
5 he would send it to whoever needed to have that
6 information.

7 Q. To your knowledge, did you hear anything back about
8 the value of such information within the unit?

9 A. Not to my knowledge, but frankly I -- I personally
10 wouldn't hear.

11 Q. The information that I've -- I've read out, the threats
12 to "come armed", were things like that taken seriously
13 within the SDS?

14 A. Oh yes. Oh yes, certainly.

15 Q. I think it's right to say that -- and we'll come on to
16 this -- the October demonstration did not in fact result
17 in violence such as that?

18 A. No, it didn't. No, it didn't.

19 Q. All right. I'm just going to read one short other
20 section from this document and then ask you a question
21 or two about it.

22 If we could go down to the next paragraph which
23 starts, "Murray also ..." Thank you. If we could leave
24 it there. Perfect. I will read as follows:

25 "Murray also announced that Hornsey VSC had agreed

1 to swap banners with Notting Hill and Earls Court were
2 quite keen on this idea. He said that this was
3 necessary because the local Notting Hill Gate police
4 would probably march with their local groups, and this
5 would make it more difficult for the police to identify
6 people with their correct groups."

7 Ms Hillier, can you remember a specific concern
8 within this group about people being identified on
9 the march?

10 A. I don't, no. I don't remember.

11 Q. And were -- was there a concern more generally within
12 the SDS that people were identified within reports
13 provided?

14 A. I'm sorry, I -- I'm not quite clear what you mean.

15 Q. Was there a concern -- was the SDS interested in
16 reporting people's identities within the reports that
17 were submitted?

18 A. Oh yes.

19 Q. And just to be clear, why was this?

20 A. Well, they -- they wanted to know who was going to be at
21 the demonstrations, who was -- who were part of
22 the groups. Information is never wasted really. I --
23 I don't know how else to answer that.

24 Q. Can we turn, please, to a different document now
25 <MPS-0730758>.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Warner, would this be a good moment at
2 which to pause, so the shorthand writers can have their
3 break?

4 MR WARNER: Certainly, sir.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: While we pause, could you have a look again
6 at the photograph, please, because I think there has
7 been a muddle, and I think the witness was right when
8 she said in her description that it may not be that
9 photograph that she was describing in her witness
10 statement?

11 MR WARNER: Yes, sir.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Either find another photograph, if there is
13 one readily available, or, alternatively, ask her to
14 identify the people whose faces we can actually see.

15 MR WARNER: Yes, sir.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Then we'll resume at 8 minutes to
17 12, please.

18 MS PURSER: Thank you, everyone. We will now take
19 a 15-minute break and resume at 8 minutes to 12. You
20 may now go into your break-out rooms. Thank you.

21 (11.37 am)

22 (A short break)

23 (11.52 am)

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

1 Chairman.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

3 Mr Warner.

4 MR WARNER: Thank you, sir.

5 Ms Hillier, can we just clear up the issue that
6 the chairman raised just before we broke for the short
7 adjournment. Are you there?

8 A. Yes, I'm here.

9 Q. Sorry, I couldn't see you.

10 Could we bring up the photograph again that you saw
11 first thing this morning at <MPS-0735439>.

12 Now, Ms Hillier, I'm going to just read out again to
13 you what's said in your statement. You've said:

14 "Looking at the first picture ..."

15 And this is the picture being described:

16 "... on the front row, moving from the right of
17 the picture, is HN332 ..."

18 What you have now told us to be Helen Crampton:

19 "... Conrad Dixon, me, Phil Saunders and HN331."

20 Now, if you look at that picture, Ms Hillier, it
21 would appear that what you actually mean to say is: on
22 the front row, moving to the right of the picture from
23 the left, we can see HN332, Helen Crampton,
24 Conrad Dixon, me, Phil Saunders and 331. Is that right?

25 A. That is correct, yes.

1 Q. So the word "from" should read "to" as well?

2 A. Yeah.

3 Q. Okay. Thank you, that's, I think, cleared that up.

4 Can we turn to the document that I brought up just
5 before we stopped. That's <MPS-0730758>. Thank you
6 very much.

7 This is another one of the reports that you are
8 mentioned in, in relation to the Notting Hill VSC, dated
9 30 October of 1968. And if we could just focus in
10 on "persons identified", please, in the middle of the
11 page. Thank you.

12 You can see here, Ms Hillier, that there is a number
13 of persons that have been identified that have been
14 redacted for privacy reasons by the Inquiry.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. And you can see that a description of one of them has
17 remained on the page, and it reads:

18 "(Scot thought to be mentally deficient.)"

19 Now, Ms Hillier, why would a detail such as that
20 have been reported within a Special Branch report on
21 somebody?

22 A. I suppose because whoever did it thought it was relevant
23 that -- you know, to identify him, or perhaps --
24 I honestly don't know.

25 Q. Are you able to help us with what would have happened

1 with that information that was reported on somebody?

2 What would have been done with it?

3 A. Presumably they would have looked to see if he'd got
4 a Special Branch record, and if he had added it -- added
5 it to the record that, you know, he was identified in
6 this report as being at this particular meeting. Apart
7 from that, I can't think of anything else.

8 Q. Could we turn, please, to the second page of this report
9 now, <MPS-0730758/2>. Thank you.

10 And I'm just going to read the first paragraph out:

11 "The meeting took the usual form of open discussion,
12 but it was interesting to note that there were
13 many 'strange' faces and they soon disclosed themselves
14 to be International Socialists. They were obviously
15 there to try and take over the Notting Hill VSC because
16 of their militant reputation."

17 Ms Hillier, were you aware that the Notting Hill VSC
18 had such a reputation?

19 A. I don't know, is the answer to that. It's really too
20 long ago.

21 Q. I understand.

22 Within that paragraph there's mention of a potential
23 takeover of the Notting Hill VSC by members of
24 the International Socialists. Were details such as that
25 of interest to the SDS?

1 A. I don't think with the SDS particularly, no. I would
2 have thought that was more of interest to Special Branch
3 in general.

4 Q. Is that why the information there might have been
5 reported?

6 A. Possibly, yes.

7 Q. And if we could scroll down, please, to the fourth
8 paragraph -- we can see it there, thank you.

9 I'm just going to read an extract from the fourth
10 paragraph of this page. Halfway through the paragraph
11 it reads:

12 "The committee consisted of [privacy] and three
13 others not known to me. Ken Murray said that he
14 understood that the Notting Hill area was going to be
15 turned into a 'Chelsea' and there was going to be vast
16 clearance of coloureds and the poor from the area.

17 "[privacy] said that in his opinion a good way of
18 working effectively in the area would be: when landlords
19 evicted tenants, the landlords houses should be burned.
20 This action in his opinion would be far more effective
21 than stupid demonstrations."

22 Ms Hillier, was information such as this, a threat
23 to potentially burn houses, of interest to
24 Special Branch or the SDS?

25 A. Well, it would be interest to Special Branch, the SDS

1 and also to the uniform branch, if they're threatening
2 to burn down buildings. So yes, it would be of
3 interest. It would be passed on to the various
4 departments who -- who would need to know. That's all
5 I can say really.

6 Q. More generally, did the SDS seek out criminal
7 intelligence as opposed to just public order
8 intelligence?

9 A. No, if criminal intelligence came their way, then --
10 you know, they would pass it on. But they didn't seek
11 it out, I don't think.

12 Q. Thank you.

13 If this document could be taken down, please.

14 More generally, Ms Hillier, did you attend
15 the October demonstration in London that year?

16 A. I did, yes.

17 Q. And what can you remember about that day?

18 A. I can't -- I can remember being there. I can
19 remember marching. I can remember marching along Oxford
20 Street. It was a huge demonstration, big crowds. But
21 there was no disorder; and when is finished, it
22 dispersed quite peacefully really. That's all I can
23 remember.

24 Q. Did you attend it with the Notting Hill VSC?

25 A. With the Notting Hill VSC and Helen Crampton yet again,

1 the two of us.

2 Q. And do you remember whether you were in Grosvenor Square
3 that day or whether you just stayed within the main
4 group?

5 A. No, I don't think we went to Grosvenor Square. I think
6 we -- when we finished, it -- it was at Marble Arch.

7 Q. Thank you.

8 Ms Hillier, I'd like to turn to a different topic
9 now, please. You've said in your witness statement to
10 the Inquiry that you don't really think any of
11 the women, certainly in the early days, who were
12 involved in the SDS went undercover; is that right?

13 A. That's correct, yes.

14 Q. Now, we know that in addition to Helen Crampton and
15 yourself an officer with the nominal HN334 was deployed
16 in the early days of the SDS, and she has provided
17 a witness statement to the Inquiry which explains that
18 she was deployed undercover with a cover job and a cover
19 address, which I think is distinct from your experience.

20 Does this accord with your memory of the time?

21 A. Well, if that's what she says, it will be correct, yes.
22 Perhaps I -- I -- you know, after the period of time,
23 I've forgotten. She's got no reason to say that if it
24 wasn't correct, so I would accept that.

25 Q. I'm just interested to know whether you can remember her

- 1 doing that or not, given the --
- 2 A. I didn't realise she was -- I know she went to meetings,
3 but I thought they were all public meetings. I didn't
4 realise that she was undercover and, you know, doing
5 private meetings, etc.
- 6 Q. You've also said in your witness statement that
7 the difference between -- or certainly one of
8 the differences between your role and the men on
9 the unit at the time was that they went to private
10 meetings. Other than the example we've just talked
11 about, did you understand your role to be different from
12 them in any other significant way?
- 13 A. Not really, no.
- 14 Q. It also appears that in addition to HN334 that we just
15 mentioned, Helen Crampton may also have attended private
16 meetings, although possibly not on her own. Does that
17 accord with your memory?
- 18 A. No, not at all. I don't remember Helen ever going to
19 private meetings.
- 20 Q. Are you able to help us with why certainly HN334's
21 experience was possibly different from your own on
22 the SDS?
- 23 A. No, I can't.
- 24 Q. Just before we --
- 25 A. (inaudible) a lapse of memory, frankly, on my part.

1 Q. Just before we move on, another question on a similar
2 topic.

3 When you were involved in the SDS, either in
4 the runup to the October demonstration or in the back
5 office after October, do you remember any of your male
6 colleagues discussing women from the groups that they
7 were reporting on?

8 A. No, not -- not -- I mean, they -- they discussed
9 the groups and they discussed the members of the groups,
10 but not in particular women, no.

11 Q. Right.

12 Moving on to that subsequent role that you undertook
13 in the back office. Could you please explain what your
14 role was as opposed to what it had been before
15 the October demonstration?

16 A. After the October demonstration, my role was purely
17 admin role. It was taking telephone calls, dealing with
18 files, the officers' reports, typing reports for
19 the officers. I was a go-between between
20 the Scotland Yard office where I worked and the premises
21 where they -- they stayed, so that anything they wanted,
22 I would take out to them. We did filing, indexing, that
23 sort of thing. It was purely admin, all of it.

24 Q. Can we take it from that that the SDS at that point was
25 occupying two separate premises?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And your role was to go between the two?

3 A. Well, no, there was -- it was Scotland Yard and then
4 they had another premises, a flat elsewhere, where
5 they -- they worked. They didn't want to -- to come
6 to -- they didn't want to come to The Yard at all, for
7 -- well, for obvious reasons, in case they were spotted.

8 Q. Yes.

9 Turning, then, firstly, to the process of writing up
10 the reports that you've said that you did, how would
11 that work?

12 A. An officer would -- would give me a copy of their
13 report. They would -- they would write it out in
14 pencil, perhaps, roughly, give me the names of all
15 the people in the reports who were present at meetings,
16 or for whatever reason. I would search all those names
17 in Special Branch records, to see if we had a record of
18 them, and make a note of the file numbers. Then I would
19 type up the report and -- and sign it on their behalf
20 and then give the report usually to Conrad Dixon.

21 Q. Okay.

22 Perhaps it might help if we just had a look at an
23 example of this.

24 A. Mm.

25 Q. Could we please bring up <MPS-0732690>. And if we could

- 1 go to the bottom of the second page firstly.
- 2 <MPS-0732690/2>.
- 3 Is this an example of what you were just explaining,
- 4 Ms Hillier?
- 5 A. Yes, I think it would be, yes.
- 6 Q. So, in this instance, it's a report of a meeting at
- 7 which Detective Sergeant Ferguson and detective
- 8 constable HN336 attended, and we can see that you've
- 9 said "J Hillier WDC" --
- 10 A. Yeah.
- 11 Q. -- "for HN336"?
- 12 A. Yeah.
- 13 Q. So we can take it, can we, that where a report is signed
- 14 for someone else, you wouldn't have been in attendance
- 15 at the meeting and would have just been doing an
- 16 admin --
- 17 A. That's right. I mean, that wasn't a general thing that
- 18 happened in Special Branch, but I think it happened --
- 19 because of -- the officers weren't -- were at -- at
- 20 the other flat, it just saved a lot of back and forth;
- 21 it was just easier if I signed them.
- 22 Q. Now, we can see, looking at this report, that it is then
- 23 countersigned by Conrad Dixon, who you've mentioned
- 24 earlier?
- 25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. And a copy -- it says, "Send copy to Box 500", which we
2 know is a reference to the Security Service?

3 A. Yeah.

4 Q. Who determined who reports were sent out to?

5 A. Oh, Conrad Dixon.

6 Q. So it -- (overspeaking) --

7 A. -- (inaudible) -- we were just given the report and it
8 was up to him where he sent it, you know, and what
9 action was taken.

10 Q. So where we can see it's written below, is it likely
11 then that that's his --

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. -- signature -- his handwriting or his sign?

14 A. I would say that would be his handwriting, yeah.

15 Q. Can you help us on this: at the time you were within
16 the SDS working in the back office, are you able to give
17 us an estimate of what sort of volume of the reports
18 that were coming out of the unit were sent to
19 the Security Service?

20 A. I would think probably most of them. I don't know, but
21 at -- at a guess it would be most of them.

22 Q. And just to help us, if you can, please, we can see on
23 this page it says "submitted" on the left-hand side
24 below "officers present", and then we see Conrad Dixon's
25 signature. What does "submitted" mean in that context?

1 A. I don't know, frankly, no. I may -- I suppose it
2 means -- well, Conrad Dixon would put in who -- who was
3 to see the report, I suppose. The answer is I don't
4 know, I think is easiest.

5 Q. Okay.

6 Now, you can see on the face of this report that in
7 addition to HN336, Detective Sergeant Ferguson is
8 mentioned, and that's Michael Ferguson, who there are
9 a number of reports in -- that the Inquiry has obtained
10 that you signed for him, presumably in an administrative
11 function.

12 If we can take this a step at a time. Firstly, do
13 you recall Detective Sergeant Michael Ferguson?

14 A. Yes, I can.

15 Q. Did you hear anything about his activities as an
16 undercover police officer within the SDS at this time?

17 A. Well, I -- I would have done. I -- I mean, if I was on
18 the SDS and he was, then -- then I would have heard
19 being in the off -- general office, but I can't --
20 I can't recall anything specific.

21 Q. Are you able to help us, then, with any roles he may
22 have undertaken with the Anti-Apartheid Movement?

23 A. I knew that was the -- the organisation. I believe he
24 had infiltrated the Anti-Apartheid Movement. But apart
25 from that, no. He -- he seldom came to the office -- to

1 the -- to the -- he never came to Scotland Yard and
2 I wouldn't have seen him very often.

3 Q. Are you aware whether Detective Sergeant Ferguson
4 undertook active roles in that group?

5 A. I am now. I wasn't at the time, but I am now.

6 Q. Are you aware whether the senior management within
7 the unit were aware of his involvement taking active
8 roles in that group or not?

9 A. No, I don't know.

10 Q. Thank you.

11 On a similar topic in terms of your back office job,
12 you've told us that you would search the people that are
13 mentioned within the reports and to see whether they had
14 any Special Branch files on them. How did that system
15 work? Did you go and obtain the files yourself if they
16 existed?

17 A. Yes, I -- I -- we had a registry with -- I would search
18 them in Special Branch registry. If they had a file,
19 I would draw it and give it -- if -- give it to
20 the officer, or -- you know, who was interested.

21 Q. Are you able to say how often you had to undertake this
22 task? Was it regular?

23 A. No, I couldn't -- I couldn't even guess. Not after all
24 this time.

25 Q. You've also made mention of a card system. Can you just

1 explain what that is, please?

