

Thursday, 19 November 2020

(11.00 am)

MS PURSER: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to the final day of evidential hearings in Tranche 1, Phase 1 of the Undercover Policing Inquiry. My name is Jacqueline Purser and I am the Hearings Manager.

As a reminder to those of you in the virtual hearing room, please turn off both your camera and microphone unless you are invited to speak by the Chairman.

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

Chairman.

THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you. For the next 25 minutes or so, Ms Campbell is going to summarise the evidence of a number of officers who are not being called to give live evidence. We will then have a ten-minute break and resume our evidential hearings.

Ms Campbell.

Summary of evidence of HN333, HN339, HN349 & HN343 by MS

CAMPBELL

MS CAMPBELL: Thank you, sir. I'll begin with the summary of HN333.

HN333 served on the SDS for nine months from late 1968 to 1969. He has co-operated with the Inquiry to provide a written witness statement.

1 There is a restriction order in force preventing
2 the publication of both the real and cover names of this
3 officer. In light of this, the specific group targeted
4 by this officer has also not been published.

5 Prior to joining the SDS, HN333 worked in
6 Special Branch. While in Special Branch, he attended
7 the 27 October 1968 Grosvenor Square demonstration as
8 a plain-clothes officer, sent to mingle with the crowds
9 and help establish the intention of activists on
10 the day. HN333 states that he had not worked in an
11 undercover identity prior to joining the SDS.

12 HN333 was recruited to the SDS subsequent to
13 the October demonstration. He states in his witness
14 statement that the subject was first proposed informally
15 by more senior colleagues, although he cannot recall
16 who. At the time, there was talk within Special Branch
17 of the need for improved intelligence to help assess
18 future protest and unrest. There was no formal joining
19 process for the SDS.

20 HN333 describes his cover background
21 as "rudimentary". He adopted a cover name, cover
22 employment and lived in cover accommodation. Unusually
23 for officers at the time, HN333 states that he spent
24 most evenings at his cover address. He was single when
25 he joined the SDS.

1 HN333 was deployed against a left-wing group that no
2 longer exists. He found this group by answering
3 a public advertisement that had been suggested to him by
4 someone in SDS management. He would provide verbal
5 reports on the group's activities, most often during
6 regular meetings at the SDS safe house.

7 HN333 did not assume any roles of responsibility
8 within the group and describes it as a "loose
9 association". His tasking did not change during his
10 deployment.

11 HN333's deployment was interrupted by illness
12 causing him to pause his undercover duties for a few
13 weeks. He states in his witness statement that he
14 believes that this made his deployment less effective.

15 Ultimately, it was decided to withdraw this officer
16 due to health reasons. The withdrawal was planned and
17 HN333 states that he was able to give his excuses to
18 the -- to his target group, although he cannot remember
19 the specific reason he gave.

20 Following withdrawal, HN333 undertook several
21 training courses and ultimately returned to
22 Special Branch in an unrelated field. He recalls
23 undertaking a written debrief following deployment,
24 which addressed welfare issues. In general, HN333
25 describes the welfare arrangements at the time

1 as "ad hoc but effective".

2 There is no evidence to suggest that HN333 used
3 the name of a deceased child, engaged in sexual
4 activity, or formed any close personal relationships
5 while in his cover identity.

6 Sir, that concludes the summary for HN333. I will
7 now move on to HN339.

8 HN339 served on the SDS from 1970 to 1971 using
9 the cover name "Stewart Goodman". There is
10 a restriction order in force preventing the publication
11 of the real name of this officer.

12 HN339 joined Special Branch in the late 1960s. He
13 dealt with Special Branch enquiries before being tasked
14 to investigate the Campaign Against Racial
15 Discrimination. HN339 states in his witness statement
16 that during this time he did attend meetings of
17 the activist group but never in an undercover identity.

18 HN339 held the rank of detective sergeant when he
19 was approached to join the SDS. The earliest reporting
20 from this officer held by the Inquiry is from early
21 October 1970. However, a memorandum concerning SDS
22 expenditure indicates that HN339 was renting a cover
23 flat from at least April of that year.

24 HN339 was married when he joined the SDS. No
25 managers discussed the effect his recruitment might have

1 with his spouse.

2 HN339 adopted the cover identity of an unemployed
3 musician, and as such had no cover employment. He
4 rented a cover flat in the Streatham area, but only
5 stayed overnight occasionally.

6 HN339 states in his witness statement that he was
7 originally directed to infiltrate the Anti-Apartheid
8 Movement. Early reporting held by the Inquiry shows
9 that HN339 reported largely on the activities of
10 the Dambusters Mobilisation Committee, a sister group to
11 the Anti-Apartheid Movement, aimed at protesting
12 the construction of the Cahora Bassa Dam intended to
13 supply electricity to South Africa.

14 He appears to have remained in this group until
15 February 1971, reporting on planned protest activities.

16 HN339 also reported during this time on an upcoming
17 conference by the Anti-Apartheid Movement, where
18 Michael Barnes MP was due to speak.

19 HN339 was subsequently directed to infiltrate
20 the International Socialists. He replied to a newspaper
21 advert from the group seeking volunteers, and started
22 attending meetings at the Lambeth branch from late
23 February 1971. Eventually, he was appointed to the role
24 of branch treasurer.

25 HN339 recalls in his witness statement that this

1 brought him close to the branch secretary at the time,
2 and describes himself as "effectively his right-hand
3 man".

4 The Inquiry holds reporting from HN339 on
5 the International Socialists from February to
6 November 1971. During this time, he reported on a mix
7 of public and private meetings, including the 1971
8 IS Easter conference and the annual IS rally in
9 Skegness.

10 Much of his later reporting deals with an internal
11 party rift that arose between the main leadership of
12 the International Socialists and members of
13 the so-called "Trotskyist Tendency".

14 Coverage of this particular issue was continued by
15 HN343, "John Clinton", from within IS after HN339's
16 reporting ends.

17 HN339 recalls being involved in some flyposting
18 while in his cover identity, but no other criminal
19 activity. Near the end of his deployment, HN339 was
20 involved in a road traffic accident while driving an
21 unmarked police car, which necessitated the involvement
22 of his supervisors on the SDS. HN339 states that he
23 does not remember much about his withdrawal from
24 the field, but suspects that this event may have been
25 a catalyst for the end of his deployment.

1 There is no evidence to suggest that HN339 used
2 the name of a deceased child, or engaged in sexual
3 activity while in his cover identity.

4 Sir, that includes the summary for HN339. I'll move
5 on to HN349.

6 HN349 joined the SDS in the early 1970s. He was in
7 the squad for approximately one year, targeting
8 anarchist groups in Central London. There is
9 a restriction order in force preventing the publication
10 of both the real and cover names of this officer. In
11 light of this, the specific groups targeted by this
12 officer have also not been published.

13 The Inquiry has no contemporaneous reporting from
14 HN349's deployment. However, he has co-operated with
15 the Inquiry to provide a written witness statement.

16 HN349 joined the SDS after a relatively short time
17 on Special Branch. He was recruited after meeting with
18 an undercover officer, who explained the nature of
19 the role. There was no formal training.

20 HN349 spent some time in the SDS back office before
21 deployment, where he was able to read reports and gain
22 a feel for the information that was collected. During
23 this time, he also met on two or three occasions with
24 active UCOs in the SDS cover flat.

25 HN349 was married when he joined the SDS. No

1 manager spoke to his wife, or discussed the impact that
2 a deployment might have on his family life.

3 At the start of his deployment, HN349 was not asked
4 to target a particular group. He was simply tasked with
5 attending any demonstrations taking place in Central
6 London and getting to know the regular activists.
7 Ultimately, he was tasked with attempting to get
8 involved with various loose-knit anarchist groups.

9 HN349 describes his cover identity as being not
10 as "developed" as that of his colleagues. He had
11 a cover name and a cover flat, though he never actually
12 slept there. He did not have a cover employer.

13 HN349's deployment was ultimately unsuccessful. He
14 describes in his witness statement how he was unable to
15 strike up any real relationships with the activists in
16 his group or gain their trust, as they were highly
17 suspicious of strangers. Approximately nine months into
18 his deployment, HN349 met with his managers and
19 the decision was made to withdraw him from the field.
20 No method of exfiltration was required as HN349 had not
21 managed to sufficiently assimilate within his group.

22 After his withdrawal, HN349 spent some time again in
23 the SDS back office before ultimately returning to
24 Special Branch. While working in Special Branch, HN349
25 did work with intelligence that was gathered by the SDS,

1 although that material would not have been specifically
2 identified as such.

3 He states in his witness statement that after some
4 time, most Special Branch officers were "aware of
5 the SDS and had an idea of the kinds of groups that they
6 had infiltrated".

7 HN349 also states that he would have occasionally
8 made requests for specific information from the SDS
9 while in Special Branch.

10 There is no evidence to suggest that HN349 used
11 the name of a deceased child, engaged in sexual
12 activity, or formed any close personal relationships
13 while in his cover identity.