2 A. I know we had an index system. This is in the days
3 before computers. So basically it -- it was just
4 a reference. You would look in the card and you would
5 find -- under a certain name, and you'd probably find
6 reference to other files. That is as far as I can
7 remember.

8 Q. Thank you.

9 Ms Hillier, just a couple more questions. Finally,
10 generally, what would you describe the ethos of the unit
11 was when you were involved in it? What was it like?

12 A. What do you mean "ethos"?

13 Q. What was the general mood within the unit? How did it
14 feel when you were working in it?

15 A. Initially, when I joined, it was a very nice unit. It
16 was very happy. Everybody got on well together. They
17 were all going for a common cause. And it was a very
18 happy unit. That's the only way I can describe it
19 really.

20 Q. Did that change at all during your time, or was that --

21 A. No, no, for the whole time. Conrad Dixon was a very
22 good boss. Everybody liked him. They trusted him. And
23 I think they knew they could go to him if there were any
24 problems, and he -- he was -- was a very good boss.

25 Q. And looking back on it all this time later, is that

1 still your view of what your time was like on --

2 A. Yes, it was a very happy time. It was a very happy
3 squad and it worked well.

4 MR WARNER: Thank you, Ms Hillier. Those are the only
5 questions I have for you.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

7 I understand that there is an application from
8 Mr Menon.

9 Application by MR MENON

10 MR MENON: Yes, sir, there is.

11 Sir, I apply under rule 10, in the alternative
12 subsection 3, in the alternative subsection 4, to ask
13 questions on a few discrete topics of this witness that
14 have not been asked by Counsel to the Inquiry.

15 If you want me to spell out those issues and those
16 questions, sir, I'm happy to do so, but could
17 the witness be -- I don't know what the phrase is --
18 sent back to her break-out room if I am to do that?

19 THE CHAIRMAN: Is that technically possible? I don't ask
20 you, I ask the people operating the system.

21 MR MENON: I see there is somebody, I believe from
22 the Inquiry, sitting behind the witness, and he should
23 be able to, the same way that you and I can enter
24 break-out rooms, do that.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: The person sitting behind is from her legal

1 representation.

2 MR MENON: Oh, my apologies.

3 MS PURSER: Sir, if I may interrupt. It's possible to send
4 everyone into their break-out room at once, but it's not
5 possible to send individual people from the main hearing
6 room just into the break-out room.

7 MR MENON: Very well, I'll make the application, sir. If
8 it's not possible, I understand.

9 Shall I spell out the general areas, sir, on which
10 I wish to ask further questions?

11 Sir, can you hear me?

12 THE CHAIRMAN: I can and I thought you could hear me as I'm
13 not muted. My answer was "yes, please".

14 MR MENON: Thank you.

15 I wish to ask questions about the following topics,
16 please:

17 Firstly, the fact that she's giving evidence in her
18 real name.

19 Secondly, one specific question arising from
20 Mr Warner's questions about the "Penetration of
21 Extremist Groups" document that the witness was shown.

22 Thirdly, some further questions about Notting Hill
23 Vietnam Solidarity Campaign and Ms Hillier's involvement
24 in that organisation.

25 Fourthly, specific questions about the topic of

1 intimate relationships. And of all my topics this is
2 the one that is most important and most relevant, sir,
3 to your terms of reference.

4 Fifthly, one further question arising from
5 a document shown to the witness by Mr Warner in relation
6 to her attendance at a meeting of the Highgate and
7 Holloway branch of the VSC, in which she recorded
8 the names and addresses of a number of individuals
9 present at that meeting.

10 And finally, sir, some questions about
11 the interrelationship and interaction between
12 Special Branch and SDS, on the one hand, and MI5 on
13 the other, that Ms Hillier specifically deals with in
14 her witness statement but that she was not taken to when
15 questioned by Counsel to the Inquiry.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Menon, as I'm sure you know, I have
17 published various statements about the questioning of
18 witnesses by those who represent other participants or
19 witnesses in the Inquiry. And I have indicated that
20 I will permit, indeed encourage, questions to be asked
21 where there are disputes of fact about an important
22 topic between those who were parties to the fact. To
23 take the most extreme example, if there is a dispute
24 between a male undercover officer and a female activist
25 about whether they had an intimate relationship, and if

1 so when and where it took place, then I would permit
2 questions on both sides of both witnesses to that
3 claimed event.

4 But I have not stated, and it is not my intention,
5 that general questioning of the kind that you have
6 indicated you wish to undertake with this witness, not
7 about disputes of fact between your core participants
8 and her but about general topics, I have indicated that
9 those will be conducted, as they will be, by
10 Counsel to the Inquiry. I know you submit questions to
11 counsel who are going to ask questions of a witness
12 beforehand and they respond to you saying which of them
13 they will ask and which of them they won't.

14 Occasionally -- and I anticipate this will be very
15 rarely -- then I would be willing to second guess
16 Counsel to the Inquiry's judgment about the matter. But
17 I'm afraid I'm not willing to do it as a matter of
18 general practice, which is I think what you're
19 encouraging me to do.

20 MR MENON: I'm simply seeking, sir, to ask questions on
21 relevant matters that are squarely within your terms of
22 reference which in our submission will assist you in
23 getting to the truth. And those inevitably will include
24 matters where there are specific factual disputes. And
25 I anticipate, if you allow me in particular to ask

1 questions about Ms Hillier's attendance at the meetings
2 of the Notting Hill branch of the Vietnam Solidarity
3 Campaign and what happened specifically in relation to
4 her attendance at those meetings, those factual disputes
5 will in fact emerge.

6 But even, sir, where they don't emerge, if
7 the questions concern relevant matters which will assist
8 you at the end of the day, and we have considerable time
9 at 12.20 now before the next witness is due to give
10 evidence, I would ask for a little latitude to be able
11 to explore these matters with the witness.

12 You will then see whether I'm in fact asking
13 questions about relevant matters or not, and in future
14 you can make a decision about it. But I do ask you,
15 with all due respect, to exercise your discretion in
16 favour of allowing me to ask what I submit, as
17 a barrister with 26 years' experience, are relevant
18 questions not asked by Counsel to the Inquiry, in spite
19 of the fact that I provided a list of 42 questions that
20 I submit are relevant under the terms of reference.

21 I'll be no longer than 10 to 15 minutes.

22 THE CHAIRMAN: (inaudible) is the question of fact arising
23 out of the Notting Hill VSC meetings on which this
24 witness reported.

25 MR MENON: Sorry, I didn't hear your --

1 THE CHAIRMAN: What dispute of fact and between whom arises
2 out of the reporting on the Notting Hill VSC meetings?

3 MR MENON: Specifically to do with the conduct of now
4 deceased SDS officer Helen Crampton, and her involvement
5 with that branch of the VSC.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: And between whom is this dispute of fact?

7 MR MENON: It's a dispute of fact as to the evidence given
8 by the current witness and information that I am privy
9 to from another source, which I want to ask in the form
10 of open-ended questions of this witness, to see whether
11 she can assist you in determining the truth of
12 the matter.

13 THE CHAIRMAN: Have you indicated, as I said in statements
14 about the questioning of witnesses, that the source to
15 whom you refer, who you have not yet identified, will
16 give evidence about the matter?

17 MR MENON: Well, I'm not -- I'm not in a position to answer
18 that, sir, at this stage. It's a -- it's a -- I've set
19 out in detail the questions in the document I've
20 submitted to the Inquiry. I certainly hope that
21 the questions that I'm about to ask, if you allow me to
22 ask them, will be subsequently supported by a witness
23 statement. But I cannot give at this stage a cast iron
24 guarantee to that effect, because it's a -- it's an
25 issue that has only just arisen as far as -- as a result

1 of developments in the last few days.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: What is the issue?

3 MR MENON: Well, the issue is whether or not Helen Crampton
4 had a relationship of some kind with a leading member of
5 the Notting Hill Vietnam Solidarity Campaign.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: With whom?

7 MR MENON: A man by the name of George Cochrane, who can be
8 seen in a number of meetings -- sorry, the intelligence
9 reports of meetings as having been a chairman of that
10 branch of the VSC.

11 We say this is obviously relevant because it would
12 be -- if there were any truth to the matter -- the very
13 first example of an officer of the SDS engaging in some
14 form of intimate relationship with a member of a target
15 organisation.

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Is Mr Cochrane alive?

17 MR MENON: I have no idea. His name is not redacted in any
18 of the documents, which would suggest to me that
19 the Inquiry believes that he's not alive. His name
20 features in many, many Notting Hill VSC documents, some
21 of which I wish to take this witness to, with permission
22 from you, of course.

23 THE CHAIRMAN: You may ask the witness about this topic,
24 about whether there was a relationship between
25 Helen Crampton and George Cochrane, because

1 the likelihood is that he is not in a position to be
2 able to give evidence about it. But I'm afraid that you
3 must take it that that is an exceptional course, and
4 I do not propose to invite you to ask questions on any
5 other topic.

6 Questions by MR MENON

7 MR MENON: Thank you.

8 Ms Hillier, can you see and hear me?

9 A. I can, yes.

10 Q. You, in answer to questions from Mr Warner, who
11 questioned you this morning, indicated that all
12 the meetings that you attended, with the exception of
13 one meeting which you attended alone, were meetings of
14 the Notting Hill branch of the Vietnam Solidarity
15 Campaign, which you attended together with your then
16 colleague Helen Crampton; is that right?

17 A. That's correct, yes.

18 Q. Prior to attending those meetings of the Notting Hill
19 Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, had you been told by
20 anybody in a senior position within SDS that that
21 particular branch of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign had
22 been disowned by the national council of the Vietnam
23 Solidarity Campaign because of some of the political
24 positions that it was taking?

25 A. I didn't know that. Until I saw it in the report I saw

- 1 this morning, I didn't know that.
- 2 Q. You indicated this morning that you attended
- 3 the October 27 March against the Vietnam War together
- 4 with Helen Crampton and other members of
- 5 the Notting Hill Vietnam Solidarity Campaign; is that
- 6 right?
- 7 A. That's correct, yes.
- 8 Q. And obviously you had previously attended a number of
- 9 the branch's meetings in September and October; is that
- 10 right?
- 11 A. About four.
- 12 Q. Had you, during that period when you had attended
- 13 meetings, become on first name terms with any members of
- 14 the Notting Hill Vietnam Solidarity Campaign?
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. Well, when you and Helen Crampton marched together, are
- 17 you saying that you marched completely separate from
- 18 anybody else, or did you march together with other
- 19 members of that branch?
- 20 A. Marched with other members of that branch.
- 21 Q. And I assume that you would have spoken to them and --
- 22 as you were marching through the streets of London?
- 23 A. Presumably, yes.
- 24 Q. And they would have asked you your name and they would
- 25 have -- you would have asked them their name, perhaps?

- 1 A. It was 52 years ago, but presumably, yes.
- 2 Q. And I think your evidence is that obviously if you had
3 been asked for your name, you would have not given your
4 real name, you would have given a false name, for
5 obvious reasons?
- 6 A. That's correct, yeah.
- 7 Q. Now, you were asked earlier today about, on the topic of
8 intimate relationship, whether any of your SDS
9 colleagues, to the best of your knowledge, had had
10 intimate relationships with a member of a target group.
11 Do you remember that question?
- 12 A. I do, yes.
- 13 Q. And can you just repeat again what your answer to that
14 question is?
- 15 A. My answer is no, I don't know of any.
- 16 Q. And would that include both male and female officers
17 within the SDS?
- 18 A. It would include everybody.
- 19 Q. And would that include even, for example, going on
20 a date with a member of a target organisation?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 Q. As far as you're concerned, it wouldn't happen?
- 23 A. I didn't say it wouldn't happen, I'm saying I didn't --
24 I don't think it happened.
- 25 Q. Well, to be more specific about it, Ms Hillier, to

1 the best of your knowledge or belief, did your former
2 colleague, Helen Crampton, have some kind of intimate
3 relationship or go out with a member of the Notting Hill
4 Vietnam Solidarity Campaign?

5 A. I don't know the -- of course I don't know for certain,
6 but I would say I doubt it very much.

7 Q. Did she never at any stage whilst you were both
8 colleagues in the SDS indicate to you any kind of social
9 or intimate relationship with anybody in
10 the Notting Hill VSC?

11 A. No, never.

12 Q. Could we please have on the screen the following
13 document <MPS-0739188>. Ms Hillier, you can see that
14 this is an intelligence report of a meeting of
15 the Notting Hill VSC --

16 A. Yeah.

17 Q. -- on 12 October 1968; do you see that?

18 A. 2 October?

19 Q. 2 October, yes. Sorry, did I say something else?

20 A. Yeah.

21 Q. And we can see that it's described as a regular public
22 meeting?

23 A. Yeah.

24 Q. And we can see a number of names there. We can see
25 the name George Cochrane?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Listed as the Chairman of that meeting; do you see that?
- 3 A. Yeah, I do, yes.
- 4 Q. And if we could just go to the next page, please
- 5 <MPS-0739188/2>, and the bottom bit, please, underneath
- 6 the description of what happened.
- 7 We can see there that you were present at that
- 8 meeting; is that right?
- 9 A. That's right, yes.
- 10 Q. And two other officers, with the numbers "68" and "331"?
- 11 A. That's right.
- 12 Q. And I believe it's Helen Crampton's name on the right
- 13 under the number "3"?
- 14 A. That's right. She signed the report.
- 15 Q. Signed the report. It's very -- it's very poorly marked
- 16 there.
- 17 Does the name "George Cochrane" ring any bells?
- 18 A. None at all, no.
- 19 Q. Are you in a position to say one way or another whether
- 20 Helen Crampton had any kind of social or intimate
- 21 relationship with the man who chaired this particular
- 22 meeting?
- 23 A. I think my answer's got to be no. I would doubt it very
- 24 much.
- 25 Q. Thank you.

1 Could we have the following document on the screen,
2 please, <MPS-0722099/2>. This is a file of VSC
3 documents, Ms Hillier?

4 A. Yeah.

5 Q. Could we turn, please, to page 34 in this larger file
6 <MPS-0722099/34>.

7 This is a report in a different type of format,
8 headed "Public meetings and poster parades". It's in
9 relation to an event of some kind, a meeting, I assume,
10 on 1 September 1968 of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign.
11 We see again the name "George Cochrane" there under
12 the heading "Chairman"; do you see that?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And then a few lines down it says that there were about
15 40 people present at this event. The police
16 arrangements were "Casual observation" with "1 PC"; do
17 you see that?

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. Then could we go to the next page, please
20 <MPS-0722099/35>. Some indication here about some films
21 that were played at this event.

22 Go to the next page, please, <MPS-0722099/36>.
23 Actually, I'm sorry about this. Can you go back up two
24 pages to the first page <MPS-0722099/34>. Yes, I'm
25 sorry. Thank you.

1 Sorry, we only had the top half of the first page
2 and it was my mistake.

3 Do you see the heading, "Origin of information about
4 meeting"?

5 A. No, where?

6 Q. About halfway down the page?

7 A. "Telephone call from chairman"? Yes.

8 Q. Exactly.

9 A. Mm.

10 Q. Can you tell us what that means, please, "Telephone call
11 from chairman"?

12 A. Obviously the Chairman phoned either the local police
13 station or Scotland Yard. He phoned somebody anyway,
14 and told them about the poster parade. As -- as it was
15 an event that was taking place in the street, they would
16 -- they would do that. It -- it didn't -- it didn't say
17 a telephone call to Special Branch, or telephone call to
18 Helen Crampton, it just said "telephone call".

19 Q. I see.

20 A. I could be to anybody.

21 Q. So it indicates that the chairman of this meeting has
22 informed the police about the meeting?

23 A. That's right, yes. They would. It's a public meeting
24 in the street. So it would -- it would be policed.
25 They'd send a uniform officer there as well.

1 Q. Thank you.

2 Could we have the following document on the screen,
3 please, <MPS-0722098>. This is, again, another large
4 file of Special Branch papers. Could we go to page 222,
5 please, <MPS-0722098/222>.

6 Again, the same heading of "Public Meetings and
7 Poster Parades"; is that right?

8 A. That's right.

9 Q. An event, again of the Vietnam Solidarity, it says.
10 There's a specific address given there: Powis Terrace,
11 W11?

12 A. Yeah.

13 Q. Date 20 August 68.

14 Then it says:

15 "Subject of meeting", you can see that
16 the word "parade" has been crossed out. So this seems
17 to be a meeting on "American aggression in Vietnam"
18 being held at that particular address, Powis Terrace in
19 W11, yes?

20 A. I think that they're saying that the organisation is
21 the Vietnam Solidarity, and their address is
22 Powis Terrace, W11. They're not saying that's where
23 the meeting was held.

24 Q. Okay. Is there any indication --

25 A. And they're informing the police that they intend to

- 1 hold a public meeting in the street --
- 2 Q. Why do you think -- (overspeaking) --
- 3 A. -- (inaudible).
- 4 Q. I'm trying -- (overspeaking) --
- 5 A. -- (inaudible).
- 6 Q. I'm trying to understand why you're saying it's in
- 7 the street, given that "parade" is --
- 8 A. -- (overspeaking) -- or poster parade. That would be
- 9 held outdoors in the street. They would be marching
- 10 with placards.
- 11 Q. -- (overspeaking) -- the heading of the page is "Public
- 12 Meetings and Poster Parades"?
- 13 A. Yes, that's a public meeting. That's why -- there would
- 14 have been police arrangements, there would have been one
- 15 police sergeant and two police constables there, to make
- 16 sure that they didn't get into the road, they didn't
- 17 hold up the traffic; that sort of thing. That's why
- 18 they would have informed the police --
- 19 Q. You're saying -- you're saying this is a -- because
- 20 the word "parade" is crossed out that this is an
- 21 indication of a public meeting in the street --
- 22 A. Yes.
- 23 Q. -- as opposed to a public meeting in a house or a --
- 24 A. A hall -- (overspeaking) --
- 25 Q. -- centre of some kind?

1 A. That's right. It's a street meeting, or a poster
2 parade, which is the same thing, where they march up
3 -- march up and down with placards. This -- this wasn't
4 held -- and of course, people -- the organisers of --
5 and the heads of these -- that Vietnam Solidarity
6 Campaign would know that they had to inform the police
7 of what they intended to do, because it was in a public
8 place, so that it didn't cause any -- any public
9 disorder, or public nuisance.

10 Q. Could we turn to the next page, please --

11 THE CHAIRMAN: I think, before we do, can we go back to that
12 page, please.

13 We can see there the number of people present being
14 reported, "60-70". Is there any issue about whether or
15 not this was a public meeting?

16 MR MENON: Sir, are you asking me, sir?

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes.

18 MR MENON: Well, I'm suggesting it is a public meeting.

19 That's what I'm asking about, because the word "parade"
20 is crossed out.

21 THE CHAIRMAN: Forgive me. I had misunderstood your
22 purpose. I do apologise. It's common ground this was
23 a public meeting.

24 MR MENON: Yes, exactly.

25 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

1 MR MENON: I'm just asking about -- yes, absolutely.

2 I mean, that's what I assumed, because
3 the word "parade" is crossed out. This was, on the face
4 of it, a public meeting that was scheduled to take place
5 between 8 pm and 10.15 pm on 20 August.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, I'm sorry to interrupt you.

7 Please carry on.

8 MR MENON: No problem at all.

9 Could we have the next page, please,
10 <MPS-0722098/223>. And I think this is -- this looks to
11 be effectively a duplicate of the earlier page. Same
12 date, same time. Yes, thank you. We don't need to look
13 at that.

14 Ms Hillier, you were asked by Mr Warner some time
15 ago about whether you were aware -- whether you were
16 aware of Helen Crampton giving evidence for
17 the prosecution in the trial of a man who I will refer
18 to as "Mr X", in relation to a leaflet that he was said
19 to have been distributing at a meeting of
20 the Notting Hill Vietnam Solidarity Campaign on
21 9 October 1968. Do you remember that question?

22 A. I do, yes.

23 Q. I'm just going to show you a document that will confirm
24 that you were present at that meeting <MPS-0739187>.
25 There we have the date, 9 October,

1 Notting Hill VSC, "Regular public meeting". Kenneth
2 Murray listed as the Chairman of this meeting.

3 Can we scroll down, please. Under the
4 heading "Literature" we can see it says:

5 "Document entitled 'Potential of a militant
6 demonstration -- is dealt with separately."

7 Next bit, please, a summary of what happened at that
8 public meeting.

9 Next please. And there, again, we can see four
10 police officers present: you and two others, 68 and 331.
11 Helen Crampton there listed under number 4; do you see
12 that?

13 A. I do, yes.

14 Q. Now, I know this is more than 50 years ago, Ms Hillier,
15 I entirely appreciate that, but are you saying that you
16 have no recollection at all about your former colleague
17 Helen Crampton being a prosecution witness of a man, who
18 I am referring to as "Mr X", who was tried at
19 the Central Criminal Court in 1969 for inciting riot?
20 You really have no recollection of that at all?

21 A. I have absolutely no recollection at all.

22 Q. I'm assuming, given you don't have any recollection of
23 this, that you were not a prosecution witness --

24 A. No.

25 Q. -- at this trial or any other trial?

1 A. No, I wasn't.

2 Q. Can I ask you to look at <MPS-0739150>.

3 This is a police Special Branch document summarising
4 the trial. I'm not going to take you through all of it,
5 just a few salient bits.

6 We can see that it took place in February 1969,
7 before Mr Justice Hines at the Central Criminal Court,
8 the principal charge under number 1 is "Inciting to
9 riot"; do you see that?

10 A. I do, yes.

11 Q. Then if we can go down, please.

12 Something about representation at the bottom of
13 the page. We can see that --

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. -- Mr X was convicted on counts 1 and 2 and sentenced to
16 a total of two years' imprisonment.

17 Next page, please, <MPS-0739150/2>.

18 We can see at the second paragraph there the brief
19 description of the facts. Mr X is alleged to have been
20 distributing a leaflet entitled "The potential of
21 a militant demonstration". This is at the meeting at
22 which you were present.

23 Pausing there, do you have no independent
24 recollection today --

25 A. I'm sorry, I really don't.

1 Q. -- of -- let me just -- can I just finish the question
2 -- (overspeaking) -- no recollection today of
3 Helen Crampton obtaining a leaflet at this meeting and
4 saying, "Look at this" -- showing you the leaflet, for
5 example, and saying, "Look at what this leaflet says",
6 or handing that leaflet to Conrad Dixon, or discussing
7 it at any meetings? None of this triggers anything?

8 A. None of it triggers anything at all, I'm sorry. Nothing
9 triggers -- it triggers nothing.

10 Q. -- (overspeaking) --

11 A. -- (overspeaking) --

12 Q. (inaudible) -- Ms Hillier, is that, given we are
13 discussing events that took place 50 years ago; on most
14 other matters you have an astonishingly good memory of
15 events, which is why I'm hoping that showing you these
16 documents might trigger a recollection.

17 A. I don't remember the document, and I certainly don't
18 remember the trial. And it was -- it was 6 January --
19 it was early '69. I do not remember, I'm sorry.

20 Q. And you don't remember Helen Crampton ever telling you
21 about this?

22 A. No.

23 MR MENON: Thank you.

24 Sir, I think that's all I can sensibly ask on this
25 topic. Thank you very much.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: I'm sorry. I was muted.

2 There is another application by Ms Brander. I have
3 to deal with that first. And then there may be some
4 further questions of you from your own counsel, but
5 we'll be finished by 1.

6 A. Thank you, sir.

7 MS PURSER: Sir, whilst -- I'm sorry to interrupt you, but
8 whilst we're unable to open break-out rooms whilst
9 the hearing room is open, would it be sensible to ask
10 the witness to physically leave the room that she is in?

11 THE CHAIRMAN: No, there's no need to do that.

12 Application by MS BRANDER

13 MS BRANDER: Sir, I've been able to unmute myself -- now I'm
14 able to start the video, perhaps. There we are.

15 Can you see and hear me, sir?

16 THE CHAIRMAN: I can see and hear you. I hope you can see
17 and hear me. I'm relieved to discover that others are
18 also troubled by the technology.

19 MS BRANDER: Yes, it's a learning experience, sir.

20 In light of your earlier indication and in view of
21 the fact that, unlike Mr Menon, there are not areas with
22 respect to this witness that have been omitted to any
23 significant degree by Mr Warner, I'm not pursuing my
24 application in respect of this witness.

25 However, sir, I do make this application perhaps for

1 a hearing, if at all possible, next week -- and I know
2 we're not sitting on Tuesday and we have a late start on
3 Wednesday -- at which we could address you, sir, in
4 relation to the scope of questioning for witnesses.
5 Because, as you know, sir, under rule 10.4, there is
6 a right for recognised legal representatives of
7 core participants to apply to you for permission to ask
8 questions of a witness, and it is a matter that
9 the non-state core participants who I represent as
10 a cooperating group feel very strongly about.

11 As you know, they're extremely keen to participate
12 in this Inquiry. They don't wish to disrupt or derail
13 it. But they do wish to assist you in getting to
14 the truth. And with respect, sir, there are issues on
15 which -- I give the example of the women in
16 relationships, that they feel that they have matters
17 that they can contribute by way of questioning that they
18 would ask to be put to the witnesses. And I have
19 obviously been submitting rule 10 questions to
20 the Inquiry, and I'm grateful to Counsel to the Inquiry
21 for getting back to me.

22 However, I would seek an opportunity to address you
23 more fully than now -- I don't want to detain this
24 witness making a full submission at this stage. But
25 that if time could be set aside where those who wish to

1 address on you this can do so, as to agreeing perhaps,
2 subject to your decision, obviously, sir, a process by
3 which there is a little more scope for core participants
4 to feed in, in relation to questioning.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Ms Brander, you rightly say that Tuesday is
6 a day when we were going to receive evidence but are not
7 now going to. It takes quite a bit of setting up to
8 make arrangements to have a hearing of any sort. And it
9 may be that that would not be possible on Tuesday. We
10 have two further opening statements to receive from Dave
11 Smith and from Helen Steel. And discussions, I know,
12 are going on behind the scenes about when their opening
13 statements may be fitted in.

14 Would you leave your request with me, please?
15 I will discuss it with my team, and they will
16 communicate with you when we have reflected upon your
17 application.

18 MS BRANDER: I'm grateful, sir. And if it is possible to
19 have -- I appreciate the difficulties, but if it is
20 possible to have a hearing, obviously it would be
21 beneficial if we could do it sooner rather than later,
22 so that if you are with us, it can be heard before there
23 are too many more witnesses.

24 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes. I think Monday is a fairly full day and
25 there will not be time to do it on Monday. But please

1 leave it with me. I will see that your application is
2 considered and reflected upon within our team, and we
3 will then revert to you.

4 MS BRANDER: I'm grateful, sir, thank you.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

6 Mr Sanders, do you have any questions arising out of
7 what has been asked today, in what I think traditionally
8 is called "re-examination"?

9 Further questions by MR SANDERS

10 MR SANDERS: On one matter only, sir. So it should not take
11 long.

12 Ms Hillier, can you see and hear me?

13 THE CHAIRMAN: The answer appears to be no.

14 Can you hear Mr Sanders? He's rather quietly
15 spoken?

16 A. I can hear you, sir, but nobody else, sorry.

17 THE CHAIRMAN: Right. I'm afraid, Mr Sanders, you're going
18 to have to speak up. You're not muted, I know that
19 because I could just about hear you. But you're going
20 to have to speak up, louder than you usually do.

21 MR SANDERS: I'll try to. I've pulled the iMac closer to me
22 as well. Is that better, Ms Hillier?

23 A. Yes, that's better. Thank you.

24 Q. Sorry about that.

25 I just wanted to take you back to one document that

1 you were asked about. And if we could have it on
2 the screen. It's reference <MPS-0722098>. I'll just
3 wait for that to come on the screen. And particularly
4 within that it's page 186, <MPS-0722098/186>.

5 You've already said, Ms Hillier, that you didn't
6 attend any meetings of the Highgate-Holloway VSC; that's
7 right, isn't it?

8 A. That is right, yes.

9 Q. And looking at this report, can I just ask you to
10 comment on a couple of matters.

11 The top right-hand corner, do you see a number
12 there "40A"?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. Do you recall what those numbers would mean, why they
15 were added?

16 A. I think it was the page number.

17 Q. Of the file itself?

18 A. In the file itself.

19 No, the file is a general file, so it -- it would
20 probably take anything relating to the VSC. And I can
21 only think that "40A" would be the -- they would be
22 the page number. The first document to go in would be
23 1A, and so forth until the document was filled.

24 Q. Thank you.

25 A. So to find that one in future, you would go to this

1 file, which was a general -- 400/68/161, which was
2 a general file, and folio 40A would be the page number.

3 Q. Thank you very much.

4 And just looking at this document, which is in your
5 name, you'll see that it seems to be picking out
6 addresses and whether there's a file reference for
7 individuals. So we see:

8 "[privacy] has been identified as [privacy] correct
9 address [privacy] -- No trace SB records."

10 So that would be taking a name, finding out who it
11 is, where they live and whether there's a Special Branch
12 file?

13 A. Yes.

14 Q. And just looking at the first paragraph, it says:

15 "With reference to report of 6th August, 1968, on
16 400/68/161 (37A) ..."

17 So 400/68/161 would be this file; is that correct?

18 A. That would be that file. So you turn back three pages
19 and you'll find the page number.

20 Q. You'll find 37A.

21 And if we could just go to that. It's at 173 of
22 this file <MPS-0722098/173>. If we could have that on
23 the screen.

24 So you'll see there in the top right-hand
25 corner "37A"?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. "Temporary minute sheet to be placed on 400/68/161", and
3 it says that there's an attachment, which is
4 the appendix, and then it lists who's going to see this.

5 Then if we look down -- scroll to the next page to
6 see the appendix, <MPS-0722098/174>, you'll see it's
7 been removed:

8 "Information from a sensitive source. Details of
9 persons attending a VSC branch meeting."

10 Given the cross-reference to 37A in the report we
11 were just looking at, do you think that you were asked
12 to find out -- to make Special Branch enquiries in
13 relation to the individuals at the meeting who are in
14 this redacted document?

15 A. I wouldn't think so. I think it was just given to me to
16 type, frankly.

17 Q. So someone else would have done that and then you would
18 have typed it up?

19 A. Somebody else would have done all that and I just typed
20 it.

21 MR SANDERS: Thank you. It was just to clarify that point.

22 Sir, if I could just give you, for your reference,
23 it's paragraph 29 of Ms Hillier's first witness
24 statement where she -- she talks about the document she
25 was asked about.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Does that conclude your
2 questions?

3 MR SANDERS: That's it. Nothing else. Thank you very much,
4 sir.

5 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

6 Ms Hillier, thank you very much for your evidence
7 and your assistance. I have no reason to think that
8 the Inquiry will trouble you again, but if we do, please
9 bear with us.

10 A. Thank you, sir.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

12 We will now adjourn until 2 o'clock.

13 MS PURSER: Thank you, everyone. That concludes this
14 morning's session. We will be back at 2 pm this
15 afternoon.

16 (12.54 pm)

17 (The short adjournment)

18 (2.00 pm)

19 MS PURSER: Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to
20 the afternoon session of the evidential statements at
21 the Undercover Policing Inquiry. Can I please check
22 that all state and non-state RLRs are in the room?

23 If you could say "yes".

24 LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE: spkr? Non-states are here.

25 MS PURSER: Thank you. Okay, I was aware there was an issue

1 with one of the connections, but I can see you all now.

2 Thank you very much.

3 I will now, in that case, hand over to the Chairman
4 to continue proceedings.

5 Chairman.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: As always, at the beginning of a session of
7 the hearings of the Inquiry, a recording of about three
8 minutes made earlier this year is now to be played:

9 "I am conducting this Inquiry under a statute,
10 the Inquiries Act 2005, which gives me the power to make
11 orders regulating the conduct of the Inquiry, including
12 its hearings. In the exercise of that power, I have
13 made a number of orders which affect what you may and
14 may not do in the hearing rooms and after you leave
15 them.

16 "Breach of any of the orders is a serious matter and
17 may have serious consequences for you. If I am
18 satisfied that a person may have breached an order,
19 I have the power to certify the matter to the High
20 Court, which will investigate and deal with it as if it
21 had been a contempt of that court.