14 Sir, that concludes the summary for HN349. I will
15 now move on to my final summary for HN343.

16 HN343 served on the SDS from early 1971 to
17 September 1974 using the cover name "John Clinton". He
18 infiltrated the International Socialists, the IS -- in
19 particular the Hammersmith and Fulham branch. There is
20 a restriction order in force preventing the publication
21 of the real name of this officer. He has co-operated
22 with the Inquiry to provide a written witness statement.

23 HN343 joined Special Branch in the late 1960s,
24 a process which he remembers in his witness statement as
25 involving "lots of interview and testing". HN343 states

1 that during this time, he would attend public meetings
2 of various groups of interest to Special Branch, as was
3 common practice, and would give a fake name if asked.
4 He had not, however, worked in a formal undercover
5 identity before joining the SDS.

6 He states that he was not aware of the SDS before
7 joining but that there were "vague whispers" in
8 Special Branch of the existence of a secret unit.

9 HN343 joined the SDS in early 1971 after being
10 approached by the chief inspector at the time,
11 Phil Saunders. There was no formal training provided.
12 He was single at the time of joining the SDS and no one
13 spoke to him or his family about the potential impact
14 that an undercover deployment might have on him
15 personally.

16 Shortly after joining the unit, HN343 fell ill,
17 causing a delay of several months in his preparation for
18 deployment. HN343 also recalls spending three to four
19 months in the SDS back office prior to deployment,
20 reading reports and "getting up to speed with
21 the political landscape".

22 HN343 describes his undercover legend as "basic"
23 and without "any elaborate detail". He adopted
24 the cover name "John Clinton "and gave his cover
25 employment as that of a van driver, which he states was

1 chosen as it would have provided an excuse if members of
2 his group saw him in an unexpected area of London.

3 He rented cover accommodation in the Fulham area and
4 was provided with a cover vehicle. Although he cannot
5 remember any details, HN343 states that he would have
6 discussed his cover name and legend with his managers
7 before being deployed.

8 HN343 was tasked by his managers to infiltrate
9 the International Socialists. The earliest reporting
10 from this officer held by the Inquiry dates from
11 October 1971. Although the majority of the reporting
12 from this officer held by the Inquiry from between
13 October 1971 and March 1972 relates to the Croydon
14 branch of the IS, HN343 has explained in his witness
15 statement that this is likely due to the held documents
16 not reflecting the totality of his reporting during this
17 period.

18 HN343 states that he began his deployment by
19 attending various meetings and demonstrations of
20 the IS across London, before ultimately focusing on
21 the Hammersmith and Fulham branch. He chose this branch
22 because there was "a lot of Irish activity discussed",
23 a subject that he knew would be of great interest to
24 the MPS.

25 HN343 notes that it was easy to join the IS, as

1 the group was keen for members. While in his cover
2 identity, HN343 states that he deliberately avoided
3 forming any close relationships and cultivated
4 the persona of someone who was unreliable and a bit
5 "flaky" to avoid being given any responsibility within
6 the group.

7 HN343 states that he understood the SDS to be
8 interested in both issues of public order and counter
9 subversion at the time of his deployment. HN343 notes
10 that at the time, the IS was "a large group that would
11 attend lots of demonstrations" and were a "Trotskyist
12 subversive group with links into Irish groups".

13 Although violence was witnessed at these events,
14 HN343 states that it would "rarely come directly from
15 IS members", but rather a minority of other groups.

16 HN343 likewise states that he did consider the group
17 to be subversive, explaining that "IS were constantly
18 trying to exploit whatever industrial or political
19 situation that existed in the aim of getting
20 the proletariat to rise up".

21 HN343 attended a wide range of events, both public
22 and private, ranging from very small meetings attended
23 by a handful of people, to very large events attended by
24 thousands. His reporting provides significant coverage
25 of the internal affairs of the IS, including elections

1 and appointments made, campaigns and talks, recruitment,
2 preparations for the 1972 annual conference, and
3 the split with the "Trotskyist Tendency", an internal
4 rift previously covered by HN339.

5 HN343's reporting also touches upon union membership
6 and industrial action taken by members of the IS. HN343
7 himself was not a member of a trade union.

8 There is also coverage in the reporting of
9 IS involvement in numerous campaigns supported by
10 the group, including Irish matters, Women's Liberation,
11 tenants' rights and the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

12 HN343 states in his witness statement that he had
13 considerable discretion as to what he reported on during
14 his deployment. However, he would have been guided by
15 what he knew would have been of interest to
16 Special Branch at the time. His general tasking and
17 ongoing updates from his deployment would have been
18 discussed regularly with his managers, Chief Inspector
19 Saunders or Detective Inspector HN294, at weekly
20 meetings in the SDS safe house.

21 HN343's personnel file suggests that he left the SDS
22 in September 1974, although the Inquiry only holds
23 reporting from this officer up to December 1973.

24 HN343 states that he made the decision that his
25 deployment should end, as he had had enough of the life

1 of an undercover officer. His managers were supportive
2 of this decision.

3 HN343 undertook what he describes as a "phased
4 withdrawal" from his group, telling members that he was
5 going travelling.

6 HN343 does not recall any formal debrief following
7 his withdrawal. He was not offered any post-deployment
8 support. HN343 states that his time as an
9 undercover officer "definitely changed him as a person",
10 although he states that he has not had any psychological
11 issues as a result.

12 He describes himself as very private in his personal
13 affairs, something he attributes to his deployment.

14 HN343 was posted to Special Branch C Squad for a few
15 months in the late 1980s. In his witness statement he
16 notes that he would have received intelligence from
17 the SDS in this role, but it would be sanitised and not
18 identifiable as such. He would not have known at the
19 time what the unit was doing, or which groups were
20 currently infiltrated.

21 HN343 required from the MPS after 30 years' service.
22 There is no evidence to suggest that HN343 used the name
23 of a deceased child, engaged in sexual activity, or
24 formed any close personal relationships while in his
25 cover identity.

1 Sir, that concludes the summary for those officers.

2 In addition to publishing the documents and witness
3 statements relating to those officers, the Inquiry today
4 will be publishing, as well, documents in relation to
5 five former members of the SDS who have not provided
6 witness statements.

7 They are, firstly, HN346, real name Jill Mosdell,
8 cover name unknown, who reported on the groups
9 Stop the Seventy Tour, the Anti-Apartheid Movement and
10 related groups. The Inquiry's analysis of those
11 documents can be found at page 136 to 138 of appendix 2
12 of Counsel to the Inquiry's written opening statement.

13 Secondly, documents will be published for HN338,
14 real name restricted, cover name unknown, who reported
15 on the groups the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign,
16 the International Marxist Group, in particular
17 the Notting Hill and West London branches, and
18 the Anti-Internment League. Our analysis can be found
19 at page 161 to 166 of our written opening statement.

20 Thirdly, documents will be published for HN1251/371,
21 real name Phil Saunders, cover name, if any, is unknown,
22 who was a detective inspector in the SDS. Our analysis
23 can be found at page 180 to 183 of
24 Counsel to the Inquiry's written opening statement,
25 appendix 2.

1 Chairman.

2 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

3 As at the beginning, the start of every evidential
4 session, a recording made earlier is going to be played.
5 If you're listening to it for the first time, please
6 listen carefully:

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

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

24 "Evidence is going to be given live over screens in
25 the hearing rooms. It is strictly prohibited to

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

11 "This restriction has a purpose. In the course of
12 the Inquiry I have made orders prohibiting the public
13 disclosure of information, for example about
14 the identity of a person, for a variety of reasons.
15 These orders must be upheld. It is inevitable that,
16 whether by accident or design, information which I have
17 ordered should not be publicly disclosed will sometimes
18 be disclosed in a hearing. If and when that happens,
19 I will immediately suspend the hearing and make an order
20 prohibiting further disclosure of the information
21 outside the hearing rooms. The consequence will be that
22 no further disclosure of that information may be made by
23 mobile telephone or other portable electronic device
24 from within the hearing room, or by any means outside
25 it.

1 THE CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

2 We can see that behind you there is someone sitting
3 there, I think typing and there to assist you with
4 the technology, if you need it.

5 Is there anyone else in the room?

6 A. No.

7 THE CHAIRMAN: Mr Barr.

8 Questions by MR BARR

9 MR BARR: Thank you, sir.

10 345, you have helpfully provided the Inquiry with
11 a witness statement dated 20 August 2019. Are you
12 familiar with the contents of that witness statement?

13 A. Slightly.

14 Q. Are the contents of the witness statement true and
15 correct to the best of your knowledge and belief?

16 A. To the best of my knowledge, yes.

17 Q. Can I start, please, by asking you about the time before
18 you joined Special Branch when you were serving as an
19 undercover police officer. In particular, did you
20 receive any training for the role of undercover police
21 officer?

22 A. No.

23 Q. And so did you -- does it follow that you learned on
24 the job, or from fellow undercover police officers, what
25 was required of you?

- 1 A. On the job would be more accurate, because I didn't
2 really operate (inaudible) for the most part.
- 3 Q. You have described providing some information about
4 Stop the Tour whilst you were working as what I might
5 call an "ordinary undercover police officer"; not
6 meaning to demean that role at all, just to distinguish
7 it from an SDS undercover police officer?
- 8 A. Fair enough.
- 9 Q. Was that the result of you infiltrating
10 the Stop the Tour campaign, or was it information that
11 you just happened to pick up in the course of targeting
12 somebody else?
- 13 A. It was information I picked up in the course of
14 targeting another operation.
- 15 Q. And, similarly, you tell us that you reported some
16 information on the Black Power Movement. Again, did you
17 directly target the Black Power Movement or was
18 the information information that you picked up ancillary
19 to your main tasking?
- 20 A. I don't recall being directed towards looking at the --
21 the Black Power movement, it's something just happened
22 while I was doing other things.
- 23 Q. I'm just going to pause there for a moment, 345, and ask
24 the person sitting behind you, who's helping with
25 technical matters, would it be possible to turn up

1 the volume for this witness very slightly, please?

2 (Pause)

3 Thank you. Let's see if the shorthand writers can
4 hear you now.

5 When you joined Special Branch, was there any
6 mention of the SDS at that stage?

7 A. I -- the term used when I joined
8 was "SOS/Special Operations Squad"; "SDS" is a term that
9 I've encountered quite recently.

10 Q. Okay. So I'll put that question again, then.

11 When you joined Special Branch, was there any
12 mention of the Special Operations Squad?

13 A. No. But that's perhaps not such a helpful question,
14 because Special Branch approached me because of the work
15 I'd been doing, and it was people from the -- there were
16 all sorts of people there, and some of them were in
17 the Special Operations Squad.

18 Q. Yes. We now know that one of the people you say
19 was there was the head of -- the then head of the SOS.
20 We'll come back to that a little later.

21 Now, once you had joined Special Branch, you tell
22 us, first of all, that you joined C Squad, and that you
23 joined the section of C Squad that dealt with
24 Trotskyists and anarchists?

25 A. Correct.

- 1 Q. You also tell us that you were sent to a demonstration
2 about Bangladesh?
- 3 A. Yes.
- 4 Q. My first question about that is: can you help us as to
5 why, when you were in a section dealing with Trotskyists
6 and anarchists, you came to be at a demonstration about
7 Bangladesh?
- 8 A. I don't know. I was instructed to attend this
9 demonstration. I did as I was told.
- 10 Q. You give another example of being called back from your
11 work to Whitehall, where there was a demonstration in
12 Whitehall and Parliament Square, and where you witnessed
13 a female police officer jumping from, if I've understood
14 your evidence correctly, a burning vehicle; is that
15 correct?
- 16 A. I was -- I became aware of a vehicle that was on fire
17 and inside the vehicle there was a female officer who
18 was in distress.
- 19 Q. Can you help us, what was the demonstration about?
- 20 A. It was about the conflict between what was then
21 East Pakistan and West Pakistan, today it's Pakistan and
22 Bangladesh. They were one country about a thousand
23 miles apart.
- 24 Q. And what had caused the fire?
- 25 A. I don't know. I became aware of the fire some several

1 minutes after it had started. I just assumed someone
2 was being unhelpful.

3 Q. I see.

4 But that was an assumption on your part?

5 A. Yes. I witnessed -- I did not witness -- I did not see
6 who started the fire. I became aware of screaming from
7 the loud speakers on some motorcycles, I looked around
8 and saw the fire, I saw other officers there. As I was
9 in plain clothes, I stood back because they didn't need
10 me.

11 Q. Was the demonstration that you witnessed being conducted
12 in an orderly manner?

13 A. I don't know. What happened was I was on another -- on
14 another bit of work. A notice -- a message came through
15 the radio asking me and all SB units to return to
16 Scotland Yard. On my way back, I was diverted, I was
17 asked to go to this place near the war memorial, and
18 more than that I do not remember too well.

19 Q. Can you remember whether you personally witnessed any
20 disorderly conduct?

21 A. Nothing that struck me. There were people there
22 behaving the way they do and, you know, running around
23 in all sorts of ways. But there was no violence,
24 nothing unpleasant going on. It was just lots of
25 activity, lots of energy. But I didn't notice anything

1 to be worried about. Having said that, of course, we
2 did have the fire.

3 Q. Yes. And the fire, if I've understood your witness
4 statement correctly, was in a police communications
5 vehicle?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. I see.

8 Coming back now to your general time on
9 Special Branch, were you given any training on
10 the definition of "extremism"?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Were you given any training on the definition
13 of "subversion"?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Did you form, from your work in Special Branch, an
16 understanding of what was "subversive"?

17 A. I had my -- probably my own private view on that term.
18 What is subversive to one group could be helpful to
19 another, or positive to another. I think each case has
20 to be taken on its own merits.

21 Q. I see.

22 I mean, really what I'm interested in is whether, if
23 you were not given any formal training, whether there
24 was a received understanding within Special Branch as to
25 what constituted subversive behaviour.

- 1 A. I can't remember any such instruction or guidance.
- 2 Q. Were you given any instruction on which groups -- which
3 Trotskyist and anarchist groups were of interest to
4 Special Branch?
- 5 A. After all this time, I can't really remember. I found
6 myself living out in an environment, and I would meet
7 people from all sorts of groups, all sorts of
8 backgrounds. I would do what I can to check them out
9 and make the reports as and when necessary.
- 10 Q. When you went to activist meetings and demonstrations
11 and so forth, were you given any briefings about their
12 politics before you attended their events?
- 13 A. No.
- 14 Q. We've got in the bundle some of your Special Branch
15 reports and some of your SDS reports. In terms of
16 the content, what it was you were expected to record,
17 was there any difference between Special Branch and
18 the SOS?
- 19 A. I have no memory of there -- of there being any
20 difference or any conflict there. I just felt that we
21 had to go out there and come back with whatever
22 information that we could lay our hands on.
- 23 Q. Were you given any instructions about what information
24 would be of interest and what information would not be
25 of interest?

1 A. Again, I have no memory, but I imagine -- just something
2 that makes me believe that I would have been told what
3 was of interest, and I don't recall ever being told what
4 was of no interest. If that answers the question.

5 Q. Yes, because it is quite interesting. You tell us that
6 one of the distinctions between your undercover work
7 before you joined the SOS and the work you did in
8 Special Branch and the SOS is that in non-SOS work,
9 pre-special Branch, you had been very selective in what
10 you reported. You were looking for things that were out
11 of the ordinary. Whereas you say, in the SOS, you
12 tended to report a great deal. Was that -- did you also
13 report a great deal in Special Branch?

14 A. I would report on encounters that took place as
15 a consequence of earlier instructions. So I would be
16 told to go somewhere; I would go there, do what needed
17 to be done, and come back with whatever information was
18 available.

19 Q. I see.

20 And where did you get -- and so where did you get
21 the understanding that what was required of you was to
22 report back whatever information was available?

23 A. I have no specific memory, no clear memory of that.
24 A lot of the guidance we had was not in a classroom or
25 anything, it was just chat in an office, across a desk

1 or whatever, talking with colleagues, that sort of
2 thing.

3 Q. Thank you.

4 I'm just going to ask for one of your Special Branch
5 pre-SOS reports to be called up.

6 Could we have, please, <UCPI0000005817>. Thank you.

7 This is a report, 345, dated 16 April 1971. It's
8 about the International Marxist Group and the Vietnam
9 Solidarity Campaign.

10 If we could go over the page, please,
11 <UCPI0000005817/2>, and if -- thank you very much.

12 In the main text it reads:

13 "Mr Ninh ... expounded upon the achievements of
14 the heroic North Vietnamese people in their struggle
15 against American imperialism. This was followed by
16 a discourse by Tariq Ali. He dealt at length with
17 the history of the war in Indo-China and urged
18 the solidarity movement in this country to support
19 the North Vietnamese. Ali stressed that if the North
20 Vietnamese people were defeated, it would be a defeat
21 for Marxism throughout the world. He concluded by
22 asking all present to support the demonstration on
23 Saturday, 24th April 1971 -- the International Day of
24 Solidarity with the Indo-Chinese revolution."

25 Was Mr Ali someone you can remember?

1 A. I remember the name very clearly, but no more. It's
2 just one of those strange things.

3 Q. Can you recall whether you were asked specifically to
4 report on Mr Ali?

5 A. No, I have no clear memory of that at all.

6 Q. Can you recall whether you were given any briefing about
7 Mr Ali at all?

8 A. I definitely was not.

9 Q. Thank you. Can that be taken down, please.

10 You refer to your Special Branch work as the sort of
11 work where you might be required to strike up
12 a conversation with someone for the first time. When
13 you were doing that, would you ever use a false name?

14 A. I had a false name, and when I was out and about I used
15 the name rather than my own name.

16 Q. And presumably you were seeking information from at
17 least some of the people you struck up conversation
18 with?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. And is the distinction between doing that and what you
21 did in the SOS simply that in the SOS you took your
22 undercover persona to another level?