22 "If satisfied that a breach has occurred and merits
23 the imposition of a penalty, the High Court may impose
24 a severe sanction on the person in breach, including
25 a fine, imprisonment for up to two years and

1 sequestration of their assets.

2 "Evidence is going to be given live over screens in
3 the hearing rooms. It is strictly prohibited to
4 photograph or record what is shown on the screens, or to
5 record what is said by a witness or anyone else in
6 the hearing rooms. You may bring your mobile telephone
7 into the hearing rooms, but you may not use it for any
8 of those purposes. You may use it silently for any
9 other purpose. In particular, you may transmit your
10 account of what you have seen and heard in a hearing
11 room to any other person, but only once at least ten
12 minutes have elapsed since the event which you are
13 describing took place.

14 "This restriction has a purpose. In the course of
15 the Inquiry, I have made orders prohibiting the public
16 disclosure of information; for example, about
17 the identity of a person, for a variety of reasons.
18 These orders must be upheld. It is inevitable that,
19 whether by accident or design, information which I have
20 ordered should not be publicly disclosed will sometimes
21 be disclosed in a hearing.

22 "If and when that happens, I will immediately
23 suspend the hearing and make an order prohibiting
24 further disclosure of the information outside
25 the hearing rooms. The consequence will be that no

1 further disclosure of that information may be made by
2 mobile telephone or other portable electronic device
3 from within the hearing room, or by any means outside
4 it.

5 "I am sorry if you find this message alarming. It
6 is not intended to be. Its purpose is simply to ensure
7 that everyone knows the rules which must apply if I am
8 to hear the evidence which I need to enable me to get to
9 the truth about undercover policing.

10 "You, as members of the public, are entitled to hear
11 the same public evidence as I will hear, and to reach
12 your own conclusions about it. The Inquiry team will do
13 their best to ensure that you can.

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

18 I am told we have a technical hitch which will
19 prevent us from starting properly for five minutes or
20 so. Please bear with us.

21 (2.05 pm)

22 (A short break)

23 (2.11 pm)

24 MS PURSER: Welcome back, everyone. Sorry for the delay and
25 thank you for your patience. I will now hand back to

1 the Chairman to continue proceedings.

2 Chairman.

3 HN326

4 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Mr Barr, HN326.

5 HN326, do you wish to be sworn or to affirm?

6 A. I've brought a Bible with me, sir. I'll swear on
7 the Bible.

8 THE CHAIRMAN: Please.

9 MS PURSER: Good afternoon -- sorry, I missed what you said,
10 HN326.

11 THE CHAIRMAN: He will swear on the Bible.

12 A. I've got a Bible here, so I'll swear on the Bible. And
13 I've also brought a copy of the oath, if that's ...
14 so~...

15 (Witness sworn)

16 THE CHAIRMAN: Can I confirm, please, that the man we can
17 see sitting behind you is the only other person in
18 the room from which you're speaking?

19 A. He is, sir, yes.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21 Questions by MR BARR

22 MR BARR: Thank you, sir.

23 326 -- I'm afraid I'm going to have to call you that
24 for the afternoon -- you have provided us with two
25 witness statements, which have been put together into

1 a composite dated 16 April 2019, and in addition
2 a further statement dated 16 September 2019 dealing with
3 photographs.

4 Are you familiar with the contents of those witness
5 statements?

6 A. I am, sir, yes.

7 Q. Are they true and correct to the best of your knowledge
8 and belief?

9 A. They are, sir.

10 Q. And is it right that you used the cover name "Douglas"
11 or "Doug", "Edwards"?

12 A. Correct, sir.

13 Q. Can I ask you first of all about some of your training
14 for Special Branch. Were you given any training on
15 the sorts of political groups that Special Branch was
16 interested in?

17 A. Not at all, sir, no.

18 Q. And were you given any training about what the word
19 "subversion" meant?

20 A. No, obviously I realise what is subversive now, but
21 I was not actually sort of taught that, no. I was only
22 in the Branch a few months before I was asked if I would
23 go on this Special Squad; because the man who was my
24 detective inspector, he was running the squad, and I was
25 invited to go and join the squad, because he was

1 the DI that I had and he -- he knew me, and I suppose he
2 thought I could do the job. But I had no idea what
3 I was joining when I joined, because everything was so
4 secret at that time, it really was.

5 Q. Did you obtain, in the course of your work, an
6 understanding of subversion?

7 A. I suppose I did really, yes. I was in the Branch a long
8 while and I did know what subversion was, yes.

9 Q. Can I ask you to cast your mind back to the time when
10 you were working in the SDS. At that time --

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. -- what was your understanding of subversion for
13 the purposes of your work?

14 A. Well, I was there to learn about these different
15 left-wing groups that were fomenting trouble on
16 the streets. And the whole purpose of it was to assist
17 the Commissioner of the day with the deployment of
18 uniform officers. That is what my main purpose was: to
19 find out about forthcoming demonstrations and the groups
20 and people that might be participating in those
21 demonstrations, to try and understand about problems
22 that they might cause. If that helps.

23 Q. Yes. That sounds like public order. What I'm
24 interested in is whether you also were collecting
25 information in relation to whether the groups were

1 subversive.

2 A. Well, the thing is that, as a Special Branch officer,
3 you needed to identify people and try and understand
4 what their political beliefs were. And it was sort of
5 reported back, so that there were records of these
6 people to be called upon, if need be.

7 Q. And what was your understanding of why you were
8 recording people's political beliefs?

9 A. Well, it was just part and parcel of being an
10 SB officer, to try and get this information, to try and
11 understand what groups that they were allocated to;
12 because there's all sorts of rivalries in different
13 groups and some were Trotskyite people that were bent on
14 causing violence, and anarchist groups that were causing
15 violence at demonstrations.

16 Q. In your time with Special Branch --

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. -- before you joined the SDS --

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. -- did you get some practice writing reports?

21 A. Yes, there was some practice, yes. We used to go do
22 enquiries. The Security Service would ask through
23 the squad to make enquiries about certain people and
24 identify them for the Security Service. Does that help?

25 Q. Well, what I was interested in is, in terms of the style

1 of reports and the content of what you might put in them
2 about a person or a group, whether you'd had any
3 instruction or practice in that.

4 A. Well, I used to -- what we used to say "carve reports
5 up". You know, you'd put a report in with
6 the information in it, then it would go up to
7 the management, and they would carve it up to what
8 they -- you know, they would send it back for a rewrite
9 or a retype, or whatever. There was quite a high
10 standard of doing the reports in those days.

11 Q. And so did you learn what was expected of you on
12 the job?

13 A. Yes, I suppose I did, yes, that's right --

14 Q. -- (overspeaking) --

15 A. Sorry, sir.

16 Q. You've just described what might be called "feedback".
17 By the time that you joined the SDS, would you say you
18 were still getting a lot of that sort of feedback, or
19 had you learned the ropes by then?

20 A. Well, considering I'd only been in the Branch for a few
21 months, I was still learning the -- I was on probation
22 in Special Branch. Sort of, you do your two years'
23 probation in uniform, and then when you join
24 a specialist department, you're on probation again.
25 I did a year's probation in Special Branch. So I was on

1 probation when I was there and called to do the job, and
2 you didn't refuse really. You had to do what you were
3 told in those days.

4 Q. I see. I'm just going to digress a little bit and ask
5 you about some work you did for the vetting team within
6 Special Branch. Who were you vetting for?

7 A. Sorry, were you referring to my early service, or,
8 sorry?

9 Q. I'm referring to -- I think it's the end of your career
10 that you say in your witness statement:

11 "The final two or three years of my career I was
12 posted to the vetting office."

13 A. That's correct.

14 Q. I'd just like to know who you were vetting for?

15 A. I was vetting for the Metropolitan Police, the whole --
16 the security vetting.

17 Q. And so who was being vetted?

18 A. It was people that were in Special Branch, people
19 joining the Metropolitan Police, we used to do their
20 security vetting, through the Security Service.

21 Q. And do you know, during that vetting process, did you
22 use intelligence that was kept on Special Branch files
23 for that purpose?

24 A. That's a good question. We -- we used to check with
25 the Security Service. It was done through

1 the Security Service. From the completed security
2 vetting form, we would pass all that information to
3 the Security Service and then they would tell us if
4 the person had been cleared or not. They would come
5 back and tell us whether they considered somebody
6 a security risk.

7 Q. Right. I'm going to go back now to the SDS.

8 You've told us that when you joined, it was all
9 being kept very secret?

10 A. It was indeed, yes.

11 Q. You joined a few months after the unit had been formed.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Do you know whether it had always been kept very secret
14 or not?

15 A. Well, as far as I know, it had been, yes, right from
16 the sort of foundation of it.

17 Q. And you've told us that the primary purpose, as far as
18 you were aware, was to gather intelligence about
19 demonstrations and so forth?

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Did anybody mention to you gathering intelligence to be
22 put on file?

23 A. No, but it was just the general job of a Special Branch
24 officer to identify the people with whom you were
25 associating when you were doing it.

1 Q. Now, can I ask you about how you got to learn to do your
2 job on the SDS. You tell us in your witness statement
3 that you were told not to break the law.

4 A. Yes, that's correct.

5 Q. Can you recall who told you that?

6 A. Who told us that. It was probably the DI and the chief
7 inspector who was running the outfit; you were sort of
8 told not to -- not to do anything that was breaking
9 the law. They were concerned about sit-in -- they were
10 squatting and all this sort of thing. You couldn't go
11 into a squat, for instance. You couldn't get involved
12 with that.

13 Q. Could you, for example, go to a meeting where a squat
14 was being organised, but then not go on the squat
15 itself?

16 A. We could, but it was quite difficult. It was quite
17 difficult.

18 Q. You say in your witness statement that you were friendly
19 with the officer that we know as "HN68".

20 A. I'll just check the list, sir, if I may.

21 Q. Sure.

22 A. Yes, indeed, sir, yes.

23 Q. And that you say:

24 "I am sure he gave me advice based on his time in
25 and experience of the SDS."

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Can you help us with what sort of advice he gave you?
- 3 A. Well, the sort of advice is sort of regarding getting
4 a cover identity and a cover job, and things like this,
5 just to sort of make the job easier for you.
- 6 Q. Did he give you any advice on what might be called
7 "fieldcraft", how to pull off pretending to be somebody
8 else?
- 9 A. No, that was -- you had to play it by ear, I'm afraid.
10 You had to play it by ear.
- 11 Q. And did you get advice from other colleagues in
12 the unit?
- 13 A. Yes. The man in charge, he wanted me to look at an
14 anarchist group; and I was told that the way to do this
15 was to go to Piccadilly Circus and sit about there and
16 I would be recruited; and I'd be able to be joining
17 the anarchists. But of course it was a load of rubbish.
18 You know, when I'd done that for a few nights,
19 I thought, "Well, what am I wasting my time for?" And
20 it wasn't the way to do it, I'm afraid --
- 21 Q. We'll come back to the anarchists --
- 22 A. -- experienced.
- 23 Q. We'll come back to the anarchists --
- 24 A. Okay.
- 25 Q. -- 326.

1 Were you given any guidance or help as to what kind
2 of information the SDS wanted you to obtain?

3 A. Not specifically so, but you -- you're looking for
4 information about demonstrations and how they were going
5 to be arranged, who was going to go and how big those
6 demonstrations might be.

7 Q. Now, I understand a member of the unit, an
8 administrative position was occupied by a man known as
9 "Roy Creamer". Did you know Roy Creamer?

10 A. I did, yes. Very intellectual and knowledgeable man on
11 all left-wing affairs.

12 Q. Which takes me -- thank you very much, 326 -- straight
13 to my question.

14 Did he give you any briefings about the political
15 groups that you were being asked to infiltrate?

16 A. Political briefings. Not -- I -- I don't recall
17 a specific -- he might have done, but I don't recall
18 a specific briefing. I remember him -- because
19 the thing is, the anarchists were a bit of a waste of
20 time, a bit of a blow out, that one was. And I was told
21 to join the ILP. Not that we had the slightest interest
22 in the ILP, but it would give me a handle to swing, it
23 was -- I do remember the words "a handle to swing". In
24 other words, you -- when you go round these other groups
25 to try and find out what was going on, they say, "Who

1 are you from?" and I'd say I was from the ILP, and that
2 was sufficient to get you -- get you in and put your
3 name on the list as being there present at the meeting,
4 sort of thing.

5 Q. So, say, for example, a moment arrived when, as an ILP
6 member, you were going to go and attend a different
7 group's meeting.

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Did you go and see Roy Creamer and speak to him so you
10 had some background on the group?

11 A. Not specifically. You'd just put -- we used to put the
12 information in to the office at the Yard. And this
13 information would go over there -- I think bits of paper
14 even. We'd type it out, the information. And it would
15 go over to the Yard, and then they would deal with
16 the information that you put in, they'd put the
17 Special Branch references on and all this sort of thing.
18 And then it would eventually come back, if they were
19 interested in it, to get it signed. That's -- that's
20 the system that worked.

21 Q. Thank you.

22 I'm more interested, just at the moment, in whether
23 there was any information coming back the other way to
24 you, to help you do your job.

25 A. You mean direction as to what groups I should join,

1 you're saying?

2 Q. Well, that and also whether you were given any
3 background information about them.

4 A. No, I think it was more a case of us telling them what
5 the groups were up to, really.

6 Q. I see.

7 Now, you tell us in your witness statement that you
8 were -- you had a cover address in E15?

9 A. Ash Road. Yes, I think it's all been pulled down now.
10 It's gone, I think.

11 Q. And that it would -- and you thought it would help if
12 you were seen meeting somebody there. Who did you meet
13 at your cover accommodation?

14 A. Oh, I met nobody at my cover accommodation. What
15 I meant was, was that you could come out of the house,
16 and if you bumped into somebody, as I did, they knew you
17 lived there. That was the thing. They could come round
18 and find you. But nobody actually came into my --
19 the small flat -- I say "flat", it was just a dosshouse;
20 it was just a room in a dosshouse, I'm afraid. Not very
21 exciting.

22 Q. I'm now going to come to the anarchists.

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you help us as far as possible as to who it was who
25 asked you to go down to Piccadilly and see if you could

1 join an anarchist group?

2 A. You want me to name the person?

3 Q. Not using their real name.

4 A. No, not using their real name. It was HN325.

5 Q. Well, I can use that person's real name -- Conrad

6 Dixon.

7 A. All right, yes.

8 Q. I see. Thank you.

9 And were you being tasked to find out information

10 about groups, or individuals, or both?

11 A. It would be mainly groups and what they were trying to

12 do. But it was also useful to know the identities of

13 the persons who were -- that were in those groups, to

14 see if they might have an SB record anyway. Not that

15 having an SB record is of any consequence. But it was

16 just that they're on file; you know who you're

17 referring to.

18 Q. Were you ever asked to gather information specifically

19 about an individual?

20 A. Oh dear ... I don't recall being asked to do a specific

21 individual, it was just general stuff. No, I don't.

22 I can't -- can't honestly say that, no.

23 Q. Now, you tell us in your witness statement --

24 A. Yeah.

25 Q. -- that there came a time when you attended some of

1 Freedom Press' meetings?

2 A. Well, it wasn't -- I don't think Freedom Press was a --
3 it was a publish -- it was where they published
4 the magazine, Freedom magazine was published there. But
5 I don't think there were actually meetings there; it was
6 a matter of attending -- just going to Freedom Press.

7 Q. Right.

8 I see. So when -- your witness statement says:

9 "The groups whose meetings I attended included
10 the West Ham Anarchists and Freedom Press."

11 So by "Freedom Press", am I understanding that
12 you're actually referring to a premises that you
13 attended?

14 A. Yes, that's correct, sir, yes. Yes. Somewhere in
15 the East End. I couldn't recall where it was now, their
16 office.

17 Q. So, if we go to the West Ham Anarchists.

18 A. Yes.

19 Q. You tell us that you got into that group by hanging
20 around in pubs in the East End; is that right?

21 A. Yes, that's right. Over in that area, yes.

22 Q. And could we have up, please, on the screen
23 <UCPI0000008160>.

24 This is a report dated 22 January 1969.

25 A. Yeah.

1 Q. The subject is the West Ham Anarchists. I'll just give
2 you a moment to start reading from that document. It is
3 a document that has -- if we go down to the bottom of
4 page 2 we'll see your -- we'll see the signature block.
5 <UCPI0000008160/2>.

6 That appears to be your signature under
7 the redaction?

8 A. Conrad Dixon, yeah.

9 Q. So it appears to be a report from your time on the SDS;
10 is that fair?

11 A. That's fair, yeah.

12 Q. In the paragraph at the top on the first page that
13 I just invited you to read, it said that eight people
14 had attended that meeting.

15 A. Yes.

16 Q. So it would appear to be a very small meeting. Was that
17 typical of the West Ham Anarchists?

18 A. Yes, it was, yes.

19 Q. And there is a reference -- if we move -- if we can go
20 back to page 1, please, <UCPI0000008160/1>, and if we
21 look at the second paragraph, we see there's a reference
22 to a leaflet being printed by Freedom. Is that
23 the Freedom Press to which you were referring?

24 A. Yes, that's it, yes.

25 Q. And if we scroll down to the third paragraph, the one

1 that starts just -- that's right, thank you. It says:

2 "[X] of the East London Libertarians announced that
3 there would be a meeting at Manor Park Station on
4 February 9th, 1969, at 2 pm, and that it was intended to
5 establish some homeless families in empty council
6 houses, which were yet to be chosen. He also stated
7 that a round-the -clock guard to prevent these people
8 being evicted would be maintained."

9 Did you go along to that occasion?

10 A. I -- I don't recall that, going along there, because
11 the fear was I couldn't squat. They were going to squat
12 in the premises, I suppose, and I couldn't do that. So
13 I -- I couldn't be a full participant in something like
14 that.

15 Q. I see. So you just report -- am I understanding that
16 your role was to report back the fact that they were
17 planning to do this?

18 A. Correct, yeah.

19 Q. If we look a little bit further down the page, please,
20 you see some details about the participants.

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. And the three who are mentioned there, we can read
23 the age of two of them clearly, which says they were
24 18 years old.

25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. The age of the third person isn't very clear, but
2 the first digit is "1".
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. So on any view, these appear to be young people. Was
5 that a fair representation of the age?
- 6 A. They were youngsters. They were youngsters, yes, that's
7 right.
- 8 Q. Could we go to the top of the second page, just to see
9 the rest of the names, <UCPI0000008160/2>. I think
10 the two people who are referring to there, one appears
11 to be 21 years old and the other 20 years old.
- 12 A. Yes. Yes.
- 13 Q. Were you -- you don't need to give me your precise age
14 at the time, but were you older than these people?
- 15 A. Yes, I was, yes.
- 16 Q. Were you in your 20s?
- 17 A. Yes, I was.
- 18 Q. As someone in your 20s in this group, were you something
19 of a senior figure?
- 20 A. I suppose I was, but it's -- you just had to bluff your
21 way in, didn't you? It was like that.
- 22 Q. Did they look up to you in any way?
- 23 A. I don't think so.
- 24 Q. Did you have any form of responsibility within
25 the group?

- 1 A. No, no.
- 2 Q. Did you adopt any form of leadership role?
- 3 A. No, I did not. These -- I was aware of agent
4 provocateur and all this business, so ...
- 5 Q. How did this group make decisions?
- 6 A. Cor, blimey! I can't remember that. Goodness me.
- 7 Q. Can you recall whether you participated in the making of
8 this -- of decisions by this group?
- 9 A. No, I didn't. I wouldn't have involved myself in that.
10 Merely in a reporting role, as to what they were up to.
- 11 Q. Now, you tell us a little bit about what this group were
12 up to, and you do describe some minor criminal offences.
13 You describe graffiti and what sounds like vandalism.
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. And you say that you also went to a demonstration at
16 the South African Embassy. Was that with this group?
- 17 A. That's a good question. Do you know, I can't remember
18 that. I was on -- I was on a demonstration outside in
19 Trafalgar Square at the South African Embassy, and it
20 got a bit -- a bit tasty. It got a bit tasty. They
21 started smashing windows and it was violent and -- there
22 we are. The mounted police came in then, to try and
23 stop things.
- 24 Q. Can you remember which group or groups were involved in
25 that disorder?

- 1 A. I know they were anarchist groups because they were all
2 chanting this "Anarchista!" was the order of the day.
- 3 Q. Coming back to the West Ham Anarchists.
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. How violent and criminal were they?
- 6 A. They weren't particularly violent, just minor criminal
7 damage and graffiti I think they were up to. Just
8 making a nuisance of themselves locally. But I think it
9 made its way into the local press, I think.
- 10 Q. If I've understood your witness statement correctly,
11 you've told us that you went to the pub with them, you
12 attended meetings, and you went to demonstrations with
13 them. Is that fair?
- 14 A. Yes, I suppose it's fair. Yes, that's a fair summary.
- 15 Q. Did you do anything else with them?
- 16 A. No, not really. I didn't sort of socialise with them,
17 as -- no.
- 18 Q. You describe in your witness statement there came a time
19 when you stopped infiltrating the West Ham Anarchists --
- 20 A. Yes.
- 21 Q. -- because it was a waste of time.
- 22 A. Well, because they weren't very active, and -- unlike
23 some of the other -- the other groups that they wanted
24 me to get involved in.
- 25 Q. Was the severity of their criminal activity, or rather

1 the lack of it, anything to do with why it was a waste
2 of your time?

3 A. I think it was, yeah. Probably was, yes.

4 Q. And was it your view that it was a waste of time?

5 A. Yes.

6 Q. Was it your manager's view that it was a waste of time?

7 A. Yes, it was, yes.

8 Q. And whose decision was it to withdraw you?

9 A. It would have been Conrad -- I'm allowed to use his
10 name -- Conrad Dixon.

11 Q. You can use that name, that's safe.

12 And so, if I've understood your statement correctly,
13 you next targeted the Independent Labour Party?

14 A. Yes, but we weren't really interested in the Independent
15 Labour Party. I was told to join them just for the sake
16 of getting "a handle to swing", as I've said; that was
17 the thing I was told.

18 Q. And so am I understanding you correctly, right from
19 the start, from before you first set foot in an ILP
20 meeting --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- your managers were of the view that they weren't
23 really interested in the ILP, they were interested in
24 you using it as "a handle to swing"?

25 A. Correct. Correct, yes.

1 Q. And in terms of what you did with the Independent Labour
2 Party, you attended some of their meetings?

3 A. I did, yes, yes.

4 Q. You attended demonstrations with them?

5 A. Yes, I did.

6 Q. Did you participate in any other activities with them?

7 A. Making posters and things, I think. Yeah, there was --
8 you had to sort of go willing to stay a member, sort of
9 thing, to be -- you had to go to the branch meetings and
10 all this sort of thing. But it was nothing -- nothing
11 like they faced in later years, some of the officers,
12 you know, it was -- I believe it's been described
13 as "paddling" -- paddling in those days.

14 Q. That's Peter Francis' description?

15 A. That's correct.

16 Q. "Shallow paddling"?

17 A. It's an apt description.

18 Q. You describe that group as "quite left wing, pleasant,
19 sociable, wrapped up in a world of intellectual
20 Marxism"?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Do you think that fairly sums up the group?

23 A. I think it probably does, yeah. There were some nice
24 people there. You enjoyed their company. But it's --
25 it didn't really -- they weren't up to any -- doing

1 things that were wrong, seriously wrong. The only thing
2 I remember, they tried to organise a -- a meeting with
3 -- have a debate with the right wing fascists. And that
4 got a bit out of order. The fascists got to hear of
5 this debate taking place and there was a mob of --
6 I don't know what they called themselves in those days,
7 the 20s -- I can't remember what it was called. But we
8 were all sitting outside the pub having a pint before
9 the meeting when there was a big swarm of people came in
10 and started punching everybody and sorting it all out.
11 But Phil Saunders was there -- oh, can I use his name?
12 Phil Saunders is dead, isn't he?

13 Q. As it happens, you're a lucky man. That is one of
14 the other safe names.

15 A. Oh dear. Sorry, forgive me. I'll just check the other
16 fellow. Riby, yeah. HN348. He's dead now isn't he?

17 Q. That was a second time lucky, 326. Do take your time
18 with these things.

19 A. Sorry about that, yeah.

20 But he and Phil Saunders were sort of over the road
21 watching this from a car. And I remember this sort of
22 huge group of people coming into the pub and beating
23 everybody up in sight. But for some reason the good
24 Lord was looking after me, and they didn't actually
25 thump me. But they did a whole load of other people.

1 And I remember old Phil Saunders saying afterwards -- he
2 said, "If they'd have touched you, we would have been
3 over to help you." And I thought "Hmm". I was a bit
4 doubtful about that.

5 Q. Just so we can be clear, who was attacking who?

6 A. Oh dear, what were they called? I might have to give
7 you a name.

8 Q. If you can't remember the precise group, is it
9 the extreme right attacking left wing people, or is it
10 --

11 A. It was a left-wing faction -- what were they called?
12 I could give you a name, but I don't know if I'm giving
13 the name of a person that was involved in it.

14 Q. There is a document I might be able to take you to which
15 might help you. There is a document which does talk
16 about them being worried about the International
17 Socialists coming along?

18 A. That's it. That's probably who it was then. But it was
19 known as -- there was a certain faction from this
20 International Socialist group, and they came over and --
21 because they'd tried to arrange a debate with
22 the National Front, and that, they thought, was a bad
23 idea. That was my recollection of it.

24 Q. But this is -- are we talking here about
25 the National Front fighting with people from

1 International Socialists?

2 A. No, no, no, it was -- it was the people who dared to
3 sort of debate, or suggest a debate with
4 the National Front; and these were the --
5 the International Socialists, these were the left-wing
6 Trotskyites who didn't think too much about violence at
7 all; they got stuck in with it, didn't they?

8 Q. And what about the ILP in all of this? Were they
9 violent at all?

10 A. We were just sitting there waiting. We were thinking,
11 "Oh my goodness, we're going to get our heads smashed in
12 here," but we didn't.

13 Q. And did the ILP foment public disorder at all?

14 A. Not at all, no, no. No that I can think of at all,
15 anything that was ...?

16 Q. Was the ILP at all criminal?

17 A. No, not as far as I recall. No. No, nothing like that.

18 Q. Can we pull up a page from your witness statement,
19 please, which is <MPS-0738584/29>, please. Can we go
20 down to paragraph 122, please.

21 Now, 326, I'm going to read this into the transcript
22 first and then I will ask you about it. It reads:

23 "I note that paragraph 2 of Doc 10 states
24 that 'the ILP are on the whole content to work within
25 the framework of conventional politics'. To my

1 knowledge, the ILP did not endorse or participate in any
2 criminal activity whilst I was deployed into the group.
3 To my knowledge, the ILP did not seek to undermine
4 parliamentary democracy whilst I was deployed into
5 the group though they did support demonstrations which
6 were seen to have the potential to undermine
7 parliamentary democracy."

8 Could you help us, please, 326, as to what
9 demonstrations you thought had the potential to
10 undermine Parliamentary democracy?

11 A. Cor, blimey! Oh dear. Well, I -- you're asking me
12 something I can't really answer. I can't really answer
13 that.

14 Q. Well, perhaps I can -- if you can't specify any
15 particular demonstration or demonstrations, perhaps
16 I can ask you the question more broadly.

17 How does a demonstration -- how can a demonstration
18 undermine parliamentary democracy, 326?

19 A. Perhaps I used the wrong words then when I was doing my
20 statement, but I did go to different demonstrations
21 where representatives from the ILP were there.

22 You know, I think I did refer to one of those. Outside
23 the Northern Ireland office, there was a --
24 a demonstration.

25 Q. What was the view within the SDS? Was the view that

1 demonstrations could be held lawfully, or was the view
2 that demonstrations were a threat to parliamentary
3 democracy?

4 A. They could be held lawfully, but there was a fear, going
5 right back to when it started, that the sheer volume of
6 people involved in the mass demonstrations --
7 the revolution had come, these people thought; they were
8 going to turn over the -- the whole place to just total
9 anarchy almost really, to go to a socialist society.
10 That's what -- they thought the big idea had come and
11 this VSC was really a -- just a -- a cover for some of
12 them, I think, to cause trouble. But there we are,
13 that's my opinion. That's an opinion.

14 Q. I'm going to move now to a different -- a slightly
15 different aspect of your infiltration of the ILP. You
16 say that there were only a handful of people involved in
17 the ILP.

18 A. I said I don't know how big an organisation it was, but
19 I don't think it was a huge organisation.

20 Q. In terms of when you were doing --

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. -- what sort of numbers of people were you mixing with
23 amongst the ILP?

24 A. I suppose a maximum of sort of six, seven, eight even
25 sometimes. So it wasn't always easy to maintain your

1 cover. But I -- I did my best and I was successful
2 with it.

3 Q. And how well did you get to know this handful of people?

4 A. Yeah, fairly well. I got to know them fairly well.

5 Aww I quite liked them, actually. They weren't of my
6 political persuasion, but they were quite -- quite
7 pleasant.

8 Q. And did you talk to them about things other than
9 politics?

10 A. No. They seemed to be -- they had this one-track sort
11 of bent, was socialism.

12 Q. You tell us in your witness statement that you attended
13 the wedding --

14 A. Well, I couldn't not do it. That's the thing. To
15 maintain your cover, what could I do? They wanted me to
16 go in the register office and all this business, and
17 I said, "No, no, I won't do that, I won't do that." So
18 we just went to the pub across the road afterwards and
19 I joined in the -- the celebrations there, which was
20 just a few drinks with the people, yeah.

21 Q. Did you know in advance that you'd been invited to
22 the wedding?

23 A. Yes, of course. Oh yes. I was invited to go, yeah.

24 Q. Did you tell your managers that you were going -- you'd
25 been invited to a wedding?

- 1 A. As far as I know I did. I must have done, yes.
- 2 Q. Can you remember what their attitude was to you
3 attending the wedding of two activists?
- 4 A. No, I can't. You're asking me things I can't answer.
- 5 Q. I am very conscious I'm asking you about events half
6 a century ago, 326.
- 7 A. I know I took a -- I know I took a wedding present.
- 8 Q. And when you made the decision, as I have understood
9 your evidence, just to attend the reception but not
10 the ceremony itself --
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. -- can I ask, why was that?
- 13 A. Well, I was conscious of getting my photograph taken in
14 the group photograph and all this; I didn't want to be
15 identified as being there with them. You know, it's
16 sort of stuff to use against you at a future time,
17 isn't it? You sort of keep a low profile, so to speak.
- 18 Q. Did you have any concerns, if you'd been uncovered, for
19 your own safety?
- 20 A. Yes. You had to be careful of that, of course, yes.
21 You wouldn't have gone down too well if they'd have
22 found out who you were.
- 23 Q. When you say that, you've described them as very nice
24 people who weren't violent or criminal. Were you really
25 under any threat from members of the ILP?

1 A. Well, who knows what they would have done if they'd have
2 found out who I was, you know? It's -- it's the same as
3 any police informant, isn't it? You -- it's the -- it's
4 the threat, and it's the fear of being discovered that
5 caused that uncertainty in the mind all the time. You
6 were on edge all the time because you -- you're
7 pretending to be somebody you're not, aren't you? And
8 it's not an easy thing to do.

9 Q. Was maintaining the secret status and the operational
10 security of the SDS another reason not to want to be
11 discovered?

12 A. Yes, obviously, and the sort of -- the whole operation
13 was dependent. We were all interlinked together, we
14 were all friends together, and comrades together really.
15 But not in the socialist sense.

16 Q. So in the case of a group like the ILP, would it be fair
17 to say that maintaining the operational security of
18 the SDS might have been a greater concern than any risk
19 to your personal safety?

20 A. Yes, it would -- yeah, the whole -- the whole thing,
21 you know, where the office was and all this sort of
22 thing, it was totally -- you had to be so careful. So
23 careful. And another person who's -- I went on
24 a demonstration outside the Northern Ireland office, as
25 I mentioned there, and my pal from the -- I'm just

1 looking up his name, if you'll forgive me, sir.

2 Q. Yes, I very much want you to be careful.

3 A. Yeah. HN68. He was on that demonstration as well. And
4 I was walking round and round with a -- with a placard,
5 and in the -- it was tipping down with rain. And he
6 said to somebody who was in my group, he said, "Oh,
7 there's -- I think there's one of your comrades out
8 there", he said. And a fellow from my little group came
9 out and said, "Oh, you don't want to stand out there in
10 the rain," he said, "Come in the pub." And we went in
11 the pub. And of course I've got my best friend that
12 I don't know, if you see what I mean. I couldn't be --
13 you had to maintain that distance from the person that
14 was your best friend.