23 A. That would be fair, yes.

24 Q. You describe getting some contact details from a woman
25 who we're not going to name at the Bangladesh related

1 demonstration that you attended. Did that contact lead
2 you into your later work within the SOS in relation to
3 Operation Omega?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. And was there any connection between having that lead
6 and being invited to join the SOS that you are aware of?

7 A. Yes, yes.

8 Q. Can you, without naming names other than if it's
9 necessary, Assistant Commander Pendered, could you
10 explain the connection?

11 A. I was called and -- I was called to his office, and
12 there was a letter on the desk. He looked down at
13 the letter and said it was from Box. And he said, "Not
14 a lot of people with your service get one of these
15 letters from Box," it was quite complimentary. And they
16 suggested -- there was a suggestion -- I don't remember
17 how much was in the letter and how much was said, but it
18 was at that meeting that I was told I was moving to
19 the Special Demonstration Squad, and I'd be given an
20 undercover name, and all of that.

21 Q. I certainly don't want you to name anybody from Box, and
22 by "Box" we are talking about MI5, the Security Service,
23 and I'll be careful about details. But can you tell us,
24 was your commendation anything to do with
25 the intelligence that you had provided on the Bangladesh

1 related group?

2 A. I got the impression it was there because they were
3 surprised I'd managed to make the contact and put myself
4 in the position where I was now part of this group.

5 Q. I see, thank you.

6 After the conversation with Assistant Commander
7 Pendered, I'd like to know what happened next to get you
8 into the SOS. Were you then introduced to SOS managers?
9 No names, please.

10 A. Yes. What followed was not something you're likely to
11 remember very sharply. I was told that I'd be going
12 out, I would meet people who I'd be working with,
13 including what you describe as "managers". I was also
14 introduced to what you might describe as "safe houses",
15 or secret offices where we would meet. And it just went
16 from there. There was no -- it just -- things just
17 happened, and I probably don't remember all of
18 the detail.

19 Q. I see.

20 You recall, at some stage, two members of the SOS
21 came to visit you: HN68 and HN326?

22 A. 326 ...

23 Q. It's page 10 of the internal pagination, paragraph 24 of
24 your witness statement.

25 A. Oh, I'm -- I'm looking at ...

1 Q. At the cipher list. Sorry, yes.

2 A. I'm looking at the cipher list.

3 Q. Yes.

4 A. And it's HN326?

5 Q. Yes, 326 and 68. Neither name can be mentioned openly.

6 A. This -- ah, 32 ... ah, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, they

7 did.

8 Q. Yes.

9 A. I can remember -- I remember the incident, and I'm just

10 reminding myself --

11 Q. -- (overspeaking) --

12 A. -- (inaudible).

13 Q. What I'd like to know is, can you remember when that

14 meeting -- when that visit occurred? Was it before or

15 after you had joined the SOS?

16 A. That's a difficult one to answer. It was -- if it was

17 after, it would have been in the very early days, but it

18 could quite easily have been before, because I did find

19 myself in touch with SB-- Special Branch -- they would

20 contact me because of the information I'd uncovered.

21 But I don't have any clear memory of whether that was

22 before or after the date of joining Special Branch.

23 Q. Was it about the SOS, or was it about something else?

24 A. I have no memory. My assumption is they were there for

25 a reason that had something to do with the job. But

1 because we had encountered each other so many times,
2 a sort of connection -- a friendly connection existed.
3 And it's quite possible that they came down to see me,
4 and my home was the most convenient place for the -- for
5 us to sit down and have a cup of tea and a chat about
6 whatever was going on. But I do remember the -- I
7 remember them coming to my home, I remember seeing them
8 there, but I can't remember why.

9 Q. I see. Maybe I'm trying to press you too far given
10 we're talking about half a century ago. But is there
11 anything else about that meeting and what took place
12 that you can recall that might help us?

13 A. I think the only thing I can really remember is
14 the feeling that I had that you were all part of
15 the same group, the Metropolitan Police; we were
16 different departments, but effectively we were
17 achieving -- we were -- we were on the same team, on
18 the same side. And so the sort of camaraderie
19 developed. But I can't remember what we spoke of at
20 this particular meeting.

21 Q. In the SOS, you've told us in your witness statement
22 that you received no formal training. I'd like to
23 explore with you how you found out what was expected of
24 you. Were your colleagues a source of information as to
25 what you should be doing?

1 A. There were times, I can't -- I couldn't give you
2 a specific example, but there were times
3 when conversations would occur, during which I would
4 learn something from them. They were longer in the job
5 than I am, so talking to them was quite interesting. It
6 didn't happen a lot. We were all isolated when you work
7 that way (inaudible).

8 Q. Were these the sorts of conversations that would take
9 place at the SOS safe flat?

10 A. Yes.

11 Q. And to what extent did your managers tell you what was
12 expected of you and what you needed to do?

13 A. I think we were given broad -- very broad instructions,
14 not detailed instructions. There were suggestions
15 made -- what we needed to do. And, I don't know,
16 I think we were all on a bit of a learning curve.

17 Q. And to what extent had you picked up what was required
18 of you so far as reporting was concerned from your work
19 in Special Branch?

20 A. I think the method of reporting would have been
21 something that would have been, if you like, a hit and
22 miss operation. If I wrote a report that was lacking in
23 some way, someone would come to me and say, "Look, what
24 we need to do with this is that or the other." But
25 writing of the reports was not central to my

1 (inaudible), for want of a better term.

2 Q. I beg your pardon. I missed that.

3 A. It's basically the reports were something we would do,
4 and if I made a mistake, someone would correct it. Very
5 often, because I'm not a very good typist, my reports
6 would be written by hand, and there was a typing team
7 that would type out the reports on the official
8 documents.

9 Q. Operation Omega. Who tasked you to pursue infiltration
10 of Operation Omega?

11 A. I don't have a memory of this conversation, but my
12 assumption, if that is what you will accept, is
13 Ken Pendered. Having said that, he would have been
14 aware that I had worked undercover before; and my whole
15 point in joining the Branch was to work undercover, not
16 in the office. That was my --

17 Q. Did you have discussions with SOS managers before
18 deploying with that unit into Operation Omega?

19 A. I don't recall any significant conversations, no.

20 Q. Can you recall whether you were given any specific
21 instructions about what to try and find out in relation
22 to Operation Omega?

23 A. No.

24 Q. To what extent was what you did in the SOS in relation
25 to Operation Omega simply an extension of what you had

- 1 been doing in Special Branch?
- 2 A. I think, no. SOS, again a different name, you put
3 yourself out there and you didn't go back anywhere near
4 the office. You -- we just lived away from anything to
5 do with the Metropolitan Police.
- 6 Q. You used the cover name "Peter Fredericks", is that
7 right?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. You tell us in your witness statement that in fact this
10 name was one that you had assumed before you joined
11 the SOS, whilst you were with Special Branch, at
12 the instruction of a sergeant, who we are not going to
13 name, and that it also had something to do with
14 Operation Omega; is that right?
- 15 A. I think it would be fair to say that I adopted that name
16 because it was a name already in the -- in the system,
17 and I needed to make a decision in a hurry. I was given
18 that name and asked to use that name, but later on
19 I kept that name.
- 20 Q. I see. So a conscious -- a conscious decision to keep
21 the name?
- 22 A. It was, yes, because it just -- I -- at this time
23 I thought changing my name at that stage of whatever it
24 is I was doing was not a good idea, and I couldn't
25 elaborate on that after all these years, but I just

1 thought it was not a good idea. I'd already chosen one
2 name and I thought "stick with it".

3 Q. I see.

4 A. I'd been asked to use one name, and I thought "stick
5 with it".

6 Q. You describe in your witness statement that various
7 groups were interested in the conflict in what was then
8 East Pakistan, now Bangladesh, and that some had
9 a political interest, whereas others had a humanitarian
10 interest.

11 Can you recall the groups that you are talking
12 about?

13 A. Well, I know there were some people who were from
14 a group called the Young Haganah. Their interest seemed
15 to be humanitarian. It would be fair to say that most
16 of the people I encountered were interested in
17 the wellbeing of those who were suffering. There was
18 a programme there to go and build -- rebuild houses or
19 huts, or whatever it is, for those who had been evicted
20 from their homes, and stuff like that. I didn't come
21 across, if any -- I have no memory of any significant
22 conversation with anyone with a political -- simply
23 a political motive. It was -- it did tend to be
24 humanitarian.

25 Q. Can you recall discussing the motives of the groups with

1 your managers in the SOS?

2 A. No. Not in any detail. Too long ago.

3 Q. Were you steered by your SOS managers to or away from
4 any of these groups?

5 A. No.

6 Q. Now, you've described attending meetings at a -- what
7 I've understood to be a domestic dwelling in Camden,
8 part of a group that supported Operation Omega. Was any
9 formal permission required through the SOS before you
10 attended a private dwelling house in your undercover
11 identity?

12 A. No formal -- nothing formal, no. I was told where to
13 go, told where the meetings would be. I was asked if
14 I'd like to attend, and I said yes. I just turned up
15 and things carried on as normal.