15 And that is -- that's not easy to do, you know?
16 He's your big mate. You'd have a pint with him anyway,
17 but you couldn't have a pint with him there, because
18 they'd think "Well, how do you know him?" You know,
19 it's strange, isn't it? Unless you have done the job,
20 you don't understand it.

21 Q. When you withdrew from the ILP, you tell us that you
22 simply stopped attending?

23 A. That's correct.

24 Q. Presumably, would it be right that you had no security
25 concerns arising from just stopping attending?

1 A. No, I didn't -- there was no -- there was nothing like
2 that, no, no. They wouldn't have missed me.

3 Q. Could we have a look now, please, at the document which
4 is <UCPI0000008204>.

5 This is a report, 326, from June 1969. It's about
6 the Tower Hamlets branch of the ILP. And it's -- if we
7 go to the bottom you'll see it's got your name on it and
8 it's countersigned by --

9 A. Phil Saunders.

10 Q. -- Chief Inspector Saunders?

11 A. Oh, sorry, should I not use his name? Is it okay to use
12 his name, is it?

13 Q. Yes, Saunders is okay.

14 A. Thank you. All right.

15 Q. And then it's signed off again by
16 a chief superintendent.

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. This particular document is about a meeting. If we go
19 up to the top, please, we can see more details of that.
20 It says it's a meeting of the Tower Hamlets branch of
21 the ILP held on Thursday, 12 June. The people who were
22 present have had their names redacted, but it doesn't
23 appear to have been a very large meeting.

24 A. No.

25 Q. Does that sound right?

- 1 A. Yes, that's correct, yes.
- 2 Q. And there is talk there about organising a rally against
3 fascism and also a local rent struggle. Are they
4 typical of the sort of issues on which the ILP
5 campaigned?
- 6 A. Yes, they are, yes, yes.
- 7 Q. I really want to show you this document to explore with
8 you how reports were generated.
- 9 If I've understood your evidence, you've said that
10 you would go to a meeting like this and you would put in
11 a manuscript note of the information that you had
12 discovered there and then somebody else would type it
13 up; is that correct?
- 14 A. It's been sort of professionally typed in the office, or
15 by the -- the typists at the Yard. They had a typing
16 branch that would have done it. But I am not sure if we
17 had a typewriter in the office or not. We might have
18 had a typewriter. And then you'd just do it on a piece
19 of plain A4 and submit that in.
- 20 Q. Now, this particular document -- unlike many, this
21 particular document doesn't have after it a list of
22 names and Special Branch file references.
- 23 A. Ah.
- 24 Q. So a document like this, which doesn't have a list after
25 it but where the reference to files is within the body

1 of the document, if we go down to paragraph 5, please,
2 it says:

3 "There is no trace of Tower Hamlets Branch of
4 the ILP in Special Branch Records."

5 From your recollection of how things worked, who is
6 likely to have ascertained that fact?

7 A. It would have been the people in the office would
8 have -- because I had no access to records to search
9 things. It would have been done in the office.

10 Q. I'm going to use three names that I can use. Are we
11 talking here about Roy Creamer, Bill Furner and Dave
12 Smith?

13 A. Yes, they were the officers in the -- in the "Hairy"
14 office up at the Yard, yes.

15 Q. And it says to the left of paragraph 5 "box 500", which
16 we understand is a reference to the Security Service?

17 A. Correct, yeah.

18 Q. When you were involved with this document, would it have
19 been before or after that had been written on?

20 A. After. I wouldn't have decided that. It was above my
21 pay grade to do that. So I'd just put some information
22 in. But in whatever form I put that in, then they would
23 write it up and come back for me to sign, and then
24 they'd send a copy off to box.

25 Q. Can we now look, please, at the document -- you can take

1 that down, please.

2 A. Hello?

3 Q. Could we put up <UCPI0000008203>.

4 Now, this is a document again dating from June of
5 1969. Again, it's about the Independent Labour Party.
6 This is a difficult type of document. It's a report all
7 about the group. And you will see paragraph 1 reads:

8 "This report deals with the Independent Labour Party
9 and is based on information received from very reliable
10 sources."

11 Plural.

12 A. All says in the plural.

13 Q. Then paragraph 2:

14 "The ILP regard themselves as a militant left-wing
15 group serving the interests of the working man. In many
16 respects their differences with the Labour Party are
17 caused by a genuine and sincere desire to promote
18 the class interests of the workers, and the ILP are on
19 the whole content to work within the framework of
20 conventional politics."

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. If we scroll down so we can see the whole of
23 paragraph 3, please.

24 Paragraph 3 then deals with a little of the history
25 of the ILP. And about two-thirds of the way down

1 the paragraph, it says:

2 "There is a trend within ILP towards Revolutionary
3 Socialism and this has brought some of its members to
4 notice in a public order context."

5 Paragraph 4 deals with membership, subscription
6 fees, assets held by the group, including a number of
7 dwelling houses. It says that the group as a whole had
8 742 paid-up members.

9 If we go down to paragraph 5, please.

10 There's then a paragraph about the structure of
11 the ILP nationally. It reads:

12 "The organisational structure of ILP is quite
13 straightforward. The United Kingdom is divided into 8
14 geographic divisions, each with its own Divisional
15 Council, made up of representatives from local branches.
16 Policy decisions and management are in the hands of
17 a National Administrative Council elected from the 8
18 Divisional Councils."

19 Paragraph 6 then deals with London:

20 "Division 6 is the London and Home Counties area,
21 and comprises ILP branches at West London, Woolwich,
22 Bexleyheath and Tower Hamlets. In addition to
23 the divisional office at 335, Cambridge Heath Road, E2,
24 the ILP headquarters is located in division 6 at 197
25 King's Cross Road. The secretary of the Division 6

1 Council is [privacy]."

2 If you could move down to the next page, please.

3 <UCPI0000008203/2>.

4 Then there is some information at paragraphs 7 and 8
5 about a minority faction within the ILP which is seeking
6 to increase its influence and wish the ILP to take part
7 in street demonstrations on any matter of left-wing
8 interest.

9 Paragraph 9 reads:

10 "In conclusion it should be emphasised that
11 the majority of ILP members are concerned with
12 industrial matters and local politics outside London.
13 The [activities] ... of [privacy] and his immediate
14 associates are not typical of the organisation as
15 a whole. Any efforts made to obtain further information
16 regarding the ILP will be concentrated on the [the same
17 person's name] faction and any significant developments
18 will be reported."

19 Now, first of all, 326, do you think that some of
20 your intelligence might have been used in this report?

21 A. Some but very little, I think, reading that. It's --
22 somebody in the office has found all those things out.
23 It's a big justification, really, of them sort of
24 sending me to the ILP, it would appear. But ...

25 Q. Do you know who wrote this document?

- 1 A. I've no idea. It might have been something on
2 the SB files even that had been rehashed. I don't know.
- 3 Q. Since you were infiltrating the ILP, might it be you who
4 wrote this document?
- 5 A. All that lot? No, not at all. No. It's a bit -- a bit
6 above my head, all that lot.
- 7 Q. And so your name has been redacted from the bottom of
8 the report?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. How is it that your name is at the bottom of that
11 report?
- 12 A. That's a good question. I have -- I really don't know.
13 I was just asked to sign the thing. It came back. And
14 because I was in the ILP, they said "sign here", and
15 that's it.
- 16 Q. Do you recognise the description of a minority faction
17 which was a little bit more militant than the majority
18 trying to get more influence within the group?
- 19 A. Well, I think that might have been the case with some of
20 them were a little bit -- a bit lively and willing to
21 get involved, yes.
- 22 Q. Were you ever asked to focus your attention on that
23 faction?
- 24 A. On a particular -- I -- I sort of -- if I recall,
25 I stuck mainly with the -- the East End faction.

- 1 Q. And how militant was the East End faction?
- 2 A. Oh dear. I can't -- I don't think they were that --
3 there were -- there were some pleasant enough blokes
4 there. They'd turn out for the usual demonstrations,
5 that's all.
- 6 Q. Can you help us as to why a detailed report has been
7 produced by the SDS bearing your name and signed by --
8 acting chief inspector Saunders --
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. -- about a group which Conrad Dixon thought was of no
11 interest to the SDS?
- 12 A. Well, I suppose it must just be justification, was it?
13 I don't know. I don't know.
- 14 Q. There are some reports, which I think you've seen, about
15 the preparations for the debate between
16 the National Front and the ILP.
- 17 A. Yes --
- 18 Q. Which you referred to earlier.
- 19 A. Yes.
- 20 Q. We can look at them if you wish, but they seem to
21 describe meetings of very small numbers of people. Were
22 the meetings before the event very small?
- 23 A. Yes, they were. Yeah, I think they were, yes.
- 24 Q. There's one which describes there being a chair and four
25 people and another with three people. Would those have

1 included -- those numbers have included you?

2 A. I don't see why it would have done. I don't know that.

3 Cor dear!

4 Q. Let's pull up, shall we, please, <UCPI0000008208>.

5 A. 51 years ago, this. Oh dear.

6 Q. I quite understand, 326.

7 This is a report dated 16 October 1969 about

8 the ILP. Paragraph 2 reads:

9 "On Tuesday, 14th October, 1969, between 8 pm and
10 9 pm at 197, King's Cross Road, WC1, the offices of
11 the 'Socialist Leader', there was a meeting of
12 the Organising Committee of the London Division of
13 the Independent Labour Party. There were three persons
14 present."

15 And if we scroll down, please, we'll see that it's
16 a report that bears your name at the bottom. Again,
17 it's countersigned by Acting Chief Inspector Saunders,
18 and it's about arrangements for the meeting.

19 If we look at paragraph 4, about halfway down that,
20 it says:

21 "[privacy] said a rumour was circulating that
22 the International Socialists group was intending to
23 picture the meeting to dissuade persons from attending.
24 He mentioned that [privacy] National Front, had stated
25 that no more than 70 right-wing supporters were likely

1 to attend and he [privacy] expected about 100 left-wing
2 sympathisers to be present. [privacy] said he was
3 expecting some sort of disorder at the meeting but he
4 was no more specific than that."

5 We discussed earlier the fight that you described.
6 Do you think that the passage I've just read is about
7 the background to that fight?

8 A. Yes, I think it is, yes, yes. That was a hairy moment.
9 A hairy moment.

10 Q. Looking a little bit higher in paragraph 4, the first
11 part of paragraph 4 said:

12 "The Committee discussed plans for the coming debate
13 between the Left-Wing and the National Front on
14 Thursday, 30th October, 1969, at Friars Hall,
15 Blackfriars Road, SE1, at 7.30 pm, and agreed to
16 approach Lord Soper to be chairman at the debate. They
17 decided also to have 1,000 quarto size leaflets
18 advertising the event printed by the ILP, to be
19 circulated amongst interested organisations."

20 Coming back to the question, were you one of
21 the three people at this meeting?

22 A. I would think it's probably been a report back from a --
23 people who actually went to it that I've picked up from
24 talking to people. That's what I would think about
25 this.

- 1 Q. Were you ever at any very small meetings of the ILP
2 where things were decided?
- 3 A. Cor dear. Small meetings ... I don't know. It's -- it
4 was only a small group, you know. This is -- this
5 business here about -- it seems to be delusions of
6 grandeur, I think, with some of these people in
7 the organisation as to their influence to get people to
8 come and all this sort of thing. They got an
9 exaggerated idea of their own importance. They sort of
10 had daft ideas. And of course, it resulted in this
11 punch up in the pub.
- 12 Q. What I'm driving at, 326, is did you ever find yourself
13 in a position where a decision -- you were in a small
14 group of people making decisions?
- 15 A. I would not have made any decision myself. If you're
16 trying to get round to this agent provocateur business,
17 I was never an agent provocateur. I didn't suggest
18 things.
- 19 Q. It's not about being an agent provocateur, it's just
20 whether -- it's how do you deal with the situation where
21 you've infiltrated a group and you may be involved in
22 a decision which affects the direction of travel of
23 the group? How did you deal with that?
- 24 A. Direction of travel? I don't think I ever influenced
25 the direction of travel of this group at all. I --

1 I was -- it was a question of keeping quiet and just
2 making mental notes of what was going on. It was --
3 cor blimey! Oh dear me. Go on, go on.

4 Q. ^^ I'm not going to take that invitation. I'm going
5 to bang the canvass and ask the Chairman if now is
6 a convenient time for a break?

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Yes, it is.

8 MR BARR: Thank you sir.

9 A. Thank you, sir.

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Quarter of an hour's break.

11 MS PURSER: Thank you, everyone. We'll take a 15-minute
12 break and we will return at 3.35. You may now move into
13 your break-out rooms.

14 (3.19 pm)

15 (A short break)

16 (3.35 pm) is

17 MS PURSER: Welcome back, everyone. I will now hand over to
18 the Chairman to continue proceedings.
19 Chairman.

20 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

21 Before we begin the questioning of this witness, can
22 I please remind people courteously but firmly that when
23 I said in the recorded message that there must be no
24 tweeting or communication of what is taking place in
25 the hearing room until ten minutes have elapsed I meant

1 ten minutes, not eight or nine minutes.

2 Mr Barr.

3 MR BARR: Thank you, sir.

4 326, can we just go back to one of the documents
5 I showed you earlier this afternoon. Could we have
6 <UCPI0000008203>.

7 A. Yeah, go on.

8 Q. This is the report -- the group report all about
9 the Independent Labour Party.

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And if we could look at the second page of that, please,
12 at the bottom. You've given evidence that you didn't
13 write the document and I'd -- I was asking you why your
14 name appeared at the bottom and you said you didn't
15 know, you must just have signed -- words the effect of
16 you would just have signed it?

17 A. Yes.

18 Q. Just to clarify, under the redaction HN326 is not your
19 signature it is just your name?

20 A. Ah, I see, right.

21 Q. Can you help as you to how that document might have had
22 your name on it if you didn't write it?

23 A. Well, probably because the office thought that it was
24 down to me, sort of thing. The fact that -- that a lot
25 of that stuff in there is quite a meaty tome, isn't it,

1 it's been prepared in the office, a lot of that.

2 Q. Okay, thank you.

3 Can the document be taken down, please.

4 You occupied the position of treasurer of
5 the Tower Hamlets branch of the ILP, you tell us in your
6 witness statement. Can you help us as to how you came
7 to assume that position?

8 A. I was asked to do the job and it was -- of course it's
9 handy to sort of get your -- how can I describe this?
10 The fact that you've got a sort of -- not an executive
11 position, we're only talking about a small group here,
12 and we're talking about a few quid. We're not talking
13 about big money, and I think the subscriptions were
14 about a shilling and week or something, you know?
15 You're talking about some tin pot organisation as it was
16 then in a small group, and I had to have a bank account
17 and two of the members sort of vouched for me to get
18 a bank account. I remember getting a bank account at
19 Barclays Bank and in the end the money went to
20 the Chilean earthquake disaster fund or something like
21 that. But again, it was only a few pound about 7 or 8
22 quid or something like that. You're looking at over
23 a period of time, we're not talking about substantial
24 sums of money at all.

25 They said, "Oh, you must be our treasurer", and

1 I said, "Oh blimey" you know. It sounds grand but it
2 wasn't it was sort of money to pay for a banner or
3 equipment to make a banner or something like this,
4 you know.

5 Q. Did it help you to report detailed information about
6 the group's finances?

7 A. There wasn't a lot -- we're talking about a tin pot
8 little organisation here, we're not talking about a vast
9 empire, you know. It might sound grand from that
10 report, but where all that information has come from --

11 Q. -- (overspeaking) --

12 A. -- (inaudible) it's not come from me.

13 Q. 326 I understand it was a very small organisation with
14 very modest finances?

15 A. Yes, right.

16 Q. I'm simply asking you, did that enable you to report
17 more about the group's finances?

18 A. Well, I suppose you could say that. You could say that,
19 I suppose, yes, but it wasn't a very -- you know we're
20 only talking about a few pounds. A few pounds.

21 Q. Of course.

22 Did you speak to your managers before assuming
23 the position?

24 A. Good question. I can't -- I really can't honestly
25 answer that one. I don't know.

1 Q. Can you recall whether you spoke to your managers after
2 you'd accepted the position?

3 A. Again, I can't, with all honesty, because of the period
4 of time, I can't honestly answer that, no.

5 Q. Can you recall whether there was any reaction from your
6 managers as to whether they thought it was a good idea
7 or not?

8 A. I -- again, I can't -- I can't truthfully say one way or
9 the other. You know, I'm not going to make answers up.

10 Q. Of course not.

11 And in general terms, had you ever been encouraged
12 to assume a position within your target groups?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Had you ever been advised not to assume a position
15 within a target group?

16 A. No. Not either way really. Not either way. Not that
17 I can recall anybody telling me that, no.

18 Q. Can we move on now, please, 326, to the action committee
19 against NATO and could we have up on the screen, please
20 <UCPI0000008209>.

21 This is a report dated 10 November 1969. It's about
22 the action committee against NATO. It's -- paragraph 2
23 reads:

24 "On Wednesday, 5th November, 1969, between 7.30 pm
25 and 9.00 pm at 15, Lawn Road, Hampstead, NW3, a meeting

1 of the Action Committee against NATO was held.
2 The Chairman was [privacy] and two other persons were
3 present."

4 It seems to have been a very small meeting.
5 The report bears, if we move to the second page,
6 <UCPI0000008209/2>, the report bears your name, which
7 has been redacted. Signed by -- countersigned by Acting
8 Chief Inspector Saunders.

9 The substance of the report is about booking
10 Conway Hall and Tricontinental are recorded as having
11 furnished the deposit.

12 Did you attend any action committee against NATO
13 meetings?

14 A. Yes, I did, yes. I do recall going to that, yes.

15 Q. Why did you attend Action Committee Against NATO
16 meetings?

17 A. I suppose the organisation I was in somehow wanted to
18 get involved with it. It's ...

19 Q. Was this something that you did at the behest of the ILP
20 or your managers or your own initiative in.

21 A. Probably that the ILP were going to go along so I went
22 along as well, I think. That's what it was.

23 Q. Did your managers have a view about whether the Action
24 Committee Against NATO was a group in which
25 Special Branch was interested.

- 1 A. Yes, I think they were interested in it, yes.
- 2 Q. Can you explain why your managers were interested in
3 this group?
- 4 A. Well, obviously NATO is vital for the security of
5 the country, so they were worried about, I suppose,
6 subversion there being caused -- trouble being caused by
7 these little demonstration people in regard to the -- to
8 NATO. That's what they were worried about.
- 9 Q. From what you saw of the workings of the Action
10 Committee Against NATO, were they in any way violent?
- 11 A. I did not witness any violence by them, as I recall, no,
12 no.
- 13 Q. Did they act in any way that was unlawful?
- 14 A. Oh dear. That's a big question to ask somebody.
15 I don't know. I don't know.
- 16 Q. And did they, as far as you can recall, get involved in
17 any public disorder?
- 18 A. What did they do? I really don't remember. I don't
19 remember. You're asking me about reports, they've
20 dragged out these reports from somewhere and I thought
21 that Special Branch, 30 years go by and they're
22 automatically destroyed. There's a destruction rule
23 after 30 years everything goes, but obviously these
24 things aren't, they're still -- they must have come out
25 of the hairy cupboard, I would have thought.

1 Q. Okay.

2 Do you remember whether your managers remained
3 concerned about Action Committee Against NATO whilst you
4 were in the SDS or not?

5 A. Well, anything that would have interfered with the NATO
6 alliance was obviously of -- bad news, as far as
7 the Branch was concern, and as far as the managers were
8 concerned. They were worried about anything like that.

9 Q. And was it sufficient that organising a demonstration
10 against NATO was enough for Special Branch to take an
11 interest in what the group was doing?

12 A. Yes, because some of the -- perhaps some of the members
13 were sort of people that were troublemakers.

14 Q. Can I move now to Tricontinental.

15 A. I can't even remember what that was, Tricontinental.
16 I really can't.

17 Q. What I'm interested in to start with, 326, is
18 paragraph 130 of your witness statement, which says:

19 "I cannot remember exactly how I infiltrated
20 Tricontinental. I tended to drift from one organisation
21 or group into another as a result of my association with
22 the ILP."

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. Can you help us as to what you mean by drifting from one
25 organisation to or group into another?

1 A. What I meant by that was I went along to more than one
2 particular faction. So it was sort of I've got
3 the action committee and this
4 Dambusters Mobilising Committee and the action committee
5 dens -- Tricontinental, I don't even remember what it
6 was now. They set up a little group for all sorts of
7 things, these left wing people.

8 Q. I see.

9 In terms of the way that you moved about and
10 attended the events of different groups as an ILP
11 member, did you discuss that with your managers?

12 A. Well, they would have known, because I would have
13 submitted a -- a report about my involvement in -- in
14 whatever it was, yes.

15 Q. And what was their -- what was their attitude of --
16 attitude to the way your deployment was turning out?

17 A. You'd have to ask the managers that. I don't know.

18 Q. Did you get any sense that they were pleased that
19 the "handle to swing on" was working, or that they were
20 not?

21 A. Cor blimey. I did my best, sir, at the time, in
22 the circumstances. That's all I can -- that's all I can
23 say. I've got nothing malicious against anybody.
24 I believed in the right for free speech and sensible
25 demonstrations without causing the police any -- any

1 problems. Oh dear.

2 Q. Can you recall -- and I understand how difficult this
3 is, but can you recall what your managers' attitude was
4 to the group Tricontinental?

5 A. Oh you're going to tell me. I don't know what it was.
6 I don't even know what it was, the organisation, after
7 this period of time.

8 Q. Okay, let's move on then to
9 the Dambusters Mobilising Committee. Can you help us,
10 how did you come to attend events organised by the DMC?

11 A. I think this was something to do with
12 the Kabora Bassa dam if I remember.

13 Q. Yes, you're right about that.

14 A. Was it sort of linked with the anti-apartheid groups,
15 I think. I think that's what it was. I don't know,
16 yeah.

17 Q. How did you come to -- how did you come to attend their
18 events?

19 A. That's a good question. I honestly can't answer that.
20 I don't remember. I really don't remember. 50 --
21 50 years ago. I don't know.

22 Q. You say in your statement:
23 "It may have been something to do with the group
24 being on the fringes of all the trouble with
25 the movement against apartheid."

1 Could you describe what you mean by "all the trouble
2 with the movement against apartheid"?

3 A. Well, I think there had been some quite nasty
4 demonstrations where the police got involved, I think
5 the Twickenham rugby match and they through tacks on
6 the -- on the turf at Twickenham. Things like this,
7 just anti-social behaviour, to say the least. But you
8 -- you had to help the police as best you could with
9 these things to get an idea of who was going to go, and
10 there was all these little off shoot groups.

11 Q. Was Special Branch's interest in the Anti-Apartheid
12 Movement and associated groups, or groups at least that
13 were campaigning on the same anti-racist issues, did
14 the interest arise from their cause, from their
15 behaviour or both.

16 A. Dear oh dear. It sound a bit philosophical that
17 question. My goodness me. Goodness me. You've put me
18 on the spot here. I don't know. I can't -- I can't see
19 how I'm going to answer that one. I really don't know.

20 Q. Now, there's one report about the DMC which bears your
21 name.

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. And that's dated 11 February 1970.

24 A. Right.

25 Q. It concerns a proposed march and plans to buy bank

1 shares so that activists could attend the annual general
2 meeting. (inaudible) involved in the dam. Can you
3 recall whether those were the sort of typical activities
4 of the Dambusters Mobilising Committee?

5 A. Can I remember if it's typical? No, I can't. But
6 it's -- sounds likely that that's what they were up to.

7 Q. Did the Dambusters Mobilising Committee commit any
8 serious criminal offences as far as you're aware?

9 A. I'm not aware. I can't give you a particular criminal
10 offence that they might have committed 50 years ago, no.

11 Q. I'm really just interested in your recollection. Can
12 you recall them being violent?

13 A. I -- I can't. I'm not going to tell lies. I don't
14 know. It's as simple as that. I don't know.

15 Q. Can you recall them being involved in any public
16 disorder?

17 A. All these off shoot sort of little groups, they'd get
18 involved with things. That's all I -- I can remember
19 now. Sorry, I can't help you much on that.

20 Q. Can you recall whether your managers thought that
21 the DMC was a group to be concerned about?

22 A. Well, they -- they didn't sort of say don't do it,
23 I suppose, but -- you're asking me things I can't really
24 answer. I can't speak for the managers, what they
25 thought about it. But the fact that they recorded these

1 things and allowed them to go forward to
2 the Security Service, or whatever it was, that was sort
3 of -- surely indicated it was of interest to them. But
4 I -- go on.

5 Q. Okay. I'm going to move on.

6 Can we have up please <MPS-0736646>.

7 326, what this is is a Metropolitan Police telegram
8 from you as a member of CI Dixon's squad to
9 the commander of Special Branch dated 12 August 1969 at
10 10.10 pm. It reads:

11 "Whilst attending to another matter at
12 the 'Dolphin' [public house] Bidborough Street, WC1,
13 I overheard a meeting of the Irish Civil Rights
14 Solidarity Campaign at which a decision was made by
15 about 15 to 20 young persons to go immediately to
16 the Ulster office, Berkley street, W1, with
17 the intention of causing mischief. The group were in
18 a militant mood and may cause malicious damage."

19 Can you recall anything about this?

20 A. I wonder if this might be -- I never went to any
21 meetings of this Irish Civil Rights Solidarity Campaign
22 at all, but I do know a member who did, and I was sort
23 of on observation waiting for a signal from him, when he
24 appeared, to tell me that this thing was going to go
25 ahead, and then they decided to phone the thing into our

1 reserve room as information. So I think it had been
2 suggested, but then it was -- sort of didn't go ahead,
3 as far as I know. I don't know. Don't know.

4 Q. Was phoning in information about events which it was
5 believed might cause a threat to public order and might
6 lead in this case to malicious damage, was that the sort
7 of thing that you would do as a member of the SDS?

8 A. Yes, it was, yes. To -- so that the uniformed police
9 could get sufficient numbers there to deal with
10 something, that was -- that was the thing, and they
11 weren't caught out on the hop. They knew that they were
12 coming along to cause trouble.

13 Q. Could we take that document down, please, and put up
14 <MPS-0732317>.

15 Now, this is a report dated 14 September 1970.
16 The subject is recorded as the "ICRSC", the Irish Civil
17 Rights Solidarity Campaign. What it appears to be is
18 a report about individuals who are said to be supporters
19 of the Islington branch of that movement.

20 If we scroll down, please, it bears your name and
21 then is countersigned by Saunders, who by that stage was
22 a chief inspector.

23 Now, you've told us that you don't recall ever
24 infiltrating the ICRSC.

25 A. I never did infiltrate the IR-- I had nothing to do with

- 1 Irish at all, no.
- 2 Q. Would it be right to say that for you to file a report
3 about individuals who were believed to support that
4 organisation, you wouldn't need to have infiltrated
5 the ICRSC? Is that something you could have been asked
6 to do from the office?
- 7 A. Well, as I said, I did go to one -- this demonstration
8 outside the Ulster Office. I remember going to that.
- 9 Q. Might you have gleaned at such a demonstration who was
10 supporting the ICRSC and then reported that?
- 11 A. I think we had the ICRSC covered, if I remember.
- 12 Q. Forgive me that's not quite the question.
- 13 A. Go on then.
- 14 Q. If you had attended an ICRSC question and come to
15 understand that certain individuals were supporters of
16 the ICRSC, is that the sort of information that you
17 would have reported?
- 18 A. Well, yes, it would be. That would be the sort of thing
19 to report, yes.
- 20 Q. Because this is -- this document is one of a number of
21 reports which bear your name. There are two more in
22 which details about supporters of the ICRSC are
23 reported, both dating from October 1970, and then in
24 January 1971 there's a report submitting a leaflet.
- 25 Can you help as to how you came to report such

1 information?

2 A. Well, I -- I -- I don't even know how my name got on
3 that sort of thing. As I said, it came from the office.
4 They might have just put my name on it for the sake of
5 putting it on there. I really don't know. I really
6 don't know.

7 Q. In paragraph 109 of your witness statement, you say that
8 the ICRSC was a front for the IRA. How did you -- how
9 did you come to that view?

10 A. Well, I'd got a colleague in the office who was on
11 the fringes with all that. That's probably where I've
12 got that from. That's why I said it.

13 Q. But not from your own direct involvement with the ICRSC?

14 A. No. No, I had no involvement with the IRSC whatever it
15 is, yeah.

16 Q. Can we now go, please, to the document <MPS-0736231>.

17 A. I'm pleased it's coming up on the screen, this stuff,
18 I tell you. Cor blimey.

19 Q. If we could -- yes, thank you very much.

20 This is a report dated 10 April 1970 on a group
21 known by the acronym SAAR, S-A-A-R. It bears your name
22 at the bottom and if we scroll down we'll see it's
23 countersigned by Chief Inspector Saunders.

24 Could we go back up, please, to the text. Thank
25 you.

1 It reads:

2 "The following information has been received from
3 a reliable source:-

4 " 'A new committee has recently been formed to
5 campaign against racialism. The founder members are
6 the New Socialists (a faction of the ILP),
7 Marxist-Leninist Organisation of Britain, Indian
8 Marxist-Leninist association, and Socialist Current. It
9 is called the Socialist Alliance Against Racialism --
10 SAAR, and intends holding a meeting on Friday,
11 24 April 1970, at 8 pm at ..."

12 Then there are some privacy redactions:

13 "There is no trace of SAAR in Special Branch
14 records. References to the other organisations are
15 contained in an appendix to this report."

16 Is your connection with this group through the ILP.

17 A. I don't even remember this group at all. Dear me.

18 They've did you go out some old stuff here with all this
19 lot. I don't remember all this.

20 Q. On the face of it, this is a group that is being formed
21 and is about to hold either the first or an early
22 meeting?

23 A. Mm.

24 Q. As such, would it -- why would it have been of interest
25 to Special Branch?

1 A. Well, it was in those days, these sort of things were of
2 interest then. This is 50 years ago. Things were
3 different, weren't they, you know? It's -- it's all
4 very looking at it now and saying this wasn't of
5 interest and that wasn't of interest, but it was in
6 those days.

7 Q. Please take my questions at face value. You were there,
8 I wasn't. I'm just trying to --

9 A. (inaudible) to be --

10 Q. What happened?

11 A. You know, you've just -- it's some really awkward things
12 you're asking here. I don't remember. I really don't
13 remember. 50 years ago.

14 Q. Would it have been of interest because it was a campaign
15 against racialism.

16 A. Possibly that. I don't --

17 Q. Would it have been of interest because of the groups who
18 were involved in founding it?

19 A. Well, it was then. Where that -- where all that lot
20 came from, I don't know. That could have been from a --
21 another source as well. I really don't remember. Oh
22 dear ^.

23 Q. Can you recall what your managers' attitude was to this
24 group?

25 A. My managers' attitude, oh dear. Well, Phil Saunders

1 submitted it, so it was all right, I suppose, but ...

2 Q. We'll move on to the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign.

3 Could we have up, please, <MPS-730768>. 326, this
4 is a report dated 12 November 1968. It's about
5 the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign. It's about an event
6 held on 11 November 1968 at Conway Hall. It was shortly
7 after the 1968 VSC demonstration. There were reported
8 to be about 100 people at the meeting.

9 Could we scroll down, please. In fact, could we go,
10 sorry, to the bottom of page 2 <MPS-0730768/2>. You
11 will see there that the officers present are recorded as
12 Chief Inspector Dixon, DS TN0034, HN329, HN326 -- that's
13 you -- and HN321.

14 A. I'm just referring to the --

15 Q. Sure.

16 A. -- to find out.

17 So TN ...

18 Q. What I'm really interested in, if it helps, is first of
19 all HN329.

20 A. Yes.

21 Q. Because we understand that HN329 infiltrated groups, VSC
22 branches in north-west London?

23 A. Yes.

24 Q. The north-west London Ad Hoc Committee.

25 A. Right.

1 Q. And HN321, who we understand infiltrated the Lambeth
2 branch of the VSC.

3 A. Ah, yes, yes, yes. Yes, yeah. Right.

4 Q. And the question I have for you is, do you know why so
5 many members of the SDS attended this meeting?

6 A. Answer to that is no, and the thing is that the -- if
7 you look at the date, I'd only just gone on the unit.
8 I'd only been on the unit from the -- was it 3 November,
9 or whatever date it was, and I think old Conrad was sort
10 of putting down more people there than were there from
11 the branch. That was all. That's what I can say. It
12 don't seem an accurate -- accurate thing for me.