16 Q. Does it remain the case that you can't remember the name
17 of this specific group?

18 A. I don't remember -- I remember the name
19 "Operation Omega", I don't remember any other names.

20 Q. I see.

21 Now, you tell us in your witness statement that one
22 of the group's member's family had donated £6,500 to
23 the Operation Omega cause.

24 A. This is what I was told, yes.

25 Q. That was a great deal of money in those days, wasn't it?

1 A. Yes, it was.

2 Q. Did the group appear to you to be well funded?

3 A. The way things worked, I was never -- I never found
4 myself thinking about the funding. It just -- it just
5 felt fine. To answer your question, it felt adequately
6 funded for what they were doing.

7 Q. Do you know how well resourced the humanitarian effort
8 that they were engaged in was?

9 A. They wanted to go there and build houses for people who
10 had been -- who had lost their homes, because --

11 Q. -- I beg your pardon?

12 A. Because -- sorry -- they lost their homes because of
13 the war between the two factions.

14 Q. It was a very serious humanitarian crisis, wasn't it?

15 A. Absolutely, yes.

16 Q. And did you get the impression that the humanitarian
17 effort of the group you had infiltrated matched
18 the funding that you had been told it had?

19 A. I didn't look into it that closely. We would need to
20 know the value of properties and things in a country
21 like Bangladesh, compared then with the value of
22 properties in London. It is not an exercise I went into
23 at the time. But I just got the impression that they
24 were spending a lot -- they were planning to spend a lot
25 of time, a lot of money, a lot of effort helping

1 the people who were being assaulted by an army.

2 Q. You tell us that the group did actually go to East
3 Pakistan to provide humanitarian relief?

4 A. I believe some of them did, yes.

5 Q. Was that whilst you were infiltrating the group?

6 A. I would have said no, it was something that was being
7 talked about and worked at when I was obliged to leave
8 the group. But I was told later on that they did go
9 there, but I don't know what they did.

10 Q. And who were you told by?

11 A. I can't remember that. I can't remember who told me,
12 but one of the people there actually had a baby while
13 she was in custody. She'd been arrested while she was
14 there.

15 Q. And was that the sort of thing that would have made
16 the news in those days?

17 A. I don't know. I can't -- I'd like to be able to answer
18 that, but ... it didn't seem to make the news. I found
19 out not by what I read in the papers. I can't remember
20 how I found out. But I just get the feeling that this
21 is information that came to me word of mouth.

22 Q. I see.

23 When they were planning the humanitarian relief
24 effort whilst you were infiltrating the group, did any
25 question arise of you being invited to go to

1 East Pakistan with them?

2 A. That didn't happen, no.

3 Q. How big were their meetings?

4 A. Typically 10 to 12 people. Sometimes fewer. And these

5 were not meetings where there was a lot of time was

6 spent discussing the problem. It was meetings that we

7 would do things. Like we'd put -- get envelopes

8 together, stuff the envelopes, the envelopes had to be

9 distributed, they were distributed and their message.

10 So it was more admin than anything else.

11 Q. Were decisions made at these meetings?

12 A. If they were, they would have been made by -- outside of

13 my presence.

14 Q. I see.

15 Did you -- this may make the next question easy.

16 Were you involved in any decision-making for that group?

17 A. No. No.

18 Q. Did you attend demonstrations with the group?

19 A. I remember the first. And if there had been other

20 demonstrations, there's something inside me that tells

21 me I would have been there. Oh, yes I did. I went to

22 one in -- I think it was Slough.

23 Q. Yes.

24 A. And there would have been others, but a walk in the park

25 on a Sunday, sort of -- you know, there were -- I can't

- 1 remember anything special about those demonstrations.
- 2 Q. Well, you describe the event in Slough as being attended
3 by many thousands of people and being peaceful and
4 unpoliced. Would a meeting of several thousand people
5 that was unpoliced have been unusual?
- 6 A. The short answer to the question, I suppose yes. But
7 it's fair to say that if the police had been there, they
8 were very, very discreet. They weren't upsetting
9 anyone, they weren't getting in anyone's way. They were
10 hardly noticeable. You know, it's a long time ago,
11 I can't remember. But I got the impression it was --
12 the authorities and the demonstrators seemed to be
13 working smoothly together.
- 14 Q. I'm getting the impression that there was no public
15 order concerns at all so far as this was concerned; is
16 that fair?
- 17 A. That sums it up beautifully, yes.
- 18 Q. You've also mentioned Speakers' Corner. Did you attend
19 Speakers' Corner in relation to matters concerning
20 Operation Omega?
- 21 A. It's quite likely, but I don't have any specific memory
22 of that.
- 23 Q. You have also described some flyposting. Was that
24 conducted by Operation Omega?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And did you have prior knowledge that it was going to
2 happen?
- 3 A. After all this time, I have no memory of that.
4 I remember being there and I remember things -- some
5 things that happened on that -- that night.
- 6 Q. Can you recall how it came about?
- 7 A. No. I think I was just trying to be helpful. Someone
8 said -- someone had said -- I had a car, and it would
9 enable me to carry the glue and the paintbrushes and
10 everything else, and the -- and the -- the adverts. So
11 I was -- if you like, I was in a useful position, and
12 I made myself available whenever I was needed.
- 13 Q. Did you have time to discuss doing that with your
14 managers in advance?
- 15 A. I don't have any such recollection and my feeling is
16 I didn't, because I thought: flyposting, no one gets
17 hurt, there's no need to get over-excited. My view;
18 others will disagree perhaps.
- 19 Q. Was there any formal requirement in the SOS to get prior
20 permission to do something like that?
- 21 A. I wouldn't be able to answer that question. I --
22 I don't know.
- 23 Q. Well, let's test it another way. Was anybody upset with
24 you for having done it?
- 25 A. No.

1 Q. And you say in your witness statement that you wouldn't
2 have reported something like flyposting. Why would that
3 have been?

4 A. I was involved -- okay, certain things -- I don't know.
5 I think my feeling would be, okay, they put some adverts
6 up on a lamppost, or something like that,
7 the authorities have got more important things to do.
8 This was huge -- I took the view this was hugely
9 peaceful. It was transmitting their message, their plea
10 to the people to help and support them. They weren't
11 hurting anyone, they weren't disturbing anyone. Okay,
12 you could argue that we don't like to see these things
13 posted on our lampposts, you know, stuff like that. But
14 I thought it was a relatively simple --

15 Q. I understand that we are talking about something at
16 the very, very bottom end of the scale of criminal
17 offending.

18 A. Absolutely.

19 Q. So if you didn't think it was significant enough to file
20 a formal report, is it something that you would have
21 told your managers that you had done when discussing
22 your work with them?

23 A. My -- I have no memory of that, but my guess would be
24 this would be part of a normal, relaxed conversation
25 that we would have at these meetings, talk about that

1 stuff.

2 Q. Now, you talk also about assisting with leafletting and
3 stuffing envelopes, and so forth. Did you have access
4 to the group's mailing list?

5 A. No.

6 Q. If you'd been able to get access to the group's mailing
7 list, do you think that would have been of interest to
8 the SOS?

9 A. It would have been of interest to the SOS, I suspect,
10 yes. And if I'd got -- if I had managed to get access
11 to it, I would have passed it along.

12 Q. In -- in addition to the campaigning activities that
13 we've already discussed, did you get involved in any
14 other activism with Action Bangla Desh?

15 A. Apart from campaigning, you know, as I say, leafletting,
16 delivering envelopes to people who'd deliver them
17 further, no, I wouldn't. There was no -- no ...

18 Q. How well did you get to know this group of 10 or 12
19 people that you were mixing with?

20 A. I had, if you like -- I viewed the different people in
21 different ways. There were others -- there were --
22 there were people there with whom I got on. We had cups
23 can of tea, we'd stuff envelopes, we'd go to
24 demonstrations etc. There were others who were more
25 closely involved with the hierarchy of this group, and

1 my plan was to sort of keep my hands clean, stay close
2 to them, and hope to be invited up to the next stage.
3 I'd made some progress out on the street; now I'm being
4 invited to these meetings on a regular basis. And
5 I felt if I behaved myself, the time would come and I'd
6 be able to take the next step.

7 Q. And to what extent did you participate in social
8 activities with members of Operation Omega?

9 A. Very occasionally -- there was a pub just down the road.
10 We'd go there for an hour or two on a nice summer's
11 evening for a drink. But outside of that I have no
12 memory of any social involvement. And not with all of
13 them, just some of them.

14 Q. And would you pick up useful information, at least
15 information that would have been regarded as useful by
16 the SOS, from those conversations?

17 A. No, because I saw my role -- I just felt I wasn't where
18 I needed to be. I needed to move up further. And
19 asking questions all the time draws unfavourable
20 attention to the question that -- I feel -- it was my
21 view to sit quiet, mix with people. If they trust you
22 enough, feel comfortable enough with you, they will say
23 things they wouldn't want to say anyway.

24 Q. I see.

25 So this was -- am I understanding you correctly: you

1 were doing this as part and parcel of a long-term
2 strategy to get more deeply involved with the group?

3 A. Absolutely, yes. That is -- that is -- yes.

4 Q. Apart from the flyposting, did any of these people
5 commit any criminal offences whilst you were
6 infiltrating them?

7 A. To my knowledge, no.

8 Q. Can you recall what your managers' attitude was to
9 the information that you were reporting back on
10 Operation Omega?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Can you recall whether they had any views about
13 Operation Omega?

14 A. No. No.

15 Q. That they were happy -- that they were aware of and
16 happy with your strategy, which was to stay there with
17 a view to ingratiating yourself more thoroughly with
18 them?

19 A. That -- that was my impression, yes.

20 Q. Young Haganah, please, if we may. How were you
21 introduced to Young Haganah?

22 A. There were two females who attended a couple of -- two
23 or three meetings; I can't remember how many. And they
24 discussed -- they told us a little bit about themselves.
25 Now, the term -- the group they were -- they described

1 as the Young Haganah, but the people I was talking to
2 were in their 50s, maybe early 60s. So I don't know
3 enough about that group. But I did get the impression
4 that they were not out to take unfair advantage of
5 the situation, cause damage, trouble; they just wanted
6 to help the people who were suffering. And that's
7 the impression I had.

8 Q. And what dealings did you have with this group?

9 A. I would meet a few of the members of the group whenever
10 I visited this place in Camden Town. Outside of that,
11 I didn't have any (inaudible) with them.

12 Q. I beg your pardon?

13 A. I was going to say, they seemed not to want to get more
14 closely involved. That's the impression I had at the
15 time. Whether I was right or wrong ...

16 Q. And to what extent were they supporting Operation Omega?

17 A. Apart from attending the meetings, I have no knowledge
18 of what was done. I got the impression that they just
19 wanted to attend the meetings. They may have made some
20 small donations, small donations, but I don't know.
21 It's just a feeling that I have. I felt that they were
22 okay.

23 Q. And when you went to their meetings, how big were they?

24 A. No, I didn't go to any meetings of Young Haganah.
25 The members of the Young Haganah would come to

1 the meetings held by Operation Omega.

2 Q. Forgive me. In that case, to what extent did you
3 participate in their activities?

4 A. The Young Haganah, none at all.

5 Q. I see.

6 Did you socialise with them?

7 A. No.

8 Q. You mention discussing them with Phil Saunders, whose
9 name we can use. Apart from the observations that he
10 made about the difference between their name and their
11 actual ages, what did he make of them?

12 A. He didn't say anything. Or nothing that I can remember.

13 Q. Did he discuss with you your decision -- I'm assuming it
14 was your decision not to pursue any further infiltration
15 of this group?

16 A. I hadn't made up my mind not to infiltrate further, but
17 I hadn't any plan to infiltrate further. I was in that
18 middle ground. If anything came up that gave me an
19 opportunity, I would have taken that opportunity. If --
20 in the absence of an opportunity, I didn't feel too
21 worried.

22 Q. Did he give you a steer one way or the other as to
23 whether he wanted you to go into that group or not?

24 A. I have no memory of such a conversation with him, and my
25 activity after that tells me that that was highly

1 unlikely.

2 Q. And would it be -- would I be right to think that
3 what -- such information as you did glean about
4 Young Haganah you would have shared with Phil Saunders?

5 A. I didn't glean any information from Young Haganah other
6 than -- I did some research away from the environment.
7 I discovered some things about them. But this is
8 something -- this is information that's available to
9 anyone who can use a library, or in today's -- the web.
10 But I -- I had no -- I think my interest in them was we
11 had Operation Omega, Bangladesh and Pakistan,
12 Young Haganah, Israel. It just widens the geography of
13 the events that were going on, you know? And that is
14 what I found interesting: why should someone in Israel
15 be interested in Bangladesh.

16 Q. Two questions. Did you discuss what you did find out
17 about Young Haganah with Phil Saunders?

18 A. No.

19 Q. And second question, was there a connection between
20 Young Haganah and Israel?

21 A. Young Haganah -- the Haganah was a group of people who
22 participated in the independence of Israel decades ago.
23 That is my understanding of the situation.

24 The Young Haganah, I don't know anything about them.
25 I just say this is -- it's one of those socio political

1 organisations that comes into being for whatever reason
2 and if they're not operating now, I wouldn't be
3 surprised.

4 Q. You describe in your witness statement an event -- your
5 recollection it was a big house with marbled floors
6 where this were going to be some talks about Members of
7 Parliament, By Bruce Douglas-Mann and John Stonehouse.
8 If I remember rightly you were diplomatically stayed
9 away from those speakers and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, an
10 East Pakistan any Bangladeshi leader was present but you
11 were not able to get close to him.

12 Was that at the same event?

13 A. This event took place in a hotel opposite(?) the Albert
14 memorial -- I can't remember the name of the hotel now
15 -- and I went there and I wasn't able to go into
16 the room where the meeting was taking place. I was
17 steered away.

18 Q. Would you -- you've described in your statement that you
19 weren't particularly interested in the Members of
20 Parliament, but would you have liked to have got close
21 to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman?

22 A. I would have liked that very much, and if I can clarify
23 my position on the Members of Parliament, I felt that
24 I was not able to be there but if we had two members of
25 our Parliament there, somehow or other any information

1 that would be of interest to the nation would have been
2 made available by these two Members of Parliament.

3 I also had no reason to think that would be a problem.

4 Q. I see. So why would you have been interested in getting
5 close to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman?

6 A. Am I allowed to answer that with the question why not?

7 If he is the head of a country that has been brutalised
8 by another group, he's a useful person to get to know,
9 if only, you know, sometimes you by accident come across
10 information that turns out to be vital. So it would be
11 very, very useful to make area presence -- make yourself
12 available, keep your eyes and ears open and just pass on
13 any information that the authorities would know how to
14 use. There are people far better to understand so
15 much -- so much more than I do about international
16 affairs, and that -- that's all.

17 Q. Would it be fair to describe this as part of a way of
18 operating that was to cast a wide net?

19 A. Yes.

20 Q. Hoover up any information you thought might be of
21 interest?

22 A. For two reasons. One, hoover up information that might
23 be of interest; two, it -- I felt that I would not be
24 regarded as someone about whom no one knew anything. If
25 someone had said, "Look, do you know "Peter

1 Fredericks"", they'd say.

2 Yes, he's with these people, he knows people and if
3 over time I developed a relationship it would secure my
4 position, I would be less likely to be discovered.

5 Q. I understand.

6 Then of course you didn't get close to
7 Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, you were being diplomatically
8 steered away, you felt.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Did you sense, therefore, that the group had not fully
11 accepted you, at least at this stage in?

12 A. It was -- there were a number of things -- couple of
13 things happened, and I became aware that something was
14 not quite right and I found out later on what it was,
15 but there was already -- I was steered away by
16 someone -- the person whose family contributed £6,500,
17 and it's -- I knew something was wrong.

18 Q. I see.

19 A. I knew something ...

20 Q. Did that have anything to do with you ceasing to report
21 on Operation Omega and moving to report on Black Power?

22 A. I cannot answer that question positively yes, because my
23 feeling out there was I would be involved with anything
24 that was around partly to get the information that we
25 needed, but partly it gives me more -- I think the term

1 with antiques is provenance. You have a story behind
2 what you're looking at. If I can be seen to be someone
3 who knows a lot of people, different organisations,
4 perhaps I would gain more trust.

5 Q. And the information you were interested in getting,
6 could you describe your understanding of that?

7 A. I was aware that this is an environment where you've got
8 layer upon layer upon layer and I am not fully aware of
9 everything that's important. So I would hand over
10 whatever information I received and others would decide
11 whether or not it was relevant to what was going on at
12 the time.

13 Q. Now, you tell us in your witness statement that there
14 was a woman who you were convinced had a hidden agenda
15 and that you went to a few restaurants with her.

16 A. Yes.

17 Q. Can you first of all help us with which group was she
18 associated with?

19 A. Operation Omega.

20 Q. What was it that made you think that she had a hidden
21 agenda?

22 A. Very difficult to answer this one. I couldn't relax, or
23 in normal circumstances I could say, look, something was
24 wrong, about you want more than that. She seemed --
25 I don't know. It's very, very difficult. It's very

1 difficult. She seemed to live differently from a number
2 of the people. I did meet a few of her friends.
3 I imagine she was sort of in her early to mid-30s. Most
4 of her friends seemed to be 20 to 30 years older than
5 she was. I did meet a few of them. And it was just
6 something about the conversations we had which somehow
7 amounted to absolutely nothing. I -- I've met many
8 people and you meet people and over time you get to know
9 a little about them, their family and all the rest of
10 it. Nothing like that happened. I did find out where
11 she worked. I didn't have the exact address, but
12 somewhere in West End -- the West end and she had
13 something to do with something or other, I can't
14 remember. It didn't fit, can I just put it that way.
15 There was just something wrong, I can't explain it.

16 Q. And why was it that you wanted to find out more?

17 A. It was just interesting to know who else would be
18 interested in Operation Omega and for what reason. Am
19 I allowed to say which country she's from?