13 Q. If we go up a paragraph, please, so that we can read
14 the paragraph beginning "tariq Ali ...". It reads:

15 "Tariq Ali introduced [privacy], who took the line
16 that the State had 'backed down' from a confrontation
17 with militant revolutionaries, and that
18 the demonstration had been an enormous success. He was
19 followed by [privacy] who gave a historical account of
20 the Vietnam War and attempted to link Vietnam with
21 racism. Tariq Ali then said that complacency was to be
22 deplored, and that if the engineering strike had taken
23 place a more militant demonstration could have occurred
24 and revolution was a real possibility."

25 Can you recall this meeting?

1 A. I can't recall this particular meeting. That's
2 the trustees of it. I might have been there, but as
3 I say, I was only about a week on the unit, so
4 I wouldn't have been very sort of -- I'd have been more
5 noticeable, shall we say, with -- I hadn't got any long
6 hair and my beard back in '68. 11 November. I think
7 I went in on 3 November if you check the notes on that.

8 Q. If you don't have a recollection I'll move on.

9 There are two reports in the bundle about the VSC
10 which date from the autumn of 1970. Now, they describe
11 some of the preparations for a demonstration in
12 October 1970. They include passages to the effect that
13 the VSC's leadership wanted a peaceful and lawful
14 demonstration and were concerned about the possibility
15 of a demonstration becoming disorderly.

16 Does that attitude support for a peaceful and lawful
17 in the demonstration in the autumn of 1970 accord with
18 your recollection.

19 A. You're asking me about a demonstration that actually
20 occurred on that day?

21 Q. I'm asking you about the meetings at which that
22 demonstration was being planned. If you would like to
23 see the document, we can pull them up?

24 A. Did I sign that one as well or not.

25 Q. Well, really what I'm asking -- all I'm really asking

1 you is can you recall whether the leadership of the VSC
2 at that time were in favour of lawful, peaceful protest?

3 A. You should ask them that, I think. I think they were
4 sort of quite -- quite -- what's the word, militant
5 is it, or what? I don't know. They were --

6 Q. Can you recall what your managers' attitude or
7 understanding of the VSC was in the autumn of 1970?

8 A. Well, it follows on from the main demonstration that --
9 why the unit was founded in 1968, whenever it was,
10 the beginning of it, and leading up to the main
11 demonstration and the -- the problems that they'd had
12 there with that, and they were concerned about
13 a revolution and they were going to sort of change
14 the government with a sort of socialist government, and
15 ...

16 Q. I see.

17 I'm going to ask you about one or two miscellaneous
18 things now, 326.

19 A. All right.

20 Q. The first is that in your witness statement, at
21 paragraph 72, where you're talking about the SDS's --
22 I think I may have got the wrong reference. It may be
23 earlier on in your statement. Just a second. You talk
24 about the SDS accommodation, its cover office, having
25 a secure telephone link to the Security Service.

- 1 A. Yes, that was installed whilst I was there.
- 2 Q. Can you recall whether you ever had occasion to use
3 that?
- 4 A. I don't -- no, I personally didn't use it, but I think
5 it was -- what was it called? Just STS , secure
6 telephone system, if I recall.
- 7 Q. Can you recall whether any of your colleagues used it?
- 8 A. They must have done. It wouldn't have been put there
9 for no other reason than for use, but I didn't actually
10 use it myself, not that I recall, unless they called me
11 up on it. You'd go over on it, you press the button and
12 you can talk securely so people can't overhear
13 the telephone conversation.
- 14 Q. Can you recall whether you were given any instructions
15 about what sort of circumstance might require you to use
16 that telephone?
- 17 A. No, I can't -- I really -- no, it's too long ago for
18 me to -- to remember things like that, the minutiae like
19 that.
- 20 Q. Can I ask you now about HN135, whose real name I can
21 use. That was Michael Ferguson.
- 22 A. Oh, poor old Mike, yes, yes.
- 23 Q. The first question for you about Mike Ferguson --
- 24 A. Yes.
- 25 Q. -- is, can you recall whether he assumed any positions

1 of responsibility within the Stop the Seventy Tour
2 protest?

3 A. I believe he was quite deeply involved with that.
4 Whether he actually got a sort of " position, as you put,
5 it in inverted commas, I can't tell you that. We used
6 to talk a bit about what we did in the office, but
7 I don't recall. Mike was a very secretive fellow
8 anyway, but I knew he was sort of heavily involved in
9 that. He really put his neck out for the job.

10 Q. Okay.

11 Can you recall whether he assumed any positions of
12 responsibility in the Anti-Apartheid Movement?

13 A. I don't -- I think he was quite high up in
14 the organisation, I think, but he -- I don't think he
15 held on sort of what you call a "position" in inverted
16 commas, no. I'm not aware of that. I can't answer
17 that.

18 Q. Can I ask you about the length of your deployment. You
19 were undercover for it looks as if something like just
20 over two years. Was there any discussion with your
21 managers about how long you were going to remain
22 undercover?

23 A. No, is the answer to that one. No.

24 Q. How did you come to withdraw finally from your
25 deployment?

1 A. I'd had enough. I'd had enough of going round with
2 a long beard and long hair and being scruffy. It's
3 quite a strain on the -- on the system doing the job, it
4 really is, and you sort of -- I think when I went to --
5 I don't know, you might ask me questions about that.
6 I went to Brussels with this other officer whose name
7 I can't even mention, I suppose, but, you know,
8 the amateurish way that it was done then, it was
9 a strain. I don't mind saying, you know, it was
10 a sixpence half pound job there, you know, you sort
11 of -- I don't know.

12 Q. Did you get the impression --

13 A. Until you've done the job, you don't know what is
14 involved. You know, you sort of -- when you're -- and
15 it got more difficult later on in the -- in
16 the dmoiments, and I do -- I'm not condoning anything
17 that's happened in the years that have gone since I came
18 off, but all I know is that those officers had a lot
19 harder job and had to have a much better cover identity
20 than I did for me doing my little bit. I was just
21 a small cog in a great big machine and I did my little
22 bit as best I could to help the police and the uniformed
23 police and be a good branch officer. That's -- that's
24 what it's all about, you know. Sort of loyalty to
25 the branch. And of course we've not seen now any

1 loyalty from some of these be -- some of these people,
2 and that I find very upsetting. You know, when you
3 can't trust people. I've not been to reunions and
4 things like that, because you don't know who you can
5 trust any more. People are all talking to the press and
6 everybody else, and can't keep their traps shut. So I'm
7 disappointed. I'm disappointed. You have a long career
8 and that's what happens.

9 Q. Did you get -- when you approached your managers to ask
10 to stop, was there any resistance, or were they
11 perfectly happy for you to stop?

12 A. They were happy for me to stop. If you wanted to go,
13 you could go, you know, and I think I went in the office
14 for a little while when I came off and had a haircut,
15 that was nice. And I was in the office for a little
16 while and I sort of -- you've -- you've looked at my
17 history, I bet you know it better than I do what I was
18 doing when I came off. Did I go naturalisation
19 enquiries or I don't know what it was now, CID course or
20 something.

21 Q. Did you get the impression that if you had been happy to
22 continue, your managers would have been happy for you to
23 continue?

24 A. Yes, I think we just come to a mutual agreement it was
25 time to go. I enjoyed it in some ways, but it was

1 a strain, and unless you've done it, you do not know how
2 difficult it was pretending to be somebody else all
3 the time is not easy, it's not an easy thing to do.

4 Q. Do you know what Phil Saunders' attitude was to
5 the length of undercover deployments for SDS officers?

6 A. No, I don't know sort of whether he'd sort of laid down
7 so many years for doing it, or whatever. I don't know.
8 That I can't tell you.

9 Q. Can we move now to a different topic. You do recall
10 a senior officer -- you said it was either
11 the Commissioner or the assistant commissioner -- coming
12 to visit the SDS and bringing a bottle of whiskey?

13 A. That's correct, yes. Don't ask me who it was. I'm not
14 -- I don't know. I don't know. They came along and saw
15 us to thank us for the work we'd been doing. But who it
16 was now, I've no idea. Don't ask me which one.

17 Q. Do you have any recollection about how long the visit
18 was and what form it took?

19 A. It was fairly short and sweet. I think they just turned
20 up at the hairy flat in great secrecy.

21 Q. Did you get the impression that the senior officers knew
22 all about the SDS and what it was doing?

23 A. I think our management would have told the top
24 management what we were doing, yes, for their own sort
25 of agrandisement really. They all ended up commanders

- 1 and all the rest of it, it's ...
- 2 Q. And did you get the impression that the Commissioner or
3 assistant commissioner, whichever it was, was pleased
4 with the SDS?
- 5 A. That was the impression that I gained. Whoever this
6 distinguished visitor was, that was the impression
7 I gained, he was pleased with and us and of course we
8 were pleased he brought us a bottle of whiskey.
- 9 Q. You have also said in your statement that before leaving
10 the SDS there was a period of some months when you did
11 clerical duties. Can you help us was to what those
12 clerical duties were?
- 13 A. Shuffling the papers in the office, I would think.
14 Searching in records and generally going back to SB-type
15 work. You know, you put references on papers and all
16 this sort of thing. Filing and just to keep you out of
17 the way for the a few months.
- 18 Q. Were you involved then in the production of
19 the intelligence reports?
- 20 A. Dear oh dear. I can't remember that. I might have
21 searched for the names for them, but it would be signed
22 by a senior officer to me. I was just one of the boys,
23 wasn't I.
- 24 Q. Can you remember whether you signed reports on other
25 people's behalf?

1 A. I would not have done that when I was in the office as
2 a -- sort of in the clerical sort of situation. But
3 I was only in there for a few months. Couple of months
4 or so, I think.

5 Q. You say that -- at paragraph 211 of your witness
6 statement that -- talking about a later period, that
7 the Csquad -- you talk about C Squad's industrial desk
8 and say that agencies and other people would contact
9 C Squad for information. What I'm interested in is,
10 was it public or private sector organisations, or both
11 which were contacting C Squad for information about
12 industrial matters and people involved in industrial
13 disputes and union activity?

14 A. I think they'd got a good source of -- surely we're
15 going beyond the scope of your inquiry now, aren't we,
16 for me to start talking about branch matters generally?

17 Q. What I'm asking is, do you know -- do you actually know
18 whether or not information was passing from C Squad's
19 industrial desk to private sector organisations?

20 A. No, I don't, no. It would -- obviously if they'd got
21 information about somebody it would go to
22 the Security Service in the first instance.

23 Q. Now I'd like to ask you about paragraph 229 of your
24 witness statement, and that is one where you're talking
25 about how reports were put together, and you said:

1 "When they were quieter periods for SDS officers,
2 I assume that intelligence reports were put in their
3 name to justify their continued deployment."

4 First of all, were there any quiet periods in your
5 deployment?

6 A. I think there was in everybody -- yes is the answer. If
7 there wasn't much going on demonstration wise, yes,
8 there was, yeah.

9 Q. In this part of your statement you say you're assuming
10 that reports were put in SDS officers' names to justify
11 their continued deployment. Do you have any actual
12 knowledge that this was done?

13 A. It's just that some of the stuff that I've been shown
14 doesn't ring a bell at all and they've got any signature
15 on some of this stuff at all and I think where's this
16 stuff come from? It's down to me, where we are's it
17 come from?

18 Q. Who would have been responsible for putting your name at
19 the bottom of those reports?

20 A. Well, it was -- I've said that we sent the stuff into
21 the office and the reports would come back for us to
22 sign if they thought it was worth putting in or
23 whatever, and it would be done in the office. It would
24 be done in the office and typed up in the office so that
25 it was in a prepared state to be able to have a proper

1 report which was of sufficient grade to be passed on to
2 the Box 500 Security Service.

3 Q. Are we talking then about Roy Creamer, Bill Furner and
4 Dave Smith?

5 A. Yes, among others. There was others in there as well,
6 wasn't there. Oh, can't say the name. Yeah, I think
7 there were others in there as well -- or one other in
8 there.

9 Q. Did you ever hear your managers expressing any concerns
10 about the need to justify the continued deployment of
11 SDS officers?

12 A. That would have been discussed not in my ear shot.
13 I wouldn't have been privy to whether they want to get
14 rid of people or not. Sort of at the time I suppose
15 they were keeping the budget small, weren't they.

16 And I didn't cost them a lot of money. I'd only got
17 a rabbit hutch to live in there and the rent on that was
18 tiny.

19 Q. As far as you were aware, did Roy Creamer ever produce
20 documents in a way that might not have represented
21 the truth in order to advance the position of the SDS?

22 A. No, not at all. He's an officer of great integrity.
23 No, absolutely not.

24 Q. Same question about Bill Furner?

25 A. Same with him, yeah, exactly --

- 1 Q. Dave Smith?
- 2 A. Dave (inaudible) Superintendent in the end, I think,
3 didn't he. No, absolutely not. They were all people of
4 integrity.
- 5 Q. May I go now, please -- and you'll be, I'm sure, very
6 pleased to learn, this is the last topic that I've got
7 for you this afternoon?
- 8 A. I've got some more to come then, have I? Dear oh dear.
- 9 Q. To Grosvenor Square. And you give an account in your
10 witness statement about being assaulted yourself in
11 Grosvenor Square.
- 12 A. Yes.
- 13 Q. During a disturbance. Could you please tell us first of
14 all as best you can when did this happen?
- 15 A. When. Well, whatever the date the demonstration was in
16 Grosvenor Square that I was on. I remember
17 the uniformed police sort of chasing us to disperse us
18 and the truncheons came out and wallop, you know. But
19 that was -- that was how it was done in those days
20 50 years ago, wasn't it.
- 21 Q. Can you remember what the demonstration was?
- 22 A. Whether it was VSC or whatever, I don't -- I don't
23 remember now. I know it got broken up and we all run
24 off towards Hyde Park Corner, if I remember.
- 25 Q. Can you remember which group you were with?

- 1 A. No. Don't -- don't remember. I don't remember
2 that: I just remember getting clouted. That was all.
- 3 Q. Did you -- had you behaved in any way which would have
4 visited police displeasure on you?
- 5 A. That's a nice way of putting it, I think. I would have
6 hoped not, but it's just the fact you've got long hair
7 and a beard and they wallop you, you know, you're --
8 you're one of them sort of thing. It's 50 years ago,
9 this was that they were doing. It's a different
10 attitude to things. Goodness me.
- 11 Q. So can we take it that you were hit because you were
12 there?
- 13 A. Well, yes, I was hit because I was there, but because
14 I was a long haired layabout as far as the police were
15 concerned. They wanted to get rid of us.
- 16 MR BARR: You've been very patient, 326. Thank you very
17 much.
- 18 A. Thank you very much.
- 19 MR BARR: I don't have any more questions for you, but
20 please wait there.
- 21 A. Thank you.
- 22 THE CHAIRMAN: Your own counsel, Mr Skelton, may have
23 a question or two for you. I'll ask if he does.
- 24 A. Thank you, sir, right. God.
- 25 MR SKELTON: I think the witness will be pleased to hear

1 I have no questions for him.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: In that case that's it. Thank you very much
3 for spending the afternoon for us and telling us what
4 you remember about your service.

5 A. That's very kind, sir. Thank you very much for your
6 time and I wish you success with the Inquiry and sorting
7 it all out anyway. It's a hell of a job you've got
8 there. You really have. Okay. I'll be signing off
9 now. Can I relax?

10 THE CHAIRMAN: Of course you may. That's an end of
11 the proceedings as far as you're concerned. Thank you.

12 A. That's most kind of you, sir. Thank you very much.

13 (The witness withdrew)

14 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Barr, I think that concludes our
15 proceedings with witnesses for today, does it not, and
16 therefore our open proceedings today?

17 MR BARR: It does, sir, yes.

18 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

19 MS PURSER: Thank you very much, everyone. The hearings
20 have concluded for the week. We will resume at 10.00 am
21 on Monday, 16 November. You may now move into your
22 break-out rooms.

23 (4.32 pm)

24 (The hearing adjourned until 10.00 am on Monday,
25 16 November 2020)