20 Q. Yes.

21 A. United States.

22 Q. I see.

23 A. And --

24 Q. -- (overspeaking) --.

25 A. Carry on.

- 1 Q. Sorry, no, you carry on.
- 2 A. I was just saying I thought it was just something wrong.
3 I didn't expect to see someone -- it was just something
4 about her, you know, just something there. I could be
5 totally wrong. All I'm saying is it attracted my
6 attention and not everything you chase after is worth
7 the effort at the end of the day, and ...
- 8 Q. And who -- who asked who out to a restaurant?
- 9 A. Oh, I -- this -- when I say went to a restaurant, it
10 would be somewhere you need to eat you pop into a coffee
11 shop or a restaurant. It wasn't -- it wasn't an
12 appointment or anything like that. You know, we met --
13 we met -- we would have gone to pubs and had a few
14 drinks in pubs, go, you know, eat somewhere. Very often
15 at the end of a meeting people with cars would help
16 those without the cars and the time I was without a car
17 and I would get a lift, you know, that sort of thing.
- 18 Q. And were these meetings always with other people, always
19 just the two of you, or a mixture of both?
- 20 A. The majority of the meetings, I don't know, 98% of them
21 would have been at this particular flat where
22 Operation Omega was doing the stuff. We'd meet people,
23 you'd talk, go down the pub together, that would happen.
24 But did I spend time alone -- would we have -- if we
25 did, it's not something I sort of remember. I suspect

- 1 we would have done, but I don't know.
- 2 Q. I beg your pardon?
- 3 A. I suspect we would have spent some time in a restaurant
4 or a pub on our own with nobody else, but I have no
5 particular memory.
- 6 Q. And what tactics did you use to try and get to
7 the bottom of what you wanted to find out about this
8 woman?
- 9 A. I was very careful here, because I -- something told
10 me -- I don't know what it was -- that it woman knew
11 what she was doing and I thought if I open my mouth and
12 say the wrong thing she's going to put two and two
13 together, so I was very, very careful. I was there,
14 I do the listening, I do as little talking as possible.
- 15 Q. And were you befriending her?
- 16 A. Not really, no. Well, we were all -- we enjoyed each
17 other's company, we laughed together and all the rest of
18 it, but I didn't meet her outside the environment.
- 19 Q. Were you befriending her to obtain information from her,
20 is what I'm asking?
- 21 A. I was hoping to obtain information from her, yes.
- 22 Q. And was she older -- older than you or about the same
23 age?
- 24 A. No, older. I was in my sort of 20s -- early 20s, and
25 she would have been -- I got the impression maybe

- 1 10 years older than me.
- 2 Q. Did you try and strike up any sort of romantic
3 relationship with her?
- 4 A. No.
- 5 Q. Do you think that anything you did might have been
6 perceived by her as romantic?
- 7 A. No. Well, I'd rather not comment, but no is the answer.
- 8 Q. And did you keep your manager In the Loop about this
9 mysterious woman and what you were doing?
- 10 A. I would have mentioned her in one or two reports,
11 certainly, but she's -- she was -- I didn't know enough
12 about her for there to be any meaningful exchange of
13 information. I -- I would have mentioned her in
14 the reports, certainly, but I didn't have anything to
15 say anything with her.
- 16 Q. You've described going to the house of a woman after you
17 left the SDS because you had heard about a suicide.
- 18 A. Oh yes.
- 19 Q. Is there any connection between that event and
20 the American woman you've just been speaking about?
- 21 A. With that visit, no. That visit was an impromptu thing,
22 just something I did.
- 23 Q. Sticking with that later visit, how did you know where
24 to go?
- 25 A. I was in Camden Town and I had parked the car a short

1 walk from this particular house that I had visited many
2 times working undercover, and this might give you an
3 idea when we were talking about friendship. I thought
4 drop in have a cup of tea, have a cup of coffee say
5 hello. I knock on the door a couple of times, there was
6 no answer. But then the tenant upstairs noticed I was
7 there and invited me up and we chatted.

8 Q. I see. So when you say you knocked on the door to say
9 hello, presumably at that stage you weren't aware that
10 there had been a fatality or am I misunderstanding
11 the position?

12 A. I had no idea that there had been a fatality.

13 Q. And so would this -- you had got on well enough with
14 this woman that you were curious to catch up -- curious
15 enough to try and catch up with her?

16 A. I think, if I can put that, I was on I don't know what
17 business, what I was doing in Camden Town at the time
18 but I park the car right close to this car and while
19 I was there it was on the spur of the moment I thought
20 while I'm here why not say hello. No big deal. And so
21 I went to say hello, but there was no answer.

22 Q. Would that have been with a view to reporting back on
23 the meeting, or was that simply a legacy of
24 the relationship that you had formed with this person
25 whilst undercover?

1 A. I'd been out of the job for -- for quite a while then
2 and this was just one of those things. Nothing to do
3 with the job. I didn't report it, I didn't -- you know,
4 I didn't say anything, because as far as I was
5 concerned, I was no longer involved and no one was
6 interested.

7 Q. How close a relationship had you had with this woman
8 when you were undercover?

9 A. We would meet at her house because mainly the meetings
10 would take place there. I'd been with her on a couple
11 of occasions we'd go to the local pub and have a drink
12 and stuff like that, and we'd chat about all sorts of
13 things. But outside of that, no.

14 Q. Had there been any sort of spark between you?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Was there anything romantic about your relationship with
17 this woman?

18 A. (inaudible) romantic, I can tell you, I was struck by,
19 if I can use of term Oxbridge, there was that something
20 about her, she was hugely well educated, very high
21 IQ and all the rest of it, and I found that interesting.
22 There was no romantic involvement, I just found her
23 interesting as a human being.

24 Q. Had you been given any guidance or instruction by
25 the SOS about whether or not you should contact someone

1 you'd mixed with undercover after your deployment had
2 ended?

3 A. No.

4 Q. Now, just before we move on to Black Power, can I ask
5 you this. The answers you've given about
6 Operation Omega suggest that it was a humanitarian
7 organisation, that it wasn't committing any crime more
8 serious than flyposting, that they were protesting in an
9 orderly, peaceful way. Many might wonder why the SOS
10 was infiltrating such an organisation and what it was
11 expecting to gain from that.

12 Can you help us with that, please?

13 A. It is a question that went through my mind at the time.
14 When I was asked to join Operation Omega, I thought
15 maybe there's something going on that's going to be
16 hugely interesting. As time went by, I thought no. But
17 I am aware that on the international stage there's stuff
18 going on about which I knew nothing, so I just followed
19 the rules and carried on.

20 Q. Did you raise these doubts with Phil Saunders or any
21 other managers while you were serving in the SOS?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Can we move now to Black Power. First of all, perhaps
24 you could help us with your understanding of what
25 the Black Power Movement was at the time that you

1 infiltrated it.

2 A. Very broadly, I think the Black Power Movement was
3 a consequence of a perceived mistreatment of black
4 people, and as with all things politics gets in the way
5 and there are hidden agendas that are not suddenly very
6 well hidden.

7 It's a huge subject.

8 Q. Was it a single group, or was it an umbrella for
9 a number of groups?

10 A. I was involved with I think it was an out -- when
11 the question was put to me for the very first time
12 I would say that we participated with other groups both
13 here and in the States.

14 Q. When you say participated with other groups, it may have
15 had links with other groups, but was it itself
16 a homogeneous group itself?

17 A. That's a very difficult one. I -- I think perhaps a mix
18 of both. But we're going back so far it's very, very
19 difficult to get back the feelings that I had. I did
20 get the feeling that I did meet a number of -- a couple
21 of people from the States and we seemed to be getting on
22 quite well. I was of the opinion that it was a good
23 chance I'd be invited to go and join them in the States
24 and meet some of the people there. I -- I can't answer
25 your question. It's too technical, too involved.

- 1 Q. I understand.
- 2 How did it come about that you infiltrated
- 3 Black Power while serving with the SOS?
- 4 A. We're going back a while. I think it was an accident.
- 5 One of the things we were required to do was go to
- 6 Speakers' Corner and just report on what we saw or
- 7 heard. I got involved with someone, we hit it off and
- 8 we moved on from there. He was involved with
- 9 Black Power, and I used to go to his meetings and,
- 10 you know, he introduced me to these Americans and
- 11 various others.
- 12 Q. Was there any connection between your pre-special Branch
- 13 undercover work and the reporting of information in
- 14 relation to Black Power that you had done then and your
- 15 infiltration of Black Power for the SOS?
- 16 A. The only connection I had with Black Power was
- 17 the Stop the Tour.
- 18 Q. I beg your pardon?
- 19 A. The Stop the Tour campaign.
- 20 Q. Yes.
- 21 A. I became involved with that, very, very briefly, but to
- 22 no significant degree. Anything I did find out, I did
- 23 pass on to the Branch.
- 24 Q. Can you remember whether you were tasked by your
- 25 managers or steered towards Black Power?

1 A. No, I wasn't steered towards Black Power, no.

2 Q. Were you given any briefings about Black Power?

3 A. None that I recall, no.

4 Q. Why did you think Black Power would be of interest to
5 the SOS?

6 A. I think I was just of the opinion that any group is --
7 is of interest. Were would they be of interest ...

8 There was stuff in the press at the time about some
9 uncertainty, trouble between, you know, the racists and
10 the -- there were problems and I assume that somewhere
11 along the line there were people looking at this
12 seriously trying to reduce the impact of the problem,
13 trying to solve the problem, but it was no more than
14 that. I was on the periphery, I was by no means at
15 the heart of this, although as it does turn out I met
16 some pretty interesting people. But again, my plan was,
17 if you like, a long term plan. I'm firmly of the belief
18 that in this environment you've got to give it a lot of
19 time. I may be wrong, of course.

20 Q. What was your managers' reaction to infiltrating
21 Black Power?

22 A. I have no memory of anything being said, so I assume it
23 was just accepted, you know. I took the view you're out
24 there, find what you can and bring it back, we'll guide
25 you if there's any specific -- of any urgency, but

- 1 (inaudible) I just went there and (inaudible).
- 2 Q. Did you get any sense that they were pleased that you
3 had infiltrated this group?
- 4 A. Not pleased, no displeased. The only occasion where you
5 could use the word pleased or pleasure was where I was
6 shown that letter from box we discussed earlier. That's
7 the only time I can say that anyone sort of pleased.
8 But no.
- 9 Q. Did anybody ever say anything to you about whether or
10 not Black Power was an organisation that the SOS
11 positively wanted to target?
- 12 A. No.
- 13 Q. Were you ever told that previous attempts had been made
14 or anything like that.
- 15 A. No.
- 16 Q. You described -- and you already have described going to
17 Speakers' Corner. You also describe in your statement
18 having tea and coffee in the Marble Arch area going to
19 meetings in the Notting Hill and Portobello Road and
20 going to pubs there too and also going to be a private
21 house where there were meetings. As with
22 Operation Omega, did you go through any prior
23 formalities before attending meetings at a private
24 house?
- 25 A. No. If I did, I wouldn't have been aware that it was

1 going on. Everything was done socially and we chatted.

2 Q. Were there any other activities that you pursued with

3 Black Power?

4 A. No.

5 Q. Did you go to demonstrations?

6 A. If I did, I can't remember after all this time.

7 Q. How well did you get to know the members of this group?

8 A. To say hugely well would be wrong. I got on pretty well

9 with some of them. We, as I say, go out to these

10 restaurants and seemed to go getting on quite well with

11 the Americans who we played pool and things like that.

12 We met socially and there were times we'd spend hours

13 together and not discuss politics or anything like that,

14 it was just a social interaction, and my feeling was

15 that this was a good way to proceed.

16 Q. Was there a link between Black Power and

17 the Black Defence Committee so far as you can remember?

18 A. I can't remember that.

19 Q. There are two reports in the bundle about

20 the Black Defence Committee which bear your name. Did

21 you attend the two events which are covered by those

22 reports?

23 A. Do I -- if I can see the report it might help jog my

24 memory, but I have no -- it's possible you -- you meet

25 people and you don't really remember the title that they

1 use because there's such a lot going on.

2 Q. Well, let's call them up then. We can do that.

3 The first one is <UCPI0000026455>.

4 You'll see, 345, that this is a report dated

5 16 September 1971. The subject is

6 the Black Defence Committee. It says:

7 "The following information has been received from

8 a reliable source:-

9 "'On Friday, 10 September 1971, at the George IV PH,

10 Pentonville Road, N1, a meeting was held by

11 the Black Defence Committee. The meeting, which was

12 attended by 2012 perpetrators, began at 8 pm and ended

13 at 10 pm. The only speaker was Carl Brecker, a coloured

14 South African student.

15 "Brecker recounted his experiences under apartheid.

16 He was bitterly exposed to the South African regime and

17 called for solidarity in the fight against that 'hideous

18 system'. If the workers of the world, boat black and

19 white, united, then apartheid must surely tumble for

20 that system was only propped up by the capitalist

21 interests of the western world."

22 Does that ring any bells?

23 A. I don't remember, but I'm not uncomfortable with this.

24 This is -- what I'm looking at here reminds me of

25 the way I felt and what people were talking about in

1 those days.

2 Q. It was a meeting of 12 people. Did you ever find
3 yourself in small meetings making decisions with either
4 Black Power or the Black Defence Committee?

5 A. No, no, no.

6 Q. At the bottom of paragraph 2, which I've just read out,
7 you've used the word "coloured" to describe the South
8 African student who was the speaker.

9 A. Mm-hm.

10 Q. Why did you use that word?

11 A. I don't know. This is a humanly nuanced environment.
12 I think "coloured" was the general term at the time
13 acceptable. I don't know.

14 Q. Can we take that document down, please, and can we now
15 have up <UCPI0000026456>.

16 345, this is a report dated 30 September 1971.

17 Again the subject is the Black Defence Committee. It
18 reads:

19 "The following information has been received from
20 a reliable source:-

21 "A meeting of the 'Black Defence Committee' was held
22 on 24.9.71 at the George IV public house
23 Pentonville Road, N1. The object of the meeting, which
24 commenced at 8 pm was to inform people of
25 the 'difficulties confronting black people in

1 a capitalist society'. There were their between people
2 present.

3 "The speaker was Michael Seifert, a solicitor and
4 a member of the Angela Davis Defence Committee, who
5 spoke about Davis' struggle. He outlined [privacy]
6 [privacy] and added that the Angela Davis Committee had
7 26 members, six of whom (himself included) were all
8 members of the Communist Party of Great Britain."

9 I can stop there.

10 Was membership of the Communist Party of Great
11 Britain in the context of being a member of the Angela
12 Davis Defence Committee something which you thought was
13 of interest to the SOS?

14 A. At the time. Today, I'm sorry, I just don't remember.

15 Q. Can you recall your -- any managerial reaction to
16 reporting?

17 A. No.

18 Q. The Angela Davis Defence Committee refers to a justice
19 campaign in relation to an American woman, doesn't it?

20 A. I don't remember this. I have no memory of this, but is
21 there something I can read here perhaps?

22 Q. No, that's -- that's not on the face of the document.

23 Can you remember anything at all about the Angela
24 Davis Defence Committee?

25 A. No.

1 Q. Can you remember whether you were given any guidance
2 about whether or not it was acceptable to report on
3 justice campaigns and if so in what circumstances?

4 A. Definitely not.

5 Q. Could we take that down, please.

6 You -- moving on now to a lecture you've given
7 evidence about in your witness statement, a Black Power
8 lecture on violent protest at which you've described
9 the speaker saying something to the effect at some point
10 that he thought that there was a member of MI5 in
11 the audience.

12 Was the speaker for or against violent protest?

13 A. After all this time, I don't really remember that bit.

14 Q. You've --

15 A. Sorry. What I can say, that the meeting -- I know there
16 was a -- uses very disturbed for a few seconds, very,
17 very worried, but when that passed, I don't recall
18 feeling stressed either before the introduction or
19 after. I -- I seem to recall feeling that not a lot
20 information -- a lot of information came out of that
21 meeting, which was a bit disappointing, but not
22 surprising because I got the feeling that they were
23 doing -- what they were hoping to plan to do was perhaps
24 contrary to the law.

25 Q. You've described in your witness statement thinking you

- 1 were going to be kicked to death; is that right?
- 2 A. That is one way of expressing the feeling that just
3 takes over you when you know you're outnumbered and
4 you're in deep difficulties.
- 5 Q. What made you worry about these people?
- 6 A. After all these years, it's very, very difficult to
7 describe that, but when he went up to the lectern and in
8 order -- I've discovered -- it's my opinion that it was
9 just a tactic he used to draw attention to himself and,
10 you know, wake up his audience, but he pointed directly
11 me at me and accused me and it sounded as if he was
12 accusing me, but then it turned out that he was only
13 joking and everyone knew he was joking, they were all
14 laughing. But for a brief moment it was a strange
15 experience. I'd been to it a few times.
- 16 Q. Had you experienced any of the people you were with
17 being violent before that occasion?
- 18 A. No.
- 19 Q. Had you heard any of the people you were with expressing
20 violent thoughts or intentions?
- 21 A. This is something I know I have, but I couldn't give you
22 day, date, time or place and I don't know if it happened
23 here. But I was aware I was involved with people who
24 had access to and were prepared to use violence as and
25 when necessary, but I don't remember the details any

1 more.

2 MR BARR: Thank you.

3 Sir, would that be a convenient moment to pause for
4 lunch?

5 Sir, I think you're still on mute.

6 THE CHAIRMAN: Sorry, I thought I had de-muted myself but
7 I now have. We're slightly past 1 o'clock.

8 The shorthand writer, I know, need a full hour. We will
9 start again at 5 past.

10 MS PURSER: Thank you very much, everyone. We will now
11 break for lunch. We will resume at 2.05 and you may now
12 move into your break-out rooms, thank you.

13 (1.02 pm)

14 (The short adjournment)

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